Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 May 2015

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 May 2015

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STRATEGIC REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015

Season Review

The Directors present their annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2015.

The Board is satisfied with the achievements made this season (2014-15). The highlights being;

- Retaining our Premier League status in what was a very competitive year;
- Making huge progress in our preparation for our move to the Olympic Stadium for the 2016/17 season;
- Our fantastic support despite a disappointing second half of the season.
- Our recruitment of a new First Team Management team, led by Slaven Bilic. We would like to thank Sam Allardyce and his staff for their work at the Club over the last four years.

At the start of the season we invested a net total of £32.5m and bought Mauro Zarate, Enner Valencia, Aaron Cresswell, Cheikou Kouyate, Diafra Sakho, Diego Poyet and Morgan Amalfitano, and also took Carl Jenkinson and Alex Song on loan from Arsenal and Barcelona respectively. The new players all had a positive impact, particularly in the first half of the season.

Subsequent to the year end, we have further invested in the playing staff for the 2015-16 season with the significant investment into the purchases of Pedro Obiang, Dimitri Payet, Angelo Ogbonna, Michail Antonio, Nikica Jelavic, Stephen Hendrie and Darren Randolph. We have also taken Carl Jenkinson, Manuel Lanzini, Victor Moses and Alex Song on loan, and extended the contracts of some key players; Diafra Sakho, Aaron Cresswell and Winston Reid.

This was truly a season of two halves, with a scintillating and uplifting start and then a disappointing period after Christmas. Hopefully we will, in the 2015-16 season, have more results like the first half of 2014-15.

We also qualified for the Europa League after we won the Fair Play League, and although we did not make it through the preliminary rounds, we had a European experience for six games which was exciting whilst it lasted.

STRATEGIC REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the company is that of a professional football club as a member of the FA Premier League and the Football Association together with related and ancillary activities.

Results and Dividends

The results of the company are as set out in the profit and loss account on page 15. The directors do not propose the payment of a dividend (2014 – £nil).

Principal Risk and Uncertainties

The company's principal business risk remains that of the football club being relegated from the FA Premier League with the serious financial consequences which follow. The company prepares budgets three seasons in advance which include an evaluation of the impact of relegation and associated contingency plans.

It is a feature of football clubs' income streams that a significant element is known in advance because of its long term contractual nature. Centrally negotiated broadcast and sponsorship deals are presently in place to the end of the 2015-16 season. The company's own major sponsorship and partnership agreements are also in place until the end of seasons 2015 and 2016. Season ticket sales (including corporate sales) are made at the start of each season or accounting year and represent the bulk of the company's match day revenue. It follows that in the region of 70% of the company's annual turnover will be guaranteed, or in many cases received, by 31 July each year.

To the extent that there are ever any material variances from forecast, football clubs are in the unique position of being able to trade footballers to address any potential liquidity risks, although this ability can on occasion be constrained if less transfer activity is conducted by clubs (either domestically or internationally) in any one transfer window. Clubs can also normally accelerate receipt of deferred elements of transfer fees receivable by discounting those proceeds with a financial institution, although there can be no certainty of the availability of such funding.

Health and safety considerations at the Boleyn Ground on match days are of paramount importance. At the start of each season the group is awarded an annual safety certificate by the Safety Advisory Group, which comprises the local authority, police, fire service and other stakeholders. Thereafter the Safety Advisory Group meets monthly and also arranges for ad hoc inspections to ensure continuing compliance with all safety criteria. The group holds £500 million (2014: £500 million) of public liability insurance in respect of any one occurrence.

Financial Risk Management

Financial assets that expose the company to financial risk consist principally of cash and trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities that expose the company to financial risk consist principally of trade and other creditors. The financial risks associated with these financial instruments are considered minimal.

STRATEGIC REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

The company is exposed to very occasional foreign exchange risks in respect of the purchase or sale of player registrations negotiated in foreign currency. In the course of the year just ended, the company made a gain on foreign currency translation of £0.1m (2014: £0.1m).

The company places its cash with a creditworthy institution. The company performs ongoing credit evaluation of its debtors' financial condition. The carrying amounts of cash, trade and other debtors represent the maximum credit risk to which the company is exposed.

Going Concern

The board was pleased to be able to finalise a new loan facility in July 2013, which totalled £21.3m as at 31 May 2015 (31 May 2014: £25.8m) and which extends to December 2016. Since the year end the company has repaid £6.5m (2014: £5.5m) of this facility. It has also secured additional short term loan finance of £30.1m (2014: £18.0m) which is repayable in August 2016.

The board has to assess the risk in relation to the company's forecast trading performance. The company has prepared and approved forecasts for the current and forthcoming seasons including the period of twelve months from the date of signing these financial statements. The board also performs sensitivity analyses on these forecasts, including identification of mitigating actions, to take account of any projected shortfalls. Mitigating actions include alternative sources of loan finance, the option of player disposals to generate transfer fee income and wage savings as well as support from its investing owners.

The board has concluded that its forecast for the year in question and the assumptions on which it is based are sufficiently robust to justify confidence in the company's going concern status. A major element of the company's annual turnover comes from contractual broadcasting and central sponsorship distributions and is therefore effectively guaranteed for the seasons covered by the company's forecasts. The company also generates turnover from season ticket, match ticket, corporate and retail sales and, while the board recognises uncertainties about these sources of income, the evidence of the current final season at the Boleyn Ground is that demand remains strong due to the high level of supporter loyalty received by the club.

In the event that the foregoing initiatives did not generate the necessary cash flows to allow the company to operate within its borrowing limits certain of the company's investing owners have undertaken to provide what the board has concluded would be a sufficient level of financial support to allow the company to continue to operate within its agreed borrowing limits and meet its debts as they fall due.

Consequently, after making enquiries and taking account of the uncertainties described above, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

STRATEGIC REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

Key Performance Indicators

The company monitors its performance against a range of key performance indicators on an annual basis. Although not exhaustive, the table below summarises major KPI's over the last five years. Although the company does not set targets to be achieved each season it nevertheless seeks to maximise performance, both financial and non-financial, on an annual basis.

	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
League position	12 th	13th	10th	3rd (Football League Championship)	20th
FA Cup	5th round	3rd round	3rd round	3rd round	Quarter final
Capital One Cup	2nd round	Semi final	2nd round	1st round	Semi final
Average league gate	34,874	34,007	34,720	30,800	32,800
Wage:turnover ratio	60.0%	55.6%	62.6%	90.2%	68.0%
Operating profit/(loss)	£27.0m	£32.3m	£16.7m	(£9.0m)	£8.4m
before exceptional items & player trading					

On behalf of the board

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A Mollett Director 1st December 2015

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015

Directors

The directors of the company who were in office during the year and up to the date of signing the audited financial statements of the company were:

D Sullivan

D Gold

K Brady

A Mollett

A Kinnear

A Bernhardt (Resigned 3rd June 2015)

D Harris

D Svanstrom (Appointed 3rd June 2015)

T Warren (Appointed 30th July 2015)

Results and Dividends

See page 4 of the Strategic Report.

Employees

People

West Ham United's employees are key to its business and are the most visible part of the business to its customers. We are committed to high standards of employment practice and to providing equality of opportunity, training and development and a safe workplace, in addition to developing initiatives which encourage innovation.

West Ham United aims to be an exceptional employer; one that recognises talent and develops people to the best of their abilities. We ask our people to share our determination to succeed and to deliver strong business success which is why it is important for us to appropriately reward, engage, listen to and develop our employees.

Engaging our people

Engaged staff help us to continue to be successful and grow. We continue to hold regular events to connect with our people, such as an annual family fun day, business results briefings and our Christmas parties. These reinforce our informal, relaxed culture and promote our family and community focus.

Our unique and informal culture means that most of our people have direct access to our senior management team. We hold monthly management meetings and ensure that employees from across the business are in dialogue with our business leaders. West Ham United's employees are kept well informed of the performance of the Club and key events concerning the business through regular staff briefings by management and through communications via our intranet and email.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

Developing our people

Every employee plays a part in the Club's success and we are focused on developing our people to the best of their abilities. When joining the business employees undertake a thorough induction which includes training on how to perform in their new role and orientation around different areas of the business.

West Ham United's people have a range of backgrounds and we work hard to provide opportunities to move around the business where appropriate and provide training to develop skills for current and future roles. We have a good track record in promoting our staff internally through investment in training and development.

Diversity of our people

We are committed to equal opportunities for all of our people, regardless of disability or background, from recruitment and selection, through training and development and promotion.

It is the policy of the Club that applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the respective aptitudes and abilities of the applicant concerned. In the event of employees becoming disabled all reasonable effort is made to ensure that their employment within the Club continues. It is the policy of the Club that the training, career development and promotion of a disabled person should, as far as possible, be identical to that of an able bodied person.

Employee Consultation and Involvement

The company's policy is to communicate honestly with employees and encourage consultation between employees and management. It places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and has continued to keep them informed on matters affecting them as employees and on the various factors affecting the performance of the company. This is achieved through formal and informal meetings usually with the vice-chairman or other senior management and is underpinned by the company intranet and a performance appraisal system for all staff. Regular Heads of Department meetings are held and committees have been established charged with reviewing contracts, controlling costs and maximising the company's income from staging events. Employees across the entire range of the company's operations participate in these committees.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

Community

West Ham United continues to provide a truly inclusive and dynamic community outreach programme. All levels of the club embrace the work delivered by West Ham United Foundation to ensure sport is used as the catalyst for so much positive change. Utilising our sites at Beckton, Upton Park, Chadwell Heath and Rush Green, we have now also set up a satellite model and have established our delivery model across Tower Hamlets, Newham, Barking & Dagenham and across the County of Essex.

This new approach allows us to be at the heart of all our local communities. We can establish local partnerships and design bespoke programmes that are set against local need. For example, our new Community Prescription programme in Newham has been developed to combat a growing Diabetes issue among residents aged 40+. We worked closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Newham and several local health partners to establish a robust model for engagement. To date we have delivered over 700 health and fitness sessions to residents referred into West Ham United by their GP. This example shows the innovative approach we have adopted in using the power of the football club and tackling some of society's most concerning problems.

In this final season leading into our move into the new Stadium, we are developing a new strand of work to support our already established Community Sports programme. The development of a new Education and Employment department will allow us to provide learning pathways for young people and adults that need additional support. This provision will range from new schools interventions, Further Education provision, a new Higher Education programme in partnership with the University of East London and a new Employment programme focusing on the long-term unemployed.

Our Equality and Inclusion focus continues to grow, recognised by the Professional Footballers' Association for our efforts in raising awareness of anti-racism and diversity. We have now adopted the Inclusive & Active 2 strategy which focuses on increasing awareness and opportunities for disabled sports users. We have also recently hosted the FA's Asians in Football conferences at West Ham United Upton Park and we have developed a unique coach education model working with Asian Football Clubs across East London. We will continue to make the experience of watching live football more accessible and affordable during these difficult austere times; our football-for-all family initiative offers regular discounts on match prices for young people, including the 'Kids for a Quid' tickets.

We are highly motivated to break the cycle of social inequality that thrives amongst our local wards linked to many specific sectors we work across; Health, Education, Crime. Only once the levels are not continuously increasing can we start to look at reducing the current problems. This is not a short term goal and something that needs to be driven by all levels of the community. West Ham United is positioned perfectly to drive this long term vision and support the many agents of change needed to make this happen.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

Future Prospects

Retention of Premier League status in 2014-15 season will allow the company to benefit from significantly increased Premier League distributions from the current broadcasting agreement. Retention of our status in 2015-16 season is an absolute necessity for the future wellbeing of the Club, as we will be moving to our new home in the 2016-17 season and a new improved Broadcast deal will be in place.

Financial Fair Play (FFP) is the legislation which, for the next season at least, will limit the ability of clubs to over-extend themselves on players' costs and will likely enable all clubs, including ourselves, to increase profitability, and we continue to operate within the rules. We are hopeful that FFP will continue in some form in the next Broadcast deal.

The company continues to reduce historical debt with bank borrowings reduced by £5.5m in the year and net third party indebtedness (including cash but excluding amounts owed to the shareholders) falling by £6.8m.

We also renewed and increased our short-term secured facility for a further year in August 2015 which enabled us to invest in more on field talent.

The Olympic Stadium offers enormous commercial and brand opportunities, and we have a strategy to deliver sell-out crowds and enter that stadium with a team that are befitting of such an amazing iconic venue.

Exceptional Items

Note 3 discloses exceptional items of £Nil in the year (2014-£482,000).

Going Concern

The Directors have considered the use of the going concern assumption within the Strategic Report on page 5.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Note 28 provides details of material events which have occurred since the balance sheet date.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

Statement on Information Given to Independent Auditors

Each of the persons who is a Director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- 1) so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and
- 2) the Director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Independent Auditors

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

On behalf of the board

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A Mollett Director 1st December 2015

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 prepared 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 of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make 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 directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board

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A Mollett Director 1st December 2015

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST HAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Report on the financial statements

Our opinion

In our opinion the financial statements, defined below:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 May 2015 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

This opinion is to be read in the context of what we say in the remainder of this report.

What we have audited

The financial statements, which are prepared by West Ham United Football Club Limited, comprise:

- Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2015;
- Profit and Loss account for the year then ended;
- Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses;
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In applying the financial reporting framework, the directors have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

What an audit of financial statements involves

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) ("ISAs (UK & Ireland)"). An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report and Financial Statements to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST HAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED (continued)

Other matters on which we are required to report by exception

Adequacy of accounting records and information and explanations received

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- 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.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Directors' remuneration

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Our responsibilities and those of the directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 12, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and ISAs (UK & Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Craig Skelton (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

London

1st December 2015

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 May 2015

•		2015			2014		
	Note	Operations excluding player trading £000	Player trading * (notes 6 & 10) £000	Total £000	Operations excluding player trading £000	Player trading * (notes 6 & 10) £000	Total £000
Turnover	2	120,747		120,747	114,852	-	114,852
Other operating income		1,671		1,671	1,643	-	1,643
Administrative expenses		(95,420)	(21,592)	(117,012)	(84,667)	(17,943)	(102,610)
Operating profit/(loss)	4	26,998	(21,592)	5,406	31,828	(17,943)	13,885
Analysed as:							
Operating profit/(loss) before exceptional items		26,998	(21,592)	5,406	32,310	(17,943)	14,367
Exceptional items	3	-	-	-	(482)	-	(482)
Operating profit/(loss)	4	26,882	(21,592)	5,406	31,828	(17,943)	13,885
Profit on disposal of players	6	-	3,115	3,115	-	1,429	1,429
Profit on operating activities before interest and taxation		26,998	(18,477)	8,521	31,828	(16,514)	15,314
Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges	7 8			145 (5,668)			154 (5,123)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	•			2,998			10,345
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	9			-		• • .	-
Profit for the financial year	23			2,998		•	10,345

^{*} Player trading represents the amortisation of registrations and the profit or loss on disposal of registrations.

There is no material difference between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the profit for the financial years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

All activities derive from continuing operations.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

for the year ended 31 May 2015

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Profit for the financial year Gains relating to the revaluation of freehold land and buildings	2,998 1,055	10,345
Total Recognised Gains	4,053	10,345

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 May 2015

	Notes	20)15	2014	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets		·			
Intangible assets	10		54,621		39,030
Tangible assets	11		43,080		40,932
	4		97,701		79,962
Current assets			·		
Stocks	12	312		662	
Debtors	13	14,781		12,132	
Cash at bank and in hand		22,414		18,075	
		37,507		30,869	
Creditors - amounts falling		31,301		30,007	
due within one year	14	(143,935)		(135,215)	
Net current liabilities			(106,428)		(104,346)
Total assets less current liabilities			(8,727)		(24,384)
Creditors – amounts falling					
due after more than one year	14		(88,338)		(81,501)
Provisions for liabilities	18,19		(9,594)	٠.,	(4,828)
Net liabilities			(106,659)		(110,713)
Capital and reserves	•				
Called up share capital	. 20		5,500		5,500
Share premium account	21		4,847	· .	4,847
Revaluation reserve	22		5,400		4,345
Profit and loss account	23		(122,406)	, 4	(125,405)
Total shareholders' deficit	24	* * .	(106,659)	-	(110,713)

These financial statements, on pages 15 to 31 for company registration number 66516, were approved by the board of directors on 1st December 2015 and signed on its behalf.

to much

A Mollett Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015

1 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, as discussed further in the Strategic Report on page 5. The company continues to have a number of options available in respect of mitigating actions in the event of liquidity issues. This includes the sale of players, refinancing options, and financial support from the shareholders.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain freehold land and buildings, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom. The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently throughout the year, are set out

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary company of a group headed by WH Holding Limited and is included in the consolidated financial statements of that company, which are publicly available. Consequently, the company has taken advantage of the exemption within FRS1 (revised 1996) "Cash Flow Statements" from preparing a cash flow statement.

Turnover

Turnover represents all amounts received and receivable in respect of football matches played, goods sold and services provided during the year excluding value added tax. Gate receipts and other match day revenue is recognised as games are played. Sponsorship and similar commercial income is recognised over the duration of the respective contracts. The fixed element of broadcasting revenues is recognised over the duration of the football season whilst facility fees received for live coverage or highlights are taken when earned. Merit awards are accounted for only when known at the end of the football

Non trading income is disclosed as other operating income and is recognised once there is certainty that the income will be

Signing on fees

Signing on fees payable under an employment contract are accounted for on an earnings basis. Where such fees are payable in equal annual instalments, under Football League and FA Premier League regulations, they are charged to the profit and loss account evenly over the period of the player's contract. In the event of the player's registration being sold, the balance of any signing on fees paid or payable to a player is treated as a cost of disposal of the registration.

Exceptional items

Items of income and expenditure, which fall within the ordinary activities of the company, may be considered to be exceptional by virtue of their size or the frequency with which they occur and these are disclosed in the financial statements as exceptional items.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The football club has signed an agreement to become a tenant at the Olympic Stadium, so given that it is the club's intention to vacate the Boleyn ground in the future, the historical cost accounting policy is considered to be appropriate.

In accordance with FRS 15 "Tangible Fixed Assets", the Chadwell Heath training ground and the Beckton Community Centre are valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis. The Little Heath training ground and the Rush Green training ground are valued on a current existing use value basis. Other assets which have not been the subject of a valuation are carried in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use.

Where depreciation charges are increased following a revaluation, where material, an amount equal to the increase is transferred annually from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account as a movement on reserves. On the disposal or recognition of a provision for impairment of a revalued fixed asset, any related balance remaining in the revaluation reserve is also transferred to the profit and loss account as a movement on reserves.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates on a straight line basis. The rates used are expected to write off the cost, less any estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life.

Freehold buildings

Plant, fittings & equipment

10-33%

Motor vehicles

Assets are stated net of any provision for impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Intangible fixed assets - player registrations

Payments made to third parties in order to acquire a player's registration, including agents' fees and transfer fee levy, are capitalised at cost. The cost is then amortised during the football season on a straight line basis over the period of the player's contract. Where a player's contract is renegotiated before its expiry, on broadly similar financial terms, the unamortised balance of the original capitalised cost is then amortised over the term of the new contract together with any costs associated with the renegotiation.

In the event of disposal of a player's registration, the unamortised cost of acquiring the registration is deducted from the net proceeds of disposal to arrive at a profit or loss on disposal.

Future payments for the acquisition of a player's registration, which may become due dependent on the performance of the team and/or the individual player, are recognised within the original cost of acquisition if, in the opinion of the directors, it is probable that these payments will eventually be made.

Similar terms may exist in contracts for the sale of players' registrations but such payments are not recognised as part of the proceeds of disposal until the event upon which the payment is dependent is known to have occurred.

Grants and deferred income

Grants receivable from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (formerly the Football Trust) and the former Football Grounds Improvement Trust in respect of capital expenditure are treated as deferred income and released to the profit and loss account so as to match the depreciation charged on the tangible fixed assets purchased with the grant. Deferred income in the balance sheet represents total grants receivable less amounts released to the profit and loss account. It is the group's policy to release deferred income to the profit and loss account so as to match the depreciation charged on the tangible fixed assets purchased with the grant. In view of the sale of the Boleyn Ground and the move to the Olympic Stadium, this income is to be released over the remaining period until the club vacates the site, being end of May 2016.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is the invoiced value of goods purchased for resale using the first in, first out method. Provision is made to reduce cost to net realisable value having regard to age, condition and saleability of stocks.

Taxation

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

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation at the balance sheet date to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and law. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in financial statements. Deferred tax is not provided on timing differences arising from the revaluation of fixed assets where there is no binding contract to dispose of these assets. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Pension costs

The group makes contributions on behalf of employees and directors to a number of independently controlled defined-contribution and money purchase schemes the principal one of which is The Football League Pension and Life Assurance Scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account over the period to which they relate.

In addition the company is making contributions in respect of its share of the deficit of the defined benefit section of The Football League Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (the "Scheme"). Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as soon as they are claimed by the Scheme. Under FRS 17 - Retirement Benefits - The Scheme would be treated as a defined benefit multi-employer scheme. The Scheme's actuary has advised that the participating employers' share of the underlying assets and liabilities cannot be identified on a reasonable basis. Refer to note 29 for further details.

The assets of all schemes are held in funds independent from the company.

Leases

Assets held under finance leases and the related lease obligations are recorded in the balance sheet at the fair value of the leased assets at the inception of the leases. The amounts by which the lease payments exceed the recorded lease obligations are treated as finance charges which are amortised over each lease term to give a constant rate of charge on the remaining balance of the obligation.

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account in equal annual amounts over the periods of the leases.

Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the rates ruling at that date. Translation differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

2 Turnover

An analysis of turnover by class of business is provided below. All turnover is derived in the United Kingdom.

			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	2015 £000	2014 £000
Match receipts and related football activities	• .		, .	19,936	19,492
Broadcast and central sponsorship distributions				78,974	75,403
Commercial activities		•		14,561	13,678
Retail and merchandising				7,276	6,279
•				120,747	114,852

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

3 Exceptional Items

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Redundancy payments and associated professional fees		50
Gain on foreign exchange transactions	-	(70)
Olympic Stadium project costs	-	502
		482

Tax attributable to exceptional items was £Nil (2014 - £109,000). The tax has no cash impact due to losses carried forward from previous years (see note 9).

4 Operating Profit/(Loss)

Operating profit/(loss) is stated after charging/(crediting) the following.

	2015 £000	2014 £000
	. 2000	2000
Employment costs (note 5)	72,715	63,880
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets (note 10)	21,592	17,943
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets (note 11):		
- owned assets	1,208	871
Release of grant income	(831)	(831)
Fees payable to the company's auditors for the audit of the company	44	44
Fees payable to the company's auditors for other services pursuant to legislation	8	8
Operating leases – land and buildings	215	259
Operating leases – plant and machinery	85	71

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

5 Staff Costs, Emoluments and Employees

. ?.		
	2015 £000	2014 £000
Wages and salaries	64,334	56,121
Compensation for loss of office	-	50,121
Social security costs	8,234	7,592
Other pension costs	147	117
Const pension costs	1.,	11,
	72,715	63,880
	2015	2014
	Number	Number
Average monthly number of persons employed (including directors)		
Players, team management & training	93	100
Commercial & administrative	164.	136
·	257	236
Part-time employees	334	373
	591	609
	2015	2014
	€000	000£
Directors' Emoluments	907	829
Aggregate payments made to a defined contribution pension scheme	18	16
Total directors' emoluments	925	845
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	er for de la companya	
	2015 £000	2014 £000
Emoluments of highest paid director	646	636
	2015 Number	2014 Number
Directors who are members of a defined contribution pension scheme	1	1

There were no payments to directors for compensation for loss of office (2014 – nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

6 Profit on Disposal of Players

	2015 £000	2014 . £000
Disposal proceeds (net of costs of realisation) Net book value of players sold (note 10)	4,728 (1,613)	1,782 (353)
•	3,115	1,429

Tax attributable to the profit on disposal of players was a charge of £649,000 (2014 £324,000). The tax has no cash impact due to losses carried forward from previous years (see note 9).

7 Interest Receivable and Similar Income

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Bank and other interest receivable	145	154
8 Interest Payable and Similar Charges		
	2015 £000	2014 £000
Interest payable on secured loans Interest on loans from shareholders Discounting costs Other interest payable	2,407 2,994 - 267	2,197 2,886 6 34
•	5,668	5,123

9 Tax on profit on Ordinary Activities

As at 31 May 2015 cumulative tax losses available to carry forward against future trading profits were approximately £11 $\acute{0}$,150,000 (2014 – £113,000,000) subject to agreement with HM Revenue & Customs.

There is no tax charge in the current year (2014: £nil)

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2014: lower) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the United Kingdom of 20.83% (2014: 22.67%). The differences are explained below:

Factors affecting the corporation tax charge for the year are explained below.

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	2,998	10,345
Tax charge @ 22.67% (2014 – 23.84%) thereon	625	2,345
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	(115)	(133)
Depreciation for year in excess of capital allowances	(84)	(40)
Other timing differences	(67)	(74)
Decrease in tax losses	(359)	(2,098)
Current corporation tax charge for year		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

9 Tax on profit on Ordinary Activities (continued)

10 Intangible Fixed Assets

Net book value 31 May 2015

31 May 2014

During the year, as a result of the changes in the UK corporation tax rate to 21% from 1 April 2014 and to 20% from 1 April 2015, which were substantially enacted on 2 July 2015, these have been recognised in the preparation of the financial statements.

	Player Registrations £000
Cost	
1 June 2014	79,176
Additions	38,796
Disposals	(6,313)
31 May 2015	111,659
Accumulated amortisation	
1 June 2014	40,146
Charge for the year	21,592
Disposals	(4,700)
	(1,700)
31 May 2015	57,038
•	

54,621

39,030

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land & buildings £000	Plant, fittings & equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
,	46,283	17,808	85	64,176
1 June 2014	1,779	524		2,303
Additions Revaluation	88	J24 -	- ·	2,303 88
Disposal	-	(2)	-	(2)
31 May 2015	48,150	18,330	85	66,565
Accumulated depreciation			٠	
1 June 2014	8,963	14,213	68	23,244
Charge for the year	612	591	5	1,208
Revaluation	(968)	-		(968)
31 May 2015	8,607	14,804	73	23,484
Net book value				
31 May 2015	39,542	3,526	12	43,080
31 May 2014	37,320	3,595	17	40,932

The football club has signed an agreement to become a tenant at the Olympic Stadium, so given that it is the club's intention to vacate the Boleyn ground in the future, and that the land has been sold to a developer for a mixed retail and residential use scheme, the historical cost accounting policy is considered to be appropriate in the view of the directors.

Lambert Smith Hampton, Chartered Surveyors, undertook valuations of the freehold properties belonging to the company as at 31 May 2015. A summary of valuations of the properties and the bases of valuation is set out below.

Property	Basis of valuation	• • •	£000
Chadwell Heath training ground	Depreciated replacement cost	•	4,650
Little Heath training ground	Existing use value		840
Rush Green training ground	Existing use value		2,000
Beckton Community Centre	Depreciated replacement cost		1,525

The value of land included in the above is £3,759,000. The valuation of the Chadwell Heath training ground included plant, fittings and equipment valued at £1,250,000.

All of the freehold properties are charged to CBH ehf and David Sullivan as lenders to the company.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

12 Stocks

•		
. '	2015	2014
	£000	£000
Goods for resale	312	662
13 Debtors		
	2015	2014
	€000	000£
Trade debtors	3,729	2,394
, ·		
Debtors arising from player transfers	1,263 840	244 1,032
Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income	8,949	8,462
	14,781	12,132
44.0		
14 Creditors		
·		
	2015	2014
Amounts folling due within one weer	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year Bank loans and overdrafts (notes 15 & 17)	24,500	20,500
Trade Creditors	2,401	2,641
Amounts owed to group undertakings	36,355	36,355
Amount owed to UK parent company Taxation and social security	23,300 8,081	23,300 8,590
Creditors arising from player transfers	13,039	15,787
Other creditors	3,006	3,239
Season ticket and other receipts in advance	16,911	13,115
Accruals and deferred income	16,342	11,688
	143,935	135,215
Amounts falling due after more than one year		133,213
Debenture loans & subscriptions (note 16)	611	611
Bank loans and overdrafts (notes 15 & 17)	14,765	21,265
Loans from shareholders (note 15)	49,200	49,200
Creditors arising from player transfers	10,497	8,650
Other creditors	613	944
Season ticket and other receipts in advance Accruals and deferred income	12,652	831
	·	
	88,338	81,501

Grant income has been received from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (formerly the Football Trust) against approved capital projects and is not repayable. It is the company's policy to release deferred income to the profit and loss account so as to match the depreciation charged on the tangible fixed assets purchased with the grant. In view of the sale of the Boleyn Ground and the move to the Olympic Stadium, this income is to be released over the remaining period until the club vacates the site, being end of May 2016.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

15 Total Borrowings

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Debenture loans and subscriptions repayable after five years or more (note 16)	611	611
Secured bank and other loan repayable (note 17): Within one year or on demand After greater than one year	24,500	20,500
	14,765 39,265	21,265 41,765
Loans from Shareholders repayable within one year Loans from Shareholders repayable after greater than one year	49,200	49,200
	89,076	91,576

The loans from shareholders are unsecured and are subordinated to the secured bank loan. Interest is accrued at 6-7% but will not be paid or added to the loans until the loans are repaid. The interest accrued as at the balance sheet date amounts to £9,336,477.

16 Debenture Loans and Subscriptions

The balance of £611,000 (2014:£611,000) comprises both full and part payments towards the purchase of debentures under the Hammers Bond Scheme in 1991/92. Under the terms of the issue the definitive certificate can only be issued once payment has been received in full. At 31 May 2015 and 31 May 2014 the following applications had been received.

	2015 £000	2014 £000
97 'A' bonds	. 49	49
641 'B' bonds	481	481
70 'C' bonds	. 68	68
Part payments	13	13
	611	611

Under the terms and conditions of the scheme, the debentures are repayable at par after 150 years. The debentures are non interest bearing and are unsecured.

17 Bank and other loans

On 1st July 2013, the secured bank loan was refinanced with the new lenders being CB Holding ehf and David Sullivan. The loan of £25,527,000 was increased by £6,738,198 to include further subordinated loans. It is repayable by 31st December 2016 but there is an amortization schedule in place which will reduce the loan over that period, and the balance at 31st May 2015 is £21,265,000.

On 1st September 2014, £5,500,000 was repaid. Interest is charged at 3.0% to 3.75% over LIBOR. A further £6,500,000 was repaid on 31st August 2015.

This loan was secured by legal charges on the company's freehold land and buildings and debentures over all the assets and undertaking of the company in favour of the new lenders. The David Sullivan loan is subordinated to the CB Holding ehf loan.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

18 Provisions for Liabilities - Cost of Player Registrations

		2015 £000	2014 £000
At start of the year	•	4,828	5,319
Utilised in the year		(2,489)	(4,986)
Released in the year		(603)	(763)
Provided in the year	•	7,858	5,258
At end of the year	,	9,594	4,828

The above provision represents contingent amounts payable under the terms of transfer agreements.

19 Provisions for Liabilities - Deferred Taxation

The amount of deferred taxation provided in the financial statements is as follows.

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	(1,285)	(615)
Other timing differences	1,285	615
Surplus on revaluation of properties	211	
Unutilised tax losses	(211)	-
Total deferred tax liability		

The amount of potential deferred taxation not provided in the financial statements is as follows.

			2015 £000	2014 £000
Unprovided deferred tax asset		. =	22,030	25,749

The deferred tax asset of £22,030,000 (2014 – £25,749,000) has not been recognised as, in the opinion of the board, there is insufficient evidence of appropriate profits in the future that would lead to the asset crystallising.

The deferred tax asset will be recognised when it is more likely than not that it will be recovered, being when the Company expects to consistently generate taxable profits.

The company's freehold properties, excluding the Boleyn Ground, were revalued in 2015 in accordance with FRS 15 "Tangible Fixed Assets". It is the company's intention to retain these properties for the foreseeable future. No deferred tax has therefore been provided on the gains arising from the revaluation as such tax would only become payable if any of the properties were sold without rollover relief being obtained.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

20 Called up Share Capital

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Allotted and fully paid	5,500	5 500
11,000,000 (2014: 11,000,000) ordinary shares of 50 pence each Ordinary shares have full voting and dividend rights.	3,300	5,500
Ordinary shares have full voting and dividend rights.		
21 Share Premium Account		
	2015	2014
	£000	£000
At start and end of the year	4,847	4,847
22 Revaluation Reserve		
	2015 £000	2014 £000
At start of the year.	4,345	4,345
Adjustment on revaluation of properties	1,055	-
At end of the year	5,400	4,345
23 Profit and Loss Account		
	2015 £000	2014 £000
At start of the year	(125,405)	(135,750)
Profit for the financial year	2,998	10,345
At end of the year	(122,406)	(125,405)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

24 Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Deficit

	2015 £000	2014 £000
At the start of the year	(110,713)	(121,058)
Revaluation Reserve	1,055	-
Profit for the financial year	2,998	10,345
Closing shareholders' deficit	(106,659)	(110,713)

25 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 May 2015 the company was committed to making the following annual payments in respect of operating leases.

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Land and buildings Expiring within one year	23	_
Expiring within two to five years	1,134	253
	1,157	253
Other operating leases		
Expiring within one year	26	31
Expiring within two to five years	84	83
	110	114
	1,267	367

26 Contingent Liabilities & Guarantees

In common with other group companies, the company is party to a group VAT registration whereby each member company guarantees the liability to VAT of the other members.

Under the terms of transfer agreements for certain players, additional transfer fees might be payable dependent on the success of the football club or those players making a certain number of club or international appearances. At the balance sheet date the maximum contingent liability was £8,823,000 (2014 – £7,040,000).

Other than with regard to the potential contingent liability in respect of additional transfer fees, contingent liabilities are not expected to give rise to any material losses.

On completion of the Olympic Stadium, the club will enter into a lease commitment. This is expected to commence in June 2016 for a lease term of 99 years. On commencement of the lease, the club has agreed to contribute £15,000,000 of lease related costs. This will not be recognised until a formal handover of the tenancy has occurred.

27 Contingent Assets

Under the terms of certain contracts for the sale of players' registrations, future payments may be received over a number of years, dependent on the future performance of the players sold and the future success of the buying clubs. At this stage it is impractical to quantify the likely financial effect of these provisions or to state with any degree of certainty that any payments will be received. Accordingly no further disclosure is made.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

28 Post Balance Sheet Events

Transfer of player registrations completed subsequent to 31 May 2015 amount to a net £36,799,000 payable by the company (2014 - £24,384,000 payable) with a further net £2,536,000 payable (2014 - £6,124,000 payable) contingent on certain future events.

On 12 August 2014 the company took out a short term loan with Vibrac Corporation of £18.0m. This was secured on the Premier League Basic Payment for the 2014-15 season and it was repaid accordingly on 5 August 2015.

A further loan of £20.0m was taken out on 15 August 2015 with JGF Limited, again secured on future income from the Premier League Broadcasting contract. An additional £10.0m was drawn down in two tranches of £5.0m on 25 September 2015 and 30 October 2015 respectively.

On 31 August 2015 the company made a repayment of loan capital of £6.5m (2014: £5.5m) to CB Holding ehf.

29 Pension Scheme

Eligible staff are members of the Football League Limited Pension and Life Assurance Scheme which is a defined contribution scheme with a defined benefit section. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, the defined contribution section being invested with an insurance company and the defined benefit section with professional investment managers.

Until 31 August 1999 the Football League Limited Pension and Life Assurance Scheme had been a defined benefit scheme. Following an actuarial funding review of the scheme, the scheme actuary identified a substantial deficit and accrual of benefits was suspended with effect from 31 August 1999. Thereafter, the defined contributions section was established for future contributions on behalf of members.

Under UK pensions legislation, participating employers to the scheme, including the group, are required to contribute to the deficit in accordance with an agreed schedule of contributions. Following the actuarial valuation as at 31 August 1999 a schedule of contributions was put in place in July 2001 to pay off the deficit disclosed. It is required to carry out actuarial valuations every three years and updated deficits as at 31 August 2002, 31 August 2005, 31 August 2009 and 31 August 2012 were certified by the scheme actuary in January 2003, March 2006, July 2009 and May 2012 with new schedules of contributions put in place in April 2003, April 2006, September 2009 and September 2012 which took account of market movements since the valuation date.

Following these valuations, the company's total contribution towards the deficit was calculated as £4,957,000. Legislation permits participating employers to make good any deficit over an extended period and so the revised schedule provides for the balance of contributions to be paid between September 2012 and August 2023.

Total pension costs charged during the year amounted to £147,000 (2014 - £117,000).

30 Ultimate Controlling Party

The immediate parent company is West Ham United Limited and the ultimate parent company is WH Holding Limited, the smallest and largest group in which its results are consolidated. The financial statements for WH Holding Limited are available from The Company Secretary.

As at the balance sheet date, David Sullivan owns 51.1% (2014:51.1%) of the issued share capital of WH Holding Limited, and as a result has ultimate control over the Company.

WH Holding Limited is the parent undertaking which consolidates these financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of WH Holding Limited can be obtained from The Secretary, WH Holding Limited, Boleyn Ground, Green Street, Upton Park, London E13 9AZ.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 May 2015 (continued)

31 Related Party Disclosures

At 31st May 2015 the combined balance of unsecured loans advanced by David Sullivan and David Gold was £49,200,000. Interest accrued at the year end totalled £4,672,000 and £4,664,000 respectively on their total unsecured loans.

David Sullivan and David Gold both own interests in Telecom2 Limited, which is a telecommunications services partner to the company. During the year ended 31 May 2015, the company received payments from Telecom2 Ltd amounting to £63,762. Fees paid to Telecom2 Ltd for services procured amounted to £3,884. At 31st May 2015, £17,833 was outstanding from Telecom2 Ltd and £956 was owed by the club.

On 1st July 2013, the secured bank loan was refinanced with the new lenders being CB Holding ehf and David Sullivan. The loan of £25,527,000 was increased by £6,738,198 to include further subordinated loans. It is repayable by 31st December 2016 but there is an amortization schedule in place which will reduce the loan over that period.

£5,500,000 was repaid on 31st August 2013 and 1st September 2014 respectively and a further £6,500,000 was repaid on 31st August 2015. Interest is charged at 3.0% to 3.75% over LIBOR.

This loan was secured by legal charges on the company's freehold land and buildings and debentures over all the assets and undertaking of the company in favour of the new lenders. The David Sullivan loan is subordinated to the CB Holding ehf loan.