BARCLAY & MATHIESON LIMITED (Registered Number SC30987)

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 AUGUST 1997





DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors submit their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company and the group for the year ended 31 August 1997.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The company and the group trade principally as steel stockholders and fabricators.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The profit for the year, after taxation of the group amounted to £431,807 (1996: £452,551).

During the year no interim ordinary dividend was paid (1996 - £50,000). The directors do not propose a final dividend for the year (1996 - £131,250). The profit for the financial year of £431,807 (1996 - £271,301) has been transferred to reserves.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

A list of the directors who served throughout the year is given below together with their interests (including those of their spouses and interests held in family trusts) in the share capital of the company.

	31 August <u>1997</u> Number	31 August 1996 Number
Mr P P Bradburn	355	150
Mrs A E Dykes (Chairperson)	100	100
Mr J Walker	4,825	4,825

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Information relating to changes in tangible fixed assets is given in note 9 to the financial statements.

The directors are of the opinion that the market value of the land and buildings of the group is in excess of the book value as reported in the financial statements.

PURCHASE OF OWN SHARES

During the year the company purchased and subsequently cancelled 3,900 of its own £1 ordinary shares (31% of original called up share capital). The consideration paid by the company for these shares was £1,482,000. The share buyback enabled the shareholders involved to realise their investment.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company and group 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 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 group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Price Waterhouse, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. A resolution that they be re-appointed will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By Order of the Board

P P BRADBURN

Secretary 18 November 1997

Registered office: 180 Hardgate Road Glasgow G51 4TB

Telephone: 0141-226 4593 Telex: 884657 PRIWAT G Facsimile: 0141-221 6970

Price Waterhouse



AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF BARCLAY & MATHIESON LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 20 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 8 and 9.

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 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 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 and the group as at 31 August 1997 and of the profit and cash flows of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

PRICE WATERHOUSE Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

uce Waterhouse

18 November 1997

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997

Not	es		1997	<u></u>	1996
		£	£	£	£
TURNOVER	2		14,364,505		14,318,031
Cost of sales			(11,246,453)		(11,527,962)
GROSS PROFIT			3,118,052		2,790,069
Distribution costs Administrative expenses		(1,028,697) (1,274,465)		(1,040,689) (<u>1,010,259</u>)	
			(2,303,162)		_(2,050,948)
OPERATING PROFIT			814,890		739,121
Interest receivable Interest payable	5		3,443 (220,317)		1,009 <u>(79,730</u>)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	6		598,016		660,400
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	7		(166,209)		(207,849)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION			431,807		452,551
Dividends	8				<u>(181,250</u>)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	18		431,807	·	<u>271,301</u>

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

There were no gains or losses other than the profit shown above for each of the financial years, as reported under the historical cost convention.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 1997

	<u>Notes</u>		1997		1996
	11010.0	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9		1,927,706		1,998,356
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	1,830,218		1,935,309	
Debtors	12	4,602,683		3,260,502	
Investments	13	8,050		6,720	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>8,960</u>		92,978	
		6,449,911		5,295,509	
CREDITORS - Amounts				(0.145.400)	
falling due within one year	14	(<u>4,187,031</u>)		(<u>3,445,402</u>)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,262,880		<u>1,850,107</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			4,190,586		3,848,463
CREDITORS - Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(1,425,591)		(30,100)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	S 16		(112,940)		<u>(116,115</u>)
NET ASSETS			<u>2,652,055</u>		<u>3,702,248</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	17		8,600		12,500
Capital redemption reserve	18		21,400		17,500
Profit and loss account	18		2,622,055		3,672,248
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	19		<u>2,652,055</u>		3,702,248

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 1997

	Notes		1997		1996
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9		1,877,692		1,957,988
Investments	10		55,142		100
			1,932,834		1,958,088
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	1,678,220		1,885,883	
Debtors	12	4,494,019		3,099,840	
Investments	13	8,050		6,720	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,917		9,298	
		6,189,206		5,001,741	
CREDITORS - Amounts falling		(4.074.004)		(2.200.426)	
due within one year	14	(<u>4,071,894</u>)		(<u>3,298,126</u>)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>2,117,312</u>		1,703,615
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRE	NT		4.050.440		3,661,703
LIABILITIES			4,050,146		3,001,703
CREDITORS - Amounts falling	due				
after more than one year	15		(1,400,000)		-
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	S				
AND CHARGES	16		(112,940)		<u>(116.115</u>)
NET ASSETS			<u>2,537,206</u>		<u>3,545,588</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					40 500
Called up share capital	17		8,600		12,500
Capital redemption reserve			21,400		17,500 <u>3,515,588</u>
Profit and loss account	18		<u>2,507,206</u>		<u>3'3 13'500</u>
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	19		<u>2,537,206</u>		<u>3,545,588</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON 18 November 1997

√ Walker DIRECTOR

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997

	<u>Notes</u>		1997		1996
	<u>.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>	£	£	£	£
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	20(a)		1,197,215		1,156,903
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE Interest received Interest paid		3,443 _(220,317)		1,009 _(79,730)	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE			(216,874)		(78,721)
TAXATION Tax paid			(547,621)		(239,128)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT Sale of tangible fixed assets Sale of current asset investments Loan to employee benefit trust Purchase of tangible fixed assets		22,000 - (898,010) _(186,380)		21,501 3,382 - (<u>273,118</u>)	
			(1,062,390)		(248,235)
EQUITY DIVIDENDS PAID			<u>(62,500</u>)		(168,750)
NET CASH INFLOW/OUTFLOW BEFORE FINANCING			(692,170)		422,069
FINANCING					
Term loan advanced Term loan repaid Purchase of own share capital		2,000,000 (204,868) (1,482,000)		(4,400)	
			313,132		(4,400)
MOVEMENT IN CASH	20 (b)		(<u>379,038</u>)		<u>417,669</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the net assets and results of the company and its subsidiary undertakings based on the financial statements as at 31 August 1997.

In accordance with Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985, a separate profit and loss account for Barclay & Mathieson Limited is not presented, as the results of this company are included in the consolidated profit and loss account.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less estimated residual values of tangible fixed assets, other than land, on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

Buildings - 2.5%
Vehicles, plant and machinery - 10% - 25%
Fixtures and fittings - 10% - 25%

Investments

Investments are stated at cost, less any provision necessary for diminution in value.

Stocks

Stocks of steel and raw materials are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes transport inwards and handling charges.

Work-in-progress is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises the cost of direct material and labour with an appropriate addition for production overheads.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation, on timing differences between profits computed for taxation purposes and profits as stated in the financial statements, is provided only where there is reasonable evidence that it will become payable within the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Pension costs

The costs of pension schemes providing benefits based on final pensionable pay are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions evenly over employees' remaining working lives with the group.

2 TURNOVER

Turnover, all of which is continuing, represents the aggregate amount receivable in respect of goods sold, excluding value added tax, and arises wholly in the United Kingdom.

3 STAFF COSTS

	1997 Number	1996 Number
Average number of employees, including directors	<u>105</u>	<u>103</u>
Staff costs, including directors' emoluments, amounted to:	£	£
Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs (Note 21)	1,712,918 139,048 <u>167,054</u>	1,506,410 124,562 119,871
	<u>2.019.020</u>	<u>1.750.843</u>

4 DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

Directors' emoluments, excluding pension contributions, amounted to £139,167 (1996 - £118,539).

The Chairperson did not receive any emoluments in respect of her services to the company during the year.

Company contributions paid to money purchase pension schemes in the year were £23,001 (1996 - £19,501).

Retirement benefits are accruing to two directors under defined contribution (money purchase) schemes, and to one director under a defined benefit scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

5 INTEREST PAYABLE

•			
		<u>1997</u> £	<u>1996</u> £
	Interest on bank loans and overdrafts	<u>220.317</u>	<u>79,730</u>
6	PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		
	Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/(credition)	ng):	
		<u>1997</u> £	<u>1996</u> £
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	250,027	248,618
	Auditors' remuneration in respect of the audit of the company's statutory financial statements	15,200	17,150
	Auditors' remuneration in respect of the audit of the group's statutory financial statements (Gain)/loss on sale of tangible fixed assets Gain on sale of current asset investments	18,050 (14,997)	19,900 1,319 (237)
	Compensation award, net of costs Contribution to employee benefit trust	(<u>93.000</u>)	(37,432) —— -
	Fees paid to the auditors in respect of other services provided amounted	to £50,525 (199	6 - £21,202).
7	TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
		<u>1997</u> £	<u>1996</u> £
	Based on the profits for the year:		
	Corporation tax at 31.1% (1996 - 32.6%) Transfer from deferred taxation (Note 16)	198,574 <u>(9,800)</u>	218,045 <u>(8.000</u>)
		188,774	210,045
	Adjustments in respect of previous years:		
	Transfer from deferred taxation (Note 16) Overprovision for corporation tax	(9,000) <u>(13,565</u>)	<u>(2,196</u>)
		(22,565)	<u>(2,196</u>)
		<u>166,209</u>	<u>207.849</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

8 DIVIDENDS

				<u>1997</u> £	<u>1996</u> £
	Interim dividend paid of £nil per share (1996 - £4.00 per share)			-	50,000
	Final dividend proposed of £nil per share (1996 - £10.50 per share)				131,250
					<u>181,250</u>
9	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
		Land and buildings	Vehicles, plant and <u>machinery</u> £	Fixtures and <u>fittings</u> £	Total £
	Group				
	COST At 1 September 1996 Additions Disposals	1,904,792	1,251,427 174,603 (126,217)	186,202 11,777 ————————————————————————————————	3,342,421 186,380 (126,217) 3,402,584
	At 31 August 1997	<u>1.904.792</u>	<u>1,299,813</u>	<u>197,979</u>	<u>3,402,004</u>
	DEPRECIATION At 1 September 1996 Charge for the year On disposals	362,031 43,319	846,227 176,840 (119,214)	135,807 29,868	1,344,065 250,027 <u>(119,214</u>)
	At 31 August 1997	405.350	903,853	<u>165,675</u>	<u>1,474,878</u>
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31 August 1997	<u>1,499,442</u>	<u>395,960</u>	<u>32,304</u>	<u>1,927,706</u>
	At 31 August 1996	<u>1,542,761</u>	405,200	<u>50,395</u>	<u>1,998,356</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (Continued)

10

Land and buildings	Vehicles, plant and <u>machinery</u> £	Fixtures and <u>fittings</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
1,904,792	1,132,760 149,477 <u>(115,237</u>)	183,433 9,701	3,220,985 159,178 <u>(115,237)</u>
<u>1.904,792</u>	<u>1,167,000</u>	<u>193,134</u>	<u>3.264.926</u>
362,031 43,319	767,927 162,444 (<u>110.979</u>)	133,039 29,453	1,262,997 235,216 <u>(110,979</u>)
<u>405,350</u>	<u>819,392</u>	<u>162,492</u>	<u>1.387,234</u>
<u>1,499,442</u>	<u>347,608</u>	<u>30,642</u>	<u>1,877,692</u>
<u>1,542,761</u>	<u>364,833</u>	<u>50,394</u>	<u>1,957,988</u>
		<u>1997</u> £	<u>1996</u> £
s		1,100 <u>1,355,506</u>	1,100 <u>1,300,464</u>
		1,356,606 (<u>1,301,464</u>)	1,301,564 (<u>1,301,464</u>)
		55,142	100
	buildings £ 1,904,792 1,904,792 362,031 43,319 405,350	Land and buildings machinery £ 1,904,792 1,132,760 149,477 (115,237) 1.904,792 1,167,000 362,031 43,319 162,444 (110,979) 405,350 819,392 1,499,442 347,608 1,542,761 364,833	Land and buildings machinery £ £ £ 1,904,792 1,132,760 183,433 149,477 9,701 (115,237) 1,904,792 1,167,000 193,134 362,031 767,927 133,039 43,319 162,444 29,453 (110,979) 405,350 819,392 162,492 1,499,442 347,608 30,642 1,542,761 364,833 50,394 1,100 1,355,506 1,356,606 (1,301,464)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

10 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (Continued)

The company's subsidiary undertakings, which are both wholly owned and operating within the United Kingdom, are:

Class of Shares held Nature of business

Clydeside Steel Fabrications Limited Ordinary Steel fabricator

B & M Steel Limited Ordinary Dormant

Amounts due to the company from its subsidiary undertakings are subordinated to the rights of all other creditors of these subsidiary undertakings.

11 STOCKS

	<u>1997</u> £	Group 1996 £	1997 £	<u>Company</u> 1996 £
Raw materials Work-in-progress Stocks of steel	8,970 143,028 <u>1,678,220</u>	9,849 39,577 <u>1,885,883</u>	- - 1,678,220	- - <u>1,885,883</u>
	<u>1,830,218</u>	<u>1.935,309</u>	1,678,220	<u>1,885,883</u>

In the opinion of the directors the replacement cost of stock is not materially different from purchase price or production cost.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

12 DEBTORS

	1997 £	Group 1996 £	<u>1997</u> £	Company 1996 £
Debtors - amounts falling due within one year				
Trade debtors ACT recoverable	3,211,871 279,678	3,072,430	3,103,207 279,678	2,913,220
Other debtors, prepayments and accrued income Loan to employee benefit trust	213,124 178,010	188,072	213,124 178,010	186,620
	3,882,683	3,260,502	3,774,019	3,099,840
Debtors - amounts falling due after more than one year				
Loan to employee benefit trust	720.000		720,000	·
	4,602,683	3.260,502	<u>4,494,019</u>	<u>3.099,840</u>

The loan to the employee benefit trust is an interest free loan, repayable on demand, to the Ranfurly Trust which holds Barclay & Mathieson shares.

The purpose of establishing the Trust is to improve the motivation, loyalty and performance of the employees of the Company.

The potential beneficiaries of the Trust include all employees and directors of the Company, and their spouses, children and grandchildren.

Application of the Trust Fund is entirely at the discretion of the trustees of the fund.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS 13

14

Corporation tax

CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS				
			Group and	d Company
				£
All investments are in UK listed companies.				
COST At 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997				<u>15,111</u>
PROVISION FOR DIMINUTION IN VALUE				8,391
At 1 September 1996				(<u>1,330</u>)
Decrease in provision				(<u>1,000</u>)
At 31 August 1997				<u>7,061</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				0.050
At 31 August 1997				<u>8,050</u>
At 31 August 1996				<u>6,720</u>
CREDITORS - Amounts falling due with	in one year			
		Group		Company
	1997	1996	1997	<u>1996</u>
	£	£	£	£
	4 402 500	1,108,568	1,373,790	1,108,568
Bank overdrafts	1,403,588 405,140	5,500	400,000	-
Current instalments due on bank loan	1,743,253	1,550,369	1,738,334	1,473,751
Trade creditors	266,281	228,659	247,592	212,122
Other taxation and social security	189,866	212,344	161,275	171,723
Other creditors Dividend payable	68,750	131,250	68,750	131,250
Corporation tax	<u>110.153</u>	208,712	<u>82.153</u>	200,712

The bank overdrafts and loans are secured by a bond and floating charge over the assets of Barclay & Mathieson Limited and Clydeside Steel Fabrications Limited. In addition, the parent company guarantees the overdraft of Clydeside Steel Fabrications Limited to the extent of £150,000.

<u>4 187 031</u>

3,445,402

3,298,126

4.071,894

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

15 CREDITORS - Amounts falling due after more than one year

	1997 £	<u>Group</u> <u>1996</u> £	1997 £	Company 1996 £
Bank loans				
Due within one to two years Due within two to five years Due after five years	405,350 1,020,241	5,140 24,960	400,000 1,000,000	-
	<u>1,425,591</u>	30,100	<u>1,400,000</u>	

The amounts falling due after more than one year relate to:

- Bank loan repayable in equal monthly instalments of interest and capital over seven years from September 1995 of £25,591 (1996 - £30,100).
- Bank loan repayable in equal quarterly instalments of capital over five years from November 1996 of £1,400,000 (1996 - nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

16 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	1997 Group and Company £
Movements on the deferred tax account	
during the year were as follows:	
At 1 September 1996	116,115
Transfer to profit and loss account: Current year (Note 7) Prior years (Note 7) Transfer to ACT recoverable	(9,800) (9,000) <u>15,625</u>
At 31 August 1997	<u>112,940</u>
The provision for deferred taxation at 31 August 1997	
may be analysed as follows: Accelerated capital allowances	100,300
Other timing differences	_30,000
	130,300
Less: Advance corporation tax	(17,360)
	<u>112,940</u>

This represents the estimated total potential liability to deferred taxation, using a corporation tax rate of 31% (1996 - 33%).

17 CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

			Alic	tted, called	
		Authorised		up and fully paid	
	1997	1996	1997	<u>1996</u>	
	£	£	£	£	
Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>200,000</u>	200,000	<u>8,600</u>	<u>12,500</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

18 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	<u>Group</u> £	Company £
At 1 September 1996 Retained profit for the financial year	3,672,248 431,807	3,515,588 473,618
Purchase and cancellation of 3,900 ordinary shares of £1 each	(1,482,000)	(1.482,000)
At 31 August 1997	<u>2,622,055</u>	<u>2,507,206</u>

The purchase and cancellation of 3,900 ordinary shares relates to the share buyback that took place on 25 November 1996.

The movement in the capital redemption reserve of £3,900 relates to this reduction in share capital of 3,900 £1 ordinary shares.

19 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

		Group	Company		
	1997	1996	1997	<u>1996</u>	
	£	£	£	£	
Profit attributable to shareholders Dividends Purchase and cancellation of ordinary shares	431,807	452,551	473,618	430,280	
	· -	(181,250)	-	(181,250)	
	(1.482,000)		(<u>1,482,000</u>)	=	
Net (decrease)/increase in shareholders' funds Shareholders' funds at 1 September 1996	(1,050,193) 3,702,248	271,301 <u>3,430,947</u>	(1,008,382) 3,545,588	249,030 3,296,558	
Shareholders' funds at 31 August 1997	<u>2,652,055</u>	<u>3,702,248</u>	2,537,206	<u>3,545,588</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

20 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Net cash inflow from operating activities

(b)

			<u>1997</u> £	<u>1996</u> £	
Reconciliation of the operating profit to net of inflow from operating activities:	cash				
Operating profit Depreciation (Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed tangible as: Profit on disposal of current asset investme (Decrease)/increase in provision against cu Decrease in stocks (Increase)/decrease in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors	nts	estments	814,890 250,027 (14,997) - (1,330) 105,091 (164,493) 208,027	739,121 248,618 1,319 (237) 2,118 42,679 305,423 (182,138)	
Net cash inflow from operating activities			<u>1,197,215</u>	<u>1,156,903</u>	
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt					
		1997		1996	
	£	£	£	£	
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the period Cash inflow from increase in debt Repayment of loan	(379,038) (2,000,000) <u>204,868</u>		417,669 - <u>4,400</u>		
Change in net debt Net debt at 1 September		(2,174,170) (<u>1,051,190</u>)		422,069 (<u>1.473,259</u>)	
Net debt at 31 August		(<u>3,225,360</u>)		<u>(1,051,190</u>)	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1997 (CONTINUED)

20 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

(c) Analysis of change in net debt

	At 1 September 1996 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 1997 £
Cash in hand, at bank Overdraft	92,978 <u>(1,108,568)</u>	(84,018) <u>(295,020)</u>	8,960 <u>(1,403,588)</u>
	(1,015,590)	(379,038)	(1,394,628)
Debt due within one year Debt due after one year	(5,500) <u>(30,100)</u>	(399,640) (<u>1,395,492</u>)	(405,140) (<u>1,425,592</u>)
	(<u>1,051,190</u>)	(<u>2,174,170</u>)	(<u>3,225,360</u>)

21 PENSION SCHEMES

The group operates two pension schemes, the No1 scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay and the No 2 scheme, a money purchase scheme. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the group, being invested by professional investment managers.

The contributions to the No1 scheme are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the attained age method. The principal assumptions adopted are an interest rate of 9%, salary growth rate of 7% and a dividend growth rate of 4%.

The most recent valuation was completed at 1 September 1995 and showed the market value of the scheme's assets was £1,037,000 and that the actuarial value of those assets represented 103% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

The total pension charge for the year for both schemes was £167,054 (1996 - £119,871). At 31 August 1997 there are amounts recorded in other debtors representing payment of contributions in advance of £150,714 (1996 - £115,875).

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