DONVALE HOLDINGS LIMITED REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

Company Number: 486396

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Directors

W N Edwards - Chairman J R Edwards P D Edwards D L Fletcher B E Bell

Secretary and Registered Office

P D Edwards

Otter Street Sheffield S9 3WL

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Sheffield Attercliffe Branch 747 Attercliffe Road Sheffield S9 3RF

Auditors

Barber Harrison & Platt Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 2 Rutland Park Sheffield S10 2PD

Solicitors

Bell & Buxton Telegraph House High Street Sheffield S1 2GA

Morton Price Belmayne House 99 Clarkehouse Road Sheffield S10 2LN

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 1999.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the group during the year were those of the manufacture of engineers' tools and the management of investments.

Review of the business and future developments

The directors regard the development of the business during the year and the financial position at the end of the year to be satisfactory. On 1 October 1999 the company acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Mifas Knife & Tool Company Limited for a consideration of £1,058,000. The company is a manufacturer of industrial knives, cutting tools and drills.

Results and dividends

The results for the year are shown in the profit and loss account on page 6. Interim dividends totalling 18p per share were paid during the year. The directors recommend payment of a final dividend of 1.8p per share.

Directors

The directors of the company during the year, together with their interests in the share capital of the company at the beginning and end of the year, were as follows:

	Ordinary shares of £1 each		
	30 September 1 (
	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
W N Edwards - Chairman	-	-	
J R Edwards	112,000	112,000	
P D Edwards	112,000	112,000	
D L Fletcher - trustee of family settlements	1,904,000	1,904,000	
B E Bell – trustee of family settlements	1,904,000	1,904,000	

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Mr W N Edwards and Mr J R Edwards retire by rotation and being eligible offer themselves for re-election

Auditors

Barber Harrison & Platt have agreed to offer themselves for re-appointment as auditors of the company.

DIRECTORS' REPORT - continued

Donations

The group made charitable donations during the year amounting to £2,000.

Year 2000

The directors completed their review of the group's computer systems during the year and any non compliant systems were upgraded. The costs of the upgrade were not significant.

The group has not experienced any problems to date in respect of its own systems nor of its key suppliers or service providers.

On behalf of the board

J R Edwards Director

Sheffield 10 February 2000

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- 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 group and to enable them to ensure that the accounts 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.

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of DONVALE HOLDINGS LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 22 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 11 and 12.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 4, 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 whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's and 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 error or other irregularity. 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 the group as at 30 September 1999 and of the group's profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

BARBER HARRISON & PLATT

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Sheffield 10 February 2000

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

	<u>Note</u>	<u>1999</u> £'000	<u>1998</u> £'000
Turnover	2	2 000	£ 000
Continuing operations	2	3,138	3,654
Discontinued operations		-	3,981
1			
		3,138	7,635
Cost of sales	3	(1,691)	(4,932)
		4.445	2.702
Gross profit		1,447	2,703
Selling and distribution costs	3	(487)	(824)
Administrative expenses	3	(735)	(1,172)
Other operating income	3	-	5
		<u> </u>	
Operating profit	4		
Continuing operations		225	463
Discontinued operations			249
		225	712
Income from fixed asset investments		200	2
Profit on disposal of fixed asset investments - continu	ing operations	295	4
Loss on disposal of subsidiaries - discontinued operati		-	(241)
Interest receivable	7	262	743
Interest payable and similar charges	8	-	(7)
Des 6% are audit and a 40 % of a			-
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		982	1 212
before taxation		982	1,213
Taxation	9	(174)	(474)
Profit on ordinary activities			
after taxation		808	739
Dividends	10	(443)	(436)
Retained profit for the year	20	365	303
			-

There were no acquisitions during the above two financial years.

GROUP STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

	<u>1999</u> £'000	£'000
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	808	739
Unrealised surplus (deficit) on revaluation of investments	1,033	(903)
Total recognised gains and (losses) for the financial year	1,841	(164)

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AT 30	SEPTEN	ABER	1999

AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1999	Note	19	99		98
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assets employed:					
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	11		21		31
Tangible assets	12		1,214		1,283
Investments	13		12,218		6,317
			13,453		7,631
Current assets					
Stocks	14	1,018		1,000	
Debtors	15	478		608	
Cash at bank		2,508		7,144	
		4,004		8,752	
Creditors: amounts falling due					
within one year	16	(580)		(869)	
Net current assets			3,424	<u>-</u>	7,883
Total assets less current liabilities			16,877		15,514
Provision for liabilities and charges	17		(41)		(75)
Accruals and deferred income					
Grants over one year			(40)		(41)
Net assets			16,796		15,398
Financed by:					
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	18		2,240		2,240
Revaluation reserve	19		160		(903)
Profit and loss account	20		14,396		14,061
Equity shareholders' funds	21		16,796		15,398

The financial statements on pages 6 to 22 were approved by the board of directors on 10 February 2000 and signed on its behalf by:

W N Edwards

Director

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

	<u>Note</u>	199	99	1998	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£,000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	22		484		1,109
Returns on investments and servicing of finance					
Interest received Dividends received		349 200		656	
Net cash inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance			549		658
Taxation					
Corporation tax paid			(364)		(264)
Capital expenditure and financial investmen	it				
Purchase of tangible fixed assets Sale of tangible fixed assets Payments to acquire investments Receipts from sales of investments		(195) 34 (7,403) 2,796		(409) 61 (7,255) 73	
Net cash outflow for capital expenditure and financial investment			(4,768)		(7,530)
Acquisitions and disposals					
Sale of subsidiary undertakings Net overdrafts of subsidiary undertakings dispo Repayment of parent company loan	osed of	- - -		1,907 6,811 3,000	
			-		11,718
Equity dividends paid			(537)		(331)
Cash (outflow)/inflow before management o	f liquid reso	urces	(4,636)		5,360
Management of liquid resources					
Decrease/(increase) in short term deposits			1,588		(1,588)
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year	23		(3,048)		3,772

Additional information on the cash flow statement is contained in notes 22 and 23 to the accounts.

BALANCE SHEET

AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

	Note	19	99	199	98
		£'000	£'000	£,000	£'000
Assets employed:					
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		150		137
Investments					
Shares in subsidiary	13	2,047		2,045	
Listed investments		12,218		6,317	
			14,265		8,362
			14,415		8,499
Current assets			,		,
Debtors	15	90		89	
Cash at bank	13	2,425		7,125	
		2,515		7,214	
Creditors: amounts falling due				-	
within one year	16	(134)		(315)	
Net current assets			2,381		6,899
Total assets less current liabilities			16,796		15,398
Financed by:					
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	18		2,240		2,240
Revaluation reserve	19		1,575		510
Profit and loss account	20		12,981		12,648
Equity shareholders' funds			16,796		15,398
					

The financial statements on pages 6 to 22 were approved by the board of directors on 10 February 2000 and signed on its behalf by:

Wedwards

Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost accounting rules except for the revaluation of investments.

Consolidation

The group financial statements comprise the accounts of Donvale Holdings Limited and its subsidiaries made up to 30 September. As permitted by section 230 of the Companies Act 1985 a separate profit and loss account for Donvale Holdings Limited is not presented in these accounts.

Turnover

Turnover represents the amount derived from the provision of goods and services falling within the group's activities after deduction of trade discounts and value added tax.

Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is provided on a straight line basis at annual rates calculated to write off their cost or valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Freehold buildings 50 years
Plant and machinery 3 to 20 years
Motor vehicles 3 to 5 years

Freehold land and assets in the course of construction are not depreciated.

Government grants

Grants against capital expenditure from government and other bodies are credited to a deferral account from which amounts are released to revenue over the period during which the relevant assets are depreciated.

Stocks and work in progress

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of work in progress and finished goods includes all production overheads appropriate to the stage of production reached and net realisable value is the price at which the stock could be realised in the normal course of trade. Provision is made for obsolete, slow moving and defective stock.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided for using the liability method in respect of all timing differences to the extent that it is anticipated that the tax will be payable in the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

1. Accounting policies - continued

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Differences arising are taken to the profit and loss account.

Pensions

Defined benefit schemes

Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over the employees' working lives with the group. Variations from regular cost which are identified as a result of actuarial valuations, are amortised over the average expected remaining working lives of employees. Differences between the amounts funded and the amounts charged to the profit and loss account are treated as either provisions or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Defined contribution schemes

Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the schemes.

Investments

Listed investments are valued at closing middle market prices.

Shares in subsidiary companies are revalued to take account of the net asset values attributable to the shareholdings at the balance sheet date.

2.	Analysis of turnover	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
	The analysis of turnover by geographical areas is as follows:-	£'000	£,000
	United Kingdom	1,947	5,190
	Other markets	1,191	2,445
		3,138	7,635
	The analysis of turnover by activity is as follows:-		
	Steel	_	3,981
	Engineers tools	3,138	3,654
		3,138	7,635

The steel manufacturing and hirework forging businesses were disposed of on 22 December 1997.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

3. Cost of sales and other operating expenses (income)

		1999 Continuing businesses £'000	Discontinued businesses £'000	Continuing businesses £'000	1998 Total £'000
	Cost of sales	1,691	3,024	1,908	4,932
	Selling and distribution costs	487	297	527	824
	Administrative expenses	735	416	756	1,172
	Other operating income	-	(5)	-	(5)
4.	Operating profit			1999 £'000	1998 £'000
	Operating profit is stated after charging:- Auditors' remuneration Amortisation of goodwill (note 11) Depreciation of tangible fixed assets (note	12)		26 10	30 11
	Owned assets	12)		206	445
5.	Directors and employees			<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
	Average monthly number employed including executive directors			<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
	Production Selling and distribution Administration			61 13 17 ————————————————————————————————	119 20 22 ————————————————————————————————
	Staff costs including directors' emolument	cs .		£'000	£'000
	Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs			1,315 129 131	2,598 243 152
				1,575	2,993

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

5.	Directors – continued	1999 £'000	<u>1998</u> £'000
	Aggregate emoluments Compensation for loss of office	176	210

Two directors are accruing retirement benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme.

6. Pension costs

The Company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in respect of two of its directors. The Group also operated a similar scheme for staff employees up to 31 July 1999. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Group, being invested with an insurance company. Regular funding reviews are made by a qualified actuary employed by the insurance company and contribution rates are adjusted accordingly.

The employers' contribution rates are calculated using the standard method known as the "Projected Unit Method" modified by the use of a control period as described in the actuarial guidance note GN 26: "Pension Fund Terminology" published jointly by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.

The pension charge for the year in respect of these schemes was £97,000 (1998: £106,000). The contributions for 1999 were outstanding at the year end and are included in accruals.

The latest actuarial valuation of the staff scheme was carried out as at 1 August 1996 and the directors scheme as at 1 August 1998. In preparing these valuations it was assumed that the real rate of return on investments over salary growth is 1.5% per annum compound. The value of the scheme assets of the staff scheme at the valuation date was £2,197,000 and this actuarial valuation represented 112% of the members' accrued benefits after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. The value of the scheme assets of the directors scheme at the valuation date was £182,000 representing 91% of the members' accrued benefits after allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

An actuarial valuation of the staff scheme as at 1 August 1999 is being undertaken but the results are not available at the date of these financial statements.

The Group also operated defined contribution schemes for works employees to 5 April 1999 and contracted out staff employees to 31 July 1999. The assets of the schemes are also held separately from those of the Group being invested with an insurance company.

As from 6 April 1999 in respect of works employees and from 1 August 1999 in respect of staff employees, the Group now operates a personal pension plan.

The pension charge for the year in respect of all defined contribution schemes including the group personal pension plan amounted to £34,000 (1998: £46,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

7.	Interest receivable	1999 £'000	<u>1998</u> £'000
	Interest receivable on short term deposits	262	743
8.	Interest payable and similar charges		
	Bank interest payable		7
9.	Taxation		
	Corporation tax at 30.5% (1998 31%) on the profit for the year Tax credits attributable to dividends received Deferred taxation (Note 17)	176 32 (34) ————————————————————————————————————	456 - 18 - 474
10.	Dividends		
	Interim dividends paid Final proposed	403 40 443	302 134 436
11.	Intangible fixed assets		Goodwill £'000
	Cost		52
	Amortisation 1 October 1998 Charge for year 30 September 1999 Net book value 30 September 1999		21 10 31 ————————————————————————————————
	1 October 1998		31

In accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 10, purchased goodwill has been capitalised and is being written off in equal instalments over its expected economic life of five years.

For acquisitions before 23 December 1989, the figures for the cumulative amounts of positive goodwill eliminated against reserves and negative goodwill added to reserves, net of any goodwill attributed to businesses disposed of before the balance sheet date, are not available.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

12.	Tangible fixed assets Group	Freehold Land and <u>Buildings</u> £'000	Long Leasehold Land and Buildings £'000	Plant and Machinery £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	<u>Total</u> £'000
	Cost					
	1 October 1998	442	207	2,740	310	3,699
	Additions	14	-	58	99	171
	Disposals	-	-	-	(86)	(86)
	30 September 1999	456	207	2,798	323	3,784
	Depreciation					
	1 October 1998	140	8	2,160	108	2,416
	Charge for year	9	4	128	65	206
	Disposals	-	=	-	(52)	(52)
	30 September 1999	149	12	2,288	121	2,570
	Net book value					
	30 September 1999	307	195	510	202	1,214
	1 October 1998	302	199	580	202	1,283
						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

The net book value of fixed assets includes assets in the course of construction amounting to £50,000 (1998 £28,000).

Capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts amounted to £30,000 (1998 £65,000).

$\underline{\textbf{NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS}} - \textbf{continued}$

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

12.	Tangible	fixed	assets -	- continued
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12.	Tangible fixed assets - continued	C. 600	35.	
		Office <u>Equip</u> r	Motor nent <u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Total</u>
		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Company	2 000	2 000	2 000
	Cost			
	1 October 1998	270	134	404
	Additions	29	46	75
	Disposals	-	(39)	(39)
	30 September 1999	299	141	440
	Depreciation		<u></u>	
	1 October 1998	225	42	267
	Charge for year	26	23	49
	Disposals	-	(26)	(26)
	30 September 1999	251	39	290
	Net book value		*****	
	30 September 1999	48	102	150
				
	1 October 1998	45	92	137
13.	Fixed assets - investments at valuation			
		Shares in	Listed	
		subsidiary £'000	companies £'000	Total £'000
	1 October 1998	2,045	6,317	8,362
	Additions	2,043	7,369	7,369
	Disposals	-	(2,501)	(2,501)
	Revaluation reserve	2	1,033	1,035
	30 September 1999	2,047	12,218	14,265
	Historical cost	44	12,058	12,102

$\underline{\textbf{NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS}} \textbf{-} \textbf{continued}$

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

	_	
14.	Stock	_
14	STOCK	

14.	Raw materials and consumables Work in progress Finished goods	1999 £'000 96 203 719 1,018	1998 £'000 120 190 690 1,000	<u>Con</u> <u>1999</u> £'000	1998 £'000
15.	Debtors				
	Amounts falling due within one year				
	Trade debtors Amount owed by group undertakings Dividends receivable from group undertakings Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income	415 - - 4 59	461 - - 7 140	50 - 34	- - - 89
	Amount falling due over one year	478	608	84	89
	Deferred tax (note 17)	_	-	6	-
		478	608	90	89
16.	Creditors:				
	Amounts falling due within one year				
	Trade creditors Corporation tax Other taxation and social security Other creditors Accruals and deferred income Proposed dividend	115 151 81 - 193 40 - 580	212 307 80 41 95 134	11 14 8 - 61 40 - 134	6 102 11 35 27 134
		300	009	134	313

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

17. Provision for liabilities and charges

J. Comments of the comment of the co				Deferred <u>Faxation</u> £'000
Group				£ 000
1 October 1998				75
Credit for the year				(34)
30 September 1999				41
				
Company				
1 October 1998				_
Credit for the year				(6)
30 September 1999				(6)
The provision made in the accounts in respect of deferred taxation arises from:-				
	The second secon	<u>roup</u>		<u>1008</u>
	<u>1999</u> £'000	£'000	<u>1999</u> £'000	£'000
Accelerated capital allowances	70	75	_	-
Short term timing differences	(29)		(6)	
	41	75	(6)	
The potential liability for deferred taxation not provided for arises from:-				
Accelerated capital allowances	31	33	-	_

There is no potential liability for deferred taxation arising on the revaluation of listed investments due to unrelieved capital tax losses.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

18.	Called up share capital				
					pany
				1999	1998
				£'000	£'000
	Authorised, allotted and fully paid				
	Ordinary shares of £1 each			2,240	2,240
19.	Revaluation reserve				
17.	ACCUMULATION ACCOUNTS	G	<u>roup</u>	Cor	<u>npany</u>
		<u> 1999</u>	<u> 1998</u>	<u> 1999</u>	<u> 1998</u>
		£'000	£,000	£'000	£'000
	1 October	(903)	_	510	2,284
	Revaluation surplus (deficit) arising	1.022	(003)	1.025	(0.00)
	in the year (note 13) Transfer profit and loss account – realised	1,033	(903)	1,035	(902)
	loss/(surplus)	30	-	30	(872)
	30 September	160	(903)	1,575	510
20.	Profit and loss account				
	1 October	14,061	13,758	12,648	11,474
	Retained profit for the year	365	303	363	302
	Transfer revaluation reserve – see above	(30)	-	(30)	872
	30 September	14,396	14,061	12,981	12,648

21. Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	<u>Group</u>	
	1999	1998
	£'000	£'000
Profit for the financial year	808	739
Dividends paid and proposed	(443)	(436)
Other recognised gains/(losses) relating to the year	1,033	(903)
Net addition to/(reduction in) shareholders' funds	1,398	(600)
Opening shareholders' funds	15,398	15,998
Closing shareholders' funds	16,796	15,398

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

22. Reconciliation of operating profit to operating cash flows

			<u>Group</u>	
			1999 £'000	£'000
	Operating profit		225	712
	Depreciation charges		206	445
	Amortisation of goodwill		10	11
	(Increase)/decrease in stocks		(18)	48
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors		43	(456)
	Increase in creditors		18	349
	Net cash inflow from operating activities		484	1,109
23.	Analysis of changes in cash			
		At start	Cash	At end
		of year	flow	of year
		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Cash at bank	5,556	(3,048)	2,508
	Short term deposits	1,588	(1,588)	-
		7,144	(4,636)	2,508
	Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in funds			
			<u>1999</u>	<u> 1998</u>
			£'000	£,000
	(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year		(3,048)	3,772
	Short term deposits		(1,588)	1,588
	Change in funds resulting from cash flows		(4,636)	5,360
	Funds at 1 October 1998		7,144	1,784
	Funds at 30 September 1999		2,508	7,144

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

24. Subsidiary undertakings

The operating subsidiary of Donvale Holdings Limited is G & J Hall Limited whose principal activity is the manufacture of engineers tools.

The following subsidiaries have not traded during the year and remain dormant:

Henry Eadon & Sons Limited Kenyon Brothers & Co Limited L N Ledingham & Co Limited Donvale Steels Limited

Shares in these dormant subsidiaries are valued at £578,000 (historical cost £104,000) and this amount is balanced by an equal sum due to the subsidiaries.

All companies are registered in England and are wholly owned.

25. Post balance sheet event

On 1 October 1999, the company acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Mifas Knife & Tool Company Limited for a cash consideration of £1,058,000. The company is a manufacturer of industrial knives, cutting tools and drills.

26. Related parties

The company is controlled by D L Fletcher, B E Bell and J E Moore in their capacity as trustees of family settlements.