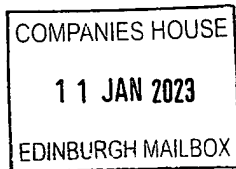


Company Registration No. SC175364 (Scotland)

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022



THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	Murdoch MacLennan (Chairman)	
	Neil Doncaster (Chief Executive)	
	Leslie Gray	
	Karyn McCluskey	
	Alastair Donald	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	Ronald Gordon	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	Paul Hetherington	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	James MacDonald	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	Michael Nicholson	(Appointed 18 July 2022)
	Graeme Mathie	(Appointed 18 July 2022)
Secretary	Calum Beattie	
Company number	SC175364	
Registered office	Hampden Park Glasgow United Kingdom G42 9DE	
Auditor	Johnston Carmichael LLP 7-11 Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7PE	

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

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THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The directors present the strategic report for the year ended 31 May 2022.

Principle activities

The principal activity of the Company is to organise, manage and commercially exploit the premier men's football league competition in Scotland (the Scottish Professional Football League) together with the Scottish League Cup and the Scottish Challenge Cup.

Business review

Season 2021/22 saw Scottish football return to a degree of normality following the challenges of coping with the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. While a number of matches were still played under reduced capacities as a result of Government restrictions, we were delighted that the vast majority of SPFL matches enjoyed no capacity restrictions and that supporters were once again able to enjoy watching their teams in person. The cinch Premiership has the highest attendance per capita in Europe and matchday income is crucial for all our clubs. To ensure that all 42 member clubs were able to navigate the pandemic, it was crucial that we secured external support. The Company was therefore grateful for the support of its main broadcast partner, Sky Sports, in permitting member clubs to live stream home league matches for the duration of Season 2021/22 notwithstanding the return of capacity crowds. This support significantly supported our members' financial recovery from the pandemic.

The Company is delighted to report the strongest set of financial results in its history. Turnover increased by 7% to £39.5 million. This increase was largely as a result of the new title sponsorship deal with the UK's leading online used car marketplace, cinch. In addition, there were increases in existing commercial contracts, new commercial contracts with Lottomart and Sorare, and the return of the Scottish Challenge Cup (SPFL Trust Trophy). It has been well documented that the Company has been in dispute with a member club regarding the cinch sponsorship contract, with one club not providing material inventory under that contract stating (with reference to SPFL Rule 17) that, in its view, it had a pre-existing contractual obligation. During the year, the Company agreed with cinch a variation to the title sponsorship agreement, which was approved by cinch Premiership clubs and ensured the ongoing support by cinch of Scottish football in the coming season. Under this variation, one club will not need to provide the vast majority of the marketing inventory envisaged under the original agreement. The variation to the agreement has been considered as part of these financial statements. The matters which led to the dispute remain subject to confidentiality due to the Scottish FA arbitration.

During the period, fees paid to clubs increased by £1.4m to £29.7m, an increase of 5%. In addition, parachute payments increased by £395,000. This increase in fee and parachute payments to clubs was the primary driver behind the rise in Cost of Sales of £2.4 million. Another factor in the increase in the Cost of Sales was the return of the SPFL Trust Trophy and the resultant prize and TV payments to participating clubs.

In terms of working arrangements, the Company's staff have been working on a hybrid basis during the period and while the majority of staff are now frequently based at Hampden Park, flexible working arrangements are expected to continue. The Company has a very small team (an average of 15 employees in the review period) and these financial results are testament to the hard work and dedication of each of them along with the support of our member clubs.

SWPL Limited

The Scottish FA launched its strategy for girls' and women's football in June 2021 and one of the stated priority objectives was to undertake a review of Scotland's elite domestic football competitions.

Following a lengthy consultation process with key stakeholders including clubs, Scottish Women's Football (SWF) and the Company, the Scottish Women's Premier League clubs (a number of whom are operated by the Company's existing members) made the decision to move the top two divisions of the women's game under the auspices of the Company from Season 2022/23 onwards.

This was achieved by the Company renaming one of its existing dormant wholly owned subsidiaries as The Scottish Women's Premier League Limited (SWPL). This company was dormant in the review period and began trading in June 2022. Consolidated accounts will be prepared next year (in addition to separate accounts for SWPL and the Company) in order to demonstrate the progress of the men and women's game and the totality.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The Company is delighted to expand its Group operations to include the women's game, which is considered to be a key area of potential growth over the years ahead. We are excited by the opportunity to use our resources and expertise to accelerate this growth.

Season review

In terms of the competitions organised by the Company, Celtic were crowned champions of the cinch Premiership in manager Ange Postecoglou's first season, securing automatic qualification to the UEFA Champions League group stage. Celtic also triumphed in the Premier Sports Cup, beating Hibernian 2-1 in the final.

Rangers enjoyed a remarkable run to the Europa League final, beating German giants Borussia Dortmund and RB Leipzig en route to the final in Seville, where they were eventually defeated on penalties by Eintracht Frankfurt. This run benefitted Scottish football by strengthening the UEFA country coefficient, which is commented on further below. There was also success for Rangers on the domestic front when they lifted the Scottish Cup after defeating Heart of Midlothian 2-0 following extra time. Rangers' second place in the cinch Premiership ensured qualification to the UEFA Champions League qualifiers, which they successfully navigated with victories over Royale Union Saint-Gilloise of Belgium and PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands. These victories ensured that Rangers join Celtic in the group stage of the 2022/23 UEFA Champions League, meaning Scotland has two representatives at that stage in the competition for the first time since 2007/08.

Celtic and Rangers were joined in UEFA competitions by Heart of Midlothian, Dundee United and Motherwell. While unfortunately neither Dundee United nor Motherwell succeeded in qualifying for the group stage of the UEFA Conference League, Scotland's strong UEFA country coefficient ensured that Heart of Midlothian will be playing in that round despite a two-legged defeat to Swiss champions FC Zurich in the UEFA Europa League play-off round. The Company wishes Celtic, Heart of Midlothian and Rangers the very best of luck for their respective European campaigns.

Returning to domestic competitions, Kilmarnock won the cinch Championship, achieving a return to the cinch Premiership at the first attempt when they defeated Arbroath at Rugby Park in a match which attracted a record BBC Scotland rating for the cinch Championship. They were replaced in the cinch Championship by Dundee, who return to that division after one season in the top flight. St Johnstone triumphed over Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the Premiership Play-Off final to retain their place in the cinch Premiership.

After a close fought title race, Cove Rangers won cinch League 1, securing promotion to the cinch Championship for the very first time in the club's history. They were joined by Queen's Park who prevailed over Airdrieonians in the play-offs. Queen of the South and Dunfermline Athletic were relegated from the cinch Championship to cinch League 1.

Kelty Hearts ensured that their very first season as an SPFL member club was a memorable one by comfortably winning cinch League 2 and therefore promotion. They were joined in cinch League 1 by FC Edinburgh who were victorious in the play-offs. East Fife and Dumbarton were relegated to cinch League 2.

The Company welcomes Bonnyrigg Rose Athletic as a new member in season 2022/23 after they won the Lowland League championship, before defeating the Highland League champions Fraserburgh and then Cowdenbeath in the Pyramid Play-Offs. We warmly welcome Bonnyrigg Rose Athletic to the SPFL for the first time. Cowdenbeath's relegation from the SPFL came after 141 years of continuous membership of the Scottish Football League and SPFL. We wish Cowdenbeath all the very best when competing in the Lowland League in season 2022/23.

After a period of absence due to the pandemic, the Scottish Challenge Cup returned with the support of a new sponsor – the SPFL Trust. The competition was renamed the 'SPFL Trust Trophy' and the Trust used the sponsorship to highlight the valuable work that football clubs and their associated charities carry out in the communities that surround and sustain them. Given the uncertain economic outlook facing the country, the Trust's objectives are more important than ever. The very first SPFL Trust Trophy was won by Raith Rovers who defeated Queen of the South in the final at the Excelsior Stadium. Season 2022/23 will see the competition once again expanded to include teams from outside Scotland, with Linfield, Cliftonville, The New Saints and Caernarfon Town all due to participate. Exploring the benefits of cross-border competitions has long been of interest to the Company and we are delighted that the competition will feature clubs from Wales and Northern Ireland again.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The SPFL continues to participate fully in the development of club football at European level. Chief Executive Neil Doncaster is a member of both the European Leagues Business, Legal and EU Strategic Committee and UEFA's Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body. Neil also represents the League's interests at the World Leagues Forum and the Sports Rights Owners Coalition, an international cross-sport trade association. Neil also represents Scottish professional football on the Board of the Scottish FA along with Les Gray (Hamilton Academical FC Vice Chairman and SPFL Limited director) and is chairman of the National Stadium Sports Medicine Centre.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the directors have no reason to believe that any material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the ability of The Scottish Professional Football League Limited to continue as a going concern. The directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to remain in operation for the foreseeable future and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the SPFL include:

- i. Covid-19 – previous issues created by the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to the Company were set out in the accounts for the year ended 30 May 2020 and 2021 respectively. These included the risk of further waves of the virus causing an interruption to, or early curtailment of, the season. Despite the passage of time since restrictions were last imposed, should the Scottish Government once again impose restrictions on society, the Company could well face such issues again. It is hoped that the success of the UK's vaccination programme will prevent that from happening and officers of the Company continue to work closely with Scottish Government, the Scottish FA and others to mitigate this risk;
- ii. the general economic climate affecting the spending capacity of broadcast and commercial partners, together with trends in the broadcast market – the Company and the Chief Executive in particular maintains strong and regular contact with all broadcast and commercial partners and provides regular reports to the board;
- iii. Brexit – concerns continue to exist in relation to Member Clubs' ability to recruit and retain players from outwith the British Isles, which could impair the quality, and therefore value and marketability, of the Company's competitions. Officers of the Company remain in frequent discussions with key stakeholders in this regard;
- iv. insolvency of a member – the reputational and commercial risk to the Company is well understood given previous similar events. The Company previously enhanced its competition regulations in respect of club payments of payroll, payroll taxes and VAT to mitigate this risk and permit an early response to any such circumstance. Member clubs have shown remarkable resilience in recent years, however challenges remain with clubs grappling with soaring energy bills whilst continuing the recovery from the pandemic;
- v. financial risk – the Company's main financial risk is that the proceeds from its financial assets are not sufficient to fund the obligations arising from liabilities as they fall due. The Company's main financial assets are cash at the bank and trade debtors. The Company's Articles of Association require that no payment may be made to members unless and until provision has been made to meet all the Company's liabilities to third parties. This risk is managed through regular management reporting and reforecasting to the board at its monthly meetings, or more frequently if required;
- vi. From June 2022, SWPL (a wholly owned subsidiary) will organise the top two divisions of women's football. While this brings a number of commercial and operational opportunities, it also brings concomitant risk. SWPL has an independent Board and the Company is currently represented on the Board of SWPL by its Chief Executive.

These risks are included within the Company's Strategic Risk Register, which is reviewed regularly by senior staff and the SPFL Audit Committee and updated as necessary. The Strategic Risk Register is placed before the SPFL board for its approval at least twice each year and more often if necessary.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

Key performance measures

The Company uses several key performance measures in its business, including non-financial measures. One such measure is Attendance at League Matches. The total attendance is noted below but a comparison against the previous year is not possible as the vast majority of matches in that season were played behind closed doors. In addition, this year's total would be higher if matches at the start of the season hadn't been played with reduced attendances due to Covid restrictions, while there was also a three week period in December and January when spectator numbers were reduced to a maximum of 500.

The restrictions on attendances has also had an impact on Sky Sports viewing numbers. Although the below table notes a decrease from 2020/21, that season was the season when no supporters were permitted to attend matches and one would therefore expect higher viewer numbers. If a 'like for like' comparison was made, the viewer figures are up 3.7% on season 19/20 (the last season with no stadium restrictions).

Non-financial KPIs for the year ended 31 May 2022 are as follows:

	Y/e 31 May 2022	Y/e 31 May 2021
Attendance at League Matches	4,082,038	N/A
Average (peak) Live Match Viewing Sky Sports	423,000	510,000
UEFA Country Ranking	9 (+2)	11

Financial KPIs for the year ended 31 May 2022 are as follows:

	Y/e 31 May 2022	Y/e 31 May 2021
Turnover	£39.5m (+7.3%)	£36.8m
Club fees (inc. parachute payments)	£30.6m (+ 6.3%)	£28.8m

Future developments

Scottish football has operated for some time within a challenging and uncertain economic climate and this has been exacerbated recently by the Covid-19 pandemic. With a number of economists reporting that the country faces a recession, Season 2022/23 promises to be another challenging one for the Company and its members. However, there are a number of reasons for optimism:

- Long-term broadcast contracts – the Company has a domestic live broadcast contract for cinch Premiership and cinch Premiership Play-Off final matches with Sky Sports, a domestic live broadcast contract for League Cup matches with Premier Sports, a multi-faceted television and radio deal with BBC Scotland, and overseas media exploitation contracts with Infront and IMG, all for the period from 2020/21 until 2024/25. These, together with a shorter contract with MG ALBA, provide long-term certainty of revenue to the Company upon which shareholders (clubs) can rely and plan.
- Sponsorship – all of the Company's competitions are currently sponsored, with cinch as the League title sponsor and broadcaster Premier Sports as title sponsor of the League Cup. Premier Sports and cinch join the SPFL Trust (sponsors of the Scottish Challenge Cup), Papa John's and Loch Lomond Group on the Company's roster of sponsors.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

- UEFA coefficient – as a result of recent strong performances by Scottish clubs in UEFA competitions, Scotland achieved 9th place in the UEFA coefficient rankings at the end of the season. As noted above, this ensured that (i) Celtic as cinch Champions had direct entry into the UEFA Champions League group stages for season 2022/23; (ii) Rangers as the runners up entered the Champions League qualifiers at Qualifying Round 3; (iii) Heart of Midlothian had guaranteed UEFA group stage football after finishing third; and (iv) positions four and five also qualified for the UEFA Conference League qualifiers. It is anticipated (but not yet confirmed by UEFA) that this position will be replicated in season 2023/24. The qualification of our clubs to the UEFA Champions League group stage should ensure that the cinch Premiership clubs not participating in such competition receive higher solidarity payments from UEFA (via the Scottish FA).
- VAR – our member clubs voted in April 2022 to introduce VAR into the cinch Premiership at some point in Season 2022/23. Since that vote, the Scottish FA has been leading a project to implement this technology and we continue to support this project as much as possible. The introduction of the technology comes at a significant cost to our cinch Premiership clubs. While every country that has introduced VAR has had initial teething problems, our clubs were clear that it was important for the long-term development of the league that the technology be introduced – particularly given the number of other European countries that have already implemented it;
- SWPL – as noted above, this new and exciting project gives further scope for growth of the game in Scotland.

The Company continues to recognise that positive and collaborative engagement with clubs and the Scottish FA is essential for the continued success of the Company and the game in Scotland. This engagement has been crucial in ensuring that the game continues to prosper notwithstanding the difficult economic climate.

In conclusion, the Company is delighted to announce the strongest set of financial results in its history and, with several long-term commercial contracts in place, looks forward to continuing to build on this success in the coming years.

By order of the board

Calum Beattie

.....
Calum Beattie

Secretary

23 / 09 / 2022
.....

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2022.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Murdoch MacLennan (Chairman)

Neil Doncaster (Chief Executive)

Leslie Gray

Ross McArthur

(Retired 9 May 2022)

Karyn McCluskey

Alastair Donald

(Appointed 20 July 2021)

Ronald Gordon

(Appointed 20 July 2021)

Paul Hetherington

(Appointed 20 July 2021)

James MacDonald

(Appointed 20 July 2021)

Stewart Robertson

(Appointed 20 July 2021 and retired 18 July 2022)

Steven Brown

(Retired 20 July 2021)

Ewen Cameron

(Retired 20 July 2021)

Gordon Thomson

(Retired 20 July 2021)

Peter Lawwell

(Retired 1 July 2021)

Michael Nicholson

(Appointed 18 July 2022)

Graeme Mathie

(Appointed 18 July 2022)

All club directors retire at the AGM and may seek re-appointment.

Results and dividends

The results for the year are set out on page 11.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2021: £nil).

Auditor

The auditor, Johnston Carmichael LLP, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Strategic report

The company has chosen in accordance with SI 2008/410L s. 7.1A, to set out in the company's strategic report information required in the director's report, specifically in respect of future developments of the business.

By order of the board

Calum Beattie

Calum Beattie

Secretary

Date: 23 / 09 / 2022

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The directors are responsible for preparing the strategic report, directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards 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 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;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Scottish Professional Football League Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 May 2022 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 May 2022 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice ("UK GAAP"); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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 in this regard.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, set out on page 7, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors 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.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- UK GAAP
- Companies Act 2006
- Compliance with SPFL rules
- Corporation Tax legislation
- VAT legislation

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We gained an understanding of how the company is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns and board meeting minutes.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how management and those charged with governance were remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how management and those charged with governance oversee the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk.

The following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing judgements made by management in their calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement risk due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of this report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. 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 auditor's 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.

J.B. Marjoribanks

Jeffrey Marjoribanks (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Johnston Carmichael LLP

23 / 09 / 2022

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

7-11 Melville Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7PE

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

		2022	2021
		£000	£000
Turnover	3	39,523	36,784
Cost of sales		(36,505)	(34,146)
Gross profit		3,018	2,638
Administrative expenses		(3,070)	(2,659)
Other operating income		-	6
Operating loss	4	(52)	(15)
Interest receivable and similar income	7	20	-
Loss before taxation		(32)	(15)
Tax on loss	8	-	-
Loss for the financial year		(32)	(15)
Other comprehensive income			
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		23	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(9)	(15)

The statement of comprehensive income has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. The company has no other items of comprehensive income other than the results for the year as set out above.


THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET


AS AT 31 MAY 2022

	Notes	2022 £000	2021 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	162	148
Current assets			
Debtors	11	2,324	3,147
Cash at bank and in hand		4,483	2,930
		6,807	6,077
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(7,106)	(6,294)
Net current liabilities		(299)	(217)
Total assets less current liabilities		(137)	(69)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(193)	(252)
Net liabilities		(330)	(321)
Capital and reserves			
Revaluation reserve		144	121
Profit and loss reserves		(474)	(442)
Total equity		(330)	(321)

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 23/09/2022..... and are signed on its behalf by:



 Murdoch MacLennan (Chairman)
 Director



 Neil Doncaster (Chief Executive)
 Director

Company Registration No. SC175364

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

	Revaluation reserve	Profit and loss reserves	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 June 2020	124	(430)	(306)
Year ended 31 May 2021:			
Loss and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(15)	(15)
Transfer to reserves	(3)	3	-
	<u>121</u>	<u>(442)</u>	<u>(321)</u>
Balance at 31 May 2021	121	(442)	(321)
Year ended 31 May 2022:			
Loss and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(32)	(32)
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	23	-	23
	<u>144</u>	<u>(474)</u>	<u>(330)</u>
Balance at 31 May 2022	<u>144</u>	<u>(474)</u>	<u>(330)</u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	19		1,535		834
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2)		(2)	
Interest received		20		-	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			18		(2)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			1,553		832
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,930		2,098
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			4,483		2,930

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Scottish Professional Football League Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in Scotland. The registered office is Hampden Park, Glasgow, United Kingdom, G42 9DE.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £000.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of trophies. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

Notwithstanding the deficit on reserves at 31 May 2022 the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the directors are of the opinion that the existence of contracted income will allow the company to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future. At the balance sheet date the company is in a net current liability position, however, the company has sufficient control of the timing of cash outflows which, in combinations with reliable profit and cashflow forecasts allow the directors to continue to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The company makes payments to its member clubs after accounting for all known future costs and as a result is able to successfully manage its day to day obligations and cash resources.

1.3 Turnover

Turnover comprises the value of sales, excluding VAT, of goods and services in the normal course of business, sponsorship monies and revenue derived from television broadcasting contracts.

Turnover is recognised in the year to which it relates and where payments are received in advance of the services provided the amounts are recorded as deferred income. Amounts due to clubs are recorded as cost of sales in the year in which the related turnover is recognised.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, except for trophies, are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Trophies are stated at depreciated replacement cost as at 31 May 2022. The trophies were independently valued by Robert Horn Jewellers Ltd.

The company assesses at each reporting date whether tangible fixed assets are impaired.

Depreciation is charged to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. Leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	19 years
Office equipment	4-5 years
Trophies	50 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed if there is an indication of significant change since last annual reporting date in the pattern by which the company expects to consume an asset's future economic benefits.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Equity instruments

Equity instruments issued by the company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of transaction costs. Dividends payable on equity instruments are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of the company.

1.7 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.9 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leases asset are consumed.

1.10 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised in accordance with the performance model. A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability. Grants included COVID support measures from the UK government, including Job Retention Scheme.

1.11 Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pounds sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting end date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the reporting end date. Gains and losses arising on translation in the period are included in profit or loss.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

(Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are as follows.

Accrued income

The company is required to estimate its accrued income at the year end. This includes fees receivable from Football DataCo Limited for the sale of certain of the company's match data during season 2021/22. Football DataCo Limited's year-end is subsequent to the company's therefore these have to be estimated. The directors estimate these to the best of their knowledge based upon historical receipts and upon management accounts during the period in question provided by Football DataCo Limited.

3 Turnover and other revenue

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Turnover analysed by geographical market		
UK	37,329	34,691
Overseas	2,194	2,093
	<u>39,523</u>	<u>36,784</u>
	2022 £000	2021 £000
Other significant revenue		
Interest income	20	-
Grants received	-	6
	<u></u>	<u></u>

The majority of the League's turnover is generated in the UK, with turnover generated outside the UK principally from international broadcast providers.

4 Operating loss

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Operating loss for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Government grants	-	(6)
Audit of these financial statements	12	18
Other services relating to taxation	5	4
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	11	12
Operating lease charges relating to land and buildings	53	53
	<u></u>	<u></u>

5 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Administration	15	16
	<u></u>	<u></u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

5 Employees (Continued)

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Wages and salaries	1,070	1,135
Social security costs	132	137
Pension costs	25	29
	<u>1,227</u>	<u>1,301</u>

6 Directors' remuneration

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Remuneration for qualifying services	<u>442</u>	<u>438</u>

The number of directors to whom benefits were accruing under money purchase schemes during the year was 1 (2021 - 1).

Remuneration disclosed above include the following amounts paid to the highest paid director:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Remuneration for qualifying services	<u>392</u>	<u>389</u>

7 Interest receivable and similar income

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Interest income		
Interest on bank deposits	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

8 Taxation

The actual charge for the year can be reconciled to the expected credit for the year based on the profit or loss and the standard rate of tax as follows:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Loss before taxation	(32)	(15)
Expected tax credit based on the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2021: 19.00%)	(6)	(3)
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	3	-
Unrecognised deferred tax	1	1
Fixed asset differences	2	2
Taxation charge for the year	-	-

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £000	Office equipment £000	Trophies £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 June 2021	46	146	137	329
Additions	-	2	-	2
Revaluation	-	-	15	15
At 31 May 2022	46	148	152	346
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2021	46	129	6	181
Depreciation charged in the year	-	9	2	11
Revaluation	-	-	(8)	(8)
At 31 May 2022	46	138	-	184
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2022	-	10	152	162
At 31 May 2021	-	17	131	148

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

10 Subsidiaries

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 May 2022 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Class of shares held	% Held Direct
The Scottish Women's Premier League Limited	Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland	Ordinary	100.00
The Scottish Football League Limited	Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland	Ordinary	100.00

As detailed in the strategic report, following the 31 May 2022, the Scottish Women's Premier League Limited begun operating activities.

11 Debtors

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	41	34
Other debtors	1,594	2,335
Prepayments and accrued income	689	778
	<u>2,324</u>	<u>3,147</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Trade creditors	327	517
Taxation and social security	42	69
Accruals and deferred income	6,737	5,708
	<u>7,106</u>	<u>6,294</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Accruals and deferred income	193	252

14 Retirement benefit schemes

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	25	29

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

15 Share capital

	2022	2021
	£	£
Alloted, called up and fully paid		
42 Ordinary shares of £1 each	42	42
	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>

16 Reserves

Revaluation reserve

This reserve reflects the movements resulting from the revaluations of the trophies.

Profit and loss reserves

The profit and loss reserves represents the cumulative net losses/profits in the statement of comprehensive income.

17 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Within one year	52	52
	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>

18 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

Key management are considered to be the statutory directors. Refer to note 6 for statutory directors remuneration disclosure.

Other information

By the company's nature, and in accordance with its rules, The Scottish Professional Football League Limited enters into a number of transactions in the normal course of business with its member clubs during the course of the year. Cost of sales, as reported in the profit and loss account, includes amounts paid to the members clubs of the Scottish Professional Football League totalling £29,717,000 (2021: £28,358,000), of which £5,957,000 (2021: £4,598,000) was outstanding at year end.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

19 Cash generated from operations

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Loss for the year after tax	(32)	(15)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income	(20)	-
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	11	12
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	823	(150)
Increase in creditors	753	987
Cash generated from operations	<u>1,535</u>	<u>834</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 June 2021 £000	Cash flows £000	31 May 2022 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,930</u>	<u>1,553</u>	<u>4,483</u>