

A locomotive immortalizes Ferencváros handball team's Cup Winners' Cup victories

2nd September 2014: The Hungarian Railway Museum revealed a Taurus locomotive decorated with illustrations that evoke the moments of success earned by FTC-RailCargo Hungaria, the women's handball team of FTC, one of the most successful sport clubs in Hungary.



RailCargo Hungaria Ltd and the Handball Division of Ferencvárosi Torna Club jointly hosted an event where the locomotive was solemnly inaugurated. The ceremony was attended by the management of RailCargo Hungaria Ltd, the Chief Executive of MÁV-START Zrt (State Railways Ltd), the management body of the Handball Division of Ferencvárosi Torna Club and the women's handball team of FTC-RailCargo Hungaria.



Our handball team has entered a truly elite circle as the State Railways company already runs several memorial locomotives both in Hungary and in Europe that are decorated to commemorate prominent persons or groups. In the recent years the State Railways company has started a tradition of decorating the surface of some of its locomotives as a way of salutation to those who gained some remarkable achievements in their own field of art or profession. Through these decorative locomotives the Hungarians pay tribute to those they are proud of and the portraits of renowned inventors, successful sport teams or prominent historic persons are shown all around the country and sometimes even abroad. The first decorated Taurus locomotive saluted to the memory of Aranycsapat, the legendary Hungarian national football team of the 1950's, but we can also find others that display the portraits of István Széchenyi, Empress Sissi, Franz Liszt, Kálmán Kandó or King Matthias. This initiative became a tradition and in September 2014 the railway company launched another decorated Taurus locomotive, this time displaying the successes of FTC women's handball team. The engine is nearly 20 metre long, it weighs 86 tons, it is capable of reaching the speed of 230 kmh and hauling hundreds of tons of weight.

This locomotive, which is one of the most up-to-date machines rolling around in Hungary, commemorates FTC RailCargo Hungaria's two consecutive Cup Winners' Cup victories. Our team won the trophy in 2011 and 2012 under the leadership of head coach Gábor Elek. The uniquely decorated locomotive is seen by hundreds of thousands of rail passengers both in Hungary and abroad each year.



What do RailCargo Hungaria Ltd and the handball division of FTC have in common? As the main sponsor, the company has been supporting our team for four years and the decorated locomotive serves as a token of the company's dedication and unbroken trust towards the team.

In his inauguration speech Mr Imre Kovács, Chairman of Directors' Board said that his company, which is a market leader in rail cargo transportation in Hungary, had decided to get the locomotive decorated not only driven by charity reasons but having considered several points of view. Displaying the handball girls on the engine of cargo trains also serves business considerations – the eye-catching locomotive may attract the attention of many, perhaps even prospective clients, who may notice the name of the company, which is the Hungarian subsidiary of a major European rail freight transportation company, RailCargo Group. As the decorated locomotive is used not only for freight but also for passenger transport, the sponsoring company may obtain wider public awareness and furthermore, our team and our results may get more publicity.

The message behind the decoration, however, bears utmost importance: the pictures of our team's successes suggest the power and joy of joining hands and team spirit. Mr Kovács underlined that this special gesture is bound to strengthen the 4-year-long ties between his company and the team.



Besides being a symbol of close cooperation and joint thinking between the sponsor company and the team, the decorated locomotive also embodies the strategic collaboration between RailCargo Hungaria and its former mother company MÁV Zrt (Hungarian State Railways Ltd) as the Taurus locomotive, one of the most modern railway engines in Europe, was provided to RailCargo Hungaria by MÁV Zrt. The lively relationship between the two companies is well illustrated by the fact that Mr Csaba Ungvári, Chief Executive Officer of MÁV-START Zrt., was among the attendants of the inauguration ceremony.

In his speech he said: 'Our company was glad to support the initiative of RailCargo Hungaria. As a result of our joint work, from this day one more decorated Taurus locomotive will carry the good reputation of Hungarian athletes, this time the women's handball team of Ferencváros.'

In his inauguration speech Mr Zsolt Ákos Jenei, president of women's handball division of Ferencváros, said that the possibility of appearing on a decorated locomotive means great honour and pride but at the same time immense responsibility for the team. Then he thanked the management of MÁV Zrt. for choosing Ferencváros and the double Cup Winners' Cup victory to be displayed on a Taurus locomotive and later he expressed his gratitude towards RailCargo Hungaria for the four years of support and cooperation, which is faithfully reflected by the inauguration of the locomotive. Our president emphasized that it was perceptible from the very beginning that RailCargo Hungaria acted much more like a simple naming rights sponsor who had decided to support our team based on financial considerations as they have always searched and still searching for the possibilities of deepening the ties with the team. Now, after four years of working together, both parties agree to regard these ties as role model to others.



In the meantime our team expects to have an exciting autumn as soon after the beginning of the national league season, we will face a serious challenge in the group phase of Champions' League. As Hungarian champions we would like to live up to our name and deliver such results that will keep our sponsors, particularly our naming rights sponsor, RailCargo Hungaria proud of us. This is how we can repay their unbroken trust.