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DL Dale Syndicate 2525

Syndicate Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2016

Contents

Directors and Administration

Managing Agent

Asta Managing Agency Ltd

Directors

T A Riddell (Chairman)*
C V Barley
L Harfitt
A J Hubbard*
D J G Hunt
M D Mohn*
D F C Murphy*
S P A Norton
J W Ramage*
K Shah*
J M Tighe

Non Executive Directors*

Company Secretary

C Chow

Managing Agent's Registered Office

5th Floor
Camomile Court
23 Camomile Street
London
EC3A 7LL

Managing Agent's Registered Number

1918744

Active Underwriter

D L Dale

Bankers

Barclays Plc
Citibank N.A,
RBC Dexia

Investment Managers

Amundi (UK) Limited

Registered Auditors

Mazars LLP
Tower Bridge House
St Katharine's Way
London
E1W 1DD

Active Underwriter's Report

2014 Year of Account	
Allocated Capacity	£42.0m
Capacity Utilisation	82%
Profit in 2016	£7.4m

I am pleased to report a calendar year profit of £7.4m which exceeds the best estimate posted in September 2016. The positive loss development has continued underlying the Syndicate's robust reserving philosophy.

Stamp capacity remained unchanged whilst utilisation improved with rates remaining stable. Risk appetite remained similar in nature with all preceding years in keeping with the 2525 strategy to concentrate within the classes and trades that are well-known to its staff. A vast majority of the business was traded through small to medium sized brokers within Lloyd's, with virtually no delegated underwriting authority.

Terms and conditions remained sensible and excesses on the primary account continued at a realistic level whilst the high level business mix was broadly similar to previous years.

The profit in the calendar year has largely come from underwriting performance from the 2013 and prior years.

2015 Year of Account	
Stamp Capacity	£42.2m
Forecast Utilisation	88%
Profit in 2016	£0.7m

With a similar stamp capacity stamp utilisation improved for the third consecutive year.

Rating comparisons on the renewal account were once again stable showing a very marginal decrease year on year (see table on page 4).

As in previous years, terms and conditions continued to remain tight aligned to realistic excesses on the primary account. Broker support continued to come mainly from the independent specialist Lloyd's brokers and their counterparts in the regions.

The Syndicate's plan to add primary international as a new class of business came to fruition in late 2014 with the addition to the team of a well-known market practitioner, the impact of which was more pronounced in 2015. Whilst this has not fundamentally changed the risk appetite of the Syndicate, it does introduce risks from outside 2525's core UK sector and allowed for a limited amount of binder income to be underwritten all of which were previously underwritten by the new international underwriter.

Active underwriter's report continued

At this relatively early stage a small profit is predicted with every expectation, based on previous years' development patterns, of improvement during the next twelve months.

2016 Year of Account	
Stamp Capacity	£50.0m
Forecast Utilisation	80%
Loss in 2016	£5.7m

Stamp capacity was increased to £50m to reflect the increased income in the previous three years with a satisfactory stamp utilisation expected. Renewal rating comparisons were once again similar year on year.

Business ratios, terms and conditions, and primary excesses once again held up well during the year with both broker support and brokerage levels unchanged in the core account. The international account which is now a greater proportion of the account (16% in 2015 / 20% in 2016) has developed in line with expectations and has enable a more equitable split between the employers' liability account and the third party account. Additionally, this has also increased the amount of excess of loss business underwritten by the Syndicate.

Of the business underwritten into the international account only 12% is sourced through delegated underwriting, whilst the corresponding figure for the UK core account is less than half of one percent.

The Syndicate's reinsurance protections for all the years stretching back to 2005 have remained stable in terms of the supporting markets, pricing, the net amount that the Syndicate retains, and the broker that places the business on the Syndicate's behalf. The Syndicate recognises the purchasing of its reinsurance as it would hope its clients who buy insurance from the Syndicate do - as a long term venture.

As reported last year, due to difficulties in projecting from immature data, the long tail nature of the account, provisions made for unearned premiums, lack of investment return and increasing regulatory costs, it is prudent to forecast a loss at this early stage for the 2015 and 2016 years of account.

The Ogden Table Discount Rate announcement made just before the consolidation of the year-end figures has increased the potential outcome for future losses particularly for the more serious and long term injuries. The Syndicate's reserving has always erred on the side of caution which has provided 2525 with a sensible cushion between the close and the ultimate incurred position which has been the case since 2003. However, the increase in the cost of some claims that this decision will cause will narrow the margin held by the Syndicate at this point and could therefore effect the amount of profitability. The Syndicate has included within these accounts an actuarial assessment of the potential impact on its gross and net reserves which will be measured against the true picture when those claims that need re-assessing have been concluded. The only logical outcome of the reduction in the discount rate should be a price correction to adjust for higher future loss elements and the Syndicate will therefore look to strengthen rating on the UK core account as result.

Active underwriter's report continued

Below is the renewal rate monitor which shows how premium rates have moved year on year and the effect this has had on the rating environment over time:

2007	-5.8%
2008	-4.4%
2009	-0.2%
2010	-0.93%
2011	-1.12%
2012	+0.57%
2013	+0.01%
2014	+0.03%
2015	-0.35%
2016	-0.51%

This table demonstrates how premium rates have levelled out during the more recent years and although there are positive, albeit small, movements in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the expectation of achieving increased pricing for clean business has still not materialised.

Finally, included is a table of ultimate gross written premium after brokers' commissions together with year on year increases / reductions in percentage terms:

Year of account	**Premium (£m)**	**Reduction/ Increase (%)**
2007	36.3	-6.4
2008	34.4	-5.2
2009	30.1	-12.5
2010	30.1	-
2011	29.6	-1.67
2012	29.4	-0.68
2013	32.8	+11.56
2014	34.8	+6.09
2015	37.0	+6.32
2016	40.0	+8.10 (expected)

The Syndicate has managed to achieve sensible increases in its premium income over the last four years and has sustained this momentum into 2017, whilst maintaining underwriting discipline. This has been achieved by observing the 'cause and effect' of our collective decision making over many years underwriting the same business to primarily the same brokers for the same classes of risks with little by way of delegated authority. The Syndicate now has a well-known, workable and useful offering that provides brokers with something to sell and gives customers a product that rates highly with our peers in the market.

As the market shows no sign of hardening and an increasing number of entities have the same risk appetite as 2525 the need to continue in the same manner and provide a class leading product is fundamental.

D L Dale
Active Underwriter
21 March 2017

Managing Agent's Report

The Syndicate's Managing Agent is a company registered in England and Wales. The directors of the Managing Agent present their report for the year ended 31 December 2016.

This annual report is prepared using the annual basis of accounting as required by Statutory Instrument No 1950 of 2008, The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 ("Lloyd's Regulations 2008").

Results

The result for calendar year 2016 is a profit of £2,448,707 (2015: £8,745,447). Profits will be distributed by reference to the results of individual underwriting years.

This is the second year that the Syndicate has presented its results under FRS102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. In accordance with FRS102, the Syndicate has identified its insurance contracts and accounted for them in accordance with FRS103.

Principal activity and review of the business

The Syndicate's principal activity continues to be the underwriting of direct insurance and reinsurance business in the Lloyd's market.

The Syndicate writes predominately employers' and public liability insurance primarily in the United Kingdom.

Gross written premium income by class of business for the calendar year was as follows;

	2016	**2015**
	£'000	**£'000**
Employers' liability	25,310	23,445
Public liability	24,618	20,863
	49,928	44,308

The Syndicate's key financial performance indicators during the year were as follows;

	2016 £'000	**2015 £'000**	**Change %**
Gross written premiums	49,928	44,308	12.7%
Profit for the financial year	2,448	8,745	(72.0%)
Combined ratio	93.6%	75.7%	(17.9%)

Traditionally, the performance of the Syndicate has been assessed by measuring, as a percentage of underwriting capacity, the 36 month result on a funded accounting basis for a "closed" underwriting year of account.

Managing Agent's Report continued

The return on capacity for the 2014 closed year of account at 31 December 2016 is shown below together with forecasts for the two open years of account.

	2014 YOA Closed	2015 YOA Open	2016 YOA Open
Capacity (£'000)	42,000	42,225	50,000
Result/forecast (£'000)	4,526	(2,151)	(3,548)
Return/forecast return on capacity (%)	10.8%	(5.1%)	(7.1%)

Further details on the performance of each year of account is given in the Active Underwriter's Report on pages 2 to 4.

Investment policy

The investment objective is to invest the Premiums Trust Funds to maximise return within agreed constraints and risk appetite whilst ensuring the liquidity needs of the Agency can be met. Portfolios are invested in high-quality, short-term fixed income securities. Regular investment committee meetings and formal procedures are in place to monitor investments, their returns, and the economic outlook.

Investment performance

The investment portfolios showed resilience in a politically tricky year with the UK's EU referendum and US election both providing surprises to financial markets. Quantitative Easing (QE) from the Bank of England and the European Central Bank, including purchases of corporate bonds, meant yields generally fell over the course of the year and spreads on corporate bonds compressed.

Yields on European government bonds continued to fall and periphery spreads narrowed. Despite the German 2-year yield finishing the year close to an all-time low of -0.80%, the 10-year yield rose in H2 as economic data improved and as the effectiveness of prolonged QE was called into question. With rates low, Euro cash held at custodians is currently attracting a punitive -0.60%.

In the UK Gilts were volatile, particularly in June around the time of the EU referendum. Yields fell significantly following the vote to leave the EU, aided by the cut in Bank rate to 0.25%. Index-linked bonds outperformed as Sterling fell 10% on a trade weighted basis (15% versus the US dollar), raising prospects for increased inflation from higher import prices.

The Sterling portfolio returned 1.04%, beating the composite benchmark of 0.86% (0.26% for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch overnight LIBID index and 1.45% 1-3 year Gilt index). Performance gains were made in every month, despite significant gyrations in the Gilt index. The main drivers of performance were carry and spread tightening from corporate bond and ABS holdings. The Euro portfolio returned 0.22% beating the composite benchmark of -0.03% (-0.45% for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch overnight LIBID index and 0.38% 1-3 year Eurozone government index). Similarly to the GBP portfolio, credit spread tightening was a significant driver of performance as investors sought alternatives to increasingly negatively yielding government and corporate debt.

Managing Agent's Report continued

Despite the political turbulence, and concerns early in the year on China and oil prices, 2016 showed improved global growth prospects led by the US. US consumption remains strong: consumers are confident with unemployment at close to the natural rate and equity markets at new highs. Investment is rising, and forward looking indicators such as PMI indices are surging with Donald Trump igniting the spirits of consumers and businessmen. This improved outlook, and increased prospects for inflation, gave confidence to the Federal reserve to raise rates the second time in December.

Outlook for 2017

Quantitative easing has left yields low and spreads compressed in Europe and the UK but technical drivers remain strong for corporate bonds and carry will remain an important component of returns (the spread on corporate bonds above respective governments).

It will be Europe's turn to face the rising populism witnessed in the UK and US with elections in the Netherlands, France and Germany. The politics will bring volatility and an increase in French spreads in the first half of 2017. Le Pen poses an existential threat to the Eurozone but is forecast to lose in the second round in May. Once the election risks have passed focus will return to the positive economic momentum in Europe. In the second half of 2017 pressure will increase on the ECB to tighten policy. Continued QE purchases have helped contain the rise in German yields, but eventually stronger growth, higher inflation, and ECB taper will force them higher.

In the UK, economic data has so far held up better than Bank of England expectations. Cracks will appear as consumers face a squeeze in real incomes under higher import prices due to the weak Sterling, and businesses continue to hold off investment projects due to Brexit uncertainty. Article 50 will be delivered on time by end-March and Eurozone counterparts will issue a hard-line response and then start running down the clock. Gilt yields will remain low as the BoE will "look through" rises in inflation as temporary and base rates remain on hold.

The portfolios remain positioned shorter duration than their benchmarks, with a mix of fixed and FRN coupons to hedge potential rises in yields. Corporate bond and ABS allocations will be maximised to enhance yield. 2017 will likely require greater portfolio turnover with value generated from switching securities within these asset classes rather than through credit beta. The portfolios retain an ample buffer of government and sovereign-related bonds should liquidity be required.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Syndicate sets risk appetite annually, which is approved by the Agency as part of the Syndicate's business planning and Solvency Capital Requirement ('SCR') process. The Agency Risk Committee meets quarterly to oversee the risk management framework. The Syndicate Board reviews the risk profile and monitors performance against risk appetite using a series of key risk indicators. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Syndicate are as follows:

Insurance risk

Insurance risk includes the risks that a policy will be written for too low a premium or provide inappropriate cover (underwriting risk), that the frequency or severity of insured events will be higher than expected (claims risk), or that estimates of claims subsequently prove to be insufficient (reserving risk). The Syndicate Board manages insurance risk through the approved business plan, which sets out targets for volumes, pricing, line sizes and retention by class of business. The Syndicate Board then monitors performance against the business plan through the year. Reserve adequacy is monitored through quarterly review by the Syndicate actuary and the Reserving Committee. It is also reviewed by an independent firm of actuaries.

Credit risk

The key aspect of credit risk is the risk of default by one or more of the Syndicate's reinsurers and intermediaries. The Syndicate Board's policy is that the Syndicate will only reinsure with approved reinsurers, supported by collateralisation, where required. The Agency Reinsurance Security Committee monitors reinsurer ratings and is required to approve all new reinsurers before business is placed with them.

Market risk

Market risk exposure impacting the Syndicate relates to fluctuations in interest rates or exchange rates. The Syndicate is exposed to foreign exchange movements as a result of mismatches between the currencies in which assets and liabilities are denominated. The Agency's policy is to maintain received income or incurred expenditure in the core currencies in which they were received or paid. Any surplus or deficit in a core currency would be subject to review by the Syndicate Board, a sub-committee of the Agency Board.

Exposure to changes in interest rates comes from the Syndicate's investment portfolio. The Agency seeks to minimise this risk through investing in either fixed interest securities or high quality floating rate notes.

In addition, an Investment committee which reports to the Syndicate Board ensures that the Syndicate's investments are held in high quality instruments.

Liquidity risk

This is the risk that the Syndicate will not be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due, owing to a shortfall in cash. To mitigate this risk the Syndicate Board reviews cash flow projections regularly.

Operational risk

This is the risk that errors caused by people, processes, systems and external events lead to losses to the Syndicate. The Agency seeks to manage this risk through the use of detailed procedures manuals and a structured programme of testing of processes and systems by internal audit. Business continuity and disaster recovery plans are in place and are regularly updated and tested.

Managing Agent's Report continued

Regulatory risk is the risk of loss owing to a breach of regulatory requirements or failure to respond to regulatory change. The Agency is required to comply with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) and Lloyd's. Lloyd's requirements include those imposed on the Lloyd's market by overseas regulators, particularly in respect of US situs business. The Agency has a compliance officer who manages a team of three that monitor business activity and regulatory developments and assesses any effects on the Agency.

The Syndicate has no appetite for failing to treat customers fairly. The Syndicate manages and monitors its conduct risk through a suite of risk indicators and reporting metrics as part of its documented conduct risk framework.

Group / strategic risk

This is the risk of contagion that arises from being associated with key stakeholders and the impact that activities and events that occur within other connected or third parties has on the business.

Strategic risk covers the risks faced by the Syndicate due to changes in underlying strategy of the business or that of its key stakeholders (including strategic conflicts of interest).

Future developments

The Syndicate will continue to transact the current classes of general direct insurance and reinsurance business. If opportunities arise to write new classes of business, these will be investigated at the appropriate time.

The capacity for the 2017 year of account is £50.0m (2016 year of account £50.0m).

The risks to UK economic growth remain significant not least because of the UK's decision to leave the European Union ("EU") ("Brexit"). There is significant change and associated uncertainty ahead for the market which is difficult to anticipate as the terms of the UK's exit from the EU remain unclear. Until that happens, the market will need to plan carefully for all possible scenarios to mitigate the impact of Brexit on Lloyd's businesses.

EU membership and access to the single market has enabled underwriters at Lloyd's to underwrite insurance and reinsurance from all the other 27 member states on a cross-border basis. The underwriters operate under a "passport" system, which allows them to conduct business throughout the EU while being regulated and supervised by the PRA.

It is expected that Lloyd's will publish its final Brexit plan in the first quarter of 2017. Lloyd's has a dedicated team putting forward the argument to the UK government on behalf of the marketplace for retaining EU passporting, but has yet to decide on how this is achieved; either by a single insurance company or a branch solution.

On Monday 27th February, the Lord Chancellor announced a change in the Ogden discount rate used to calculate personal injury settlements. The rate was changed from 2.5% to -0.75% making this settlement amount greater than previously accounted for. This was treated as an adjusting event as the Syndicate is materially exposed to this and all figures shown in the accounts reflect this change.

Managing Agent's Report continued

Effective 1 January 2016, Lloyd's is subject to the Solvency II capital regime and the Solvency 1 figures are no longer applicable from that date. Although the capital regime has changed, this has not significantly impacted the SCR of the Syndicate, since this has been previously calculated based on Solvency II principles.

Directors

Details of the Directors of the Managing Agent that were serving at the year end and up to the date of signing of the financial statements are provided on page 1. Changes to directors during the year were as follows:-

C V Barley	Appointed 27 April 2016
M D Mohn	Appointed 16 May 2016
K Shah	Appointed 1 October 2016
Y A Lancaster (nee Bouman)	Resigned 12 February 2016
G M J Erulin	Resigned 31 March 2016

Disclosure of Information to the Auditor

So far as each person who was a director of the Managing Agent at the date of approving the report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the Syndicate auditor in connection with the auditor's report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors of the Agency and the Syndicate's Auditors, each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director to become aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Syndicate's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The Managing Agent intends to reappoint Mazars LLP as the Syndicate's auditor.

Syndicate Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the Syndicate Meetings (Amendment No 1) Byelaw (No 18 of 2000) the Managing Agent does not propose holding an annual meeting this year; objections to this proposal or the intention to reappoint the auditors for a further 12 months can be made by Syndicate members before 25 April 2017.

On behalf of the Board

C Chow
Company Secretary
21 March 2017

Statement of Managing Agent's Responsibilities

The Managing Agent is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 require the managing agent to prepare financial statements at 31 December each year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS 102 "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The Financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Syndicate as at that date and of its profit or loss for that year.

In preparing the financial statements, the Managing Agent is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently subject to changes arising on the adoption of new accounting standards in the year;

- 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 notes to the Syndicate accounts; and

- prepare the Syndicate accounts on the basis that the Syndicate will continue to write future business unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Syndicate will do so.

The Managing Agent is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Syndicate and enable it to comply with the Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Syndicate and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Managing Agent is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the business' website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Syndicate 2525

We have audited the syndicate annual financial statements of Syndicate 2525 for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of changes in members' balances, the Statement of financial position, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Respective responsibilities of the managing agent and the auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Managing Agent's Responsibilities set out on page 11, the managing agent is responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts which give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the annual accounts in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report is made solely to the syndicate's member, in accordance with The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the syndicate's member those matters we are required to state to it 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 syndicate's member for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Syndicate 2525 as at 31 December 2016 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008

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

Independent auditor's report continued

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you, if in our opinion:

- the managing agent in respect of the syndicate has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Steve Liddell

Steve Liddell (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Mazars LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Tower Bridge House
St Katharine's Way
London E1W 1DD
21 March 2017

Income statement

Technical account - General business

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Gross premiums written	3	49,928	44,308
Outward reinsurance premiums		(7,955)	(6,723)
Net written premiums		41,973	37,585
Change in the provision for unearned premiums			
Gross amount		(4,329)	(2,125)
Reinsurers' share		488	465
	4	(3,841)	(1,660)
Earned premiums, net of reinsurance		38,132	35,925
Allocated investment return transferred from the non-technical account		744	470
Claims paid			
Gross amount		(27,183)	(15,586)
Reinsurers' share		11,171	5,006
		(16,012)	(10,580)
Changes in the provision for claims outstanding			
Gross amount		(29,726)	2,430
Reinsurers' share		24,332	(3,448)
		(5,394)	(1,018)
Claims incurred, net of reinsurance		(21,406)	(11,598)
Net operating expenses	5	(16,674)	(15,604)
Balance on technical account – general business		796	9,193

All the amounts above are in respect of continuing operations. The notes on pages 20 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Income statement continued

Non-technical account - General business

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Balance on technical account – general business		796	9,193
Investment income		995	1,348
Unrealised losses on investments	9	(22)	(210)
Investment expenses and charges		(229)	(668)
Allocated investment return transferred to the general business technical account	9	(744)	(470)
Exchange gains and losses		1,652	(448)
Profit for the financial year		2,448	8,745

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those reported in the Statement of Profit or Loss and hence no Statement of Other Comprehensive Income has been presented.

All the amounts above are in respect of continuing operations. The notes on pages 20 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in members' balances

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Members' balances brought forward at 1 January	1,461	2,180
Profit for the financial year	2,448	8,745
Members' agent's fees	(382)	(322)
Payments of profit to members' personal reserve funds	(8,237)	(9,142)
Members' balances carried forward at 31 December	(4,710)	1,461

Members participate on Syndicates by reference to years of account (YOA) and their ultimate result, assets and liabilities are assessed with reference to policies incepting in that year of account in respect of their membership of a particular year.

The notes on pages 20 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
ASSETS			
Investments			
Other financial investments	10	78,809	78,875
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions			
Provision for unearned premiums	4	5,385	4,897
Claims outstanding	4	50,390	25,553
		55,775	30,450
Debtors			
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	11	14,411	11,924
Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations	12	61	413
Other debtors		28	5
		14,500	12,342
Cash and other assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	15	15,165	11,702
		15,165	11,702
Prepayments and accrued income			
Accrued interest		-	4
Deferred acquisition costs		4,690	3,759
Other prepayments and accrued income		242	226
		4,932	3,989
Total assets		169,181	137,358

The notes on pages 20 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position continued

As at 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
MEMBERS' BALANCE AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves			
Members' balances		(4,710)	1,461
Liabilities			
Technical provisions			
Provision for unearned premiums	4	23,660	19,005
Claims outstanding	4	145,134	113,480
		168,794	132,485
Creditors			
Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations	13	1,487	275
Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations	14	1,530	640
Other creditors		983	1,814
		4,000	2,729
Accruals and deferred income		1,097	683
Total liabilities		173,891	135,897
Total members' balances and liabilities		169,181	137,358

The notes on pages 20 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 47 were approved by board of directors on 15 March 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

D J G Hunt
Director
21 March 2017

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit on ordinary activities		2,448	8,745
Increase/(Decrease) in gross technical provisions		36,309	(604)
(Increase)/Decrease in reinsurers' share of gross technical provisions		(25,326)	3,031
(Increase) in debtors		(2,159)	(448)
Increase in creditors		1,271	262
Movement in other asset/liabilities		(550)	(1,010)
Changes to market value and currency		(724)	355
Investment Return		(744)	(470)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		10,525	9,861
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of other financial investments		(51,134)	(65,482)
Sale of other financial investments		58,244	69,586
Investment income received		766	1,136
(Increase) in overseas deposits		(4,040)	(438)
Net cash inflow from investing activities		3,836	4,802
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments of profit to members' personal reserve fund		(8,237)	(9,142)
Members' agents fee advances		(382)	(323)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(8,619)	(9,465)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		4,053	5,521
Foreign exchange on cash and cash equivalents		1,689	(323)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		17,979	12,781
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	15	23,721	17,979

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2016

1. Basis of preparation

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 and FRS 102 and FRS 103, being applicable UK GAAP accounting standards, and in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations relating to insurance companies.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for certain financial instruments which are measured at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in GBP which is the functional and presentational currency of the Syndicate and rounded to the nearest £'000.

As permitted by FRS 103 the Syndicate continues to apply the existing accounting policies that were applied prior to this standard for its insurance contracts.

The Syndicate has elected to early-apply the March 2016 amendments to FRS 102, *Fair value hierarchy disclosures*. As a result, the fair value hierarchy disclosures, including comparatives, shown in Note 10 are now prepared on a basis consistent with the measurement of the financial instruments.

2. Accounting policies

Use of estimates

In preparing these financial statements, the directors of the Managing Agent have made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Syndicate's accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

The measurement of the provision for claims outstanding involves judgements and assumptions about the future that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the annual accounts.

The provision for claims outstanding comprises the estimated cost of settling all claims incurred but unpaid at the balance sheet date, whether reported or not. This is a judgemental and complex area due to the subjectivity inherent in estimating the impact of claims events that have occurred but for which the eventual outcome remains uncertain. In particular, judgement is applied when estimating the value of amounts that should be provided for claims that have been incurred at the reporting date but have not yet been reported (IBNR) to the Syndicate.

The ultimate cost of outstanding claims is estimated using a range of techniques including actuarial and statistical projections, benchmarking, case by case review and judgement. Statistical techniques assume that past claims development experience can be used as a basis to project ultimate claims costs. Judgement is used to assess the extent to which past trends may not apply in the future. Case estimates are generally set by skilled claims technicians applying their experience and knowledge to the circumstances of individual claims.

Accounting policies continued

Whilst the Directors consider that the gross provision for claims and the related reinsurance recoveries are fairly stated based on the information currently available to them, the ultimate liability will vary as a result of subsequent information and events.

Significant accounting policies

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

Gross premiums

Gross written premiums comprise the total premiums receivable for the whole period of cover provided by the contracts entered into during the reporting period, regardless of whether these are wholly due for payment in the reporting period, together with any adjustments arising in the reporting period to such premiums receivable in respect of business written in prior reporting periods. They are recognised on the date on which the policy commences. Gross written premiums are stated gross of brokerage payable and exclude taxes and duties levied on them.

For certain insurance contracts, premium is initially recognised based on estimates of ultimate premiums. These estimates, primarily relating to binder business, are judgemental and could result in misstatements of revenue recorded in the financial statements.

The main assumption underlying future premium, is that past premium development can be used to project future premium development.

Reinsurance premiums

Reinsurance written premiums comprise the total premiums payable for the whole cover provided by contracts entered into the period, including portfolio premiums payable, and are recognised on the date on which the policy incepts. Premiums include any adjustments arising in the accounting period in respect of reinsurance contracts incepting in prior accounting periods.

Outwards reinsurance premiums are accounted for and earned in the same accounting period as the premiums for the related direct or inwards business being reinsured.

Claims incurred

Claims incurred comprise claims and settlement expenses (both internal and external) paid in the year and the movement in provision for outstanding claims and settlement expenses, including an allowance for the cost of claims incurred by the balance sheet date, but not reported until after the year end.

The provision for claims comprises amounts set aside for claims notified and claims incurred, but not yet reported (IBNR).

Accounting policies continued

The amount included in respect of IBNR is based on statistical techniques of estimation applied by external consulting actuaries. These techniques generally involve projecting from past experience of the development of claims over time to form a view of the likely ultimate claims to be experienced for more recent underwriting, having regard to variations in the business accepted and the underlying terms and conditions. The provision for claims also includes amounts in respect of internal and external claims handling costs. For the most recent years, where a high degree of volatility arises from projections, estimates may be based in part on output from rating and other models of the business accepted and assessments of underwriting conditions.

The reinsurers' share of provisions for claims is based on calculated amounts of outstanding claims and projections for IBNR, net of estimated irrecoverable amounts, having regard to the reinsurance programme in place for the class of business and the claims experience for the year. The Syndicate uses a number of statistical techniques to assist in making these estimates.

Accordingly, the two most critical assumptions as regards claims provisions are that the past is a reasonable predictor of the likely level of claims development and that the rating and other models used for current business are fair reflections of the likely level of ultimate claims to be incurred.

The directors consider that the provisions for gross claims and related reinsurance recoveries are fairly stated on the basis of the information currently available to them. However, ultimate liability will vary as a result of subsequent information and events and this may result in significant adjustments to the amounts provided.

Adjustments to the amounts of claims provisions established in prior years are reflected in the financial statements for the period in which the adjustments are made. The methods used, and the estimates made, are reviewed regularly.

Provisions for unearned premiums

Unearned premiums are those proportions of premiums written in a year that relate to periods of risk after the reporting date. In respect of general insurance business, written premiums are recognised as earned over the period of the policy on a time apportionment basis having regard where appropriate, to the incidence of risk. The proportion attributable to subsequent periods is deferred as a provision for unearned premiums.

Unearned reinsurance premiums are those proportions of premiums written in a year that relate to periods of risk after the reporting date. Unearned reinsurance premiums are deferred over the term of the underlying direct insurance policies for risks-attaching contracts and over the term of the reinsurance contract for losses-occurring contracts.

Unexpired risks

A provision for unexpired risks is made where claims and related expenses likely to arise after the end of the financial period in respect of contracts concluded before that date, are expected to exceed the unearned premiums and premiums receivable under these contracts, after the deduction of any acquisition costs deferred.

The provision for unexpired risks is calculated separately by reference to classes of business which are managed together, after taking into account relevant investment return.

At 31 December 2016 the Syndicate had an unexpired risk provision of £492,635 (2015: £0).

Accounting policies continued

Deferred acquisition costs

Acquisition costs comprise costs arising from the conclusion of insurance contracts. They include both direct costs, such as intermediary commissions or the cost of drawing up the insurance document or including the insurance contract in the portfolio, and indirect costs, such as the advertising costs or the administrative expenses connected with the processing of proposals and the issuing of policies.

Deferred acquisition costs are costs arising from conclusion of insurance contracts that are incurred during the reporting period but which relate to a subsequent reporting period, and which are carried forward to subsequent reporting periods.

Deferred acquisition costs are amortised over the period in which the related premiums are earned.

Reinsurance assets

The Syndicate cedes insurance risk in the normal course of business. Reinsurance assets represent balances due from reinsurance companies. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the outstanding claims provision or settled claims associated with the reinsurer's policies and are in accordance with the related reinsurance contract.

Reinsurance assets are reviewed for impairment at each reporting date, or more frequently, when an indication of impairment arises during the reporting year. Impairment occurs when there is objective evidence as a result of an event that occurred after initial recognition of the reinsurance asset that the Syndicate may not receive all outstanding amounts due under the terms of the contract and the event has a reliably measurable impact on the amounts that the Syndicate will receive from the reinsurer. The impairment loss is recorded in the income statement.

Gains or losses on buying reinsurance are recognised in the income statement immediately at the date of purchase and are not amortised. There were no such gains recognised in 2016 or 2015.

Ceded reinsurance arrangements do not relieve the Syndicate from its obligations to policyholders.

Insurance receivables

Insurance receivables are recognised when due and measured on initial recognition at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Subsequent to initial recognition, insurance receivables are measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. The carrying value of insurance receivables is reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable, with the impairment loss recorded in the income statement.

Insurance receivables are not recognised when the de-recognition criteria for financial assets have been met.

Accounting policies continued

Insurance payables

Insurance payables are recognised when due and measured on initial recognition at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. Insurance payables are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is settled, cancelled or expired.

Foreign currencies

The Syndicate's functional currency and presentational currency is GBP.

Transactions denominated in currencies other than the functional currency are initially recorded in the functional currency at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities (which include all assets and liabilities arising from insurance contracts including unearned premiums and deferred acquisition costs) denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated into the functional currency at the exchange rate ruling on the reporting date.

Exchange differences are recorded in the non-technical account.

The following balance sheet rates of exchange have been used in the preparation of these accounts:

	2016 Year End	2015 Year End
USD	1.24	1.47
CAD	1.66	2.05
EUR	1.17	1.36
AUD	1.71	2.03
ZAR	16.91	22.83

Financial assets and liabilities

In applying FRS 102, the Syndicate has chosen to apply the recognition and measurement provisions of IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement (as adopted for use in the EU).

Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss comprise financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading and those designated as such on initial recognition. Investments in shares and other variable yield securities, units in unit trusts, and debt and other fixed income securities are designated as at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition, as they are managed on a fair value basis in accordance with the Syndicate's investment strategy.

Accounting policies continued

Financial instruments are recognised when the Syndicate becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognised if the Syndicate's contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or if the Syndicate transfers the financial asset to another party without retaining control of substantially all risks and rewards of the asset. A financial liability is derecognised when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled, or expire.

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised and derecognised, as applicable, on the trade date, i.e. the date that the Syndicate commits itself to purchase or sell the asset.

A financial asset or financial liability is measured initially at fair value plus, for a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit and loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value with fair value changes recognised immediately in profit or loss. Net gains or net losses on financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss includes foreign exchange gains/losses arising on their translation to the functional currency, but excludes interest and dividend income.

At each reporting date the Syndicate assesses whether there is objective evidence that financial assets not at fair value through profit or loss are impaired. Financial assets are impaired when objective evidence demonstrates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of an asset, and that the loss event has an impact on the future cash flows on the asset that can be estimated reliably.

Objective evidence that financial assets are impaired includes observable data that comes to the attention of the Syndicate about any significant financial difficulty of the issuer, or significant changes in the technological, market, economic or legal environment in which the issuer operates.

An impairment loss in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount, and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Individually significant financial assets are tested for impairment on an individual basis. The remaining financial assets are assessed collectively in groups that share similar credit risk characteristics.

An impairment loss recognised reduces directly the carrying amount of the impaired asset. All impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. An impairment loss is reversed if the reversal can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised. For financial assets measured at amortised cost the reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Investment return

Investment return comprises all investment income, realised investment gains and losses and movements in unrealised gains and losses, net of investment expenses, charges and interest.

Accounting policies continued

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive income is established. Usually this is the ex-dividend date for equity securities. Interest income on financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised using the effective interest method. For the purpose of separately presenting investment income and unrealised gains and losses for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, interest income is recognised as it accrues on the next coupon payment.

For investments at fair value through profit or loss, realised gains and losses represent the difference between the net proceeds on disposal and the purchase price. For investments measured at amortised cost, realised gains and losses represents the difference between the net proceeds on disposal and the latest carrying value (or if acquired after the last reporting date, the purchase price).

Unrealised gains and losses on investments represent the difference between the fair value at the balance sheet date and their purchase price. Movements in unrealised investment gains and losses comprise the increase/decrease in the reporting period in the value of the investments held at the reporting date and the reversal of unrealised investment gains and losses recognised in earlier reporting periods in respect of investment disposals of the current period, or the valuation at the beginning of the year; as well as the reversal of previously recognised unrealised gains and losses in respect of investments disposed of in the current period.

Investment return is initially recorded in the non-technical account. The return is transferred in full to the general business technical account to reflect the investment return on funds supporting underwriting business.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits with maturities of three months or less from the acquisition date that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in fair value, and are used by the Syndicate in the management of its short-term commitments.

Fair value measurement of investments

Financial instruments that are classified as fair value through the profit or loss account are assigned a level using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in these measurements.

The Syndicate uses the following hierarchy for determining the fair value of financial instruments by valuation technique:

Level 1 financial instruments comprise government bonds that are regularly traded, deposits with credit institutions and collective investment schemes which comprise Money Market Funds.

- Bonds have been valued at fair value using quoted prices in an active market.

Accounting policies continued

Level 2 financial instruments are less regularly traded government and agency bonds, supranational bonds, corporate bonds, currency derivatives, bond futures, and fund investments.

- Bonds are included in the balance sheet at bid price using prices supplied by the custodian or by the investment managers, who obtain market data from numerous independent pricing services. The prices used are reconciled against a common market pricing source.

- Investments in regulated collective investment schemes are valued on the NAVs of each of the individual funds as published publicly by the managers.

- Investments in pooled investments in unregulated investment schemes (hedge funds) are valued based on the underlying NAVs of each of the individual funds. Hedge fund NAVs are provided by the administrators of the schemes.

- Investments in investment pools are valued on the valuations supplied by the investment manager (Lloyd's).

Level 3 financial instruments have a fair value derived from inputs that are not based on observable market data. The Syndicate does not currently hold any level 3 financial instruments.

Taxation

Under Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 1993 managing agents are not required to deduct basic rate income tax from trading income. In addition, all UK basic rate income tax (currently at 20%) deducted from Syndicate investment income is recoverable by managing agents and consequently the distribution made to members or their members' agents is gross of tax. Capital appreciation falls within trading income and is also distributed gross of tax.

No provision has been made for any other overseas tax payable by members on underwriting results or investment earnings. Any payments on account made by the Syndicate during the year have been included in the balance sheet under the heading 'other debtors'.

Profit commission

Profit commission is charged by the managing agent at a rate of 17.5% of profit subject to the operation of a two year deficit clause. Such commission does not become payable until after the appropriate year of account closes normally at 36 months.

Pension costs

The Managing Agent operates a defined contribution scheme. Pension contributions to Syndicate staff are charged to the Syndicate and included within net operating expenses.

Accounting policies continued

Syndicate operating expenses

Where expenses are incurred by the Managing Agent or on behalf of the Managing Agent on the administration of managed Syndicates, these expenses are apportioned using various methods depending on the type of expense. Expenses which are incurred jointly for the Managing Agent and managed Syndicates are apportioned between the Managing Agent and the Syndicates depending on the amount of work performed, resources used and volume of business transacted.

3. Segmental analysis

An analysis of the underwriting result before investment return is set out below:

2016	Gross written premiums	Gross premium earned	Gross claims incurred	Net operating expenses	Reinsurance balance	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Direct insurance:						
Third-party liability	49,928	45,599	(56,909)	(16,674)	28,036	52
	49,928	45,599	(56,909)	(16,674)	28,036	52

2015	Gross written premiums	Gross premium earned	Gross claims incurred	Net operating expenses	Reinsurance balance	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Direct insurance:						
Third-party liability	44,308	42,183	(13,156)	(15,604)	(4,700)	8,723
	44,308	42,183	(13,156)	(15,604)	(4,700)	8,723

Commissions on direct insurance gross premiums earned during 2016 were £9.4 million (2015: £8.1 million).

All premiums were concluded in the UK.

Gross operating expenses are the same as net operating expenses shown in the income statement, as no commissions in respect of outward reinsurance were received and set off in arriving at the net operating expenses for 2016.

4. Technical provisions

	2016 Gross provisions £'000	2016 Reinsurance assets £'000	2016 Net £'000	2015 Gross provisions £'000	2015 Reinsurance assets £'000	2015 Net £'000
Claims outstanding						
Balance at 1 January	113,480	(25,553)	87,927	116,166	(29,049)	87,117
Change in claims outstanding	29,726	(24,332)	5,394	(2,430)	3,448	1,018
Effect of movements in exchange rates	1,928	(505)	1,423	(256)	48	(208)
Balance at 31 December	**145,134**	**(50,390)**	**94,744**	**113,480**	**(25,553)**	**87,927**
Claims notified	97,905	(26,353)	71,552	92,318	(20,626)	71,692
Claims incurred but not reported	47,229	(24,037)	23,192	21,162	(4,927)	16,235
Balance at 31 December	**145,134**	**(50,390)**	**94,744**	**113,480**	**(25,553)**	**87,927**
Unearned premiums						
Balance at 1 January	19,005	(4,897)	14,108	16,923	(4,432)	12,491
Change in unearned premiums	4,329	(488)	3,841	2,125	(465)	1,660
Effect of movements in exchange rates	326	-	326	(43)	-	(43)
Balance at 31 December	**23,660**	**(5,385)**	**18,275**	**19,005**	**(4,897)**	**14,108**
Deferred acquisition costs						
Balance at 1 January	3,386	-	3,386	3,018	-	3,018
Change in deferred acquisition costs	867	-	866	377	-	377
Effect of movements in exchange rates	437	-	438	(9)	-	(9)
Balance at 31 December	**4,690**	**-**	**4,690**	**3,386**	**-**	**3,386**

There were favourable movements during the year of £19.2m (2015: £28.9m), on prior year gross claims reserves, held at 31 December 2015.

5. Net operating expenses

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Acquisition costs	(10,264)	(8,956)
Change in deferred acquisition costs	867	449
Administration expenses	(7,277)	(7,097)
Net operating expenses	(16,674)	(15,604)

Members' standard personal expenses amounting to £1,853,660 (2015: £2,618,816) are included in administrative expenses. Members' standard personal expenses include Lloyd's subscriptions, New Central Fund contributions, managing agent's fees and profit commission.

6. Staff costs

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	1,528	1,402
Social security costs	183	170
Other pension costs	291	193
	2,002	1,765

The average number of employees of the Managing Agent, working during the year for the Syndicate were as follows:

	2016	2015
Administration	3	3
Underwriting	8	8
Claims	9	8
	20	19

7. Auditor's remuneration

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Audit of the Financial statements	85	91
Other services pursuant to Regulations and Lloyd's Byelaws	70	68
	155	159

Auditor's remuneration is included as part of the administrative expenses in note 5 to the financial statements.

8. Emoluments of the directors of Asta Managing Agency Ltd

The aggregate emoluments of the Directors and staff of the Managing Agency are met by Asta Managing Agency Ltd and are disclosed within the financial statements of that company, with the exception of J. M. Tighe, S.P.A. Norton, D.J.G. Hunt and L Harfitt. J.M. Tighe and S.P.A Norton's remuneration is disclosed in the financial statements of Asta Capital Ltd and the remuneration of D.J.G. Hunt and L Harfitt is disclosed in the financial statements of Asta Insurance Markets Ltd and were all charged in the accounts of Asta Managing Agency Ltd.

No emoluments of the Directors or staff of Asta Managing Agency Ltd were directly charged to the Syndicate.

No other compensation was payable to key management personnel.

The Active Underwriter received the following aggregate remuneration, charged as a Syndicate expense:

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Active Underwriter's emoluments	247	237
	247	237

9. Investment return

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Income from other financial investments	964	1,335
Gains on realisation of investments		
- Fair value through profit or loss designated upon initial recognition	31	13
Total investment income	995	1,348
Losses on realisation of investments		
- Fair value through profit or loss designated upon initial recognition	(155)	(594)
Investment expenses and charges	(74)	(74)
	(229)	(668)
Unrealised gains on investments		
- Financial instruments at fair value through profit and loss	(22)	(210)
Total investment return	744	470
Average amount of funds available for investing during the year:		
Sterling	76,020	74,984
United States dollars	2,235	6,543
Canadian dollars	9,565	2,784
Euro	7,522	8,738
Australian Dollars	3,700	2,783
South African Rand	15,087	2,130
Combined in sterling	92,487	88,546
Gross calendar year investment yield:		
Sterling	637	411
United States dollars	14	10
Canadian dollars	51	18
Euro	14	29
Australian Dollars	44	32
South African Rand	563	83
Combined in sterling	744	470

"Average fund" is the average of bank balances, overseas deposits and investments held at the end of each quarter during the calendar year. For this purpose, investments are revalued at month-end market prices, which include accrued income where appropriate.

10. Financial investments

	2016		
	Carrying value	Purchase price	Listed
	£000	£000	£000
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts			
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	13,765	13,765	13,765
Debt securities and other fixed income securities			
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	65,044	65,156	64,389
	78,809	78,921	78,154

	2015		
	Carrying value	Purchase price	Listed
	£000	£000	£000
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts			
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	7,445	7,445	7,445
Debt securities and other fixed income securities			
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	71,430	71,642	71,145
	78,875	79,087	78,590

Amounts included within shares and other variable securities include CIS/Unit Trusts where funds are invested in a single entity which invests in investments. These are treated as cash instruments with the carrying value and purchase price being the same.

There was no material change in fair value for financial instruments held at fair value attributable to own credit risk in the current or comparative period.

Financial investments continued

The following table shows financial investments recorded at fair value analysed between the three levels in the fair value hierarchy.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
31 December 2016				
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts	733	13,032	-	13,765
Debt securities and other fixed income securities	1,100	63,944	-	65,044
Total	1,833	76,976	-	78,809

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
31 December 2015				
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts	841	6,605	-	7,446
Debt securities and other fixed income securities	6,073	65,356	-	71,429
Total	6,914	71,961	-	78,875

Included in the level 1 category are financial assets that are measured by reference to published quotes in an active market. A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry Syndicate, pricing service or regulatory agency and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

Included in the level 2 category are financial assets measured using a valuation technique based on assumptions that are supported by prices from observable current market transactions. For example, assets for which pricing is obtained via pricing services but where prices have not been determined in an active market, financial assets with fair values based on broker quotes, investments in private equity funds with fair values obtained via fund managers and assets that are valued using the Syndicate's own models whereby the significant inputs into the assumptions are market observable.

Included in the level 3 category, are financial assets measured using a valuation technique (model) based on assumptions that are neither supported by prices from observable current market transactions in the same instrument nor are they based on available market data. Therefore, unobservable inputs reflect the Syndicate's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk). These inputs are developed based on the best information available, which might include the Syndicate's own data. The Syndicate does not have any financial investments that meet level 3 criteria.

11. Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Due from intermediaries (within one year)	14,366	11,924
Due from intermediaries (after one year)	45	0
	14,411	11,924

12. Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Due from intermediaries (within one year)	61	413
	61	413

13. Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Direct Business - Intermediaries (within one year)	1,486	275
	1,486	275

14. Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Reinsurance ceded (within one year)	1,530	640
	1,530	640

15. Cash and cash equivalents

	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Cash at bank and in hand	15,165	11,702
Short-term deposits with financial institutions	8,556	6,277
	23,721	17,979

16. Related parties

Asta provides services and support to Syndicate 2525 in its capacity as Managing Agent. During the year, managing agency fees of £500,000 (2015: £422,250) were charged to the Syndicate. Asta also recharged £2,061,623 (2015: £2,074,282) worth of service charges in the year and as at 31 December 2016 an amount of £313,095 (2015: £200,138) was owed to Asta in respect of this service. Syndicate staff are employed and paid by a service company, Asta Management Services Limited.

Syndicate 2525 has recorded £960,085 (2015: £1,813,442) for profit commission.

From time to time, Syndicates managed by Asta enter into (re)insurance contracts with one another. All such transactions are subject to Asta's internal controls which ensure that all are compliant with Lloyd's Related Party Bylaw provisions. All transactions are entered into on normal market conditions.

17. Disclosure of interests

Managing Agent's interest

During 2016 Asta was the managing agent for eight Syndicates and three Special Purpose Arrangements. Syndicate 1686, 1729, 1897, 1910, 2357, 2525, 2786 and 4242 as well as Special Purpose Arrangements 6117, 6123 and 6126 were managed on behalf of third party capital providers.

On 7 February 2017, Syndicate 1910 and Special Purpose Arrangement 6117 migrated to Argo Managing Agency Limited.

On 1 January 2017, Asta took on management of Syndicate 2689 and Syndicate 5886.

The agency also provides administrative services to Syndicates and undertakes a number of ancillary roles for other clients.

The Financial Statements of the Managing Agency can be obtained by application to the Registered Office (see page 1).

18. Funds at Lloyd's

Every member is required to hold capital at Lloyd's which is held in trust and known as Funds at Lloyd's (FAL). These funds are intended primarily to cover circumstances where Syndicate assets prove insufficient to meet participating members' underwriting liabilities.

The level of FAL that Lloyd's requires a member to maintain is determined by Lloyd's based on PRA requirements and resource criteria. FAL has regard to a number of factors including the nature and amount of risk to be underwritten by the member and the assessment of the reserving risk in respect of business that has been underwritten. Since FAL is not under the management of the Managing Agent, no amount has been shown in these financial statements by way of such capital resources. However, the Managing Agent is able to make a call on the members' FAL to meet liquidity requirements or to settle losses.

19. Off-balance sheet items

The Syndicate has not been party to an arrangement, which is not reflected in its statement of financial position, where material risks and benefits arise for the Syndicate.

20. Risk management

a) Governance framework

The Syndicate's risk and financial management framework aims to protect the Syndicate's members' capital from events that might otherwise prevent the Syndicate from meeting its policyholder obligations, while maximising the returns to its members. The directors recognise the critical importance of having efficient and effective risk management systems in place.

Asta maintains a risk management function for the Syndicate with clear terms of reference from the Syndicate Board, its committees and sub committees. Asta supplements this with a clear organisational structure with documented delegated authorities and responsibilities from the main Asta managing agency board to the Syndicate who perform the underwriting activities. Lastly, the Syndicate policy framework sets its risk management and control and business conduct standards for operations. Asta reviews and monitors each policy to ensure compliance with the policy throughout the Syndicate.

The Syndicate board approves the risk management policies and meets regularly to approve any commercial, regulatory and organisational requirements of such policies. These policies define the identification of risk and its interpretation to ensure the appropriate quality and diversification of assets, align underwriting and reinsurance strategy to the Syndicate goals, and specify reporting requirements. The Syndicate board places significant emphasis on the assessment and documentation of risks and controls, including the articulation of the Syndicate's risk appetite.

b) Capital management objectives, policies and approach

Capital framework at Lloyd's

The Society of Lloyd's (Lloyd's) is a regulated undertaking and is subject to the supervision of the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Within the supervisory framework, Lloyd's applies capital requirements at member level and centrally to ensure that Lloyd's complies with Solvency II capital requirements, and beyond that to meet its own financial strength, licence and ratings objectives.

Although Lloyd's capital setting processes use a capital requirement set at Syndicate level as a starting point, the requirement to meet Solvency II and Lloyd's capital requirements apply at overall and member level only respectively, not at Syndicate level. Accordingly the capital requirement in respect of 2525 is not disclosed in these financial statements.

Risk management continued

Lloyd's capital setting process

In order to meet Lloyd's requirements, each Syndicate is required to calculate its Solvency Capital Requirement (SCR) for the prospective underwriting year. This amount must be sufficient to cover a 1 in 200 year loss, reflecting uncertainty in the ultimate run-off of underwriting liabilities (SCR 'to ultimate'). The Syndicate must also calculate its SCR at the same confidence level but reflecting uncertainty over a one year time horizon (one year SCR) for Lloyd's to use in meeting Solvency II requirements. The SCRs of each Syndicate are subject to review by Lloyd's and approval by the Lloyd's Capital and Planning Group.

A Syndicate may be comprised of one or more underwriting members of Lloyd's. Each member is liable for its own share of underwriting liabilities on the Syndicate on which it participates but not other members' shares. Accordingly, the capital requirement that Lloyd's sets for each member operates on a similar basis. Each member's SCR shall thus be determined by the sum of the member's share of the Syndicate SCR 'to ultimate'. Where a member participates on more than one Syndicate, a credit for diversification is provided to reflect the spread of risk, but consistent with determining an SCR which reflects the capital requirement to cover a 1 in 200 year loss 'to ultimate' for that member. Over and above this, Lloyd's applies a capital uplift to the member's capital requirement, known as the Economic Capital Assessment (ECA). The purpose of this uplift, which is a Lloyd's not a Solvency II requirement, is to meet Lloyd's financial strength, licence and ratings objectives. The capital uplift applied for 2017 was 35% of the member's SCR 'to ultimate'.

Provision of capital by members

Each member may provide capital to meet its ECA either by assets held in trust by Lloyd's specifically for that member (funds at Lloyd's), held within and managed within a Syndicate (funds in Syndicate) or as the member's share of the members' balances on each Syndicate on which it participates. Accordingly, the ending members balances reported on the statement of financial position on page 17, represent resources available to meet members' and Lloyd's capital requirements.

c) Insurance risk

The principal risk the Syndicate faces under insurance contracts is that the actual claims and benefit payments or the timing thereof, differ from expectations. This is influenced by the frequency of claims, severity of claims, actual benefits paid and subsequent development of long-term claims. Therefore, the objective of the Syndicate is to ensure that sufficient reserves are available to cover these liabilities.

The risk exposure is mitigated by diversification across a large portfolio of insurance contracts and geographical areas. The variability of risks is also improved by careful selection and implementation of underwriting strategy guidelines, as well as the use of reinsurance arrangements.

The Syndicate purchases reinsurance as part of its risks mitigation programme. Reinsurance ceded is placed on a non-proportional basis. Non-proportional reinsurance is excess-of-loss reinsurance designed to mitigate the Syndicate's net exposure to large losses. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the outstanding claims provision and are in accordance with the reinsurance contracts. The Syndicate's placement of reinsurance is diversified such that it is neither dependent on a single reinsurer nor are the operations substantially dependent upon any single reinsurance contract.

Risk management continued

Sub committees of the Syndicate board oversee the management of reserving risk. The use of standardised and internal modelling techniques, as well as benchmarking and the review of claims development are key in mitigating reserving risk.

The purpose of these underwriting, reinsurance and reserving strategies is to limit exposure to catastrophes or large losses based on the Syndicate's risk appetite as decided by the Syndicate board.

The Syndicate uses both its own and commercially available risk management software to assess catastrophe exposure. However, there is always a risk that the assumptions and techniques used in these models are unreliable or that claims arising from an un-modelled event are greater than those arising from a modelled event.

As a further guide to the level of catastrophe exposure written by the Syndicate, the following table shows hypothetical claims arising out of the RDS on the Syndicates in-force exposure at 31 December 2016.

	Estimated Gross loss	**Estimated Net loss**
	£'000	**£'000**
Alternative RDS A	25,000	1,500
Alternative RDS B	25,000	1,000
Loss of Major Complex	30,000	1,000

Key assumptions

The principal assumption underlying the liability estimates is that the future claims development will follow a similar pattern to past claims development experience. This includes assumptions in respect of average claim costs, claim handling costs, claim inflation factors and claim numbers for each underwriting year. Additional qualitative judgements are used to assess the extent to which past trends may not apply in the future, for example: once-off occurrence; changes in market factors such as public attitude to claiming: economic conditions: as well as internal factors such as portfolio mix, policy conditions and claims handling procedures. Judgement is further used to assess the extent to which external factors such as judicial decisions and government legislation affect the estimates.

Other key circumstances affecting the reliability of assumptions include variation in interest rates, delays in settlement and changes in foreign currency rates.

Sensitivities

The claim liabilities are sensitive to the key assumptions that follow. It has not been possible to quantify the sensitivity of certain assumptions such as legislative changes or uncertainty in the estimation process.

Risk management continued

The following analysis is performed for reasonably possible movements in key assumptions with all other assumptions held constant, showing the impact on net liabilities, profit and members' balances. The correlation of assumptions will have a significant effect in determining the ultimate claims liabilities, but to demonstrate the impact due to changes in assumptions, each assumption had to be changed on an individual basis. It should be noted that movements in these assumptions are non-linear.

2016	**Five Percent increase**	**Five Percent decrease**
	£'000	**£'000**
Third party liability	(5,764)	5,764

2015	**Five Percent increase**	**Five Percent decrease**
	£'000	**£'000**
Third party liability	(4,396)	4,396

The method used for deriving sensitivity information and significant assumptions did not change from the previous period.

Claims development table

The tables below show the Syndicate's cumulative incurred claims development, including both claims notified and IBNR for each underwriting year, together with the cumulative payments to date on a gross and net of reinsurance basis at the balance sheet date.

The Syndicate has elected to translate estimated claims and claims payments at a consistent rate of exchange as determined by the balance sheet date.

Risk management continued

Underwriting year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimate of cumulative gross claims incurred:						
At end of first underwriting year	8,875	8,040	8,226	9,775	10,185	26,316
One year later	25,697	32,091	24,398	27,786	34,727	
Two years later	25,782	31,259	30,677	40,102		
Three years later	24,097	25,457	29,394			
Four years later	18,189	23,832				
Five years later	16,920					
Less cumulative gross paid	(13,663)	(8,731)	(4,983)	(4,121)	(1,184)	(12,173)
Liability for gross outstanding claims (2011 to 2016)	3,257	15,101	24,411	35,981	33,543	14,143
Liability for gross outstanding claims (2010 and before)	18,698					
Total gross outstanding claims (all years)						145,134

Underwriting year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimate of cumulative net claims incurred:						
At end of first underwriting year	7,494	6,802	6,556	8,308	8,496	10,481
One year later	21,480	22,052	22,522	23,814	25,062	
Two years later	20,549	25,372	23,721	28,685		
Three years later	18,572	21,666	19,812			
Four years later	14,169	18,202				
Five years later	12,086					
Less cumulative net paid	(10,203)	(8,731)	(4,983)	(4,121)	(1,184)	(1,113)
Liability for net outstanding claims (2011 to 2016)	1,883	9,471	14,829	24,564	23,878	9,368
Liability for net outstanding claims (2010 and before)	10,751					
Total net outstanding claims (all years)						94,744

Risk management continued

The uncertainty associated with the ultimate claims experience of an underwriting year is greatest when the underwriting year is at an early stage of development and the margin for future experience potentially being more adverse than assumed is at its highest. As claims develop, and the ultimate cost of the claims becomes more certain, the relative level of margin should decrease. Due, however, to the uncertainty inherent in the claims estimation process, initial reserves may not always be in a surplus.

d) Financial risk

The focus of financial risk management for the Syndicate is ensuring that the proceeds from its financial assets are sufficient to fund the obligations arising from its insurance contracts. The goal of the investment management process is to optimise the risk-adjusted investment income and risk-adjusted total return by investing in a diversified portfolio of securities, whilst ensuring that the assets and liabilities are managed on a cash flow and duration basis.

1) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss by failing to discharge an obligation.

The following policies and procedures are in place to mitigate the exposure to credit risk:

- Investment guidelines are established setting out the quality of investments to be included within the Syndicate's portfolio. The policy is monitored by the Investment Committee and/or Syndicate Board.
- Reinsurance is placed with counterparties that have a good credit rating and concentration of risk is avoided by following policy guidelines in respect of counterparties' limits. If the counterparty is downgraded or does not have a good credit rating, then collateral is sought to mitigate any risk. This is monitored by the Reinsurance Security Committee, a sub committee of the Syndicate Board.

The tables below show the maximum exposure to credit risk (including an analysis of financial assets exposed to credit risk) for the components of the statement of financial position. The maximum exposure is shown gross, before the effect of mitigation through collateral agreements and the use of credit derivatives.

Risk management continued

2016

	£'000			
	Neither past due or impaired	**Past due**	**Impaired**	**Total**
Shares and other variable yield securities	8,557	-	-	8,557
Debt Securities	65,044	-	-	65,044
Overseas Deposits	5,208	-	-	5,208
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	50,390	-	-	50,390
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	13,135	1,276	-	14,411
Debtors arising out of reinsurance insurance operations	61	-	-	61
Other debtors	10,345	-	-	10,345
Cash at bank and in hand	15,165	-	-	15,165
Total	167,905	1,276	-	169,181

2015

	£'000			
	Neither past due or impaired	**Past due**	**Impaired**	**Total**
Shares and other variable yield securities	6,277	-	-	6,277
Debt Securities	71,430	-	-	71,430
Overseas Deposits	1,168	-	-	1,168
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	25,553	-	-	25,553
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	10,955	969	-	11,924
Debtors arising out of reinsurance insurance operations	-	-	-	-
Other debtors	5	-	-	5
Cash at bank and in hand	11,702	-	-	11,702
Total	127,090	969	-	128,059

Risk management continued

The table below provides information regarding the credit risk exposure of the Syndicate at 31 December 2016 by classifying assets according to independent credit ratings of the counterparties. AAA is the highest possible rating. Assets that fall outside the range of AAA to BBB are classified as speculative grade and have not been rated, Debtors, other than amounts due from reinsurers, have been excluded from the table as these are not rated.

2016				£'000			
	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BBB or less	Not Rated	Total
Shares and other variable yield securities	-	-	8,557	-	-	-	8,557
Debt Securities	20,277	36,877	7,890	-	-	-	65,044
Overseas Deposits	2,869	136	165	845	1,149	44	5,208
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	-	3,471	46,919	-	-	-	50,390
Debtors arising out of reinsurance insurance operations	-	-	61	-	-	-	61
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-	15,165	-	-	-	15,165
Total	23,146	40,484	78,757	845	1,149	44	144,425

2015				£'000			
	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BBB or less	Not Rated	Total
Shares and other variable yield securities	-	390	5,887	-	-	-	6,277
Debt Securities	24,060	47,111	259	-	-	-	71,430
Overseas Deposits	623	241	113	189	1	1	1,168
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	-	1,308	24,245	-	-	-	25,553
Debtors arising out of reinsurance insurance operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-	11,702	-	-	-	11,702
Total	24,683	49,050	42,206	189	1	1	116,130

It is the Syndicate's policy to maintain accurate and consistent risk ratings across its credit portfolio. This enables management to focus on the applicable risks and the comparison of credit exposures across all lines of business.

During the year, no credit exposure limits were exceeded.

Risk management continued

2) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Syndicate may not have enough cash to pay insurance claims and other liabilities. The Syndicate tries to reduce this risk by reviewing its expected cash obligations on a quarterly basis and keeping adequate cash on deposit to meet those obligations.

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Syndicate's financial liabilities based on remaining undiscounted contractual obligations, including interest payable and outstanding claim liabilities based on the estimated timing of claim payments resulting from recognised insurance liabilities. Repayments which are subject to notice are treated as if notice were to be given immediately.

2016 **£'000**

	No stated maturity	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 years	Total
Claims outstanding	-	44,443	54,022	26,528	20,141	145,134
Creditors	-	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Total	-	48,443	54,022	26,528	20,141	149,134

2015 **£'000**

	No stated maturity	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 years	Total
Claims outstanding	-	35,249	42,278	20,388	15,565	113,480
Creditors	-	2,729	-	-	-	2,729
Total	-	37,978	42,278	20,388	15,565	116,209

3) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument or insurance contract will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk.

The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimising the return on risk. The nature of the Syndicate exposures to market risk and its objectives, policies and processes for managing market risk have not changed significantly from the prior year.

a) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

The Syndicate's functional currency is GBP and its exposure to foreign exchange risk arises primarily with respect to transactions in Euro, US and Canadian dollars. The Syndicate seeks to mitigate the risk by matching the estimated foreign currency denominated liabilities with assets denominated in the same currency.

Risk management continued

The table below summarises the exposure of the financial assets and liabilities to foreign currency exchange risk at the reporting date, as follows:

2016

	GBP	USD	EUR	CAD	AUD	OTH	Total
Total Assets	145,855	7,351	8,659	3,169	3,266	881	169,181
Total Liabilities	(153,645)	(1,916)	(7,527)	(7,528)	(708)	(2,567)	(173,891)
Net Assets	(7,790)	5,435	1,132	(4,359)	2,558	(1,686)	(4,710)

2015

	GBP	USD	EUR	CAD	AUD	OTH	Total
Total Assets	118,523	6,699	7,171	2,628	1,926	411	137,358
Total Liabilities	(122,934)	(3,004)	(5,615)	(2,404)	(1,492)	(448)	(135,897)
Net Assets	(4,411)	3,695	1,556	224	434	(37)	1,461

The Syndicate matches its currency position so it holds net assets across a number of currencies. The Syndicate takes into consideration the underlying currency of the Syndicate's required capital and invests its assets proportionately across these currencies so as to protect the solvency of the Syndicate, against variation in foreign exchange rates. As a result, the Syndicate holds a significant proportion of its assets in foreign currency adjustments.

Sensitivity to changes

The table below gives an indication of the impact on profit of a percentage change in the relative strength of Sterling against the value of the US dollar, Canadian dollar and Euro simultaneously. The analysis is based on the information as at 31st December 2016.

Impact on profit and member's balance

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Sterling weakens		
10% against other currencies	885	548
20% against other currencies	1,758	1,095
Sterling strengthens		
10% against other currencies	(899)	(548)
20% against other currencies	(1,819)	(1,095)

b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.
Floating rate instruments expose the Syndicate to cash flow interest risk, whereas fixed rate instruments expose the Syndicate to fair value interest risk.

Risk management continued

The Syndicate has no significant concentration of interest rate risk.

Insurance liabilities are not discounted and therefore not exposed to interest rate risk.

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Interest Rate Risk		
Impact of 50 basis point increase on result	(336)	(221)
Impact of 50 basis point decrease on result	263	221
Impact of 50 basis point increase on net assets	(336)	(221)
Impact of 50 basis point decrease on net assets	263	221

The method used for deriving sensitivity information and significant variables did not change from the previous period.

21. Post balance sheet events

The Syndicate will distribute the 2014 year of account profits to members on 11 April 2017.