# **Victory Corporation Plc**

Directors' report and financial statements Registered number 3189714 Year ended 31 March 2007

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Victory Corporation Plc Directors' report and financial statements Year ended 31 March 2007

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## Directors' report

The directors present their directors' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2007

### Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is to hold investments in its trading subsidiaries which distribute and license Virgin branded products including cosmetics, toiletries and jewellery & clothing

#### **Business Review**

The loss for the year amounted to £1,834,000 (2006 loss of £1,469,000)

Investments in subsidiary companies have continued to perform inline with expectations

The Company applied for the cancellation of admission of the Company's shares to the Alternative Investment Market with effect from the opening of business on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007. This application for cancellation was following an offer by Victory Acquisitions Limited for the entire share capital of the Company which it did not already own.

Following the de-listing in the year, the Company no longer presents consolidated accounts. The Company is now able to take advantage of the exemption allowed by \$288A of the Companies Act 1985 from the requirement to prepare group accounts as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of Virgin Hotels Group Limited which prepares consolidated accounts including the results of Victory Corporation Plc and its subsidiary undertakings

Since the year end the directors have been informed that Capolito Roma Limited (Capo) and its subsidiary have been placed into administration, and accordingly all amounts due to the Company from Capolito Roma Limited have been provided for in the current year

#### Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Company is reliant on the continued support of its ultimate parent company, Virgin Group Holdings Limited, which has confirmed that it is its present intention to provide sufficient funds to enable the Company to continue its normal trading activities and pay its debts as and when they fall due for the foreseeable future, being at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements

## Proposed dividend and transfer to reserves

The directors are unable recommend payment of a dividend this year (2006 £nil) The loss for the year has been transferred to reserves

#### **Directors**

The directors who held office during the year were as follows

John Jackson

(Chairman)

Rosalind Simmons

David Rutherford

Patrick McCall

Lady Judge (resigned 15th December 2006)

John Rogers (resigned 15th December 2006)

It is the policy of the Company to employ disabled persons where possible and to ensure continued employment is offered to employees who became temporarily disabled. Disabled persons are given full and fair consideration at all times in recruitment and career development.

## Directors' report (continued)

## Disclosure of information to auditors

The directors who held office at the date of approval of this directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

#### **Auditors**

In accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution for the reappointment of KPMG LLP as auditors of the Company is to be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting

On behalf of the board on 30 OCTOBER 2007

Barry Gerrard Secretary

Registered Address:

Salisbury House

City Fields

Tangmere

Chichester

West Sussex

PO20 2FP

# Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Directors' Report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

The financial statements are required by law to 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 judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.



## KPMG LLP

Dukes Keep Marsh Lane Southampton SO14 3EX United Kingdom

## Independent auditors' report to the members of Victory Corporation Plc

We have audited the financial statements of Victory Corporation Plc for the year ended 31 March 2007 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 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 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

## Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities on page 3

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 judgments 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.

# Independent auditors' report to the members of Victory Corporation Plc (continued)

## Opinion

## In our opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2007 and of its loss for the year then ended,
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements

KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor

KPMG WP

30 Octuber 2007

# Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2007

		2007 £000	2006 £000
Administrative expenses	3-4	(517)	(547)
Operating loss before exceptional items		(517)	(547)
Exceptional items	2	(715)	(402)
Operating loss after exceptional items		(1,232)	(949)
Interest receivable	5	90	35
Interest payable	6	(692)	(555)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	2-4	(1,834)	(1,469)
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	7	-	-
Loss on ordinary activities after taxation and retained loss	s for the year	(1,834)	(1,469)
		<del></del>	

A statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been included as part of these financial statements as the company made no gains or losses in the year other than those disclosed above in the profit and loss account

All of the results above derive from continuing activities

No note of historical cost profits and losses has been presented since reported losses do not materially differ from historical cost losses

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2007	Note	2007		lota 2007 20	2006
	Hote	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		44,046		44,046
Current assets					
Debtors	9	1,229		1,622	
		1,229		1,622	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one					
year	10	(4,005)		(2,564)	
Net current liabilities		<del></del>	(2,776)		(942)
Net assets			41,270		43,104
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	11		567		567
Share premium account	12		28,647		28,647
Capital reserve	12		13,724		13,724
Special reserve	12		4,295		4,295
Profit and loss account	12		(5,963)		(4,129)
Equity shareholders' funds	13		41,270		43,104

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on  $30\,$  0 to  $602\,$  2007 and were signed on its behalf by

David Rutherford

Director

#### **Notes**

## 1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements

In these financial statements FRS 20 'Share based payments' has been adopted for the first time

The adoption of FRS 20 'Share based payments' has been assessed by the directors as having no material impact on the company. Accordingly no amounts have been recorded in these financial statements

## Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, and under the historical cost accounting rules

The company is exempt by virtue of s228A of the Companies Act 1985 from the requirement to prepare group financial statements as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Virgin Hotels Group Limited which prepares group accounts incorporating the results of Victory Corporation and its subsidiary undertakings. These financial statements present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group

Under Financial Reporting Standard 1, the Company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that a parent undertaking includes the Company in its own published consolidated financial statements

As the Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Virgin Hotels Group Limited, the Company has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 8 and has therefore not disclosed transactions or balances with entities that form part of the group. The consolidated financial statements of Virgin Hotels Group Limited, within which this Company is included, can be obtained from the address given in note 17

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in view of the fact that the parent undertaking Virgin Group Holdings Limited has formally indicated that it is its present intention to provide sufficient funding to the Company, for at least the next twelve months

The directors have no reason to believe that the parent company will not be in a position to provide the support referred to above and, accordingly, they have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis

#### Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and the outstanding future lease obligations are shown in creditors. Operating lease rentals are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the loss/profit for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes

Deferred tax is recognised, without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except as otherwise required by FRS 19

#### Post-retirement benefits

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund. The amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

## 2 Notes to the profit and loss account

Loss on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging	2007 £000	2006 £000
Exceptional items		
Delisting costs	326	-
Additional costs relating to the sale of Capo in a prior year	389	402
	<del></del>	<del></del>
Auditors' remuneration	2007	2006
	000£	£000
Attributable to Victory Corporation Plc	5	28
Attributable to subsidiaries	47	30
	• •	
Other services fees receivable by the auditors	15	6

### **Delisting costs**

The company applied for the cancellation of admission of the company's shares to the Alternative Investment Market with effect from the opening of business on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007. This application for cancellation was following an offer by Victory Acquisitions Limited for the entire share capital of the company which it did not already own. The delisting costs relate to professional fees for advice given to the non – executive directors following the offer by Victory Acquisitions Limited and compensation for loss of office.

## Additional costs relating to the sale of Capo in a prior year

In April 2003, the Group sold its former non-core retail clothing business Capo. As part of that disposal, Victory provided a working capital facility to Capolito Roma Limited, the parent of Capo, and remained as guarantor of leases on certain stores traded by Civic Enterprises Limited, a subsidiary of Capolito Roma Limited. In February 2006, Civic Enterprises Limited was put into administration and the rental obligations under the the leases guaranteed by the Company have reverted to the Group.

Since the year end the directors have been informed that Capolito Roma Limited (Capo) and its subsidiary have been placed into administration, and accordingly all amounts due to the company from Capolito Roma Limited have been provided for in the current year

### 3 Remuneration of directors

	2007	2006
	£000	£000
Directors' emoluments	166	85
Company contributions to money purchase pension schemes	38	18
Compensation for loss of office	60	-
Directors' insurance	18	18
		<del></del>
	282	121

The aggregate of emoluments and amounts receivable under long term incentive schemes of the highest paid director was £109,000 (2006 £85,000), and company pension contributions of £38,000 (2006 £18,000) were made to a money purchase scheme on their behalf

Directors' emoluments include fees payable to directors who are not employed by the company but are paid on a consultancy basis

3 Remuneration of directors (continued)		
	Number of	fdirectors
	2007	2006
Retirement benefits are accruing to the following number of directors under		
Money purchase schemes	1	1
	<del></del>	<del></del>
The number of directors in respect of whose services shares were received or receivable		
under long term incentive schemes was	-	1

## 4 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the Company (including directors) during the year, analysed by category, was as follows

	Number o 2007	f employees 2006
Office and administration	2	2
The aggregate payrell costs of these persons were as follows	-	
The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows	2007	2006
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	148	133
Social security costs	13	25
Pension costs (see note 15)	38	18
Other benefits	7	10
	206	186
	<del></del>	<del></del>
5 Interest receivable		
	2007	2006
	000£	£000
Bank interest receivable	90	35
6 Interest payable		
	2007	2006
	£000	£000
On bank overdrafts	692	555

#### 7 Taxation

There is no tax charge in the profit and loss account in this or the previous year

Factors affecting the tax charge for the current period

The current tax charge for the year is higher (2006 higher) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 30%. The differences are explained below

	2007	2006
	000£	£000
Current tax reconciliation		
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(1,834)	(1,469)
Current tax at 30% (2006 30%)	(550)	(441)
<del></del>	()	` ,
Effects of		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	81	-
UK tax losses not utilised or recognised	469	441
Total current tax charge (see above)	-	-

Factors that may affect future current and total tax charges

Details of the company's total provided and unprovided deferred tax assets of the year end (and prior period end) are shown in the table below. Deferred tax assets are only recognised to the extent that there is a reasonable expectation that the asset will reverse in the foreseeable future.

that the asset will reverse in the foreseeable future	2007 Provided £000	2007 Unprovided £000	2006 Provided £000	2006 Unprovided £000
Excess of capital allowances over depreciation Tax losses	-	(1) (2,954)	-	(1) (2,485)
		(2,955)	•	(2,486)

## 8 Investments in subsidiary undertakings

	Total £000
Cost At 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007	66,891
Provisions At 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007	22,845
At 31 March 2007	44,046
At 1 April 2006	44,046

## 8 Investments in subsidiary undertakings (continued)

The companies in which the Company's interest at the year end is more than 20% are as follows

Subsidiary undertaking – Directly owned	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Class and percentage of shar	re held
The Virgin Clothing Company Limited	England & Wales	Licensing of casual clothing	Ordinary	100%
Virgin Vie at Home Limited	England & Wales	Retailing of cosmetics, toiletries, beauty products and jewellery	Ordinary	100%
Victory Retail Limited	England & Wales	Property management	Ordinary	100%
Virgin Clothing and Cosmetics Company Limited	England & Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Virgin Vie at Home US Purchasing Company Limited	England & Wales	Procurement of cosmetics, toiletries, beauty products and jewellery	Ordinary	100%
Subsidiary undertaking – Indirectly owned	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Class and percentage of sha	re held
The Virgin Cosmetics Company (Ireland) Limited	Eire	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Virgin Vie at Home (Purchasing) Limited	England & Wales	Purchasing of stock	Ordinary	100%
Virgin Vie at Home (Marketing) Limited	England & Wales	Marketing	Ordinary	100%
The Project Consultancy Limited	England & Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Virgin Vie Limited	England & Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Classboss Limited	England & Wales	Marketing	Ordinary	100%

### 9 Debtors

Debiora		
	2007	2006
	£000	£000
	2000	2000
Amounts due from group undertakings	1,221	1,222
Other debtors	7	399
Prepayments and accrued income	i	1
Trepayments and accrued meonic	•	ı
	1 220	1,622
	1,229	1,022
10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2007	2006
	£000	£000
Bank overdraft	3,445	1,886
Trade creditors	69	138
Accruals and deferred income	491	540
	4,005	2,564

Bank loans and overdrafts within the company and certain of its subsidiaries (as listed in note 14) are secured by an omnibus guarantee and unlimited debenture of the Victory Corporation PLC group At 31 March 2007 the group's overdraft balances amounted to £9,985,000 (2006 £6,778,000)

## 11 Called up share capital

	2007	2006
	£000	£000
Authorised		
16,000,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each	800	800
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
11,331,287 Ordinary shares of 5p each	567	567

## 12 Share premium and reserves

	Share premium	Capital reserves	Special reserve	Profit and loss account
At beginning of year Retained loss for the year	28,647	13,724	4,295	(4,129) (1,834)
At end of year	28,647	13,724	4,295	(5,963)

The Special reserve arose in respect of a reduction of share premium on 30 September 2003

## 13 Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	2007 £000	2006 £000
Loss for the financial year and net reduction to shareholders funds Opening shareholders' funds	(1,834) 43,104	(1,469) 44,573
Closing shareholders' funds	41,270	43,104

#### 14 Commitments

As described in note 10, at the end of the financial year, the company was party to a group overdraft facility with Virgin Vie at Home Limited, Victory Retail Limited, Virgin Clothing & Cosmetics Company Limited, Virgin Vie at Home (Purchasing) Limited, Virgin Vie at Home Marketing Limited, and Virgin Vie at Home US Purchasing Limited

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows

	2007 Land and Buildings £000	2006 Land and Buildings £000
Operating leases which expire Within one year In the second to fifth years inclusive Over five years	50	38
	50	38
	====	

#### 15 Pension Scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £38,000 (2006 £18,000) The outstanding creditor to the pension scheme at 31 March 2007 was nil (2006 £nil)

## 16 Related party disclosures

Under FRS 8 the company is exempt from the requirement to disclose related party transactions with Virgin Hotels Group Limited and its subsidiary undertakings on the grounds that it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Virgin Hotels Group Limited.

## 17 Ultimate parent company and parent undertaking of larger group of which the company is a member

As at 31 March 2007, the Company was a subsidiary undertaking of Virgin Group Holdings Limited which is the ultimate parent company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands. As at that date, the principal shareholders of Virgin Group Holdings Limited were certain trusts, none of which individually had a controlling interest in Virgin Group Holdings Limited. The principal beneficiaries of those trusts were Sir Richard Branson and/or members of his immediate family

The largest and smallest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by the Virgin Hotels Group Limited which is registered in England & Wales The consolidated financial statements of the Virgin Hotels Group Limited are available to the public and may be obtained from The Registrar of Companies, Companies House, Cardiff, CF4 3QZ

#### 18 Post balance sheet events

Since the year end the directors have been informed that Capolito Roma Limited (Capo) and its subsidiary have been placed into administration, and accordingly all amounts due to the company from Capolito Roma Limited have been provided for in the current year