Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Directors' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013

**COMPANIES HOUSE** 

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# Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2013

#### **Principal activities and Future Developments**

Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited's (the 'Company') principal activities during the year continued to be the selling of Budweiser beer and the holding company for the AB InBev group of companies in the UK.

It is still the intention of the Directors that the Stag Brewery, a subsidiary of the Company, will close but that it will remain operational until at least December 2015. There is currently no intention for any change to the Company's position as a holding company.

#### Review of the business and results for the year

The profit for the financial year, after taxation of £315,000 (2012: £6,719,000) has been transferred to reserves. The performance of the Company during the year has been reviewed by the Directors and is in line with their expectations and future plans for the Company. The reduction in turnover is due to lower prices charged to AB InBev UK Limited due to lower manufacturing costs. The reduction in profit compared to 2012 is due to exceptional items of £6,787,000 recognised in 2012 in relation to the release of customer rebate accruals, recovery of excess royalty payments and the release of other accruals. There is no similar exceptional profit in the current year.

The Directors have continued to consider the operational demands and markets in which it operates, and develop the business in such a way to meet these demands. The Company has also continued its focus on cost reduction.

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Given the straightforward nature of the business, the Company's Directors are of the opinion that analysis using key performance indicators is not necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The management of the business and the execution of the Company's strategy are subject to a number of risks.

The key business risks and uncertainties affecting the Company are considered to relate to changing customer demand in different sectors of the beer industry, consolidation of customers, declining consumption and growth of discount retailers. The Company is responding to these risks in many ways, including a focus on innovation and cost reduction.

### Financial risk management

The Company's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks which include the effects of changes in prices, credit risk, interest rate risk and cash flow risk. To manage financial risks, the Company has a policy of monitoring cash flows on a regular basis and adapting its funding arrangements as required. Funding from external sources is kept to a minimum, with arrangements in place with other AB InBev group companies for any significant borrowing.

## Price risk

Fluctuations in cost prices due to changes in the cost of raw materials such as malt and rice is the main price risk. In some cases, due to the Company's pricing structure and competitive markets, it may not be able to pass these increases in costs on to its customers, which may reduce the Company's profitability.

The Company is exposed to commodity price risk as a result of its operations. However, given the size of the Company's operations, the costs of managing exposure to commodity price risk exceed any potential benefits. The Directors will revisit the appropriateness of this policy should the Company's operations change in size or nature.

#### Credit risk

Currently all sales are with other AB InBev group companies and therefore there is minimal credit risk for the Company.

# Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2013

#### Interest rate risk

The Company has both interest bearing assets and interest bearing liabilities. Interest bearing assets include cash balances. The Company has a policy of maintaining debt at a fixed rate to ensure certainty of future interest cash flows. The Directors will revisit the appropriateness of this policy should the Company's operations change in size or nature.

# Going concern

The Company's Directors are preparing these financial statements on a going concern basis given that the Stag Brewing Company Limited continues to manufacture products to be sold through the Company to other AB InBev group companies.

The Stag Brewery will remain operational until at least December 2015. A full review of the operations of the Stag Brewery will be undertaken in 2015 to determine the future developments of this site within the AB InBev group's operations. This may impact on the operations of the Company in the future, although it is expected to remain a holding company.

# Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Directors Report for the year ended 31 December 2013

The Directors present their report and audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2013.

#### **Directors**

The Directors of the Company who were in office during the year to 31 December 2013 and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

Inge Plochaet Clare Lake

(Resigned 9 May 2014)

Ophelia Johns Anna Tolley

Rory McLellan (Appointed 11 June 2014)

#### **Dividends**

The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2012: £nil).

#### **Employees**

The Company had no employees during the year (2012: nil).

#### 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.

# **Deeds of indemnity**

During the year ended 31 December 2013 and as at the date of this report, indemnities are in force under which Anheuser-Busch InBev S.A, a fellow AB InBev group company, has agreed to indemnify the Directors, to the extent permitted by law and the Company's Articles of Association, in respect of all losses arising out of, or in connection with, the execution of their powers, duties and responsibilities, as Directors of the Company. These indemnities meet the definition of a qualifying third party indemnity provision.

### Disclosure of information to auditors

Each person who was a Director at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and
- he/she 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 section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

# Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Directors Report for the year ended 31 December 2013

# Independent auditors

The auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and will remain in office as auditors of the Company in accordance with the provisions of section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 September 2014 and were signed on its behalf by:

Clare Lake Director

# Independent auditors' report to the members of Anheuser-Busch Europe 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 December 2013 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 Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited, comprise:

- the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2013;
- · the Profit and Loss Account for the year then ended; and
- 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 Strategic report, Directors' 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.

# 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.

# Independent auditors' report to the members of Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited

#### 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 3, 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.

Nicholas Campbell-Lambert (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

London

26 September 2014

# Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2013

	Note	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
Turnover	2	31,541	36,687
Cost of sales		(30,086)	(34,962)
Gross profit		1,455	1,725
Distribution costs Administrative expenses		(1,303)	(1,519)
- Other administrative expenses		(70)	(111).
- Exceptional items	4	` <u>-</u>	6,787
Operating profit	3	82	6,882
Interest receivable and similar income	5	26	117
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		108	6,999
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	6	207	(280)
Profit for the financial year	1 <u>5</u>	315	6,719

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

The results for the year and the previous year arise from continuing operations.

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

The notes on page 9 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# Anheuser-Busch Europe Limited Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2013

	Note	£ 000	2013 £ 000	£ 000	2012 £ 000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		-		1
Investments	8	_	900,359	_	900,359
			900,359		900,360
Current assets					
Debtors	9	33,536		37,917	
Cash at bank and in hand	_	45,898		48,479	
		79,434		86,396	
Creditors: amounts falling due					
within one year	10	(515)		(620)	
Net current assets	_		78,919		85,776
Total assets less current liabilities		-	979,278		986,136
Creditors: amounts falling due			•		
after more than one year	11		(32,019)		(39,192)
Net assets		-	947,259	-	946,944
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	13		680		680
Other reserves	14		936,234		936,234
Profit and loss account	15		10,345		10,030
Total shareholders' funds	16	-	947,259		946,944

Debtors include amounts receivable after more than one year of £32,657,000 (2012: £37,271,000).

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 15 were approved by the Board of Directors on 26th September 2014 and were signed on its behalf by:

Clare Lake **Director** 

Company registration no. 02399274

# 1 Accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, 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 below

The Company is exempt by virtue of s400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare group financial statements. Accordingly, these financial statements present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

#### Cash flow statement

Under FRS 1 'Cashflow Statements' (Revised 1996) the Company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement as its ultimate parent undertaking includes the Company in its own published consolidated financial statements.

# Related parties

The Company has not disclosed transactions with fellow, wholly owned subsidiaries in accordance with the exemption under the terms of FRS 8 as the ultimate parent company produces publicly available consolidated financial statements. These consolidated financial statements can be obtained from Anheuser-Busch InBev NV/SA, Grand' Place 1, Brussels, Belgium.

#### **Financial instruments**

Financial instruments comprise non-derivative financial assets and liabilities, including cash, deposits and borrowings. In accordance with its treasury policy, the Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Non-derivative financial assets are classified as either debtors or cash and are stated at their amortised cost. Cash includes cash in hand and deposits held on call with banks. Bank overdrafts are included within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Non-derivative financial liabilities include borrowings. They are stated at their amortised cost.

# Turnover and cost of sales

Turnover represents royalties receivable and sales to related parties, and invoiced amounts for goods sold during the year stated net of value added tax and deductions allowed. Sales to related parties are recorded on an arms length basis. Turnover is recognised when title transfers on shipment of the goods. Cost of sales includes beer related duties at the current rates where beer is sold to duty payable customers. Duty is recognised on dispatch of goods.

## Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historic purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Plant and machinery

15 years

Tangible fixed assets are tested for impairment when an event that might affect asset values has occurred. An impairment loss is recognised in the profit and loss account to the extent that the carrying amount cannot be recovered either by selling the asset or by the discounted future earnings from operating the assets.

# 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### **Fixed asset investments**

Shares in fellow AB InBev group companies and loans to these companies are stated at cost less any provision for impairment.

In preparing these financial statements, management has had to consider certain assumptions and complete estimations of the value of certain assets. The main area impacted by these estimations is the carrying value of assets. For fixed asset investments, the Company performs regular assessments of the future cash flow projections of the companies to ensure the carrying value of these investments is recoverable.

#### **Taxation**

Taxation provided is that chargeable on the profits for the year, together with deferred taxation.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date, where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date.

A net deferred tax asset is recognised as recoverable and therefore recorded only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits against which to recover carried forward tax losses and from which the future reversal of underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax is measured at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the years in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis.

# Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Average rates may be used where they approximate the spot rate at the date of the transaction.

Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated at exchange rates ruling on the date of the balance sheet and any gains and losses are recognised in operating income in the year in which they arise.

Exchange adjustments resulting from foreign currency transactions are recognised in operating profit for the year in which they arise.

#### Pensions and other post retirement benefits

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Annual contributions relating to this scheme are charged to the profit and loss account on an accruals basis.

### Royalties

Royalties are due to the immediate parent company, and are paid at an arms length basis.

### 2 Turnover

Turnover represents royalties due from related parties and the amounts derived from the provision of goods and services to customers including duty, after deducting discounts and value added tax.

		2013 £ 000 Turnover on ordinary activities	2013 £ 000 Profit before taxation	2012 £ 000 Turnover on ordinary activities	2012 £ 000 Profit before taxation
	UK	31,541	108	36,687	6,999
	The Company operates in one co	ass of business, being	the sale and dist	ribution of beer.	
3	Operating profit  This is stated after charging:			2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Depreciation of owned tangible f Exchange loss Auditors' remuneration for audit Royalties payable to immediate p Exceptional items (note 4)	services		1 16 17 1,222	1 78 17 1,519 6,787
4	Exceptional items		•	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Release of customer rebate acci Excess royalty repayments recei Release of other accruals			- - - -	2,557 3,588 642 6,787

During the year ended 31 December 2012 exceptional items of £6,787,000 were recognised in the profit and loss account. Accruals of £2,557,000 relating to customer rebates were released as they are no longer an outstanding obligation of the Company. £3,588,000 of income was received from another AB InBev group undertaking in relation to excess royalties that had been paid in previous years. Other accruals relating to goods received not invoiced of £642,000 were released following a review of old items that are no longer outstanding. These items were one-off in nature and did not relate directly to current operations. They were therefore disclosed as exceptional.

5	Interest receivable and similar income	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Bank interest receivable	26_	117

6	Tax on profit on ordinary activities	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Analysis of credit/(charge) for year		
	Current tax:	-	-
	Deferred tax:		
	Origination and reversal of timing differences	358	(313)
	Impact of change in tax rate	(151)	33
	Tax on profit on ordinary activities	207	(280)

# Factors affecting tax charge for year

The current tax assessed for the year is lower (2012: lower) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK 23.25% (2012: 24.5%). The differences are explained as follows:

	2013	2012
	£ 000	£ 000
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	108	6,999
Standard rate of corporation tax in the UK	23.25%	24.5%
	2013	2012
	£ 000	£ 000
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation		
tax	25	1,715
Effects of:		
Impact of change in tax rate	66	33
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	(91)	(59)
Capital allowances for the year in excess of depreciation	(829)	-
Addition to losses carried forward	829	-
Group relief allowed/(claimed) for nil consideration	- ·	(1,689)
Current tax charge for the year		-

# Factors that may affect future tax charges

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The reduction in the UK main corporation tax rate from 24% to 23% was effective from 1 April 2013. A tax rate change to 21%, which has effect from 1 April 2014, was substantially enacted on 2 July 2013. Further changes to the UK corporation tax rate were announced in the March 2013 UK budget statement proposing a further reduction in the rate to 20% on 1 April 2015. The rate reduction to 20% was also substantively enacted on 2 July 2013. The impact of the announced changes is not expected to be material.

Tangible assets	Plant and machinery £ 000
Cost	
At 1 January 2013	175
Disposals	(175)
At 31 December 2013	<u>-</u>
Accumulated depreciation	
At 1 January 2013	(174)
Charge for the year	(1)
Disposals	175_
At 31 December 2013	
Net book value	
At 31 December 2013	
At 31 December 2012	1

8	Investments				Investments in subsidiary undertakings
	Cost and net book value At 1 January 2013 and 31 December	er 2013			900,359
	The Company holds 20% or more of	of the share ca	pital of the following co	mpanies:	
	Company	Principal activity	Country of incorporation	Shares held Class	%
	Nimbuspath Limited Stag Brewing Company Limited	Holding Trading	England & Wales England & Wales	Ordinary Ordinary	100 100
9	Debtors			2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Trade debtors Amounts due from group undertaki Deferred tax asset (note 12) Other debtors	ngs		68 32,657 713 98 33,536	72 37,271 506 68 37,917
	There are no fixed terms of paymer expected within the short term.	nt for the amou	ints due from group ur	dertakings and p	payment is not
	Amounts due after more than one y Amounts due from group undertaki Amounts due from subsidiary unde	ngs	n trade debtors:	11,498 21,159 32,657	16,112 21,159 37,271
	The amounts due from group and s fixed terms of repayment.	subsidiary unde	ertakings are unsecure	d, non-interest b	earing with no
10	Creditors: amounts falling due w	rithin one year	•	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Trade creditors  Amounts due to group undertakings Taxation and social security costs Accruals and deferred income	s		286 222 - 7 515	319 206 30 65 620

The amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, non-interest bearing loans and are repayable on demand.

11	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one ye	ar	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Amounts due to group undertakings	-	32,019	39,192
	There are no fixed terms of payment for the amounts due expected within the short term.	to group under	takings and paymer	nt is not
	The amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, r	ion-interest bea	ring loans.	
12	Deferred taxation		2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Accelerated capital allowances Other timing differences Deferred tax asset	-	713 713	1,055 (549) 506
			2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	At 1 January Deferred tax credit/(charge) in profit and loss account		506 207	786 (280)
	At 31 December	-	713	506
13	value	2 and 2013 Number	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	Allotted and fully paid: Ordinary shares £1 each	680,277	680	680
14	Other reserves		•	2013 £ 000
	At 1 January and 31 December 2013		<del></del>	936,234
	Other reserves represent one-off gifts to the Company, m Anheuser Busch International Inc.	ade by way of c	apital contributions	by
15	Profit and loss account		2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
•	At 1 January Profit for the financial year		10,030 315	3,311 6,719
	At 31 December	-	10,345	10,030_

16	Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds	2013 £ 000	2012 £ 000
	At 1 January	946,944	940,225
	Profit for the financial year	315	6,719
	At 31 December	947,259	946,944

# 17 Directors emoluments

None of the Directors received remuneration from the Company (2012: nil). The Directors acting during the year were remunerated by other AB InBev group companies. The services to this Company and to a number of fellow subsidiaries are of a non-executive nature and their emoluments are deemed to be wholly attributable to their services to other group companies. Accordingly, no further emolument details are disclosed in this Company's financial statements.

### 18 Ultimate parent undertaking

The ultimate parent undertaking and the ultimate controlling party is Anheuser-Busch InBev NV/SA. The immediate parent undertaking is Anheuser-Busch International Inc, incorporated in the United States.

The largest and smallest group to consolidate these financial statements is Anheuser-Busch InBev NV/SA, incorporated in Belgium. The consolidated financial statements are available to the public and may be obtained from Anheuser-Busch InBev NV/SA, Grand' Place 1, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

## 19 Pension scheme

At the year end, the Company has no outstanding liabilities to the defined contribution scheme (2012: £nil).