Registrar

WIGAN ATHLETIC AFC LIMITED
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2006

TUESDAY

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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 May 2006

I can quite categorically state that this has been one of the most extraordinary years not only in the life of Wigan Athletic Football Club, but in my own life as well; the realisation of many, many years of hard work an dedication by everyone at the club. It was the season that the world finally came to know the name Wigan Athletic, when we became, in the true sense of the word, a global brand. We are all very proud.

It was a year when everyone played their part. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the entire staff. On the playing side, of course, Paul Jewell, his coaching and medical team and the players have preformed wonders on and off the field. On the administration side, the team led by Brenda Spencer have also worked miracles to lead a seamless transition from Championship to Premiership. This was also the year when the JJB Stadium came into its own, when it began staging the kind of games it was designed to as the club welcomed the greatest teams in the country through its doors. I think a word of thanks should go to all the stadium staff, the ground staff and all matchday helpers and finally, I'd like to extend a personal thank you to my board of directors.

From the moment we kicked off here against the Champions Chelsea, to the second the final whistle came down on the historic Highbury farewell, this was the season that had everything. No one outside of the club gave us a cat in hell's chance of surviving in the Premiership, so to finish not only in the top 10, but also as Carling Cup Finalists, was an achievement beyond compare, and one that will live in the memory for ever!

I want this club to continue its upwards progression, starting with Premiership survival, and a continued campaign to build our supporter base and establish ourselves at the top level of British football.

Thank you all again for your support.

David Whelan Chairman

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COMPANY INFORMATION for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

DIRECTORS:

D Whelan Mrs B Spencer B T Ashcroft P R Williams J W Winstanley M P Lindsay

SECRETARY:

Mrs B Spencer

REGISTERED OFFICE:

JJB Stadium Loire Drive Robin Park Wigan Lancashire WN5 0UH

REGISTERED NUMBER:

270043 (England and Wales)

AUDITORS:

Fairhurst

Registered Auditors Chartered Accountants Douglas Bank House

Wigan Lane Wigan WN1 2TB

BANKERS:

Barclays Bank PLC Victoria House

6 Market Street

Wigan Lancashire WN1 1QS

SOLICITORS:

Platt & Fishwick The Old Bank King Street Wigan WN1 1DB

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 May 2006.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company in the year under review was that of a professional association football league

REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The 2005/06 season saw the club confounding expectations by finishing 10th in the Premier League and, memorably, reaching their first major cup final, the Carling Cup, appearing at Cardiff versus Manchester United in spring 2006. Average crowd attendances were over 20,000, with full houses of 25,000 being posted for several fixtures.

As a consequence of increased revenues from all sources, especially television rights, matchday and sponsorship packages and Football League monies, the company's turnover exceeded £34 million and produced operating profits @ £10 million, before player transfers and interest. Wage costs and transfer fees have increased correspondingly, as have football related expenses, including the continual upgrading of the training facilities at Christopher Park.

The company continues to be dependent upon the financial support of Whelco Holdings Limited, especially in transfer dealings, but expects to be profitable again in 2006/07.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The results for the year and financial position of the company are as shown in the annexed financial statements. The company made an operating profit of £9,627,757 for the year (2005 - loss of £10,180,083) with the total profit for the year of £8,809,004 (2005 - loss of £10,797,840) transferred to reserves.

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in note 19 to the financial statements.

DIRECTORS

The directors during the year under review were:

D Whelan

Mrs B Spencer

B T Ashcroft

P R Williams

J W Winstanley

M P Lindsay

- appointed 17/3/2006

The beneficial interests of the directors holding office on 31 May 2006 in the issued share capital of the company were as follows:

as follows.	31.5.06	1.6.05 or date of appointment if later
Ordinary 50p shares		
D Whelan	-	-
Mrs B Spencer	315	315
B T Ashcroft	50	50
P R Williams	-	-
J W Winstanley	100	100
M P Lindsay	-	-

B Ashcroft and P Williams retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The interests of D Whelan in Whelco Holdings Limited, the ultimate parent company, are disclosed in the accounts of that company.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

In accordance with FRS-10 the company has capitalised fees payable on the transfer of player registrations, with an amortisaton charge based on the length of player contracts (see note 6).

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 234ZA of the Companies Act 1985) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Fairhurst, will be proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Mrs B Spencer - Secretary

Date: IST FEB 2007

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF WIGAN ATHLETIC AFC LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of Wigan Athletic AFC Limited for the year ended 31 May 2006 on pages five to fourteen. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page three the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Report of the Directors is consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Report of the Directors and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 May 2006 and of its profit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

In our opinion the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements.

Fairhurst Registered Auditors **Chartered Accountants** Douglas Bank House Wigan Lane Wigan WN12TB

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

	Notes	2006 £	2005 £
TURNOVER		34,852,161	4,042,992
Cost of sales		666,474	494,057
GROSS PROFIT		34,185,687	3,548,935
Administrative expenses		24,965,773	14,056,101
		9,219,914	(10,507,166)
Other operating income		407,843	327,083
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)	3	9,627,757	(10,180,083)
Interest payable and similar charges	4	818,753	617,757
PROFIT/(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACT BEFORE TAXATION	IVITIES	8,809,004	(10,797,840)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	5		
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIA AFTER TAXATION	L YEAR	8,809,004	(10,797,840)

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current year or previous year.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the current year and the loss for the previous

BALANCE SHEET 31 May 2006

		200)6	200)5
1	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	6		8,934,473		2,301,385
Tangible assets	7		<u>891,995</u>		566,897
_			0.926.469		2,868,282
			9,826,468		2,000,202
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	2,683,242		385,701	
Debtois		,			
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>21,312,187</u>		21,765,464	
AND CARDED BANK I IA DAI ITIES			(18,628,945)		(21,379,763)
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			(10,020,943)		(21,3/3,703)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT					
LIABILITIES			(8,802,477)		(18,511,481)
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than on			19,841,698		18,941,698
year	10		19,041,098		10,741,070
NET LIABILITIES			(28,644,175)		(37,453,179)
NET EIADIEITES					
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	13		131,250		131,250
Share premium	14		944,298		944,298
Capital redemption reserve	14		21,717		21,717
Profit and loss account	14		(29,741,440)		(38,550,444)
CHAREHOY DEDC! FUNDS	20		(28,644,175)		(37,453,179)
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	20		(20,077,173)		(51,100,110)

D Whelan - Director

CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

	Notes	2006 £	2005 £
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	1	15,376,921	(3,865,502)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	2	(818,753)	(617,757)
Capital expenditure	2	(7,237,989)	(3,093,626)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the	e period	7,320,179	(7,576,885)

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt 3		
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the period	7,320,179	(7,576,885)
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows	7,320,179	(7,576,885)
Movement in net debt in the period Net debt at 1 June	7,320,179 (16,964,293)	(7,576,885) (9,387,408)
Net debt at 31 May	(9,644,114)	(16,964,293)

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

1. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS) TO NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

1,10111 4, 11111111111111111111111111111			
		2006	2005
		£	£
Operating profit/(loss)		9,627,757	(10,180,083)
Depreciation charges		5,987,250	3,221,304
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(5,707,447)	(4,569)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors		(2,297,541)	444,276
Increase in creditors		7,766,902	2,653,570
			(2.865.502)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		15,376,921	(3,865,502)
ANALYSIS OF CASH FLOWS FOR HEADINGS NET	TED IN THE CAS	H FLOW STA	TEMENT
		2006	2005
		£	£
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest paid		<u>(818,753</u>)	<u>(617,757</u>)
Net cash outflow for returns on investments and servicing	ig of finance	<u>(818,753</u>)	<u>(617,757</u>)
Capital expenditure		(12,802,500)	(2,654,900)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(426,388)	(567,351)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		5,989,999	122,825
Sale of intangible fixed assets		900	5,800
Sale of tangible fixed assets		700	3,000
Net cash outflow for capital expenditure		(7,237,989)	(3,093,626)
ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT			At
	At 1/6/05	Cash flow	31/5/06
	£ 170/03	£	£
Net cash:			
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-	-
Bank overdraft	(16,964,293)	7,320,179	(9,644,114)
	(1.6.064.202)	7 220 170	(0.644.114)
	(16,964,293)	7,320,179	(9,644,114)

2.

3.

Total

(16,964,293)

(9,644,114)

7,320,179

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The company is dependent on the financial support of its holding company, Whelco Holdings Ltd, and bankers. However, along with assurances from the holding company, the bank has indicated their continuing support; subject to ongoing periodic reviews. On this basis, along with recent trading results and forecasts, the directors consider it reasonable to rely on the bank facility and loans from the parent company and others and appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The financial statements include the results of the company's activities described in the Directors' Report, all of which are continuing.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover represents match receipts and sales, net of Value Added Tax and levies paid to the Football League and Football Association, of goods and services in the normal course of business, and arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

Player registrations and signing on fees

Transfer fees and amounts paid to third parties for player registrations are capitalised as intangible fixed assets and are amortised on a straight line basis over the period of the respective players' contracts.

Player registrations are assessed on an annual basis and impairment losses arising are charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which they arise. Any surpluses arising are not accounted for.

Player signing on fees have been expensed to the profit and loss account as wages and salaries over the period to which they relate. The profit/(loss) on the disposal of a player registration is calculated after charging any signing on fees which become payable as a result of the disposal.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful

Short leasehold land and buildings

- over the remaining term of the lease

Fixtures and fittings
Motor vehicles

- 20% on cost - 20% on cost

Computer equipment

- 20% on cost

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

Repairs and Ground Maintenance

All expenditure is written off as incurred.

Grants

Revenue grants are credited to the Profit and Loss Account in the period in which they are due. Capital grants are treated as deferred income and written off over the life of the assets to which they relate.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

2. STAFF COSTS

	2006	2005
	£	£
Wages and salaries	18,495,569	8,259,762
Social security costs	2,066,199	841,599
	20,561,768	9,101,361

Included in the above are contract termination payments to former players of £31,222 (2005 - £43,231).

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2000	2003
Playing and Coaching Staff	38	32
Groundsmen Administration Centre of Excellence Coaching Staff	12 	8
	59	50

2006

2005

3. OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)

The operating profit (2005 - operating loss) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2006	2005
	£	£
Hire of plant and machinery	42,496	3,589
Depreciation - owned assets	101,290	27,270
(Profit) on disposal of players	(5,706,547)	(6,115)
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(900)	1,546
Player registration fees amortisation	5,885,960	3,194,034
Auditors' remuneration - audit fees	6,500	5,750
Grant release	(100,000)	(100,000)
Agents fees	1,033,400	237,000
Stadium management costs	691,314	212,566
5 Marie 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12		<u> </u>

Directors' emoluments

In addition Mrs B Spencer received remuneration for her services as Chief Executive and Club Secretary. These amounts are included within wages and salaries (see note 2).

4. INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES

	2006	2005
	£	£
Bank interest	818,753	<u>617,757</u>

5. TAXATION

Analysis of the tax charge

No liability to UK corporation tax arose on ordinary activities for the year ended 31 May 2006 nor for the year ended 31 May 2005.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

6. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

7.

INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSET					Player registration fees £
COST At 1 June 2005 Additions Disposals				-	8,642,843 12,802,500 (2,238,506)
At 31 May 2006				-	19,206,837
AMORTISATION At 1 June 2005 Amortisation for year Eliminated on disposal				-	6,341,458 5,885,960 (1,955,054)
At 31 May 2006				-	10,272,364
NET BOOK VALUE At 31 May 2006				=	8,934,473
At 31 May 2005				=	2,301,385
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Short leasehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment	Totals £
COST At 1 June 2005 Additions Disposals	£ 510,690 130,101	£ 43,918 216,868	108,936 42,182 (54,226)	40,678 37,237	704,222 426,388 (54,226)
At 31 May 2006	640,791	260,786	96,892	<u>77,915</u>	1,076,384
DEPRECIATION At 1 June 2005 Charge for year Eliminated on disposal	7,456 47,417	5,342 33,614	95,817 10,443 (54,226)	28,710 9,816	137,325 101,290 (54,226)
At 31 May 2006	54,873	38,956	52,034	38,526	184,389
NET BOOK VALUE At 31 May 2006	585,918	221,830	44,858	39,389	891,995
At 31 May 2005	503,234	38,576	13,119	11,968	566,897

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

8.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	
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DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE TEAK		_ : - : -
	2006	2005
	£	£
Trade debtors	640,024	124,217
Other debtors	2,532	8,868
Amounts owed from group undertakings	978	-
Prepayments and accrued income	2,039,708	252,616
	2,683,242	<u>385,701</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2006	2005
	£	£
D. J.	9 644.114	16.964.293

£	£
9,644,114	16,964,293
4,302,034	1,582,147
2,940,416	182,705
201,000	201,000
· •	342,986
1,520,777	47,083
100,000	100,000
2,603,846	2,345,250
	9,644,114 4,302,034 2,940,416 201,000 - 1,520,777 100,000

21,312,187	21,765,464

CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE 10. YEAR

YEAR	2006 £ 19,641,694	2005 £ 18,641,694
Loan from parent company Deferred grants	200,004	300,004
	19,841,698	18,941,698

LOANS 11.

9.

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2006 £	2005 £
Amounts falling due within one year or on demand: Bank overdrafts	9,644,114	16,964,293

The loan from the parent company and other loans are unsecured, interest free and have no fixed repayment date.

SECURED DEBTS 12.

The Bank has a fixed and floating charge over the assets of the company. Banking facilities are reviewed periodically and are repayable on demand, subject to such reviews. Whelco Holdings Limited has provided an unlimited guarantee to the bank on behalf of the company.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

13. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

	Authorised, Number:	allotted, issued and fully paid: Class:		Nominal value:	2006 £	2005 £
	262,500	Ordinary		50p	131,250	131,250
14.	RESERVE	S	Profit and loss account	Share premium £	Capital redemption reserve £	Totals £
	At 1 June 20 Profit for th		(38,550,444) 8,809,004	944,298	21,717	(37,584,429) 8,809,004
	At 31 May	2006	(29,741,440)	944,298	21,717	(28,775,425)

15. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The ultimate parent company is Whelco Holdings Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, and under the control of Mr D Whelan and his family.

16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are contractual obligations to pay players and coaching staff dependent on future performance criteria which have not been provided for in these accounts. Performance related payments are written off in the period to which they relate.

The terms of certain contracts with other football clubs in respect of players' transfers include the payment of additional amounts upon fulfilment of specific conditions in the future.

17. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The company had the following annual contractual obligations, relating to players contracts, which are due to expire:

	2006 £	2005 £
-Within 1 year -After more than 1 year	3,359,450 3,294,000	2,866,900 2,380,700
	6,653,450	5,247,600

The Club has a 25 year renewable licence to use the JJB Stadium, owned by Wigan Football Company Ltd, at rates determined by match revenues.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 May 2006

18. TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS

Mr D Whelan, a director of the company, has a significant financial interest in Whelco Holdings Limited, which owns a majority shareholding in the company and has also provided loan monies and goods and services during the year.

Mr D Whelan, a director of the company, has significant financial interests in JJB Sports plc, which has supplied goods to the company during the year as follows:

Sales and services	Purchases	Sales Ledger at 31/5/06	Purchase Ledger at 31/5/06	
£	£	£	£	
429,947	124,848	<u>8,310</u>	11,142	
Shirt Sponsorship				
£				
200,000				

All the above transactions were conducted on an arms length basis at normal commercial rates.

19. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The club enjoyed its first season in the Premiership and is looking to extend and improve both the playing and training facilities and administrative capabilities during 2006/07 and beyond.

Manager Paul Jewell and his coaching staff have revamped the first team playing squad over the summer, bringing in seasoned internationals such as Emile Heskey, Denny Landzaart, Chris Kirkland and Andy Webster. The total transfer fees paid have been offset by the departures of Pascal Chimbonda, Jason Roberts and David Connolly, all for significant transfer fees.

20. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	2006 £	2005 £
Profit/(Loss) for the financial year	8,809,004	(10,797,840)
Net addition/(reduction) to shareholders' funds Opening shareholders' funds	8,809,004 (37,453,179)	(10,797,840) (26,655,339)
Closing shareholders' funds	(28,644,175)	(37,453,179)
Equity interests	(28,644,175)	(37,453,179)

21. DEFERRED TAX

A deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of timing differences relating to tax trading losses as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recovered. The amount of the asset not recognised is £6,931,934. The asset would be recovered if sufficient taxable trading profits arose in the future.