Company Registration No. 3558968

BRE/Savoy Acquisition Company
(An unlimited company)

Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2003

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Deloitte & Touche LLP London

Report and financial statements 2003

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Report and financial statements 2003

Officers and professional advisers

Directors

J Z Kukral

T J Barrack Jr.

J D Gray

J V Ceriale

Secretary

J D Gray

Registered office

l Savoy Hill London WC2R OBP

Auditors

Deloitte & Touche LLP Chartered Accountants London

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003.

ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the company is the ownership of hotels and restaurant companies ("the Group").

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The profit for the year before interest, tax and depreciation is £36.76 million (2002: £46.24 million). The loss before tax for the year is £11.87 million (2002: £5.83 million). The consolidated profit and loss account is shown on page 5.

On 27 June 2003 the group sold the shares in The Lygon Arms Hotel Limited for a consideration of £16.75 million resulting in a loss of £683,000 being recognised.

The directors expect that the present activity level will at least be sustained for the foreseeable future in the absence of unforeseen circumstances.

DIVIDENDS

In the year no dividend was paid (2002: £nil) and no dividend is proposed (2002: £nil).

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors of the company at 31 December 2003, who have been directors for the whole year are listed below. The directors do not hold any interests in the shares of this or any other group company.

J V Ceriale (United States)
J Z Kukral (United States)
J D Gray (United States)
T J Barrack Jr. (United States)

EMPLOYEES

The Group's policy is to give full and fair consideration to the recruitment of disabled persons having regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities. Appropriate training will be arranged for disabled persons. The Group's personnel policies ensure that all its employees are made aware, on a regular basis, of the Group's policies, programmes and progress.

AUDITORS

Deloitte & Touche LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors. A resolution to re-appoint them will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

J N Ceriale

On behalf of the Board

3 March 2004

Statement of directors' responsibilities

United Kingdom 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 group as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the group 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group 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 of the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for the system of internal control, for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditors' report to the members of BRE/Savoy Acquisition Company

We have audited the financial statements of BRE/Savoy Acquisition Company for the year ended 31 December 2003 which comprise the consolidated profit and loss account, the balance sheets, the consolidated cash flow statement and the related notes 1 to 28. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

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

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant United Kingdom legal and regulatory requirements and 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 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 for the above year and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

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 affairs of the company and the Group as at 31 December 2003 and of the loss of the Group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

London

200.

Consolidated profit and loss account Year ended 31 December 2003

2002 £'000
117,276
(70,745)
46,531
(6,127)
40,404
(294)
-
192
(46,130)
(5,828)
1,931
(3,897)
(3,897)

All activities in the current and preceding years are derived from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses in either year other than the loss for that year. Accordingly, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared.

Balance Sheets 31 December 2003

		Group	Company	Group	Сотрапу
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Goodwill	9	(14,053)	-	(14,053)	-
Tangible fixed assets	10	625,506	-	638,593	_
Investments in subsidiaries	11		160,000		160,000
		611,453	160,000	624,540	160,000
Current assets					
Stocks	12	2,571	-	2,947	-
Debtors	13	11,011	3,307	11,546	2,379
Investments		300	-	300	-
Cash at bank and in hand		1,849	-	868	-
		15,731	3,307	15,661	2,379
Creditors: amounts falling due					
within one year	14	(487,114)	(3,307)	(47,659)	(2,379)
Net current liabilities		(471,383)		(31,998)	
Total assets less current liabilities		140,070	160,000	592,542	160,000
Creditors: amounts falling due after					
more than one year	16	-	-	(440,085)	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	17	(8,517)	-	(8,577)	-
Net assets		131,553	160,000	143,880	160,000
Capital and wasawara					
Capital and reserves Called up share capital	18	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000
Profit and loss account	19	(28,447)	100,000	(16,120)	100,000
1 1011t alia 1055 aveouit	17	(20,777)		(10,120)	
Total equity shareholders' funds		131,553	160,000	143,880	160,000
					

2003

2002

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 3 March 2004.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

JV/Ceriale Director

Consolidated cash flow statement Year ended 31 December 2003

	Note	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	23	38,836	40,143
Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received		152 (25,344)	144 (42,250)
Interest paid Income from investments		(23,344)	48
Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance		(24,591)	(42,058)
Capital expenditure and financial investment Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Cash received on sale of fixed assets		(9,803) 15,293	(17,541) 1,749
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from capital expenditure and financial investment		5,490	(15,792)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) before financing		19,735	(17,707)
Financing Repayment of loans New loans drawn down Increase in long term borrowings		(18,754)	(5,540) 6,086 11,215
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from financing		(18,754)	11,761
Increase/(decrease) in cash	24	981	(5,946)

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted and applied consistently throughout the year are described below.

Basis of accounting and consolidation

These accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and applicable accounting standards in the UK.

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings for the year ended 31 December 2003.

Fixed assets

Expenditure on development of the Group's hotels and restaurants, including major replacement and improvement of assets, is disclosed as Land and Buildings or Fixtures, Fittings, Plant and Machinery. Land and Buildings includes the costs associated with structural improvements to freehold and long-term leasehold properties. The cost of replacement of glass and china and certain other loose equipment of hotels and restaurants is charged to revenue in the year in which it is incurred.

Depreciation

Having regard to the high level of expenditure on general maintenance, the long anticipated lives and high residual values of the Group's hotels and restaurants, the resultant amount of any depreciation on carrying value is not considered to be material. No depreciation is therefore charged on freehold and long-term leasehold properties. Long leaseholds have a lease of more than 50 years remaining.

The appraisal of residual values for each property is based on prices prevailing at the time of the acquisition or subsequent valuation of the property in question. In the event of any impairment in property value below historical cost, provision for impairment is charged to the profit and loss account. The hotels are valued annually by an independent firm of external valuers to give the directors assistance in assessing whether there has been any impairment of the hotel assets.

No depreciation is charged on antiques as they are maintained in good condition and they are expected to have a high residual value.

Short-term leasehold properties are amortised over the period of the lease.

Depreciation of other tangible assets is provided on a straight line basis over the following useful lives:

Plant and machinery - between 1 and 25 years Fixtures and fittings - between 5 and 15 years.

Turnover

Turnover represents income from hotel, restaurant and theatre operations and excludes value added tax. All turnover is derived from UK operations.

Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less any provision for impairment in value. Current asset investments represent shares in an unlisted company and are held at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Interest

Interest charges incurred in financing the restoration of the properties is not capitalised. All interest is charged against profits as it arises.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Goodwill

Negative goodwill arising on the acquisition of The Savoy Hotel Plc is amortised through the profit and loss account in line with depreciation or provision for impairment applied to freehold and long leasehold properties, or when such properties are sold.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and law. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements. Deferred tax is not provided on timing differences arising from the revaluation of fixed assets where there is no binding commitment to dispose of these assets. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are discounted.

Exchange rates

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the market rates of exchange at the date of the transactions.

Stocks

Stocks consist of raw materials and consumables and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Leasing

Assets acquired under finance leases are included under the relevant category of tangible fixed assets and depreciated accordingly. The capital element of future lease rentals payable is included as appropriate under creditors due within or after more than one year. The interest element of lease rentals is charged to the profit and loss account.

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account, as incurred, over the terms of the leases.

Pension and other post retirement benefits

For defined benefit schemes the amounts charged to operating profit are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the profit and loss account if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The interest cost and the expected return on assets are shown as a net amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

Defined benefit schemes are funded, with the assets of the scheme held separately from those of the group, in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting defined benefit asset or liability, net of the related deferred tax, is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the balance sheet.

For defined contribution schemes the amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

2. Turnover

		Turno	ver	Profit/(loss) taxatio		Net ass	ets
		2003 £'000	2002 £'000	2003 £'000	2002 £'000	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
	Hotel, restaurant and ancillary services	102,080	116,710	(11,830)	(5,851)	127,012	139,328
	Theatre ticket sales and ancillary services	552	566	(37)	23	4,541	4,552
		102,632	117,276	(11,867)	(5,828)	131,553	143,880
3.	Information regarding d	irectors and e	employees				
	Average number of person	ons employed	(excluding di	rectors)		2003 No.	2002 No.
	Hotel and administration					1,275	1,502
						£'000	£'000
	Staff costs during the year Wages and salaries Social security costs Pension costs	r (excluding	directors)			23,689 2,147 1,780 27,616	25,965 2,122 574 ———————————————————————————————————
						====	======
4.	Operating profit					2003 £'000	2002 £'000
	Operating profit is stated Depreciation – owned asse Operating leases:		ng			6,590	6,128
	Plant and machinery Other assets					229 224	229 231
	Auditors' remuneration - a Auditors' remuneration - n		ces			82 58	85 160

Auditors' remuneration of £5,250 (2002: £5,250) for the audit of the company, was borne by another group company.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

2002 £'000 144 48 192
144 48
48
192
2002 £'000
31,035
2,365
12,730
46,130
2002
£'000
-
665
1,624
1,024
15
(373)
1,931

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

7. Tax charge on profit on ordinary activities (continued)

Factors affecting corporation tax charge for the current year

The corporation tax assessed for the year is lower than that resulting from applying the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 30% (2002: 30%).

The differences are explained below:

(5,828)
0) (1,748)
9 643
2) 22
-
2) (84)
2 655
3) (288)
5 -
3 800

Factors that may affect the future tax charge

Deferred tax has not been provided on the difference between the carrying value and the tax basis of fixed assets. This tax will only become payable if the assets are sold and rollover relief is not obtained. The estimated amount of tax that would become payable in these circumstances is £119.7m.

Deferred tax has not been provided in respect of gains realised that have been rolled over into the acquisition cost of replacement assets. This tax will become payable if the replacement assets are sold and further rollover relief is not available. The estimated amount of tax that would become payable in these circumstances is £4.9m.

A deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of carried forward tax losses as their utilisation in the near future is uncertain. The amount of the asset not recognised is £5.2m.

8. Result for the financial year

The company did not trade during the year ended 31 December 2003 and therefore made neither profit nor loss (2002: £nil). As permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985, a profit and loss account is not presented for the company.

9. Intangible assets

Group £'000

Negative goodwill

At 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2003 (14,053)

Net book value

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

At 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2003

(14,053)

10. Tangible fixed assets

		Lana	Chaut	Assets	Firtumos	
	Freehold land and	Long leasehold	Short leasehold	under the course of	Fixtures, fittings,	Canana
Group	buildings £'000	land and buildings £'000	land and buildings £'000	con- struction £'000	plant and machinery £'000	Group total £'000
Cost						
At 1 January 2003	382,075	189,636	414	18,403	72,405	662,933
Reclassification	-	3,949	-	(18,313)	14,364	-
Additions	144	1,400	-	639	7,620	9,803
Disposals	(14,517)		-	-	(4,835)	(19,352)
At 31 December 2003	367,702	194,985	414	729	89,554	653,384
Accumulated depreciation						
At 1 January 2003	-	~	136	-	24,204	24,340
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-	6,590	6,590
Disposals			-	<u>-</u>	(3,052)	(3,052)
At 31 December 2003			136		27,742	27,878
Net book value						
At 31 December 2003	367,702	194,985	278	729	61,812	625,506
At 31 December 2002	382,075	189,636	278	18,403	48,201	638,593
						

All of the hotels in the group were valued by external professional valuers during the year. The directors have considered these valuations in performing the annual impairment review of the hotel assets.

The company does not own any tangible fixed assets.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

11. Investment in subsidiaries

Company	£'000
At 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2003	160,000

The investment represents the company's holding of 100% of the share capital of Blackstone Hotel Acquisitions Company, an unlimited company incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales.

The company has a shareholding in the following principal companies:

Subsidiary undertaking	Country of Incorporation and operation	Activity	Shareholding
Blackstone Hotel Acquisitions Company	Great Britain	Intermediate Holding Company	100% (direct)
Claridge's Hotel Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Claridge's Hotel	100% (indirect)
Claridge's Hotel Holdings Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Claridge's Hotel Ltd	100% (indirect)
The Berkeley Hotel Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Berkeley Hotel	100% (indirect)
The Connaught Hotel Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Connaught Hotel	100% (indirect)
The Lygon Arms Hotel Ltd*	Great Britain	Owns Lygon Arms Hotel	100% (indirect)
Savoy Theatre Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Savoy Theatre	100% (indirect)
Savoy Theatre Holdings Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Savoy Theatre Ltd	100% (indirect)
Savoy Management Services Ltd	Great Britain	Management services	100% (indirect)
The Savoy Hotel Ltd	Great Britain	Owns Savoy Hotel	100% (indirect)

^{*}On 27 June 2003 the group sold its shares in The Lygon Arms Hotel Limited for a consideration of £16.75m, resulting in a loss of £0.7m.

12. Stocks

Group	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Raw materials and consumables	2,571	2,947

The company does not own any stocks.

13. Debtors

	2003		2002	
	Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
Trade debtors	7,868	-	7,536	-
Other debtors	590	-	1,890	_
Amounts owed by other group companies	-	3,307	-	2,379
Prepayments and accrued income	2,553	-	2,120	
	11,011	3,307	11,546	2,379

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

15.

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

2003		2002	
Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
345,309	-	15,020	_
94,040	-	-	-
8,630	-	7,051	-
3,307	3,307	2,379	2,379
3,170	-	3,631	-
27,815	-	13,658	-
4,843		5,920	
487,114	3,307	47,659	2,379
		2003 £'000	2002 £'000
		439,349	15,020
			440,085
		439,349	455,105
	Group £'000 345,309 94,040 8,630 3,307 3,170 27,815 4,843	Group £'000 £'000 345,309 - 94,040 - 8,630 - 3,307 3,307 3,170 - 27,815 - 4,843 -	Group £'000 £'000 £'000 345,309 - 15,020 94,040

In line with FRS 4 "Capital Instruments" loan acquisition costs of £1,734,000 (2002: £4,732,000) have been offset against the bank loan. This amount is being amortised over the remaining life of the loan.

The company has a senior credit facility of £275m which matures on 30 June 2004. Repayment of the loan is made in quarterly instalments. The interest rate is LIBOR plus 1.125 per cent. The company has a junior credit facility of £100.6m which matures on 30 June 2004. Repayment of the loan will be made in full on maturity. The interest rate is LIBOR plus 4 per cent.

Concurrently with the signing of these agreements, the company entered into an agreement to hedge its interest rate exposure in respect of an initial notional principal amount of £375.6m, for a period ending on 30 June 2003. The interest rate for the senior and junior credit facilities were fixed at 7.66 per cent and 10.54 per cent respectively. On the renewal of the senior and junior facilities the group entered into a new arrangement to cap the interest on a notional principal amount of £354.7m at 5.54% plus margin.

During 2001 an additional loan facility of £20m was made available to the company. At 31 December 2003 £9m of this facility has been drawn down.

The company entered into a credit agreement in 1998 with BRE/Satellite LP, a limited partnership which owns the Group's ultimate parent company, for £60m. The loan matures on 31 December 2004 and bears interest at 13.5 per cent. Repayment of the loan will be made in full on maturity.

The bank loans are secured by a fixed and floating charge over the Group's assets.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

16.	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		
	Group	2003 £'000	2003 £'000
	Bank loans Other loans with related entity	- -	346,045 94,040
		-	440,085
17.	Provisions for liabilities and charges		
	Movement in deferred tax provision Group		2003 £'000
	Provision at 1 January 2003 Charge to the profit and loss account Deferred tax balance in respect of subsidiary		(8,577) (460)
	undertaking disposed of during the year		520
	At 31 December 2003		(8,517)
	Analysis of deferred tax balance Group	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
	Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Short term timing differences	(11,191)	`(11,092) 118
	Undiscounted provision for deferred tax Discount on timing differences	(11,191) 2,674	(10,974) 2,397
	Discounted provision for deferred tax	(8,517)	(8,577)
18.	Called up share capital		
		Group and c 2003 £'000	ompany 2002 £'000
	Authorised: 250,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	250,000	250,000
	Called up, allotted and fully paid 160,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	160,000	160,000

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

Annual commitments under non-cancellable leases

19. Profit and loss account

19.	Profit and loss account	200	13	200	12
		Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
	At 1 January Retained loss for the year	(16,120) (12,327)		(12,223) (3,897)	-
	At 31 December	(28,447)	- -	(16,120)	
20.	Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' fund	Is			
				2003 £'000	2002 £'000
	Loss for the financial year Opening shareholders' funds			(12,327) 143,880	(3,897) 147,777
	Closing shareholders' funds			131,553	143,880
21.	Capital commitments				
				Grou 2003 £'000	2002 £'000
	Capital commitments (land and buildings): Contracted but not provided in the accounts			925	2,750
22.	Operating lease commitments				
	At 31 December 2003 the group was committed to me respect of operating leases:	aking the followi	ng payments d	uring the next	year in
				2003 £'000	2002 £'000
	Expiring (land and buildings): - within one year			-	37
	- in two to five years			158 130	295
	- in more than five years				
				288	332
	Expiring (other assets):				
	- within one year - in two to five years			31 45	2 129
	- in more than five years			-	69
				76	200

532

364

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

23. Reconciliation of operating profit to operating cash inflow

25,	reconcinution of operating profit to operatin	6 ca sh mile			
				Gr	oup
				2003	2002
				£'000	£'000
	Operating profit			30,854	40,404
	Depreciation charges			6,590	6,128
	Decrease in stocks			376	146
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors			535	(1,177)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors			481	(5,358)
	Net cash inflow from operating activities			38,836	40,143
24.	Analysis of net debt				
		As at 1 January 2003 £'000	Cash flow £'000	Non cash imovements	As at 31 December 2003 £'000
	Cash at bank and in hand	868	981		1,849
	Debt due after one year	(440,085)	_	440,085	-
	Debt due within one year	(15,020)	18,754	(443,083)	(439,349)
	Total	(454,237)	19,735	(2,998)	(437,500)
25.	Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement i	n net debt			
				Group 2003 £'000	Group 2002 £'000
	Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year Cash outflow/(inflow) from decrease/(increase) i	in debt and lease		981	(5,946)
	financing	door mile toude		18,754	(11,761)
	Amortisation of loan issue expenses			(2,998)	(2,365)
	Movement in net debt			16,737	(20,072)
	Net debt at 1 January			(454,237)	(434,165)
	Net debt at 31 December			(437,500)	(454,237)

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

26. Pensions and similar obligations

The subsidiaries of the Group operate one pension scheme. The scheme has three sections - staff and senior staff which are defined benefit schemes and directors which is a money purchase scheme. The staff scheme is open to all staff if they meet the eligibility criteria. The Group actively encourages staff to join the scheme as it believes that it is an important element of the remuneration package.

The pension cost relating to the schemes is assessed in accordance with the advice of an independent qualified actuary using the attained age method. The latest actuarial valuation of those schemes was at 31 March 2003. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rates of increase in pension and salaries. It was assumed that the investment return rate would be 7.0% pre-retirement and 5.0% post-retirement per annum, salary increases would average at 4.0% per annum for senior staff and 3.5% for other staff, and present and future pensions would increase at a rate of 2.5% per annum.

At the date of the latest actuarial valuation, the market value of the assets of the schemes was £25.9million and the actuarial value of the assets was sufficient to cover 66% of the benefits which have accrued to members, after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. The Group has agreed with the Trustees to pay contributions at the rate of 7.9% of pensionable salaries. In addition the Group will pay £91,000 per month for 10 years from 1 April 2003. These additional monthly payments will increase annually in line with inflation.

The valuation used for FRS 17 disclosures has been based on the most recent actuarial valuation at 31 March 2003 updated to take account of the requirements of FRS 17 in order to assess the liabilities of the scheme at 31 December 2003. Scheme assets are stated at their market value at 31 December 2003.

The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities under FRS 17 are:

	Projected Unit	Projected Unit
Valuation method	2003	2002
Rate of salary increase (Staff/Senior Staff)	3.50%/4.10%	3.00%/3.50%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	2.70%	2.25%
Rate of increase in deferred pensions	2.70%	2.25%
Discount rate	5.60%	5.50%
Inflation assumption	2.80%	2.25%

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

26. Pensions and similar obligations (continued)

The fair value of the assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return are shown below.

	Long term expected rate of return	Value at 31 December 2003	Long term expected rate of return	Value at 31 December 2002
Equities (including property in 2002) Property Gilts Other	8.00% 7.00% 5.00% 4.50%	16,931 624 8,277 1,475	8.00% 8.00% 4.50% 5.00%	17,473 3,180 2,809
Total market value of assets Present value of scheme liabilities		27,307 (39,008)		23,462 (36,507)
Deficit in the scheme Related deferred tax asset		(11,701) 3,510		(13,045) 3,914
Net pension liability		(8,191)		(9,131)

The group has not recognised any liability in respect of this.

The figures shown above exclude benefits provided within the scheme on a defined contribution basis and benefits for pensioners which have been secured with an insurance company as in both cases, the assets held precisely match the corresponding liability.

Had the group adopted FRS 17 early, reserves at 31 December 2003 would have been stated as follows:

	31 December 2003 £'000	31 December 2002 £'000
Net assets		
Net assets excluding pension deficit	131,553	143,880
Pension deficit	(8,191)	(9,131)
Net assets including pension deficit	123,362	134,749
Reserves	 -	·
Profit and loss reserve excluding pension deficit	(28,447)	(16,120)
Pension deficit	(8,191)	(9,131)
Profit and loss reserve including pension deficit	(36,638)	(25,251)

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

26. Pensions and similar obligations (continued)

The effect of including the net pension deficit in the results would be as follows:

	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Analysis of the amount charged to operating profit Current service cost	849	574
Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income		
Expected return on pension scheme assets Interest on pension scheme liabilities	1,720 (2,016)	1,908 (1,913)
Net return	(296)	(5)
	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Analysis of amount recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses (STRGL)		
Actual return less expected return on pension scheme assets	1,482	(7,138)
Experience gains arising on liabilities	175	104
Loss due to changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	(890)	(2,908)
Actuarial loss recognised in the STRGL	767	(9,942)
Movement in deficit during the year		2003 £'000
Deficit at the beginning of the year		(13,045)
Movement in year:		` , ,
Current service cost		(849)
Contributions		1,723
Other financial income Actuarial loss		(296) 766
Deficit at the end of the year		(11,701)

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2003

26. Pensions and similar obligations (continued)

	2003	2002
History of experience gains and losses		
Difference between the expected and actual return on scheme assets		
Amount (£'000)	1,482	(7,138)
Percentage of scheme assets	5.4%	(30.4%)
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities		
Amount (£'000)	175	104
Percentage of scheme liabilities	0.4%	0.3%
	_ _	
Total amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses		
Amount (£'000)	766	(9,941)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	2.0%	(27.2%)

27. Related party disclosure

The Group is exempt under the provisions of paragraph 3, Financial Reporting Standard 8 "Related Party Disclosures" from disclosing details of transactions with Group related parties.

28. Ultimate parent entity

At 31 December 2003, the company's immediate and ultimate parent entity and controlling party is BRE/Satellite L.P., a Delaware limited partnership. BRE/Savoy Acquisition Company is the smallest and largest group for which group accounts are prepared.