

Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited
Annual report and financial statements
Registered number 07592215
31 December 2018



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Officers and professional advisors

Board of Directors

N Wood (Chair)
A Honeyman
B Barwick
J Allen
M Perls
S Cain
S Knight
C Brindley (appointed 15 June 2018)
K Moorhouse (appointed 15 June 2018)

Company Secretary

M Gibson

Registered address

Red Hall
Red Hall Lane
Leeds
LS17 8NB

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
PO Box 183
8 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 1QS

Solicitors

Eversheds Sutherland
1 Wood Street
London
EC2V 7WS

Auditor

KPMG LLP
1 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
LS1 4DA

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Principal activities

The RFL was awarded the right to host the 2021 Rugby League World Cup in late 2016 after a competitive bidding process.

The winning bid was made by The Rugby Football League (RFL), with support from UK Sport and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The event will be funded principally through DCMS and UK Sport along with gate receipts, commercial revenue and host rights fees. The event will be underwritten by the Rugby Football League (RFL).

The event presents significant size, scale and complexity, and will be one of the biggest international sporting events to be hosted in the UK in the coming years.

Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited (RLWC2021 Ltd) is the organisation responsible for the delivery of the Rugby League World Cup in 2021. The company was renamed on 20 January 2017 formerly being known as Rugby League World Cup 2013 Limited. RLWC2021 Ltd has entered into an event organisation agreement with the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) and will oversee the delivery of the event in accordance with this agreement.

In 2017 Board members were appointed in accordance with the UK Sport Governance Code. The Board of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Ltd (RLWC2021 Ltd) will oversee the delivery of company's objectives including the safe and successful staging of the event. The Board is comprised of three independent non-executive directors, and stakeholder-nominated non-executive directors from the Rugby Football League (who will act as chair), DCMS, UK Sport and RLWC2021.

Business Review

The accounts of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited show a profit of £745 for the year ended 31 December 2018 (2017: £517). Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited has maintained an aggregate positive cash and short-term deposit balance throughout the year. At 31 December 2018 this aggregate balance was £927,284 (2017: £1,248,015). Therefore, at the time of approval of the Financial Statements, the directors are satisfied regarding the funding of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited for the foreseeable future.

Dividends

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2017: £nil).

Political contributions

The Company made no political donations or incurred any political expenditure during the year (2017: £nil).

Auditor

Pursuant to Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006, the auditor will be deemed to be reappointed and KPMG LLP will therefore continue in office.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

N Wood (Chair)
A Honeyman
B Barwick
J Allen
M Perls
S Cain
S Knight
C Brindley (appointed 15 June 2018)
K Moorhouse (appointed 15 June 2018)

Company Secretary

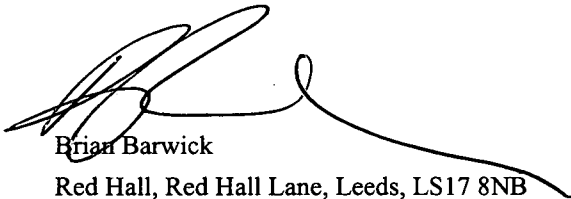
J Dutton Appointed 1 March 2017. Resigned 16 March 2018
M Gibson Appointed 16 March 2018

All directors benefit from qualifying third-party indemnity provisions in place during the financial year and at the date of this report.

Disclosure of information to auditor

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 auditor is unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the board



Brian Barwick
Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds, LS17 8NB

23 September

2019

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), including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

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 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;
- assess the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and 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.



KPMG LLP

1 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds LS1 4DA
United Kingdom

Independent auditor's report to the members of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited ("the company") for the year ended 31 December 2018 which comprise the Profit and Loss account and other comprehensive income, the Balance Sheet and related notes, including the accounting policies in note 1.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2018 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards applicable to smaller entities, including Section 1A of FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

The impact of uncertainties due to the UK exiting the European Union on our audit

Uncertainties related to the effects of Brexit are relevant to understanding our audit of the financial statements. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the directors, such as recoverability of trade debtors and related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the company's future prospects and performance.

Brexit is one of the most significant economic events for the UK, and at the date of this report its effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty of outcomes, with the full range of possible effects unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to that uncertainty when assessing the company's future prospects and performance. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for a company and this is particularly the case in relation to Brexit.

Going concern

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

Independent auditor's report to the members of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited (continued)

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the company's business model, including the impact of Brexit, and analysed how those risks might affect the company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period. We have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the company will continue in operation.

Directors' report

The directors are responsible for the directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover that report and we do not express an audit opinion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the directors' report and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in our opinion the information given in that report for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion that report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required 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; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the directors' report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Directors' responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 4, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited (*continued*)

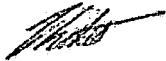
Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the 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 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 members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Clare Partridge (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
1 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
Leeds
West Yorkshire LS1 4DA

25 September 2019

Profit and Loss Account and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	<i>Note</i>	2018 £	2017 £
Turnover	2	912,786	585,712
Cost of sales	3	(122,566)	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross profit		790,220	585,712
Administrative costs		(789,157)	(585,853)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating profit/(loss)		1,063	(141)
Other interest receivable and similar income		-	115
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation		<hr/> 1,063	<hr/> (26)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	6	(318)	543
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Profit for the financial year		745	517
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

All items above relate to continuing operations.

There are no other items of comprehensive income.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

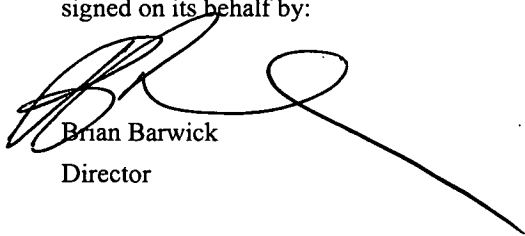
Balance sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	<i>Note</i>	2018	2017
		£	£
Fixed assets		9,126	-
Current assets			
Debtors	7	546,679	39,145
Cash at bank and in hand	8	927,284	1,248,015
		<u>1,473,963</u>	<u>1,287,160</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,483,088)	(1,288,222)
		<u>(9,125)</u>	<u>(1,062)</u>
Net current liabilities		(9,125)	(1,062)
Total assets less current liabilities		1	(1,062)
Provisions for liabilities			
Deferred tax liability	6	(318)	-
		<u>(317)</u>	<u>(1,062)</u>
Net assets		(317)	(1,062)
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	11	1	1
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	12	(318)	(1,063)
		<u>(317)</u>	<u>(1,062)</u>
Shareholders' funds/(deficit)		(317)	(1,062)

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on *23 September* 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:


Brian Barwick
Director

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the organisation's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

Rugby League World Cup 2021 Limited (the "Company") is a company limited by shares and incorporated and domiciled in England in the UK with the registered office at Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds, LS17 8NB.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 1A for small companies, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") as issued in August 2014. The amendments to FRS 102 issued in July 2015 and effective immediately have been applied. The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. The company has early adopted the provisions SI 2015 No 980 and the accounts are therefore prepared under this basis.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

Going concern

Notwithstanding net current liabilities of £9,125 as at 31 December 2018, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The directors have prepared cash flow forecasts for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements which indicate that, taking account of reasonably possible downsides, the company will have sufficient funds, through its own trading and receipt of grant income to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period. In 2021, the company will host the 2021 Rugby World Cup generating considerable commercial and grant income.

Consequently, the directors are confident that the company will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Post-retirement benefits

The organisation operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the organisation in an independently administered fund. The amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the result for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes.

Deferred tax is recognised without discounting in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date.

Turnover

Income comprises the value of sales excluding VAT of goods and services in the normal course of business such as sponsorship monies and grant monies. Income is recognised in the period to which it relates. Government grants are taken to income to match them against the related costs. All turnover occurred in the UK.

Measurement convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Basic financial instruments

Trade and other debtors / creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price less attributable transaction costs. Trade and other creditors are recognised initially at transaction price plus attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses in the case of trade debtors.

Notes (continued)

Other financial instruments

Financial instruments not considered to be Basic financial instruments (Other financial instruments)

Other financial instruments not meeting the definition of Basic Financial Instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition other financial instruments are measured at fair value with changes recognised in profit or loss except as follows:

- hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship shall be recognised as set out below.

Derivative financial instruments and hedging

Derivative financial instruments are recognised at fair value. The gain or loss on re-measurement to fair value is recognised immediately in profit or loss. However, where derivatives qualify for hedge accounting, recognition of any resultant gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged.

The fair value of such derivatives is not significant to the accounts as at the year-end; however this value will be assessed on an annual basis going forward.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Plant and equipment 4 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed if there is an indication of a significant change since last annual reporting date in the pattern by which the company expects to consume an asset's future economic benefits.

2. Turnover

	2018 £	2017 £
Government funding	912,786	585,712
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	912,786	585,712
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
All turnover is generated in the UK		

3. Cost of sales

	2018 £	2017 £
Other	(122,566)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(122,566)	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes (continued)

4. Expenses and auditor's remuneration

Included in profit/loss are the following:

Auditor's remuneration:

	2018 £	2017 £
Audit of these financial statements	4,400	4,000

5. Staff numbers and costs

	2018 Number of employees	2017 Number of employees
Directors	-	-
Administration staff	5	3
	5	3

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Wages and salaries	220,153	-
Social security costs	26,108	-
Contributions to defined contribution plans	29,768	-
	276,029	-

The aggregate payroll costs for the employees was £nil in 2017 as all costs were borne by the parent company.

6. Taxation

	2018 £	2017 £
<i>Current tax</i>		
Current tax on income for the period	-	-
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	-	(543)
Total current tax	-	(543)
<i>Deferred tax</i>		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	322	-
Change in tax rate	-	-
Adjustments arising from a change in tax status of the company	(4)	-
	318	-

Notes (continued)

Tax expense(income) relating to changes in accounting policies and material error

	-	-
	<u>318</u>	<u>(543)</u>

Total Tax

	2018			2017		
	Current tax £	Deferred tax £	Total tax £	Current tax £	Deferred tax £	Total tax £
Recognised in Profit and loss account	-	318	318	(543)	-	(543)
Recognised directly in equity	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>(543)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(543)</u>
Total Tax	<u>-</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>(543)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(543)</u>

All taxation is UK Corporation Tax

Reconciliation of effective tax rate

	2018 £	2017 £
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	1,063	26
Tax using the UK corporation tax rate of 19.00% (FY17: 19.25%)	202	-
Group relief claimed	-	(73,223)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	158	73,223
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods – Current tax	(4)	(543)
Adjust deferred tax rate to current tax rate	(38)	-
	<u>318</u>	<u>(543)</u>

A reduction in the UK corporation tax rate from 21% to 20% (effective from 1 April 2015) was substantively enacted on July 2 2013. Further reductions to 19% (effective from 1 April 2017) and to 18% (effective 1 April 2020) were substantively enacted on 26 October 2015, and an additional reduction to 17% (effective 1 April 2020) was substantively enacted on 6 September 2016. This will reduce the company's future current tax charge accordingly. The deferred tax liability at 31 December 2017 has been calculated on these rates.

Notes (continued)

7. Debtors

	2018 £	2017 £
Trade debtors	18,070	1,835
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	1
Other debtors	53,822	-
Taxation and social security	474,787	37,309
	<u>546,679</u>	<u>39,145</u>

8. Cash and cash equivalents

	2018 £	2017 £
Cash at bank and in hand	927,284	1,248,015
	<u>927,284</u>	<u>1,248,015</u>

9. Current asset investments and other financial assets

Foreign exchange contract

At the balance sheet date, the Company had entered into contracts to purchase Australian Dollars in order to settle purchases made in AUD as follows:

Date	AUD	Rate	GBP
19/03/2021	\$3,000,000	1.8425	£1,628,223
19/03/2021	\$12,000,000	1.8425	£6,512,890

The fair value of these derivatives is not significant to the accounts as at the year-end; however this value will be assessed on an annual basis going forward.

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2018 £	2017 £
Trade creditors	47,302	6,619
Other creditors	3,472	11,500
Amounts owed to group undertakings	47,751	201,815
Accruals and deferred income	1,375,853	1,068,288
Corporation tax	26	-
Taxation and Social security	8,684	-
	<u>1,483,088</u>	<u>1,288,222</u>

Notes (continued)

11. Employee benefits

Defined contribution plans

The Company operates a defined contribution pension plan.

The total expense relating to these plans in the current year was £30,102 (2017: £nil)

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or end of the financial year.

12. Capital and reserves

	2018	2017
	Shares	Shares
On issue at 31 December – fully paid	1	1
	2018	2017
	£	£
<i>Allotted called up and fully paid</i>		
£1 ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>

13. Reserves

	Profit and loss
	account
	£
At 1 January 2018	(1,063)
Result for the financial year	745
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2018	<u><u>(318)</u></u>

14. Ultimate parent company

The Company is a subsidiary undertaking of RFL (Governing Body) Limited which is controlled by its members. The registered office address of RFL (Governing Body) Limited is; Red Hall, Red Hall lane, Leeds. LS17 8NB.

15. Accounting estimates and judgements

In the opinion of the Directors these financial statements are not dependent upon any accounting estimates or judgements.