BARCLAY & MATHIESON LIMITED (Registered Number SC30987)

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 AUGUST 1998





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 1998.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS REVIEW

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

During the year the company acquired the entire issued share capital of Tatham Miller Limited, a steel stockholding company registered in England and Wales.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The profit for the year, after taxation of the group amounted to £182,548 (1997: £431,807).

The directors do not propose a final dividend for the year (1997 - nil). The profit for the financial year of £182,548 (1997 - £431,807) 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 1998 Number	31 August 1997 Number
Mr P P Bradburn	355	355
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 8 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.

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

PricewaterhouseCoopers have indicated their willingness to continue in office as auditors. A resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

P P BRADBURN Secretary

24 November 1998

Registered office: 180 Hardgate Road Glasgow G51 4TB



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AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF **BARCLAY & MATHIESON LIMITED**

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 21 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 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 1998 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.

u un atubeur lossas **PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS**

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 24 November 1998

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998

FOR THE YEAR ENDED	31 AUGUS	1 1990	1000		<u> 1997</u>
	<u>Notes</u>	£	<u>1998</u> £	£	£
	2	-	17,929,899		14,364,505
TURNOVER		٢	14,001,253		14,364,505
Continuing operations Acquisitions		Ĺ	3,928,646 (14,020,273)		(11,246,453)
Cost of sales	2		3,909,626		3,118,052
GROSS PROFIT		(4 544 207)	·	(1,028,697)	
Distribution costs Administrative expenses	2 2	(1,514,207) (1,816,461)	(3,330,668)	(1,274,465)	(2,303,162)
			578,958		814,890
OPERATING PROFIT			457,200		814,890
Continuing operations Acquisitions			121,758 3,633		3,443 (22 <u>0,317</u>)
Interest receivable Interest payable	6		(309,549)		(220,311)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	3		273,042		598,016
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	7		(90,494	.)	<u>(166,209</u>)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR			182,548	3	431,807
Dividends				-	
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	1	7	182,54		431,807
LINANCIAL 1-111			CAINE AND L	OSSES	

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.

RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	1998 £	<u>Group</u> 1997 £	1998 £	Company 1997 £
Profit attributable to shareholders Purchase and cancellation of ordinary	182,548	431,807	97,587	473,618
shares		(1,482,000)	<u>-</u>	(1,482,000)
Net increase/(decrease) in shareholders' funds Shareholders' funds at 1 September 1997	182,548 2,652,055	(1,050,193) 3,702,248	97,587 2,537,206	(1,008,382) 3,545,588
Shareholders' funds at 31 August 1998	<u>2,834,603</u>	<u>2,652,055</u>	2,634,793	2,537,206

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 1998

	Notes		1998		1997
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	8		3,015,369		1,927,706
CURRENT ASSETS Stocks Debtors Investments Cash at bank and in hand	10 11 12	2,767,821 6,198,481 7,126 10,960		1,830,218 4,602,683 8,050 8,960	
		8,984,388		6,449,911	
CREDITORS – Amounts falling due within one year	13	(6,440,888)		(4,187,031)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,543,500		2,262,880
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			5,558,869		4,190,586
CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(2,595,217)		(1,425,591)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	15		(129,049)		(112,940)
NET ASSETS			2,834,603		2,652,055
CAPITAL AND RESERVES Called up share capital Capital redemption reserve Profit and loss account	16 17		8,600 21,400 <u>2,804,603</u>		8,600 21,400 <u>2,622,055</u>
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			2,834,603		2,652,055

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 1998

	Notes		1 <u>998</u> _		1997
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets Investments	8 9		2,034,237 1,830,951 3,865,188		1,877,692 55,142 1,932,834
CURRENT ASSETS Stocks Debtors Investments Cash at bank and in hand	10 11 12	1,472,206 3,662,182 7,126 9,263 5,150,777		1,678,220 4,494,019 8,050 8,917 6,189,206	
CREDITORS – Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,688,632)		(4,071,894)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,462,145		2,117,312
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			5,327,333		4,050,146
CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(2,575,000)		(1,400,000)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	15		<u>(117,540</u>)		(112,940)
NET ASSETS	÷		2,634,793		<u>2,537,206</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES Called up share capital Capital redemption reserve Profit and loss account	16 17		8,600 21,400 <u>2,604,793</u>		8,600 21,400 <u>2,507,206</u> <u>2,537,206</u>
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			2,634,793		2,00.,1203

APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON

24 November 1998

J Walker DIRECTOR

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998

	<u>Notes</u>		1998		1997
		£	£	£	£
CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	19(a)		769,511		1,197,215
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE Interest received Interest paid			3,633 <u>(309,549</u>)		3,443 (220,317)
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE			(305,916)		(216,874)
TAXATION Tax recovered/(paid)			110,717		(547,621)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT Sale of tangible fixed assets Loan to employee benefit trust Repayment of loan from employee benefit trust Purchase of tangible fixed assets		12,799 - 178,010 (415,404)	(224,595)	22,000 (898,010) - (186,380)	(1,062,390)
ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS Purchase of subsidiary undertaking Net overdrafts acquired with subsidiary	19(d) 19(d)	(1,759,692) <u>(383,673</u>)		<u>.</u>	
			(2,143,365)		-
EQUITY DIVIDENDS PAID			(34,400)		(62,500)
NET CASH OUTFLOW BEFORE FINANCING			(1,828,048)		(692,170)
FINANCING Term loan advanced Term loan repaid Purchase of own share capital		1,750,000 (405,125)	<u>1,344,875</u>	2,000,000 (204,868) (1,482,000)	<u>313,132</u>
DECREASE IN CASH IN THE YEAR	19(b)		<u>(483,173</u>)		(379,038)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

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 results of the company and its subsidiaries for the year.

Where subsidiary undertakings are acquired during the year the difference between the fair value attributed to the net assets acquired and the fair value of the consideration given is treated as goodwill which is capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over ten years.

The results of subsidiary undertakings acquired during the year are included in the group profit and loss account from the date of acquisition.

The exemption to omit the parent company's profit and loss account from the group's financial statements has been taken. The profit after tax of the parent company for the financial year was £97,587 (1997 - £473,618).

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 each asset, other than land, on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

Buildings - 2.5% Vehicles, plant and machinery - 5% - 25% Fixtures and fittings - 5% - 25%

Investments

Fixed asset investments and current asset 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 1998 (CONTINUED)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED) 1

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.

TURNOVER AND ANALYSIS OF PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2

- (a) 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 from the group's principal activity of steel stockholding and fabrication.
- (b) Cost of sales, distribution costs and administrative expenses comprise:

Cost of sales, distribution costs and a	MINIMAR ARTO STATE		1998	1997 Continuing
	Continuing operations	Acquisitions £	Total £	operations £
Cost of sales Distribution costs Administrative expenses	11,062,855 1,102,271 <u>1,378,927</u>	2,957,418 411,936 <u>437,534</u>	14,020,273 1,514,207 <u>1,816,461</u>	11,246,453 1,028,697 <u>1,274,465</u>

PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION 3

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after one	<u>1998</u> £	<u>1997</u> £
	302,579	250,027
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets Auditors' remuneration in respect of the audit of the group's statutory financial statements Operating lease rentals – hire of vehicles Gain on sale of tangible fixed assets Contribution to employee benefit trust	31,220 118,009 (11,916) <u>75,000</u>	18,050 - (14,997) <u>93,000</u>
Contribution to employee	tartuton, financial statem	nents

Auditors' remuneration in respect of the audit of the company's statutory financial statements amounted to £19,270 (1997 - £15,200).

Fees paid to the auditors in respect of other services provided amounted to £66,000 (1997 -£50,525).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

4 STAFF COSTS

	1998 Number	1997 Number
Average number of employees, including directors	<u>151</u>	<u>105</u>
Staff costs, including directors' emoluments, amounted to:	£	£
Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs (Note 20)	2,380,699 198,871 250,837	1,712,918 139,048 167,054
	<u>2,830,407</u>	<u>2,019,020</u>

5 DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

Directors' emoluments, excluding pension contributions, amounted to £144,600 (1997 - £139,167).

Company contributions paid to money purchase pension schemes in the year were £23,001 (1997 - £23,001).

Retirement benefits are accruing to two directors (1997 – two) under a defined contribution (money purchase) pension scheme and to one director (1997 – one) under a defined benefit scheme.

6 INTEREST PAYABLE

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		<u>1998</u> £	<u>1997</u> £
	Interest on bank loans and overdrafts	<u>309,549</u>	<u>220,317</u>
7	TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
	Based on the profits for the year:	<u>1998</u> £	<u>1997</u> £
-	Corporation tax at 31% (1997 - 31.1%) Transfer from deferred taxation (Note 15)	96,051 <u>(1,219</u>)	198,574 <u>(9,800</u>)
	Adjustments in respect of previous years:	94,832	188,774
	Transfer from deferred taxation (Note 15) Overprovision for corporation tax	(907) <u>(3,431</u>)	(9,000) <u>(13,565</u>)
		<u>(4,338</u>)	(22,565)
		<u>90,494</u>	<u>166,209</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Vehicles,		
	Land and	plant and	Fixtures	
	Buildings	machinery	and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Group				
COST				
At 1 September 1997	1,904,792	1,299,813	197,979	3,402,584
Purchase of subsidiary	635,000	720,895	219,841	1,575,736
Additions	178,000	132,066	105,338	415,404
Disposals	<u> </u>	(96,995)	<u>(35,859</u>)	<u>(132,854</u>)
At 31 August 1998	<u>2,717,792</u>	2,055,779	<u>487,299</u>	<u>5,260,870</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 September 1997	405,350	903,853	165,675	1,474,878
Purchase of subsidiary	4,000	475,696	120,319	600,015
Charge for the year	50,550	208,640	43,389	302,579
On disposals	_	<u>(96,452</u>)	<u>(35,519</u>)	<u>(131,971</u>)
At 31 August 1998	<u>459,900</u>	<u>1,491,737</u>	<u>293,864</u>	<u>2,245,501</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 1998	<u>2,257,892</u>	<u>564,042</u>	<u>193,435</u>	<u>3,015,369</u>
At 31 August 1997	<u>1,499,442</u>	395,960	32,304	<u>1,927,706</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Company	Land and buildings	Vehicles, plant and <u>machinery</u> £	Fixtures and fittings £	<u>Total</u> £
COST At 1 September 1997 Additions Disposals Group transfers	1,904,792 178,000	1,167,000 117,487 (49,509) (25,475)	193,134 105,338 (1,692)	3,264,926 400,825 (51,201) (25,475)
At 31 August 1998	<u>2,082,792</u>	<u>1,209,503</u>	<u>296,780</u>	<u>3,589,075</u>
DEPRECIATION At 1 September 1997 Charge for the year On disposals Group transfers	405,350 47,217 - - - 452,567	819,392 159,856 (49,506) (25,474)	162,492 36,863 (1,352) ————————————————————————————————————	1,387,234 243,936 (50,858) (25,474) 1,554,838
At 31 August 1998	<u> 452,501</u>	<u> </u>	1201020	
NET BOOK VALUE At 31 August 1998	1,630,225	305,235	98,777	<u>2,034,237</u>
At 31 August 1997	<u>1,499,442</u>	<u>347,608</u>	30,642	<u>1,877,692</u>

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments during the year were as follows:

Company	Investment in subsidiary undertaking £	Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking £	Total £
Cost At 1 September 1997 Additions	1,100 1,759,692	1,355,606 71,159	1,356,706 1,830,851
Repayment of balance by subsidiary undertaking		(55,042)	(55,042)
At 31 August 1998	<u>1,760,792</u>	<u>1,371,723</u>	<u>3,132,515</u>
Provisions At 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998	1,000	<u>1,300,564</u>	<u>1,301,564</u>
Net book value At 31 August 1998	<u>1,759,792</u>	<u>71,159</u>	<u>1,830,951</u>
At 31 August 1997	100	<u>55,042</u>	55,142

Additions in the year represent the acquisition of the whole of the issued share capital of Tatham Miller Limited on 9 April 1998 (Note 21).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

Kingdom, are:	Country of registration	Class of shares held	Nature of business
Clydeside Steel Fabrications Limited	Scotland	Ordinary	Steel fabricator
B & M Steel Limited	Scotland	Ordinary	Dormant
Tatham Miller Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	Steel stockholder
*Tatham Steels Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	Dormant
*Liverpool Steel Services Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	Dormant
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^{(*} Held indirectly through Tatham Miller Limited)

Tatham Miller Limited and its subsidiary undertakings were acquired during the year.

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

10 STOCKS

		Group		Company
	<u>1998</u> £	<u>1997</u> £	<u>1998</u> £	<u>1997</u> £
Raw materials Work-in-progress Stocks of steel	10,288 66,106 <u>2,691,427</u>	8,970 143,028 <u>1,678,220</u>	1,472,206	1,678,220
	<u>2,767,821</u>	<u>1,830,218</u>	<u>1,472,206</u>	<u>1,678,220</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 1998 (CONTINUED)

11 DEBTORS

		Group	 "	Company
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	1997 £
	£	£	£	L
Debtors – amounts falling due within one year				
Trade debtors	5,111,791	3,211,871	2,677,606	3,103,207
ACT recoverable	-	279,678	-	279,678
Other debtors, prepayments and accrued	366,690	213,124	264,576	213,124
income Loan to employee benefit trust	57,500	<u>178,010</u>	57,500	<u> 178,010</u>
	5,535,981	3,882,683	2,999,682	3,774,019
Debtors – amounts falling due after more than one year				
Loan to employee benefit trust	662,500	720,000	662,500	720,000
	<u>6,198,481</u>	<u>4,602,683</u>	<u>3,662,182</u>	<u>4,494,019</u>

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

The purpose of establishing the Trust Fund was to improve the motivation, loyalty and performance of the employees of the company.

The potential beneficiaries of the Trust Fund 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 1998 (CONTINUED)

12 CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Group and Company £
All investments are in UK listed companies.	
COST At 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998	<u>15,111</u>
PROVISION FOR DIMINUTION IN VALUE At 1 September 1997 Increase in provision	7,061 <u>924</u>
At 31 August 1998	<u>7,985</u>
NET BOOK VALUE At 31 August 1998	<u>7,126</u>
At 31 August 1997	<u>8,050</u>
and the second falling due within one year	

13 CREDITORS - Amounts falling due within one year

		Group		Company
	1998	1997	1998	<u> </u>
	£	£	£	£
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings	-	_	88,971	-
Bank overdrafts	1,888,761	1,403,588	966,057	1,373,790
Current instalments due on bank loan	580,390	405,140	575,000	400,000
Trade creditors	3,035,403	1,743,253	1,434,753	1,738,334
Other taxation and social security	383,489	266,281	269,286	247,592
Other creditors	361,092	189,866	246,992	161,275
Dividend payable	34,350	68,750	34,350	68,750
Corporation tax	122,223	110,153	73,223	82,153
Accrued pension	<u>35,180</u>			
	<u>6,440,888</u>	<u>4,187,031</u>	<u>3,688,632</u>	<u>4,071,894</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

14 CREDITORS - Amounts falling due after more than one year

	1998 £	Group 1997 £	199 <u>8</u>	Company 1997 £
Bank loans	~	~	_	
Due within one to two years Due within two to five years	756,739 <u>1,838,478</u>	405,350 1,020,241	750,000 <u>1,825,000</u>	400,000 <u>1,000,000</u>
	2,595,217	<u>1,425,591</u>	<u>2,575,000</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>

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

- Bank loan of £20,217 (1997 £25,591) is repayable in equal monthly instalments of interest and capital over seven years from September 1995.
- Bank loan of £1,000,000 (1997 £1,400,000) is repayable in equal quarterly instalments of capital over five years from November 1997.
- Bank loan of £1,575,000 (1997 nil) is repayable in equal quarterly instalments of capital over five years from March 1999.

15 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	1998	<u>1998</u>
Movements on the deferred tax account during the year were as follows:		
At 1 September 1997 Acquisitions of subsidiary undertakings	112,940 9,635	112,940 -
Transfer to/(from) profit and loss account: Current year (Note 7) Prior years (Note 7) Transfer of ACT to current tax payable	(1,219) (907) <u>8,600</u>	(4,000) - <u>8,600</u>
At 31 August 1998	<u>129,049</u>	<u>117,540</u>

Company

Group

The amounts provided at 30% (1997 - 31%) and total potential liability are:

		Amou <u>nt</u>	Total pote	ential liability
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Excess of capital allowances over depreciation Other timing differences	105,809 32,000	94,300 32,000	123,758 _32,000	94,300 32,000
Less: advance corporation tax	137,809 <u>(8,760</u>)	126,300 <u>(8,760</u>)	155,758 (8,760)	126,300 <u>(8,760</u>)
	<u>129,049</u>	<u>117,540</u>	<u>146,998</u>	<u>117,540</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

	TOR THE TEAR ENDED OF ACCOUNT	1000 (00	itilitoeb,		
16	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL			A 11	المحالمة
			Authorised		otted, called nd fully paid
		1998	1997	1998	1997
		£	£	£	£
	Ordinary shares of £1 each	200,000	200,000	<u>8,600</u>	<u>8,600</u>
17	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT				
				_	
				<u>Group</u> £	Company £
	At 1 September 1997			2,622,055	2,507,206
	Retained profit for the financial year			182,548	97,587
	At 31 August 1998			<u>2,804,603</u>	<u>2,604,793</u>
18	FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS				
	The group's annual commitments under non-ca	ncellable op	perating leases	were as follow	rs:
		Lan	d and buildings	<u> </u>	Other
		19	<u>98</u> <u>1997</u>		<u>1997</u>
	Lease expiring within:		£	£	£
	One year		-		-
	Two to five years	52,0	50	- 136,334	-
	Over five years	_54,5	00	<u> </u>	-
		<u>106,5</u>	50	136,334	
19	NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLO	W STATEN	MENT		
(a)	Net cash inflow from operating activities			4000	4007
•				1998 £	19 <u>97</u>
	Reconciliation of the operating profit to net cash operating activities:	inflow from	ı	~	_
	Operating profit			578,958	814,890
	Depreciation			302,579	250,027
	Gain on disposal of fixed tangible assets			(11,915)	(14,997)
	Increase/(decrease) in provision against curren	t asset inves	stments	924	(1,330)
	Decrease in stocks			378,892	105,091
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors			839,235	(164,493)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors			<u>(1,319,162</u>)	208,027
	Net cash inflow from operating activities			769,511	<u>1,197,215</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

19 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

(b) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt

			1998	£	1997 £
		£	£	t.	L
	Decrease in cash in the year Cash inflow from increase in debt Repayment of loan	(483,173) (1,750,000) <u>405,125</u>		(379,038) (2,000,000) <u>204,868</u>	
	Change in net debt Net debt at 1 September	,	1,828,048) 3,225,360)		(2,174,170) (1,051,190)
	Net debt at 31 August	<u>(i</u>	<u>5,053,408</u>)		<u>(3,225,360</u>)
(c)	Analysis of change in net debt				
		1 Sept	At tember 1997 £	Cash flows	At 31 August 1998 £
	Cash in hand, at bank Overdraft	(1,40	8,960 03,588)	2,000 _(485,173)	10,960 (1,888,761)
		(1,39	94,628)	(483,173)	(1,877,801)
	Debt due within one year Debt due after one year	•	05,140) 2 <u>5,592</u>)	(175,250) (1,169,625)	(580,390) (2,595,217)
		<u>(3,2)</u>	<u>25,360</u>)	<u>(1,828,048</u>)	<u>(5,053,408</u>)
(d)	Purchase of subsidiary undertaking				£
	Net assets acquired				
	Tangible fixed assets Stocks Debtors Cash in hand				975,721 1,316,495 2,527,802 14
٠	Creditors Bank overdraft Deferred taxation				(2,667,018) (383,687) (9,635)
	Goodwill				1,759,692
	Satisfied by				
	Cash				<u>1,759,692</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

19 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The subsidiary undertaking acquired during the year reduced the group's net operating cash flows by £343,852, paid £22,478 in respect of net returns on investment and servicing of finance, paid £79,506 in respect of taxation, utilised £14,580 for capital expenditure and generated £9,870 from the sale of tangible fixed assets.

20 PENSION SCHEMES

The group operates two pension schemes, the No 1 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 No 1 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 £250,837 (1997 - £167,054). At 31 August 1998 there are amounts recorded in other debtors representing payment of contributions in advance of £144,138 (1997 - £150,714).

21 PURCHASE OF SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKING

Tatham Miller Limited

With effect from 9 April 1998, the group acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Tatham Miller Limited.

The following table sets out a summary of the assets and liabilities acquired.

	Book value and fair value of net assets acquired £
Fixed assets Current assets Current liabilities Provisions Cash at bank and overdrafts of acquired entity	975,721 3,844,296 (2,667,018) (9,635) <u>(383,672</u>)
	1,759,692
Satisfied by: cash consideration	(1,759,692)
Goodwill arising	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

21 PURCHASE OF SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKING (CONTINUED)

The summarised profit and loss account of Tatham Miller Limited for the period from the start of its financial year, 1 October 1997, to the date of acquisition is presented below:

Summarised Profit and Loss Account

£

	<u>5,420,921</u>
Turnover	28, <u>690</u>
Operating profit	
Profit before taxation	12,969
	<u>(11,105</u>)
Taxation	1,864
Profit after taxation	

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the period.

The profit after tax of Tatham Miller Limited for the previous financial year ended 30 September 1997 was £154,600.

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TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998

		1998	<u> 1997</u>
	£	£	£
TURNOVER	13,253,958		13,150,657
Sales to subsidiary companies			<u>386,184</u>
		13,253,958	13,536,841
COST OF GOODS SOLD			0.742.642
Purchases	9,747,767		9,743,643 207,663
Decrease/(increase) in stock			
		9,747,767	<u>9,951,306</u>
GROSS PROFIT		3,506,191	3,585,535
GROOD I ROTTI			
WORK EXPENSES	396,761		357,025
Wages and national insurance Rates and insurance	193,432		177,726
Heating and lighting	24,977		27,229
Building repairs	13,606		44,776
Crane repairs	83,505		62,302 29,628
Depreciation - plant	30,653		29,626 43,319
- buildings	47,217 48,465		53,410
Sundries	40,400		
		<u>838,616</u>	<u>795,415</u>
TRANSPORT EXPENSES	075 440		275,240
Wages and national insurance	275,412 29,777		30,370
Insurance and road tax	65,271		70,442
Depreciation Fuel, tyres and repairs	177,372		180,821
Carriage out	<u> 18,032</u>		<u>24,704</u>
		<u>565,864</u>	<u>581,577</u>
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	400.040		409,466
Salaries and national insurance	429,819 130,510		127,778
Directors' remuneration	59,065		55,045
Executive pension scheme Depreciation	100,795		91,827
Insurance and road tax	12,381		12,974
Fuel, tyres and repairs	50,482		40,960
Professional fees	201,092		123,631
Telephones	54,727		53,919 48,937
Stationery and postages	48,098 <u>79,813</u>		75,5 <u>58</u>
Sundries	79,010		
		1,158,017	1,040,095
Carry forward expenses		2,562,497	2,417,087
Carry forward gross profit		3,497,426	<u>3,585,535</u>

TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 1998 (CONTINUED)

	1998		<u> 1997</u>
	£	£	£
Brought forward gross profit		3,497,426	<u>3,585,535</u>
Brought forward expenses		2,562,497	2,417,087
SALES EXPENSES Salaries and national insurance Travelling expenses Advertising Provision for doubtful debts (less recoverable)	411,221 27,637 34,344 63,205	500 107	348,077 30,840 32,777 35,426
FINANCE EXPENSES Overdraft interest and loan interest		536,407 280,216	<u>447,120</u> <u>216,626</u>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME Rent received (Gain)/loss on sale of fixed assets	(58,215) (2,585)		(53,986) <u>(13,542</u>)
		(60,800)	<u>(67,528</u>)
TOTAL NET EXPENSES		<u>3,318,320</u>	<u>3,013,305</u>
TRADING PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		187,871	572,230
Contribution to Ranfurly Trust	(75,000)		(93,000)
Compensation award, net of expenses Interest and dividends received	43,632		132,913
		<u>(31,368</u>)	39,913
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		<u> 156,503</u>	612,143