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West Midlands Railway cat George leads the charge as "World Cup of Stations" kicks off

West Midlands Railway (WMR) is hoping a station cat and passengers can come together to bring a purr-fect prize home to the region this week.

The annual online 'World Cup of Stations' starts today (Mon 11 Oct) and Stourbridge Junction is hoping to go one better after finishing runner-up in the 2020 vote.

And station staff are paw-sitive that with the help of popular station cat George - who has his own Twitter account - Stourbridge will prove a formidable opponent and leave rivals with a meow-ntain to climb.

The competition, run by the Rail Delivery Group, which represents train operators, sees 48 stations from across England, Wales and Scotland pitted against each other in a series of public votes on Twitter.

Stourbridge Junction finds itself up against larger stations Crewe, Swindon and York in the 'Enthusiasts' category in the first round of voting but with George on board passengers are feline good about the station's chances.

As well as providing passengers with links to Kidderminster, Birmingham and Stratford, the station is popular with enthusiasts for being home to Europe's shortest branch line - a 0.8-mile ride to Stourbridge Town.

Simone Carter, WMR's station manager for the Stourbridge Line, said: "George has been with us at the station since 2017 and he is incredibly popular with passengers and staff alike.

"As Senior Mouse Catcher he is a great asset to our team who work so tirelessly, particularly throughout the pandemic, and we hope he will help encourage people to vote for Stourbridge in the competition."

As well as Stourbridge Junction, three other West Midlands Railway stations - Wolverhampton (Sport category), Acocks Green (History category) and Great Malvern (Nature category) will also be vying for public votes.

The competition runs all week, with the final taking place on Friday 15 October. To take a meow-ment to lend your support, follow @RailDeliveryGrp on Twitter and look for the #WorldCupOfStations hashtag. George's team will also be giving updates throughout the competition from his @TheStourbridge Twitter account.

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 Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

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

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