ANNUAL REPORT 1992

BEALES

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Reports and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 1992

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Directors, secretary and advisors

DIRECTORS

Nigel B E Beale (chairman)
Michael C H Mitchell (chief executive)
William D Hood (deputy chief executive)
Michael Howson-Green (non-executive)
lan Kirkpatrick (non-executive)

SECRETARY Mrs Jane Green

REGISTERED OFFICE

36 Old Christchurch Road Bournemouth BH1 1LJ Telephone (0202) 552022 Facsimile (0202) 295306

AUDITORS Lyon Pilcher

Chartered Accountants

Park House 102-108 Above Bar Southampton SO9 5HJ

BANKERS

Midland Bank plc 59 Old Christchurch Road Bournemouth BH1 1EH

SOLICITORS Pinsent & Company 3 Colmore Circus

Birmingham B4 6BH

5 Poole Road

Bournemouth BH2 5QL

PROPERTY ADVISORS N M Rothschild Asset Management Limited P O Box 528

Five Arrows House St Swithin's Lane London EC4N 8NR

Company activities

DEPARTMENT STORES

Beales —Bournemouth
—Poole
Beales —Walton-on-Thames
—Winchester

HOME FURNISHING SHOP

Beales —Lower Parks one, Poole

FRANCHISING

Dash —Porchester
—Salisbury

a member of



Directors' profiles



Nigel Beale FRSA (centre) age 49.

Appointed chairman in 1983. A great-grandson of the founder of the business, he was educated at Sherborne School and the University of Lausanne. He is chairman of Bournemouth Orchestras, a deputy chairman of the British Retail Consortium and a director of Woods (Dorchester) Limited. He is a member of the editorial advisory board of Retail Week and of Dorset Life—The Dorset Magazine..

Michael Mitchell MA LLB (bottom left) age 43.

Joined Beales in 1978 as company secretary and was appointed chief executive in 1982. Educated at Millfield School and Downing College, Cambridge. He is a director of EFG plc, the Southern Regional Board of the Leeds Permanent Building Society and of Dorset Training and Enterprise Council.

William Hood MBIAT (bottom right) age 57.

Educated at Twickenham College of Technology, he joined Beales in 1978 from Jackson, Greenen, Down and Partners Limited, the Company's architects. Deputy chief executive since 1991 he is responsible for property, capital projects, franchising, development and expansion.

Michael Howson-Green FCA FCCA FTII (top right) age 65.

Educated at Churchers College, Petersfield. A non-executive director since 1983. Until December 1992 he was senior partner of Burnett, Swayne and Company, Southampton, and is a director of a number of companies including White and Company plc and Landguard Property Investment plc.

Ian Kirkpatrick BSc (top left) age 48.

Educated at Barnard Castle School and the University of Edinburgh. He was appointed a non-executive director in 1989. He is also a director of Havering Hospitals NHS Trust, the Prime and Erecta Group of Investment Companies and of Viscose Closures Limited.

Chairman's statement

PROFIT

I am delighted to be able to report an increase in profit before taxation to £1,070,000 (1991 £1,030,000). Whilst modest, any increase is a significant achievement against the backdrop of unremitting economic gloom during the period.

DIVIDEND

The directors recommend an increase in the final dividend to 24p net per share which, subject to shareholders' approval at the annual general meeting, will be paid on 6 April 1993 to those shareholders registered at the close of business on 5 March 1993.

This proposed final dividend, together with the interim of 10p net per share, paid on 1 October 1992, represents a total distribution of 34p net (previous year 33p net).

RETAILING

Department Stores

There was a year on year marginal decrease in net sales in the four established stores, due in part to a reduction of one week in the trading period. Nonetheless, certain areas of the business fared relatively well, not least men's and womenswear.

Beales of Winchester, in its first full year, traded below budgeted level, although the loss was reduced. Of significance was the reduction in profit, albeit from a very acceptable base, at Walton-on-Thames where there was a substantial increase in competition from new stores in Woking and Kingston-upon-Thames. Only at Bournemouth was there an increase in store trading profit.

Nonetheless, although our competitive pricing policy remains, it is pleasing to be able to record a modest increase in gross margin percentage. Further, personnel costs were contained within the rate of inflation.

Franchising

The two Dash shops were sold to Alexon International plc (the owner of the brand) on 3 August 1992 and the franchises revoked.

The level of trading loss recorded in 1991 was accelerating, commensurate with a severe downturn in Dash sales nationally. I believe that this situation, allied to the lack of expansion opportunities of this franchise, justifies fully your Board's decision to sell.

Provision was made in last year's accounts for the cost of closure.

Chairman's statement (continued)

CONSUMER CREDIT

Your Company's in-house credit business continued to make progress. Interest received showed a significant increase and bad debts written off were again contained within the sector average.

PROPERTY

The purchase of the freehold of Association Buildings at Bedford was completed on 14 April 1992. At the current rate of bank interest, the cost of financing the purchase is less than the rent that would have been payable under the lease. However, we have no plans as yet to further the development of the unit shops fronting Silver Street. We shall await an upturn in property values before marketing these units or proceeding with any structural work.

PERSONNEL

Through continuing tough times, the Beales spirit remains firmly intact. I am heartened by the numerous accolades that we receive from customers in appreciation of the high standard of service that they receive in all quarters of the business. The dedicated management team, of which I am very proud, has yet again served your Company well in excess of the call of duty.

FUTURE STRATEGY

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by your Board and its advisors during the course of the year in respect of the future strategy for your Company, which is to broaden its retail base thereby reducing reliance on the Bournemouth store. We shall continue to work with both vigour and caution towards our objective.

Chairman's statement (continued)

THE CURRENT YEAR

Sales were not easy to come by in the run up to Christmas, and your Board's decision not to trade illegally on Sundays resulted, inevitably, in some loss of market share. However, the improvement in gross margin percentage continued and it was the lower margin areas of the business, such as Audio and TV, where the shortfall on budgeted sales was the greatest.

There was some buoyancy in the winter Sales although the turnover increase was bought, to some degree, by a higher level of markdowns.

Trading at Winchester causes your Board some concern. Steps, however, have been taken to improve this situation by the closure of certain departments and the introduction of others, strengthened management and a degree of trading-up. I am confident that our own efforts will assist but, most of all, we need to see many new lettings in the Centre in order to increase significantly customer flow.

We still await the outcome of appeals against the assessment of the majority of your Company's properties under the Uniform Business Rate. I am confident of a beneficial outcome.

I may be proved wrong, but I believe that the storms that have been buffeting the retail trade for so long are abating. If so, your Company is more than well placed to benefit from an upturn in consumer confidence, however slight.

rigu Blace

4 March 1993

Report of the directors

The directors present their report and the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 October 1992.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS REVIEW

The principal activity of the Group continues to be the operation of department stores.

Throughout the year under review, the Group operated department stores in Bedford, Bournemouth, Poole, Walton-on-Thames and Winchester, all trading as Beales.

In addition, the Group operated a home furnishing shop in Lower Parkstone, Poole, also trading as Beales, and, until 3 August, two Dash shops on a franchise basis.

PROFIT AND DIVIDENDS		000£
The Group profit on ordinary activities before Taxation	ore taxation was	1,070 465
Profit for the year		605
The directors recommend that the profit be	e dealt with as follows:	
Dividends on ordinary shares	—paid —proposed	102 246
		348
Transfer to reserves	4	257
		605

Report of the directors (continued)

FIXED ASSETS

The changes in fixed assets are set out in Note 6 to the financial statements.

With effect from the financial year 1992/93, the Group will depreciate freehold buildings at the rate of 1% per annum. This follows the purchase of Association Buildings at Bedford.

It is not considered relevant to separately identify investment properties which are included in freehold land and buildings at a cost of £769,682 (1991 £490,874).

DONATIONS

Donations to charitable organisations during the year amounted to £5,400. There were no donations to political parties.

DIRECTORS

The directors during the course of the year were:

Nigel B E Beale William D Hood Michael Howson-Green Ian Kirkpatrick Michael C H Mitchell

Ian Kirkpatrick and Michael C H Mitchell retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SHARES

	31 October 1992		2 November 1991	
	Ordinary	Management	Ordinary	Management
	shares	shares	shares	shares
	of £1	of 5p	of £1	of 5p
Nigel B E Beale	36,652	28,392	36,652	28,392
William D Hood	854	28,392	854	28,392
Michael Howson-Green	2,587	28,392	2,587	28,392
Ian Kirkpatrick	100	28,392	100	28,392
Michael C H Mitchell	10,651	28,392	10,651	28,392

Report of the directors (continued)

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN CONTRACTS WITH THE COMPANY

No director has had an interest in any contract, other than a contract of employment, with either the Holding Company or a subsidiary during the year.

DIRECTORS' LIABILITY INSURANCE

Insurance has been effected in respect of directors against any claim made against them, either jointly or severally, by reason of any wrongful act.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE

The Group has a recruitment policy which gives sympathetic consideration to applications for employment from the disabled, where they have the necessary abilities and skills to perform the work.

If an employee becomes disabled, every opportunity is given for re-training in order to perform a job appropriate to his or her capabilities.

EMPLOYMENT ACT 1982

The directors believe in a policy of keeping employees informed and of consulting with them prior to reaching decisions affecting their conditions of work and their future employment. Information is disseminated through weekly Store Newsletters which, in addition, contain Company news, and by individual letters to employees on matters of major importance. Consultation is achieved principally through meetings both of the Senior Managers' Council and of individual Store Councils, whose members are then in a position to inform their own constituents.

AUDITORS

In accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution proposing the reappointment of Lyon Pilcher as auditors will be put to the annual general meeting.

Jane Gree

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Jane Green BA ACIS Secretary

4 March 1993 Bournemouth

Report of the auditors to the members of J E Beale plc

We have audited the financial statements on pages 12 to 28 in accordance with Auditing Standards.

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the Group at 31 October 1992 and of the profit and cash flows of the Group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

LYON PILCHER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS and Registered Auditor

4 March 1993 Southampton

Accounting policies

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Group prepares its financial statements on the historical cost basis of accounting, modified to include the revaluation of certain tangible fixed assets. The accounting periods are for fifty-two or, when appropriate, fifty-three weeks. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries, including the results of acquired subsidiaries from the date of acquisition. Goodwill arising on the consolidation of subsidiaries is written off to reserves.

The Holding Company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 not to publish its own profit and loss account.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided on the straight line basis so that assets are written down to residual values over their expected useful life.

The rates principally applied are:

Leasehold buildings Length of lease Plant 5%
Fixtures and fittings 12.5%
Office equipment 10%-25%
Motor vehicles 25%

Freehold properties will be depreciated at the rate of 1% per annum with effect from 1 November 1992.

FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost, but provision is made if it is considered that there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Accounting policies (continued)

PURCHASED GOODWILL

Purchased goodwill is written off against reserves in the year of acquisition.

DEFERRED TAXATION

The Group provides deferred taxation under the liability method. Provision is made to the extent that, in the opinion of the directors, it is probable that a tax liability will crystallize.

STOCKS

Stocks comprise principally retail items for resale and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value; cost being computed principally on the basis of the selling price less the appropriate trading margin.

GROUP TURNOVER

Group turnover represents the value of goods and services supplied to customers excluding VAT.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PENSION SCHEWIE

Contributions to the Group's occupational pension scheme are charged against profits. The scheme is valued by actuaries every three years and the rates of contribution are adjusted in accordance with their advice.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates ruling at the time of transaction. Assets and liabilities are translated at year end rates of exchange, except in those instances where forward cover has been arranged, in which case the forward rate is used. All differences arising on translation are included in the profit and loss account.

Consolidated profit and loss account for the year ended 31 October 1992

	Notes	1992	1991
		£000	£000
Turnover		35,001	37,215
Cost of sales		22,228	24,950
Gross profit		12,773	12,265
Administrative expenses	1	11,567	11,217
Operating profit Interest receivable		1,206 30	1,048 23
Interest payable	3	1,236 166	1,071 41
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		1,070	1,030
Taxation	4	465	390
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		605	640
Dividends	5	348	338
Retained profit for the year	14	257	302

Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 October 1992

	Notes	1992	1991
FIXED ASSETS		£000	£000
Tangible assets	6	7,341	5,087
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	8	4,464 5,290 220	4,431 5,111 51
		9,974	9,593
CURRENT LIABILITIES Creditors: amounts			
falling due within one year	9	4,423	4,808
NET CURRENT ASSETS		5,551	4,785
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIMBILITIES		12,892	9,872
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	10	2,857	_
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	11	199	293
NET ASSETS		9,836	9,579
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Share capital Capital redemption reserve fund Revaluation reserve Profit and loss account	13 14 14 14	1,030 188 34 8,584	1,030 188 36
2.1011 and 1000 dovount	1.1	9,836	9,579

The financial statements on pages 12 to 28 were approved by the board of directors on 4 March 1993 and were signed on its behalf by

Nigel Beale

director

Balance sheet as at 31 October 1992

	Notes	1992	1991
THE WASHING		£000	£000
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets Investments	6 7	7,341 649	5,087 649
		7,990	5,736
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	8	4,464 5,290 220	4,431 5,460 51
CHARTMAN TARRANGE		9,974	9,942
CURRENT LIABILITIES Creditors: amounts			
falling due within one year	9	5,118	5,852
NET CURRENT ASSETS		4,856	4,090
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		12,846	9,826
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	10	2,857	
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND			
CHARGES	11	199	293
NET ASSETS		9,790	9,533
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Share capital	13	1,030	1,030
Capital redemption reserve fund Revaluation reserve	14 14	188 34	188 36
Profit and loss account	14	8,538	8,279
		9,790	9,533

The financial statements on pages 12 to 28 were approved by the board of directors on 4 March 1993 and were signed on its behalf by

Nigel Beale director

Consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 October 1992

	Notes		1992		1991
		£000	£000	£000	£000
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1		1,702		1,700
RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINAN					
Interest received Interest paid Dividends paid		30 (136) (338)		23 (32) (338)	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINAN	rs		(444)		(347)
TAXATION UK corporation tax paid			(373)		(477)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES Purchase of tangible fixed assets Sale of tangible fixed assets		(3,038)		(1,575) 120	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	M		(3,034)		(1,455)
NET CASH OUTFLOW BEFO	ORE		(2,149)		(579)
FINANCING Secured variable long term loan repayable in 2002	4		2,857		
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2		708		(579)

Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement

1 RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING	£000
ACTIVITIES	
Operating profit on ordinary activities before taxation Decrease in provisions and charges Operation Loss on sale of fixed assets (Increase)/decrease in stocks (Increase)/decrease in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors 1,206 (151) 765 (151) (151) (152) (176) (176) (176) (176)	1,048 (568) 899 7 250 891 (827)
Net cash inflow from operating activities 1,702	1,700
2 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR	
At 2 November 1991 (488) Net cash inflow/(outflow) 708	91 (579)
At 31 October 1992 220	(488)
<u>1992</u> <u>1991</u>	Change
3 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS SHOWN IN THE BALANCE SHEET	£000
Cash at bank and in hand 220 51 Bank overdraft (539)	169 539
220 (488)	708
1992 Bank Loan	1991 Bank Loan
4 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN FINANCING DURING THE YEAR	£000
At 2 November 1991 Cash inflow from financing 2,857	
At 31 October 1992 2,857	

Notes to the financial statements

	1992	1991
1 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	£000	£000
Staff costs (see also Note 2) Occupancy costs Other costs	5,536 2,741 3,390	5,730 2,663 2,923
Less: Other income	11,667 100	11,316 99
	11,567	11,217
Other costs include: Auditors' remuneration: Audit work Non-audit work Depreciation Rentals under operating leases: Land and buildings Other	33 57 765 1,017 44	37 63 899 1,144 41
2 DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES The average weekly number of persons (including directors) employed by the Group during the year	1992	1991
was: Full time Part time	450 315 765	479 312 791
	£000	£000
Staff costs for the above persons: Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pensions costs	5,143 346 47	5,334 365 31
	5,536	5,730

	1992	1991
2 DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES (continued) The emoluments of the directors of J E Beale plc, including benefits in kind, were:	0003	£000
Fees		<u></u>
Other emoluments (including pension contributions)	188	189
Emoluments disclosed above (excluding pension contributions) include amounts paid to:		-00
The chairman	51	51
The highest-paid director	64	65
The number of other directors who received emoluments (excluding pension contributions) in the following ranges was:	Number	Number
£ 5,001-10,000 £10,001-15,000 £50,001-55,000	1 1 1	1 1 1
3 INTEREST FAYABLE Bank overdrafts Bank loan repayable after more than 5 years	1992 £000	1991 £000 41
The second of th	144	
	166	41

				1992	1991
4	TAXATION			£000	£000
	United Kingdom corporation tax a Current Over-provision in respect of prior		3.4%):	490 (82)	578 (101)
	Deferred taxation Over-provision in respect of prior	years		408 57	477 (41) (46)
				465	390
5	DIVIDENDS		1992 £000		
	Ordinary shares: Interim—paid Final —proposed	10p 24p	102 246	10p 23p	102 236
		34p	348	33p	338

		Group and Company				
		Freehold Land & Buildings	Long Leasehold Buildings	Short Leasehold Buildings	Plant Fixtures & Fittings	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	000£
6	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS					
	COST OR VALUATION: 3 November 1991 Additions Transfers Disposals	614 2,928 280	126 	1,178 (5) (419) (9)	8,761 115 26 (89)	10,679 3,038 (113) (98)
	31 October 1992	3,822	126	745	8,813	13,506
	REPRESENTED BY: Valuation in 1979 Cost	3,822	126	120 625 745	8,813 8,813	120 13,386 13,506
	DEPRECIATION: 3 November 1991 Charge for the year Transfers Eliminated in respect of disposals	=======================================	13 1 -	210 35 (116) (2)	5,369 729 3 (77)	5,592 765 (113) (79)
	31 October 1992		14	127	6,024	6,165
	NET BOOK VALUE: 31 October 1992	3,822	112	618	2,789	7,341
	2 November 1991	614	113	968	3,392	5,087

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

d Company
1991
£000
1,116
184
_
3,590

		_0	Company
		1992	1991
7	FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	€000	£000
	Shares in subsidiaries at cost	649	649

At 31 October 1992 J E Beale plc held, either directly or indirectly, the whole of the issued ordinary share capital in the following subsidiary companies, all of which are incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales:

J E Beale (Stores) Limited John Elmes Beale Trust Company Limited Grant-Warden Limited IMS Finance Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

	Company			Group
	1992	1991	1992	1991
8 DEBTORS	£000	£000	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year: Trade debtors Amounts owed by subsidiaries Prepayments and accrued income Advance corporation tax	4,838 	4,665 349 368 78 5,460	4,838 370 82 5,290	4,665 — 368 78 — 5,111

	Company		G	roup
	1992	1991	1992	1991
9 CREDITORS	2000	£000	2000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Bank overdrafts		888		539
Trade creditors	2,268	<i>2,2</i> 86	2,268	2,286
Amounts owed to subsidiaries	695	695		-
Dividends payable	246	<i>236</i>	246	<i>236</i>
Corporation tax Other taxation and social	414	379	414	379
security payable	432	<i>378</i>	432	378
Accruals and deferred income	1,063	C90	1,063	990
	5,118	5,352	4,423	4,808

		Group and	l Company
		1992	1991
10	CREDITORS Amounts falling due after more than one year:	0003	£000
	Variable loan repayable 2002	2,857	State - 3 death - American annual Control - American annual Control - Market - 1994

The bank loan is secured by first fixed and first floating charges over the Group's assets. The interest accrues at 1% above the bank's base rate, subject to a capped retu of 13.5% until April 1995 on £2,500,000 of the loan.

		Future Loss Provisions	Deferred Taxation	Pension Commitments	Total
		£000	£000	0003	£000
11	PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITAND CHARGES	PIES			
	At 3 November 1991	165	(57)	185	293
	Charge for the year		57	32	89
	Provision utilised Provision transferred to	(90)	_	(18)	(108)
	creditors	(75)			(75)
	At 31 October 1992	-		199	199
			=		

		Group and Company			
		Amou	nt Provided		Liability
		1992	1991	1992	1991
12	DEFERRED TAXATION	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Deferred taxation provided for in the financial statements and the total potential liability, including the amounts for which provision has been made, are as follows:				
	Accelerated capital allowances Short term timing differences Potential capital gains on property	124 (274)	109 (245)	177 (332)	182 (264)
	revaluations and gains rolled over Provisions for anticipated	175	136	258	268
	future losses	(25)	(57)	(25)	(57)
			(57)	78	129

		1954	1991
13	SHARE CAPITAL	000£	£000
	Authorised 1,212,254 ordinary shares of £1 each 146,960 management shares of 5p each	1,212 7	1,212 7
		1,219	1,219
	Allotted, called up and fully paid 1,023,254 ordinary shares of £1 each 141,960 management shares of 5p each	1,023	1,023
		1,030	1,030

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

		Capital Redemption Reserve Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Profit and Loss Account
		0003	£000	£000
14	RESERVES			
	(a) Group			
	At 3 November 1991	188	36	8,325
	Retained profit for the year		(2)	257 2
	Transfer		(2)	
	At 31 October 1992	188	34	8,584
	(b) Company			
	At 3 November 1991	188	36	8,279
	Retained profit for the year	-		257
	Transfer		(2)	2
	At 31 October 1992	188	34	8,538
	•		1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-	

The reserves of J E Beale plc that may not be distributed under Section 264 of the Companies Act 1985 comprise the capital redemption reserve fund and the revaluation reserve.

No provision has been made for the additional taxation that would accrue if the leasehold property were disposed of at its revalued amount. The potential liability to such taxation is shown in Note 12.

The transfer from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account represents the difference between the depreciation charge for the year based on revalued amounts and the depreciation charge for the year based on cost.

15 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Group operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final salary with a money purchase underpin. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company, being invested principally through the purchase of units in Scottish Widows Managed Funds.

The most recent valuation of the scheme was as at 1 October 1990 and the directors have been advised that all Company contributions relating to the final salary part of the scheme may be suspended until the next triennial valuation. In accordance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 24, the benefit of this pensions holiday is recognised in the accounts over a period of years. The pension charge included in these accounts amounts to £47,000 (1991 £31,000).

16 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Holding Company has a contingent liability in respect of the Value Added Tax liability of its subsidiary companies.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

	Group and Company			
	1992	3	1991	!
	Land & Buildings	Other	Land & Buildings	Other
	£000	£000	£000	£000
17 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES				
At 31 October 1992 the Group had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:				
Expiring within one year		1		2
Expiring between one and five years		42	_	42
Expiring in more than five years	1,075	2	1,205	_
	1,075	45	1.205	44

The Group's leases of land and buildings are subject to rent review periods of between one and eighteen years.

18 COMPANY STATUS

The Company is a close company within the terms of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Group five year record

	1992	53 weeks 1991	1990	1989	1988
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
TURNOVER	35,001	37,215	35,995	33,152	30,584
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION AND	7 070		1.007	, 500	2 C 4C
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	1,070	1,030	1,201	2,592	1,547
TAXATION	(465)	(390)	(470)	(615)	(582)
	605	640	731	977	965
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS		_	(82)		571
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	605	640	649	977	1,536
DIVIDENDS	(348)	(338)	(338)	(338)	(327)
RETAINED SURPLUS	257	302	311	639	1,209
CAPITAL EMPLOYED Share capital Reserves	1,030 8,806	1,030 8,549	1,030 8,247	1,030 7,966	1,030 7,328
Total shareholders' funds	9,836	9,579	9,277	8,996	8,358
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL Fixed assets Current assets less liabilities	7,341 2,495 9,836	5,087 4,492 9,579	4,538 4,739 9,277	4,512 4,484 8,996	4,568 3,790 8,358
Earnings per ordinary share before taxation and extraordinary items	104.57p	100.66p	117.37p	155.58p	151.18p
Return on shareholders' funds before taxation and extraordinary items	11.02%	10.92%	13.15%	18.35%	19.95%

Notice of annual general meeting

Notice is hereby given that the eighty-first annual general meeting of the Company will be held at the Highcliff Hotel, Bournemouth on Saturday 3 April 1993 at 12 noon for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive and adopt the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 1992 together with the report of the auditors.
- 2 To declare a dividend.
- 3 To elect directors:
- 3.1 Ian Kirkpatrick retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.
- 3.2 Michael C H Mitchell retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.
- 4 To re-appoint Lyon Pilcher as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Jane Green BA ACIS Secretary

Bournemouth 4 March 1993

A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

Financial calendar

Qualifying date for final dividend	5 March 1993
Final dividend payable	6 April 1993
Announcement of unaudited results for the six months to 1 May 1993	mid June 1993
Qualifying date for interim dividend	3 September 1993
Interim dividend payable	l October 1993
End of financial year	30 October 1993
Announcement of audited results for the year to 30 October 1993	early March 1994

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