

Company Registration No. SC175364 (Scotland) -

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021



COMPANIES HOUSE

18 OCT 2021

EDINBURGH MAILBOX

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	Murdoch MacLennan (Chairman)	
	Neil Doncaster (Chief Executive)	
	Leslie Gray	
	Ross McArthur	
	Karyn McCluskey	
	Alastair Donald	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	Ronald Gordon	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	Paul Hetherington	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	James MacDonald	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
	Stewart Robertson	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
Secretary	Calum Beattie	
Company number	SC175364	
Registered office	Hampden Park Glasgow United Kingdom G42 9DE	
Auditor	Johnston Carmichael LLP 7-11 Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7PE	

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

CONTENTS

	Page
Strategic report	1 - 5
Directors' report	6
Directors' responsibilities statement	7
Independent auditor's report	8 - 10
Statement of comprehensive income	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of changes in equity	13
Statement of cash flows	14
Notes to the financial statements	15 - 23

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

The directors present the strategic report for the year ended 31 May 2021.

Principle activities

The principal activity of the Company is to organise, manage and commercially exploit the premier football league competition in Scotland (the Scottish Professional Football League) together with the Scottish League Cup and the Scottish Challenge Cup.

Business review

Season 2020/21 was an extremely challenging one for all involved in Scottish football: As a result of Government restrictions on mass gatherings imposed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the vast majority of matches in SPFL competitions were played behind closed doors. The Company was grateful for the support of its exclusive League broadcast partner, Sky Sports, in permitting member clubs to live stream home league matches for the duration of Season 2020/21 – an agreement which has since been extended to cover Season 2021/22. This support, together with financial assistance provided to member clubs from the Scottish Government and the effort and dedication of club staff across the country, were key factors in the ongoing resilience demonstrated by the Company and its 42 member clubs.

Despite a hugely challenging economic climate, the Company is pleased to report a very strong set of financial results for the year ended 31 May 2021. Turnover increased 17.4% to £36.8 million, primarily as a result of 2020/21 being the first year of new five-year broadcasting contracts with Sky Sports (for live League Matches), BBC Scotland (for Premiership highlights, Championship live rights, and radio commentary rights), Infront (for overseas broadcast) and Premier Sports (for League Cup matches) and the associated rise of approximately £5.5 million in broadcast revenues. Further, Season 2020/21 was successfully completed despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This rise in broadcast revenue was offset by a reduction in sponsorship due to the expiry of the title sponsorship arrangement with Ladbrokes. The reduction in sponsorship revenue was itself mitigated by the Company entering into two new commercial sponsorships – with Loch Lomond Group (Official Spirit Partner) and Papa John's (Official Delivery and Takeaway Partner).

During the period, fees paid to clubs, including Parachute Payments, increased by £4.9 million (20.5%) principally due to the increase in broadcast revenues referred to above and the successful completion of the season. This increase in fee payments to clubs was the primary driver behind the rise in Cost of Sales of 18.7% (£5.4 million). Another (much less material) factor in this rise was an increase in direct match costs due to the completion of the season (as opposed to the preceding season) and a rise in TV production costs due to COVID-19 issues and postponements.

In terms of working arrangements, the Company's staff predominantly worked on a remote basis during the period and it is expected that, in line with recommendations from the Scottish Government, a hybrid model will be adopted for the foreseeable future. The Company has a small team (an average of 16 employees in the review period) and the Executive of the Company would like to place on record their thanks for the dedication and hard work of all staff members during a very challenging period for the Company and Scottish football.

At the end of January 2021, Iain Blair retired as Company Secretary and Director of Operations of the Company. Iain had fulfilled this role since the incorporation of The Scottish Premier League Limited in 1998 and was hugely popular and respected throughout Scottish football. His pragmatic and balanced approach to numerous difficult issues over a 22-year career with the Company was invaluable in ensuring the continued success of the Company. We wish Iain the very best in his retirement.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

Season review

In terms of the competitions organised by the Company, Rangers were crowned Premiership Champions for the first time since season 2010/2011, denying Celtic what would have been a historic tenth league title in a row. Rangers therefore qualified for the Champions Stream of the UEFA Champions League for Season 2021/22. Rangers were joined in the UEFA Champions League qualifiers by Premiership runners-up, Celtic. Season 2021/22 is the first season since 2010/11 that Scotland has had two representatives in the Champions League, reflecting the strong performances of Scotland's European representatives in recent seasons. Unfortunately, neither Celtic nor Rangers succeeded in qualifying for the Champions League Group Stage but both were successful in qualifying for the Europa League Group Stage.

Season 2020/21 was a historic season for St Johnstone who achieved a remarkable cup double – winning both the Scottish League Cup (Betfred Cup) and the Scottish Cup. St Johnstone's success in Season 2020/21 meant that they entered the UEFA Europa League at Qualifying Round 3 where they were defeated by Turkish side Galatasaray 5-3 on aggregate before losing to LASK of Austria in the Play-Off Round of the inaugural UEFA Conference League.

Rangers, Celtic and St Johnstone were joined in UEFA competitions by Aberdeen and Hibernian, both of whom entered the UEFA Conference League at Qualifying Round 2. After defeating FC Santa Coloma of Andorra, Hibernian exited the competition at Qualifying Round 3 following defeat by HNK Rijeka of Croatia. Aberdeen successfully navigated ties against Swedish side BK Hacken and Breidablik of Iceland before losing in the Play-Off Round to Qarabag of Azerbaijan.

Returning to domestic competitions, Heart of Midlothian won the Scottish Championship, achieving a return to the cinch Premiership at the first attempt. They were joined in the cinch Premiership by Dundee, who defeated Kilmarnock in the Premiership Play-Off final. Kilmarnock were therefore relegated and will compete in the cinch Championship (then Division 1) for the first time since 1992/93. They are joined in the cinch Championship by Hamilton Academical who finished bottom of the Premiership.

Each of the Championship, League 1 and League 2 seasons were truncated, with clubs voting to reduce the Season from 36 matches to 27 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The League 1 and 2 Seasons were later further reduced to 22 matches as a result of the Scottish FA suspension of football at that level in January 2021. All 20 League 1 and 2 clubs faced a very challenging and onerous schedule to complete the Season and their success in doing so is testament to the dedication of the players, staff and volunteers at those clubs.

Partick Thistle finished the season as winners of League 1, earning automatic promotion back to the cinch Championship after a single season. Greenock Morton retained their position in the Championship by defeating Airdrieonians in the Championship Play-Off final.

Queen's Park celebrated their new status as a professional football club (after 152 years of only offering amateur playing contracts) by winning League 2 and earning automatic promotion to cinch League 1. Dumbarton retained their position in League 1 by defeating Edinburgh City in the League 1 Play-Off final.

The Company welcomes Kelty Hearts as a new member in season 2021/22 after they won a truncated Lowland League championship before defeating the declared Highland League champions Brora Rangers and then Brechin City in the Pyramid Play-Offs. We warmly welcome Kelty Hearts to the SPFL for the first time. Brechin City's relegation from the SPFL came after 98 years of membership of the Scottish Football League and SPFL. We wish Brechin City all the very best when competing in the Highland League in season 2021/22.

The Challenge Cup did not take place in season 2020/21 due to the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the competition has returned in season 2021/22 with a new sponsor and name – the SPFL Trust Trophy. The SPFL Trust's objective of using the competition to highlight the valuable work of football clubs and their charities in the communities that surround and sustain them is an important one, and one that is applauded by the Company. This competition, which previously included clubs from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Wales has been restricted to Scottish clubs for season 2021/22 due to the continuing impact of COVID-19 on travel.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

The Company was also delighted to see the men's Scottish National Team compete at Euro 2020 – the first major tournament the men's team has qualified for since 1998. The Company congratulates Steve Clarke and the Scottish FA for this achievement which highlighted the enduring popularity of football in Scotland and demonstrated the impact that football can have on the mood of the nation. The Company wishes Steve Clarke and his team the very best of luck in continuing this success story in the upcoming World Cup Qualifiers and also to the Scottish Women's National Team as they begin their qualifying campaign for the 2023 World Cup.

The SPFL continues to participate fully in the development of club football at European level. Chief Executive Neil Doncaster is a member of both the European Leagues Business, Legal and EU Strategic Committee and UEFA's Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body. Neil also represents the League's interests at the World Leagues Forum and the Sports Rights Owners Coalition, an international cross-sport trade association. Neil also represents Scottish professional football on the Board of the Scottish FA along with Les Gray (Hamilton Academical FC Vice Chairman and SPFL Limited director).

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the directors have no reason to believe that any material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the ability of The Scottish Professional Football League Limited to continue as a going concern. The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to remain in operation for the foreseeable future and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the SPFL include:

- i. COVID-19 – previous issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the Company were set out in the accounts for the year ended 30 May 2020. These included the risk of further waves of the virus causing an interruption to or early curtailment of the season. Should the Scottish Government reimpose restrictions on society as a result, the Company could well face such issues again. It is believed that the success of the vaccination programme will prevent that from happening and officers of the Company are working closely with Scottish Government, The Scottish FA and others to mitigate this risk;
- ii. the general economic climate affecting the spending capacity of broadcast and commercial partners together with trends in the broadcast market – the Company and the Chief Executive in particular maintains strong and regular contact with all broadcast and commercial partners and provides regular reports to the board;
- iii. Brexit – concerns continue to exist in relation to member clubs' ability to recruit and retain players from outwith the British Isles, which could impair the quality, and therefore value and marketability, of the Company's competitions. Officers of the Company remain in frequent discussions with key stakeholders in this regard;
- iv. insolvency of a member – the reputational and commercial risk to the Company is well understood given previous similar events. The Company has enhanced its competition regulations in respect of club payments of payroll, payroll taxes and VAT to mitigate this risk and permit an early response to any such circumstance. Member clubs have shown remarkable resilience in recent months, however challenges remain with a number of clubs still restricted from using certain hospitality and stadium seating areas due to COVID-19 protocols;
- v. financial risk – the Company's main financial risk is that the proceeds from its financial assets are not sufficient to fund the obligations arising from liabilities as they fall due. The Company's main financial assets are cash at the bank and trade debtors. The Company's Articles of Association require that no payment may be made to members unless and until provision has been made to meet all the Company's liabilities to third parties. This risk is managed through regular management reporting and reforecasting to the board at its monthly meetings or more frequently if required.

These risks are included within the Company's Strategic Risk Register, which is reviewed regularly by senior staff and the SPFL Audit Committee and updated as necessary. The Strategic Risk Register is placed before the SPFL board for its approval at least twice each year and more often if necessary.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

Key performance measures

The Company uses several key performance measures in its business, including non-financial measures. One such measure is Attendance at League Matches. This has been omitted from this year's KPIs due to the vast majority of matches in the period taking place behind closed doors. The Company has been delighted to witness the return of near-capacity crowds in recent weeks and will return to including this KPI in next year's financial statements.

Non-financial KPIs for the year ended 31 May 2021 are as follows:

	Y/e 31 May 2021	Y/e 31 May 2020
Average Live Match Viewing Sky Sports	510,000 (+4.3%)	489,000
UEFA Country Ranking	11 (+3)	14

Financial KPIs for the year ended 31 May 2021 are as follows:

	Y/e 31 May 2021	Y/e 31 May 2020
Turnover	£36.8m (+17.4%)	£31.3m
Club fees (inc. parachute payments)	£28.8m (+20.5%)	£23.9m

Future developments

Scottish football has operated for some time within a challenging and uncertain economic climate and this has been exacerbated recently by the COVID-19 pandemic. Season 2021/22 promises to be another challenging one for the Company and its members. However, there are a number of reasons for optimism:

- Long-term broadcast contracts – the Company has entered into a domestic live broadcast contract for cinch Premiership and cinch Premiership Play-Off final matches with Sky Sports, a domestic live broadcast contract for League Cup matches with Premier Sports, a multi-faceted television and radio deal with BBC Scotland, and overseas media exploitation contracts with Infront and IMG, all for the period from 2020/21 until 2024/25. These, together with a shorter contract with MG ALBA, provide long-term certainty of revenue to the Company upon which shareholders (clubs) can rely and plan.
- Sponsorship – all of the Company's competitions are currently sponsored, with the Company recently announcing the UK's fastest growing online used car marketplace, cinch, as the League title sponsor and broadcaster Premier Sports as title sponsor of the League Cup. Premier Sports and cinch join the SPFL Trust (sponsors of the Scottish Challenge Cup), Papa John's and Loch Lomond Group on the Company's roster of sponsors. Since entering into the sponsorship agreement with cinch, which represents the highest value sponsorship deal in the Company's history, the Company has been in dispute with Rangers over that club declining to provide material inventory under the cinch agreement and regarding Rangers' compliance with other provisions of the SPFL Rules. Rangers has argued, with reference to SPFL Rule 17, that it has a pre-existing contract which prevents it from providing such inventory. Having requested and not received a copy of such contract, the Company has referred the matter for independent dispute resolution. There is a connected litigation in the Court of Session in which the Scottish FA is a respondent and in which both the Company and Rangers are interested parties. As the agreement with cinch was concluded post-year end, there is no impact on the 2020/21 financial statements and the matter will be considered as part of the audit for the year ending 30 May 2022.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

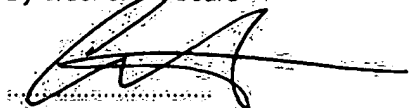
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

- UEFA coefficient – as a result of recent strong performances by Scottish clubs in UEFA competitions, Scotland achieved 11th place in the UEFA coefficient rankings at the end of the season. It is therefore anticipated (but not yet confirmed by UEFA) that the 2021/22 cinch Premiership champions will have direct entry into the UEFA Champions League group stages for season 2022/23. In addition, it is anticipated that the runners up will enter the Champions League qualifiers at Qualifying Round 2, the Scottish Cup winners at the Europa League Play-Off Round, and a further two places will be available for participation in the UEFA Conference League qualifying rounds.

The Company continues to recognise that positive and collaborative engagement with clubs and the Scottish FA is essential for the continued success of the Company and the game in Scotland. The preceding 18 months have been some of the most challenging times in Scottish football and the Company and its Officers look forward to welcoming club representatives back to Hampden Park in person as soon as circumstances allow, to continue and enhance this essential dialogue.

In conclusion, the Company is delighted to announce a very strong set of financial results and, with several long-term commercial contracts in place, looks forward to continuing to build on this success in the coming years.

By order of the board



Calum Beattie

Secretary

23 September 2021

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2021.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Murdoch MacLennan (Chairman)	
Neil Doncaster (Chief Executive)	
Leslie Gray	
Ross McArthur	
Karyn McCluskey	
Alan Burrows	(Retired 20 July 2020)
Peter Davidson	(Retired 20 July 2020)
Kenneth Ferguson	(Retired 9 April 2021)
Peter Lawwell	(Appointed 20 July 2020 and retired 1 July 2021)
Steven Brown	(Appointed 20 July 2020 and retired 20 July 2021)
Ewen Cameron	(Retired 20 July 2021)
Gordon Thomson	(Retired 20 July 2021)
Alastair Donald	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
Ronald Gordon	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
Paul Hetherington	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
James MacDonald	(Appointed 20 July 2021)
Stewart Robertson	(Appointed 20 July 2021)

All club directors retire at the AGM and may seek re-appointment.

Results and dividends

The results for the year are set out on page 11.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2020: £nil).

Auditor

The auditor, Johnston Carmichael LLP, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

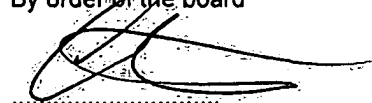
Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Strategic report

The company has chosen in accordance with SI 2008/410L s. 7.1A, to set out in the company's strategic report information required in the director's report, specifically in respect of future developments of the business.

By order of the board



Calum Beattie

Secretary

Date: 23 September 2021

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

The directors are responsible for preparing the strategic report, 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 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). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and 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 judgements and accounting 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;
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Scottish Professional Football League Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 May 2021 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 May 2021 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice ("UK GAAP"); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, set out on page 7, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which an audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- UK GAAP
- Companies Act 2006
- Compliance with SPFL rules
- Corporation Tax legislation
- VAT legislation

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

We gained an understanding of how the company is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns and board meeting minutes.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how management and those charged with governance were remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how management and those charged with governance oversee the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk.

The following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing judgements made by management in their calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material risk due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Use of this report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Johnston Carmichael LLP

Jeffrey Marjoribanks (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Johnston Carmichael LLP

01 / 10 / 2021
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

7-11 Melville Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7PE

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

		2021 £000	2020 £000
Turnover	3	36,784	31,325
Cost of sales		(34,146)	(28,769)
Gross profit		2,638	2,556
Administrative expenses		(2,659)	(2,571)
Other operating income		6	12
Operating loss	4	(15)	(3)
Interest receivable and similar income	7		29
(Loss)/profit before taxation		(15)	26
Tax on (loss)/profit	8		-
(Loss)/profit for the financial year		(15)	26

The statement of comprehensive income has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. The company has no other items of comprehensive income other than the results for the year as set out above.

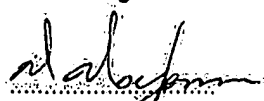
THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2021

	Notes	2021 £000	£000	2020 £000	£000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		148		158
Current assets					
Debtors	10	3,147		2,997	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,930		2,098	
		<u>6,077</u>		<u>5,095</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(6,294)</u>		<u>(5,223)</u>	
Net current liabilities			(217)		(128)
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>(69)</u>		<u>30</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(252)		(336)
Net liabilities			<u>(321)</u>		<u>(306)</u>
Capital and reserves					
Revaluation reserve			121		124
Profit and loss reserves			(442)		(430)
Total equity			<u>(321)</u>		<u>(306)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 23 September 2021 and are signed on its behalf by:



Murdoch MacLennan (Chairman)
Director



Neil Doncaster (Chief Executive)
Director

Company Registration No. SC175364

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

	Revaluation reserve	Profit and loss reserves	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 June 2019	127	(459)	(332)
Year ended 31 May 2020:			
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	26	26
Transfer to reserves	(3)	3	-
Balance at 31 May 2020	124	(430)	(306)
Year ended 31 May 2021:			
Loss and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(15)	(15)
Transfer to reserves	(3)	3	-
Balance at 31 May 2021	121	(442)	(321)

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

	Notes	2021 £000	£000	2020 £000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	18		834		(638)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2)		(41)	
Interest received				29	
Net cash used in investing activities			(2)		(12)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			832		(650)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,098		2,748
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>2,930</u>		<u>2,098</u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Scottish Professional Football League Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in Scotland. The registered office is Hampden Park, Glasgow, United Kingdom, G42 9DE.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £000.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of trophies. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

Notwithstanding the deficit on reserves at 31 May 2021 the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the directors are of the opinion that the existence of contracted income will allow the company to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future.

The company makes payments to its member clubs after accounting for all known future costs and as a result is able to successfully manage its day to day obligations and cash resources.

1.3 Turnover

Turnover comprises the value of sales, excluding VAT, of goods and services in the normal course of business, sponsorship monies and revenue derived from television broadcasting contracts.

Turnover is recognised in the year to which it relates and where payments are received in advance of the services provided the amounts are recorded as deferred income. Amounts due to clubs are recorded as cost of sales in the year in which the related turnover is recognised.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, except for trophies, are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Trophies are stated at depreciated replacement cost as at 31 May 2019. The trophies were independently valued by Robert Horn Jewellers Ltd.

The company assesses at each reporting date whether tangible fixed assets are impaired.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. Leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	19 years
Office equipment	4-5 years
Trophies	50 years

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed if there is an indication of significant change since last annual reporting date in the pattern by which the company expects to consume an asset's future economic benefits.

1.5 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.6 Equity instruments

Equity instruments issued by the company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of transaction costs. Dividends payable on equity instruments are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of the company.

1.7 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.9 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leases asset are consumed.

1.10 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised in accordance with the performance model. A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability. Grants included COVID support measures from the UK government, including Job Retention Scheme.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pounds sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting end date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the reporting end date. Gains and losses arising on translation in the period are included in profit or loss.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are as follows.

Accrued income

The company is required to estimate its accrued income at the year end. This includes fees receivable from Football DataCo Limited for the sale of certain of the company's match data during season 2020/21. Football DataCo Limited's year-end is subsequent to the company's therefore these have to be estimated. The directors estimate these to the best of their knowledge based upon historical receipts and upon management accounts during the period in question provided by Football DataCo Limited.

3 Turnover and other revenue

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Other significant revenue		
Interest income	-	29
Grants received	6	12
	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
	2021 £000	2020 £000
Turnover analysed by geographical market		
UK	34,691	30,387
Overseas	2,093	938
	<u>36,784</u>	<u>31,325</u>

The majority of the League's turnover is generated in the UK, with turnover generated outside the UK principally from international broadcast providers.

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

4 Operating loss

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Operating loss for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Government grants	(6)	(12)
Audit of these financial statements	18	10
Other services relating to taxation	4	4
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	12	14
Operating lease charges relating to land and buildings	53	53
	<u>53</u>	<u>53</u>

5 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Administration	16	17
	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	1,135	1,071
Social security costs	137	130
Pension costs	29	34
	<u>1,301</u>	<u>1,235</u>

6 Directors' remuneration

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Remuneration for qualifying services	438	387
	<u>438</u>	<u>387</u>

The number of directors to whom benefits were accruing under money purchase schemes during the year was 1 (2020 - 1).

Remuneration disclosed above include the following amounts paid to the highest paid director:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Remuneration for qualifying services	389	339
	<u>389</u>	<u>339</u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

7 Interest receivable and similar income

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Interest income		
Interest on bank deposits	-	29
	<u>-</u>	<u>29</u>

8 Taxation

The actual charge for the year can be reconciled to the expected (credit)/charge for the year based on the profit or loss and the standard rate of tax as follows:

	2021 £000	2020 £000
(Loss)/profit before taxation	(15)	26
	<u>(15)</u>	<u>26</u>
Expected tax (credit)/charge based on the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2020: 19.00%)	(3)	5
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	-	3
Unrecognised deferred tax	1	(10)
Fixed asset differences	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Taxation charge for the year	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £000	Office equipment £000	Trophies £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 June 2020	46	144	137	327
Additions	-	2	-	2
	<u>46</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>329</u>
At 31 May 2021	<u>46</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>329</u>
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2020	46	120	3	169
Depreciation charged in the year	-	9	3	12
	<u>46</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>181</u>
At 31 May 2021	<u>46</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>181</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>148</u>
At 31 May 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>158</u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

10 Debtors

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	34	155
Other debtors	2,335	1,272
Prepayments and accrued income	778	1,570
	<u>3,147</u>	<u>2,997</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Trade creditors	517	60
Taxation and social security	69	46
Accruals and deferred income	5,708	5,117
	<u>6,294</u>	<u>5,223</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Accruals and deferred income	<u>252</u>	<u>336</u>

13 Retirement benefit schemes

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>29</u>	<u>34</u>

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

14 Share capital

	2021 £	2020 £
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
42 Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

15 Reserves

Revaluation reserve

This reserve reflects the movements resulting from the revaluations of the trophies.

Profit and loss reserves

The profit and loss reserves represents the cumulative net losses/profits in the statement of comprehensive income.

16 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Within one year	52	31

17 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

Key management are considered to be the statutory directors. Refer to note 6 for statutory directors remuneration disclosure.

Other information

By the company's nature, and in accordance with its rules, The Scottish Professional Football League Limited enters into a number of transactions in the normal course of business with its member clubs during the course of the year. Cost of sales, as reported in the profit and loss account, includes amounts paid to the members clubs of the Scottish Professional Football League totalling £28,358,000 (2020: £23,345,000), of which £4,598,000 (2020: £1,048,000) was outstanding at year end.

18 Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations

	2021 £000	2020 £000
(Loss)/profit for the year after tax	(15)	26
Adjustments for:		
Investment income	-	(29)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	12	14
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(150)	1,326
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	987	(1,975)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	834	(638)

THE SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

19 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 June 2020	Cash flows	31 May 2021
	£000	£000	£000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,098	832	2,930
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>