# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

REGISTERED Nº: 860767



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# Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2003

### **Directors & Other Advisers**

**Directors** 

A. B. Jones M. T. A. Naylor D. Bardsley G. E. Ruffell

Secretary

M. T. A. Naylor

Principal Bankers

Barclays Bank plc Lombard Street LONDON EC3V 9EX

**Principal Solicitors** 

**Birketts** 

20-32 Museum Street

Ipswich IP1 1HZ

Kimbells LLP Power House Davy Avenue Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8RR

Auditors

Ernst & Young LLP Compass House 80 Newmarket Road

Cambridge CB5 8DZ

Registered Office

Western House Hadleigh Road

Ipswich IP2 0HP

# Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2003

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### Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2003

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003.

### **Business & Financial Review**

The principal activities of the Company consist of the international carriage of goods in containers and freight forwarding.

### Results & Dividends

A summary of the results for the year is given in the profit and loss account on page 5. The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend and the resulting loss for the year of £10,464,970 (2002: £9,827,000 loss) will be transferred to reserves.

#### Review of the Business

On the 4 August 2003, a management buy-out took place, in which Simon Group plc sold its shares in Seawheel Holdings Limited to Seawheel Group Limited. The management buy-out was led by four directors of Seawheel Limited – A. B. Jones, M. T. A. Naylor, D. Bardsley and G. E. Ruffell.

#### **Directors**

The Directors who held office during the year and at the date of this report were as follows:-

A. B. Jones R. J. Catt (resigned 4 August 2003) T. J. Redburn (resigned 4 August 2003) S. T. Duncan (resigned 21 July 2003) R. A. Holmes (resigned 3 February 2003) M. T. A. Naylor (appointed 3 February 2003) J. B. Quinn (resigned 25 April 2003) D. Bardsley (appointed 3 February 2003) G. E. Ruffell (appointed 13 January 2003)

### **Directors' Interests**

None of the directors who held office at the end of the financial year had any disclosable interest in the shares of the Company.

# Directors' Report (continued)

### **Auditors**

In accordance with Section 384 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution to re-appoint the auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, will be proposed at the Company's annual general meeting.

By order of the Board

M T A Naylor Company Secretary

DATE 16 September 2004

Seawheel Limited Western House Hadleigh Road Ipswich IP2 0HP

### Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Seawheel Limited

We have audited the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003 which comprise the Profit and Loss account, Balance Sheet, Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds and the related notes 1 to 21. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out therein.

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

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors & Auditors

As described in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom law and accounting standards.

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

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the Company is not disclosed.

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it

### **Basis of Audit Opinion**

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

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

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 December 2003 and of loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Eract & Young LLP
Registered Auditor
Cambridge

DATE 17 Sytch wor

# Profit & Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2003

	Note	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Turnover Continuing Operations Acquisitions		103,154	83,453 8,170
	2	103,154	91,623
Cost of sales		(102,854)	(87,751)
Gross profit		300	3,872
Administration expenses		(10,412)	(12,745)
Operating Loss	·	(10,112)	(8,873)
Continuing Operations Acquisitions		(10,112)	(9,225) 352
Total Operating Loss	5	(10,112)	(8,873)
Exceptional Items	6	-	(4,619)
Loss on ordinary activities before Interest and Taxation	•	(10,112)	(13,492)
Other interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges Income from shares in group undertakings	7 8	5 (410)	(576) 580
Loss on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation		(10,517)	(13,486)
Taxation on loss on ordinary activities	9 .	52	3,659
Loss on Ordinary Activities After Taxation	17	(10,465)	(9,827)

There is no difference between the loss on ordinary activities before taxation and the retained loss for the year, and their historical equivalents.

The results for the year are equivalent to the total recognised gains and losses for the year. Accordingly, a separate statement of recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

# Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2003

	Notes	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Fixed Assets Tangible assets Investments	10 11	7,459 658 8,117	8,689 661 9,350
Current Assets Debtors Cash at bank & in hand	12	18,504 1,269 19,773	20,305 781 21,086
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(30,123)	(28,980)
Net Current Liabilities  Total Assets less Current Liabilities		(2,233)	(7,894) 1,456_
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(8,167)	(1,391)
Provisions for Liabilities & Charges	15	-	-
Net (Liabilities) / Assets	_	(10,400)	65
Capital & Reserves Called up share capital Share premium account Profit & loss account	16 17 17	3,002 7,700 (21,102)	3,002 7,700 (10,637)
Shareholders' Funds	_	(10,400)	65_
Analysed as: Equity interests Non-equity interests		(11,401) 1,001	(936) 1,001
	_	(10,400)	65_

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and were signed on its behalf by:-

K. September 04

A B JONES Director

DATE

# Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds for the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Loss for the Financial Year New Share Capital Subscribed Premium on Issue of Shares Net Reduction in Shareholder's Funds	(10,465) - - (10,465)	(9,827) 2,000 7,700 (127)
Opening shareholders' funds	65	192
Closing shareholders' funds	(10,400)	65

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

### 1 Principal Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently.

### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain assets.

#### Turnover

Turnover comprises total charges to customers, excluding recoverable duty and Value Added Tax.

### **Fixed Assets & Depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation after deducting accumulated depreciation. The basis of depreciation is to write off the cost of assets less their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Service equipment - 4 to 13 years
Plant - 5 to 10 years
Motor Vehicles - 4 years

### **Pension Scheme Contributions**

The Company operates a group personal pension scheme and a stakeholder pension scheme for staff members. They are defined contribution schemes and assets are held in individual pension accounts administered by Norwich Union and Clerical Medical respectively.

#### **Deferred Taxation**

Deferred tax is recognised, without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except as otherwise required by FRS 19.

### Foreign Currency Translations

Balances denominated in foreign currencies have been translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date and the gains or losses on translation are included in the profit and loss account. Overseas income has been translated into sterling at the rates ruling when that income was earned and overseas costs have been translated into sterling at the rates ruling when those costs were incurred.

### Finance & Operating Leases

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term. Leasing agreements which transfer to the group substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership of an asset are treated as if the asset had been purchased outright. The assets are included in fixed assets and the capital element of the leasing commitments is shown as obligations under finance leases. The lease rentals are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The capital element is applied to reduce the outstanding obligations and the interest element is charged against profit so as to give a constant periodic rate of charge on the remaining balance outstanding at each accounting period. Assets held under finance leases are depreciated over the useful lives of equivalent owned assets.

### **Exceptional Items**

Material gains and losses which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the company, but which need to be disclosed separately by reason of their size or incidence if the financial statements are to give a true and fair view, are treated as exceptional items in the profit and loss account.

### **Cash Flow Statement**

In accordance with the exemption granted under Financial Reporting Standard 1, a cash flow statement has not been prepared as the details of this Company's cash flows are included in the cash flow statement prepared by the ultimate holding company Seawheel Group Limited.

### **Related Party Disclosures**

Under Financial Reporting Standard 8, the Company is exempt from the requirement to disclose transactions with group companies on the grounds that it is a wholly-owned subsidiary undertaking. (see note 21).

### 2 Turnover

Turnover consists of sales made in the United Kingdom and in Europe and relates solely to the principal activities described in the Directors' report.

Turnover split by origin is as follows:-		
	2003	2002
	£'000	£,000
United Kingdom	103,154	91,623
Rest of Europe	100 151	
	103,154	91,623
Turnover split by destination is as follows:		
	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
United Kingdom	19,659	15,668
Rest of Europe	83,495	75,955
	103,154	91,623
3 Directors' Emoluments		
	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
Directors' Emoluments		
Aggregate emoluments	510	420
Compensation for loss of office	-	166
Company pension contributions.	38	50
	548	636
Highest Paid Director	4 4 5	016
Aggregate emoluments Compensation for loss of office	145	216
Company pension contributions.	12	106
Company pension continuations.	13 158	21 343
	130	343

# 4 Employee Information

The average weekly number of persons (including executive directors) employed by the Company during the year was:-

The average would hamost of persons (morating encounts of another) of	aprojectoj me companj emm	5 )
	2003	2002
	Number	Number
Sales and administration	105	102_
	4004	2002
	2003	2002
C4-654-(f411	£'000	£'000
Staff costs (for the above persons) Wages & salaries	2 457	2,502
Social security costs	2,457 298	2,302
Other pension costs	88	106
Calci politica costo	2,843	2,848
5 Operating Loss		
5 Operating Loss		
	2003	2002
	£'000	£,000
Operating Loss is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	132	-
Depreciation charge for the year:		
<ul> <li>Tangible fixed assets owned</li> </ul>	849	436
<ul> <li>Tangible fixed assets held under finance leases</li> </ul>	537	529
- Impairment of Fixed Assets	498	-
Auditors' remuneration for:		
- Audit fees	75	39
- Accounting	-	7
Charter Hire	10,696	9,695
Hire of Equipment	1,683	1,786
Land and Buildings Lease	123	48
Hire of motor vehicles	112	121
Hire of other assets	62	17
Foreign exchange (profit)/loss	(374)	(19)
Exceptional Items		
Provisions for irrecoverable debtors		1,868
6 Non-operating exceptional Items		
I 9		
	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
Restructuring Costs	-	1,645
Loss on disposal and write down of fixed assets	-	573
Write off purchased goodwill Write off of investment net of provisions	-	2,202
write off of investment net of provisions	<del></del>	199
	-	4,619

7	Interest	Receivable
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	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Other interest receivable	5	2
8 Interest Payable		
	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
On bank loans and overdrafts On finance leases On amounts due to Parent Undertaking	110 300 	189 204 183 576
9 Tax on Loss on Ordinary Activities		
UK corporation tax	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Group relief receivable for the period Adjustments in respect of prior periods	- 52	3,560
Deferred tax Origination/reversal of timing differences Tax credit on loss on ordinary activities  Factors affecting the tax charge for the current period: The current tax credit for the period is lower (2002: lower) than the standard (2002: 30%). The differences are explained below:-		99 3,659 UK of 30%
Current tax reconciliation	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(10,517)	(13,486)
Current tax at 30 % (2002: 30 %)	3,155	4,046
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes Capital allowances for period in excess of depreciation Other timing differences Tax free income Group relief (payable at less than) / receivable in excess of standard rate of	(9) (109) 392	(728) 175 (972) 174
corporation tax Unrelieved tax losses Adjustment in respect of previous periods	(661) (2,768) 52	865
Total current tax credit (see above)	<u>52</u>	3,560

Factors that may affect future tax charges:

The company has tax losses available to set against future taxable profits of approximately 14 million

10	Tangible Fixed Assets	Service Equipment £'000	Plant £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 Ja	nuary 2003	14,935	2,414	4	17,353
Additio	ons	783	92	-	875
Dispos	als	(1,908)			(1,908)
At 31	December 2003	13,810	2,506	4	16,320
Depre	ciation				
_	nuary 2003	6,801	1,862	1	8,664
Charge	for the year	1,218	168	-	1,386
Impair	ment charge	498			498
Dispos	als	(1,687)		-	(1,687)
At 31	December 2003	6,830	2,030	1	8,861
Net bo	ok value at 31 December 2003	6,980	476	3	7,459
Net bo	ok value at 31 December 2002	8,134	552	3	8,689

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes £5,006,000 (year to 31 December 2002 £4,437,000) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

### 11 Investments

	Interests in Group Undertakings £'000	Interests in Associated Undertakings £'000	Other investments £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
As at 1 January 2003	400	232	29	661
Additions	35	-	•	35
Disposals	-	(38)	•	(38)
As at 31 December 2003	435	194	29	658

The names of the principal subsidiary and associated undertakings are as follows:

Name of Undertaking	Country of Incorporation or Registration	Proportion of Nominal Value of Issued Shares Held	
		Direct %	Indirect %
IFF Overseas Limited*	England	100	-
Rheintainer Limited	England	100	-
Rheintainer Linie Limited *	England	100	-
Seawheel BV	Holland	-	100
Seawheel GmbH	Germany	26	74
Seawheel Ireland Limited	Ireland	-	100
Seawheel Nederland BV *	Holland	-	100
Seawheel NV	Belgium	•	100
Seawheel Overseas Limited *	England	100	-
Seawheel Vapores Suardiaz SA	Spain	50	-
Seawheel Vermögensverwaltung GmbH*	Germany	-	100

Those companies marked \* did not trade during the period. Seawheel Vermögensverwaltung GmbH and Seawheel Nederland BV have commenced liquidation proceedings.

The nature of the business of the Company's trading subsidiaries is the international carriage of goods in containers and freight forwarding.

In the opinion of the directors the aggregate value of the investments is not less than the amount stated in the balance sheet.

As the company was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seawheel Group Limited (see note 21), the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare consolidated accounts.

10	- m - i	btors
12	110	ntore
14		~~~

	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	14,709	14,390
Amounts owed by group companies	176	250
Amount owed by associated companies	1,149	830
Other debtors & prepayments	2,470	1,744
Group tax relief	-	3,091
dioap wat i vien	18,504	20,305
13 Creditors - amounts falling due within one	year	
	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
	x 000	2 000
Bank loans & overdrafts	410	3,740
Trade creditors	18,800	18,603
Advances on factored debtors	1,971	-
Amounts due to group undertakings	5,847	2,217
Corporation tax		52
Accruals & deferred income	2,072	3,041
Other tax and social security	114	233
Obligations under finance leases	909	1,094_
	30,123	28,980
The advances on factored debtors are secured over the total value  14 Creditors – amounts falling due after more	_	
	2003	2002
	£'000	£,000
	2 000	2000
Amounts due to former parent company	3,825	-
Obligations under finance leases	3,059	1,391
Other Creditor	1,283	
	8,167	1,391
The net finance lease obligations to which the Company is comm	nitted are payable as follows:	
The net initiated teach confusions to which the company is commit	attod are payable as tone	
	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
Within one year	909	1,094
Within one year Between one & two years	909	459
Between two & five years	2,150	932
Over five years	# <sub>5</sub> 130	93L
O TOX INTO YOURS	3,968	2,485
		2,70,7

# 15 Deferred Tax

The total potential deferred tax asset / (liability) is analysed as follows:

Tax effect of timing difference due to: Excess of capital allowances over depreciation Other timing differences Tax losses	2003 Provided £'000	2003 Unprovided £'000 (272) (477) (4,209) (4,958)	2002 Provided £'000 810 (810)	2002 Unprovided £'000 (183) (609) (792)
16 Called Up Share Capital				
-			2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Authorised				2 000
2,001,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each			2,001	2,001
50,000 5.95% Cumulative redeemable preference	e shares of £1 each		50	50
1,001,000 1% Non-cumulative preference shares	of £1 each		1,001	1,001
		<b>.</b>	3,052	3,052
Allotted, Called Up & Fully Paid				
2,001,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each (2002: 1,0		£1 each	2,001	2,001
1,001,000 1% Non-cumulative preference shares	of £1 each		1,001	1,001
			3,002	3,002
17 Reserves	·			
	Profit & Loss	Share	Premium	Total
•	Account		Account	****
	£'000		£'000	£'000
At 31 December 2002	(10,637)		7,700	(2,937)
Retained loss for the year	(10,465)		<del>-</del>	(10,465)
At 31 December 2003	(21,102)		7,700	(13,402)
10 - 0 - 11 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1				
18 Contingent Liabilities			2003	2002
			£'000	£'000
			7 000	2 000
Bonds & bank guarantees			41	841

### 19 Commitments

a) Capital commitments at the end of the financial year for which no provision has been made are as follows:

	2003 £²000	2002 £'000
Contracted		755

- b) In addition to the above at the end of the financial year, the company had entered into commitments amounting to £nil (2002 £2,485,000) in respect of finance leases, the inception of which occurs after the year end.
- c) At 31 December 2003 the Company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:-

	2003	2002
	£'000	£'000
	Plant and	Plant and
	Machinery	Machinery
Expiring within one year	3,143	1,698
Expiring between two & five years inclusive	428	424
	3,571	2,122

### 20 Related Party Disclosures

The related parties of Seawheel Limited as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 8, the nature of the relationship and the extent of transactions with them are summarised below:

Party Relationsh	Relationship	Transaction	Transactions in the Year Ended 31/12/03	Amounts Owed to / (by)
	<b>.</b>	<b>**</b> **********************************	£'000	£'000
Seawheel Vapores Suardiaz S.A	Joint Venture	Net value of transactions for agency services	569	(1,149)

### 21 Ultimate Parent Company

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Seawheel Holdings Limited. The ultimate parent undertaking is Seawheel Group Limited.

The Company's results are included in the 2003 consolidated accounts of Seawheel Group Limited and can be obtained from Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UZ.