

**STRATEGIC REPORT, REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

FOR

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB, LIMITED (THE)**



**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

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**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**COMPANY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

DIRECTORS:

K Louis-Dreyfus
M Louis-Dreyfus
P Treuer
I Levin
D Jones
S Davison
J Sartori
A Vambaca

SECRETARY:

Mr S Davison

REGISTERED OFFICE:

The Sunderland Stadium of Light
Sunderland
Tyne and Wear
SR5 1SU

REGISTERED NUMBER:

00049116 (England and Wales)

AUDITORS:

Constantin
25 Hosier Lane
London
EC1A 9LQ

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**STRATEGIC REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 July 2021.

First and foremost, the Board want to thank all our supporters for their ongoing support and encouragement. The period during the Covid-19 pandemic, and especially the time without supporters inside stadia, was especially challenging for all associated with Sunderland AFC, including staff and supporters. However, the Board remain collectively committed to ensuring the Club achieves promotion to the Championship and ultimately the Premier League – and all stakeholders share the same objective.

On 19 February 2021, Kyril Louis-Dreyfus acquired control of the Club. This took the form of an acquisition of an equity stake of 41%, coupled with the acquisition of full control of governance and the right to appoint a controlling majority of the board and all of its committees.

Kyril Louis-Dreyfus has led the Club to embark on a strategy to create a sustainable business whilst aiming to return the Club back to the Championship and ultimately the Premier League. It is recognised that after several years of less-than-optimal performance, including two relegations and a failure to return to the second tier, this requires a long-term project.

The focus since February 2021 has been on developing the senior football management team and its support staff. A total of four senior football staff have been appointed to lead the creation of an Academy that is intended to nurture local talent, and young players from further afield, to achieve their ambitions of playing in the first team. In doing so, we have already added and will continue to add further value to the playing squad.

In the six months since February 2021, the Club invested in projects across all its venues, including structural steelwork, painting, a new fire panel and emergency lighting in the stadium, all of which helped to ensure the Club complied with the requirements of the safety certificate.

In addition, the Club introduced new technology into the stadium, including Wi-Fi in the main bowl and an electronic point of sale (EPOS) system on the concourses, whilst also upgrading all hospitality boxes. At the Academy of Light, the first phase of a refurbishment of all Academy facilities was completed and planning is underway ahead of phase two. At Eppleton CW, the floodlighting and pitch-side fencing have been replaced.

A total of £1.8m has been invested directly into the infrastructure of the Football Club and further investment is planned.

The stadium now operates without cash, becoming one of the first stadia in the country to do so. In parallel to this, the Club has undertaken a comprehensive engagement programme and offered support to members of the community that are not able to purchase online or via a credit card. The Club wishes to embrace all aspects of technology so as to provide the best possible services to supporters and further investment in technology will be made in future years.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 20-21 season was played without supporters inside the stadium, excluding the Club's home Play-Off fixture against Lincoln City which was played at a reduced capacity. Like all businesses, the Club had to adapt quickly to numerous operational changes at short notice as rules and regulations related to Covid-19 continued evolving.

For much of the 20-21 season, the Club operated with a skeleton staff due to many employees being on furlough. The Board are grateful to the understanding of all staff throughout this period and for the support from the Government, without which we would have experienced further significant financial challenges.

SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

CLUB,LIMITED(THE)

STRATEGIC REPORT (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021

In December 2020, the Board took the difficult decision to change the Manager and appointed Lee Johnson as Head Coach. This resulted in a significant improvement in performance of the team, but ultimately the Club failed to secure promotion. 14 March 2021 was a bittersweet day, as SAFC won at Wembley Stadium for the first time since 1973. Unfortunately, only a handful of supporters were in attendance due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the Board are extremely proud of the Sunderland supporting community for playing their part by raising over £200,000 via the fan-led virtual ticket campaign.

At the end of the 20-21 season, 8 first-team players were released following the expiry of their respective contracts. This resulted in a significant turnover of playing staff in summer 2021 in readiness for the start of the 2021-22 campaign. The Board were also confident that a number of Under-23 players would graduate into the first team and play a significant role and moving forward, it is imperative that we continue producing young players capable of performing in our men's and women's senior teams.

It is pleasing that as a result of the actions taken at the end of the 20-21 season, the average age of the senior squad has reduced significantly in the 21-22 campaign.

A major success at the end of the 20-21 season was securing promotion to the Women's Championship for SAFC Ladies. A combination of strong performance in previous seasons coupled with a comprehensive business plan for the future ensured this was achieved. Our aim for the women's team in the 21-22 season was to consolidate our position playing at a higher level and it is hoped this will form a springboard for future playing and financial success.

The Board are committed to securing revenue streams outside of football. From the off-season in summer 2022 the club will host concerts in the Stadium for the first time in 3 years. In addition executive catering coupled with marketing the hire of the venue for non-matchdays has been insourced from the end of 21-22 season. All these activities will generate additional revenue for investment in the football team in future years and make the business more resilient.

Financially, comparisons of the 20-21 season with previous seasons make little sense as all revenue streams and costs were impacted by the pandemic. Turnover reduced from £29.2m to £10.7m. and operating expenses reduced from £29.7m to £21m The loss after tax for the year was £11.7m. During the 20-21 financial year, the Club received £2.2m from shareholders following Kyril Louis-Dreyfus taking over control of the Club in February 2021. The shareholders have a strong commitment to continue to support the Club and its ambitions. During the period from the close of the financial year at July 2021 through to the date of this report, shareholders have contributed an additional £6.5m to the Club.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The company faces a number of risks and uncertainties and has measures in place to mitigate the impact of these risks.

Our top three risks are considered to be:

- **Revenue Generation.** During the last three years in League One, the supporters have remained incredibly loyal to the Football Club. We are grateful for their loyalty.
- **Operational Cost Escalation.** Post-pandemic, we are already seeing signs of cost increases and it is likely that inflation will continue to rise. This will impact the operational costs of the Football Club.
- **Playing Success.** The opportunity for the Club to gain promotion this season remains, but it cannot be guaranteed. Failure to secure promotion would impact future revenues.

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Club measures four KPIs regularly, comprising of:

- Contribution from Football Revenue for each match
- Contribution from Non-Football Revenue
- Operational costs
- Playing performance via a balanced scorecard of metrics

Financial Risk Management

The Directors and the Executive Team continually try to improve the management of financial risks and they do not believe there are significant financial risks in this area due to the operational financial processes in place

Appropriate trade terms are negotiated with suppliers and customers. Management review these terms, the relationship with suppliers and customers and manage the exposure on normal trade terms. The Club prepares regular forecasts of cash flow and liquidity with which the Directors and the Executive Team assess the ongoing cash requirements of the Club as part of a strict cash flow management process.

SECTION 172(1) STATEMENT

Section 172(1) of the Companies Act 2006 requires Directors to act in good faith in a manner most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole and to take into consideration a number of matters. In exercising their duties, Directors evaluate the likely long-term consequences of any decision, the interests of the Club's employees, the need to foster the Club's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others, the impact of the Club's operations on the community and the environment, the desirability of the Club maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct and the need to act fairly between stakeholders.

Community

The Club and its charity partner the Foundation of Light remain at the heart of the Sunderland, South Tyneside and Durham communities. Throughout 20-21, the Club enhanced its relationship with the Foundation with the aim of improving the long-term relationship with the community.

SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

CLUB,LIMITED(THE)

**STRATEGIC REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

Club Employees

Employees are briefed regularly by the Executive Management Team.

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of employee wellbeing and in response to this, the Club has established a wellbeing team made up of Club employees to lead on a series of concerted actions to support all staff.

Supporter Engagement

The Club is committed to regular consultation with supporters concerning all aspects of the business. Following a period where few Supporters' Collective meetings were held, a programme of at least four per annum has been put in place. A concerted effort to engage with all Supporters' Groups has dramatically improved the Club's relationship with said groups, who are now enabled to actively impact the decision-making process at all levels. Minutes of each meeting are shared to the wider fan base via the website. These meetings, and all supporter engagement, are led by a dedicated full-time Supporter Liaison Officer.

Business Relationships

The Directors recognise that it is essential for the continued success and reputation of the Club to maintain positive relationships with commercial partners. The Club is in regular direct contact with all partners to ensure feedback is gained through a multitude of channels and acted upon to maximise commercial relationships.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



K Louis-Dreyfus

26 April 2022

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 July 2021.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company in the year under review was that of a professional football club.

DIVIDENDS

No dividends will be distributed for the year ended 31 July 2021.

DIRECTORS

D B G Jones has held office during the whole of the period from 1 August 2020 to the date of this report.

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

N J Fox - resigned 31 December 2020
J R Rodwell - resigned 19 February 2021
S Donald - resigned 19 February 2021
K Louis-Dreyfus - appointed 19 February 2021
P Treuer - appointed 19 February 2021
I Levin - appointed 19 February 2021
A Lowes – resigned 2 March 2021
S Davison – appointed 6 May 2021
M Louis-Dreyfus - appointed 6 May 2021
J Sartori - appointed 6 May 2021
A Vambaca – appointed 6 May 2021
T Sloanes – resigned 30 June 2021

FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group's activities expose it to a number of financial risks, including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk:

Credit risk. The Group's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The Group's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. The credit risk on liquid funds is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The Group has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Cashflow and Liquidity risk. In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the company uses funds provided by shareholders to mitigate this risk.

EMPLOYEES

The Company is committed to employment policies, which follow best practice, based on equal opportunities for all employees, irrespective of sex, race, colour, disability or marital status and offers appropriate training and career development for disabled staff. If members of staff become disabled the Company continues employment wherever possible and arranges retraining.

The Company is also committed to providing employees with information on matters of concern to them on a regular basis, so that the views of employees can be taken into account when making decisions that are likely to affect their interests. In addition, the Company encourages the involvement of employees by listening to their concerns.

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB, LIMITED (THE)**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

Executive Management are regularly updated on the performance of the Company. This information is then communicated to staff via departmental briefings and internal announcements.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Report of the Directors 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 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;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping 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.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Constantin, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



K Louis-Dreyfus

26 April 2022

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

Independent auditor's report to the members of Sunderland Association Football Club Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of Sunderland Association Football Club Limited (the 'company'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the profit and loss account;
- the statement of comprehensive income;
- the balance sheet;
- the statement of changes in equity;
- the statement of accounting policies; and
- the related notes 1 to 23.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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's 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 Financial Reporting Council's (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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Sunderland Association Football Club Limited (continued)

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, 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.

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 auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was 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 considered the nature of the company's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework[s] that the company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the UK Companies Act and tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

We discussed among the audit engagement regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Sunderland Association Football Club Limited (continued)

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management and external legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

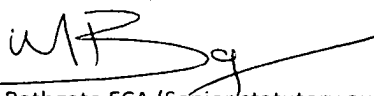
Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters if, in our opinion:

- 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.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of our 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.



Mark Bathgate FCA (Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Constantin
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
25 Hosier Lane
London
EC1A 9LQ

26th April 2022

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
TURNOVER	3	10,727	29,152
Cost of sales		<u>(924)</u>	<u>(1,669)</u>
GROSS PROFIT		9,803	27,483
Net operating expenses		<u>(20,954)</u>	<u>(27,892)</u>
		(11,151)	(409)
Amortisation of players contracts	6	(1,690)	(1,800)
Profit of disposal of players contracts	6	631	3,382
Other operating income		551	1,226
Exceptional operating expense		<u>-</u>	<u>(4,770)</u>
OPERATING LOSS	5	(11,659)	(2,371)
Interest receivable and similar income		<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
		(11,659)	(2,366)
Interest payable and similar expenses	7	<u>(120)</u>	<u>961</u>
LOSS BEFORE TAXATION		(11,779)	(3,327)
Tax on loss	8	<u>33</u>	<u>(705)</u>
LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>(11,746)</u>	<u>(2,622)</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**OTHER COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS)/ INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
LOSS FOR THE YEAR		(11,746)	(2,622)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Reduction of capital		-	265,898
		<hr/>	<hr/>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR, NET OF INCOME TAX		-	<u>263,276</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) / INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>(11,746)</u>	<u>263,276</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB, LIMITED (THE) (REGISTERED NUMBER: 00049116)**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 JULY 2021**

	Notes	2021 £'000	£'000	2020 £'000	£'000
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	9		1,158		2,392
Tangible assets	10		11,140		11,507
Investments	11		-		-
			12,298		13,899
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	12	477		309	
Debtors	13	5,496		3,343	
Cash at bank		224		7,385	
		6,197		11,037	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(25,940)		(19,098)	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			(19,743)		(8,061)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			(7,445)		5,838
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(22)		(1,560)
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			(7,467)		4,278
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	17		1,000		1,000
Share premium	18		-		-
Revaluation reserve	18		82		82
Retained earnings	18		(8,549)		3,196
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			(7,467)		4,278

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 26 April 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



K Louis-Dreyfus - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

	Called up share capital £'000	Retained earnings £'000	Share premium £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance at 1 August 2019	152,032	(260,080)	105,596	82	9,142
Changes in equity					
Issue of share capital	(151,302)	-	(105,596)	-	(256,898)
Total comprehensive Income	-	263,276			
Balance at 31 July 2020	1,000	3,196	-	82	4,278
Changes in equity					
Total comprehensive income	-	(11,745)	-	-	(11,745)
Balance at 31 July 2021	1,000	(8,549)	-	82	(7,467)

The notes form part of these financial statements

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Sunderland Association Football Club,limited(The) is a private company, limited by shares, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number is 00049116 and the registered office address is The Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial Reporting Standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland":

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirement of paragraph 33.7.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

Consolidated financial statements are not submitted as the Company is exempt from the obligation to prepare consolidated financial statements under Section 400 of the Companies Act 2006. The results of subsidiary undertakings are dealt with in the consolidated financial statements of the parent undertaking, Sunderland Limited whose registered office is Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU and from where the copies of the consolidated accounts are publicly available.

Related party exemption

The company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

(a) Critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies

There are no critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies.

(b) Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

(c) Impairment of intangible assets

The company considers whether intangible assets are impaired on a regular basis throughout the year. Where an indication of impairment is identified the estimation of recoverable value requires estimate of future cash flows.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Turnover

Turnover comprises gate receipts, television and media, sponsorship and royalties, conference banqueting and catering, retail and merchandising and invoiced sales, exclusive of value added tax. Television and media income is recognised in equal instalments during the season and gate receipt income is taken to the statement of comprehensive income when the matches are played. Sponsorship and royalties income is recognised over the life of the relevant agreements, catering and retail income is recognised upon sale of the goods.

Accrued Income

Income from match day activities, media and commercial contracts, which is invoiced after the period to which it relates, is treated as accrued income.

Deferred income

Income from match day activities, media and commercial contracts which has been invoiced prior to the period end in respect of future football seasons, is treated as deferred income.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are held at historic purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Depreciation has been calculated to write down the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives at the following rates:

Freehold property	5-50 years in equal annual instalments to an estimated residual value
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	3 - 10 years in equal annual instalments
Tractors	5 - 8 years in equal annual instalments
Motor vehicles	4 years in equal annual instalments

Freehold land and assets in the course of construction are not depreciated.

Costs of ongoing capital projects are held as assets under construction in the balance sheet and are transferred to the appropriate fixed asset categories upon completion.

Intangible assets

The costs associated with the acquisition of players' registrations are capitalised as intangible assets. Costs include transfer fees, levy fees, agents fees and other directly attributable costs. These costs are amortised from the month of purchase fully over the contract period. Where a playing contract is extended, any costs associated with securing the extension are added to the unamortised balance (at the date of amendment) and the revised book value is amortised over the remaining revised contract life. Where a part of the consideration payable on acquiring a player's registration is contingent on a future event, this amount is recognised once it is probable, rather than possible, that the event will occur.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less cost to complete and sell. Inventories are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised.

Cost includes all direct costs attributable to bringing the inventory to its present location and condition.

Where necessary, provision is made for slow moving inventory.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Financial instruments

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

(i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction which is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. 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 assets' original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price.

Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (i) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (ii) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party, or (iii) control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and loans from fellow group undertakings, 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 receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts 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 payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are not basic financial instruments. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in profit or loss in finance costs or finance income as appropriate, unless they are included in a hedging arrangement.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Taxation

Taxation for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

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. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

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.

Grants receivable

Grants received as a contribution towards specific expenditure on fixed assets are held in a deferred income account and recognised in the profit and loss account over the expected useful lives of the related assets. Other grants received are held in a deferred income account and recognised in the profit and loss account so as to match them with the expenditure to which they are intended to contribute. During the year ended 31 July 2021 the Company received grants issued under the UK Governments Job Retention Scheme totalling £555,300 (2020: £1,225.843)

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Pensions

Previously employed staff of the Company are members of either the Football League Limited Players Retirement Income Scheme, a defined contribution scheme, or the Football League Pension and Life Assurance Scheme, a defined benefit scheme. The Company also contributes to individuals private pension schemes.

Pension costs relating to defined benefit schemes are charged to the profit and loss account as if they were defined contribution pension costs. This is due to the Company being unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the schemes, which are held separately in administered funds.

Pension costs relating to defined contribution schemes are charged to the profit and loss account in the year to which they relate.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Going concern

The shareholders of the ultimate parent company, Mercator Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue to support the operations of the Company for the foreseeable future, which is at least, but is not limited to, twelve months from the date of these financial statements.

Signing on fees

Contractual amounts of fees payable to players are spread evenly over the term of the contract. In accordance with guidance from an FA Premier League working party, unamortised signing on fees are disclosed net of amounts due to players in the balance sheet. The net balance of signing on fees relating to players sold is included within the calculation of the profit or loss on disposal of players' contracts.

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

3. TURNOVER

The turnover and loss before taxation are attributable to the one principal activity of the company.

An analysis of turnover by class of business is given below:

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Gate receipts	1,222	5,658
Television and media	5,378	17,195
Sponsorship and royalties	1,166	1,590
Conference and banqueting	12	2,138
Retail and merchandising	1,606	1,341
Other	<u>1,343</u>	<u>1,230</u>
	<u>10,727</u>	<u>29,152</u>

All sales are within the United Kingdom.

4. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	11,864	14,504
Social security costs	1,380	1,630
Other pension costs	<u>119</u>	<u>139</u>
	<u>13,363</u>	<u>16,273</u>

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Administration	114	122
Football	<u>59</u>	<u>63</u>
Full time Staff	173	185
Match day staff	<u>23</u>	<u>92</u>
Total Full Time and Part Time Staff	<u>196</u>	<u>277</u>

Aggregate directors' emoluments during the year, for services to The Sunderland Association Football Club Limited totalled £580,854 (2020: £515,962), including compensation for loss of office amounting to £295,783 (2020: £131,900). Also included within the directors' emoluments are pension contributions of £20,223 (2020: £25,174) accruing to 3 directors (2020: 4). The pension contributions are company contributions to money purchase pension schemes that are the directors' personal pension plans, they are not company schemes. The emoluments of the highest paid director amounted to £243,585 (2020: £164,763) which includes £122,219 (2020: £0) relating to compensation for loss of office and £3,312 (2020: £13,750) of pension contributions.

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB, LIMITED (THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

5. OPERATING LOSS

The operating loss is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Depreciation - owned assets	606	733
Players contracts amortisation	<u>1,690</u>	<u>1,800</u>

AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
For audit services		
Audit of the financial statements of the company	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>
	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>
For other services		
Taxation compliance	8	19
Other fees	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>31</u>

6. ACCOUNTING FOR PLAYERS CONTRACTS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Amortisation of players contracts	1,690	1,800
Profit on disposal of players contracts	<u>(631)</u>	<u>(3,382)</u>
	<u>1,059</u>	<u>(1,582)</u>

7. INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Bank interest	120	-
Exceptional items	<u>-</u>	<u>961</u>
	<u>120</u>	<u>961</u>

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

8. TAXATION

Analysis of the tax (credit)/charge

The tax (credit)/charge on the loss for the year was as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current tax:		
UK corporation tax	<u>(33)</u>	<u>(705)</u>
Tax on loss	<u>(33)</u>	<u>(705)</u>

UK corporation tax was charged at 19% in 2021.

Reconciliation of total tax (credit)/charge included in profit and loss

The tax assessed for the year is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK. The difference is explained below:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Loss before tax	<u>(11,779)</u>	<u>(3,327)</u>
Loss multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2020 - 19%)	(2,238)	(632)
Effects of:		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	1	(559)
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	-	(115)
Utilisation of tax losses	-	673
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods	(33)	(46)
Research and development tax credit	-	(26)
Fixed Asset differences	59	-
Group relief surrendered	380	-
Movement in deferred taxation not recognised	1,798	-
	<u>(33)</u>	<u>(705)</u>
Total tax (credit)/charge	<u>(33)</u>	<u>(705)</u>

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB, LIMITED (THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

9. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Players contracts £'000
COST	
At 1 August 2020	17,310
Additions	539
Disposals	<u>(223)</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>17,626</u>
AMORTISATION	
At 1 August 2020	14,918
Amortisation for year	1,692
Eliminated on disposal	<u>(142)</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>16,468</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 July 2021	<u>1,158</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>2,392</u>

Amortisation of intangible assets is included within net operating expenses in the statement of comprehensive income.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Totals £'000
COST			
At 1 August 2020	14,538	18,010	32,548
Additions	-	239	239
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>14,538</u>	<u>18,249</u>	<u>32,787</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 August 2020	3,150	17,891	21,041
Charge for year	<u>308</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>606</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>3,458</u>	<u>18,189</u>	<u>21,647</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 July 2021	<u>11,080</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>11,140</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>11,388</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>11,507</u>

On an historical cost basis, freehold land and buildings would have been included at a net book amount of £7,302,000 (2020 : £7,501,000).

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

The company's investments at the Balance Sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

SAFC.COM PLC

Registered office: The Sunderland Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU

Nature of business: Dormant

	%		
Class of shares:	holding		
Ordinary	100.00		
		2021	2020
		£'000	£'000
Aggregate capital and reserves		<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>

Sunderland AFC.COM Limited

Registered office: The Sunderland Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU

Nature of business: Dormant

	%		
Class of shares:	holding		
Ordinary	100.00		

Sunderland AFC.COM Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of SAFC.COM PLC.

1879 Events Management Limited

Registered office: The Sunderland Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU

Nature of business: Events management services

	%		
Class of shares:	holding		
Ordinary	100.00		
		2021	2020
		£'000	£'000
Aggregate capital and reserves		<u>284</u>	<u>284</u>

Sunderland Association Football Club Ladies Limited

Registered office: The Sunderland Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU

Nature of business: Professional football club

	%		
Class of shares:	holding		
Ordinary	100.00		
		2021	2020
		£'000	£'000
Aggregate capital and reserves		357	282
Profit/(loss) for the year		<u>(75)</u>	<u>6</u>

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB, LIMITED (THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

12. STOCKS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Stocks	<u>477</u>	<u>309</u>

The amount of inventories recognised as an expense during the year was £923,702 (2020: £1,669,383).
Impairment of inventory recognised as an expense during the year was £150,260 (2020 : £43,633).

13. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,244	1,660
Amounts due to group undertakings	-	240
Other debtors	28	671
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>4,224</u>	<u>772</u>
	<u>5,496</u>	<u>3,343</u>

Trade debtors include transfer fees receivable from other football clubs of £110,497 (2020: £1,639,566) of which £0 (2020: £0) is receivable after more than one year.

A bad debt provision for amounts owed by group undertakings has been introduced as at 31 July 2021 totalling £374,009. There was no provision for the equivalent balance in the year ended 31 July 2020.

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	2,490	413
Social security and other taxes	2,658	1,173
Amounts owed to group undertakings	6,739	4,739
Other creditors	2,252	197
Accruals and deferred income	<u>11,801</u>	<u>12,576</u>
	<u>25,940</u>	<u>19,098</u>

Trade creditors include transfer fees and other associated costs in relation to the acquisition of players' registrations of £120,906 (2020 : £0).

Other creditors includes amounts due to shareholders of £2,150,000 (2020: nil). These funds will be converted to equity in due course.

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Accruals and deferred income	<u>22</u>	<u>1,560</u>

**SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB,LIMITED(THE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Within one year	10	85
Between one and five years	77	75
In more than five years	-	-
	<u>87</u>	<u>160</u>

Leasing agreements recognised as on operating expense totalled £124,365 (2020: 138,264)

17. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

Allotted, issued and fully paid:

Number:	Class:	Nominal value:	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
1,000,000	Ordinary	£1	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

18. RESERVES

	Retained earnings £'000	Share premium £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance at 1 August 2019	(260,080)	105,596	82	9,142
Changes in equity				
Issue of share capital	-	(105,596)	-	(256,898)
Total comprehensive Income	<u>263,276</u>			
Balance at 31 July 2020	<u>3,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>3,278</u>
Changes in equity				
Total comprehensive income	<u>(11,745)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,745)</u>
Balance at 31 July 2021	<u>(8,549)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>(8,467)</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Sunderland Association Football Club ('the Club') participates in the Football League Pension and Life Assurance Scheme ('the Scheme'). The Scheme is a funded multi-employer defined benefit scheme, with 92 participating employers, and where members may have periods of service attributable to several participating employers. The Club is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the Scheme and therefore accounts for its contributions as if they were paid to a defined contribution scheme.

The last actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 August 2020 where the total deficit on the on-going valuation basis was £27.553 million. The key assumptions used to calculate the deficit at the 31 August 2020 actuarial valuation are:

Discount rate	Gilt Yield Curve + 2.0% per annum
RPI inflation	Bank of England Inflation Curve
	Fixed 3.0% per annum for benefits accrued prior to 6 April 1997, and modelled using the RPI inflation assumption with a cap of 5.0% per annum and a floor of 3.0% per annum for benefits accrued after 6 April 1997.
Pension increases	
Mortality (pre-retirement)	None
Mortality (post-retirement)	SAPS (Series 3) with CMI_2019 projections, along-term improvement rate of 1.5% p.a and an initial additional parameter of 0.5% p.a

The accrual of benefits ceased within the Scheme on 31 August 1999, therefore there are no contributions relating to current accrual. The Club pays monthly contributions based on a notional split of the total expenses and deficit contributions of the Scheme.

The results of the 2020 valuation were rolled forward to 31 July 2021 on the same assumptions as detailed above, and the Club's notional share of the deficit was £184,938 (£150,227 as at 31 July 2020 based on the 2017 actuarial valuations).

As at 31 July 2021, the Club was paying total contributions of £4,285 per month (increasing by 5% p.a. from 1 September) and based on the actuarial valuation assumptions detailed above will be sufficient to pay off the deficit by 31 October 2025.

As at 31 July 2021, based on an appropriate discount rate of 0.78% per annum (0.48% per annum as at 31 July 2020), the present value of the Club's outstanding contributions (i.e. their future liability) is £213,169 (£174,728 as at 31 July 2020). This amounts to £53,7821 (2020: £51,221) due within one year and £159,387 (2020: £123,507) due after more than one year.

Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	213	175

Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Defined Benefit Obligation at start of year	174	220
Net Interest Charge (Unwinding of discount rate)	1	2
Club contribution (deficit contribution)	(51)	(49)
Remeasurement (changes in assumptions)	0	2
Remeasurement (change to contribution schedule)	89	0
Defined Benefit Obligation at end of year	213	175

Income and Expenditure Impact

	2021	2020
Net Interest Charge (Unwinding of discount rate)	1	2
Remeasurement (changes in assumptions)	0	2
Remeasurement (change to contribution schedule)	89	0

Assumptions

	2021	2020
Discount Rate (based on AA Corporate Bond Yields of appropriate currency/duration)	0.73%	0.48%

The funding objective of the Trustees of the Scheme is to have sufficient assets to meet the Technical Provisions of the Scheme. In order to remove the deficit revealed at the previous actuarial valuation (dated 31 August 2020), deficit contributions are payable by all participating clubs. Payments are made in accordance with a pension contribution schedule. As the Scheme is closed to accrual, there are no additional costs associated with the accruing of members' future benefits. In the case of a club being relegated from the Football League and being unable to settle its debt then the remaining clubs may, in exceptional circumstances, have to share the deficit.

Upon the wind-up of the Scheme with a surplus, any surplus will be used to augment benefits. Under the more likely scenario of there being a deficit, this will be split amongst the clubs in line with their contribution schedule. Should an individual club leave the Scheme, they may be required to pay their share of the deficit based on a proxy buyout basis (i.e. valuing the benefits on a basis consistent with buying out the benefits with an insurance company).

20. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

Mercator Investments Limited, a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands, is regarded by the directors as being the company's ultimate parent company.

21. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Under the terms of certain contracts for the purchase of players' registrations, future payments may be due to third parties, dependent on the success of the team and/or individual players. At the balance sheet date, the maximum contingent liability, none of which was provided for in these financial statements, was £871,456 (2020 : £1,460,000), some of which are extremely remote.

Any additional fees which may become payable or receivable under these agreements will be accounted for in the year that it becomes probable that the event will occur.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

22. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Foundation of Light (was Sunderland AFC Foundation)

The Foundation of Light is the registered charity of the Company. It was established in 2001.

A director of the Company during the year, is also Trustee of The Foundation of Light.

At 31 July 2021 the balance owing from The Foundation of Light to the Company was £16,146 (2020 : £44,915).

During the year, the Company provided many services to The Foundation of Light free of charge, including staff time and use of the facilities. It is estimated that the gift in kind during the year is £0 (2020 : £37,730).

The Company invoiced The Foundation of Light during the financial year for various charges including a contribution towards the Centre of Light running costs totalling £8,000 (2020 : £12,000). The Foundation of Light raised invoices to the Company to the value of £0 (2020 : £22,100) during the financial year for contribution towards running costs of football development and donations.

Other Related Parties

During the year ended 31 July 2021 the Company was invoiced £60,000 (2020 : £312,000) by related parties for the provision of Key Management Personnel. At the year end £0 (2020 : £0) was outstanding. These services were provided by Millwood Enterprises Limited.

23. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is K Louis-Dreyfus.