DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

Company Number: 221152

Porter Matthews and Marsden **Chartered Accountants** Oakmount 6 East Park Road Blackburn Lancashire **BB1 8BW**

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COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors

B.Metcalf G.Abbott

Secretary

J.D.Metcalf

Company Number

221152

Registered Office

Brookside Lane Oswaldtwistle Accrington Lancashire BB5 3NY

Auditors

Porter Matthews and Marsden Chartered Accountants Oakmount 6 East Park Road Blackburn Lancashire BB1 8BW

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC Blackburn Road Accrington Lancashire BB5 1JJ

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 1999.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and group 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 company and group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Results and dividends

The profit for the year after taxation, amounted to £368,535 (1998 - £280,455).

The directors recommend that no dividend is paid and that the retained profit be carried forward to reserves.

Principal activities and review of business

The group's principal activity continues to be that of manufacturing and merchanting horticultural fertilisers, growing media and pesticides.

Market conditions remain difficult due to low cost imports of growing media the strength of sterling and industry consolidation.

Directors

The directors who served during the year and their beneficial interests in the company's issued share capital were:

	Ordinary sha	ares of £1 each
	1999	1998
B.Metcalf	192,000	192,000
G.Abbott	_	-

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

Auditors

The auditors, Porter Matthews and Marsden, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

This report was approved by the board on 14 January 2000 and signed on its behalf.

J.D.Metcalf Secretary

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF JOSEPH METCALF LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 21 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 10.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the group as at 31 August 1999 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Porter Matthews and Marsden

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Blackburn

Pita Muthy Much

14 January 2000

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
TURNOVER	1,2	12,294,894	11,993,132
Cost of sales		(6,976,425)	(7,291,729)
GROSS PROFIT		5,318,469	4,701,403
Selling and distribution costs Administrative expenses		(1,355,171) (3,361,361)	(1,236,590) (3,037,370)
OPERATING PROFIT	3	601,937	427,443
Interest receivable Interest payable	6 7	4,422 (92,962)	6,932 (93,995)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		513,397	340,380
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	8	(144,862)	(59,925)
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		368,535	280,455
RETAINED PROFIT BROUGHT FORWARD		5,522,937	5,242,482
RETAINED PROFIT CARRIED FORWARD		£ 5,891,472	£ 5,522,937

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 1999 or 1998 other than those included in the profit and loss account.

The group accounts do not include a separate profit and loss account for the parent undertaking as permitted by section 230 of the Companies Act 1985. The amount of the group profits dealt with in the accounts of the parent undertaking is a profit of £368535 (1998 - £280455).

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 1999

	Note	£	1999 £	£	1998 £
FIXED ASSETS	9		2 605 477		3,704,433
Tangible fixed assets	9		3,695,477		3,704,433
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	2,249,291		1,836,850	
Debtors		2,041,860		1,911,601	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,096		2,449	
ADEDITADO (1871)		4,293,247		3,750,900	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,826,240)		(1,638,358)	
•					
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,467,007		2,112,542
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIAB	ILITIES		6,162,484		5,816,975
CREDITORS: amounts falling due					
after more than one year	14		(64,085)		(87,111)
NET ASSETS			£ 6,098,399		£ 5,729,864
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
CALLIAC AND RECEIVED					
Called up share capital	15		200,000		200,000
Revaluation reserve	16		6,927		6,927
Profit and loss account			5,891,472		5,522,937
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS - All equity	17		£ 6,098,399		£ 5,729,864

The financial statements were approved by the board on 14 January 2000 and signed on its behalf

B Metcalf 3. Metcal Director

COMPANY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 1999

			1999	•	1998
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	9		3,695,477		3,704,433
Investments	10		102		102
			3,695,579		3,704,535
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	2,249,291		1,836,850	
Debtors Cash at bank and in hand		2,026,330 2,096		1,897,192 2,449	
		4,277,717		3,736,491	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,810,760)		(1,623,999)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		-	2,466,957		2,112,492
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIAE	BILITIES	}	6,162,536		5,817,027
CREDITORS: amounts falling due					
after more than one year	14		(64,085)		(87,111)
NET ASSETS			£ 6,098,451		£ 5,729,916
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	15		200,000		200,000
Revaluation reserve	16		6,927		6,927
Profit and loss account			5,891,524		5,522,989
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS - all equity	17		£ 6,098,451		£ 5,729,916

The financial statements were approved by the board on 14 January 2000 and signed on its behalf

B Metcalf R. Metcall. Director

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

		19		1998	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activit	i es (Pag	ge 9)	721,428		(107,668)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	18		(91,253)		(113,798)
Taxation			(60,219)		(192,144)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	18		(387,713)		(281,491)
Cash inflow/(outflow) before use of liquid resources and financing	6	-	182,243	-	(695,101)
Financing: Decrease in debt	18	(27,438)		(440,187)	
			(27,438)		(440,187)
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period		£	154,805	£ ((1,135,288)

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT INFORMATION

			999	1998	}
	Note	£	£	£	£
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Operating profit Depreciation of tangible fixed assets Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets ncrease in debtors (Increase)/decrease in stocks ncrease/(decrease) in creditors			601,937 384,121 (24,432) (130,259) (412,441) 302,502		427,443 351,913 (122,977) (122,360) 39,310 (680,997)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activ	ities	£	721,428	£	(107,668)
				=	
	OVEMEN 19	Т		=	
N NET DEBT		T 154,80		(1,135,288)	
N NET DEBT Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period Cash outflow from increase/(decrease)				(1,135,288)	
N NET DEBT ncrease/(decrease) in cash in the period Cash outflow from increase/(decrease) n debt and lease financing		154,80		, , , ,	(695,101)
N NET DEBT ncrease/(decrease) in cash in the period Cash outflow from increase/(decrease) n debt and lease financing Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		154,80	3)	, , , ,	
N NET DEBT Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period Cash outflow from increase/(decrease) In debt and lease financing Change in net debt resulting from cash flows New finance leases		154,80	3)	, , , ,	(135,846)
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOIN NET DEBT Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period Cash outflow from increase/(decrease) In debt and lease financing Change in net debt resulting from cash flows New finance leases Movement in net debt in the period Net debt at 1 September 1998		154,80	182,243	, , , ,	(695,101) (135,846) (830,947) 253,772

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and include the results of the company's operations which are described in the Directors' Report and all of which are continuing.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of the company and it's subsidiaries made up to the end of each financial period. The results of companies acquired or disposed of during the period are included from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal.

1.3 Turnover

Turnover comprises the invoiced value of goods and services supplied by the group net of Value Added Tax and trade discounts.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Plant & machinery

rates between 12.5% and 25%

Motor vehicles

25% on cost

1.5 Leasing and hire purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the company. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the profit and loss account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to profit and loss account as incurred.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

1.8 Deferred taxation

Provision is made for taxation deferred as a result of material timing differences between the incidence of income and expenditure for taxation and accounts purposes, using the liability method, only to the extent that, in the opinion of the directors, there is a reasonable probability that a liability or asset will crystallise in the near future.

1.9 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2. Turnover

A geographical analysis of turnover is as follows:

A geographical analysis of turnover is as follows.	1999 £	1998 £
United Kingdom Europe	12,186,384 108,510	11,955,496 37,636
	£12,294,894	£11,993,132

All profit before tax arose within the United Kingdom

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

3.	OPERATING PROFIT		
	The operating profit is stated after charging:		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		
	- owned by the company	353,894	<i>316,444</i>
	- held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	30,227	35,469
	Audit fees	15,577	16,275
	Operating lease rentals		
	- other	89,874	221,011
	Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(25,805)	(122,977)
	Foreign exchange differences	4,491	•

4. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs, including directors' remuneration, were as follows:

	1999	1998
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,445,995	2,440,424
Social security costs	220,255	218,288
Other pension costs	87,836	77,986
	£ 2,754,086	£ 2,736,698

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

	1999	1998
Production .	89	94
Other	58	58
	147	152
	And the second s	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6.	INTEREST RECEIVABLE		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Other interest receivable	£ 4,422	£ 6,932
7.	INTEREST PAYABLE		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	On bank loans and overdrafts	75,703	84,461
	On finance leases and hire purchase contracts	17,259	9,534
		£ 92,962	£ 93,995
8.	TAXATION		
		1999 £	1998 £
	Current year taxation		
	UK Corporation Tax at 30.5% (1998 - 31.9%)	156,000	50,000
	Prior years UK corporation tax	(11,138)	9,925
		£ 144,862	£ 59,925

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

9. TAN	GIBLE	FIXED	ASSETS
--------	-------	-------	--------

Group	Freehold Land	Plant &	Motor	
	& Buildings	Machinery	Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 1998	2,541,782	3,467,278	228,592	6,237,652
Additions	81,852	305,114	•	386,966
Disposals	(844)	(44,213)	(101,301)	(146,358)
At 31 August 1999	2,622,790	3,728,179	127,291	6,478,260
Depreciation				
At 1 September 1998	131,953	2,282,864	118,402	2,533,219
Charge for year	26,595	318,887	38,639	384,121
On disposals	(657)	(35,526)	(98,374)	(134,557)
At 31 August 1999	157,891	2,566,225	58,667	2,782,783
Net Book Value				
At 31 August 1999	£ 2,464,899	£ 1,161,954	£ 68,624	£ 3,695,477
At 31 August 1998	£ 2,409,829	£ 1,184,414	£ 110,190	£ 3,704,433
-				

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

	•	1999 £		1998 £
Plant & machinery	£	113,212	£	143,439
On the historical cost basis, land and buildings would have b	een includ	ied as follows: 1999 £		1998 £
Cost Cumulative depreciation		423,073	_	423,073
Net book amount	£	423,073	£	423,073

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Company	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Plant & Machinery £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation At 1 September 1998 Additions Disposals	2,541,782 81,852 (844)	3,467,278 305,114 (44,213)	228,592 - (101,301)	6,237,652 386,966 (146,3 5 8)
At 31 August 1999	2,622,790	3,728,179	127,291	6,478,260
Depreciation At 1 September 1998 Charge for year On disposals	131,953 26,595 (657)	2,282,864 318,887 (35,526)	118,402 38,639 (98,374)	2,533,219 384,121 (134,557)
At 31 August 1999	157,891	2,566,225	58,667	2,782,783
Net Book Value At 31 August 1999	£ 2,464,899	£ 1,161,954	£ 68,624	£ 3,695,477
At 31 August 1998	£ 2,409,829	£ 1,184,414	£ 110,190	£ 3,704,433
Included above are as	ssets held under fin	ance leases or hire p	eurchase contracts as fo 1999 £ £ 113,212	1998 £ £ 143,439
On the historical cost	basis, land and buil	dings would have be	en included as follows: 1999 £	1998 £
Cost Cumulative depreciat	ion		423,073 -	423,073 -
Net book amount			£ 423,073	£ 423,073

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS Company	Shares in subsidiary ndertakings £
Cost	F20.047
At 1 September 1998	530,017
At 31 August 1999	530,017
Provisions At 1 September 1998	529,915
At 31 August 1999	529,915
Net Book Value At 31 August 1999	£ 102
At 31 August 1998	£ 102

Details of the investments, all of which are held by Joseph Metcalf Limited, where the company holds more than 20% of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

Name of company	Country of incorporation	Holding	Proportion Held	on Nature of business
E.F.G.(Horticultural Products) Limited	England & Wales	2 Ordinary shares	100%	Process and sale of peat.
Sta-Brite Supplies Limited	England & Wales	100 Ordinary share	100%	Sale of amenity products

11. STOCKS

Group	1999 £	1998 £
Raw materials, packaging and goods for resale	£ 2,249,291	£ 1,836,850
Company	1999 £	1998 £
Raw materials, packaging and goods for resale	£ 2,249,291	£ 1,836,850

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1999 £ 1,742,074 100 9,009 290,677 £ 2,041,860 1999 £	1998 £ 1,514,385 - 114,443 282,773 £ 1,911,601
£ 1,742,074 100 9,009 290,677 £ 2,041,860	£ 1,514,385 - 114,443 282,773 £ 1,911,601
100 9,009 290,677 € 2,041,860	114,443 282,773 £ 1,911,601
100 9,009 290,677 € 2,041,860	114,443 282,773 £ 1,911,601
9,009 290,677 £ 2,041,860	282,773 £ 1,911,601 1998
290,677 £ 2,041,860	282,773 £ 1,911,601 1998
1999	1998
~	
	_
4 742 474	4 544 305
	1,514,385 113,238
276,797	269,569
£ 2,026,330	£ 1,897,192
4000	4000
	1998
	£
305,774	460,932
27,169	31,581
	400,168
	71,357
757,176	85,573 588,747
£ 1,826,240	£ 1,638,358
1999	1998
£	£
305,774	460,932
27,169	31,581
466,361	394,900
33,932	7,592
	71,357
102,960 718,564	85,573 572,064
£ 1,810,760	£ 1,623,999
	£ 2,026,330 1999 £ 305,774 27,169 477,161 156,000 102,960 757,176 £ 1,826,240 1999 £ 305,774 27,169 466,361 33,932 156,000 102,960 718,564

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14.	CREDITORS:				
	Amounts falling due after more than one year		1999		1998
	Group		£		£
	Net obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts		64,085		87,111
		£	64,085	£	87,111
		*****	1999	-	1998
	Group		£		£
	Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:				
	In 2 - 5 years: Finance lease and hire purchase obligations	_	64,085		87,111
			1999		1998
	Company		£		£
	Net obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts		64,085		87,111
		£	64,085	£	87,111
	Company	=	£		£
	Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:				
	In 2 - 5 years: Finance lease and hire purchase obligations		64,085		87,111
15.	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL		1999 £		1998 £
	Authorised		τ.		£
	200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	£	200,000	£	200,000
	Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid			-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	£	200,000	£	200,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16.	RESERVES	Group	Company
	Profit & Loss Account		
	At 1 September 1998 Retained profit for the year	5,522,937 368,535	5,522,989 368,535
	At 31 August 1999	£ 5,891,472	£ 5,891,524
		Group	Company
		£	£
	Revaluation Reserve		
	At 1 September 1998	6,927	6,927
	At 31 August 1999	£ 6,927	£ 6,927
17.	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUN	DS 1999 £	1998 £
	Profit for the year	368,535	280,455
	Opening shareholders' funds	5,729,864	5,449,409
	Closing shareholders' funds	£ 6,098,399	£ 5,729,864
		1999	1998
	Company	£	£
	Profit for the year	368,535	280,455
	Opening shareholders' funds	5,729,916	5,449,461
	Closing shareholders' funds	£ 6,098,451	£ 5,729,916

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

18.	ANALYSIS OF CASH FLO			1999 £	1998 £
	Returns on investments a Interest received Interest paid Interest element of finance	_	inance	4,422 (78,416) (17,259)	6,932 (111,196) (9,534)
	Net cash outflow for return servicing of finance	rns on investmen	ts and	£ (91,253)	£ (113,798)
	Capital expenditure and f Purchase of tangible fixed a Sale of tangible fixed assets	assets	ent	(423,946) 36,233	(453,352) 171,861
	Net cash outflow for capi	tal expenditure		£ (387,713)	£ (281,491)
	Financing				
	Repayment of loans Capital element of finance	lease rentals		- (27,438)	(400,000) (40,187)
	Decrease in debt			(27,438)	(440,187)
	Net cash outflow from fin	ancing		£ (27,438)	£ (440,187)
19.	ANALYSIS OF NET DEBT				
	Net cash:	At 1 Sep 1998 £	Cash flow £	Other changes £	At 31 Aug 1999 £
	Cash at bank and in hand	2,449	(353)		2,096
	Bank overdrafts	(460,932)	155,158		(305,774)
		(458,483)	154,805		(303,678)
	Debt:				
	Finance leases	(118,692)	27,438	-	(91,254)
		(118,692)	27,438	-	(91,254)
	Net debt	£ (577,175)	£ 182,243	£ -	£ (394,932)

20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has provided unlimited cross guarntees to the group's bankers in favour of other group companies. At 31 August 1999 there were no potential liabilities under these guarantees. In addition the company's bankers have provided guarntees to third parties in the normal course of trade. At 31 August 1999 potential liabilities under these guarantees amounted to £20,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1999

21. OTHER COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 1999 there were annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Oth	ıer
	1999	1998	1999	199 8
	£	£	£	£
Group				
Expiry date: Within 1 year Between 2 and 5 years	- 147,000	143,000	12,155 107,905	14,849 51,608
Company				
Expiry date: Within 1 year Between 2 and 5 years	- 147,000	- 143,000	12,155 107,905	14,849 51,608

22. CONTROLLING PARTY

Mr B. Metcalf has ultimate control of the company.