Financial Statements 31 December 2004



Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2004

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2004.

Review of the business

The company is engaged in importing and distributing cigars and allied products.

The directors consider the results for the year, the financial position at the end of the year and the prospects for 2005 to be satisfactory.

Results and dividends

The results for the year ended 31 December 2004 are shown in the profit and loss account on page 5. The group profit for the year after taxation was £3,247,284.

An interim dividend of 184.4p per ordinary share was paid in the year. The directors recommend that a final dividend of 18.4p per ordinary share be paid for the year, making a total of 202.8p for the year.

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the year were:

Executive

D G Lewis (Chairman)
S G Chase (Marketing)
J H Darnton (Sales)
Miss J K N Freeman (Business Development)
P J Hambidge (Finance)
Mrs A Lopez Garcia

Non-executive

D A J Baxter M Garcia Morejon F J Terres de Ercilla

No director had any direct beneficial interest in the shares of the company at 1 January 2004 or 31 December 2004.

The interests of Mr D A J Baxter, Miss J K N Freeman, Mr P J Hambidge and Mr D G Lewis in the shares of the ultimate parent undertaking, Hunters & Frankau Group Limited, are given in the financial statements of that company.

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 year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and 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;
- 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 keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the company and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2004

Tangible fixed assets

The movements in tangible fixed assets are set out in note 10 to the financial statements. Additions to tangible fixed assets during the year comprised normal replacements.

Donations

Charitable donations during the year amounted to £7,500.

Close company status

The close company provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 apply to the company.

Auditors

Chantrey Vellacott DFK have indicated their willingness to continue as auditors of the company and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

P J HAMBIDGE

Secretary

Date: 16th February 2005

Independent auditors' report to the shareholders of Hunters & Frankau Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Hunters and Frankau Limited for the year ended 31 December 2004 which comprise the profit and loss account, the balance sheets, the cash flow statement and the related notes set out on pages 5 to 17. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with Companies Act 1985. 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 company is not disclosed.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of audit opinion

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

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

Independent auditors' report to the shareholders of Hunters & Frankau Limited

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the group as at 31 December 2004 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Chantrey Vellarott DFK

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors London

Date: 16 February 2005

Consolidated profit and loss account For the year ended 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004 £	2003 £
Turnover	2	23,637,446	22,884,802
Cost of sales		14,336,570	14,139,753
Gross profit		9,300,876	8,745,049
Distribution costs Other operating expenses	3	2,031,384 2,631,783	1,940,574 2,589,320
		4,663,167	4,529,894
Operating profit		4,637,709	4,215,155
Interest receivable		21,139	12,374
Interest payable	4	(1,906)	(4,428)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	5	4,656,942	4,223,101
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8	1,409,658	1,284,301
Profit for the financial year		3,247,284	2,938,800
Dividends	9	2,750,000	2,750,000
Retained profit for the year	17	497,284	188,800

The group had no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the profits above, and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented. There is no difference between the profits shown above and their historical cost equivalents.

Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004 £	2003 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	651,314	699,954
Current assets			
Stocks	12	6,266,770	5,772,455
Debtors	13	4,889,909	4,743,480
Cash at bank and in hand		39,517	4,242
		11,196,196	10,520,177
Creditors: amounts falling			
due within one year	14	5,063,422	4,933,327
Net current assets		6,132,774	5,586,850
Total assets less current liabilities		6,784,088	6,286,804
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	16	678,001	678,001
Share premium account		1,250	1,250
Profit and loss account	17	6,104,837	5,607,553
Equity shareholders' funds	18	6,784,088	6,286,804

Approved by the Board of Directors on 16th February 2005.

DG LEWIS

PJ HAMBIDGE

Directors W.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004	2003
Fixed assets		£	£
Tangible assets	10	651,314	699,954
Investments	11	399,664	399,664
•		1,050,978	1,099,618
Current assets			
Stocks	12	6,266,770	5,772,455
Debtors	13	4,889,729	4,743,299
Cash at bank and in hand		39,517	4,227
		11,196,016	10,519,981
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	5,743,215	5,613,104
Net current assets		5,452,801	4,906,877
Total assets less current liabilities		6,503,779	6,006,495
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	16	678,001	678,001
Share premium account		1,250	1,250
Profit and loss account	17	5,824,528	5,327,244
Equity shareholders' funds	18	6,503,779	6,006,495
Approved by the Board of Directors on 16th	February 2	4005	
D G LEWIS	? W	~	
P J HAMBIDGE	11	Directors	

Consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004 £	2003 £
Cash flow from operating activities	(a)	3,740,876	4,779,568
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	(b)	19,233	6,221
Taxation paid		(1,286,275)	(1,333,338)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(c)	(155,603)	(104,622)
Equity dividends paid		(2,750,000)	(2,750,000)
(Decrease)/increase in cash in period	(e)	(431,769)	597,829

Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement For the year ended 31 December 2004

(a)	Reconciliation of operating profit to net inflow from operating activities	t cash	2004	2003
	inner nom operating doubles		£	£
	Operating profit		4,637,709	4,215,155
	Depreciation charges		207,515	242,763
	Profit on sale of fixed assets		(3,272)	(16,593)
	Changes in stocks		(494,315)	140,940
	Changes in debtors Changes in creditors		(143,848) (462,913)	(298,601) 495,904
	Net cash inflow from operating activities		3,740,876	4,779,568
(b)	Returns on investments and servicing	of finance	2004	2003 £
			£	I.
	Interest received Interest paid		21,139 (1,906)	12,113 (5,892)
	Net cash flow from returns on investment	te ond		
	servicing of finance	is and	19,233	6,221
(c)	Capital expenditure and financial inve	stment	2004	2003
	•		£	£
	Sale of tangible fixed assets		42,931	21,034
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(198,534)	(125,656)
	Net cash flow from capital expenditure ar	nd		440.4.55
	financial investment		(155,603)	(104,622)
(d)	Analysis of net debt	At 1 January 2004	Cash flow	At 31 December 2004
		£	£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	4,242	35,275	39,517
	Overdrafts	(408,091)	(467,044)	(875,135)
		(403,849)	(431,769)	(835,618)
(e)	Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt	,	2004	2003
	movement in het debt		£	£
	(Decrease)/increase in cash		(431,769)	597,829
	Net debt at 1 January 2004		(403,849)	(1,001,678)
	Net debt at 31 December 2004		(835,618)	(403,849)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings. The subsidiary undertakings prepare their financial statements to 31 December and are consolidated using the acquisition method of accounting.

(c) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is the purchase cost on a first-in, first-out basis. Net realisable value is the price at which the stock can be realised in the normal course of business. Provision is made for slow moving stocks.

(d) Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates, on a straight line basis, so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives as follows:

Freehold property - 2% Short leasehold improvements - 15%

Plant, equipment, fixtures and fittings - 15 - 25% according to category
Motor vehicles - 25 - 33% according to category

(e) Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided under the liability method in respect of all material timing differences between the profits as computed for taxation purposes and the profits as stated in the financial statements. The rate of tax used is that which is expected to be applied when the liability or asset is expected to crystallise.

(f) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Gains and losses arising thereon are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(g) Goodwill

Purchased goodwill arising on the acquisition of a subsidiary represents the difference between the fair value of the consideration given and the aggregate of the fair values of the separable net assets acquired.

Prior to 31 December 1997 the group eliminated purchased goodwill by immediate write off to reserves on acquisition.

(h) Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as they fall due.

(i) Pension costs

The cost of pensions in respect of the group's defined benefit pension scheme is charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over the service lives of employees. Variations from the regular cost are spread over the expected service lives of current employees in the scheme.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

1. Accounting policies

i) Pension costs

Additional costs in respect of current and deferred pensioners' benefits are charged to the profit and loss account when incurred.

The cost in respect of the group's defined contribution scheme is charged to the profit and loss account when paid.

2. Turnover

Turnover represents the amount receivable for goods sold during the year and is exclusive of VAT. Turnover arose as follows:-

	2004 £	2003 £
United Kingdom Europe	23,055,182 582,264	21,910,718 974,084
	23,637,446	22,884,802

Turnover and profit on ordinary activities before taxation is derived from importing and distributing cigars and allied products.

3.	Other operating expenses	2004 £	2003 £
	Included in other operating expenses are exceptional pension contributions in respect of current and deferred pensioners' benefits	449,000	500,000
4.	Interest payable	2004 £	2003 £
	Interest on bank overdrafts and loans wholly repayable within 5 years	1,906	4,428
5.	Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	2004 £	2003 £
	Is stated after charging:		
	Depreciation Directors' emoluments (note 7) Auditors' remuneration Property rentals	207,515 690,280 23,500 187,507	242,763 587,526 21,750 167,331

Fees charged by the group's auditors for other services were £7,100 (2003 : £10,925).

and after crediting:

Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets 3,272 16,593

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

6.	Staf	ff costs	2004	2003
	(a)	Staff costs including directors during the year amounted to:	£	£
		Wages and salaries	2,082,889	1,958,464
		Social security costs	218,023	204,395
		Other pension costs	449,339	461,071
			2,750,251	2,623,930
	(b)	The weekly average number of employees including exe made up as follows:	cutive directors during	g the year was
			2004	2003
			Number	Number
		Warehousing and distribution	32	32
		Office and management	<u>21</u>	20
			53	<u>52</u>
7.	Dire	ctors' emoluments	2004	2003
			£	£
	(a)	Fees and management remuneration	<u>690,280</u>	587,526
	(b)	Highest paid director:	2004	2003
			£	£
		Fees and management remuneration	145,000	145,000
	4 dir	ectors benefited from contributions to the group's defined be	nefit pension scheme	(2003 : 5).

8.	Tax on profit on ordinary activities	2004	2003
	UK corporation tax based on	£	£
	the profit for the year	1,412,239	1,293,636
	Deferred taxation	(2,581)	(9,335)
		1,409,658	1,284,301
	Factors affecting the tax charge for the year:		
	Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the standard		
	rate of corporation tax in the UK of 30% (2003 : 30%) Effects of:	1,397,082	1,265,714
	Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	12,576	18,587
	Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	2,581	9,335
		1,412,239	1,293,636

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

9.	Dividends	2004 £	2003 £
	On the 'A' and 'B' ordinary shares:	_	
	Interim	2,500,000	2,500,000
	Proposed final	250,000	250,000
		2,750,000	2,750,000
			

10. Tangible fixed assets

Group and company		Short	Plant, equipment,		
	Freehold property	leasehold improvements £	fixtures & fittings ਦ	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost:	₩		~	~	~
At 1 January 2004	548,434	252,241	856,069	483,565	2,140,309
Additions	-	,	153,019	45,515	198,534
Disposals			(60,253)	(64,500)	(124,753)
At 31 December 2004	548,434	252,241	948,835	464,580	2,214,090
Depreciation:					
At 1 January 2004	183,384	217,528	758,147	281,296	1,440,355
Provision for year	10,968	20,862	77,409	98,276	207,515
Disposals			(47,642)	(37,452)	(85,094)
At 31 December 2004	194,352	238,390	787,914	342,120	1,562,776
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2004	354,082	13,851	160,921	122,460	651,314
At 31 December 2003	365,050	34,713	97,922	202,269	699,954

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

11. Investments - Company

£

Shares in subsidiary undertakings:

Cost:

At 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2004 4,120,714

Provisions:

At 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2004 3,721,050

Net book value:

At 31 December 2003 and 31 December 2004 399,664

At 31 December 2004 the company's direct wholly owned subsidiary undertakings were Joseph Samuel & Son Limited, registered in England and operating in Great Britain and Knight Brothers Cigar Shippers Limited, registered in England and dormant. Joseph Samuel & Son Limited leased warehouse accommodation and ceased to trade during the year.

The company also owns indirectly the entire share capital of the following subsidiary undertakings which are registered in England and are dormant:

Morris & Morris Limited
Melbourne Hart & Co. Limited
Tabaco Torcido Traders Limited
Lancha House Limited
Incentive Marketing Services (UK) Limited
Tropic Tobacco Co Limited
Melbourne Hart Holdings Limited
Jacon Financial Services Limited
C H Downton Limited
F J Downton Limited
English Import Co. Limited

12.	Stocks		Group	Company	
		2004	2003	2004	2003
		£	£	£	£
	Goods purchased for resale	6,266,770	5,772,455	6,266,770	5,772,455
13.	Debtors		Group	C	ompany
		2004	2003	2004	2003
		£	£	£	£
	Amounts due within one year:				
	Trade debtors	4,515,508	4,340,573	4,515,508	4,340,392
	Other debtors	93,335	111,920	93,155	111,920
	Prepayments and accrued income	221,838	234,340	221,838	234,340
		4,830,681	4,686,833	4,830,501	4,686,652
	Amounts due after more than one year:				
	Deferred tax (note 15)	59,228	56,647	59,228	56,647 ————
		4,889,909	4,743,480	4,889,729	4,743,299
					

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Company	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	£	£	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	875,135	408,091	875,135	408,091
Amount owed to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	681,382	683,467
Trade creditors	398,288	798,905	398,288	798,905
Corporation tax	747,860	621,896	747,860	619,796
Other taxes, duties and social	•			
security costs	786,116	811,014	786,116	811,014
Proposed final dividend	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Other creditors and accruals	2,006,023	2,043,421	2,004,434	2,041,831
	5,063,422	4,933,327	5,743,215	5,613,104

The bank loans and overdrafts are secured by a mortgage debenture over the group's assets.

15.	Deferred taxation	Gr	oup	Company	
		2004 £	2003 £	2004 £	2003 £
	Capital allowances	59,228	56,647	59,228	56,647
	Deferred tax asset	59,228 ———	56,647	59,228	56,647

The provision for deferred taxation has been calculated based on a corporation tax rate of 30% (2003:30%).

The movement during the year is analysed as follows:

	Group		Company	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2004	56,647	47,312	56,647	56,795
Charge for the year	2,581	9,335	2,581	9,335
Intra group transfer	-			(9,483)
Balance at 31 December 2004	59,228	56,647	59,228	56,647

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

16.	Share capital	Authorised, allotted and fully paid		
		2004	2003	
		£	£	
	678,000 ordinary 'A' shares of 50p each	339,000	339,000	
	678,000 ordinary 'B' shares of 50p each	339,000	339,000	
	1 ordinary 'C' share of 50p	1	1	
				
		678,001	678,001	
			====	

The 'C' share does not carry any voting rights or rights to receive dividends, but otherwise carries equal rights to the 'A' and 'B' shares.

17.	Profit and loss account	Group		Company	
		2004 £	2003 £	2004 £	2003 £
	Retained profit at 1 January 2004 Retained profit for the year	5,607,553 497,284	5,418,753 188,800	5,327,244 497,284	5,147,396 179,848
	Retained profit at 31 December 2004	6,104,837	5,607,553	5,824,528	5,327,244

As permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985, a separate profit and loss account for Hunters & Frankau Limited is not presented.

The cumulative amount of goodwill written off to profit and loss account in prior years is £776,200.

18.	Reconciliation of movements in equity	Group		Company	
	shareholders' funds	2004	2003	2004	2003
		£	£	£	£
	Profit for the financial year	3,247,284	2,938,800	3,247,284	2,929,848
	Dividends	2,750,000	2,750,000	2,750,000	2,750,000
	Net addition to shareholders' funds	497,284	188,800	497,284	179,848
	Opening equity shareholders' funds	6,286,804	6,098,004	6,006,495	5,826,647
	Closing equity shareholders' funds	6,784,088	6,286,804	6,503,779	6,006,495

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2004

19.	Lease commitments	Group		Company	
		2004	2003	2004	2003
	Annual property rentals payable under leases which expire:	£	£	£	£
	Within one year	12,302	11,571	12,302	11,571
	After five years	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000
		152,302	151,571	152,302	151,571

20. Pension commitments

The group operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable salary. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group being invested with major asset management companies. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the "projected unit" method. The most recent valuation was as at 31 December 2003. The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions. It was assumed that the yield on the fund would exceed the rate of increase in pensionable salaries by 2.5% per annum. This is consistent with assumptions usually used for longer term funding.

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £9,809,000 and that the actuarial value of those assets represented 70 per cent of the benefits that had accrued to members. The deficit on the scheme calculated at the triennial valuation was £4,123,000.

The group also operates a defined contribution scheme.

The total pension cost charge, was £948,339 (2003 - £961,071), including a special contribution of £499,000 (2003 - £500,000) in respect of current and deferred pensioners' benefits and £ 9,017 (2003-£5,703) in respect of the defined contribution scheme.

Financial Reporting Standard 17

The company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets of the defined benefits pension scheme, as it participates in the scheme with another company. Each participating employer is exposed to actuarial risks associated with the current and former employees of the other employer participating in the scheme. The pension cost to the group under Financial Reporting Standard 17 is therefore the contributions paid to the scheme by the group in the year, as detailed above.

21. Ultimate parent undertaking

The ultimate parent undertaking is Hunters & Frankau Group Limited, which is registered in England.