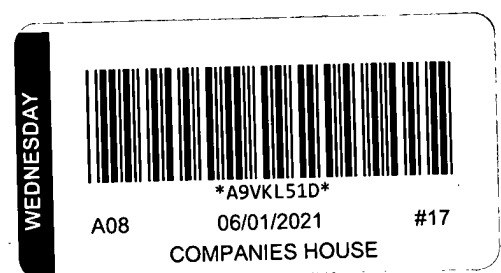


Royale Midco Limited

Annual report and financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

Registered number 10885661



Contents

2	Strategic report
3	Directors' report
5	Independent auditors' report to the members of Royale Midco Limited
10	Profit and loss account
11	Balance sheet
12	Statement of changes in equity
13	Notes to the financial statements

Strategic Report

The directors present their strategic report on the Company for the year ended 31 December 2019, with comparatives for the 17 month period from 26 July 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Review of the business

The results of the Company for the year are set out on page 10 and show a loss before taxation of £71,000 (2018: £325,000). The net assets of the Company as at 31 December 2019 is £37,104,000 (2018: £37,176,000).

Key performance indicators

Given the nature of the business is that of a holding company, the Company's directors are of the opinion that analysis using KPI's is not necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business. This is achieved instead through its operating subsidiaries, the performance of which is measured through the analysis of adjusted EBITDA and sales in these companies.

A more detailed business review is also included in the financial statements of the company's parent undertaking, Royale Topco Limited, which prepares consolidated financial statements, and which does not form part of this report.

Future developments

See the Directors' report for further information.

Risks

The principal risks to which the Company is exposed are liquidity and credit risk.

Liquidity risks exist as a result of a loan made to the Company by another entity within the ultimate controlling party's group. The Company manages this risk by entering into long term loan note agreements which will not be settled until the agreed repayment date in 2027.

Credit risk arises as a result of the Company's intercompany debtors balance with Royale JVC Limited. Having reviewed budgets and forecasts for Royale JVC Limited, which is supported by the cashflows from its subsidiary undertakings, the directors are satisfied that the risk associated with this balance is appropriately managed.

On behalf of the board



AD Murdoch
Director
18 December 2020

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of Royale Midco Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Company is that of a holding company which incurs costs on behalf of the underlying group and then recharges these, as well as being a financing company for the group. On 16 November 2017, the Company entered into a £100,000,000 11% unsecured redeemable series A loan note agreement with its shareholder, Bridgepoint Funds. On 16 November 2017, £44,750,000 was withdrawn and the proceeds were lent to Royale JVC Limited by entering into a £100,000,000 unsecured redeemable series A loan note agreement with Royale JVC Limited. On 28 September 2018, the £44,750,000 11% unsecured redeemable series A loan note was listed on The International Stock Exchange by Royale Midco Limited

Future developments

The directors expect the Company to act as a holding company which incurs costs on behalf of the underlying group and then recharges these, as well as being a financing company for the group, for the foreseeable future. The directors have considered the financial position of the Company and concluded that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. See note 3.2 for further assessment.

Dividend

No dividends were paid during the year (2018: nil).

Directors

The directors who held office during the year, and up to the date of the financial statements, unless otherwise stated, were as follows:

TJ Doubleday
AD Murdoch

Directors' indemnity

The Company maintains liability insurance for directors and officers of Royale Midco Limited. This is a qualifying third-party indemnity provision for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006 and was in place during the financial year and as at the date of approval of the financial statements.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

The directors 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.

Disclosure of information to auditors

In the case of each director in office at the date the Directors' Report is approved:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Directors' report (continued)

Employees

It is Company policy that there shall be no discrimination in respect of sex, colour, race, religion or nationality and that equal opportunity shall be given to all employees.

The policy of giving full and fair consideration to applications for employment from disabled persons and where practical to continue the employment of anyone who may become disabled during their employment has continued. Where existing employees become disabled, it is the Company's policy wherever practicable to provide continuing employment under normal terms and conditions and to provide training and career development and promotion to disabled employees (wherever appropriate).

Every effort is made to ensure good communication. In particular, the Company recognises the crucial roles that its managers and supervisors play in ensuring that employees are made aware of developments within the Company.

Financial instruments

The directors consider that the Company's key financial instruments are shareholder loan notes and amounts due to and from group companies. Interest on shareholder loans and loans receivable from other group companies is fixed at 11 per cent per annum and is therefore not exposed to movements in interest rates. The directors will revisit the appropriateness of this policy should the Company's operations change in size or nature.

The Company's exposure to the price risk of financial instruments is therefore minimal. The directors do not consider any other risks in regard to the use of financial instruments to be material to an assessment of its financial position or trading results.

Risk Management

The Company is conscious of the importance of providing a safe working environment for both its employees and its customers, of ensuring compliance with all statutory and mandatory requirements and of minimising the environmental impact of its operations whenever possible. Careful attention is given to the promotion of risk management procedures.

Donations

The Company did not make any political donations or incur any political expenditure during the year (2018: nil).

Post balance sheet events

The COVID-19 pandemic has developed rapidly in 2020. Measures taken by the government to contain the virus have affected economic activity. We have taken a number of measures to monitor and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, such as safety and health measures for our people (such as social distancing and working from home where possible) and adjusting our practices to ensure our ability to continue to operate.

As of the balance sheet date it was not known how severe the economic impact of COVID-19 would be as the vast majority of cases were then in Asia, where the Company currently has no operations. Based on this, in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 32, the Directors concluded the pandemic is a non-adjusting post balance sheet event. As a result of this, no adjustments to amounts recognised in the financial statements have been made for the impact of COVID-19.

Independent auditors

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, have been appointed by the directors. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Audit Committee meeting following the signing of these financial statements.

On behalf of the board



AD Murdoch

Director

18 December 2020

Independent auditors' report to the members of Royale Midco Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Royale Midco Limited's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and financial statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the balance sheet as at 31 December 2019; the profit and loss account and the statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2019; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

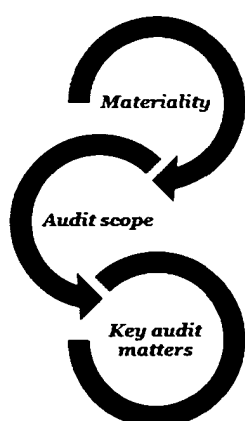
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Our audit approach

Overview



- Overall materiality: £200,000 (2018: £332,500), based on 1% of total assets capped at group materiality allocation.
 - We identified all material financial statement line items and disclosures, including those that were considered qualitatively material. The procedures performed provided sufficient evidence over all material classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures in the financial statements.
 - The company engagement team performed all audit procedures.
 - Carrying value of investments
 - Management's consideration of the potential impact of COVID-19
 - Recoverability of the amounts owed by group undertakings
-

The scope of our audit

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements. In particular, we looked at where the directors made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. As in all of our audits we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditors' professional judgement, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) identified by the auditors, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters, and any comments we make on the results of our procedures thereon, were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. This is not a complete list of all risks identified by our audit.

Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
<p><i>Carrying value of investments</i></p> <p>The Company has an investment balance of £37.5 million which is material to the financial statements.</p> <p>Impairment assessments of these assets requires significant judgment and there is the risk that potential impairment triggers are not identified by management and, in the event that there is an impairment trigger, there is a risk that the calculation of the recoverable amount of the asset is incorrect and therefore the value of the assets may be misstated.</p> <p>The recoverable value of investments is assessed by a fair value less costs to dispose calculation (which is based on future cash flow forecasts and related valuation assumptions of the trading entities).</p> <p>We focussed on this area due to significant judgement inherent in the impairment review itself and the fact that any changes in the assumptions would have a direct impact on the impairment assessment.</p>	<p>We obtained an understanding of the Company's procedures to identify impairment indicators and performed the following procedures in relation to management's assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We evaluated the internal sources and external sources of information to identify impairment indications, if any; - We evaluated the methodology applied in determining the value-in-use and checking the integrity and mathematical accuracy of the model; - We assessed the reasonableness of key assumptions such as revenue growth rates, gross margin growth, and EBITDA exit multiples; - We evaluated management's sensitivity analysis around the key assumptions, to ascertain the extent of change in those assumptions that either individually or collectively would be required for the investment to be impaired, where applicable; and - We challenged management's growth assumptions concluding that without acquisitions or new store openings, the existing estate was able to support the carrying value. <p>Based on the work performed, we noted no material issues regarding the impairment assessment or the relevant disclosure which is deemed to be appropriate.</p>
<p><i>Management's consideration of the potential impact of COVID – 19</i></p> <p>The COVID-19 outbreak, which was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020, and the social distancing measures implemented in 2020 by governments around the World have affected the operations of the Company suppliers and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Management considered the implications for the Company's going concern assessment and the adequacy of the disclosures in the Annual Report.</p> <p>We re-evaluated our initial risk assessment to determine whether the uncertainties associated with COVID-19 required additional audit testing or additional disclosure in the financial statements.</p> <p>As a result of the impact of COVID-19 on the wider economy, we have determined management's consideration of the potential impact of COVID-19 to be a key audit matter.</p>	<p>Our procedures included the following:</p> <p>We considered management's conclusion that COVID-19 represented a non-adjusting, post balance sheet event as at 31 December 2019.</p> <p>We obtained a letter of support from the ultimate controlling parent company, Royale Topco Limited. Therefore, we evaluated the going concern assessment for the Royale Topco Limited consolidated group (the "Group").</p> <p>We considered the potential adverse impact of COVID-19 on the Group's future cash flows, it's liquidity and the ability of the Group to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. In challenging and evaluating management's assessment, we noted the following factors that were considered to be fundamental in their consideration of the potential impact of COVID-19 on the current and future operations of the Group and which support the conclusion on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although all sites closed in April 2020, the Group was able to restore the majority of its revenue through home delivery platforms, which were in higher demand over the lockdown period; - Government support schemes allowed cost savings especially with the temporary drop in VAT and property taxes; - The Group has access to a Revolving Credit Facility ("RCF") of £5 million, of which £1 million was drawn down in 2020, leaving £4 million undrawn throughout

Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
	<p>the going concern period, which provides additional liquidity should the Group require it;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We considered the adequacy of the disclosures in the Annual Report, particularly in the Strategic report and the subsequent event note (note 20). <p>Based on the procedures performed, we noted no material issues from our work.</p>
<p>Recoverability of the amounts owed by group undertakings</p> <p>The amounts owed by group undertakings balance (£55.1 million) represents funding provided by the company to its subsidiary undertaking, Royale JVC Limited, to finance the acquisition of trading subsidiaries within the wider Royale JVC Group and is held at amortised cost. There is an increased risk that the carrying value of this balance may be impaired due to the trading performance of the subsidiaries.</p> <p>Management has prepared an impairment assessment, which incorporates significant revenue growth assumptions, gross margin assumptions and EBITDA multiples, which are considered to be the most significant areas of estimation uncertainty.</p> <p>Future discounted cash flow forecasts of this nature are inherently judgmental and include a number of estimates about future performance and other assumptions. The estimates and assumptions that give rise to the greatest uncertainty related to the revenue growth which underpins the ability of the subsidiaries to generate positive cash flows from operations.</p>	<p>We obtained an understanding of the Company's procedures to identify impairment indicators and performed the following procedures in relation to management's assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We reviewed the impairment model and tested the mathematical accuracy of the model; - We considered the reasonableness of the likelihood of each scenario occurring. <p>In relation to the fair value less cost to dispose model used in the calculation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We evaluated the reasonableness of future cash flow forecasts used by management; - We assessed the reasonableness of key assumptions used by management including revenue and gross margin long term growth rates and EBITDA multiples; - We performed sensitivities analysis over the inputs used in the model; and - We challenged management's growth assumptions concluding that without acquisitions or new store openings, the existing estate was able to support the carrying value. <p>The procedures above did not identify any issues regarding the impairment assessment or the relevant disclosure which is deemed to be appropriate.</p>

How we tailored the audit scope

We tailored the scope of our audit to ensure that we performed enough work to be able to give an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, taking into account the structure of the company, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which it operates.

Materiality

The scope of our audit was influenced by our application of materiality. We set certain quantitative thresholds for materiality. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures on the individual financial statement line items and disclosures and in evaluating the effect of misstatements, both individually and in aggregate on the financial statements as a whole.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined materiality for the financial statements as a whole as follows:

Overall materiality	£200,000 (2018: £332,500).
How we determined it	1% of total assets capped at group materiality allocation.
Rationale for benchmark applied	Royale Midco Limited was established as a holding company, funded largely by debt, and it would follow that users may focus their attention on total assets. It is therefore considered appropriate that overall materiality be calculated at 1% of total assets..

We agreed with the Audit Committee that we would report to them misstatements identified during our audit above £10,000 (2018: £17,500) as well as misstatements below that amount that, in our view, warranted reporting for qualitative reasons.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Strategic Report and Directors' report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 have been included.

Based on the responsibilities described above and our work undertaken in the course of the audit, ISAs (UK) require us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Directors' report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Strategic Report and Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2019 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Directors' report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept

or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.



Simon Bailey (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Gatwick
18 December 2020

Profit and loss account

for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	For the year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	For the 17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
Turnover	5	1,872	2,312
Administrative expenses		(1,828)	(2,521)
Operating profit/(loss)	6	<u>44</u>	<u>(209)</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	8	5,423	5,495
Interest payable and similar expenses	8	<u>(5,538)</u>	<u>(5,611)</u>
Loss before taxation		<u>(71)</u>	<u>(325)</u>
Tax on loss	9	<u>(1)</u>	<u>1</u>
Loss for the financial year/period		<u><u>(72)</u></u>	<u><u>(324)</u></u>

All results arise from continuing activities.

There was no other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2019 (2018: nil).

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2019

	Note	31 December 2019 £'000	31 December 2018 £'000
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	37,500	37,500
		<u>37,500</u>	<u>37,500</u>
Non-current assets			
Debtors		54,743	49,321
		<u>54,743</u>	<u>49,321</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	11	370	1,370
Cash and cash equivalents		-	68
		<u>370</u>	<u>1,438</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(112)	(1,288)
		<u>258</u>	<u>150</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>92,501</u>	<u>86,971</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(55,397)	(49,795)
		<u>37,104</u>	<u>37,176</u>
Net assets			
Capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital	16	37,500	37,500
Accumulated losses		(396)	(324)
Total equity		<u>37,104</u>	<u>37,176</u>

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 18 December 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:



TJ Doubleday
Director
18 December 2020

Statement of changes in equity

for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Called-up share capital £'000	Accumulated losses £'000	Total equity £'000
At 26 July 2017		-	-	-
Loss for the financial period		-	(324)	(324)
Total comprehensive expense for the period		-	(324)	(324)
Share issue	16	37,500	-	37,500
At 31 December 2018		37,500	(324)	37,176
At 1 January 2019		37,500	(324)	37,176
Loss for the financial year		-	(72)	(72)
Total comprehensive expense for the year		-	(72)	(72)
At 31 December 2019		37,500	(396)	37,104

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

1 General information

The principal activity of Royale Midco Limited (the "Company") is a holding company.

The Company is a private company limited by shares and incorporated and domiciled in the UK. The company registered number is 10885661 and the registered address is 5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW.

2 Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, *The Financial Reporting Standard* applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("*FRS 102*") and the Companies Act 2006.

3 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These have been applied consistently in the year ended 31 December 2019.

3.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies.

The financial statements have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2019, with comparatives for the period from the incorporation of the Company on 26 July 2017 to 31 December 2018.

3.2 Going concern

The company is in a net current asset position of £258,000 and a net asset position of £37,104,000, of which £55,397,000 included in creditors relate to shareholder loan notes. These loan notes do not mature until 2027. The directors have also considered the financial position of the Company alongside the three year forecast for the Royale Topco Limited Group, which include the cashflows of its trading subsidiaries. Despite the ongoing risk posed by COVID-19 and its potential impact on the future profitability on the group, the directors have prepared various sensitivity scenarios and have concluded that based on the forecast profitability and cashflows generated, and having considered the net asset position of the Company and the forecast liquidity position of the wider Royale Topco Group, the directors are satisfied that the Company has sufficient resources for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The directors therefore consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

3.3 Exemptions for qualifying entities under FRS 102

FRS 102 allows a qualifying entity certain disclosure exemptions, subject to certain conditions. The Company has taken advantage of the following exemptions in its financial statements:

- the requirements of Section 4 Statement of Financial Position paragraph 4.12(a)(iv);
- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirements of Section 3 Financial Statement Presentation paragraph 3.17(d); and
- the requirements of Section 33 Related Party Disclosures paragraph 33.7.

The information is included in the consolidated financial statements of Royale Topco Limited as at 31 December 2019 and these financial statements may be obtained from UK Companies House.

3.4 Consolidated financial statements

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royale Topco Limited. It is included in the consolidated financial statements of Royale Topco Limited which are publicly available. The company is exempt by virtue of section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements. The address of the parent's registered office is 5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW.

3.5 Foreign currency

The financial statements are presented in pound sterling and rounded to thousands. The Company's functional and presentation currency is the pound sterling.

3.6 Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the provision of director services to BKUK Group Limited.

The Company recognises revenue when:

- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the entity.

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

3 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

3.7 Employee benefits

The Company provides a range of benefits to employees, including annual bonus arrangements and paid holiday arrangements.

i. Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

ii. Annual bonus plan

The Company operates an annual bonus plan for employees. An expense is recognised in the profit and loss account when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation to make payments as a result of past events and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made.

3.8 Taxation

Taxation expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

i. Current tax

Current tax is the amount of income tax payable in respect of the taxable profit for the period or prior periods. Tax is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end. Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

ii. Deferred tax

Deferred tax arises from timing differences that are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income as stated in the financial statements. These timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. The following timing differences are not provided for: differences between accumulated depreciation and tax allowances for the cost of a fixed asset if and when all conditions for retaining the tax allowances have been met; and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that it is not probable that they will reverse in the foreseeable future and the reporting entity is able to control the reversal of the timing difference. Deferred tax is not recognised on permanent differences arising because certain types of income or expense are non-taxable or are disallowable for tax or because certain tax charges or allowances are greater or smaller than the corresponding income or expense.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rate that is expected to apply to the reversal of the related difference, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax balances are not discounted. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

3.9 Borrowing costs

The costs associated with setting up the shareholder loans have been capitalised and will be amortised over the term of the loan. All other borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

3.10 Investments

Fixed asset investments are included at cost less provision for permanent impairment in value. Fixed asset investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Investments in subsidiary undertakings are initially recorded at cost. The carrying value of investments in subsidiary undertakings is reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

3.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances held with banks.

3.12 Financial instruments

The Company has chosen to adopt the Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

Trade and other debtors / creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price less attributable transaction costs. Trade and other creditors are recognised initially at transaction price plus attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses in the case of trade debtors.

Interest-bearing borrowings classified as basic financial instruments

Interest-bearing borrowings are recognised initially at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

4 Key accounting estimates and assumptions

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are no estimates or assumptions that, in the opinion of the directors, have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. However in preparing the financial statements, the directors have made estimates in respect of the following which they do not consider to carry a significant risk of material adjustment in future periods.

i. Carrying value of investment in Royale JVC Limited

Investments in subsidiary undertakings are stated at cost plus incidental expenses less any provision for impairment. Impairment reviews are performed by the directors when there has been an indication of potential impairment.

ii. Recoverability of intercompany debtors

The directors have considered the financial position and three year forecast for the Royale JVC Limited Group, which include the cashflows of its trading subsidiaries BKUK Group Limited, BKUK Devco Limited, Caspian Food Retailers Limited, Caspian Food Services Limited and Westside Express Limited. Based upon these forecasts, the directors are satisfied that the intercompany debtors are recoverable.

5 Turnover

Revenue is derived from management fees earned from the management of BKUK Group Limited and is earned wholly within the United Kingdom.

	Year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
Management fees	<u>1,872</u>	<u>2,312</u>

6 Operating profit/(loss)

Operating profit/(loss) is stated after charging the following:

	Year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
Wages and salaries	1,511	1,829
Social security costs	<u>243</u>	<u>233</u>
Total staff costs	<u>1,754</u>	<u>2,062</u>
Fees payable to the Company's auditors:		
– Audit of these financial statements	15	15
– Tax compliance services	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>16</u>

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

7 Employees and directors

The average number of persons employed by the Company (including directors) during the year was as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019	17 month period ended 31 December 2018
Head office administration (including directors)	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

The directors' emoluments were as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
Directors' emoluments	1,164	942
Other pension costs	<u>44</u>	<u>35</u>

No amounts were paid to third parties for directors' services, and no retirement benefits are accruing for any of the directors.

The aggregate of remuneration of the highest paid director was £531,000 (2018: £523,000).

8 Net interest expense

	Year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
a. Interest receivable and similar income		
Interest receivable from group companies	<u>5,423</u>	<u>5,495</u>
	5,423	5,495
b. Interest payable and similar expenses		
Interest payable on shareholder loan notes	<u>(5,538)</u>	<u>(5,611)</u>
	(5,538)	(5,611)
c. Net interest expense		
Interest receivable and similar income	5,423	5,495
Interest payable and similar expenses	<u>(5,538)</u>	<u>(5,611)</u>
	<u>(115)</u>	<u>(116)</u>

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

9 Tax on loss

	Year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
Total tax (charge)/credit recognised in the profit and loss account		
Current tax:		
Current tax on loss for the year	-	-
Total current tax	-	-
Deferred tax:		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	-	1
Adjustment in respect of previous periods	(1)	-
Total deferred tax	(1)	1
Tax (charge)/credit on loss and other comprehensive income	(1)	1

	31 December 2019			31 December 2018		
	Current tax £'000	Deferred tax £'000	Total tax £'000	Current tax £'000	Deferred tax £'000	Total tax £'000
Recognised in profit and loss account	-	(1)	(1)	-	1	1
Recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total tax	-	(1)	(1)	-	1	1

Reconciliation of effective tax rate

The tax assessed for the year can be reconciled to the loss per the profit and loss account as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019 £'000	17 month period ended 31 December 2018 £'000
Loss before taxation	(72)	(325)
Tax using the UK corporation tax rate of 19.00% (2018: 19.00%)	(14)	(62)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	1,062	1,120
Effects of group relief	(1,049)	(1,057)
Total tax (charge)/credit included in profit or loss	(1)	1

Factors affecting future tax changes

In the Spring Budget 2020, the Government announced that from 1 April 2020 the corporation tax rate would remain at 19% (rather than reducing to 17%, as previously enacted). This new law was substantively enacted on 17 March 2020. As the proposal to keep the rate at 19% had not been substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, its effects are not included in these financial statements. Moreover, it is likely that the overall effect of the change, had it been substantively enacted by the balance sheet date, would have no significant impact on the deferred tax asset value.

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

10 Investments

	£'000
Cost and net book value	
At 31 December 2018	37,500
Additions	-
At 31 December 2019	<u>37,500</u>

The Company acquired 87.25% of the ordinary share capital of its subsidiary, Royale JVC Limited, on 25 September 2017 for consideration of £18,750,000. On 16 November 2018, the Company subscribed for 18,750,000 ordinary shares in Royale JVC Limited at £1.00 per share. No dividends were received from Royale JVC Limited for the financial year. The address of the registered office of Royale JVC Limited is 5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW.

The directors are satisfied that the carrying value of the investment is supported by the underlying trading of its subsidiary companies. A list of the subsidiary companies is provided in note 21.

11 Debtors

	31 December 2019 £'000	31 December 2018 £'000
<i>Current assets</i>		
Amounts owed by group undertakings	<u>370</u>	<u>1,370</u>
	370	1,370
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Amounts owed by group undertakings	<u>54,743</u>	<u>49,320</u>
Deferred tax asset	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	54,743	49,321
Total debtors	<u>55,113</u>	<u>50,691</u>

On 16 November 2017, the Company lent the proceeds of the unsecured redeemable loan note (see Note 13) to Royale JVC Limited by entering into a £100,000,000 unsecured redeemable series A loan note agreement with Royale JVC Limited. The amount drawn as at the balance sheet date is £43,825,000 (2018: £43,825,000). The maturity date of the loan notes is 30 September 2027. The loan notes accrue interest at a compound rate of 11% per annum. Cumulative interest capitalised into the principal of the loan notes at 31 December 2019 was £10,918,295 (2018: £5,495,000).

The remaining balance relates to trading balances with group undertakings. These amounts are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 December 2019 £'000	31 December 2018 £'000
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	867
Other taxation and social security	112	149
Accruals and deferred income	<u>-</u>	<u>272</u>
	<u>112</u>	<u>1,288</u>

Amounts owed to group undertakings relate to balances incurred in the course of normal trading activity. Balances are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	31 December 2019 £'000	31 December 2018 £'000
Shareholder loan notes payable	55,397	49,795
	<u>55,397</u>	<u>49,795</u>

On 16 November 2017, the Company entered into a £100,000,000 11% unsecured redeemable series A loan note agreement with its shareholder, Bridgepoint Funds. On 16 November 2017, £44,750,000 was withdrawn and the proceeds were lent to Royale JVC Limited (see note 11) by entering into a £100,000,000 unsecured redeemable series A loan note agreement with Royale JVC Limited. The amount drawn as at the balance sheet date is £44,750,000 (2018: £44,750,000) and the maturity date of the loan notes is 30 September 2027, on which it will be repaid in full. The loan notes accrue interest at a compound rate of 11% per annum. Cumulative interest capitalised into the principal of the loan notes at 31 December 2019 was £11,149,000 (2018: £5,611,000).

The initial issue costs of the shareholder loan notes totalled £637,500, which is being amortised over the period from drawdown of the loan to the expected maturity date. At 31 December 2019, the unamortised cost was £502,000 (2018: £566,000).

On 28 September 2018, the £44,750,000 11% unsecured redeemable series A loan note was listed on The International Stock Exchange by Royale Midco Limited.

14 Deferred tax assets and liabilities

Deferred tax assets are attributable to the following:

	31 December 2019 £'000	31 December 2018 £'000
Other timing differences	-	1
Net deferred tax assets	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

15 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of the financial assets and liabilities include:

	31 December 2019 £'000	31 December 2018 £'000
<i>Financial assets measured at amortised cost</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	68
Amounts owed by group undertakings	55,113	50,690
Total financial assets	<u>55,113</u>	<u>50,758</u>
<i>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</i>		
Accruals	-	(272)
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	(867)
Shareholder loan notes	(55,397)	(49,795)
Total financial liabilities	<u>(55,397)</u>	<u>(50,934)</u>
Net financial liabilities	<u>(284)</u>	<u>(176)</u>

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

16 Share capital and other reserves

	Number 31 December 2019	£'000 31 December 2019	Number 31 December 2018	£'000 31 December 2018
Allotted, authorised, called up and fully paid:				
Ordinary shares of £1.00 each	<u>37,500,000</u>	<u>37,500</u>	<u>37,500,000</u>	<u>37,500</u>
	<u>37,500,000</u>	<u>37,500</u>	<u>37,500,000</u>	<u>37,500</u>

On 26 July 2017, the Company was incorporated by BEV Nominees Limited and held an initial share of 1 Ordinary share for a nominal value of £1.00. On 14 September 2017, this share was transferred to Royale Topco Limited, renamed to Ordinary A shares and sub-divided into 200 shares for a value of £0.10 each.

On 16 November 2017, the Company issued 18,749,999 Ordinary shares for a subscription price of £1.00 per share.

On 16 November 2018, the Company issued 18,750,000 Ordinary shares for a subscription price of £1.00 per share.

Dividends

No dividends were paid for the year ended 31 December 2019 (2018: nil).

17 Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at year-end (2018: nil).

18 Related party transactions

All transactions and balances with related parties of the Company have been detailed below.

Royale JVC Loan Note

On 16 November 2017, the Company entered into a £100,000,000 unsecured redeemable series A loan note with Royale JVC Limited. The amount drawn as at the balance sheet date is £43,825,000 (2018: 43,825,000). In addition, cumulative interest has been capitalised into the principal of the loan notes at 31 December 2019 of £10,918,000 (2018: 5,495,000).

Bridgepoint Loan Notes

On 16 November 2017, the Company entered into a £100,000,000 11% unsecured redeemable series A loan note with Bridgepoint Funds. The amount drawn as at the balance sheet date is £49,795,000 (2018: 49,795,000). In addition, cumulative interest has been capitalised into the principal of the loan notes at 31 December 2019 of £11,149,000 (2018: 5,611,000).

Transactions with key management personnel

See note 7 for disclosure of the directors' remuneration and key management compensation.

19 Controlling party

The immediate parent company of Royale Midco Limited is Royale Topco Limited. Royale Topco Limited is a limited company incorporated in England and Wales and the largest and smallest group for which consolidated financial statements are prepared. The financial statements of Royale Topco Limited are available from the Company Secretary, 5 New Street Square, London, United Kingdom, EC4A 3TW.

Shares in Royale Topco Limited are held in the name of a nominee company, BEV Nominees II Limited, which holds the shares as nominee for the 12 limited partnerships that comprise the Bridgepoint Europe V Fund being Bridgepoint Europe V 'A1' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'A2' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'A3' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'B1' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'B2' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'B3' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'B4' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'B5' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'C' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'D' LP, Bridgepoint Europe V 'E' LP and Wigmore Street Co-Investments No.1 LP (the "Partnerships"). The Partnerships each act by their FCA authorised fund manager, Bridgepoint Advisers Limited.

BEV Nominees II Limited's and Bridgepoint Advisers Limited's ultimate parent company is Bridgepoint Group Limited. Accordingly, at 31 December 2019, the Directors consider the Company's ultimate controlling party to be Bridgepoint Group Limited.

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

20 Events after the reporting period

The COVID-19 pandemic has developed rapidly in 2020. Measures taken by the government to contain the virus have affected economic activity. We have taken a number of measures to monitor and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, such as safety and health measures for our people (such as social distancing and working from home where possible) and adjusting our practices to ensure our ability to continue to operate.

As of the balance sheet date it was not known how severe the economic impact of COVID-19 would be as the vast majority of cases were then in Asia, where the Company currently has no operations. Based on this, in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 32, the Directors concluded the pandemic is a non-adjusting post balance sheet event. As a result of this, no adjustments to amounts recognised in the financial statements have been made for the impact of COVID-19.

21 Subsidiaries and related undertakings

The list of subsidiaries is as follows:

Name	Address of the registered office	Nature of business	Interest
Royale JVC Limited*	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Holding company	87.25% ordinary shares
Royale Interco Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Holding company	87.25% ordinary shares
BKUK Group Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Holding company	87.25% ordinary shares
BKUK Devco Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Retailer	87.25% ordinary shares
Royale Bidco Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Holding company	87.25% ordinary shares
Caspian Food Retailers Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Retailer	87.25% ordinary shares
Caspian Food Services Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Retailer	87.25% ordinary shares
Westside Express Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Retailer**	87.25% ordinary shares
Gowrings Pension Trustee Company Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Dormant	87.25% ordinary shares
BKUK Bristol Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Retailer	87.25% ordinary shares
BKUK Flame Limited	5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW	Retailer	87.25% ordinary shares

* This entity is owned directly by Royale Midco Limited.

** This entity has been dormant since 1 January 2020.

All other entities below Royale JVC Limited are indirect investments which are 100% owned.