# **DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 JANUARY 2008** 

Company Registration Number: 638891

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# SAGA GROUP LIMITED Directors' report

Directors

J A Goodsell

T B Bull

(resigned 19 December 2007)

S M Howard

Secretary

J Davies

Registered Office

The Saga Building, Enbrook Park. Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE

The Directors submit their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2008

#### Results and dividends

The profit for the year before taxation amounts to £161,300,000 (2007 - £162,820,000) After taxation, a profit of £164,160,000 (2007 - £166,103,000) has been taken to reserves A dividend of £4,963,000 has been paid to Saga Leisure Limited in the year (2007 - £nil).

## Principal activity and review of business developments

The Company's principal activity is to provide administrative services to other group companies. The Group's principal activities are the provision of inclusive holidays, cruises and travel services, and insurance and financial services, to people aged fifty and over

The Company's key financial and other performance indicators during the year were as follows

	2008 £'000	2007 £'000	change %
Total administrative and marketing expenses	11.666	2,045	470 5
Income from shares in group undertakings	108,000	164,866	(34 5)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	161,300	162.820	(10)
Average number of employees	395	237	66.7

Due to the nature of the Company's activities meaningful comparison of year on year movements is not possible

# SAGA GROUP LIMITED Directors' report continued

### **Principal Risks And Uncertainties**

The Company follows a structured risk identification and assessment process that involves all of its Directors and which is updated on an ongoing basis

The principal risks have been grouped into the following categories

#### Market Risk

The Company's subsidiaries continue to operate in highly competitive markets with increasing numbers of competitors realising that the over 50's is an attractive market segment. This could lead to increased price competition with the effect of reduced margins or reduced market share. These risks are managed through promotion of the group brand and continuing efforts to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

#### Brand Risk

The Company recognises that the Saga brand is a key differentiator and source of competitive advantage, and brand damage from low quality products or services could have an adverse impact on the Company

## Operational Risk

Key operational risks the Company's subsidiaries face include call centre disruption through loss of telephony or IT infrastructure, loss of physical infrastructure (such as building loss or access restrictions) or insufficient staff being available to handle call volumes.

In order to manage these risks, the Company has put in place rigorous procedures and controls designed to prevent these risks occurring or, where this is not possible, to mitigate their effects. These controls are monitored both by the Compliance and Internal Audit functions to ensure they are working effectively

### **Future developments**

The Company will continue to act as an intermediate holding company

### **Employee involvement**

During the year the Company has maintained the practice of keeping employees informed about current activities and progress by various methods including a regular staff newsletter Employee participation and involvement is encouraged

#### **Employment of disabled persons**

It is the policy of the Company to develop a working environment and to offer terms and conditions of service to provide disabled persons, with the appropriate skills and qualifications, equal opportunities to seek and maintain employment with the Company It is the Company's policy to retain in employment, whenever practicable, employees who become disabled and give all such employees equal consideration for training and career development to enable them to fulfil their promotion potential

# SAGA GROUP LIMITED Directors' report continued

## Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Directors are required by law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss for the year

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) The Directors confirm that the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's business and have been applied consistently. In preparing the financial statements for the year, the Directors have made reasonable and prudent judgements, have ensured that applicable accounting standards have been followed, and confirm that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. 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.

#### Disclosure of information to the auditors

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Each current Director has made enquiries of their fellow directors and the Company's auditor and taken all the steps that they are obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Relevant audit information is that information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report. So far as each director approving this report is aware, and based on the above steps, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware.

#### **Auditors**

Ernst & Young LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors

By order of the Board

J Davies

Secretary

4 July 2008

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAGA GROUP LIMITED

We have audited the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2008 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Reconciliation of Shareholders' Funds, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 22 These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. 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 auditors' 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

#### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The Directors' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the Company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding Directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed

We read the Directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it

# Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### Opinion

In our opinion - (a) the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 January 2008 and of its profit for the year then ended. (b) the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and (c) the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial

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statements

Ernst & Young LLP Registered Auditor London 7 July 2008

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# SAGA GROUP LIMITED Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 January 2008

	Note		
		2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
Administrative and marketing expenses		(9,328)	724
Exceptional items	3	(2,338)	(2,769)
Total administrative and marketing expenses	_	(11,666)	(2,045)
Other operating income	2	518	2
Operating loss	3	(11,148)	(2.043)
Profit on disposal of subsidiaries	11	64,154	-
	_	53,006	(2,043)
Income from shares in group undertakings		108,000	164.866
Interest payable and similar charges	4	294	(3)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	_	161,300	162,820
Taxation	8	2,860	3.283
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	18	164,160	166,103
	_		

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the amounts included above

Reconciliation of shareholders' funds	Note	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year		164,160	166,103
Dividend paid	9	(4,963)	-
Net movement in shareholders' funds	_	159.197	166,103
Shareholders' funds brought forward		240.629	74,526
Shareholders' funds carried forward	=	399.826	240.629

# Company balance sheet as at 31 January 2008

	Note	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets Investments in subsidiaries	10 11	4,733 62,372	5.230 73.525
		67,105	78.755
Current assets			
Stock		11	12
Debtors Cash on deposit	12	624,922	407,415
Cash on deposit  Cash at bank and in hand		44,963 7	8
		669,903	407,435
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	13	(334,958)	(243,266)
Net current assets		334,945	164,169
Total assets less current liabilities		402,050	242,924
Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(2,092)	(2,144)
Provisions for liabilities	16	(132)	(151)
Net assets		399,826	240,629
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	17	3,617	3,617
Share premium account Profit and loss account	18 18	84 396,125	84 236,928
1 TOTA and 1055 account	10	370,123	230,720
Equity shareholders' funds		399,826	240.629

Signed for and on behalf of the Board by

S M Howard Director 4 July 2008

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#### Notes to the financial statements

# 1 Accounting policies

#### a Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards as defined in Companies Act 1985 s 256

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption under section 228 of the Companies Act 1985 not to prepare and deliver group financial statements as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ultimate holdings company Acromas Holdings Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Topco Limited) As such, these financial statements show only the results of the individual Company and not the group

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at the lower of cost and net realisable value

## b Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Such costs include costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. The cost of fixed assets less their expected residual value is depreciated by equal instalments over their useful economic lives. These lives are as follows.

Leasehold properties

over the period of the lease

Fixtures & fittings Plant and Machinery 3 - 10 years 3 - 10 years

### c Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term

#### d Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value

#### e Deferred taxation

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay more, or right to pay less or to receive more, tax. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the years in which timing differences reverse, based on tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the Directors consider it is more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the underlying timing differences can be deducted

# f Pension benefits

Annual contributions are made to the UK defined benefit pension Scheme on the advice of actuaries for funding of retirement benefits in order to build up reserves for participating employees during the employee's working life to pay to the employee or dependent a pension after retirement

The Company is one of a number of Saga companies participating in the Scheme, and its contributions are affected by the financial position of the Scheme as a whole. As it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis, the Company is accounting for its pension expense on a defined contribution basis in accordance with paragraph 9 of FRS 17 (Retirement benefits) The costs of providing these benefits are charged to the profit and loss account on a regular basis. Amounts charged to operating profit represent the contributions payable to the scheme in the year

### Notes to the financial statements continued

# g Government grants

Government grants in respect of capital expenditure are credited to a deferred income account and are released to the profit and loss account over the expected useful lives of the relevant assets by equal annual installments.

#### h Provisions for liabilities

A provision is recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation

### i Cash flow statement

The Directors have taken advantage of the exemption available under FRS 1 (Cash flow statements) of the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement as a consolidated cash flow statement has been presented in the financial statements of the ultimate parent undertaking, Acromas Holdings Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Topco Limited)

2.	Other operating income	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
	Interest on deposits	495	-
	Interest on overpaid tax	19	-
	Other interest receivable	4	2
		518	2
	¥		-
3.	Operating loss	2008	2007
	Operating loss is stated after charging/(crediting)	£'000	£'000
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	1,130	1,194
	Depreciation of leased tangible fixed assets	297	234
	Deferred government grant release	(52)	(52)
	Fees for the audit of the Company	15	18
	Property lease charges	1,100	1,101
	Hire of plant and machinery	663	729
	Release in provision against investment in subsidiaries	-	(8,500)
	Exceptional item – remedial works	2.338	2,769

The remedial works exceptional item relates to costs associated with a major one-off programme of remedial works to that office building

Any fees paid to the Company's auditor. Ernst & Young LLP, for services other than the statutory audit of the Company are not disclosed in these financial statements since the consolidated financial statements of the ultimate parent undertaking. Acromas Holdings Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Topco Limited), are required to disclose non-audit fees on a consolidated basis

# Notes to the financial statements continued

4.	Interest payable and similar charges	2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
	Finance lease and hire purchase interest	-	2
	Other interest payable	(294)	<u>l</u>
		(294)	3
	An unrequired provision of £306,000 for interest payable was	released durin	g the year.
5.	Directors' emoluments	2008	2007
	Emoluments	£'000 2.235	£'000 1,707
	Members of defined benefit pension scheme	2	3
	Emoluments	2008 £'000 1,271	2007 £'000 872
	Defined benefit pension scheme: Accrued pension at end of year	2008 £'000 56	2007 £'000 50
6.	Staff costs	2008 £`000	2007 £'000
	Wages and salaries	12,600	7,738
	Social security costs	1.236	798
	Pension costs	659	427
		14,495	8,963
	Average number of persons employed during the year was	395	237

### Notes to the financial statements continued

#### 7. Pension benefits

The Company is a member of the Saga Group Pension and Life Assurance Scheme which is a defined benefit scheme

The Company is one of a number of Saga companies participating in the Scheme, and its contributions are affected by the financial position of the Scheme as a whole. As it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis, the Company is accounting for its pension expense on a defined contribution basis in accordance with paragraph 9 of FRS 17 (Retirement benefits). The FRS17 surplus (gross of deferred taxation) of the Scheme at 31 January 2008 was £20.3 million (2007 - £0.2 million).

Further details of the Scheme can be found in the financial statements of the ultimate holding company, Acromas Holdings Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Topco Limited)

8.	Taxation	2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
	UK corporation tax at 30% – current year	(3,799)	(3.091)
	Adjustments relating to prior years	939	(192)
	Current tax	(2,860)	(3,283)
	Reconciliation of Current Tax Credit -	2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
	Pre-tax profit at 30%	48,390	48.846
	Non taxable dividend income	(32,400)	(49,460)
	Decelerated capital allowances	417	20
	Capital gain qualifying for substantial shareholding exemption	(19,246)	-
	Provisions against capital investments and loans	4	(2,545)
	Permanent differences	(636)	269
	Other timing differences	(328)	(228)
	Adjustments relating to prior years	939	(192)
	Other items		7
		(2,860)	(3,283)

The tax credit relating to the exceptional items amounts to £701,000 (2007 - £831,000)

The tax credit for the current year is entirely made up of receipts from other group companies for group relief

A deferred tax asset of £1.691,000 (2007 - £780,000) has not been recognised in these financial statements as, on the basis of the evidence available, there will not be sufficient taxable profits in the future against which the deferred tax would be offset

The UK corporation tax rates have decreased from 30% to 28% from 1 April 2008 This rate change will affect the amount of future tax receipts by the Company for group losses surrendered

Other than this, there are no circumstances foreseen that are expected to materially impact future tax charges

# 9. Dividend

A dividend of £0 27439 per share (2007 - £nil) has been paid at a cost of £4,962,666 (2007 - £nil)

# 10. Tangible fixed assets

	Short			
	Leasehold			
	Land &	Fixtures &	Plant &	
	Buildings	Fittings	Machinery	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
At 1 February 2007	4,464	8,387	10,770	23,621
Additions	(79)	343	666	930
At 31 January 2008	4,385	8,730	11,436	24,551
Depreciation				
At 1 February 2007	1,249	7,196	9,946	18,391
Charge for year	297	680	450	1,427
At 31 January 2008	1,546	7,876	10,396	19,818
Net book amounts				
At 31 January 2008	2,839	854	1,040	4,733
At 31 January 2007	3,215	1,191	824	5,230
	***************************************			

The additions in short leasehold land and buildings reflect additions of £41,000, offset by the release of an unrequired accrual of £120,000

#### 11. Investment in subsidiaries

	Subsidiary
	Undertakings
	£'000
Cost	
At 1 February 2007	74,769
Disposals	(11.153)
At 31 January 2008	63.616
Provision	
At 1 February 2007	1.244
Movement in year	
At 31 January 2008	1.244
Net book amount	
At 31 January 2008	62.372
Net book amount	
At 1 February 2007	73.525

The main operating subsidiary undertakings of Saga Group Limited, all of which whose ordinary shares are directly held with the exception of Saga Cruises Limited and Saga Cruises II Limited which are held by Saga Shipping Company Limited which is in turn held by Saga Holidays Limited, are listed below

Company	Country of registration	Nature of business
Saga Holidays Limited Saga Shipping Company Limited Saga Cruises Limited Saga Cruises Il Limited Saga Services Limited Saga Insurance Company Limited Saga Personal Finance Limited Saga Publishing Limited MetroMail Limited Confident Services Limited	England England England England Gibraltar England England England England	Tour operating Cruising Cruising Cruising Financial services Insurance underwriting Regulated investment products Publishing Mailing house Financial services
Saga Independent Living Limited	England	Social care

On 1 February 2007 Smooth Radio NE Limited (formerly Saga Radio (North East) Limited), Smooth Radio Scotland Limited (formerly Saga Radio (Scotland) Limited). Smooth Radio Midlands Limited (formerly Saga Radio Limited), and Smooth Digital Radio Limited (formerly Saga Regional Digital Radio Limited). were sold to Guardian Media Group Profit on disposal of these subsidiaries was £64.154,000

# Notes to the financial statements continued

12.	Debtors	2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
	Trade debtors	131	44
	Amount owed by group undertakings	623,428	406.263
	Other debtors	488	620
	Prepayments and deferred expenditure	875	488
	•	624,922	407,415
13.	Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		
1.	Creditors amounts raining due within one year	2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
	Bank overdraft	312	50
	Trade creditors	852	42
	Due to group undertakings	326,779	234,669
	Corporation tax	681	2.070
	Other taxes and social security	1,465	1,328
	Deferred government grants	52	52
	Other creditors	275	696
	Accruals and deferred income	4.542	4.359
		334,958	243,266
14.	Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year		
		2008	2007
		£'000	£'000
	Deferred government grants	2.092	2,144
		2.092	2.144
15.	Lease commitments		
15.			
	The annual commitment under non-cancellable operating leases is as	follows	
		2008	2007
	Land and buildings	£'000	£'000
	Leases expiring	00	76
	Within one year	80	76 222
	Between two and five years	231 786	802
	After five years	<del></del>	
		1.097	1.100
	Plant and machinery		
	Leases expiring		
	Within one year	119	106
	Between two and five years	361	390
		480	496

### 16. Provisions for liabilities

	Other
	Provisions
	£'000
Balance at 1 February 2007	151
Utilised during the year	(21)
Charge for the year	2
Balance at 31 January 2008	132

The provision relates to transmission and other costs arising in future years in respect of an onerous contract relating to a subsidiary sold in the year, Smooth Radio NE Limited, whose termination results in a break fee calculated as three times the annual fee This contract was taken on by Saga Group Limited as part of the disposal agreement. The provision will be fully utilised over the next year.

# 17. Called up share capital

Authorised 27.000,000 ordinary shares at 20p each	2008 £'000 5,400	2007 £'000 5,400
Allotted and fully paid up		
18,086.076 ordinary shares at 20p each	3,617	3.617

18.	Reserves	Share Premium		Profit and Loss	
		2008	2007	2008	2007
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Balance at beginning of the year	84	84	236,928	70,825
	Profit for the year	-	-	164,160	166,103
	Dividend paid	-	-	(4,963)	-
	Balance at the end of the year	84	84	396,125	236.928

# 19. Related party transactions

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption within FRS 8 (Related party disclosures) in not disclosing transactions with other entities in the Acromas group of companies

# 20. Ultimate parent undertaking

The Company is wholly owned by its immediate parent undertaking. Saga Leisure Limited, a company which is registered in England. The financial statements of the Company have been consolidated in the group financial statements of Acromas Holdings Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Topco Limited), a company which is registered in England. Saga Holdings Limited was the ultimate parent undertaking until 18 September 2007 when it was acquired by Acromas Holdings Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Topco Limited)

# 21. Cross company guarantees

The Company, along with certain of its fellow subsidiaries, acts as Obligor on bank loans made to Acromas Mid Co Limited (formerly Spring & Alpha Midco Limited). At the balance sheet date the principal and accrued interest outstanding on these bank loans was £4.829 6 million (2007 - £nil)

The Company, along with certain of its fellow subsidiaries, acted as Obligor on bank loans made to Saga 300 Limited and Saga 400 Limited. At the balance sheet date the principal and accrued interest outstanding on these bank loans was £nil (2007 - £1.294 1 million).

# 22. Ultimate controlling party

The Directors consider the ultimate controlling party to be funds managed by Charterhouse General Partners, CVC Capital Partners and Permira acting in concert