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England cricket legend Ian Bell unveils Edgbaston rail partnership

Five-time Ashes winner and Warwickshire CCC batsman Ian Bell MBE has unveiled West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway as Edgbaston Stadium's official 2019/20 rail partners.

As part of the new agreement, West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway, which connects London and the North West with the West Midlands and operates services to and from Birmingham New Street, will provide discounted fares to cricket fans who are travelling to the legendary venue to watch a match.

The exciting new two-year partnership is designed to make travelling to Edgbaston Stadium, even easier and more cost effective.

Alex Perkins, head of commercial at Edgbaston Stadium, said: “We’re delighted to secure this new partnership with West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway during such a significant and exciting summer of cricket at the ground.

“Edgbaston is located just two miles from Birmingham New Street and with our return National Express shuttle bus service operating to and from the station on selected match days, there’s a great opportunity for cricket supporters to take advantage of the train travel service.

“It’s very important to us here at Edgbaston to make transport to and from the Stadium as easy as possible and we will soon announce details of how spectators and hospitality guests can claim these new discounted fares that we have secured through the partnership.”

Edgbaston has already played host to five of the biggest games in the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup – including a semi-final – and will soon stage the opening Test of the Specsavers Ashes series, the Vitality Blast Finals Day and seven of Birmingham Bears Vitality Blast group games – some of which cricket fans will be able to take advantage of the reduced train travel thanks to West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway.

Tim Bullock, sales and partnerships manager at West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway, said: “We’re thrilled to be the official rail partner for Edgbaston Stadium – who doesn’t love a day out at the great global test match venue? It’s been a fantastic summer of cricket so far at the Stadium - we’re delighted to get involved and work alongside one another.”

For further information and ticket fare details on West Midlands Railway visit [here](#) and for London Northwestern Railway visit [here](#).

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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