# **Absolute Taste Limited**

Directors' report and financial statements Registered number 03308362 31 December 2009



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Absolute Taste Limited Company registered number 02322992 Directors' report and financial statements 31 December 2009

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# Officers and professional advisers

Directors

R Dennis M Edgecombe A Myers

LJ Redding
GA Kennerley (appointed 02/12/2009)

Secretary

T Murnane

Registered office

McLaren Technology Centre Chertsey Road

Woking Surrey GU21 4YH

Auditors

KPMG LLP 1 Forest Gate Brighton Road Crawley RH11 9PT

Absolute Taste Limited
Company Registration Number 03308362
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## Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2009.

#### Registered number

The company's registered number is 03308362.

### Principal activity

The company's principal activity is providing hospitality services at sporting and social events and on site catering.

#### Recults

The loss on ordinary activities for the year after taxation amounted to £134,586 (2008 profit £110,441).

#### Business review and future prospects

Year on year sales have declined from £10 lm in 2008 to £9 5m in 2009 (6 1%) due to difficult trading conditions particularly in the Event and Inflight catering businesses. In response to the reduced income, a number of cost reduction measures were introduced through the year including a significant number of redundancies.

Pre-tax losses were £150,517 (2008 profit £159,080)

In November, a five year contract was secured for the provision of catering services at Mercedes Benz World and the focus for 2010 will be to successfully integrate this contract into the existing business portfolio whilst continuing to maximise revenues from existing operations and exploit further business development opportunities both in the UK and overseas.

#### Dividends

The directors do not propose a dividend for the year ended 31 December 2009 (2008 £nil).

#### Directors

The directors who served during the year are as reported on page 1. The directors served throughout the year unless otherwise stated.

#### Disclosure of information

The directors who held office at the date of approval of this directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director to make himself / herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

#### Auditors

In accordance with Section 485 & 489 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the board

T Murnane Secretary

20 September 2010

# Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Directors' Report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the 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 they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 judgments and 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; and
- 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 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 Absolute Taste Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Absolute Taste Limited for the year ended 31 December 2009 set out on pages 5 to 14. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. 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 not 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 and auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement 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 the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the APB's web-site at www.frc.org.uk/apb/scope/UKNP

#### Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- 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; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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T.M. Widdas (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

1 Forest Gate
Brighton Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH11 9PT

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# Profit and loss account

for the year ended 31 December 2009	Note	2009 £000	2008 £000 Restated
Turnover		9,503	10,124
Cost of sales		(4,333)	(5,114)
Gross profit		5,170	5,010
Administrative expenses		(5,305)	(4,855)
Operating (loss) / profit		(135)	155
Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges	3 4	(16)	9 (5)
(Loss) / profit on ordinary activities before taxation	5	(151)	159
Tax on (loss) / profit on ordinary activities	6	16	(49)
(Loss) / profit for the financial year		(135)	110

In both the current year and preceding year, the company made no material acquisitions and had no discontinued operations.

There were no recognised gains or losses in either the current or preceding year other than those disclosed in the profit and loss account, and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

There is no material difference between the result reported in the profit and loss account and the result on an unmodified historical cost basis.

# Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2009	Note	£000	2009 £000	£000	2008 £000
Fixed assets Tangible assets	7	2000	367	4000	415
Current assets Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	8 9	370 1,017 64		367 1,059 9	
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	11	1,451 (1,354)		1,435 (1 253)	
Net current assets			97		182
Total assets less current habilities			464		597
Provisions for liabilities and charges	12		(2)		-
Net assets			462		597
Capital and reserves Called up share capital	13 15		1 20		] 20
Capital redemption reserve Profit and loss account	15		441		576
Equity	16		462		597

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 20 September 2010 and were signed on their behalf by:

R Dennis Director

Absolute Taste Limited
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#### **Notes**

(Forming part of the financial statements)

#### Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, and under the historical cost accounting rules. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below, and have been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding period.

The basis for the allocation of operating expenses between cost of sales and administrative expenses has been changed and the comparative amounts have been restated accordingly. The change in allocation has resulted in £3,223,000 of expenses being reallocated from cost of sales to administration expenses in 2008. There has been no change to the profit or total equity reported in 2008. The directors feel that this presentation better reflects the activities of the company.

#### Turnover

Turnover represents the invoiced value of goods sold and services provided in the year, exclusive of value added tax.

## Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets at the following rates:

Leasehold premises and improvements

· written off over the life of the lease

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment

- 20% of reducing balance - 20% of reducing balance

Plant, machinery, tools and equipment Motor vehicles

- 25% of reducing balance

No depreciation is provided until the assets are brought into use.

#### Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of invoiced cost and net realisable value.

#### Taxation

Current taxation, including UK corporation tax and foreign tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation at the balance sheet date to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and law. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

#### Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions are translated into sterling at the rates ruling at the beginning of the month in which the transactions took place, unless matching forward foreign exchange contracts have been entered into. Foreign currency assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the period-end rates. All foreign currency differences are dealt with through the profit and loss account.

Derivative instruments utilised by the company are forward exchange contracts. The company does not enter into speculative derivative contracts. All such instruments are used for hedging purposes to alter the risk profile of an existing underlying exposure of the company in line with the company's risk management policies.

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Leases

Assets held under finance leases are initially reported at the fair value of the asset with equivalent liability categorised as appropriate under creditors due within or after one year. The assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful economic lives. Finance charges are allocated to accounting periods over the period of the lease to produce a constant rate of charge on the outstanding balance. Rentals are apportioned between finance charges and reduction of the liability, and allocated to cost of sales and other operating expenses as appropriate. Hire purchase transactions are dealt with similarly except that assets are depreciated over their useful economic lives.

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term,

#### **Pensions**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and also pays contributions to personal pension schemes of certain employees. The amounts payable to these schemes during the period are charged to the profit and loss account.

#### Cash flow statement

Under FRS 1 (revised), the company is exempt from producing a cash flow statement as it is a subsidiary of a United Kingdom company which prepares a cash flow statement.

#### 2 Information regarding directors and employees

	2009	2008
	£000	£000
Directors' emoluments:		
Emoluments (excluding pension contributions)	130	91
Highest paid director's emoluments	170	183
		<del></del>
Aggregate of emoluments (excluding pension contributions)	300	274
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Pension contributions	7	7
1 Chiston Conditions	•	•
	<del></del>	***************************************
	Number	Number
	(Aumber	
Number of directors who are members of a defined contribution scheme	t	1
	<del></del>	

R Dennis and A Myers are also directors of the holding company and their remuneration for services to the group has been borne by the holding company. The share of the total emoluments of these directors allocated in respect of services to this company is £54,239 (2008 £52,853).

2	Information reg	arding directors and employees (continued)		
			2009 £000	2008 £000
Employee.	s costs during the p	eriod (including directors):	2000	2000
Wages and	d salaries		4,073	3,577
	curity costs		397	362
Other pen	sion costs		34	28
			4,504	3,967
			Number	Number
Average n	umber of persons e	mployed	183	161
				<del></del>
3	Interest receivab	ole and similar income		
			2009	2008
			£000	£000
	rest receivable		-	3
Net excha	nge gain		<del>-</del>	6
			-	9
			-	
4	Interest payable	and similar charges		
			2009	2008
			€000	£000
On group	company loan nce charges		9	6 (1)
Net excha			7	-
			16	5
				<del>, ,</del>
5	(Loss)/profit on c	ordinary activities before taxation		
			2009	2008
/I V:			£000	£000
(Loss)/proj Depreciati		vities before taxation is stated after charging:	95	72
	lease rentals	- plant and machinery	157	157
- L		- other	50	56
Auditors'	remuneration	- audit of these financial statements	14	7
		- other services relating to taxation	1	4

In the opinion of the directors the company operates one class of business, as disclosed in the directors' report, which is all based in the United Kingdom.

6	Tax on	(loss)/profit -	on ordinary	activities
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· /·	2009 £000	2008 £000
United Kingdom corporation tax at 28% (2008 28 5%) Adjustments in respect of prior years	(42)	45
Total current tax	(42)	45
Deferred taxation: Origination and reversal of timing differences Adjustments in respect of prior years	16 10	2 2
	(16)	49

## Factors affecting tax charge for the current year

The current tax charge for the year is equal to (2008 equal to) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 28% (2008 28 5%). The differences are explained below:

28% (2008 28 5%). The differences are explained below.	2009 £000	2008 £000
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(151)	159
Tax at 28% (2008 28 5%)	42	(45)
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	5 (5)	
Total actual amount of current tax	42	(45)

## 7 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold premises and improvements £000	Asset in the course of construction £000	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £000	Plant and machinery, tools and equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost:				722	no	1.613
At I January 2009	494	69	130	722	98	1,513
Additions	44	17	19	63	•	143
Disposals	•	(69)	•	(27)		(96)
At 31 December 2009	538	17	149	758	98	1,560
Accumulated deprectation:	<del></del>			<del></del>		
At 1 January 2009	364	-	85	566	83	1,098
Charge for the year	42	•	12	37	4	95
		<del></del>				
At 31 December 2009	406	•	97	603	87	1,193
Net book value:						
At 31 December 2009	132	17	52	155	11	367
	<del></del>					<del></del>
At 31 December 2008	130	69	45	156	15	415
					-	

Included in plant and machinery above are assets held under finance leases with net book values of £2,985 (2008:£3,731). During the year £746 (2008:£933) of depreciation was charged.

#### 8 Stocks

	2009 £000	2008 £000
Raw materials and consumables	370	367
	370	367

There is no material difference between the balance sheet value of stocks and their replacement cost.

9	Debtors		
•		2009	2008
		£000	£000
Trade d		544	352
	its owed by related parties	269 7	484
Other d	letiors and tax assets (note 10)	•	24
	on and social security	89	•
	ments and accrued income	108	199
		1,017	1,059
		<del></del>	
10	Deferred tax (liability) /asset		
		2009	2008
		£000	000£
Deferre	ed tax:		
	nuary 2009	24	27
Charge	d during the year	(26)	(3)
At 31 I	December 2009	(2)	24
		0002	0003
The De	ferred tax hability / asset consists of:		
	Allowances in excess of depreciation	(4)	23
Short-to	erm timing differences	2	<u> </u>
At 31 I	December 2009	(2)	24
il	Creditors; amounts falling due within one year		
			8000
		2009 £000	2008 £000
		2,000	2000
Trade o	creditors	712	517
Amoun	nts owed to related parties	196	303
Taxatio	on and social security	260	245
	creditors als and deferred income	11 175	20 168
, 1001 44			
		1,354	1,253

The bank loans and overdrafts are secured by a group debenture held by McLaren Group Limited and its subsidiary undertakings.

12 Provisions for liabilities and charges:		
	2009 £000	2008 £000
Deferred tax hability (note 10)	2	
13 Called up share capital		
	2009 £000	2008 £000
Authorised: 1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each 30,000 ml % redeemable preference shares of £1 each	1 30	1 30
	31	31
Called up, allotted and fully paid: 1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	1	ı

## 14 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2009 the company was committed to make the following payments during the next year in respect of operating leases:

of operating leases;	31 December 2009		31 December 2008	
	Land and buildings £000	Other £000	Land and buildings £000	Other
				£000
Leases which expire:				
Within one year	3	-	3	25
Within two to five years	154	50	154	24
			<del></del>	

## 15 Reserves

	Capital Redemption Reserve £000	Profit and loss account £000
At 1 January 2009	20	576
Loss for the year	•	(135)
	<del></del>	<del></del>
At 31 December 2009	20	441
		<u> </u>

## 16 Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' funds

	2009	2008
	0003	£000
(Loss) / profit for the year	(135)	110
Dividends	•	•
	<del></del>	
Net change in shareholders' funds	(135)	110
Opening shareholders' funds	597	487
Closing shareholders' funds	462	597

#### 17 Related party transactions

Transactions with related companies during the period were as follows: Balance Year ended Balance Year ended 31 December Outstanding at outstanding at 31 December 31 December 2008 31 December 2009 2009 2008 £000 £000 £000 £000 Sales at normal trade prices to: 20 36 317 TAG Group (Holdings) SA 365 415 McLaren Group Limited and its subsidiaries 3,465 3,775 252 Daimler UK Retail Ltd 85 73 6 Daımler AG Daimler Aviation GmBH 4 54 67 (3) Greyscape Limited 403 23 23 Ron Dennis 5 M Ojjeh 1 J Neale Purchases at normal trade prices from: 302 46 l 562 196 McLaren Group Limited and its subsidiaries 10 1 Daimler AG & related companies 28 TAG Group (Holdings) SA l 1

#### 18 Ultimate parent company

In the opinion of the directors, the company's immediate parent is McLaren Racing Limited and its controlling entity is McLaren Group Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. This is also the parent undertaking of the largest and only group which includes the company and for which group financial statements are prepared.

Copies of the group financial statements of McLaren Group Limited are available from Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UZ.

Ownership of McLaren Group Limited at 31 December 2009 was as follows 42% Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (incorporated in Bahrain), 21% Mr R Dennis, 21% TAG Group (Holdings) SA (incorporated in Luxembourg) and 16% Daimler AG (incorporated in Germany).