

MEDIA RELEASE

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Marple Athletic signs up Unicom as new sponsor

Photographs available at www.unicomimages.co.uk

MARPLE Athletic Under 11s teams have completed a new signing for the New Year – with sponsor Unicom.

The Manchester-based business telecoms firm has agreed to sponsor two 11-a-side teams for the next two years, at a cost of £750.

Both teams are now boasting new kits, giving them a boost to their performance.

The A team play in the first division of the Stockport Metro League and are currently fifth, with a chance to compete for the Cup. The B team are in the second division of the East Manchester Junior Football League in fourth place.

Unicom operations director Chris Earle decided to back the teams - as part of the company's community support scheme – to aid their transition to 11-a-side games.

He said: "It's their first season at 11-a-side football and this can be a tough adjustment period for younger players. Both teams are playing well and we are proud of their achievements this season.

"As a Manchester company, we are always keen to champion good causes in the area and investing in young football players is a great way of building Manchester's sporting heritage for the future."

Marple Athletic media officer Michael Taylor added: "Football is a great sport for youngsters. They learn about teamwork, friendship and self improvement, as well as keeping fit.

"The support businesses, like Unicom, give to clubs like ours is tremendous. It means the boys can wear quality kit and take pride in their appearance."

The teams are managed by Jason Isaacs and Padraig Walsh.

Visit www.switchingon.com/communitysupport for further details about Unicom's community support scheme.

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Notes to Editor

About Unicom

www.switchingon.com

Unicom, a trading name of Universal Utilities PLC, is a telecommunications service provider specialising in the small business market. It currently provides telecom, broadband and website services to 80,000 small businesses throughout the UK. Unicom has an annual turnover of over £45m, and employs 500 people at its 10 regional offices situated around the UK.

Unicom has attracted its business customers by offering discounts of up to 60% off BT's prices, at the same time as keeping customers on the BT network. Unicom currently supplies in excess of 450 million minutes of call time to its customers each year. Unicom differentiates itself by offering a high standard of personal customer service, with no premium rate 0845 or 0870 numbers, no recorded messages or menus, and no overseas call centres. Unicom boasts one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.

Unicom has a directory enquiry service, 118 777. Based on calls from a BT or Unicom telephone line, 118 777 is 28% cheaper than 118 118, and 53% cheaper than 118 500. Calls from other networks may vary.

Unicom was ranked 26th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2006, 89th in the Sunday Times Fast Track 100 index in December 2006 and 96th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2007. In September 2007 it achieved a ranking of 95th, and in September 2008 a ranking of 88th, in the Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 index.

In October 2009 Unicom became ISO 9001:2008 certified and was also awarded the Customer Service Excellence, the Customer First and the Investors in People certification by independent assessors.

For the year ending April 2009, Unicom reported pre-tax profits of £11.2m on a turnover of £44.5m (with profits up 14.3% and turnover up 7% from April 2008). Unicom expects profits to be in excess of £12m on a turnover of more than £48m for the current year.

Unicom is a patron company of The Outward Bound Trust.

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