

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITED
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997



THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITED

DIRECTORS

R.A. Feetham (Appointed 7th October, 1996)
D.R.A. Lankester (Appointed 7th October, 1996)
C.G. Thewlas (Resigned 7th October, 1996)
E.G. Hudson (Resigned 11th November, 1996)
D.Johnson (resigned 14th March, 1997)

SECRETARY

D.R.A. Lankester

REGISTERED OFFICE

Times House
16b Mill street
Oakham
Rutland

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Broad Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire

AUDITORS

Whiting & Partners
Chartered Accountants
31 Priestgate
Peterborough
Cambs.
PE1 1JL

REGISTERED NUMBER

02193082

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITED
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997

CONTENTS

	Page
Directors' report	1
Statement of directors' responsibilities	2
Auditors' report	3
Profit and loss account	4
Balance sheet	5
Notes	6

The following page does not form part of the statutory accounts

Detailed trading and profit and loss account	7
--	---

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDDIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 1997.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The Company's principal activity continues to be that of publishing the Rutland Times Newspaper.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The Directors at 31st March, 1997 are listed on the frontispiece. Messrs. R.A. Feetham and D.R.A. Lankester were appointed to the Board on 7th October, 1996. Mr. C.G. Thewlas resigned from the Board on 7th October, 1996, Mr. E.G. Hudson died on 11th November, 1996 and Mrs. D. Johnson resigned from the Board on 14th March, 1997.

CLOSE COMPANY

The Company is a close company within the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

AUDITORS

Whiting & Partners have indicated their willingness to continue in office. A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to re-appoint them and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

SMALL COMPANY EXEMPTIONS

Advantage has been taken in the preparation of this report of the special exemptions applicable to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors: 1/12/97


.....

D.R.A. Lankester
Secretary

Approved by the Board:

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDSTATEMENT 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 of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 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 NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDAUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 6 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 6.

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.

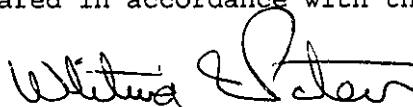
Basis of opinion

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 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 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 the company's affairs as at 31st March 1997 and of its loss for the Year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 applicable to small companies.



WHITING & PARTNERS
REGISTERED AUDITORS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
31 PRIESTGATE
PETERBOROUGH
PE1 1JL

DATE: 2nd December 1997

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDPROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997

	Note	1997 £	1996 £
Turnover	2	365,055	338,340
Cost of sales		<u>(141,760)</u>	<u>(155,212)</u>
Gross profit		223,295	183,128
Net operating expenses			
Administrative expenses		<u>(256,665)</u>	<u>(193,544)</u>
Operating loss	3	(33,370)	(10,416)
Interest payable	5	<u>(2,117)</u>	<u>(1,121)</u>
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation		(35,487)	(11,537)
Taxation	6	<u>47</u>	<u>1,654</u>
Loss on ordinary activities after taxation	14	<u>£ (35,440)</u>	<u>£ (9,883)</u>

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

There are no recognised gains and losses in 1997 or 1996 other than the loss for the Year.

The notes on pages 6 form part of these Accounts.

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDBALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 1997

	Note	1997		1996	
		£	£	£	£
<u>Fixed assets</u>					
Tangible assets	7	31,348		30,062	
Investment Property	8	7,500		7,500	
			38,848		37,562
<u>Current assets</u>					
Stocks	9	5,428		871	
Debtors	10	66,468		52,582	
Cash at bank and in hand		676		60	
		72,572		53,513	
<u>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</u>	11	(148,698)		(82,113)	
<u>Net current liabilities</u>			(76,126)		(28,600)
<u>Total assets less current liabilities</u>			(37,278)		8,962
<u>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</u>	12		-		(10,800)
<u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</u>			£ (37,278)		£ (1,838)
<u>Capital and reserves</u>					
Called up share capital	15	5,000		5,000	
Profit and loss account		(42,278)		(6,838)	
<u>Total shareholders' funds</u>	14	£ (37,278)		£ (1,838)	

The Notes on pages 6 form part of these accounts.

In the preparation of the accounts advantage has been taken of special exemptions applicable to small companies under part 1 of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985 on the grounds that, in the directors' opinion, the company qualifies as a small company and is entitled to make use of the special exemptions.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors on: 1/12/97



 R.A. Feetham

Chairman

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES****a. Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules.

b. Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost or valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Motor Vehicles	- 25% reducing balance basis
Furniture/Equipment	- 10% reducing balance basis
Computer Equipment	- 15% reducing balance basis

c. Leases and hire purchase contracts

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts are capitalised in the Balance Sheet and are depreciated over their useful lives.

The interest element of the repayment is charged to the Profit and Loss Account over the period of the agreement.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income as incurred.

d. Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value a basis consistent with previous years.

e. Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided at the current tax rate on differences arising from the inclusion of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements.

f. Cash Flow Statement

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption provided by Financial Reporting Standard 1 and has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year.

2 TURNOVER

Turnover represents the invoiced amount of goods sold and services provided in the United Kingdom, stated net of value added tax.

The turnover and pre-tax loss is attributable to the principal activity.

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997**3 OPERATING LOSS**

	1997 £	1996 £
Operating loss is stated after charging:		
Auditors' Remuneration	5,000	-
Amounts Written Off Tangible Assets	6,508	7,496
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4 DIRECTORS REMUNERATION

	1997 £	1996 £
Management Remuneration	£ 41,250	£ 42,100
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5 INTEREST PAYABLE

	1997 £	1996 £
Hire Purchase Interest	1,901	640
Bank Interest	216	481
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 2,117	£ 1,121
	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 TAXATION

	1997 £	1996 £
Taxation is based on the Loss for the year and Comprises:		
U.K. Corporation taxation at 25%(1996 25%)	-	(1,654)
Over provision in earlier years	(47)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ (47)	(1,654)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997**7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

Cost	<u>Office Equipment</u> £	<u>Computer Equipment</u> £	<u>Furniture and Fittings</u> £	<u>Leased Vehicles</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
1st April 1996	5,450	20,562	6,706	14,340	47,058
Additions	-	7,571	223	-	7,794
31st March 1997	£ 5,450	£ 28,133	£ 6,929	£ 14,340	£ 54,852
Depreciation					
1st April 1996	5,450	6,952	1,906	2,688	16,996
Charge for Year	-	3,109	486	2,913	6,508
31st March 1997	£ 5,450	£ 10,061	£ 2,392	£ 5,601	£ 23,504
Net book amount					
31st March 1997	£ -	£ 18,072	£ 4,537	£ 8,739	£ 31,348
1st April 1996	£ -	£ 13,610	£ 4,800	£ 11,652	£ 30,062

8 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Investment property which relates to a time share property is shown at cost and has not been professionally revalued.

9 STOCKS

	1997 £	1996 £
Goods for Resale	£ 5,428	£ 871

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997**10** DEBTORS

	1997 £	1996 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	59,443	50,113
Other debtors	7,025	2,469
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 66,468	£ 52,582
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	1997 £	1996 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	12,471
Trade creditors	63,386	42,866
Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts - note 11	9,981	4,806
Other taxation and social security	23,492	15,819
Other creditors	5,992	6,151
Ashwell Associates Limited (Parent Company)	45,847	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 148,698	£ 82,113
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12 CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year

	1997 £	1996 £
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts (secured)	-	9,900
Bank Loans	-	900
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ -	£ 10,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>

13 DEFERRED TAXATION

No provision for deferred taxation is necessary.

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 199714 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	1997 £	1996 £
Loss for the financial Year	(35,440)	(9,883)
Net subtraction from shareholders' funds	(35,440)	(9,883)
Opening shareholders' funds	(1,838)	8,045
Closing shareholders' funds	£ (37,278)	£ (1,838)

15 CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

	1997 No.	1996 No.
Authorised Ordinary Shares of £1 each	10,000	10,000
Allotted, Called UP and Fully Paid Ordinary Shares of £1 each	5,000	5,000

The Directors interests in the Share Capital of the Company were as follows:

	<u>31st March 1997</u> <u>Ordinary Shares</u>	<u>31st March 1996</u> <u>Ordinary Shares</u>
R.A. Feetham	-	-
D.R.A. Lankester	-	-
C.G. Thewlas	-	750
E.G. Hudson	-	125
D.Johnson	-	625

THE NEW RUTLAND TIMES LIMITEDNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997**16 OTHER COMMITMENTS**

At 31st March, 1997 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows,

Leased Office Accomodation

	£
Within One Year	8,000
Between Two and Five Years	16,000
	<hr/>
	£ 24,000

Motor Vehicles

Within One Year	12,468
Between Two and Five Years	11,444
	<hr/>
	£ 23,912

17 TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS

During the year no director was materially interested in any contract with the Company.

18 HOLDING COMPANY

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ashwell Associates Limited a company registered in England and Wales.

19 RELATED PARTIES

Transactions with the holding company in respect of management charges payable amounted to £3,725. Details of the indebtedness is shown in note 11 to the accounts.

20 GOING CONCERN

The Directors are of the opinion that the Company will continue as a going concern on the basis that support will be available from the Holding Company.

21 COMPARATIVES

The Company was exempt from an audit under s 249 of the Companies Act 1985 for the year ended 31st March, 1996 and accordingly the comparative figures shown for 1996 have not been subject to audit.