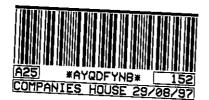
Directors' report and financial statements

31 October 1996

Registered number 2133343



Directors' report and financial statements

Contents	Page
Directors' report	1-2
Statement of directors' responsibilities	3
Auditors' report	4
Profit and loss account	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes	7-13

Directors' report

The directors have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 October 1996.

Principal activity

The principal activity is that of hotel proprietor.

Results for the year and transfer to reserves

The results for the year are as presented on page 5 of the financial statements. The loss retained for the year is £308,689 (1995: loss of £461,048).

Review of the business

The Hotels have continued to trade well and the directors consider there to be good prospects for the trading position to continue to improve.

The directors consider the state of affairs at the balance sheet date to be satisfactory.

Directors

The directors who served throughout the year were as follows:

T M Abbott C J D Crathorne W M F Herriot STM Murphy

(appointed 26 September 1996)

None of the directors had an interest in the shares of the company at the end of the financial year, other than as a result of the an interest in the ultimate holding company, Virgin Hotels Group Limited. The interests of the relevant directors in the shares of that company are disclosed in the accounts of that company.

Fixed assets

Details of fixed asset movements are given in notes 8 and 9 to the financial statements.

Dividends

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (1995: £Nil).

Directors' report

Auditors

In accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution for the reappointment of KPMG as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the board

D Legge Secretary

Statement of directors' responsibilities

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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 maintaining 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 have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.



PO Box 695 8 Salisbury Square London EC4Y 8BB

Report of the auditors to the members of Woodhouse Securities Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 3 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards 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 of the state of affairs of the Company as at 31 October 1996 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Wang

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 28 April 1997

Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 October 1996

	Note	1996 £	1996 £
Turnover Cost of sales	1 (b)	5,984,525 (3,207,786)	5,525,566 (2,937,972)
Gross profit Administration expenses		2,776,739 (2,583,749)	2,587,594 (2,411,628)
Operating profit		192,990	175,966
Other interest receivable and similar income	3	49,150	32,037
Interest payable and similar charges	4	(650,242)	(648,676)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	5	(408,102)	(440,673)
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	7	99,413	(20,375)
Loss retained for the year		(308,689)	(461,048)

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

The operating profit of the Company arose solely from continuing activities. There were no recognised gains or losses in the year other than those disclosed in the profit and loss account above, and there are no movements in shareholders' funds other than the loss retained for the year.

Balance sheet at 31 October 1996

	Note	1996	1995
Fixed assets		£	£
Tangible assets	8	10,238,429	9,678,633
Investments	9	4	9,076,033 4
		-	
		10,238,433	9,678,637
Current assets			
Stocks	10	176,454	162,484
Debtors	11	1,869,223	1,559,355
Cash at bank and in hand		828,537	583,865
		2,874,214	2,305,704
Creditors: amounts falling due			
within one year	12	(10,142,915)	(8,705,920)
Net current assets/liabilities		(7,268,701)	(6,400,216)
			
Net assets		2,969,732	3,278,421
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	13	14,180,170	14,180,170
Profit and loss account	14	(11,210,438)	(10,901,749)
Λ			
Equity shareholders' funds		2,969,732	3,278,421

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 26 August 117 and signed on its behalf by:

W M F Herriot

Director

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies have been consistently applied in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Company's financial statements:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with applicable accounting standards, and on a going concern basis in view of a letter of support from Virgin Hotels Group Limited, the ultimate holding company, which undertakes to provide or procure such support as is necessary to enable the Company to continue to trade for the foreseeable future.

Under Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised) the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking.

Under Financial Reporting Standard 2, the company is exempt from the requirement to consolidate its subsidiary undertakings on the grounds that it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking.

b) Turnover

Turnover, which excludes value added tax, represents the sales value of goods and services.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is provided for on a straight line basis applied to original cost at rates estimated to write off each asset over its remaining useful life. For the purpose of calculating depreciation, the effective annual rates for the classes of assets currently held are as follows:

Fixtures and fittings 10% - 15% Plant and equipment 10% - 25%

It is the Company's practice to maintain hotel properties in a continual state of sound repair and to extend and make improvements thereto from time to time. Accordingly, the directors consider that the lives of these assets are so long and residual values, based on prices prevailing at the time of acquisition, or subsequent valuations are so high that their depreciation is insignificant. Any permanent diminution in the value of such properties is charged to the profit and loss account as appropriate.

e) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

f) Capitalisation of interest

Interest incurred on borrowings to finance specific capital projects is capitalised.

Notes (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

g) Deferred tax

Deferred tax, using the liability method is provided on all timing differences except those which it is considered will continue for the foreseeable future.

h) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

i) Pension costs

The company is a member of a defined contribution pension scheme operated by Virgin Management Limited, a related company. The assets of the scheme are held separately in an independently administered fund. The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

2 Staff number and costs

The average number of persons employed by the group (including directors) during the year was 197 (1995: 194) of which 35 (1995: 34) were engaged in administrative duties, and the remainder in selling and distribution.

	1996 £	1995 £
Wages and salaries	1,681,722	1,642,201
Social security costs	176,534	166,260
Pension costs	12,062	11,872
	1,870,318	1,820,333
3 Interest receivable		
	1996 £	1995 £
Bank interest	49,150	32,037
		1

Notes (continued)

4 Interest payable and similar charges

	1996 £	1995 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	11,592	7,220
Group interest	638,650	641,456
	650,242	648,676
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	1996	1995
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging	£	£
Hire of plant and equipment	53,314	68,316
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	468,705	332,748
Auditors remuneration:		
- for audit services	14,500	14,000
Director's remuneration for services as a director	8,250	9,231

All turnover and loss before taxation is derived in the United Kingdom from the operation of hotels.

6 Directors' emoluments

One of the directors received remuneration of £8,250 (1995: £9,231). The other directors did not receive any remuneration from the company.

Notes (continued)

7 Taxation

				1996 £	1995 £
	Amounts receivable in re (1995: 33%)	espect of group relie	ef at 33%	99,413	<u>-</u>
	Over/(under) provision i	n respect of prior ye	ears	•	(20,375)
				99,413	(20,375)
8	Tangible fixed assets				
		Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and equipment £	Total £
	Cost At 1 November 1995 Additions	11,335,139 388,112	2,241,508 366,034	720,152 274,355	14,296,799 1,028,501
	At 31 October 1996	11,723,251	2,607,542	994,507	15,325,300
•	Depreciation At 1 November 1995 Charge for the period	2,677,287	1,373,865 292,610	567,014 176,095	4,618,166 468,705
	At 31 October 1996	2,677,287	1,666,475	743,109	5,086,871
	Net book value At 31 October 1996	9,045,964	941,067	251,398	10,238,429
	At 31 October 1995	8,657,852	867,643	153,138	9,678,633
					

Freehold land and buildings includes £21,372 (1995: £21,372) in respect of capitalised interest.

Notes (continued)

9 Investments

10

11

				Shares in subsidiary companies £
At 31 October 1995	and 31 October 1996			4
Subsidiaries:	Country of Incorporation	Ownership %	Natur	e of business
Rhinefield Time Share Limited	England	100		opment and sale eshare nents
Rhinefield Time Share Management Limited	England	100		gement of are apartments
Stocks				
		1:	996 £	1995 £
Finished goods and go for resale	oods	176,	454 —-	162,484
Debtors				-
		19	996 £	1995 £
Trade debtors Amounts owed by pare	ent and	369,2	287	320,759
fellow subsidiary under Amounts owed by subs		325,7		- 773,104
undertakings Group relief receivable Other debtors Prepayments and accru		828,2 259,9 1,7 84,2	963 771	280,338 26,276 158,878

Notes (continued)

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		1996 £	1995 £
	Bank loans and overdrafts Trade creditors Amounts due to parent and	295,046 420,199	129,805 408,310
	fellow subsidiary undertakings Due to subsidiary undertakings Other creditors including tax	8,614,930 6,012	7,703,573
	and social security Accruals	481,062 325,666	275,336 188,896
		10,142,915	8,705,920
13	Share capital		
		1996 £	1995 £
	Authorised: Ordinary shares of £1 each	20,000,000	20,000,000
	Issued, called up and fully paid:	_ 	
	Ordinary shares of £1 each	14,180,170	14,180,170
14	Profit and loss reserve		
			£
	Balance at 1 November 1995 Loss for year		(10,901,749) (308,689)
	Balance at 31 October 1996		(11,210,438)

15 Capital commitments

As at 31 October 1996 there were no capital commitments either authorised or contracted (1995: £nil).

Notes (continued)

16 Leasing commitments

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	1996	1995
	Other	Other
	£	£
Operating leases which expire:		
In the second to fifth year inclusive	4,916	11,167

17 Holding company

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Virgin Hotels Group Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, in whose financial statements the results of the company are consolidated.

These consolidated accounts are available to the public and may be obtained from the Registrar of Companies, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF4 3HZ.