MAGNET LIMITED

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE 53 WEEKS ENDED 2 OCTOBER 1999

REGISTERED NO: 2762625

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COMPANIES HOUSE 28/07/00

# Report and financial statements For the 53 Weeks ended 2 October 1999

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## **Directors report**

#### 1. Principal activities and business review

The principal activities of the Company are the manufacture, merchanting and retailing of joinery, fitted kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and related products.

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#### Operating review

During the year under review the Company experienced mixed market conditions, indicated by the key market drivers of volume of housing transactions and new housing starts. For the year overall housing transactions grew by 1% while the number of new house starts declined by 4%. The second half did demonstrate some improvement over the first half which reflected negative movement in both indicators.

The Company's total sales for the year were £248M. On a like for like basis sales were marginally down by 1% owing to reduced joinery revenues. Second half performance benefited from the more favourable market conditions with sales improving by 2% like for like following a 4% decline in the first half.

Overall profit for the year amounted to £20.4M or 8% of sales, an increase of 40% over prior year and a margin improvement of 2.3 percentage points. Like for like improvement in profit and operating margin was 26% and 1.0 percentage point respectively. Higher volumes, particularly in kitchen sales, coupled with tight cost controls and further progress in efficiency improvement initiatives, led to a second half profit of £13.5M, equivalent to a commendable 10.5% on sales. We are pleased to report that the Company achieved in the year the target level of profitability that we established three years ago. Notwithstanding the passing of this important milestone we are confident, and the second half performance demonstrates, that there is still room for growth.

In the important kitchen segment the market is estimated to have been flat during the 12 months to September 1999. Consistent with recent trends, the Company continued to outperform the market as a result of the successful launch of new ranges of products such as the Carrington, Mackintosh and Ferndown kitchens, and the targeted delivery of added value services and product accessories. The Company's sales of kitchens increased by 5% in the year while average order value increased by 8%.

In the joinery segment, after a difficult first half which saw the market decline by 7%, the second half improved somewhat, helped by the upturn in the housing market. Overall, for the year, the market is estimated to have declined by 2%. In spite of a very competitive environment in this segment the Company continued to operate tactically to preserve margins at the expense of some volume shortfall. Accordingly, joinery sales reduced by 8% compared to prior year but gross margins were maintained as a result of lower manufacturing costs, purchasing efficiencies and product range extensions. Work is well advanced at the Keighley joinery factory to streamline the production process resulting in substantial reduction in cycle times, working capital and cost.

PVCu joinery products remain an important element in the new house build sector where the Company has focused its efforts in this product line. Additional capacity was installed during the year at the factory in Flint in North Wales and is now fully operational. Significant improvements have been achieved in this plant.

Three new branches were opened during the year bringing the total to 219. The ongoing programme of upgrades to selected stores continues with investment being made on both the retail and trade side of the business. Early results from the refurbished stores at Sheffield and Glasgow on the retail side and Leeds and Leicester on the trade side are encouraging. Building on the extended product offering and design skills acquired with CP Hart in July 1998, five new outlets selling a fitted bathroom product were opened in existing branches during the summer with an impressive reaction being recorded in the customer base. Further outlets will be opened in due course.

In summary the Company continues to outperform the market in the kitchens segment and to maintain profitability in the current challenging joinery market conditions. Constant refinement of the product offering, further gains in efficiency and tight cost controls have again combined to yield a substantial improvement in profitability. New initiatives in bathroom products provide further opportunity for profitable growth.

#### 2. Results and dividends

The profit on ordinary activities of the Company before taxation amounted to £19,895,000 (1998 - £14,438,000). Three dividends totalling £50,000,000 were declared in respect of the period and the previous period. On 7 June 1999 a first interim dividend for the period of £10,000,000 was declared. This dividend was paid on 8 October 1999, on which date the Directors declared and paid a second interim dividend for the period of £10,000,000 and a final dividend for the previous period of £30,000,000.

#### 3. Change of Ownership

On 11 October 1999, 80% of the issued share capital of the company was acquired by Enodis plc, formerly called Berisford plc, and the remaining 20% of the issued share capital of the company was acquired by Manston Limited.

#### 4. Research and development

It is the policy of the Company to continually investigate and develop new and improved methods of manufacturing and to evaluate, manufacture and distribute new products complementary to the Company's existing range.

#### 5. Board of directors

The Directors who held office during the period and to date are as follows:-

A J Bowkett D W Williams	(resigned 13 May 1999)
G A Favell	
D J Mulhall	(resigned 8 December 1999)
K I Bray	
J P Findler	(resigned 3 July 2000)
A R Airey	
M L Bertrand	(appointed 23 May 2000)
J A Bevan	(appointed 23 May 2000)
G C P Gratton	(appointed 23 May 2000)
P F H Rowland	(appointed 23 May 2000)

The Directors had no interests in the shares of the Company.

The interests of D W Williams, D J Mulhall and J P Findler in the shares of the ultimate parent company, Enodis plc, formerly called Berisford Plc, at the period end, are disclosed in the accounts of that company.

The interests of the remaining Directors in office at the period end in the ordinary shares of the ultimate parent company are as follows:-

#### **Executive Share Option Scheme**

<u>Director</u>	At 26/9/98	Granted	Exercised	<u>Lapsed</u>	<u>At 2/10/99</u>
A R Airey	91,782	37,450	Nil	Nil	129,232
K I Bray	148,881	18,700	Nil	Nil	167,581
G A Favell	161,590	18,700	44,000	Nil	136,290

### **SAYE Share Option Scheme**

<u>Director</u>	<u>At 26/9/98</u>	<u>Granted</u>	<u>Exercised</u>	<u>Lapsed</u>	<u>At 2/10/99</u>
A R Airey	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
K I Bray	5,729	1,005	2,286	Nil	4,448
G A Favell	17,410	Nil	Nil	Nil	17,410

### **Ordinary Shares**

<u>Director</u>	At 26/09/98	<u>At 02/10/99</u>
A R Airey	Nil	Nil
K I Bray	Nil	2,286
G A Favell	Nil	Nil

No Director has a material interest in any contract with Enodis plc group companies other than service contracts.

#### 6. Tangible fixed assets

The changes in the fixed tangible assets of the Company during the year are summarised in Note 9 to the accounts. The Directors believe there is no significant difference between the open market value and the balance sheet value of the Company's interest in land and buildings.

#### 7. Charitable and political donations

The Company made charitable donations of £8,000 (1998 £Nil).

#### 8. Close company status

The Company is not a close Company within the provisions of the Income and Corporations Taxes Act 1988, nor was it a close company during the year.

#### 9. Auditors

A resolution proposing the reappointment of Deloitte & Touche as auditors to the Company will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

#### 10. Disabled employees

Applications for employment from disabled persons are considered on their merits and regard is paid only to the ability of an applicant to carry out satisfactorily the functions required. The same policy is adopted when considering career development and promotion, while in the field of training a distinction would only be made in order to meet the particular requirements of the disabled person. If an employee became disabled while in employment, all due consideration would be given to continued employment whether in the same or in an alternative capacity and training would be given where necessary.

### 11. Employee consultation

The Company places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and has continued its previous practice of keeping them informed on matters affecting performance of the Company. This is achieved through monthly team briefing and "Magnet Today" a quarterly magazine which is sent to all employees.

#### 12. Creditor payment policy

Under normal circumstances suppliers of goods and services are paid within the period agreed with the suppliers. Creditor days at 2 October 1999 were 34 days (1998: 26 days).

#### 13. Year 2000 statement

Following their comprehensive review of the Year 2000 impact on the business last year the directors continue to be alert to the potential risks and uncertainties surrounding the Year 2000 issue. As at the date of this report the directors are not aware of any significant factors which have arisen, or that may arise, which will affect the activities of the business: however, the situation is still being monitored. Due to the nature of the Year 2000 issue there can be no certainty that the company's systems, or those of suppliers, customers or any other third party, are Year 2000 compliant and consequently that the company will not be materially affected. Any future costs associated with this issue cannot be quantified but are not expected to be significant.

By order of the Board

Director

27th July 2000

## Directors' responsibilities statement

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;
- 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.

By order of the Board

Director 27th July 2000

## Auditors' report to the members of Magnet Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 8 to 21 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 10 and 11.

#### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 6 the Company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

#### **Basis of opinion**

We conduct 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 2 October 1999 and of its profit for the period then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Deloitte & Touche

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Dolate O Tarle

10-12 East Parade

Leeds

LS1 2AJ

27 July 2000

## Profit and loss account

		53 weeks ended 2 October 1999	52 weeks ended 26 September 1998
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Turnover	1	247,989	246,598
Cost of Sales		159,501	164,913
Gross Profit		88,488	81,685
Operating Costs	2	68,049	67,066
Operating Profit	3	20,439	14,619
(Loss)/Profit on sale of fixed assets		(71)	619
Profit on ordinary activities before interest		20,368	15,238
Net interest (payable)	6	(473)	(800)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		19,895	14,438
Taxation	7 .	-	-
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		19,895	14,438
Dividends	8	(50,000)	-
Retained (loss)/profit for the financial period	18	(30,105)	14,438

All trading during the period is in respect of continuing operations and is in respect of the business of Magnet Limited.

There were no recognised gains or losses in the period other than those reflected in the profit and loss account. Accordingly, a separate statement of recognised gains and losses has not been provided.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.

## **Balance sheet**

As at:		2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	37,471	33,322
Investment	10	13,595	13,595
		51,066	46,917
Current assets			
Stocks	11	35,996	36,628
Debtors	12	32,372	30,878
Cash at bank and in hand		1,954	
		70,322	67,506
Creditors: falling due within one year	13	88,570	50,524
Net current (liabilities)/assets		(18,248)	16,982
Total assets less current liabilities		32,818	63,899
Creditors: falling due after more than one year	14	1,173	2,149
Net assets		31,645	61,750
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	17	15,510	15,510
Other reserve	18	5,900	5,900
Profit and loss account	18	10,235	40,340
Equity shareholders' funds	19	31,645	61,750

Approved by the Board on 27th July 2000

Director

Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.

## **Accounting policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and comply in all respects with applicable accounting standards.

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#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at annual rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life as follows:-

nil

10%

2% to 10%

10% to 33 1/3%

Freehold and long leasehold land
Freehold and long leasehold buildings
Short leasehold buildings
Plant, equipment and vehicles

#### Leases

Finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. The finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease in proportion to the capital amount outstanding. Operating lease rentals are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

#### Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of the cost and net realisable value. The cost of work-in-progress and finished goods includes an appropriate portion of manufacturing and distribution overheads. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

#### **Turnover**

Turnover represents the invoiced value of goods sold and services provided, excluding value added tax and trade discounts.

## Taxation

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable profits at the current rate. Deferred taxation is provided using the liability method to the extent that it is probable that a liability will crystallise.

#### Foreign currency translation

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling using forward exchange contract rates where applicable or year end exchange rates otherwise and the differences arising are included in trading profit, together with exchange differences arising from settled transactions.

#### **Pension costs**

The Company operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The fund is valued on a regular basis by a professionally qualified independent actuary, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the actuary. Pension costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the expected cost of providing pensions over the period during which the Company benefits from the employees' services. The effects of variations from regular costs are spread over the expected average remaining service lives of members of the scheme. Any differences between amounts charged in the profit and loss account and paid to the pension scheme is shown on the balance sheet as an asset or a liability.

#### Cash flow statement

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of a company incorporated in the United Kingdom and has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to include a cash flow statement.

#### Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less provision for any permanent diminution in value. The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in S. 228 of the Companies Act 1985 not to prepare consolidated accounts as it is itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Enodis plc, formerly called Berisford plc. Accordingly the financial statements present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about it as a group.

49,580

54

54

48,567

## **Magnet Limited**

## Notes to the accounts

Auditors' remuneration - audit

Staff costs (note 4)

- other fees

1. Turnover	53 weeks to	52 weeks to
	2 October	26 September
	1999	1998
	£'000	£'000
Third party by destination:		
UK	245,194	242,772
Rest of Europe	2,592	3,631
Other	203	195
	247,989	246,598
Turnover consists entirely of sales originating in the United Kingdom.		
2. Operating Costs	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Continuing operations		
Selling and distribution costs	55,463	56,939
Administrative expenses	12,586	10,127
	68,049	67,066
2.0	52 mm lm 4.	52 lo 4-
3. Operating profit	53 weeks to 2 October	52 weeks to
	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	_, _,	
	£'000	£'000
Operating profit is stated after charging:	£ 102	5.000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets – owned	5,192	5,222
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets – leased	317	317
Rental of plant and equipment under operating leases Rental of land and buildings from fellow subsidiaries	2,834 826	2,746 1,080
Rental of land and buildings from third parties	12,957	1,060
Auditors' remuneration audit	12,931	12,771

4. Staff costs	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
a) Staff costs, including Directors, comprised:		
Wages and salaries	43,588	44,562
Social security costs	3,347	3,401
Other pension costs	1,632	1,617
	48,567	49,580
	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
1) 771		
b) The average weekly number of employees was:	1 007	1 167
Manufacturing and distribution Sales and marketing	1,087 1,022	1,167
Office and management	1,022	1,004 164
Office and management	2,272	2,335
5. Directors' remuneration	53 weeks to	52 weeks to
	2 October	26 September
	1999	1998
Remuneration	£'000	£'000
Salaries and other emoluments	403	527
Bonuses	281	281
Pension contributions	31	31
Compensation for loss of office		110
	715	949

Directors remuneration above includes £692,000 (1998 £773,000) paid on behalf of the Company by its ultimate parent company with this amount (1998 £773,000) being recharged to the Company.

All Directors are members of a defined benefit pension scheme.

Directors' remuneration (excluding pension contributions) includes:

	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Highest paid director	214	248

The accrued pension of the highest paid director at 2 October 1999 was £9,300 (1998 £6,200)

Pension contributions for the highest paid director amounted to £14,000 in the period (1998 £23,900).

## 6. Net interest payable

F	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Interest payable:		
Loan from ultimate holding company	(538)	(796)
Finance Leases	(15)	(54)
Other	(22)	(31)
	(575)	(881)
Interest receivable:		
Bank balances	2	3
Other	65	16
Currency Deposits with ultimate holding company	35	62
	102	81
Net interest payable	(473)	(800)

## 7. Taxation

There is no tax charge for the period (1998: £Nil) as available brought forward tax losses have been utilised.

Trading losses carried forward at 2 October 1999 amounted to approximately £51 Million.

8. Dividends	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
	£'000	£,000
On 7 June 1999 the Board declared an interim dividend of 64.47p per share (1998 – Nil)	10,000	-
On 8 October 1999 the Board declared a second interim dividend of 64.47p per share (1998 - Nil)	10,000	-
On 8 October 1999 the Board declared a final dividend in respect of the prior period of 193.42p per share (1998 - Nil)	30,000 50,000	

## 9. Tangible fixed assets

<b>9</b>	La	Land and buildings Plant			t Assets	
		Long	Short	equipment	under	
	Freehold	leasehold	leasehold	and vehicles	Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost						
At 27 September 1998	9,214	2,140	2,988	54,688	889	69,919
Additions	77	32	943	8,208	613	9,873
Reclassifications	-	9	880	-	(889)	-
Disposals		<u> </u>	(30)	(1,035)		(1,065)
At 2 October 1999	9,291	2,18 <u>1</u>	4,781	61,861	613	78,727
			·			
Depreciation						
At 27 September 1998	451	130	434	35,580	2	36,597
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-	_
Charge for period	122	28	331	5,030	(2)	5,509
Eliminated in						
Respect of disposals	_	-	(7)	(843)	-	(850)
At 2 October 1999	573	158	758	39,767		41,256
						<u> </u>
Net Book Value						
At 2 October 1999	8,718	2,023	4,023	22,094	613	37,471
Net Book Value						
At 26 September 1998	8,763	2,010	2,554	19,108	887	33,322
copulation 1550	0,703	2,010	2,551	17,100	007	55,522

The net book value of plant, equipment and vehicles held under finance leases was £159,000 (1998 £476,000). The depreciation charge in respect of these assets was £317,000 (1998 £317,000).

## 10. Investment

Shares in group undertakings	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
At 26 September 1998 Addition	13,595	13,595
At 2 October 1999	13,595	13,595

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in S.228 of the Companies Act 1985 not to prepare consolidated accounts, as it is itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Enodis plc.

## Details of subsidiary undertaking

Undertaking	Country of Incorporation	Group Interest	Activities
C P Hart & Sons Limited	England	100%	Retailing and distribution of bathrooms and kitchens.

11. Stocks	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Raw materials and consumables	5,819	7,244
Work-in-progress	2,080	2,649
Finished goods	28,097	26,735
-	35,996	36,628

At the period end the Directors are not aware of any significant difference between book value and replacement cost of stocks.

12. Debtors	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	25,007	25,649
Other debtors	400	600
Amounts due from other group companies	492	-
Prepayments and accrued income	6,473	4,629
	32,372	30,878

13. Creditors: falling due within one year	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£,000	£'000
Trade creditors	16,121	11,381
Other creditors	7,523	6,935
Amounts owed to ultimate holding company	47,762	5,156
Amounts owed to other group companies	132	1,214
Other taxes and social security	3,023	4,398
Accruals and deferred income	12,680	15,254
Provisions for liabilities and charge (note 15)	1,250	2,045
Finance lease obligations (note 16)	79	317
Loan note (note 16)	-	300
Bank overdraft	-	3,524
	88,570	50,524

14. Creditors: falling due after more t	han one year	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
		£'000	£'000
Provisions for liabilities and charges (no Finance lease obligations (note 16)	ote 15)	1,173	1,990 159
Loan note (note 16)		1,173	2,149
15. Provisions for liabilities and charg	ges		
a) Movements on provisions during the	ne period comprise:		
	Reorganisation £'000	Pensions £'000	Total £'000
At 26 September 1998	2,912	1,123	4,035
Utilised Provided	(897)	(1,968) 1,253	(2,865) 1,253
At 2 October 1999	2,015	408	2,423
Due within one year Due after more than one year			1,250 1,173
			2,423
b) The reorganisation provision comp	orises:	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
		£,000	£'000
Vacant property costs		1,548	1,810
Property repairs and maintenance Other		467	344 758
		2,015	2,912
16. Other matters			
a) Capital commitments		2 October 1999	26 September 1998
		£,000	£,000
Commitments for future capital expend Contracted for but not provided for in the		1,250	182

b) Lease obligations	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Operating lease payments which the Company is committed to make during the next financial year are analysed as follows:		
Land and buildings Leases expiring:		
Within one year	219	253
Between two and five years inclusive	837	274
Thereafter	14,611	14,818
	15,667	15,345
Other assets Leases expiring:	212	240
Within one year	318	210
Between two and five years inclusive Thereafter	2,626 29	2,605 17
Therealter	2,973	2,832
•	2,913	2,032
The future minimum lease payments to which the Company is committed under finance leases are as follows:		
Within one year	94	384
Between two and five years inclusive	-	194
Thereafter	-	-
	94	578
Finance charges allocated to future periods	(15)	(102)
	<u>79</u>	476
Disclosed in the accounts as:		
Creditors due within one year	79	317
Creditors due after more than one year	-	159
Civilions due after more man one year	79	476

## c) Loan note

On the 10 April 1996 the Company issued a £1.2 million unsecured loan note as part consideration for the acquisition of the undertaking and assets of Allerton Glass Co. Limited repayable in equal quarterly instalments. The amount outstanding is repayable as follows:

	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
Within one year Between two and five years inclusive		300
Disclosed in the account as: Creditors due within one year Creditors due after more than one year		300

### d) Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation has not been provided in the financial statements. The amount of the potential asset is as follows:-

	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
	£°000	£'000
Tax effect of timing differences because of:		
Losses Excess of depreciation over capital allowances Potential balancing charges on sale of properties Other	15,192 100 (2,108) 727 13,911	17,360 623 (2,176) 1,364 17,171
17. Share capital	2 October 1999	26 September 1998
Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid 15,510,300 ordinary shares of £1 each	£15,510,300	£15,510,300

#### 18. Reserves

	Other Reserves	Profit & Loss
	£'000	Account £'000
The movement for the period comprised: At 26 September 1998 Loss for the financial period	5,900	40,340 (30,105)
At 2 October 1999	5,900	10,235

#### 19. Reconciliation of movement in equity shareholders' funds

19. Reconcination of movement in equity snareholders funds	53 weeks to 2 October 1999	52 weeks to 26 September 1998
	£'000	£'000
(Loss)/profit for the financial period Other reserve	(30,105)	14,438
Opening equity shareholders' funds  Closing equity shareholders' funds	61,750 31,645	61,750

#### 20. Pension obligations

The Company operates a defined benefit pension scheme covering the majority of full time employees. A valuation has been carried out by a qualified independent actuary at 1 November 1997, using the projected unit method.

The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the result of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rates of increase in salaries, pensions and dividends. The assumptions used in the valuation were as follows:-

investment returns	9.25% p.a.
increase in:	
salaries	6.75% p.a.
present and future pensions	4.00% p.a.
dividends	5.75% p.a.

The total market value of the scheme's assets, at the last valuation date, together with the funding level as a percentage of accrued benefits after allowing for future increases in earnings was £78.3m (102%).

The total pension cost to the Company for the period was £1,253,000 (1998 £1,617,000). An amount of £408,000 (1998 £1,123,000) is included in provisions (note 15).

#### 21. Contingent liabilities

There is a contingent liability in respect of an upstream guarantee issued by the Company, together with other subsidiaries of the Enodis plc group, in favour of certain financial institutions (including Barclays Bank plc, as facility agent, and National Westminster Bank plc, as syndication agent) as security for term loan facilities available to Enodis plc and its wholly owned US subsidiary Welbilt Corporation. At 2 October 1999, the borrowings amounted to £406 million (1998: £NIL).

There is a contingent liability in respect of the cross guarantee, given by the Company, together with other members of the Enodis plc group, in favour of National Westminster Bank plc. At 2 October 1999, the borrowings amounted to £NIL (1998: £3,361,000).

#### 22. Parent company

The ultimate controlling entity is Enodis plc, formerly called Berisford plc a company incorporated in England and Wales. The immediate controlling entities are Enodis plc which holds 80% and Manston Limited which holds 20%, companies incorporated in England and Wales, and the British Virgin Islands respectively. Copies of the Financial Statements of Enodis plc can be obtained from the Secretary at Washington House, 40-41 Conduit Street, London, W1R 9FB.

#### 23. Related party transactions

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption granted by paragraph 3 (c) of Financial Reporting Standard 8, "Related party disclosures", not to disclose transactions with entities that are part of Enodis plc, as the consolidated financial statements, in which the Company is included, are publicly available.