DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1998

Company Number: 3295063



Company Information

Directors

A B Hale

C M Stapleton J W Brandrick

B Hurst R E McGing J D Wile

Secretary

John J Evans

Company Number

3295063

Registered Office

The Tom Silk Building

Halfords Lane West Bromwich West Midlands B71 4BR

Auditors

Clement Keys

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor Nettleton House Calthorpe Road Birmingham B15 1RL

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DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1998

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 1998.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The following statement, which should be read in conjunction with the Report of the Auditors, is made with a view to distinguishing the respective responsibilities of the directors and of the auditors in relation to the financial statements.

The directors are required by the Companies Act 1985 to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial period and of the profit or loss for the financial period.

Following discussions with the auditors, the directors consider that, in preparing the financial statements on pages 4 to 18 inclusive, the company has used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, and that all applicable accounting standards have been followed. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The directors have responsibility for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985.

The directors 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.

Principal activities and review of business

The principal activity of the company is the operation of a Professional Football Club.

The results for the period are set out on page 4.

Dividends

The directors do not recommend that a dividend is paid.

Year 2000 compliance

As is well known, many computer and digital storage systems express dates using only the last two digits of the year and thus require modification or replacement to accommodate the year 2000 and beyond in order to avoid malfunctions and resulting widespread commercial disruption. The operation of our business depends not only on our own computer systems, but also to some degree on those of our suppliers. This could expose us to further risk in the event that there is a failure by other parties to remedy their own Year 2000 issue.

A programme, designed to address the impact of the Year 2000 on our business is under way. Given the complexity of the problem, it is not possible for any organisation to guarantee that no Year 2000 problems will remain, because at least some level of failure may still occur. However, the Board believes that it will achieve an acceptable state of readiness and has also provided resources to deal promptly with significant subsequent failures or issues that might arise.

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the period are set out below.

A B Hale

C M Stapleton

J W Brandrick

B Hurst

R E McGing

J D Wile

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1998

R E McGing held no interest in the share capital of West Bromwich Albion plc. All the other directors are directors of West Bromwich Albion plc and their interests are shown in the directors' report of that company.

This report was approved by the board on 22 September 1998 and signed on its behalf.

ohn J Evans

Secretary

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF WEST BROMWICH FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 16 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 1 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 circumstances of the company, and are 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 30 June 1998 and of the profit of the company for the year then ended and have been prepared in accordance with the companies Act 1985.

Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditor

Nettleton House Calthorpe Road Birmingham B15 1RL

22 September 1998

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT For the year ended 30 June 1998

			-
	Note	Year ended 30 June 1998 £	7 month period ended 30 June 1997 £
TURNOVER	1,2	7,162,283	2,930,421
Operating expenses		(6,269,624)	(2,255,994)
OPERATING PROFIT	3	892,659	674,427
Write-off of players' contracts		(1,111,000)	(937,500)
Profit on transfer of players' registrations		884,000	
		665,659	(263,073)
Interest receivable		58,491	41.604
Interest payable	6	(92,886)	41,604 (53,797)
RETAINED PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEA	R/PERIOD	631,264	(275,266)
		<u> </u>	· //2 ·

The profit and loss account reflects the continuing operations of the company. The company made no material acquisitions and had no discontinued operations.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES For the year ended 30 June 1998

	Year ended 30 June 1998 £	7 month period ended 30 June 1997 £
Profit/(loss) for the financial year/period after taxation	631,264	(275,266)
Revaluation of players' contracts	(1,550,000)	2,225,000
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of properties	-	5,819,566
		
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year/period	(918,736)	7,769,300

NOTE OF HISTORICAL COST PROFITS AND LOSSES For the year ended 30 June 1998

	Year ended 30 June 1998 £	7 month period ended 30 June 1997 £
Reported profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	631,264	(275,266)
Difference between a historial cost depreciation charge and the actual depreciation charge of the year calculated on the revalued amount	91,789	49,956
	723,053	(225,310)

BALANCE SHEET As at 30 June 1998

	Note	£	1998 £	£	1997 £
FIXED ASSETS	_				-
Intangible assets	7		6,014,536		7,793,479
Tangible assets	8		12,893,037		12,662,647
			18,907,573		20,456,126
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	9	209,325		82,642	
Debtors	10	1,068,010		810,767	
Cash at bank and in hand		922,642		1,160,256	
		2,199,977		2,053,665	
		2,199,911		2,055,005	
CREDITORS : Amounts falling due within one year	11	11,091,567		11,267,346	
•	- •			11,207,540	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			(8,891,590)		(9,213,681)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LL	ABILITIES		10,015,983		11,242,445
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due					
after more than one year	12		(3,165,417)		(3,473,143)
NET ASSETS			6,850,566		7,769,302
					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	14		2		2
Revaluation reserve	15		5,677,821		5,769,610
Players' valuation reserve	15		675,000		2,225,000
Profit and loss account	15		497,743		(225,310)
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	16		6,850,566		7,769,302
					

The financial statements were approved by the board on 22 September 1998 and signed on its behalf.

A B Hale

Director

C M Stapleton

Director

RRAde C.M. Stapleton

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the valuation of players' contracts and the revaluation of land and buildings. They include the results of the company's operations which are described in the directors' report all of which are continuing. The financial statements have been drawn up to comply in all material respects with applicable accounting standards and financial reporting standards.

The company has taken advantage of the exemptions provided by Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 and not prepared a cash flow statement for the period.

1.2 Turnover

Turnover is stated net of Value Added Tax and comprises gate receipts and other income arising from promotional activities all within the United Kingdom.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis and is calculated as follows:

Freehold land - Nil

Freehold stands and buildings - 2% - 5%

Equipment and vehicles - 10% to 25% as appropriate

1.4 Leased assets

Assets used by the company which have been funded through finance leases and hire purchase agreements are capitalised and the resulting lease obligations are included in creditors.

The costs of operating leases are written off to the profit and loss account as and when incurred.

1.5 Stock in club shop

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The first in first out method of valuation is used.

1.6 Deferred Taxation

Deferred taxation is provided at the current rate of corporation tax on the excess of the book value of those fixed assets qualifying for taxation allowances over their written down value for taxation purposes, and any other timing differences less unutilised losses except where it can be demonstrated with reasonable probability that a tax liability is unlikely to arise in the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

1.7 Grants

Grants in respect of capital expenditure are treated as deferred income and credited to the profit and loss account over the expected useful economic life of the relevant assets. Grants relating to expenditure arising out of the provisions of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 are credited to the profit and loss account in the same period in which the expenditure is charged.

1.8 Donations

Donations received towards major capital projects are included as other reserves and amortised over the estimated useful life of the related assets.

1.9 Players' contracts

Players' contracts are included in the balance sheet at Directors' valuation. Values are assessed on a regular basis and any permanent diminution in value below original cost is written off in the profit and loss account.

The Directors in valuing the players' contracts continue to take into account the potential consequences of the Jean-Marc Bosman case in the European Court of Justice and its effects upon transfer values.

1.10 Signing on fees

Signing on fees are charged to the profit and loss account in the accounting period in which they are payable.

1.11 Capitalisation of interest

Interest incurred on borrowings to finance specific stadium development is capitalised.

2.	ANALYSIS OF TURNOVER	1998	1997
		£	£
	Gate receipts	3,683,838	1,528,968
	Commercial income	3,478,445	1,401,453
		7,162,283	2,930,421
			Sire-
3.	OPERATING PROFIT		
	The operating profit is stated after charging:	1998	1997
		£	£
	Depreciation	284,805	149,379
	Auditors' remuneration - audit fees	8,500	5,000
	Operating lease rentals - plant and equipment	59,720	35,766
	Staff costs	4,043,316	1,562,573
			Page

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES		
(a) Staff costs comprise:	1998	. 199
	£	•
Wages and salaries	3,669,055	1,404,314
Social security costs	348,832	145,962
Other pension costs	25,429	12,29
	4,043,316	1,562,573
	<u> </u>	
Pension costs represent contributions paid into the pemembers of staff.	rsonal pension schemes of	of certain full
(b) Average number of employees by category:		
	1998	1997
	£	£
Players, managers and coaches	35	36
Apprentices	20	18
Administration and commercial	32	26
Ground staff	8	8
		
	95	88
In addition to the above the Company employs a number	r of part-time staff on mate	ch days.
DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION		
	1998	. 1997
	£	£
For service as directors	88,296	14.273
For service as directors Pension scheme contributions for one director	88,296 2,250	14,273 714
Pension scheme contributions for one director		
***==	2,250	714
Pension scheme contributions for one director		
Pension scheme contributions for one director INTEREST PAYABLE On bank loans and overdrafts	2,250 1998	714 1997 £
Pension scheme contributions for one director INTEREST PAYABLE	2,250 1998	714

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

INTANGIBLE ASSETS			
Dlaman, 2		£	
Players' contracts			
At 1 July 1997 Additions		8,236,479	
		2,046,057	
Disposals Revaluation		(2,162,000)	
Revaluation		(1,550,000)	
At 30 June 1998		6,570,536	
Comprising:			
Cost		5,895,536	
Valuation		675,000	
			
		6,570,536	
VVV 1. 00			
Write-offs			
At 1 July 1997		443,000	
Charge for year		1,111,000	
Released on disposals in year		(998,000)	
At 30 June 1998		556,000	
NY (YA I WY I			
Net Book Value			
At 30 June 1998		6,014,536	
At 30 June 1997		7,793,479	

TANGIBLE ASSETS	Freehold		
	land and		
		100 ·	
	buildings c	Equipment	Tota
Cost or valuation	£	£	£
At 1 July 1997	12 011 070	561 601	40.0==
Additions	12,811,870	561,634	13,373,504
AMMINUIN	134,595	380,600	515,195
At 30 June 1998	12,946,465	942,234	13,888,699

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

Depreciation	Freehold land and buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 July 1997	322,138	200 710	710.057
Charge for year	•	388,719	710,857
Charge for year	231,944	52,861	284,805
At 30 June 1998	554,082	441,580	995,662
Net Book Value			
At 30 June 1998	12,392,383	500,654	12,893,037

At 30 June 1997	12,489,732	172,915	12,662,647
			

The Hawthorns Stadium is valued at depreciated cost and the Tom Silk Building is valued on the basis of open market value as advised by Dunlop Haywood, Consultant Surveyors, Manchester. The valuation was carried out at 31 January 1996 whilst the land and buildings were owned by West Bromwich Albion plc and additions since that date have been included at cost.

The cost of freehold land and buildings included at a valuation is £7,126,899 (1997: £6,992,304). On a historical cost basis the net book value of the revalued land and buildings would be £6,714,562 (1997: £6,720,122).

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes £277,492 (1997: £289,500) in respect of assets held under hire purchase contracts and finance leases. Depreciation charged in respect of these assets was £12,008 (1997: £12,008).

9.	STOCK	1998 £	. 1997 £
	Good for resale	209,325	82,642
		**************************************	**************************************
10.	DEBTORS	1998	1997
		£	£
	Trade debtors	904,368	609,498
	Other debtors	41,269	74,143
	Prepayments and accrued income	68,926	89,566
	Amount due from fellow subsidiary undertaking	53,447	37,560
		1,068,010	810,767

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

11.	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		•
	•	1998	1997
		£	£
	Loans	109,505	106,238
	Trade creditors	1,069,510	1,328,081
	Amount due to parent company	7,373,161	7,280,313
	Social security and other taxes	368,752	149,631
	Other creditors	2,060,002	2,328,022
	Accruals	49,176	32,676
	Deferred grants	61,461	42,385
		11,091,567	11,267,346
12.	CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one ye	ar	
		1998	1997
		£	£
	Bank loans	574,226	644,917
	Football league loan	16,665	56,661
	Other creditors	730,835	866,333
	Deferred grants	1,843,691	1,905,232
		3,165,417	3,473,143
	Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:		**************************************
	In 1 - 2 years:	£	· £
	Finance lease and hire purchase contract obligations	41,160	36,997
	In 2 - 5 years:	£	£
	Loan instalments	378,525	328,293
	Finance lease and hire purchase contract obligations	163,458	194,572
	In more than 5 years:	***************************************	
	Loan instalments	£	£
	Finance lease and hire purchase contract obligations	212,366	373,285
			10,047

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

£420,525 of the bank loans is secured by a charge over the freehold property of the company and a fixed and floating charge over the other company assets.

The bank loans are repayable over ten years at 21/2 over LIBOR.

13. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARG	CES
--	-----

	1998	1997
Deferred Tax The full potential liability is made up as follows:	£	£
Accelerated capital allowances Other timing differences after unutilised losses	86,803 539,256	124,110 331,228
	626,059	455,338

No deferred taxation has been provided in the accounts of the company. The above figures exclude potential taxation liabilities arising from revaluations on the grounds that no material liability is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

14. SHARE CAPITAL

		SHARE CAPITAL	14.
1997	1998		
£	£	Authorised	
1,000	1,000	1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	
		Allotted, called up and fully paid	
2	2	2 ordinary shares of £1 each	

		RESERVES	15.
£		Profit and loss account	
(225,310)		Balance at 1 July 1997	
631,264		Profit for year	
91,789		Depreciation on revalued portion of property	
		-	
497,743		Balance at 30 June 1998	
. £		Property revaluation reserve	
5,769,610		Balance at 1 July 1997	
(91,789)		Depreciation on revalued portion of property	
5,677,821		Balance at 30 June 1998	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

	Players' valuation reserve	£
	Balance at 1 July 1997	2,225,000
	Revaluation in the year	(1,550,000)
	Balance at 30 June 1998	675,000
6.	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	
		£
	Profit for the year	631,264
	Other recognised gains and losses relating to period	(1,550,000)
		(918,736)
	Opening shareholders' funds	7,769,302
	Closing shareholders' funds	6,850,566
		-

17. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company is party to an unlimited interlocking guarantee to secure balances due to bankers by other group companies. At 30 June 1998 there was £101,380 outstanding (1997: £93,034).

In addition, the terms of certain contracts with other football clubs in respect of the purchase of players' registrations include the payment of substantial amounts upon fulfilment of specific conditions in the future. Similar terms exist in contracts for sale of players' registrations and the directors consider that the likely future effect on the accounts is immaterial.

18. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Amounts contracted for but not provided in the accounts are £151,000 (1997: £Nil).

19. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 30 June 1998 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Ea	Equipment	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	
D	£	£	£	£	
Expiry date:					
Within 1 year	-	-	-	1,400	
Between 2 and 5 years	59,824	-	61,110	60,838	
Over five years	*	-	-	-	
	59,824		61,110	62,238	
		-	=		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 1998

20. TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS

During the year, transactions took place between the company and certain directors in relation to match tickets, advertising boards and an executive box. These transactions were on normal commercial terms and were not significant to any of the parties.

In addition the company hired vehicles from a company of which Mr J W Brandrick is director. The value of this contract during the year amounted to £43,813 and was on normal commercial terms.

21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

Since 30 June 1998 fees totalling £335,000 have been contracted for by the company in respect of the acquisition of players.

Since 30 June 1998 sales of players registrations have taken place totalling £123,000.

22. TAXATION

The company has estimated taxation losses carried forward of £3,600,000 (1997: £4,500,000).

23. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The company's ultimate parent company is West Bromwich Albion plc, a company registered in England and Wales. Copies of the group consolidated accounts are available to the public at the Tom Silk Buildings, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands.

DETAILED TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT For the year ended 30 June 1998

		Year ended 30 June	7 month period ended 30 June
		1998	1997
	Page	£	£
TURNOVER	15	7,162,283	2,930,421
COST OF SALES	15	(599,164)	(199,048)
			<u> </u>
GROSS PROFIT		6,563,119	2,731,373
Less: OVERHEADS			,
Administration expenses	15	(5,670,460)	(2,056,946)
OPERATING PROFIT		892,659	674,427
Financial expenses	15	(34,395)	(12,193)
Write-off of players' contracts		(1,111,000)	(937,500)
Profit on sale of players' contracts		884,000	-
		- 10-0-144	
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR/PERIOD		631,264	(275,266)

SCHEDULE TO THE TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT For the year ended 30 June 1998

	Year	7 month
	ended	period ended
	30 June	30 June
	1998	1997
TURNOVER	£	£
Sales	7,162,283	2,930,421
COST OF SALES		-
Shop purchases	496,664	134,022
Commercial costs	102,500	65,026
	599,164	199,048
A DAMBHOURD A TRANSPORT		
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Wages, bonuses and salaries	3,821,770	1,562,573
Gatemen and stewards	228,881	80,988
Vehicle expenses	110,777	27,562
Police and Red Cross	145,415	22,372
Repairs and maintenance	235,752	62,759
Hospitality	36,962	11,788
Travel and hotel expenses	110,375	46,676
Printing and stationery	54,167	9,954
Telephone/fax	24,791	8,547
General office expenses	70,595	14,700
Rates and insurances	96,032	66,814
Advertising and promotion	10,080	5,567
Licence fees and levies	93,061	(29,831)
Professional charges	185,306	20,502
Bank charges	56,912	25,741
Training, medical and outfits	80,206	15,078
Relocation expenses	35,511	41,552
Heating and lighting	69,951	34,921
Equipment leasing	59,720	35,766
Depreciation	194,196	107,536
VAT on complimentary tickets	_	(64,619)
Management charge	(50,000)	(50,000)
	5,670,460	2,056,946

INANCIAL EXPENSES		
Bank interest payable	92,886	53,797
Other interest receivable	(58,491)	(41,604)
	34,395	12,193
	- Andrews - Andr	