Directors' report and consolidated financial statements

31 March 2000

Registered number 3580791



Directors' report and consolidated financial statements

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Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2000. The comparative data within these financial statements represents the period from 12 June 1998 to 31 March 1999.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the group are the manufacture, packing, sale and distribution of paints, lubricants, chemicals and polishes.

Business review

The results of the group for the year are set out on page 6 of these financial statements.

Proposed dividend and transfer to reserves

In accordance with the rights attached to the shares, the directors have paid an interim dividend of £134,000 (5.488 pence per share) and recommend the payment of a final dividend of £268,200 (10.984 pence per share) to the holders of the 'A' ordinary shares. The directors also recommend the payment of a final dividend of £174,800 (8.404 pence per share) to the holders of the ordinary shares.

After accounting for the above dividends, the profit for the year retained by the group is £9,000.

Directors and directors' interests

The directors who held office during the year and their interests in the share capital of the company were as follows:

		Ordinary shares		
		31 March 2000	31 March 1999	
J D Stocks	(appointed 1 January 2000)	-	-	
P Barry		720,441	691,149	
NT Edwards		460,766	460,766	
W Seager	(resigned 30 April 1999)	-	115,083	
M Fairman	(resigned 30 June 2000)	86,246	69,092	
RJ Murie	· -	114,953	92,088	
M Lyth		32,210	25,803	

Directors' report (continued)

Year 2000

James Briggs Holdings Limited regularly reviews and updates information systems and recognised some time ago the importance of millennium compliance. A programme was initiated and has largely been implemented to upgrade the systems in full. To date the group has not suffered any significant weaknesses as a result of the year 2000 issue.

The costs of making the system year 2000 compliant were incidental to the total cost of upgrading the systems in full.

Employee involvement

The company has continued its practice of keeping employees informed of matters affecting them and of the financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the company. This is achieved through consultation with employee representatives and through company briefings.

Disabled employees

Applications for employment by disabled persons are given full and fair consideration for all vacancies in accordance with their particular aptitudes and abilities. In the event of employees becoming disabled, every effort is made to retrain them in order that their employment with the group may continue.

It is the policy of the group that training, career development and promotion opportunities should be available to all employees.

Supplier payment policy

Terms and conditions of payment for the supply of goods and services are agreed in advance with our suppliers and payments are made generally with those terms.

Directors' report (continued)

Auditors

In accordance with Section 384 (1) of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the board

NT Edwards

Secretary

Springfield Works
Salmon Fields
Royton
Oldham
Lancashire
OL2 6HZ

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors 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 group, and of the profit or loss of the group 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 group will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and to enable them to ensure that the 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 group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.





St James' Square Manchester M2 6DS

Auditors' report to the members of James Briggs Holdings Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 28.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and, as described on page 4, the financial statements, in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and by our profession's ethical guidance.

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. We also report to you 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 group are not disclosed.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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 group and 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 group and the company's affairs as at 31 March 2000 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

KPMG

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors

Kina

21 July 2000

Consolidated profit and loss account

for the year ended 31 March 2000

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Period ended 31 March 1999 £000
Turnover from continuing operations Cost of sales	2	21,838 (12,917)	12,307 (7,069)
Gross profit		8,921	5,238
Other operating charges	4	(7,016)	(4,066)
Operating profit from continuing operations Interest payable and similar charges	7	1,905 (889)	1,172 (600)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	2-7	1,016	572
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8	(430)	(200)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation Dividends paid and proposed	9	586 (577)	372 (114)
Retained profit for the year/period		9	258

The group has no recognised gains or losses in either the current or preceding financial year/period other than those reported above and consequently no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

Consolidated balance sheet

as at 31 March 2000

as at 31 March 2000					
	Note	2000		1999	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		3,777		3,607
Intangible assets	Ha		76		80
Goodwill	IIb		6,913		7,277
Investment in own shares	26		26		13
			10,792		10,977
Current assets					
Stocks	13	2,958		2,417	
Debtors	14	4,583		4,902	
Cash at bank and in hand		103		223	
		7,644		7,542	
Creditors: amounts falling due		.,		,	
within one year	15	(6,773)		(6,280)	
·					
Net current assets			871		1,262
Total assets less current liabilities			11,663		12,239
Creditors: amounts falling due					
after more than one year	16		(6,761)		(7,369)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	17		(95)		(95)
Government grants	18		(48)		(25)
Net assets			4,759		4,750
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	19		4,522		4,522
Profit and loss account	22		237		228
Tiont and loss account	22		231		220
Total shareholders' funds			4,759		4,750
Analysed between:					
Equity shareholders' funds			2,570		2,185
• •			2,370 2,189		2,165
Non-equity shareholders' funds			2,109		2,303
Total shareholders' funds			4,759		4,750
These financial statements were appropriately were signed on its behalf by:	roved by t	he board of di	rectors on	21 JULY 2000	and

P Barry

NT Edwards

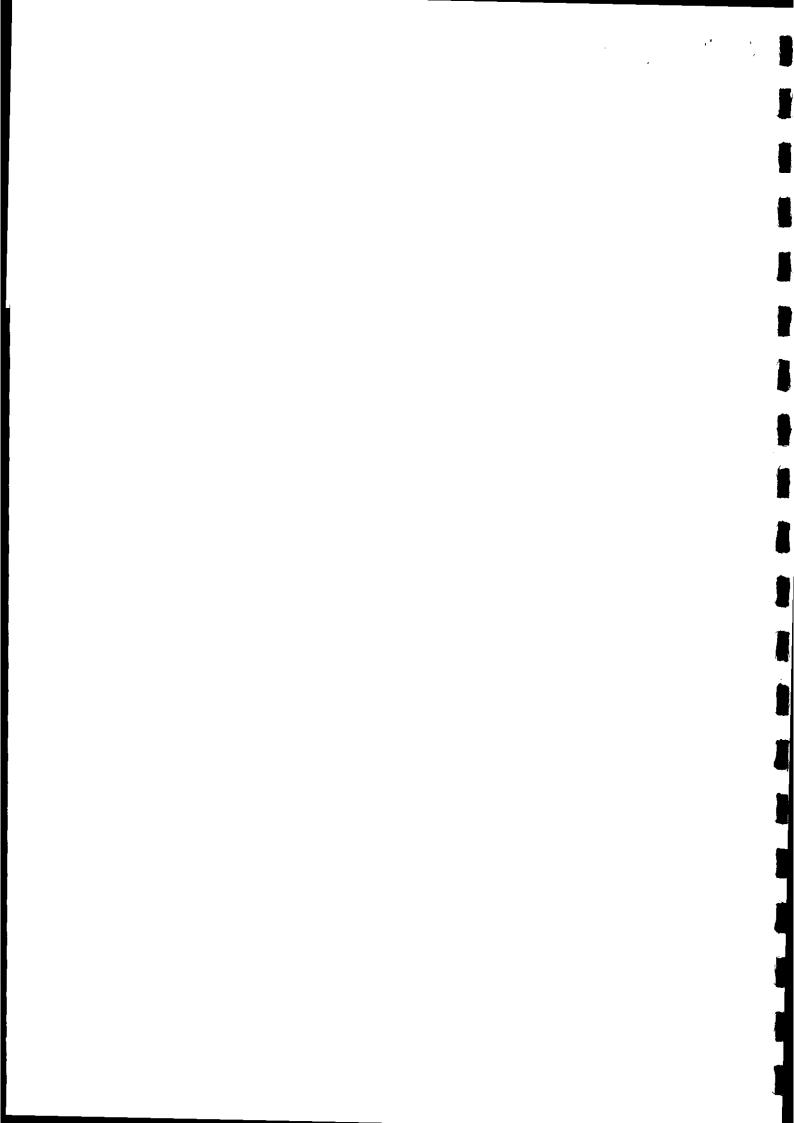


Company balance sheet

as at 31 March 2000					
	Note	2000	2000	1999	2222
Fixed assets		£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments	12		13,413		13,403
	_		,		,
Current assets					
Debtors	14	1,120		1,135	
Cuaditana amounta fallina dua					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,986)		(2,097)	
within one year	13	(2,500)		(2,097)	
Net current liabilities			(1,866)		(962)
Total assets less current liabilities			11,547		12,441
Creditors: amounts falling due					
after more than one year	16		(6,951)		(7,513)
•					
Net assets			4,596		4,928
			======		
Capital and reserves	**		4.500		4.500
Called up share capital	19		4,522		4,522
Profit and loss account	22		74		406
Total shareholders' funds			4,596		4,928
			=		
Analysed between:					
Equity shareholders' funds			2,482		2,267
Non-equity shareholders' funds			2,114		2,661
Total shareholders' funds			4,596		4,928
			=====		
These financial statements were app were signed on its behalf by:	roved by th	e board of dire	ectors on	21 July 2000	and

P Barry

NT Edwards



Consolidated cash flow statement

Consolidated cash flow statement			
for the year ended 31 March 2000			
,	Note	Year ended 31	Period ended 31
		March 2000	March 1999
		€000	£000
Net cash inflow from operating activities		2,724	3,403
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	21	(1,388)	(77)
Taxation	21	(505)	(553)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	21	(907)	(399)
Acquisitions	21	(10)	(13,403)
Cash outflow before management of liquid		·	
resources and financing		(86)	(11,029)
Financing	21	(86)	12,571
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(172)	1,542
Reconciliation of operating profit to operat	ing cash fl		
for the year ended 31 March 2000	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	O 11 B	
		Year ended 31	Period ended 31
		March 2000	March 1999
		£000	£000
Operating profit		1,905	1,172
Depreciation and amortisation charge		1,147	624
Loss on sale of fixed assets		19	57
(Increase)/decrease in stocks		(541)	433
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		319	(151)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(103)	1,311
Release of government grant		(22)	(13)
Share issue costs transferred to reserves		-	(30)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		2,724	3,403
Reconciliation of net cash flow to moveme	nt in net de	<u></u>	
for the year ended 31 March 2000			
for the year ended 31 March 2000	Note	Year ended 31	Period ended 31
	Note	March 2000	March 1999
		£000	£000
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(172)	1,542
Cash outflow/(inflow) from decrease/(increase) in debt and		06	(0.004)
lease financing		86	(8,084)
Net debt on acquisition		(10)	(1,512)
New finance leases entered into		(19)	(35)
Movement in net debt in year	23	(105)	(8,089)
Net debt brought forward	23	(8,089)	-
•			
Net debt carried forward	23	(8,194)	(8,089)

Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' funds

for the year ended 31 March 2000

	Group Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Company Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Group Period ended 31 March 1999 £000	Company Period ended 31 March 1999 £000
Profit for the financial period	586	245	372	550
Dividends paid and proposed	(577)	(577)	(114)	(114)
	9	(332)	258	436
Share capital subscribed	-	-	4,522	4,522
Less: share issue costs	-	-	(30)	(30)
Net addition to/(reduction in)				
shareholders' funds	9	(332)	4,750	4,928
Opening shareholders' funds	4,750	4,928	· •	-
Closing shareholders' funds	4,579	4,596	4,750	4,928
	<u></u>			
	4759	•		

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

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.

Basis of preparation

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

Basis of consolidation

The group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of James Briggs Holdings Limited, its trading subsidiary undertaking and the results of the James Briggs Employee Benefit Trust (see note 26) drawn up to 31 March 2000. The acquisition method of accounting has been adopted. Under this method of accounting, the results of subsidiaries are included from the date effective control passed.

No profit and loss account is presented for James Briggs Holdings Limited as permitted by section 230 (4) of the Companies Act 1985. Details of the individual profit and loss for James Briggs Holdings Limited for the financial year is shown in note 22 to these financial statements.

Depreciation

Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on the straight-line method, after taking account of residual value where appropriate, at rates designed to write off the original cost over their useful lives as follows:

Land and buildings - 3%

Leasehold improvements - Term of lease

Plant, machinery and equipment - 10% - 15%

Motor vehicles - 10% - 50%

Computer equipment - 25%

Leases

Where the company enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a 'finance lease'. The asset is recorded in the balance sheet as a tangible fixed asset and is depreciated over its estimated useful life or the term of the lease, whichever is shorter. Future instalments under such leases, net of finance charges, are included within creditors. Rentals payable are apportioned between the finance element, which is charged to the profit and loss account, and the capital element which reduces the outstanding obligation for future instalments.

All other leases are accounted for as 'operating leases' and the rental charges are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

Notes (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Cost reflects the cost incurred to bring each product to its present location including factory overheads.

Intangible assets

Certain trademarks, the value of which are not expected to diminish in the foreseeable future, have been recorded at cost, less appropriate provisions, as fixed intangible assets. An annual amortisation is provided on these assets to write them off over 20 years. However, their value is reviewed annually by the directors and the cost written down where any additional permanent diminution in value has occurred.

Point of sale stands

The cost of point of sale stands is treated as a merchandising expense and written off to the profit and loss account in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

Where the company has a defined trading contract, expenditure on stands is deferred such that it is written off over the life of the contract on an accelerated basis.

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 by equal annual instalments over the expected useful lives of the relevant assets.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date and the gains or losses on translation are included in the profit and loss account.

Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the result for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. Provision is made for deferred tax only to the extent that it is probable that an actual liability will crystallise.

Notes (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the fair value of the consideration paid over the fair value of the separable net assets acquired. In accordance with FRS 10, goodwill generated is being written off directly to the profit and loss account over 20 years.

Turnover

Turnover represents the value of goods sold during the year (excluding value added tax).

Pension costs

Defined contribution pension arrangements are made for certain employees of the company. The company's contributions are charged against the profit and loss account in the year in which they become payable. The assets of pension schemes are held separately from those of the company in independently administered funds.

Related party transactions

The directors have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard Number 8 paragraph 3(c) and have not disclosed transactions with group companies.

2 Analysis of turnover and profit on ordinary activities before taxation

Turnover and profit on ordinary activities before taxation relate entirely to the principal activity of the group.

The geographical split of turnover is detailed below:

	Year ended 31	Period ended 31
	March 2000	March 1999
	£000	£000
United Kingdom	18,902	10,777
Rest of Europe	2,452	1,349
Other	484	181
	21,838	12,307

Notes (continued)

3 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

The profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated:

	Year ended 31 March 2000	Period ended 31 March 1999
	£000	£000
after charging/(crediting)		
Auditors' remuneration:		
- audit (parent company)	2	5
- audit (group)	21	20
- other services	14	283
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned	718	376
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - leased	51	44
Amortisation of goodwill	374	200
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	4	4
Hire of plant and machinery - rentals		
payable under operating leases	5	2
Hire of other assets - rentals payable		
under operating leases	142	83
Loss on sale of fixed assets	19	57
Release of government grant	(22)	(13)

4 Other operating charges

	Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Period ended 31 March 1999 £000
Distribution costs Administration costs Employee Benefit Trust net costs	2,644 4,393 (21)	1,791 2,269 6
	7,016	4,066
		

Notes (continued)

6

5 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the company (including directors) during the period, analysed by category, was as follows:

	Average number of employees	
		Period ended 31
	March 2000	March 1999
Production and distribution	226	226
Sales	29	28
Administration	20	20
	275	274
		
The aggregate payroll of these persons was as follows:		
		Period ended 31
	March 2000	March 1999
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	4,225	2,319
Social security costs	381	206
Other pension costs (see note 25)	79	51
	4,685	2,576
Remuneration of directors		
Remuneration of directors	Voor anded 31	Period ended 31
	March 2000	March 1999
	£000	£000
	2000	2000
Directors' emoluments:		
Remuneration as executives	371	232
Pension contributions paid	36	18
	407	250

The combined emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the two chairmen in office during the year were £21,393 and those of the highest paid director were £92,000.

Pension contributions are paid in respect of 6 directors (1999: 6).

Notes (continued)

7 Interest payable and similar charges

	Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Period ended 31 March 1999 £000
Interest payable on bank overdraft wholly repayable		
within one year	5	6
Hire purchase interest	15	13
Interest payable on other loans repayable within one year	71	86
Interest payable on bank loans repayable after five years by		
instalments	408	279
Interest payable on other loans wholly repayable		
after five years	388	225
Other interest	2	(9)
	889	600
	-	

8 Taxation

	Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Period ended 31 March 1999 £000
UK corporation tax at 30% (31%:1999) on the profit	420	200
for the period on ordinary activities	430	200 ====

Details relating to deferred taxation are shown in note 17 to these financial statements.

The effective tax rate is 42.3%. This is high due to the amortisation of goodwill during the year which is not allowable for corporation tax purposes. Excluding this item results in an effective tax rate of 31.7%.

Notes (continued)

9 Dividends paid and proposed

	Year ended 31 March 2000 £000	Period ended 31 March 1999 £000
'A' ordinary shares:		
8 pence per share fixed dividend - paid	134	-
8 pence per share fixed dividend - proposed	63	114
	197	114
'A' ordinary shares and ordinary shares:		
'A' ordinary share of 40% of net profit - proposed	205	-
Ordinary share of 40% of net profit - proposed	175	-
	577	114
		=====

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold improvements	Plant, machinery & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
Group	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost					
At beginning of year	1,251	474	5,305	297	7,327
Additions	31	-	892	51	974
Disposals	-	-	(45)	(75)	(120)
At end of year	1,282	474	6,152	273	8,181
Depreciation				<u> </u>	
At beginning of year	355	69	3,133	163	3,720
Charge for year	34	20	650	65	769
Disposal	-	-	(25)	(60)	(85)
At end of year	389	89	3,758	168	4,404
Net book value					
At 31 March 2000	893	385	2,394	105	3,777
At 31 March 1999	896	405	2,172	134	3,607

Included in the total net book value if fixed assets is £151,361 (1999: £204,000) in respect of assets held under finance lease agreements. Depreciation for the year on these assets was £50,781 (1999: £44,000).

Notes (continued)

11a Intangible fixed assets (Trademarks)

	Trademarks £000
Group	2000
Cost	
At beginning and end of the year	89
Amortisation	
At beginning of the year	9
Provision in the year	4
At end of year	13
Net book value	
At 31 March 2000	76 =====
At 31 March 1999	80
11b Intangible fixed assets (Goodwill)	
	Goodwill
Group	£000
Cost	
At beginning and end of year	7,477
Additions	
At end of the year	7,487

Amortisation	200
At beginning of year	374
Charge for year	
At end of year	574
Net book value	
At 31 March 2000	6,913
At 31 March 1999	7,277
AC 31 Ividion 1777	===

For details relating to additions see note 12 to these financial statements.

Notes (continued)

12 Fixed asset investments

	Company £000
Shares in subsidiary undertakings at cost	
At beginning and end of year	13,403
Additions (see below)	10
At end of the year	13,413

Additions of £10,000 during the year relate to additional costs incurred for the acquisition of James Briggs Limited as at 28 August 1998. Further details relating to this acquisition are shown in the financial statements of this company for the period ended 31 March 1999.

Subsidiary undertakings	Country of registration	Shares heid	Shares held by James Briggs Holdings Limited	Nature of business
James Briggs Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%	Manufacture, packing, sale and distribution of paints, lubricants, chemicals and polishes
Hycote Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%*	Dormant
Tek International Limited James Briggs Trustee	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%*	Dormant
Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%*	Dormant

^{*} Held indirectly by James Briggs Limited

13 Stocks

	Group 2000 £000	Group 1999 £000
Raw materials Finished and partly finished goods	2,295 663	1,788 629
	2,958	2,417

The company held no stocks at either the current or preceding year end.

Notes (continued)

14	Debtors				
		Group	Company	Group	Company
		2000	2000	1999	1999
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	Trade debtors	4,479	-	4,685	_
	Other debtors	4	220	68	207
	Dividend receivable	-	900	-	928
	Prepayments and accrued income	100	-	149	-
		4,583	1,120	4,902	1,135
		4,505	1,120	1,502	1,155
					
	All debtors fall due within one year.				
15	Creditors: amounts falling due within one	year			
		Group	Company	Group	Company
		2000	2000	1999	1999
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	Bank loans and overdraft	640	640	529	529
	Other loans	849	_	339	-
	Obligations under finance leases and				
	hire purchase contracts	58	_	86	-
	Trade creditors	3,072	_	2,604	-
	Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings	· •	1,852	•	1,134
	Corporation tax	378	· •	453	-
	Other creditors	3	-	70	-
	Other taxes and social security	442	-	611	-
	Accruals and deferred income	888	51	1,474	320
	Proposed dividend	443	443	114	114
		6,773	2,986	6,280	2,097

Bank loans and overdraft are secured by the freehold and leasehold land of the group and a fixed and floating charge over all the assets of the group.

Other loans are secured by the trade debtors of the group.

Notes (continued)

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

	Group	Company	Group	Company
	2000	2000	1999	1999
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bank loans	3,460	3,460	4,022	4,022
Loan notes due to third parties	3,258	3,258	3,258	3,258
Loan notes due to group undertakings	-	233	-	233
Obligations under finance leases and				
hire purchase contracts	32	-	78	-
Amounts due to group undertakings	11	-	11	-
	6,761	6,951	7,369	7,513

Bank loans carry an interest rate of 1.75% above LIBOR. Details of the repayment schedules are shown below.

Loan notes due to third parties and to group undertakings carry an interest rate of 11%. Details of the repayment schedules are shown below. Repayments commence on 31 August 2005 and are payable in 10 half yearly equal instalments. Amounts due to group undertakings relate to James Briggs Employee Benefit Trust.

Bank loans and overdraft are secured by the freehold and leasehold land of the group and a fixed and floating charge over all the assets of the group.

Notes (continued)

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

The maturity of obligations under bank loans and overdrafts, finance leases, other loans and loan notes is as follows:

	Group	Company	Group	Company
	2000	2000	1999	1999
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Within one year				
Bank loans and overdrafts	640	640	529	529
Other loans	849	-	339	-
Obligations under finance leases				
and hire purchase contracts	58	-	86	-
Between one and within two years				
Bank loans	674	674	564	564
Obligations under finance leases				
and hire purchase contracts	32	-	78	-
Between two and within five years				
Bank loans	2,420	2,420	2,210	2,210
After five years				
Bank loans	366	366	1,248	1,248
Loan notes	3,258	3,491	3,258	3,491
	8,297	7,591	8,312	8,042

17 Provisions for liabilities and charges

Group and company £000

Deferred taxation

At beginning and end of year

95

Notes (continued)

17 Provisions for liabilities and charges (continued)

	Group		Group	
	Provided	Unprovided	Provided	Unprovided
	2000	2000	1999	1999
	£000£	£000	£000	£000
Accelerated capital allowances	118	124	126	127
Other timing differences	(23)	-	(31)	-
	95	124	95	127

The company held no provided or unprovided amounts of deferred tax at either the current or preceding year/period end.

18 Government grants

	Group £000
At beginning of year	25
New grant received during the year	45
Transfer to profit and loss account	(22)
At end of year	48

The government grant relates to the company's development of the Foxdenton Lane site and is being amortised over four years.

19 Called up share capital

	Company	Company
	2000	1999
	£	£
Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid		
2,441,829 'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	2,441,829	2,441,829
2,080,076 ordinary shares of £1 each	2,080,076	2,080,076
	4,521,905	4,521,905

Notes (continued)

20 Called up share capital (continued)

Rights attached to shares - Dividends

The profits of the company available for distribution are payable as detailed below:

First in paying the holders of the 'A' ordinary shares a dividend of 8 pence per share per annum.

Second in paying the holders of the 'A' ordinary shares and the ordinary shares a sum of 40% of net profit, commencing 1 April 1999.

Third in paying the holders of the 'A' ordinary shares the Excess Benefits.

Rights attached to shares - Voting

All shares carry one vote.

Rights attached to shares - Capital

The assets of the company remaining after settlement of all liabilities and costs on winding up shall be payable as follows:

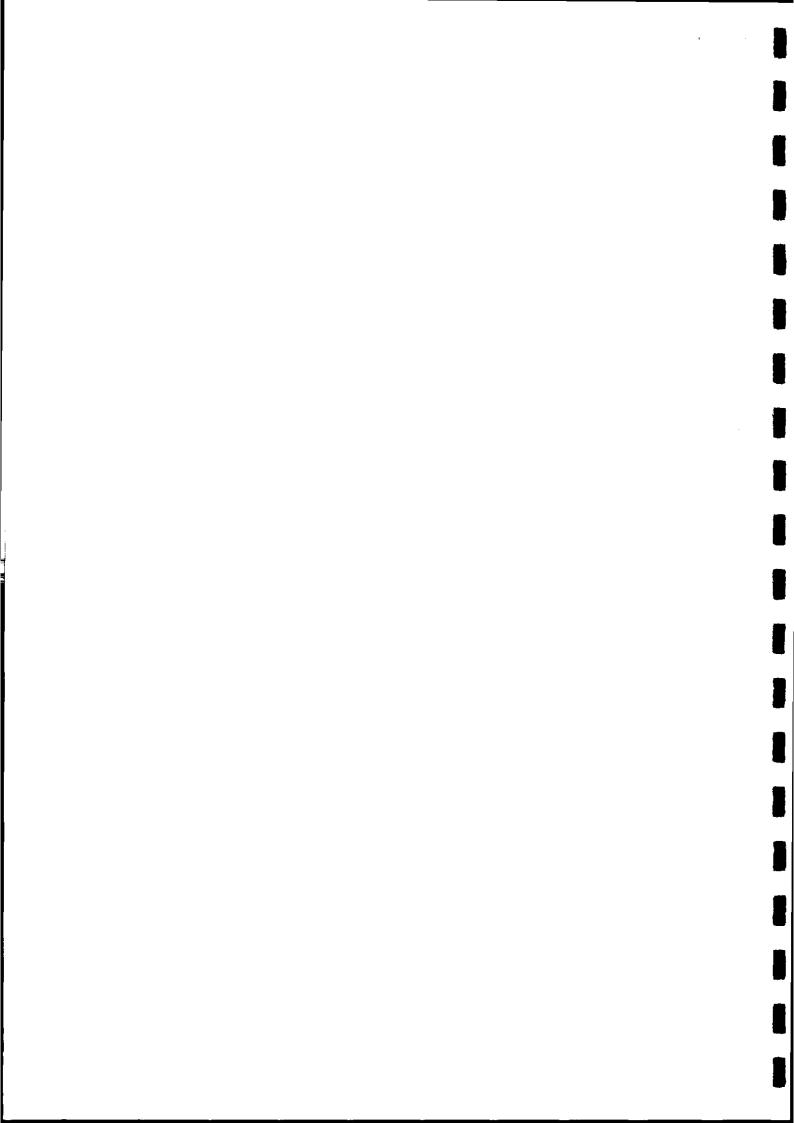
First in paying the holders of the 'A' ordinary shares £1 per share.

Second in paying the holders of the ordinary shares £1 per share.

Third in paying the holders of the 'A' ordinary shares and holders of the ordinary shares the remaining amount in proportion to the shares held.

Rights attached to shares - Conversion

The holders of the 'A' ordinary shares may, at any time, convert the whole of their 'A' ordinary shares into a like number of ordinary shares.



Notes (continued

21 Analysis of items netted in the cash flow statem	nent
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Analysis of items netted in the cash now statement		
Returns on investment and servicing of finance	Group	Group
	2000	1999
	£000	
	£000	£000
Interest paid	(1,125)	(297)
Finance lease interest paid	(15)	(13)
Realisation of investments in own shares	•	233
Non-equity dividends paid	(248)	-
•		
	(1,388)	(77)
The same A and		
Taxation		
	Group	Group
	2000	1999
	£000	£000
UK corporation tax paid	(505)	(553)
Capital expenditure and financial investment		
	Group	Group
	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(955)	(437)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	16	38
Government grant received	45	-
Purchase of investments within EBT	(13)	-
	(907)	(399)
Acquisitions		
	G	
	Group	Group
	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Purchase of subsidiary undertaking	(10)	(13,403)

Notes (continued)

22

21 Analysis of items netted in the cash flow statement (continued)

Financing

At beginning of year

At end of year

Retained loss for the year

		Group	Group
		2000	1999
		£000	£000
Share capital subscribed		-	4,522
New loans subscribed		510	8,089
Repayment of borrowing		(503)	-
Capital element of finance lease creditors		(93)	(40)
		(86)	12,571
Share capital and reserves			
	Share capital	Profit and loss	Total
		account	
	£000	£000	£000
Group			
At beginning of year	4,522	228	4,750
Retained profit for the year	-	9	9
At end of year	4,522	237	4,759
Company			

4,522

4,522

406

(332)

74

4,928

4,596

(332)



Notes (continued)

23 Analysis of net debt

	31 March 1999	Cashflow	Other non-cash movement	31 March 2000
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash balance	223	(120)	-	103
Bank overdraft	(24)	(52) (172)	_	(76)
Balances due within one year				
Finance leases	(86)	28	-	(58)
Bank Ioans	(505)	(59)	-	(564)
Other loans	(339)	(510)	-	(849)
Balances due after one year				
Finance leases	(78)	65	(19)	(32)
Bank loans	(4,022)	562	-	(3,460)
Loan notes	(3,258)	-	-	(3,258)
		86		
	(8,089)	(86)	(19)	(8,194)
	====			

24 Contingent liabilities and commitments

- i) There were no contingent liabilities at 31 March 2000.
- ii) Capital commitments comprised:

	Group 2000 £000	Company 2000 £000	Group 1999 £000	Company 1999 £000
Authorised and contracted for	-	-	-	-
Authorised but not contracted for	-	-	60	-
				

Notes (continued)

24 Contingent liabilities and commitments (continued)

iii) Lease commitments

The company leases certain land and buildings on a short term lease. The annual rental on this lease is subject to five yearly rent reviews as specified in the lease.

The minimum annual rentals under the lease are as follows:

	Group	Company	Group	Company
	2000	2000	1999	1999
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Operating leases which expire after five years	142		142	-

25 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of certain employees. The assets of the scheme are administered by trustees in a fund independent from those of the company. Pension contributions for the period amounted to £79,000 (1999: £51,000). There were £nil outstanding pension contributions at 31 March 2000 (1999: £nil)..

26 Investment in own shares

Investment in own shares represents share capital of James Briggs Holdings Limited owned by the James Briggs Employee Benefit Trust ("EBT") and held for the benefit of the employees of the group. Investments in own shares are stated at the lower of cost and share option exercise price less any provision for any permanent diminution in value. All administrative expenses are borne by the EBT. Details relating to the investment in own shares are as follows:

	£000	£000
Employee Benefit Trust Investment in shares of James Briggs Holdings Limited	26	13

At 31 March 2000 the EBT held 284,213 (1999: 271,314) shares in James Briggs Holdings Limited.

During the year the directors granted options to acquire 92,801 shares. These options are exercisable within 10 years of grant and are conditional upon there being a sale of the entire issued share capital of the company. The exercise price is 5 pence per share.