

LIQ03

Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up



Companies House

For further information, please refer to our guidance at www.gov.uk/companieshouse

1 Company details

Company number 1 0 1 7 7 7 9 8
Company name in full Emporium Reviews Limited

Filling in this form

Please complete in typescript or in bold black capitals.

2 Liquidator's name

Full forename(s) Jeffrey Mark
Surname Brenner

3 Liquidator's address

Building name/number Concorde House
Street Grenville Place
Post town Mill Hill
County/Region London
Postcode N W 7 3 S A
Country

4 Liquidator's name¹

Full forename(s)
Surname

Other liquidator

Use this section to tell us about another liquidator.

5 Liquidator's address

Building name/number
Street
Post town
County/Region
Postcode
Country

Other liquidator

Use this section to tell us about another liquidator.

LIQ03

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6 Period of progress report

From date	0	2	0	8	2	0	2	2
To date	0	1	0	8	2	0	2	3

7 Progress report

☒ The progress report is attached

8 Sign and date

Liquidator's signature

Signature

X

[Handwritten signature]

X

Signature date

2 3

0 8

2 0 2 3

LIQ03

Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up



Presenter information

You do not have to give any contact information, but if you do it will help Companies House if there is a query on the form. The contact information you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

Contact name **Jeffrey Mark Brenner**

Company name **B&C Associates Limited**

Address **Concorde House**

Grenville Place

Post town **Mill Hill**

County/Region **London**

Postcode **N W 7 3 S A**

Country

DX

Telephone **020 8906 7730**



Checklist

We may return forms completed incorrectly or with information missing.

Please make sure you have remembered the following:

- ☐ The company name and number match the information held on the public Register.
- ☐ You have attached the required documents.
- ☐ You have signed the form.



Important information

All information on this form will appear on the public record.



Where to send

You may return this form to any Companies House address, however for expediency we advise you to return it to the address below:

The Registrar of Companies, Companies House,
Crown Way, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 3UZ.
DX 33050 Cardiff.



Further information

For further information please see the guidance notes on the website at www.gov.uk/companieshouse or email enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk

This form is available in an alternative format. Please visit the forms page on the website at www.gov.uk/companieshouse

Liquidator's Annual Progress Report to Creditors & Members

**Emporium Reviews Limited
- In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation**

Reporting period from 02 August 2022 to 01 August 2023

Date of Report – 23 August 2023

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APPENDICES

- A** Receipts and Payments Account for the Period from 02 August 2022 to 01 August 2023 and Cumulative Receipts and Payments Account since the Liquidator's Appointment
- B** Additional information in relation to Liquidator's Fees, Expenses & the use of Subcontractors

1 Introduction and Statutory Information

- 1.1 I, Jeffrey Mark Brenner of B&C Associates Ltd, Concorde House, Grenville Place, Mill Hill, London, NW7 3SA, was appointed as Liquidator of Emporium Reviews Limited (the **Company**) on 02 August 2017. I am authorised to act as an insolvency practitioner in the UK by The Insolvency Practitioners Association and am bound by the Insolvency Code of Ethics when carrying out work relating to insolvency appointments. In the event of case related queries, the Liquidator can be contacted on telephone number 020 8906 7730 or by email via jeff@bcassociates.uk.com.
- 1.2 This progress report provides an update on the conduct of the Liquidation for the period from 02 August 2022 to 01 August 2023 (the **Period**) and should be read in conjunction with any previous progress reports which have been issued.
- 1.3 Information about the way that we will use, and store personal data on insolvency appointments can be found at <https://www.bcassociates.uk.com/policies-guidance>. If you are unable to download this, please contact my office and a hard copy will be provided to you.
- 1.4 The principal trading address of the Company was 2nd Floor, Princess Mary House, 4 Bluecoats Avenue, Hertford, SG14 1PB.
- 1.5 The registered office of the Company has been changed to C/o B&C Associates Limited, Concorde House, Grenville Place, Mill Hill, London, NW7 3SA and its registered number is 10177798.
- 1.6 The Company is one of 2040 companies (the **Companies**) operating a similar business model and with a similar creditor base all of which ceased trading on 5 April 2017. The Companies were placed into liquidation between 31 May 2017 and 8 February 2018 and separate annual reports have been and will be issued in respect of each of the Companies at the appropriate time. I can confirm that a significant number of the 2040 Liquidations have now been concluded and separate final accounts have been issued accordingly, where appropriate.

2 Receipts and Payments

- 2.1 At Appendix A is my Receipts and Payments Account covering the Period of this report. Also attached at Appendix A, is a cumulative Receipts and Payments Account from the date of my appointment as Liquidator to the end of the Period covered by this report.

3 Progress of the Liquidation

- 3.1 This section of the report provides creditors with an update on the progress made in the Liquidation during the Period and an explanation of the work done by the Liquidator and his staff.
- 3.2 The time spent on this case relates to the following matters:
- Notifying creditors of the office holder's appointment and other associated formalities including statutory advertising and filing relevant statutory notices
 - Preparing and issuing annual progress reports to creditors (and members where applicable)
 - Lodging periodic returns with the Registrar of Companies
 - Complying with statutory duties in respect of the office holder's specific penalty bond
 - Creation and update of case files on the firm's insolvency software
 - Securing the insolvent's books and records
 - Completion and filing of the notice of the insolvency with HMRC
 - Initial assessment required by Statement of Insolvency Practice 2 and the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA) including the review of the insolvent's books and records and the identification of potential further asset realisations which may be pursued in the proceedings
 - Submitting a statutory report to the Insolvency Service under the CDDA
 - Investigation into the affairs of the company
 - Reviewing position in relation to outstanding debtor and extensive work leading to settlement
 - Periodic case progression reviews

- Correspondence with the bank in regard to release of funds held in client account operated on behalf of the Company
- Correspondence and meetings with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and other creditors
- Opening, maintaining and managing the insolvent estate cashbook and bank account
- Dealing with all post-appointment VAT and corporation tax compliance as applicable to the proceedings
- Corporation tax returns (as applicable)
- Compiling PAYE schedules for claims submitted to HMRC
- Bank reconciliations
- Attending to correspondence and telephone calls with creditors
- Recording and acknowledging creditor claims
- Extensive investigation into the background and affairs of the Company including the purpose for setting the Company up, the manner in which it operated and carried on its business, and the role and scope of work undertaken by its key customers and suppliers.
- Opening bank account and dealing with allocation of funds to the Company from the relevant general client account
- Liaising with counsel and solicitors
- Obtaining bonding and completing bond reviews to enable the Liquidator to continue to act
- Updating the Insolvency Practitioners System

Administration (including statutory compliance & reporting)

- 3.3 An office holder must comply with certain statutory obligations under the Insolvency Act 1986 and other related legislation. Details about the work I anticipated would need to be done in this area was outlined in my initial fees information which was previously agreed by creditors.
- 3.4 Where the costs of statutory compliance work or reporting to creditors exceeds the initial estimate, it will usually be because the duration of the case has taken longer than anticipated, possibly due to protracted asset realisations, which have in turn placed a further statutory reporting requirement on the Liquidator.
- 3.5 As noted in my initial fees information, this work will not necessarily bring any financial benefit to creditors but is required on every case by statute.

Realisation of Assets

- 3.6 Bank Interest Gross

The sum of £4.91 was received on funds held in the Liquidation current account in the period.

- 3.7 Funds held in CGLS Account

As detailed in previous annual reports, the sum of £7,906.07 was realised in this matter from funds held in the Client Account operated by CGLS Accountancy Services Ltd ("**CGLS**").

3.8 SCS Settlement

As detailed in previous reports, there was a sum of £1,131.89 outstanding to the Company from Shield Contract Service (UK) Ltd ("SCS"). SCS alleged it had a claim against the company for losses caused to it that was greater than the sum owed, and that it could set-off payment of the debt against the counterclaim with the result that no money was due from it. The Liquidator sought further information about the alleged losses and denied that set off could be applied. After numerous meetings and extensive correspondence in this regard, SCS made a global settlement offer to the Liquidator to compromise all claims made against it by those of the companies it was indebted to, maintaining it disputed any obligation to pay the debts and that the amount offered was the maximum amount it could lawfully pay taking into account other amounts claimed to be due from it. There then followed further negotiations and a rigorous examination by the Liquidator of SCS's ability to pay. The offer was improved to a point where it could be accepted as it gave creditors a significantly better outcome than if the Company had brought court proceedings to collect the debt. On 12 October 2020 an agreement was concluded whereby the Liquidator accepted a global settlement in respect of the total indebtedness of SCS to the companies. The terms of settlement are confidential but the Liquidator can confirm the agreed sum has been paid in full and has been allocated pro-rata to each of the companies owed money by SCS, meaning the sum of £119.79 has been paid to the Company. The settlement agreement includes a provision whereby further deferred payments may become due; however, I can confirm that, no further payments have become due from SCS.

3.9 There have been no other realisations in the period.

3.10 It is anticipated that the work the Liquidator and his staff have undertaken will bring a financial benefit to creditors because realisations are likely to result in a distribution to unsecured creditors.

Creditors (claims and distributions)

3.11 Liquidators are not only required to deal with correspondence and claims from unsecured creditors (which may include retention of title claims), but also those of any secured and preferential creditors of the Company. This may involve separate reporting to any secured creditor and dealing with distributions from asset realisations caught under their security, most typically a debenture.

3.12 Work undertaken by a Liquidator in dealing with a company's creditors may only therefore bring a financial benefit to certain classes of creditor such as a secured creditor or the preferential creditors, however a Liquidator is required by statute to undertake this work. Similarly, if a distribution is to be paid to any class of creditor, work will be required to agree those claims and process the dividend payments to each relevant class of creditor. The more creditors a company has, the more time and cost will be involved by the Liquidator in dealing with those claims.

3.13 More information on the anticipated outcome for all classes of creditor in this case can be found in Section 4 below.

3.14 At this stage, I consider the following matters worth bringing to the attention of creditors:

- There are 4 unsecured creditor claims in this case
- There are no secured creditors
- There are no ordinary preferential creditors

Investigations

3.15 You may recall from my first progress report to creditors that some of the work the Liquidator is required to undertake is to comply with legislation such as the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 ("CDDA 1986") and Statement of Insolvency Practice 2 – Investigations by Office Holders in Administration and Insolvent Liquidations and may not necessarily bring any financial benefit to creditors, unless these investigations reveal potential asset recoveries that the Liquidator can pursue for the benefit of creditors.

- 3.16 My report on the conduct of the Directors of the Company to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy under the CDDA 1986 was submitted during the first year of the liquidation and is confidential.
- 3.17 Since my last progress report, I would advise that no further asset realisations have come to light that may be pursued by me for the benefit of creditors.

Matters still to be dealt with

- 3.18 All other matters have now been concluded with the exception of agreeing HMRC Claims. Initially HMRC submitted overstated creditor claims. The Liquidator entered into correspondence with HMRC in this regard and has held various further discussions with HMRC and has requested for them to submit reduced claims based on updated filings. The Liquidator continues corresponding and is in ongoing discussions with HMRC in this regard and the HMRC claims have yet to be adjudicated.

4 Creditors

Unsecured Creditors

- 4.1 To date, I have received claims totalling £27,280.71 from 4 creditors. I would confirm that it is anticipated that there will be sufficient funds realised after defraying the expenses of the Liquidation to pay a dividend to unsecured creditors. For various reasons detailed elsewhere in this report, the timing and quantum is uncertain.
- 4.2 The Company did not grant any floating charges to a secured creditor. Accordingly, there is no requirement to create a fund out of the Company's net floating charge property for unsecured creditors (known as the Prescribed Part), which only applies to charges created after 15 September 2003.

5 Liquidator's Remuneration

- 5.1 The Creditors approved that the bases of the Liquidator's remuneration be a fixed fee and percentage of realisations. The fixed fee was to be set at £2,000.00 plus VAT, as well as 5% of realisations on cash balances, 10% of realisations on tangible assets and book debts and 40% of realisations on assets not detailed on the Statement of Affairs.
- 5.2 Creditors also approved a fee in the sum of £500 plus VAT for convening and holding the physical meeting. The Liquidator has subsequently decided to limit this fee to £250 plus VAT.
- 5.3 The set fee is considerably less than the time costs that will be incurred in dealing with the Liquidation and the percentages of realisations are considered fair and reasonable in light of the assets of the Company.
- 5.4 One of the bases of the Liquidator's remuneration was agreed by creditors as a percentage of realisations made into the estate. Details of the realisations to date and associated remuneration drawn on account of those realisations is set out below. Any fees not yet drawn will be dealt with prior to closure and the final amount paid to my firm in this regard will be confirmed in my final progress report in due course. The Liquidator has made the following realisations upon which the creditors have approved a percentage be taken as remuneration. Details of the realisations to date and associated remuneration drawn on account of those realisations is are set out below:

Asset category	Value of assets realised in period	Total value of assets realised since appointment	Remuneration % agreed	Total Fees due on realisations to date	Fees on realisations Drawn to date
Funds held in CGLS Account	£0.00	£7,906.07	5%	£395.30	£395.30
SCS Settlement	£0.00	£119.79	10%	£11.98	£11.98

- 5.5 The Liquidator has drawn £250 against the agreed set fee in respect of convening and holding a physical meeting in this matter.

- 5.6 The other basis of the Liquidator's remuneration was agreed as a set amount by creditors. To date an amount of £2,000.00 has been drawn against the total set fee agreed of £2,000.00 plus VAT approved by creditors.
- 5.7 A copy of 'A Creditors' Guide to Liquidators' Fees' is available on request or can be downloaded from www.icaew.com/en/technical/insolvency/creditors-guides.
- 5.8 Attached as Appendix B is additional information in relation to the Liquidator's fees, expenses including where relevant, information on the use of subcontractors and professional advisers.

6 Creditors' Rights

- 6.1 Within 21 days of the receipt of this report, a secured creditor, or an unsecured creditor (with the concurrence of at least 5% in value of the unsecured creditors) may request in writing that the Liquidator provide further information about his remuneration or expenses which have been itemised in this progress report.
- 6.2 Any secured creditor, or an unsecured creditor (with the concurrence of at least 10% in value of the unsecured creditors) may within 8 weeks of receipt of this progress report make an application to court on the grounds that, in all the circumstances, the basis fixed for the Liquidator's remuneration is inappropriate and/or the remuneration charged or the expenses incurred by the Liquidator, as set out in this progress report, are excessive.

7 Next Report

- 7.1 I am required to provide a further report on the progress of the liquidation within two months of the next anniversary of the liquidation, unless I have concluded matters prior to this, in which case I will write to all creditors with my final account.
- 7.2 Should you have any queries in relation to the contents of this report please contact Besa Mustafa of this office on 020 8906 7730 or by email at besa@bcassociates.uk.com.




J M BRENNER
LIQUIDATOR

APPENDIX A

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD AND
CUMULATIVE FROM THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

**Statement
of Affairs**
£

From 02/08/2017
To 01/08/2023
£


Jeffrey Mark Brenner
Liquidator

Additional Information in Relation to the Liquidator's Fees, Expenses & the use of Subcontractors

Staff Allocation and the Use of Sub-Contractors

The general approach to resourcing our assignments is to allocate staff with the skills and experience to meet the specific requirements of the case.

The constitution of the case team will usually consist of a Partner, a Manager, and an Administrator or Assistant. The exact constitution of the case team will depend on the anticipated size and complexity of the assignment and the experience requirements of the assignment.

We have not utilised the services of any subcontractors on this case.

Professional Advisors

On this assignment we have used the professional advisors listed below. We have also indicated alongside, the basis of our fee arrangement with them, which is subject to review on a regular basis.

Name of Professional Advisor	Basis of Fee Arrangement
Gateley Legal - Legal Advice & Investigations	Hourly rate and disbursements
Land Commercial Surveyors London Ltd	Fixed Fee

For each of the professional advisors our choice was based on our perception of their experience and ability to perform this type of work, the complexity and nature of the assignment and the basis of our fee arrangement with them.

Liquidator's Expenses

The estimate of expenses which were anticipated at the outset of the liquidation was provided to creditors when the basis of my fees was approved. The table below compares the anticipated costs against those incurred to date.

Category 1 expenses

These expenses do not require prior approval by creditors. The type of expenses that may be charged to a case as a Category 1 expense generally comprise of external supplies of incidental services specifically identifiable to the case, such as postage, case advertising, invoiced travel and external printing, external room hire and external storage costs. Also chargeable, will be any properly reimbursed expenses incurred by personnel in connection with the case. These expenses may include disbursements which are payments first met by an office holder and then reimbursed from the estate.

Expense	Estimated overall cost £	Paid in Prior Period £	Paid in the period covered by this report	Incurred but not paid to date £
Courier	£0.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.37
Legal Fees & expenses	£300.00	£100.00	£0.00	£22.26
Computer Costs	£1.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.06
Travel	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4.79
Advertising	£323.00	£237.00	£86.00	£0.00
Specific Penalty bond	£109.20	£90.00	£19.20	£0.00
Agents Fees	£3.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1.14

Category 2 expenses

These expenses do require approval from creditors. These are costs which are directly referable to the appointment in question but are not payments which are made to an independent third party and may therefore include payments to associates of the office holder or shared or allocated costs that can be allocated to the appointment on a proper and reasonable basis. Details of Category 2 expenses charged by this firm (where appropriate) were provided at the time the Liquidator's fee basis was approved by creditors.

Expense	Estimated overall cost £	Paid in Prior Period £	Paid in the period covered by this report £	Incurred but not paid to date £
Postage, Circulars and correspondence	£105.00	£0.00	£0.00	£90.00