Axminster Power Tool Centre Limited

Directors' report and financial statements

for the year ended 30 April 2003

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Company information

Directors Mr B G Styles

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Mr I V Styles Mrs K J Styles Mrs M A Styles Mr S M Berryman Mr I F Huntley Mr A J Parkhouse

Mr A N Thomas (appointed 9 May 2003)

Secretary Mr I V Styles

Company number 3326979

Registered office Millwey Rise Industrial Estate

Axminster Devon EX13 5HU

Auditors Thompson Jenner

1 Colleton Crescent

Exeter Devon EX2 4DG

Bankers HSBC Plc

38 High Street

Exeter Devon EX4 3LP

Solicitors Foot Anstey Sargent

4-6 Barnfield Crescent

Exeter Devon EX1 1RF

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Directors' report for the year ended 30 April 2003

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003.

Principal activity and review of the business

The company's principal activity continued to be that of selling and hire of power and hand tools and workshop accessories.

Axminster Power Tool Centre continues to grow its mail order business and this year will see increased activity within the retail sector with the opening of the very first of its purpose-built tool and machinery centres.

The company will be investing considerably into distribution methods, undertaking to deliver all mail order parcels using vehicles fitted with the latest GPS technology with both drivers and vans branded as Axminster Power Tool Centre.

Results and dividends

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

The directors have paid an interim dividend amounting to £20,000 and they do not recommend payment of a final dividend.

Future developments

By the spring of 2004, it is envisaged that a new purpose-built distribution centre will go online, dramatically improving efficiency in all aspects of warehouse activity. Careful consideration has been given to the stock profile with further concentration of its own branded products and the introduction of the new Axminster plus range that is intended for industrial usage.

The management team has been significantly strengthened in recent months which will assist the company in achieving its short to medium term objectives.

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the year and their interests in the company are as stated below:

	Ordinary £1 shares		
	30/04/03	01/05/02	
Mr B G Styles	_	25,000	
Mr I V Styles	-	25,000	
Mrs K J Styles	-	25,000	
Mrs M A Styles	~	25,000	
Mr S M Berryman	-	-	
Mr I F Huntley	-	-	
Mr A J Parkhouse	-	-	
Mr A N Thomas (appointed 9 May 2003)	-	-	

On 10 January 2003, the company became a subsidiary of Styles & Brown Limited by way of a share for share exchange. Mr B G Styles, Mr I V Styles, Mrs K J Styles and Mrs M A Styles, directors of the company, are also directors of the company's ultimate holding company. Their interest in the shares of the holding company are disclosed in the financial statements of that company. None of the directors had a beneficial interest in Axminster Power Tool Centre Limited at the year end.

Directors' report for the year ended 30 April 2003

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 the affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that year. In preparing these the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and 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 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.

This report was approved by the Board on 12/8/03

and signed on its behalf by

V Styles Secretary

Independent auditors' report to the shareholders of Axminster Power Tool Centre Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Axminster Power Tool Centre Limited for the year ended 30 April 2003 which comprise the profit and loss account, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's shareholders, 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 shareholders 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 shareholders 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 in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

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 directors report is not 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 transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the directors' report 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 United Kingdom 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 the company's affairs as at 30 April 2003 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the

Companies Act 1985.

Thompson Jenner Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 19 August 2003 1 Colleton Crescent

Exeter Devon

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Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 April 2003

		Continuing	Continuing operations		
		2003	2002		
	Notes	£	£		
Turnover	2	20,667,670	18,522,606		
Cost of sales		(13,349,866)	(12,476,770)		
Gross profit		7,317,804	6,045,836		
Distribution costs Administrative expenses		(891,216) (5,673,701)	(784,547) (4,763,082)		
Operating profit	3	752,887	498,207		
Other interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges	4 5 5	(228,233)	55 (212,148)		
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		524,654	286,114		
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8	(133,392)	(89,072)		
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		391,262	197,042		
Dividends	9	(20,000)	(33,428)		
Retained profit for the year		371,262	163,614		
Retained profit brought forward		1,174,080	1,010,466		
Retained profit carried forward	I	1,545,342	1,174,080		

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above two financial years.

Balance sheet as at 30 April 2003

		200	03	2002	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		1,655,310		1,645,647
Current assets					
Stocks	11	5,398,140		3,917,648	
Debtors	12	754,314		491,859	
Cash at bank and in hand		749,925		163,675	
		6,902,379		4,573,182	
Creditors: amounts falling					
due within one year	13	(6,119,833)		(4,170,354)	
Net current assets			782,546	- II	402,828
Total assets less current					
liabilities			2,437,856		2,048,475
Creditors: amounts falling due					
after more than one year	14		(761,928)		(734,000)
Provisions for liabilities					
and charges	16		(30,586)		(40,395)
Net assets			1,645,342		1,274,080
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	17		100,000		100,000
Profit and loss account	17		•		1,174,080
Profit and 1055 account			1,545,342		1,177,000
Equity shareholders' funds	18		1,645,342		1,274,080
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The financial statements were approved by the Board on 30/7(03)

and signed on its behalf by

Mr B G Styles

Director

Cash flow statement for the year ended 30 April 2003

	Notes	2003 £	2002 £
Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash outflow from operating activities			
Operating profit		752,887	498,207
Depreciation		271,996	229,774
(Increase) in stocks		(1,480,492)	60,856
(Increase) in debtors		(262,455)	(135,401)
Increase in creditors		475,175	179,259
Profit on sale of fixed assets		(2,883)	(12,765)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(245,772)	819,930
Cash flow statement			
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(245,772)	819,930
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	23	(228,233)	(212,093)
Taxation	23	(43,426)	
Capital expenditure	23	(205,301)	(1,208,357)
		(722,732)	(660,060)
Equity dividends paid		(122,132)	(13,428)
Equity arrange paid		(
Proceedings	22	(722,732)	(673,488)
Financing	23	(144,494)	956,880
Decrease in cash in the year		(867,226)	283,392
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in	n net debt (Note :	24)	
Decrease in cash in the year		(867,226)	283,392
Cash outflow from increase in debts and lease finan-	cing	144,494	(956,880)
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		(722,732)	(673,488)
New finance leases and hire purchase contracts		(73,475)	•
Other changes		(40,000)	(40,000)
Movement in net debt in the year		(836,207)	(713,488)
Net debt at 1 May 2002		(3,124,579)	(2,411,091)
Net debt at 30 April 2003		(3,960,786)	(3,124,579)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The company has consistently applied all relevant accounting standards.

1.2. Turnover

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Turnover represents the total invoice value, excluding value added tax, of sales made during the year.

1.3. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property - Straight line over fifty years

Computer equipment - 20% straight line
Plant and machinery - 15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings 15% straight line
Motor vehicles - 20% straight line
Hire equipment - 25% straight line

1.4. Leasing and hire purchase commitments

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible assets and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the profit and loss account so as to produce constant periodic rates of charge on the net obligations outstanding in each period.

1.5. Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.6. Pensions

The company operates two defined contribution pension schemes, one for directors and the other for employees, under which the pension costs charged against profits represent the amount of contributions payable to the schemes during the year.

1.7. Deferred taxation

Following the adoption of FRS 19, Deferred Tax, deferred tax is recognised in respect of timing differences that have originated but not reversed by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax balances are not discounted.

1.8. Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the Profit and Loss account.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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2.	Turnover

4. 1	Idillovei	2003 £	2002 £
	Geographical market		
	UK	19,952,668	18,160,106
	Europe	500,814	250,000
	Rest of the World	214,188	112,500
		20,667,670	18,522,606
3.	Operating profit	2003	2002
		£	£
	Operating profit is stated after charging:		
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned assets	240 207	166 370
	 - owned assets - assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts 	249,297 22,699	
	Auditors' remuneration	13,400	
	Auditors' remuneration from non-audit work	7,400	3,526
	and after crediting: (Profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(2,883)	(13.765)
	Exchange (gains) / losses	(119,015)	
	Exchange (gains) / 1033e3	(113,013)	====
4.	Interest receivable and similar income	2003	2002
		£	£
	Other interest	-	55
5.	Interest payable and similar charges	2003	2002
	On bank loans and overdrafts	£ 90,364	£ 99,686
	Interest payable on other loans	134,816	-
	Hire purchase interest	3,053	•
		228,233	212,148

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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6. Employees

	Number of employees		
	The average monthly numbers of employees	2003	2002
	(including the directors) during the year were:		
	Warehouse and distribution	71	68
	Sales	49	41
	Management	40	42
		160	151
	Employment costs	2003	2002
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	2,664,405	2,115,350
	Social security costs	246,658	183,846
	Other pension costs	149,811	157,995
		3,060,874	2,457,191
6.1.	Directors' emoluments	2003	2002
		£	£
	Remuneration and other emoluments	439,221	377,070
	Pension contributions	92,150	101,570
		531,371	478,640
		Number	Number
	Number of directors to whom retirement benefits	•	
	are accruing under a money purchase scheme	6	6
	Highest paid director Amounts included above:	£	£
	Emoluments and other benefits	118,181	116,387
	Pension contributions	18,360	18,360
		136,541	134,747

7. Pension costs

The company operates two defined contribution pension schemes, one for directors and one for employees. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charges represent contributions due from the company and amounted to £149,811 (2002 - £157,995).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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8. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

Analysis of charge in period	2003 £	2002 £
Current tax		
UK corporation tax at 29% (2002 - 20%)	148,912	49,137
Prior period adjustments	(5,711)	(460)
	143,201	48,677
Total current tax charge	143,201	48,677
Deferred tax		
Timing differences, origination and reversal	(9,809)	40,395
Total deferred tax	(9,809)	40,395
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	133,392	89,072
	_ 	

Factors affecting tax charge for period

The tax assessed for the period is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK (30 per cent). The differences are explained below:

	2003 £	2002 £
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	524,654	286,114
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation		
tax in the UK of 30% (30 April 2002 : 20%) Effects of:	157,396	57,223
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	8,876	2,979
Capital allowances for period in excess of depreciation	17, <i>7</i> 95	(11,065)
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods	(5,711)	(460)
Group relief	(28,810)	-
Marginal relief	(6,345)	-
Current tax charge for period	143,201	48,677
Dividends	2003 £	2002 £
Dividends on equity shares:	_	_
Ordinary £1 shares - interim paid	20,000	13,428
Ordinary £1 shares - final proposed	· -	20,000
	20,000	33,428

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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10.	Tangible fixed assets ed	Hire F Juipment	reehold land & property	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Cost							
	At 1 May 2002	82,337	875,838	331,897	493,429	148,102	514,609	2,446,212
	Additions	66,454	7,588	84,446	36,297	•	92,240	287,025
	Disposals	(26,023)	-	(5,637) (2,120)		-	(33,780)
	At 30 April 2003	122,768	883,426	410,706	527,606	148,102	606,849	2,699,457
	Depreciation							
	At 1 May 2002	46,786	10,054	199,669	220,555	72,309	251,192	800,565
	On disposals	(26,023)) -	(1,993) (398)			(28,414)
	Charge for the yea	ar 19,811	16,892	50,504	65,193	29,62	89,975	271,996
	At 30 April 2003	40,574	26,946	248,180	285,350	101,930	341,167	1,044,147
	Net book values							
	At 30 April 2003	82,194	856,480	162,526	242,256	46,17	265,682	1,655,310
	At 30 April 2002	35,551	865,784	132,228	272,874	75,79	263,417	1,645,647
			·					

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

	2003		2002	
	Net D	epreciation	Net	Depreciation
Asset description	book value	charge	book value	charge
	£	£	£	£
Plant and machinery	78,613	4,138	91,360	38,222
Motor vehicles	-		61,199	25,182
	78,613	4,138	152,559	63,404
Stocks			2003	2002
			£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale			5,398,140	3,917,648
	Plant and machinery Motor vehicles Stocks	Asset description Plant and machinery Motor vehicles 78,613 78,613 78,613	Asset description Asset description Book value charge £ Plant and machinery Motor vehicles 78,613 78,613 4,138 78,613 4,138	Asset description Net book value £ Depreciation book value £ Net book value £ Plant and machinery Motor vehicles 78,613 4,138 91,360 78,613 4,138 152,559 Stocks 2003 £

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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12.	Debtors	2003 £	2002 £
	Trade debtors	399,746	490,356
	Amount owed by group undertakings	347,487	-
	Other debtors	3,800	1,503
	Prepayments and accrued income	3,281	
		754,314	491,859
13.	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2003 £	2002 £
	Bank overdraft	2,723,407	1,269,931
	Net obligations under finance leases	, ,	, ,
	and hire purchase contracts (Note 15)	37,237	18,581
	Trade creditors	1,085,100	
	Corporation tax	148,912	49,137
	Other taxes and social security costs	254,381	293,104
	Directors' accounts	1,188,139	1,265,742
	Other creditors	850	37,138
	Accruals and deferred income	681,807	338,429
	Proposed dividend	ů.	20,000
		6,119,833	4,170,354

The bank overdrafts are secured on the assets of the group and by a guarantee limited to £400,000 given by the shareholding directors of the group.

The hire purchase contracts are secured on the assets purchased.

14.	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2003 £	2002 £
	Long term loans Net obligations under finance leases	734,000	734,000
	and hire purchase contracts	27,928	-
		761,928	734,000
	Loans		
	Repayable between two and five years	734,000	734,000

The above loans are secured on the assets of the group.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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15.	Obligations under hire purchase and finance leases	2003 £	2002 £
	Obligations under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are analysed be In the next year	37,237	payable: 18,581
	In the second to fifth years inclusive	27,928 65,165	18,581
16.	Provision for deferred taxation		
		2003 £	2002 £
	Accelerated capital allowances		
	Provision at 1 May 2002 Deferred tax (credit) / charge in profit and loss account	40,395 (9,809)	- 40,395
	Provision at 30 April 2003	30,586	40,395
17.	Share capital	2003 £	2002 £
	Authorised equity 1,000,000 Ordinary £1 shares	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Allotted, called up and fully paid equity 100,000 Ordinary £1 shares	100,000	100,000
18.	Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds	2003 £	2002 £
	Profit for the year Dividends	391,262 (20,000)	197,042 (33,428)
	Net addition to shareholders' funds Opening shareholders' funds	371,262 1,274,080	163,614 1,110,466
	Closing shareholders' funds	1,645,342	1,274,080

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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19. Financial commitments

At 30 April 2003 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and	buildings
	2003	2002
	£	£
Expiry date:		
In over five years	89,314	106,461
•		

20. Contingent liabilities

The company has entered into a guarantee dated 31 July 1997 for £270,000 in favour of HM Customs and Excise.

On 18 September 2002, an unlimited multilateral guarantee was given by Axminster Power Tool Centre Limited, its parent company, Styles & Brown Limited and its fellow subsidiary, Jet Tools & Machinery Limited.

21. Ultimate parent undertaking

The company's ultimate parent company is Styles & Brown Limited. The company's ultimate controlling parties are Mr I V Styles, Mr B G Styles, Mrs K J Styles and Mrs M A Styles, directors of Axminster Power Tool Centre Limited, by virtue of their shareholdings in the ultimate parent company.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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22. Related party transactions

The shareholding directors of the group have made the following loans to the company:

	£
Mr B G Styles	601,166
Mr I V Styles	223,606
Mrs K J Styles	295,680
Mrs M A Styles	67,687

There are no terms as to repayment of the loans. Interest is credited on the loans at 3% above bank base rate. The directors have agreed with the group's bankers to postpone repayment of these loans, except by agreement.

During the year, the company rented property, at arms length, from The Property Account, a partnership owned by the four shareholding directors, for £10,000. At the year end, the amount outstanding was £nil.

During the year, the company made a loan of £2,000 to Mr A N Thomas, who was appointed as director of the company on 9 May 2003.

Advantage has been taken of the FRS 8 exemption not to disclose inter-group transactions as the company is a 100% subsidiary and is included in publicly available consolidated accounts.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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23. Gross cash flows

	2003 £	2002 £
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received	-	55
Interest paid	(228,233)	(212,148)
	(228,233)	(212,093)
Taxation		
Corporation tax paid	(43,426)	(59,540)
Capital expenditure		
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(213,550)	(1,250,847)
Receipts from sales of tangible assets	8,249	42,490
	(205,301)	(1,208,357)
Financing	 _	
New long term bank loan	-	473,000
Other new long term loans	•	261,000
Increase / (decrease) in directors' loans due within one year	117,603	292,190
Capital element of finance leases and hire purchase contracts	(26,891)	(69,310)
	(144,494)	956,880

Major non-cash transactions

Dividends proposed for the year ended 30 April 2002 of £20,000 were credited to the directors' loan accounts on 30 September 2002. In addition, interim dividends of £20,000 were credited to the directors' loan accounts on 31 October 2002.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2003

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24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	Opening balance	Cash flows	Other changes	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand Overdrafts	163,675 (1,269,931)	586,250 (1,453,476)		749,925 (2,723,407)
	(1,106,256)	(867,226)		(1,973,482)
Debt due within one year Debt due after one year Finance leases and hire purchase contracts	(1,265,742) (734,000) (18,581)	117,603 26,891	(40,000) - (73,475)	(1,188,139) (734,000) (65,165)
	(2,018,323)	144,494	(113,475)	(1,987,304)
Net debt	(3,124,579)	(722,732)	(113,475)	(3,960,786)

25. Other commitments

During the year, the company entered into forward exchange contracts totalling £5,150,000 all of which mature within 12 months.