British Mediterranean Airways Limited

Financial statements 31 March 2004 together with directors' and auditors' reports

Registered number: 2524595



Contents

	Page
Company information	1
Directors' report	2-4
Independent auditors' report	5
Profit and loss account	6
Balance sheet	7
Cash flow statement	8
Notes to financial statements	9-20

Company information

Directors: Lord Hesketh* (chairman)

Lord Powell*

Wilfrid Caldwell*

Desmond Hetherington (chief executive officer)

Farouk Kamal* Angus Saunders Christopher Swan*

* non executive directors

Secretary: Angus Saunders

Registered office: Cirrus House

Bedfont Road

London Heathrow Airport

Staines Middlesex TW19 7NL

Auditors: Deloitte & Touche LLP

London

Principal bankers: Barclays Bank PLC

Registered number: 2524595

Directors' report

For the year ended 31 March 2004

The directors present their report on the affairs of the company, together with the financial statements and auditors' report for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Principal activity and business review

The principal activity of the company continues to be that of providing scheduled airline services. The company operates as a franchisee of British Airways. The company will continue to develop and consolidate its operations in the next financial year.

Results and dividends

The audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 are set out on pages 6 - 20. The profit for the year after taxation was £3,486,000 compared to a profit of £7,645,000 in the prior year.

No dividend has been proposed (2003 - £nil).

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the year were:

Lord Hesketh

Lord Powell

Wilfrid Caldwell

Desmond Hetherington

Farouk Kamal

Angus Saunders

Christopher Swan

The directors who held office at 31 March 2004 do not have any interests required to be disclosed under schedule 7 of the Companies Act 1985, other than those described below which comprise interests in the ordinary share capital of the company.

Directors' report (continued)

Directors and their interests (continued)

Number of shares as at:

	31 March	31 March
	2004	2003
Lord Hesketh	9,852,696	9,852,696
Lord Powell	-	-
Desmond Hetherington	-	-
Angus Saunders	-	-
Wilfrid Caldwell	-	-
Farouk Kamal	-	-
Christopher Swan	-	-

On 31 March 2004 Desmond Hetherington held options over 3,484,085 ordinary shares of the company. The options are exercisable at 20 pence per share in five equal instalments beginning on 16 January 2001 and then on 31 March 2001 to 2004. The options are exercisable at any time from the date of vesting until 13 October 2005.

On 31 March 2004 Lord Hesketh held options over 1,393,630 ordinary shares of the company. The options are exercisable at 20p per share in five equal instalments beginning on 16 October 2001 and then on 31 December 2001 to 2004. The options are exercisable at any time from the date of vesting until 7 July 2007.

On 31 March 2004 Lord Powell held options over 1,045,221 ordinary shares of the company. The options are exercisable at 20p per share in five equal instalments beginning on 16 October 2001 and then on 31 December 2001 to 2004. The options are exercisable at any time from the date of vesting until 7 July 2007.

Employee involvement

Staff employed increased from an average of 373 in the year to March 2003 to 486 in the year to March 2004.

The company keeps staff informed on matters affecting them as employees and on various factors affecting the performance of the company. This is achieved through formal and informal meetings.

Disabled employees

The company gives full consideration to applications for employment from disabled persons where the position can be filled by a handicapped or disabled person. Where existing employees become disabled, the company takes steps to ensure that their employment with the company continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the company that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical with that of other employees.

Supplier payment policy

The company's policy is to settle the terms of payment with suppliers when agreeing the terms of each transaction, ensure that suppliers are made aware of the terms of the payment and abide by the terms of the payment. Trade creditors of the company at 31 March 2004 were equivalent to 22 (2003 - 26) days' purchases, based on the average daily amount invoiced by suppliers during the year.

Directors' report (continued)

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping 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.

Auditors

The directors will place a resolution before the annual general meeting to reappoint Deloitte & Touche LLP as auditors for the next year.

By order of the Board

Angus Saunders

Company Secretary

8 July 2004

Independent auditors' report

To the members of British Mediterranean Airways Limited

We have audited the financial statements of British Mediterranean Airways Limited for the year ended 31 March 2004 which comprise the profit and loss account, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes 1 to 19. 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

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant United Kingdom legal and regulatory requirements and auditing standards.

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 if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if 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 transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the directors' report for the above year and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom auditing standards 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 the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2004 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Delate + Touche Ll

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

London

8 July 2004

Profit and loss account For the year ended 31 March 2004

	Notes	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
Turnover Cost of sales	1	82,030 (59,234)	73,927 (55,905)
Gross profit Other operating expenses		22,796 (18,041)	18,022 (13,269)
Operating profit Finance income (net)	4	4,755	4,753
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	2 5	5,006 (1,520)	4,961 2,684
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	14	3,486	7,645

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for each year.

The profit for the year has been calculated on the historical cost basis.

Turnover and operating profit are all derived from continuing operations.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this profit and loss account.

Balance sheet

31 March 2004

			2004		2003
	Notes		£'000		£,000
Fixed assets	110100				
Tangible fixed assets	6		2,320	_	2,144
Current assets					
Stocks	7		600		424
Debtors - Falling due within one year	8		10,655		7,234
- Falling due after more than one year	9		-		1,694
Cash at bank and in hand			14,615	_	1 2,127
			25,870		21,479
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10		(11,884)	_	(10,111)
Net current assets			13,986		11,368
Total assets less current liabilities			16,306		13,512
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year					
Accruals and deferred income		(3,326)		(4,018)	
Subordinated convertible loan	11	(1,441)		(1,441)	
			(4,767)		(5,459)
Net assets			11,539	_	8,053
Capital and reserves					
Called-up share capital	13		15,542		15,542
Profit and loss account	14		(4,003)	_	(7,489)
Shareholders' funds	14		11,539	-	8,053
Equity interests			5,666		2,180
Non-equity interests			5,873		5,873
Shareholders' funds			11,539	_	8,053
				-	

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Angus Saunders

8 July 2004

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet.

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 March 2004

	Notes	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	16a	3,994	5,365
Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received Interest paid		234 (3)	301 (17)
Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance		231	284
Taxation UK taxation paid Overseas taxation paid		- -	(17)
Net cash outflow from taxation		-	(17)
Capital expenditure Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Disposal of fixed assets		(1,429)	(547) -
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure		(1,429)	(547)
Cash inflow before financing and managing of liquid resources		2,796	5,085
Management of liquid resources Increase in short-term cash deposit	16b		(3,000)
Net cash outflow from management of liquid resources		<u> </u>	(3,000)
Financing Issue of ordinary share capital		-	-
Net cash inflow from financing		-	-
Increase in cash	16c	2,796	2,085

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this cash flow statement.

Notes to financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2004

1 Statement of accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year is set out below.

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with all applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985.

The company is required to prepare consolidated accounts. The subsidiary undertakings are dormant and have been excluded from the consolidation as they are immaterial to the group. The results of the group, had consolidated accounts been prepared, would have been the same as the company results.

Turnover

Turnover consists of net revenue arising from the provision of passenger and freight services.

Passenger and cargo revenues are recognised when the service is provided.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life.

The principal asset depreciation periods are:

Leasehold improvements

shorter of lease or useful economic life

Rotable spares - shorter of useful life of related aircraft

type or useful economic life

Office equipment, fixtures and fittings

Cabin equipment and motor vehicles

- 4 years

3 years

Aircraft modifications

- shorter of lease or useful economic life

Leases

Lease rentals under operating leases, whereby the lessor effectively retains substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the aircraft, are included in the determination of operating profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Maintenance

Under the lease agreements, provision is required to be made on an hourly basis in respect of maintenance, overhaul and repair costs of the airframe and engines.

Routine maintenance costs are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions, except those subject to specific hedging arrangements, are converted to sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Items covered by specific hedging arrangements are recorded at the relevant hedge rate.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated to sterling at rates of exchange in effect at the balance sheet date. Gains or losses on transactions are included in the profit and loss accounts in the year in which they arise.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, using the first in first out method and consists of consumable stores and engineering expendables.

Pension costs

The amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year, all of which relate to defined contribution schemes.

Taxation

Current tax, including UK corporation tax and foreign tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

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 that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. Timing differences are differences between the company's taxable profits and the results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements

Full provision is made for deferred tax on all material timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more, or the right to pay less, tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date.

A net deferred tax asset is regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax is measured at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis.

2 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		
The profit on ordinary activities is stated after charging:		
	2004	2003
	£,000	£,000
Auditors' remuneration - audit fees	30	25
- non audit fees	23	20
Depreciation	774	594
Exchange losses	1,178	236
Operating lease rentals		
- land and buildings	537	162
- hire of aircraft	11,635	11,107
Staff costs (note 3)	12,247	9,975
3 Staff costs		
The average monthly number of employees (including executive directors) was:		
	2004	2003
	Number	Number
Flight operations	293	261
Commercial	51	9
Technical	18	15
Customer services	94	65
Finance and administration	30	23
	486	373
Their aggregate remuneration comprised:	2004	2003
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	10,526	8,691
Social security costs	1,176	842
Pension costs	545	442
	12,247	9,975

3 Staff costs (continued)

The aggregate directors' remuneration included in the above:

	2004 £	2003 £
Emoluments Company contributions to money purchase pension schemes	507,603 51,513	450,034 50,233
	559,116	500,267

The above amounts do not include any gains made on the exercise of share options or the value of any shares or share options received under long-term incentive schemes. No directors exercised share options in the year (2003 – nil) and no shares were received or receivable under long-term incentive schemes by directors (2003 – nil).

The emoluments of the directors included:

Pensions

The number of directors who were members of pension schemes was as follows:

	2004 Number	2003 Number
Money purchase schemes	2	2
Highest-paid director	2004 £	2003 £
The above amounts for remuneration include the following in respect of the highest paid director:		
Emoluments	212,586	181,178
Company contributions to money purchase schemes	38,440	37,963
	251,026	219,141

The highest paid director did not exercise any share options during the year (2003 - nil).

The highest paid director did not receive any shares under a long term incentive scheme during the year (2003 – nil).

4 Finance income (net)		
	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
	~ ~ ~ ~	2000
Investment income		
Interest receivable	254	225
Interest payable		
Lease rental deferrals and bank overdrafts	(3)	(17)
Lease Terrial deferrals and barry overdrants		(17)
	251	208
5 Taxation on profit on ordinary activities		
a) Analysis of charge for the year		
	2004	2003
	£,000	£,000
Current tax		
UK corporation tax at 30% (2003 - 30%)	1,409	1,486
Utilisation of assessed losses brought forward	(1,361)	(1,441)
	48	45
Overseas taxation		49
Adjustments in respect of prior periods:		
UK corporation tax	(14)	(34)
Current tax charge	34	60
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	1,486	(2,744)
Total deferred tax (see note 12)	1,486	(2,744)
Taxation on ordinary activities	1,520	(2,684)

5 Taxation on profit on ordinary activities (continued)

b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The difference between the total current tax shown above and the amount calculated by applying the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK to the profit before tax is as follows:

	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	5,006	4,961
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK		
of 30% (2003 – 30%)	1,502	1,488
Effects of:		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	32	21
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	(40)	(86)
Other timing differences	(57)	85
Utilisation of tax losses	(1,361)	(1,441)
Investment income taxed at the lower rate of 19%	(28)	(22)
Overseas taxation payable not subject to relief	-	49
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	(14)	(34)
Current tax charge for the year (Note 5a)	34	60

c) Factors that may affect future tax charges

Based on current investment plans, and the level of unused allowances, the company expects to be able to claim capital allowances that are at least equal to depreciation. In addition, the company has substantial brought forward tax losses which are available to reduce tax payments on future taxable profits.

As at 31 March 2004 the company has unutilised tax losses of £3.8 million (2003 - £8.3 million), subject to the agreement of the Inspector of Taxes.

6 Tangible fixed assets

The movement in the year was as follows:

	Leasehold improvements	Office equipment	Cabin equipment	Rotable spares	Motor vehicles	Aircraft modifications	Total
	£'000	£,000	£'000	£,000	£,000	£'000	£'000
Cost							
Balance at 1 Apr 2003	248	838	241	573	83	2,584	4,567
Additions	60	540	13	172	46	120	951
Disposals	(49)	(101)	(88)	-	(5)	-	(243)
Balance at 31 Mar 2004	259	1,277	166	745	124	2,704	5,275
Depreciation							
Balance at 1 Apr 2003	225	507	137	242	57	1,255	2,423
Charge	30	212	40	26	25	441	774
Disposals	(49)	(100)	(88)	-	(5)	-	(242)
Balance at 31 Mar 2004	206	619	89	268	77	1,696	2,955
Net book value				-			
31 March 2003	23	331	104	331	26	1,329	2,144
31 March 2004	53	658	77	477	47	1,008	2,320

7 Stocks

	2004	2003
	£'000	£'000
Catering consumable stores	132	98
Engineering expendables	468	326
	600	424

The replacement cost of stocks is considered to be not materially different from their balance sheet values.

8 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2004	2003
	£'000	£,000
Trade debtors	5,081	3,848
Other debtors	3,154	1,294
Deferred tax (see note 12)	1,258	1,050
Prepayments	1,162	1,042
	10,655	7,234

9 Debtors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		
	2004	2003
	£,000	£'000
Deferred tax (see note 12)	<u>•</u>	1,694
	_	1,694
10 Cuaditana. Amazunta falling dua within ana yang		
10 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2004	2003
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	5,829	4,525
Taxation and social security	397	308
Accruals and deferred income	5,658	5,278
	11,884	10,111

11 Subordinated convertible loan

The loan is an interest free unsecured subordinated convertible loan and is not repayable except in the event that the company passes a winding up resolution or an order for the winding up of the company is made. The loans are convertible, at any time, into ordinary shares of 20 pence each at 40 pence per share at the option of the unsecured subordinated convertible loan holder.

1	2	D	ef	er	re	d	tax
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	2004	2003
The deferred tax asset comprises:	£,000	£'000
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	110	181
Tax losses available	1,148	2,478
Other timing differences	-	85
	1,258	2,744
Movement in deferred tax asset		
At 1 April 2003	2,744	_
(Debited)/credited to the profit and loss account	(1,486)	2,744
At 31 March 2004	1,258	2,744

13 Called-up share capital		
	2004	2003
	£,000	£,000
Authorised share capital		
63,112,350 ordinary shares of 20p each	12,623	12,623
7,925,100 deferred ordinary shares of 80p each	6,340	6,340
	18,963	18,963
Allotted, called-up and fully-paid		
48,343,783 ordinary shares of 20p each - equity	9,669	9,669
7,340,726 deferred ordinary shares of 80p each - non-equity	5,873	5,873
	15,542	15,542

The ordinary shares of 20p each are voting shares and participate in the profits of the company. The deferred ordinary shares of 80p each are non-voting shares and do not participate in the profits of the company and rank after the ordinary shares of 20p each on the return of any capital.

The company has granted options in respect of the following shares:

	Number of shares	Earliest exercise date	Option price
Ordinary shares of 20p each	696,817	16 January 2001	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	696,817	31 March 2001	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	487,771	16 October 2001	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	487,770	31 December 2001	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	696,817	31 March 2002	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	487,770	31 December 2002	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	696,817	31 March 2003	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	487,770	31 December 2003	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	696,817	31 March 2004	20p per share
Ordinary shares of 20p each	487,770	31 December 2004	20p per share

14 Reconciliation of	movements in	eharaholdare' funde	•
14 neconciliation of	movements in	Silai elloluei 5 Tuliu:	

	Share capital £'000	Profit and loss account	Total shareholders' funds £'000
Balance at 1 April Profit for the year	15,542 -	(7,489) 3,486	8,053 3,486
Balance at 31 March	15,542	(4,003)	11,539

The profit and loss account is wholly attributable to the equity shares (note 13).

15 Lease obligations

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2004		2003	
	Land and	Other	Land and	Other
	buildings	01000	buildings	010.00
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Expiry date:				
- within one year	235	-	-	-
- between two and five years	238	1,826	162	2,130
- thereafter	436	11,369	-	13,406
		<u> </u>		
16 Cash flow statement				
a) Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflo	ow from operating ac	tivities	2024	2002
			2004 £'000	£'000
			2 000	2 000
Operating profit			4,756	4,753
Depreciation			774	594
Increase in stocks			(176)	(78)
Increase in debtors			(3,193)	(248)
Increase in creditors			1,524	447
Decrease/(increase) in restricted cash			308	(103)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets			1	<u>-</u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities			3,994	5,365

16 Cash flow statement (continued)

16 Cash flow statement (continued)			
b) Analysis of the changes in net funds			
	2003	Cash flow	2004
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,970	2,796	5,766
Short-term cash deposit	7,000	-	7,000
Subordinated convertible loan	(1,441)	- -	(1,441)
Total	8,529	2,796	11,325
c) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
		2004	2003
		£,000	£'000
Increase in cash in the year		2,796	2,085
Cash outflow to increase liquid resources		-	3,000
Change in net funds resulting from cashflows		2,796	5,085
Net funds at 31 March 2003		8,529	3,444
Net funds at 31 March 2004		11,325	8,529
d) Reconciliation of cash in balance sheet to cash in cash flow sta	itement	2004	2003
		£,000	£,000
Cash per balance sheet		14,615	12,127
Short-term cash deposit		(7,000)	(7,000)
Restricted cash (note 17)		(1,849)	(2,157)
Cash per cash flow statement		5,766	2,970
		_	

17 Banking facilities

The Company's Bankers have issued guarantees totalling £1,849,315 (2003 - £2,157,124) on behalf of the company to certain of the company's suppliers. The guarantees are supported by cash deposits of £1,849,315 (2003 - £2,157,124) which are disclosed as part of restricted cash (note 16d).

18 Capital Expenditure Commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided for in the accounts amounts to £3,232,000 (2003 - £nil).

19 Controlling Party

In the directors' opinion there is no controlling party.