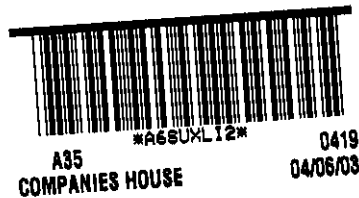


COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 52362

HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR
31 MARCH 2003



ARMSTRONG WATSON
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Fairview House
Victoria Place
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 1HP

HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2003

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HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COMPANY

PURSUANT TO SECTION 247B OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

We have examined the abbreviated accounts which comprise the balance sheet and the related notes, together with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2003 prepared under Section 226 of the Companies Act 1985.

This report is made solely to the company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no 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 shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS AND THE AUDITORS

The directors are responsible for preparing the abbreviated accounts in accordance with section 246 of the Companies Act 1985. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion as to whether the company is entitled to deliver abbreviated accounts prepared in accordance with sections 246(5) and (6) of the Act to the registrar of companies and whether the accounts to be delivered are properly prepared in accordance with those provisions and report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to confirm, by reference to the financial statements, that the company is entitled to deliver abbreviated accounts and that the abbreviated accounts to be delivered are properly prepared. The scope of our work for the purpose of this report did not include examining or dealing with events after the date of our report on the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion the company is entitled to deliver abbreviated accounts prepared in accordance with sections 246(5) and (6) of the Act, and the abbreviated accounts on pages 2 to 5 are properly prepared in accordance with those provisions.

Fairview House
Victoria Place
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 1HP

30th May 2003

ARMSTRONG WATSON
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors



HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2003

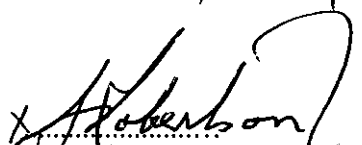
	Note	2003		2002	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	2				
Tangible assets			359,540		351,864
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		29,935		41,763	
Debtors	3	1,044,419		1,062,793	
Investments		361		361	
		<u>1,074,715</u>		<u>1,104,917</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>234,733</u>		<u>264,415</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			839,982		840,502
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>1,199,522</u>		<u>1,192,366</u>
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES			11,910		6,026
			<u>1,187,612</u>		<u>1,186,340</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called-up share capital	4		263,000		263,000
Other reserves			68,953		68,953
Profit and Loss Account			855,659		854,387
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			<u>1,187,612</u>		<u>1,186,340</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

These financial statements were approved by the directors on the ~~22nd~~ ^{22nd} May 2003 and are signed on their behalf by:

X 

 MR. J. DIXON

X 

 MR. S. ROBERTSON

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these financial statements.

HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2003

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June, 2002).

Turnover

Turnover represents commissions earned, stated net of value added tax, from the sale of livestock and property.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold Property	- 2% Reducing balance/2% straight line
Plant, Machinery, Fixtures & Fittings	- 15% Reducing balance
Motor Vehicles, Tractors & Trailers	- 25% Reducing balance

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the Profit and Loss Account.

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 have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay more, or a right to pay less or to receive more, tax, with the following exceptions:

Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the directors consider that it is more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

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

Finance Contracts

Amounts due to the company under leases, hire purchase and other finance contracts are included in debtors at the amount of the net investment in the contract. The finance charges earned are credited to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis.

HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2003

2. FIXED ASSETS

	Tangible Assets £
COST	
At 1 April 2002	589,142
Additions	55,330
Disposals	<u>(20,500)</u>
At 31 March 2003	<u>623,972</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2002	237,278
Charge for year	35,853
On disposals	<u>(8,699)</u>
At 31 March 2003	<u>264,432</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2003	<u>359,540</u>
At 31 March 2002	<u>351,864</u>

3. DEBTORS

Debtors include amounts of £4,138 (2002 - £20,618) falling due after more than one year.

4. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

The bank overdraft amounting to £140,308 (2002 £139,352) is secured by a debenture dated 20th January 2000, fixed charges over certain of the company's freehold land and buildings and a fixed and floating charge over all present and future assets of the company.

HOPE'S AUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2003

5. SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised share capital:

	2003 £	2002 £
255,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each	255,000.00	255,000.00
120,000 3.5% Cum. Preference shares of £0.067 each	8,000.00	8,000.00
	<u>263,000.00</u>	<u>263,000.00</u>

Allotted, called up and fully paid:

	2003		2002	
	No.	£	No.	£
Ordinary shares	255,000.00	255,000.00	255,000.00	255,000.00
3.5% Cum. Preference shares	120,000.00	8,000.00	120,000.00	8,000.00
	<u>375,000.00</u>	<u>263,000.00</u>	<u>375,000.00</u>	<u>263,000.00</u>

The 3.5% Cumulative Preference shares are not redeemable and carry voting rights. On a winding up the 3.5% Cumulative Preference shares rank ahead of the ordinary shares and will be repaid at par.