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Report & Financial Statements

Syndicate 4020

2023

Contents

Directors and administration

Managing agent

Ark Syndicate Management Limited

Directors

C Atkin	(Non-executive Chairman)
I Beaton	(Chief Executive)
N Brothers	
M Burch	(Non-executive)
P Dawson	
N Fox	
P McIntosh	
M Raven	
M Rountree	(Non-executive)
N Smith	
J Wardrop	(Non-executive)
J Welman	(Non-executive)

Company secretary

J Masson

Managing agent's registered office

30 Fenchurch Avenue
London
EC3M 5AD

Managing agent's company registration number

05887810

Syndicate information

<u>Active underwriters</u>

N Fox

M Raven

<u>Bankers</u>

Lloyds TSB Bank plc

Citibank NA

Royal Bank of Canada

<u>Investment managers</u>

Conning Asset Management Limited
55 King William Street
London
EC4R 9AD

<u>Independent auditors</u>

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
7 More London Riverside
London
SE1 2RT

Managing agent's report

The directors of the managing agent present their annual report and audited accounts for the year to 31 December 2023.

Principal activity and review of the business

The principal activity of the Syndicate is the underwriting of direct and reinsurance business in the Lloyd's market. The managing agent of the Syndicate is Ark Syndicate Management Limited ("ASML"), a company incorporated in the UK. ASML also manages the affairs of Syndicate 3902 which commenced underwriting as a stand-alone syndicate in 2017. Gross written premium income for the Year of Account ("YOA") and calendar ("Cal") year is set out below, along with a brief description of each class of business:

	2023 YOA Estimate £'000	2022 YOA Estimate £'000	2021 YOA Estimate £'000	2023 Cal year £'000	2022 Cal year £'000
Marine & Energy	85,024	80,625	56,802	93,284	78,299
Property	347,970	261,185	199,431	356,235	261,990
Casualty	10,410	7,390	7,874	12,069	7,835
Specialty	148,224	146,250	142,602	161,076	148,218
	591,628	495,450	406,709	622,664	496,342

Line of business	Reserving class and description
Marine & Energy	Cargo & Specie: Cargo is made up of general cargo transit and storage as well as higher value and more complex risks such as satellites, heavy lift, tows and project cargo. Specie includes fine art, metals, securities and vault risk written on an excess basis.
Marine & Energy	Marine & Energy Liabilities: Marine includes the reinsurance of the International Group of protection & indemnity ("P&I") Clubs.
Marine & Energy	Marine Hull & Liabilities: Insurance of low profile, smaller fleet business and specialised tonnage, with some vessel construction, marine property and marine war.
Marine & Energy	Energy Upstream: Insurance of exploration and production property (on/offshore), control of well, removal of wreck, business interruption, construction and renewable energy from a broad geographic spread.
Property	Property Reinsurance: Predominantly non-proportional, balanced between US and Rest of World ("ROW") exposures.
Property	Property Direct & Facultative: Mostly low fire hazard occupancies, avoiding higher risk exposed classes such as mining, mineral processing and other heavy industries.
Property	Property Programmes: US and Canadian binding authorities, avoiding highly competitive middle market/larger commercial property accounts.
Property	Global Property: US biased, worldwide portfolio with 80%/20% Excess/Primary split. Occupancies include power, industrial, municipal and real estate.
Casualty	Casualty Reinsurance: Predominantly US Medical Malpractice, Professional Liability and some General Liability.
Casualty	Specialty Programmes: Professional liability includes architects and engineers, insurance professionals and real estate agents Errors & Omissions ("E&O"), Allied Health, Cyber Liability and Miscellaneous E&O. Contingency and Crisis management were discontinued in 2016.
Specialty	Accident & Health: Includes exposure across war, key man, disability, credit card personal accident insurance and reinsurance catastrophe.
Specialty	Specialty Reinsurance: Consists of Aviation and Specialty reinsurance, including crop and satellite.
Specialty	Terrorism & Political Risk: Terror is primarily pure Terrorism physical damage and business interruption, with a small amount of broad-form political violence, including war on land. Political risk focus is contract frustration and confiscation / expropriation. War on land is also written. Peak exposures are in emerging countries.
Specialty	Fine Art & Specie: Includes jewellers block, cash in transit, general specie and fine art written both primary and excess.
Specialty	Product Contamination & Defect – food, beverage and consumer good risks, writing on quota share, primary and excess basis. Mainly North America and UK exposures. This class was discontinued in 2023.

Principal risks and uncertainties

ASML maintains a risk register within its risk management framework. Identified risk events are grouped into major risk categories according to the nature of the potential threat they pose to the business. The risk management framework allows risks to be identified and controls to be put in place as necessary, either to prevent the occurrence of the event or to mitigate its impact. The principal risks of the Syndicate are set out in note 2 of the accounts.

Seven year summary – closed years	2021 YOA	2020 YOA	2019 YOA	2018 YOA	2017 YOA	2016 YOA	2015 YOA
Syndicate allocated capacity (£m)	350.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	400.0	340.0
Number of Underwriting Members	1	1	1	1	1	2	3
Aggregate net premiums (£'000)	248,507	203,124	154,238	151,718	171,020	218,742	200,436

Illustrative share of £10,000	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Gross premium written (% of illustrative share)	90.1	87.8	65.3	63.3	66.7	66.5	85.1
Net premium written (% of illustrative share)	72.0	67.8	53.1	51.7	54.8	54.4	59.6
Profit / (Loss) (% of gross premium)	26.7	12.5	10.0	(7.3)	4.6	0.9	8.0
Profit / (Loss) (% of capacity)	24.1	11.0	6.5	(4.6)	3.1	0.6	6.8

Results for illustrative share of £10,000	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross premiums written	9,011	8,778	6,530	6,332	6,667	6,650	8,511
Net premiums	7,195	6,777	5,311	5,170	5,484	5,435	5,959
RITC from an earlier year of account	7,344	10,081	8,999	8,835	9,389	7,496	8,739
Net claims	(4,433)	(5,488)	(3,423)	(4,849)	(4,842)	(4,635)	(4,864)
Reinsurance to close	(6,894)	(8,988)	(9,161)	(8,927)	(9,052)	(7,279)	(8,127)
Underwriting profit	3,212	2,382	1,726	229	979	1,017	1,707
Other syndicate operating expenses	(873)	(942)	(972)	(687)	(778)	(763)	(995)
Movement on foreign currency translation	(36)	126	(40)	45	75	(178)	10
Investment return	875	(71)	200	90	192	130	271
Illustrative personal expenses:							
Managing agent's fee	(75)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(77)	(77)
Profit commission ("PC")	(616)	(262)	(129)	(16)	(16)	(6)	(155)
Other personal expenses	(76)	(63)	(56)	(61)	(67)	(66)	(80)
Profit / (Loss) after illustrative personal expenses / PC	2,411	1,095	654	(475)	310	57	681

Underwriting performance

YOA:

The 2021 YOA has closed with a profit of £84.4m after all standard personal expenses, equivalent to a profit on stamp capacity of 24.1%. The YOA has benefitted from a low incidence of natural catastrophes, although has been impacted by losses arising from the Ukraine conflict. Investment return for the YOA was also better than expectations, performance boosted by increased interest rates and fixed income valuation improvement in 2023.

The 2022 YOA is forecast at the 24 months to make a mid-point profit of £63.2m. Large losses impacting the YOA include the Ukraine conflict, and a series of natural catastrophes – the largest being Hurricane Ian and US winter storm Elliott. A forecast is not currently required for the 2023 YOA.

	2023 YOA	2022 YOA
Capacity	£525.0m	£350.0m
Forecast results (% of capacity)	na	15.6% - 20.6%

Calendar year:

The profit for the 2023 calendar year is £134.7m (2022: £63.6m), which is better than expectations. Premium growth has been strong, particularly for Property accounts in the aftermath of rate rises post Hurricane Ian, and good underwriting returns have been achieved. The premium growth and generally benign claims environment have led to strong inwards cashflow in the year. Investment returns in the year have been boosted by higher interest rates and the expected rebound in fixed income prices following the mark-to-market losses of 2022. The calendar year result together with key performance indicators is shown below:

	2023	2022
Profit for the financial year (£'000)	134,650	63,635
Claims ratio (%)	39.8%	45.7%
Expense ratio (%)	40.1%	37.2%
Combined ratio (%)	79.9%	82.9%

The claims ratio is the ratio of claims incurred net of reinsurance to earned premiums net of reinsurance. The expense ratio is the ratio of operating expenses and acquisition costs (excluding foreign exchange movements) to earned premiums net of reinsurance. The claims ratio reflects the underwriting issues noted above, and the expense ratio is broadly in line with expectations. The combined ratio including all foreign exchange movements is 80.9% (2022: 81.7%).

Operating expenses

Operating expenses, as set out below, are in line with expectations.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Acquisition costs – brokerage and commissions	105,476	91,626
Acquisition costs – other	6,693	6,183
Administrative expenses	44,718	33,969
Managing agency fee	3,675	2,588
Personal expenses	33,886	17,448
Operating expenses	194,448	151,814

Cash flow

There was a net cash flow decrease of £4.5m (2022: increase £17.9m) in the year arising from normal operating activities. Profit releases on open years of £51.6m (2022: £32.0m) were made during the year. On 23 February 2024, the ASML board approved a profit release of £36.2m for the 2022 YOA.

Investment return

Syndicate funds are actively managed by third party investment managers. The Syndicate has a diversified portfolio in corporate debt, cash, property funds and investment funds with an average duration that is appropriate compared to the expected liability duration. As set out below, the investment portfolio has returned a profit for the 2023 calendar year.

	2023	2022
Average funds available for investment in Syndicate 4020 and Syndicate 3902 (US$'000)	950,782	806,954
Investment return for the year before allocation to Syndicate 3902 (US$'000)	53,329	(9,631)
Annualised investment return (%)	5.6%	-1.2%

Investment gains in the syndicate totalled £37.5m, generated from average assets of £662.3m.

Financial position

The main components of the statement of financial position are technical provisions and investments and cash.

Technical provisions include a provision for outstanding claims of £519.8m (2022: £560.4m) and a provision for unearned premiums of £284.6m (2022: £246.6m). The reinsurers’ share of technical provisions is £76.3m (2022: £107.9m) in respect of unearned premiums and £15.8m (2022: £15.2m) for outstanding claims. The provision for outstanding claims is based on evaluations of reported claims and estimates for losses incurred but not reported (“IBNR”). As claims may not be settled for a number of years after they are incurred, the setting of provisions involves a degree of judgement as to the ultimate exposure to losses. Investments and cash total £647.2m (2022: £564.9m) the majority of which are actively managed by third party investment managers.

Auditors and Annual general meeting

As permitted under the Syndicate Meeting (Amendment No.1) Byelaw it is not proposed to hold a Syndicate Annual General Meeting. The member of the Syndicate appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2023.

Disclosure of information to auditors

The directors of ASML who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors of the Syndicate are unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors of the Syndicate are aware of that information.

Directors

The directors of ASML served from 1 January 2023 to the date of this report, unless stated otherwise. Shareholdings in the ultimate parent company of ASML, Ark Insurance Holdings Limited (“AIHL”) are stated as at 31 December 2023.

Name	A1 Ordinary shares No.	A2 Ordinary shares No.	A3 Ordinary shares No.	B1 Ordinary shares No.	B3 Ordinary shares No.	Z Ordinary shares No.	Z1 Ordinary shares) No.	C1 Ordinary shares No.	C2 Ordinary shares No.
C Atkin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I Beaton	129,803	18,309	-	78,777	-	908,621	555,439	76,894	12,857
N Brothers	-	-	6,970	-	4,230	-	-	12,726	2,127
M Burch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P Dawson	-	-	24,729	-	15,008	-	-	35,632	5,957
N Fox	-	-	18,079	-	10,972	-	-	22,906	3,830
P McIntosh	-	-	21,046	-	12,773	-	-	15,271	2,553
M Raven	-	-	18,079	-	10.972	-	-	22,906	3,830
M Rountree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N Smith	-	-	19,577	-	11,881	-	-	35,632	5,957
J Wardrop	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
J Welman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Going concern

The directors of ASML have reviewed the business plan, liquidity and operational resilience of the company, including the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. They have concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could cast significant doubt over the Syndicate’s ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the Syndicate annual accounts. Management's assessment of going concern is set out in note 1 on page 16.

Future developments

The capacity of the Syndicate for the 2024 YOA is £525.0m (2023 YOA: £500.0m). The capacity of Syndicate 3902 for the 2024 YOA is £250.0m (2023 YOA: £200.0m).

N Fox, Active Underwriter, 23 February 2024

M Raven, Active Underwriter, 23 February 2024

Statement of managing agent's responsibilities

The directors of the managing agent are responsible for preparing the Syndicate annual accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyds's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 requires the directors of the managing agent to prepare their Syndicate's annual accounts for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the annual accounts 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 Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyds's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 the directors of the managing agent must not approve the annual accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Syndicate and of the profit or loss of the Syndicate for that period. In preparing these annual accounts, the directors of the managing agent 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 annual accounts;
- assess the syndicate'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 cease trading, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors of the managing agent are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Syndicate's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Syndicate and enable them to ensure that the Syndicate annual accounts comply with the Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyds's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Syndicate annual accounts 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 Syndicate and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The directors of the managing agent are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Syndicate and financial information included on the Syndicate's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of Syndicate annual accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board

Neil Smith
Director
23 February 2024

Independent auditors’ report to the member of Syndicate 4020

Report on the audit of the syndicate annual accounts

Opinion

In our opinion, Syndicate 4020’s annual accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the syndicate’s affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its profit and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland”, and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd’s Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008.

We have audited the syndicate annual accounts included within the Report and Financial Statements (the “Annual Report”), which comprise: the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of cash flows, and the notes to the syndicate annual accounts, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (“ISAs (UK)”), and The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd’s Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 and other applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the *Auditors’ responsibilities for the audit of the syndicate annual accounts* section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the syndicate in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the syndicate annual accounts in the UK, which includes the FRC’s Ethical Standard, as applicable to other entities of public interest, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we declare that non-audit services prohibited by the FRC’s Ethical Standard were not provided.

Other than those disclosed in note 5, we have provided no non-audit services to the syndicate in the period under audit.

Conclusions relating to going concern

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the syndicate’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the syndicate annual accounts are authorised for issue.

In auditing the syndicate annual accounts, we have concluded that the Managing Agent’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the syndicate annual accounts is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the syndicate's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Managing Agent with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the syndicate annual accounts and our auditors’ report thereon. The Managing Agent is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the syndicate annual accounts does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the syndicate annual accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the syndicate annual accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the syndicate annual accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Managing Agent's Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Managing Agent's Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Managing Agent's Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 is consistent with the syndicate annual accounts and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the syndicate and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Managing Agent's Report.

Responsibilities for the syndicate annual accounts and the audit

Responsibilities of the Managing Agent for the syndicate annual accounts

As explained more fully in the Statement of Managing Agent's Responsibilities, the Managing Agent is responsible for the preparation of the syndicate annual accounts in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Managing Agent is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of syndicate annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the syndicate annual accounts, the Managing Agent is responsible for assessing the syndicate'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 it is intended for the syndicate to cease operations, or it has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the syndicate annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the syndicate annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these syndicate annual accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the syndicate and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of regulatory principles, such as those governed by the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority, and those regulations set by the Council of Lloyd's, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the syndicate annual accounts. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the syndicate annual accounts such as The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the syndicate annual accounts (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the risk of fraud in revenue recognition, journal entries, and the potential for management bias in significant accounting estimates, particularly in relation to incurred but not reported claims provisions included in technical provisions. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with senior management involved in the Risk and Compliance functions, including consideration of known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Assessment of any matters reported on the company's whistleblowing helpline and the results of management's investigation of such matters;
- Reading key correspondence with Lloyd's, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to compliance with laws and regulations;

- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes including those of the Board and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee;
- Testing journal entries identified in accordance with our fraud risk assessment.
- Testing and challenging where appropriate the assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates, particularly in relation to incurred but not reported provisions included in technical provision, and
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the syndicate annual accounts. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the syndicate annual accounts is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the syndicate's member in accordance with part 2 of The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Under The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Managing Agent in respect of the syndicate; or
- certain disclosures of Managing Agent remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the syndicate annual accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Mark Bolton (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
London
27 February 2024

Income statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Technical account			
Earned premiums, net of reinsurance			
Gross premiums written	3	622,664	496,342
Outward reinsurance premiums		(90,655)	(54,506)
Change in the provision for unearned premiums			
Gross amount		(50,125)	(13,884)
Reinsurers' share		2,829	(20,249)
Earned premiums, net of reinsurance		484,713	407,703
Allocated investment return transferred from the non-technical account	4	37,467	(6,133)
Claims incurred, net of reinsurance			
Claims paid			
Gross amount		(221,433)	(220,909)
Reinsurers' share		41,169	47,259
		(180,264)	(173,650)
Change in the provision for claims			
Gross amount		13,676	(40,776)
Reinsurers' share		(26,494)	28,305
		(12,818)	(12,471)
Claims incurred, net of reinsurance		(193,082)	(186,121)
Operating expenses	5	(194,448)	(151,814)
Balance on the technical account for general business		134,650	63,635
Non-technical account			
Investment return		37,467	(6,133)
Allocated investment return transferred to technical account		(37,467)	6,133
Profit for the financial year		134,650	63,635

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Profit for the financial year		134,650	63,635
Foreign exchange translation differences		(5,003)	5,189
	13	129,647	68,824

All operations are continuing. The notes on pages 16 to 33 form part of these accounts.

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Assets			
Investments	7	631,990	545,175
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions	8	92,051	123,041
Debtors arising out of insurance operations	10	209,866	220,533
Other debtors		51	11
Cash at bank and in hand	11	15,227	19,741
Deferred acquisition costs	9	63,789	58,182
Other prepayments and accrued income		3,617	2,029
Total assets		1,016,591	968,712
Capital, reserves and liabilities			
Capital and reserves			
Member's balances attributable to underwriting participations	13	132,258	105,805
Liabilities			
Technical provisions	12	804,407	807,078
Creditors arising out of insurance operations	14	28,614	35,624
Accruals and deferred income		51,312	20,205
Total liabilities		884,333	862,907
Total capital, reserves and liabilities		1,016,591	968,712

The notes on pages 16 to 33 form part of these accounts. The accounts were approved by the Board of Ark Syndicate Management Limited on 23 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by

N Smith
Director
23 February 2024

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating result		134,650	63,635
Change in gross technical provisions		(2,672)	131,685
Change in reinsurers' share of gross technical provisions		30,990	(20,728)
Change in debtors arising out of insurance operations and other debtors		10,627	(69,162)
Change in creditors arising out of insurance operations		(7,011)	(11,787)
Change in deferred acquisition costs and other assets/ liabilities		23,912	(6,474)
Investment return		(37,468)	6,131
Foreign exchange		19,280	(47,332)
Net cash flows from operating activities		172,308	45,968
Purchase of equity and debt instruments		(266,286)	(178,783)
Sale of equity and debt instruments		174,224	162,256
Investment income received		18,763	7,092
Investment management fees		(330)	(195)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(73,629)	(9,630)
Distribution (profit) / loss		(51,629)	(18,486)
Open year profit release	13	(51,564)	-
Net cash flows used in / (from) financing activities		(103,193)	(18,486)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(4,514)	17,852
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		19,741	1,889
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	11	15,227	19,741

The notes on pages 16 to 33 form part of these accounts.

1. Statement of accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* ("FRS 102") as issued in August 2015, and Financial Reporting Standard 103 *Insurance Contracts* ("FRS 103") as issued in March 2015.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared using the historical cost convention except that financial investments and derivative financial instruments are stated at their fair value. All amounts presented are stated in Sterling, unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors of ASML have performed an assessment of the Syndicate's ability to continue as a going concern, including the impact of the Ukraine conflict. A going concern assessment has been undertaken, taking into consideration availability of capital, liquidity and stress testing. The Syndicate is expected to remain a key underwriting platform for the Ark group. Ark Corporate Member Limited ("ACML") has already provided capital to support the 2024 YOA. On the basis of this and the improvement in performance as a result of rate increases, ACML is also expected to have the ability and intention to form a 2025 underwriting year. The directors of ASML have therefore concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over the ability of the company to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Use of judgements and estimates

In preparing these accounts, the directors of ASML 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. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to estimates are recognised prospectively. The measurement of the provision for claims outstanding involves judgments and assumptions about the future that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Insurance contracts

Insurance contracts (including inwards reinsurance contracts) are defined as those containing significant insurance risk. Insurance risk is considered significant if, and only if, an insured event could cause Ark to pay significant additional benefits in any scenario, excluding scenarios that lack commercial substance. Such contracts remain insurance contracts until all rights and obligations are extinguished or expire.

Premiums written and earned

Premiums written comprise premiums on contracts incepted during the financial year as well as adjustments made in the year to premiums written in prior accounting years. Premiums are shown gross of acquisition costs such as brokerage payable and taxes and duties levied on them. Estimates are made for pipeline premiums, representing amounts due but not yet notified. Written premiums are recognised as earned according to the risk profile of the policy. Unearned premiums represent the proportion of premiums written in the year that relate to unexpired terms of policies in force at the statement of financial position date. The provision is calculated on a policy by policy basis.

Reinsurance premiums ceded

Outwards reinsurance premiums are accounted for in the same accounting year as the premiums for the direct or inwards business being reinsured.

Claims provisions and related recoveries

The provision for claims comprises amounts set aside for claims notified and IBNR. Claims incurred comprise claims and claims handling expenses paid in the year and the movement in provision for outstanding claims and future claims handling expenses. Recoverable amounts arising out of subrogation and salvage together with reinsurance recoveries are deducted from the cost of gross claims.

Outstanding claims consist of amounts set aside for notified claims and a provision for IBNR claims. The amount included in respect of IBNR is arrived at by considering the actuarially calculated provision, using techniques that generally involve statistical techniques of estimation applied by ASML's actuaries and reviewed by external consulting actuaries, as well as the opinion of the class underwriters and executive management. The actuarial 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. Large claims are generally assessed individually, being calculated on a case by case basis or projected separately to allow for the possible distortive effects of the developments of these claims on the balance of the data. The provision for claims also includes amounts in respect of internal and external claims handling costs.

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

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, the claims experience for the year and the current security rating of the reinsurance companies involved. 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. 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 amount of claims provisions established in prior years are reflected in the financial statements for the year in which the adjustments are made. The methods used, and the estimates made, are reviewed regularly.

Acquisition costs

Acquisition costs, comprising brokerage and taxes and duties levied on them are deferred to the extent that they are attributable to premiums unearned at the statement of financial position date.

Foreign currency translation

a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements are measured using the US dollar, the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Syndicate operates ("functional currency"). The financial statements are presented in Sterling, being the presentation currency of the Syndicate. Differences arising from the translation from the functional to presentation currency are presented in the statement of other comprehensive income.

b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using average exchange rates applicable to the period in which the transactions take place and where the company considers these to be a reasonable approximation of the transaction rate. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from translation at the period end of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of profit or loss. Non-monetary items recorded at historical cost in foreign currencies are translated using the exchange rate on the date of the initial transaction. For the purposes of foreign currency translation, unearned premiums and deferred acquisition costs are treated as if they are monetary items.

Investments

Investments are recognised in the statement of financial position at such time as the Syndicate becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the investment. Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on the trade date, which is the date the Syndicate commits to purchase or sell the asset. An investment is derecognised when the contractual rights to receive cash flows from the investments expire, or where the investments have been transferred, together with substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognised if the obligations specified in the contract expire, are discharged or cancelled.

On acquisition of an investment, the Syndicate is required to classify the asset into one of the following categories: investments at fair value through the statement of profit or loss, loans and receivables, assets held to maturity and assets available for sale. The Syndicate has classified its investments as investments at fair value through profit or loss because they are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. Information about these investments is provided internally on a fair value basis to management, and the investment strategy is to invest and evaluate their performance with reference to their fair values.

Fair value is the price at which an orderly transaction to sell an asset or to transfer a liability would take place between market participants at the measurement date. When available, the fair value of an instrument is measured using quoted prices in an active market for that instrument. A market is regarded as active if quoted prices are readily and regularly available and represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis. If a market for a financial instrument is not active, the fair value is established using a valuation technique.

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Valuation techniques include using recent orderly transactions between market participants (if available), reference to the current fair value of other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analyses and option pricing models. The chosen valuation technique makes maximum use of market inputs, relies as little as possible on specific estimates, incorporates all factors that market participants would consider in setting a price, and is consistent with accepted economic methodologies for pricing financial instruments. Inputs to valuation techniques reasonably represent market expectations and measures of the risk-return factors inherent in the financial instrument.

Where possible, valuation techniques are calibrated and tested for validity using prices from observable current market transactions in the same instrument or based on other available observable market data.

The best evidence of the fair value of a financial instrument at initial recognition is the transaction price, i.e. the fair value of the consideration given or received, unless the fair value of that instrument is evidenced by comparison with other observable current market transactions in the same instrument (i.e. without modification or repackaging) or based on a valuation technique whose variables include only data from observable markets. When transaction price provides the best evidence of fair value at initial recognition, the financial instrument is initially measured at the transaction price and any difference between this price and the value initially obtained from a valuation model is subsequently recognised in profit or loss depending on the individual facts and circumstances of the transaction but not later than when the valuation is supported wholly by observable market data or the transaction is closed out.

Upon initial recognition, attributable transaction costs relating to financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are recognised in the statement of profit or loss when incurred. Investments at fair value through profit or loss are continually measured at fair value, and changes therein are recognised in the statement of profit or loss. Net changes in the fair value of investments at fair value through profit or loss exclude interest and dividend income, as these items are accounted for separately as set out below.

Debtors and creditors arising out of insurance operations

Debtors and creditors arising out of insurance operations are recognised when due. These include amounts due to and from agents, brokers and insurance contract holders. Debtors arising out of insurance operations are classified as 'loans and receivables' as they are non-derivative investments with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. Debtors arising out of insurance operations are measured at amortised cost less any impairment losses. Insurance payables are stated at amortised cost.

Other receivables

Other receivables are carried at amortised cost less any impairment losses.

Investment return

Investment return consists of dividends, interest, realised and unrealised gains and losses and foreign exchange gains and losses on investments at fair value through the statement of profit or loss. Dividends on equity securities are recorded as revenue on the ex-dividend date. Interest is recognised separately on an amortised cost basis using the effective interest rate method for investments at fair value through the statement of profit or loss. The realised gains or losses on disposal of an investment are the difference between the proceeds and the original cost of the investment. Unrealised investment gains and losses represent the difference between the carrying value at the reporting date, and the carrying value at the previous period end or purchase value during the period.

Creditors arising out of insurance operations

Creditors arising out of insurance operations are stated at amortised cost determined on the effective interest rate method.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank and in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. They are classified as loans and receivables and carried at amortised cost less any impairment losses.

2. Management of risk

Approach to risk management

Ark's core business relies on the assumption of internal and external risk within the appetites and tolerances established by the Board. Primarily Ark's business is the assumption of Insurance Risk and Market Risk, with the additional categories of Credit Risk, Liquidity Risk, Operational Risk and Group Risk. Managing these risks in a manner that is consistent with the strategy, appetites and tolerances established by the Board requires that Ark has in place a systematic, objective, and robust set of governance arrangements and processes for identifying and quantifying the risks to which it is exposed. This enables Ark to determine appropriate strategies and approaches for prevention and mitigation.

The effectiveness with which Ark manages risk is a key determinant of the level of capital resources required to run the business and its ability to achieve its strategic objectives including, in relation to capital efficiency and the production of acceptable levels of return.

Insurance risk

This is the risk arising from the uncertainties in timing, frequency and severity of insured losses, relative to the expectations made at the time of business planning or underwriting. Ark's business is based on the seeking and assumption of insurance risk. The Syndicate writes a balanced and diversified book of business through a team of experienced underwriters with the objective of charging appropriate premiums to cover claims and operational costs whilst optimising the expected return on equity. Target returns are assessed each year, taking into account the insurance market outlook and realistic expectations of return on equity. Insurance risk comprises the following elements:

a) Exposure management risk

This is the risk of exposure to an event, or a series of events, which causes a potential financial loss that exceeds expectations. The nature of Ark's business and underwriting portfolio includes the assumption of a high degree of catastrophe, non-catastrophe and accumulative exposure to different events. This is managed through the purchase of reinsurance and diversification of business lines and geographical areas to balance exposures, with the aim of reducing the risk that one event, or a series of events, will cause unacceptable loss to the business. Ark's catastrophe and non-natural catastrophe modelling processes incorporate Ark-specific disaster scenarios, aggregate caps and cross-class modelling which reflect the diversity of the portfolio.

b) Underwriting quality risk

This is the risk of inappropriate underwriting or the inadequate pricing of risks which can lead to unprofitable business or inefficient line utilisation and risk selection. The management of underwriting quality can be difficult in a competitive market where underwriters are often under pressure to meet premium and pricing targets. Ark operates an underwriting controls framework which includes individual underwriting authorities, continual quality monitoring and peer review of risks. The framework aims to ensure a high quality of underwriting through monitoring of pricing and rate change, contract certainty and agreement of appropriate terms and conditions.

c) Delegated underwriting quality risk

This is the risk of exposure to inappropriate risks through the delegation of underwriting authorities to third parties or the delegation of authority to inappropriate third parties. The nature of delegated underwriting naturally increases the risk of underwriting, through the ability of third parties being able to bind the Syndicate to risks without detailed review of the risk involved. This risk is mitigated through the application of strict guidelines, managed by a dedicated team within the Compliance department. This team reviews coverholder and third party authority ("TPA") approvals pre-bind and monitors a programme of audits to ensure compliance with regulations and guidelines.

D) Claims management risk

This is the risk that claims made are not managed in an appropriate manner, leading to material adverse results through an increase in claims, payments or exposure to legal issues. The management of claims is conducted in accordance with claims procedures, which are, in turn, in line with the Lloyd's Minimum Standards. This includes the management of claims workflows and response times, reviews of major claims to ensure accurate estimates, regular reserving reviews and management of complaints. These processes are enhanced through communication with underwriting teams to understand the policy or portfolio and with the Compliance department to manage coverholders and TPAs.

2. Management of risk (continued)

e) Reserving risk

This is the risk that the estimated claims reserves differ materially from the ultimate cost of the claim or event. Reserving risk is a significant category in the Internal Model and has the potential to significantly impact profitability. The potential impact is controlled through the use of a mix of actuarial models and methods, industry data and underwriter experience to produce reliable estimates that are based on up to date information, and consistently applied over time and across classes of business. Reserves for losses arising from the Ukraine conflict are included in the normal process as a major loss. This does not pose a potential threat to the business or risk of going concern. These estimates are subject to an external review each year.

f) Reinsurance purchasing

This is the risk of purchasing insufficient or inappropriate reinsurance, or the exhaustion of reinsurance, leading to excessive or unexpected losses. The process of reinsurance purchasing forms a major part of Ark's business planning process and includes the use of the Internal Model as a tool for decision making. Reinsurance is purchased for a mixture of risk and event losses across the majority of classes, in a mixture of excess of loss and proportional cover, dependent on the scale and characteristics of the class or treaty concerned. Ark also employs controls and monitoring around the use of insurers, credit ratings and concentration risk.

g) Underwriting management

This is the risk that returns from the policies written are different from expectations or are not in line with the business plan. Examples include a failure to reduce or exit from unprofitable business or a failure of underwriters to follow the business plan which sets out the parameters, classes, limitations and profitability expectation of underwriting teams for the forthcoming year. Communication of the business plan to the underwriting teams is therefore imperative. The performance of each class and the syndicate portfolio as a whole is reviewed against the business plan on a regular basis by the Board and various committees using information available from the management information portal. Various controls are in place to ensure constant vigilance including underwriting authorities, monitoring of risk codes, geographical aggregates and data quality.

Sensitivity to net claim liability movements	2023 Impact on profit £'000	2022 Impact on profit £'000	2023 Impact on net assets £'000	2022 Impact on net assets £'000
5% increase in total net claim liabilities	(35,618)	(34,202)	(35,618)	(34,202)
5% decrease in total net claim liabilities	35,618	34,202	35,618	34,202

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when counterparties fail to meet their obligations in full as they fall due. The key areas where credit risk can arise include reinsurers, brokers, coverholders and investment counterparties.

The probability of reinsurer default is modelled by the Actuarial team as part of the Internal Model. Ark seeks to reduce this risk by avoiding over-reliance on specific reinsurers through the application of concentration limits and thresholds. This is monitored by the Security Advisory Committee ("SAC"). Prior to the transaction of business, broker and coverholder default is mitigated through the application of due diligence on new and existing counterparties, and a rolling audit schedule post-bind. Overdue premium is also monitored by class, broker and age of debt. The investment portfolio is managed in line with asset allocation guidelines which are monitored by type, counterparty, quality and duration. Ark outsources the management of a significant proportion of its investment portfolio to managers who monitor and report on performance and adherence to guidelines on a regular basis.

2023 – credit risk analysis	A or above £'000	BBB £'000	Lower than BBB £'000	Unrated £'000	Total £'000
Investments at fair value	396,264	86,920	1,012	147,794	631,990
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions	93,454	-	226	30,216	123,896
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	15,227	15,227
	489,718	86,920	1,238	193,237	771,113

2. Management of risk (continued)

2022 – credit risk analysis	A or above £'000	BBB £'000	Lower than BBB £'000	Unrated £'000	Total £'000
Investments at fair value	318,096	51,627	53	175,399	545,175
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions	125,317	-	324	42,765	168,406
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	19,741	19,741
	443,413	51,627	377	237,905	733,322

Debtors arising out of insurance operations and other debtors balances have not been impaired, based on all evidence available, and no impairment provision has been recognised in respect of these assets. Inwards premium receivables are credit controlled by third-party managers. Ark monitors third party coverholders' performance and their financial processes through the coverholder management team. A provision for doubtful debts is included within reinsurers' share of technical provisions of £1.9m (2022: £2.7m).

Market risk

This is the risk that the value of assets and liabilities changes as a result of market movements e.g. foreign exchange rates, interest rates and market prices.

a) Foreign exchange risk

The functional currency of the Syndicate is the US dollar and the presentation currency in which the Syndicate reports its results is Sterling. Therefore the Syndicate is exposed to fluctuations in exchange rates for non-dollar denominated transactions. The Syndicate operates in five main currencies: US dollars, Sterling, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars and Euros. The underwriting capital is matched by currency to the principal underlying currencies of its written premiums. This helps to mitigate the risk that the capital required to underwrite business is materially affected by any future movements in exchange rates.

2023 – currency analysis	Sterling £'000	Euros £'000	Canadian dollars £'000	Australian dollars £'000	US dollars £'000	Total £'000
Assets	9,485	71,247	59,656	15,282	860,921	1,016,591
Liabilities	138,344	56,014	31,291	11,893	646,791	884,333
Net (liabilities)/ assets	(128,859)	15,233	28,365	3,389	214,130	132,258

2022 – currency analysis	Sterling £'000	Euros £'000	Canadian dollars £'000	Australian dollars £'000	US dollars £'000	Total £'000
Assets	41,140	52,444	51,032	11,205	812,891	968,712
Liabilities	105,091	46,911	30,903	13,500	666,502	862,907
Net (liabilities)/ assets	(63,951)	5,533	20,129	(2,295)	146,389	105,805

The table below gives an indication of the impact on profit after tax and net assets of a percentage change in the relative strength of the US dollar against the value of the main currencies, simultaneously.

Sensitivity to foreign exchange risk	2023 Impact on profit £'000	2022 Impact on profit £'000	2023 Impact on net assets £'000	2022 Impact on net assets £'000
USD weakens by 5% against other currencies	(10,197)	(6,971)	(10,197)	(6,971)
USD strengthens by 5% against other currencies	11,270	7,705	11,270	7,705

2. Management of risk (continued)

b) Interest rate risk

Some of the financial instruments, including certain investments at fair value, cash and cash equivalents and borrowings, are exposed to movements in market interest rates. Interest rate risk is managed by primarily investing in short-duration investments and cash and cash equivalents. The duration of assets is monitored on a regular basis. The duration of assets exposed to movements in market interest rates is 1.19 (2022: 1.33). Changes in interest rates, with all other variables constant, would result in changes in the capital value of debt securities and borrowings as well as subsequent interest receipts and payments.

Sensitivity to interest rate risk	2023 Impact on profit £'000	2022 Impact on profit £'000	2023 Impact on net assets £'000	2022 Impact on net assets £'000
50 basis point increase in interest rates	(4,700)	(4,202)	(4,700)	(4,202)
50 basis point decrease in interest rates	5,068	4,203	5,068	4,203

c) Price risk

Investments recognised at fair value are exposed to movements in market prices, an assessment of which is set out below.

Sensitivity to price risk	2023 Impact on profit £'000	2022 Impact on profit £'000	2023 Impact on net assets £'000	2022 Impact on net assets £'000
5% increase in stock market prices	637	569	637	569
5% decrease in stock market prices	(317)	(569)	(317)	(569)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises where cash may not be available to pay obligations when they fall due without incurring unreasonable penalties or expense costs. The risk is minimised by holding sufficient liquid assets to enable large and unexpected payments, predominately claims, to be made in all but the most extreme scenarios. Ark's Catastrophe Event Response Plan provides information to quantify liquidity implications of losses, reinsurance recoveries, cashflows and trust funds in the event of a catastrophe or large loss. The process is stress tested using historic scenarios to determine the behaviour of the portfolio following an event or series of events.

2023 – Maturity analysis	<1yr £'000	1-2yrs £'000	2-3yrs £'000	3-5yrs £'000	>5yrs £'000	Total £'000
Investments at fair value	286,314	80,546	94,027	102,710	68,393	631,990
Cash and cash equivalents	15,227	-	-	-	-	15,227
	301,541	80,546	94,027	102,710	68,393	647,217

2022 – Maturity analysis	<1yr £'000	1-2yrs £'000	2-3yrs £'000	3-5yrs £'000	>5yrs £'000	Total £'000
Investments at fair value	210,941	98,767	69,454	106,696	59,317	545,175
Cash and cash equivalents	19,741	-	-	-	-	19,741
	230,682	98,767	69,454	106,696	59,317	564,916

In the above analysis, assets with no duration are included as "less than one year".

2. Management of risk (continued)

The estimated maturity of net claims liabilities is set out below.

Net claim liability cashflow timing	<1yr £'000	1-3yrs £'000	3-5yrs £'000	>5yrs £'000	Total £'000	Weighted average term (years)
2023	72,826	241,420	80,537	48,787	443,570	3.01
2022	130,760	202,396	72,046	47,364	452,566	2.88

Operational risk

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes or systems. Risks are identified within the risk register and are modelled via operational scenarios. Ark aims to minimise its exposure to operational risk by monitoring controls and management information in the form of key indicators that indicate changes to the risk profile.

Ark outsources a number of key functions, such as investment management, inwards premium credit control and human resources. This introduces the risk that the Syndicate may be exposed to liability or may fail to achieve its objectives due to inappropriately arranged, or a failure of, outsource arrangements. This risk is mitigated through pre-contract due diligence and performance review throughout the contract life cycle.

Ark recognises that the success of a business depends on the ability to retain the services of existing key staff and to attract and retain additional people in the future, both in underwriting and support functions. This risk is managed through the provision of sufficient education and development, support for qualifications and competitive remuneration packages.

Ark is also impacted by the risk of information technology system failure or disruption. This is mitigated through a control framework which includes network security, data, hardware and applications and is complimented by detailed planning around back-ups, contingency and disaster recovery, all of which are monitored and tested on a regular basis.

Regulatory risk

Regulatory risk is the risk of censure following a breach of regulatory or legal requirements, or a failure to respond to deadlines or information requests from regulators in a satisfactory and timely manner.

Ark is regulated, overseen or required to report to the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA"), the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA"), Lloyd's and other overseas regulators. Each body requires adherence to specific requirements and guidelines. In order to mitigate this, Ark seeks to conform to the regulations as they apply to each functional area. Much of this is operated through training and awareness to promote correct behaviour at source, as opposed to corrective action at a later stage. The overall risk is managed by the Compliance department which seeks to ensure that deadlines are met and changes in regulation are communicated in a timely manner.

Ark has put in place processes and controls to identify and manage the conduct risk associated with the business it underwrites. Ark will continue to lead high product risk business where risks are consistent with the probability targets taking into account the additional requirements for oversight and monitoring conduct risk.

Capital management risk

Capital is primarily required to support underwriting at Lloyd's. Lloyd's applies capital requirements at member level and centrally to ensure that Lloyd's complies with Solvency II, and beyond that to meet its own financial strength, licence and ratings objectives.

2. Management of risk (continued)

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.

Each member of a syndicate is liable for its own share of underwriting liabilities on the syndicate(s) on which it is participating. Each member's SCR is 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, an uplift is applied by Lloyd's to the member's capital requirement, known as the Economic Capital Assessment ("ECA").

3. Segmental analysis

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

2023	Gross Premium written £'000	Gross Premium earned £'000	Gross Claims incurred £'000	Net Operating expense £'000	Reinsurance balance £'000	Underwriting profit £'000
Direct insurance:						
Accident and health	28,608	30,679	(17,954)	(11,636)	1,214	2,303
Motor	5,739	5,838	(997)	(2,324)	(236)	2,281
Marine aviation and transport	91,012	87,516	(43,152)	(30,470)	(2,376)	11,518
Fire and other damage to property	347,680	306,182	(114,443)	(100,305)	(47,851)	43,583
Third party liability	12,157	10,992	(3,560)	(4,305)	(566)	2,561
	485,196	441,207	(180,106)	(149,041)	(49,815)	62,245
Reinsurance	137,468	131,332	(27,651)	(45,407)	(23,336)	34,938
	622,664	572,539	(207,757)	(194,448)	(73,151)	97,183

Commissions paid on direct business as at year end were £81.2m (2022: £72.5m)

2022	Gross Premium written £'000	Gross Premium earned £'000	Gross Claims incurred £'000	Net Operating expense £'000	Reinsurance balance £'000	Underwriting profit £'000
Direct insurance:						
Accident and health	28,021	30,140	(10,551)	(10,109)	(775)	8,705
Motor	4,698	4,665	(1,309)	(1,593)	(70)	1,693
Marine aviation and transport	77,450	68,837	(30,433)	(21,134)	(3,741)	13,529
Fire and other damage to property	259,866	244,602	(126,875)	(77,096)	(16,188)	24,443
Third party liability	11,953	12,242	(9,515)	(3,991)	2,727	1,463
	381,988	360,486	(178,683)	(113,923)	(18,047)	49,833
Reinsurance	114,354	121,972	(83,002)	(37,891)	18,856	19,935
	496,342	482,458	(261,685)	(151,814)	809	69,768

4. Investment return

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Income on financial investments at fair value	7,674	4,626
Interest on cash and cash equivalents	5,823	1,256
Gains on the realisation of investments	5,265	2,108
Unrealised gains on investments	22,232	6,246
Losses on the realisation of investments	-	(900)
Unrealised losses on investments	(3,197)	(19,274)
Investment management charges	(330)	(195)
	37,467	(6,133)

5. Operating expenses

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Acquisition costs	112,169	97,809
Administrative expenses	44,718	33,969
Managing agency fee	3,675	2,588
Personal expenses	33,886	17,448
	194,448	151,814

Administrative expenses are incurred on behalf of the Syndicate by ASML. These expenses include:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Audit fees, of which £134k (2022: £126k) relates to the audit of regulatory returns	333	314
Performance related pay	18,486	8,973

6. Directors and employees

All executive directors and staff are employed and remunerated by ASML. The following staff and related costs were recharged to the syndicate.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	13,286	12,431
Social security costs	3,173	2,894
Pension costs	1,471	1,403
	17,930	16,728

Included above are the employment costs of underwriters attributable to acquisition of business and those of claims staff treated within the technical accounts as acquisition costs and claims handling costs respectively.

6. Directors and employees (continued)

The average number of employees employed by ASML but working on syndicate matters during the year is set out below.

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Underwriting	103	100
Claims	19	19
Administration	51	47
	173	166

The active underwriters received the following remuneration charged as a syndicate expense.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Emoluments of the Active Underwriters	1,130	975

No contributions were made to money purchases pension schemes in the year in respect of the Active Underwriters (2022: Nil).

7. Investments

Investments at fair value:	Cost 2023 £'000	Cost 2022 £'000	Value 2023 £'000	Value 2022 £'000
Shares and other variable yield securities	112,437	141,852	115,533	142,328
Debt and other fixed income securities	423,172	332,021	412,467	308,230
Participation in investment pools	86,544	77,603	87,807	77,549
Deposits with ceding undertakings	16,183	17,068	16,183	17,068
	638,336	568,544	631,990	545,175

The amount expected to mature before and after one year is:

	£'000
Before one year	286,314
After one year	345,676
	631,990

The fair values of investments are based on prices provided by investment managers who obtain market data from numerous independent pricing services. The pricing services used by the investment manager obtain actual transaction prices for securities that have quoted prices in active markets. For those securities which are not actively traded, the pricing services use common market valuation pricing models. Observable inputs used in common market valuation pricing models include, but are not limited to, broker quotes, credit ratings, interest rates and yield curves, prepayment speeds, default rates and other such inputs which are available from market sources.

Level 1 includes fair values measured using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical instruments. Level 2 includes fair values measured using directly or indirectly observable inputs or other similar valuation techniques for which all significant inputs are based on market observable data. Level 3 includes fair values measured using valuation techniques for which significant inputs are not based on market observable data.

7. Investments (continued)

The fair value of these assets is based on the prices obtained from both investment managers and investment custodians.

Fair value hierarchy:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Level 1	118,715	30,781
Level 2	470,093	501,242
Level 3	43,182	13,152
	631,990	545,175

8. Reinsurers' share of technical provisions

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Reinsurers' share of claims reported	42,858	44,152
Reinsurers' share of claims incurred but not reported	33,415	63,720
Reinsurers' share of claims liabilities	76,273	107,872
Unearned premiums	15,778	15,169
	92,051	123,041

9. Deferred acquisition costs

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Balance at 1 January	58,182	48,368
Additions	113,437	94,447
Amortisation charge	(105,390)	(90,956)
Foreign exchange movement	(2,440)	6,323
At 31 December	63,789	58,182

10. Debtors arising out of insurance operations

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	178,021	175,168
Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations	31,845	45,365
	209,866	220,533

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Due within one year	209,859	213,778
Due after one year	7	6,755
	209,866	220,533

11. Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	15,227	19,741

12. Technical provisions

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Claims reported and loss adjustment expenses	214,801	237,347
Claims incurred but not reported	305,042	323,091
Gross claims liabilities	519,843	560,438
Unearned premiums	284,564	246,640
	804,407	807,078

Movements in technical provisions and reinsurers' share of technical provisions are as follows:

Claims and loss adjustment expenses	2023 Gross £'000	2023 Reinsurance £'000	2023 Net £'000	2022 Gross £'000	2022 Reinsurance £'000	2022 Net £'000
At 1 January	560,438	107,872	452,566	476,835	73,859	402,976
Claims paid	(221,433)	(41,169)	(180,264)	(220,909)	(47,259)	(173,650)
Movement arising from current years	244,197	34,966	209,231	310,292	83,150	227,142
Movement arising from prior years	(36,440)	(20,291)	(16,149)	(48,607)	(7,586)	(41,021)
Net exchange differences	(26,919)	(5,105)	(21,814)	42,827	5,708	37,119
At 31 December	519,843	76,273	443,570	560,438	107,872	452,566

Unearned premiums	2023 Gross £'000	2023 Reinsurance £'000	2023 Net £'000	2022 Gross £'000	2022 Reinsurance £'000	2022 Net £'000
At 1 January	246,640	15,169	231,471	198,558	28,455	170,103
Increase in the year	622,664	90,655	532,009	496,342	54,506	441,836
Release in the year	(572,539)	(87,826)	(484,713)	(482,458)	(74,755)	(407,703)
Net exchange differences	(12,201)	(2,220)	(9,981)	34,198	6,963	27,235
At 31 December	284,564	15,778	268,786	246,640	15,169	231,471

Assumptions and processes

The reserving process

Ark uses a quarterly process to set its reserves. Several actuarial and statistical methods are used to estimate the ultimate premium and claims costs, with the most appropriate method selected depending on the nature of each class of business. In addition, the underwriting teams review the development of the incurred loss ratio over time, work with the claims team to set reserve estimates for identified claims and utilise their detailed understanding of both risks underwritten and the nature of the claims to establish an alternative estimate of ultimate claims cost, which is compared to the actuarially established figures. The Reserving Committee then determines the reserves held for accounting purposes. An annual independent actuarial review is undertaken to ensure that the reserves established are not lower than an independently established best estimate.

12. Technical provisions (continued)

Chain-ladder techniques are applied to premiums, paid claims and incurred claims (i.e. paid claims plus case estimates). The basic technique involves the analysis of historical claims development factors and the selection of estimated development factors based on historical patterns. The selected development factors are then applied to cumulative claims data for each underwriting year that is not yet fully developed to produce an estimated ultimate claims cost for each underwriting year. The Bornhuetter-Ferguson method uses a combination of a benchmark / market-based estimate and an estimate based on claims experience. The former is based on a measure of exposure such as premiums; the latter is based on the paid or incurred claims observed to date. The two estimates are combined using a formula that gives more weight to the experience-based estimate as time passes.

The choice of selected results for each underwriting year of each class of business depends on an assessment of the technique that has been most appropriate to observed historical developments. In certain instances, this has meant that different techniques or combinations of techniques have been selected for individual underwriting years or groups of underwriting years within the same class of business. As such, there are many assumptions used to estimate general insurance liabilities.

Triangulations of the paid / outstanding claim ratios are also reviewed as a way of monitoring any changes in the strength of the outstanding claim estimates between underwriting years so that adjustments can be made to mitigate any subsequent over/(under) reserving.

Where significant large losses impact an underwriting year, the development is usually very different from the attritional losses. In these situations, the large loss total is extracted from the remainder of the data and analysed separately by the respective claims managers using exposure analysis of the policies in force in the areas affected. Further assumptions are required to convert gross of reinsurance estimates of ultimate claims cost to a net of reinsurance level and to establish reserves for unallocated claims handling expenses and reinsurance bad debt.

b) Major assumptions

The main assumption underlying these techniques is that the Syndicate's past claims development experience (with appropriate adjustments for known changes) can be used to project future claims development and hence ultimate claims costs. As such these methods extrapolate the development of premiums, paid and incurred losses, average costs per claim and claim numbers for each underwriting year based on the observed development of earlier years. Throughout, judgement is used to assess the extent to which past trends may not apply in the future; for example, to reflect changes in external or market factors such as economic conditions, public attitudes to claiming, levels of claims inflation, premium rate changes, judicial decisions and legislation, as well as internal factors such as portfolio mix, policy conditions and claims handling procedures.

The loss development tables below provide information about historical claims development by the identified operating segments. The tables are by underwriting year which in our view provides the most transparent reserving basis. The top part of the table illustrates how the estimate of the claims ratio for each underwriting year has changed at successive year ends. The bottom half of the table reconciles the gross and net claims to the amount appearing in the statement of financial position. While the information in the table provides a historical perspective on the adequacy of the claims liabilities established in previous years, users of these financial statements are cautioned against extrapolating past redundancies or deficiencies on current claims liabilities. The Syndicate believes that the estimate of total claims liabilities selected is adequate. However, due to inherent uncertainties in the reserving process, it cannot be assured that such balances will ultimately prove to be adequate.

12. Technical provisions (continued)

Gross claims	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2013 & prior £'000
1 yr	126,061	186,064	112,590	84,465	60,424	85,759	136,931	79,053	87,655	90,791	1,225,591
2 yrs	-	258,874	179,750	154,501	116,629	142,002	206,368	168,394	177,108	177,610	1,324,697
3 yrs	-	-	186,446	154,645	125,506	173,518	218,235	195,652	195,682	195,827	1,325,614
4 yrs	-	-	-	150,754	122,235	175,597	212,399	185,939	193,208	198,539	1,324,057
5 yrs	-	-	-	-	121,390	179,205	211,197	186,161	197,454	224,382	1,315,262
6 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	183,836	212,679	188,485	193,194	218,072	1,306,176
7 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	213,122	189,207	194,909	216,603	1,317,718
8 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	188,605	196,198	213,859	1,323,864
9 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	197,082	211,124	1,321,462
10 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	209,890	1,311,632
11 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,305,741

Net claims	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2013 & prior £'000
1 yr	111,208	130,035	80,063	71,471	56,733	72,282	56,667	75,061	69,800	74,717	1,012,434
2 yrs	-	207,805	138,418	134,673	105,623	130,532	110,198	136,181	138,377	143,599	1,070,885
3 yrs	-	-	141,104	135,577	111,538	152,037	137,334	168,978	154,827	155,680	1,070,885
4 yrs	-	-	-	130,310	109,001	153,594	133,354	162,035	152,584	154,306	1,064,314
5 yrs	-	-	-	-	108,346	156,033	134,106	163,097	157,047	170,863	1,057,619
6 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	160,446	133,643	162,719	153,421	165,573	1,048,898
7 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	134,448	163,719	152,193	164,724	1,061,811
8 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	163,491	150,705	161,558	1,067,816
9 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178,221	157,676	1,062,442
10 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	184,227	1,053,142
12 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,117,275

	Gross All years £'000	Net All years £'000
Total claims	3,141,801	2,636,881
Less paid claims	(2,621,958)	(2,193,311)
Total claims liabilities	519,843	443,570

On a whole account basis, the claims experience in 2023 has been better than expected based on the prior year reserves.

13. Reconciliation of member's balances

2023	2023 YOA £'000	2022 YOA £'000	2021 YOA £'000	Total £'000
At 1 January	-	20,024	52,927	72,951
Profit for the year	63,896	37,035	33,719	134,650
Other recognised losses	(1,176)	(1,542)	(2,285)	(5,003)
Distribution		(19,307)	(51,033)	(70,340)
Investment of Funds in Syndicate	-	-	-	-
At 31 December	62,720	36,210	33,328	132,258

2022	2022 YOA £'000	2021 YOA £'000	2020 YOA £'000	Total £'000
At 1 January	-	21,144	15,837	36,981
Profit for the year	20,947	27,789	14,899	63,635
Other recognised (losses)/ gains	(923)	3,994	2,118	5,189
Distribution	-	(18,775)	(18,417)	(37,192)
Investment of Funds in Syndicate	-	18,775	18,417	37,192
At 31 December	20,024	52,927	32,854	105,805

The member participate on the Syndicate by reference to YOA and the ultimate result, assets and liabilities are assessed with reference to policies incepting in that YOA in respect of the membership of a particular year.

14. Creditors arising out of insurance operations

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations	595	3,487
Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations	28,019	32,137
	28,614	35,624

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Due within one year	28,614	35,624
Due after one year	-	-
	28,614	35,624

15. Movement in opening and closing portfolio investments and cash net of financing

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net cash in / (out)flow for the year	(4,494)	17,819
Cash flow – portfolio investments	111,094	3,499
Movement arising from cash flows	106,600	21,318
Changes in market values and exchange rates	(24,299)	52,556
Total movement in portfolio investments net of financing	82,301	73,874
Balance brought forward at 1 January	564,916	491,042
Balance carried forward at 31 December	647,217	564,916

16. Movement in cash and portfolio investments

	At 1 January 2023 £'000	Cash flow £'000	Change in market value £'000	At 31 December 2023 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	19,741	(4,494)	(20)	15,227
Shares and other variable yield securities	142,328	(21,277)	(5,518)	115,533
Debt and other fixed income securities	308,230	119,310	(15,072)	412,467
Participation in investment pools	77,549	13,020	(2,763)	87,807
Other investments	17,068	41	(926)	16,183
Total portfolio investments	545,175	111,094	(24,279)	631,990
Total cash and portfolio investments	564,916	106,600	(24,299)	647,217

17. Related parties

The registered office of the ultimate parent company, White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd. is Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton, HM11, Bermuda. The parent company of the Ark group is AIHL, and the immediate parent company of ASML is Group Ark Insurance Holdings Limited ("GAIHL").

The key management compensation charged to the syndicate is disclosed in note 6.

N Brothers serves without fee as a director of Accident & Health Underwriting Limited ("AHU"), a wholly owned subsidiary of GAIHL. The Syndicates underwrite business through AHU under a binding authority. Gross premium income, excluding brokerage and commissions, due to the Syndicates under this binding authority amounted to £5.6m (2022: £4.9m). Brokerage and commissions paid in the year by the Syndicates to AHU amounted to £3.5m (2022: £3.1m).

GAIHL is a member controlling 50% of Accident & Health Claims Services LLP ("AHC"), the other 50% being controlled by AHU. AHC provides claims handling services to the Syndicates. Fees paid in the year by the Syndicates in respect of these services amounted to £0.4m (2022: £0.4m).

I Beaton serves without fee as a director of Optio Group Limited ("Optio"), a managing general agent ("MGA") focused on emerging insurance risks. Optio owns Northcourt Limited, a specialty MGA. Gross premium income, excluding brokerage and commissions, due to the Syndicates under this binding authority amounting to £0.3m (2022: £0.3m). Commissions paid to Northcourt during the year were £0.1m. (2022: £0.1m).

N Bonnar serves without fee as a director of Solis Re Agency Inc. ("Solis Re"), an MGA and Lloyd's Coverholder. ASML holds shares in Solis Re giving 20% of the voting rights and 6% of the capital rights. The Syndicates entered into a binding authority agreement with Solis Re. Gross premium income, excluding brokerage and commissions, due to the Syndicates amounted to £3.1m (2022: £3.2m). Commissions paid by the Syndicate in the year to Solis Re amounted to £0.4m (2022: £0.5m).

17. Related parties (continued)

Until 15 March 2021, J Wardrop was a director of Inigo Managing Agent Limited ("Inigo"), formerly Starstone Underwriting Limited. The Syndicates have purchased reinsurance protection on normal commercial terms and at arms length from Inigo. Premiums paid by the Syndicates in the year amounted to £0.1m (2022: £0.4m). Also, the Syndicate provided reinsurance under separate contracts to Inigo on normal commercial terms and at arms length. Gross premium income, excluding brokerage and commissions, due to the Syndicates under these contracts amounted to less than £0.1m (2022: less than £0.1m).

N Bonnar owns 8% of the share capital of Phenomen, a French MGA. The Syndicates have entered into a Binding Authority with Phenomen. Gross premium income, excluding brokerage and commissions, due to the Syndicates amounted to £0.7m (2022: £0.5m). Commissions paid by the Syndicates to Phenomen amounted to £0.4m (2022: £0.2m).

C Atkin serves as a director of Alwen Hough Johnson Limited ("AHJ"), a Lloyd's broker. During the year the Syndicates wrote business with premium of £4.0m (2022: £3.2m) through AHJ. Commissions paid to AHJ in the year totalled £0.7m (2022: £0.6m).

C Atkin serves as a director of AmWins, which owns a number of insurance intermediaries acting as Brokers and Coverholders of business to the Lloyd's Market, including AmWins Global Risks Limited (AGR), who act as a Lloyd's Broker. During the year the Syndicates wrote business with premium of £20.8m through AGR (2022: £11.9m). Commissions paid to AGR in the year were £5.0m (2022: £3.2m). AGR also placed reinsurance protection for the syndicates. During the year ORI premiums paid through AGR amounted to £1.1m (2022: £0.8m).

C Atkin serves as a director of Whitespace Software Limited ("Whitespace"), a software company providing a Lloyd's recognised electronic placing system. The Syndicates use Whitespace to accept risks from brokers. License fees paid to Whitespace during the year are less than £0.2m (2022: less than £0.1m).