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Everest Syndicate 2786

Syndicate Annual Report and Accounts
31 December 2020

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Directors and Administration

Managing Agent

Asta Managing Agency Ltd

Directors

P A Jardine (Chairman)*

R P Barke

C V Barley

K A Green*

C N Griffiths

L Harfitt

A J Hubbard*

D J G Hunt

M D Mohn*

S P A Norton

K Shah*

J M Tighe

Non Executive Directors*

Company Secretary

N J Burdett

Managing Agent's Registered Office

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

Managing Agent's Registered Number

1918744

Active Underwriter

P Kneafsey (resigned 23/10/2020)

N Lightbown (appointed 23/10/2020)

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

Citibank NA

RBC Dexia

Registered Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

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 2020.

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 2020 is a loss of £52,418,705 (2019: loss £22,123,496).

The result for calendar year 2020 has been affected by the exceptional impact of COVID-19, primarily on contingency class where the Syndicate had exposure to events cancellation risks. In addition to direct losses, the Syndicate has given due consideration to future recessionary impact on the reserves. As COVID-19 is ongoing, it is difficult to predict the magnitude or duration of its continued impact, particularly given the uncertainties associated, including regarding the reopening of global economies and the recovery from its economic and other effects.

To achieve sustainable profitability, the syndicate management team developed in 2020 a set of priorities including active portfolio management anchored on its core classes of business and growth from Direct & Facultative method of placement supported by strong rate changes.

The Syndicate presents 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 Third Party Liability insurance primarily in the United Kingdom. The 2019 year saw the introduction of a Medical Malpractice portfolio which has an 80% quota share reinsurance agreement with the Syndicate's Special Purpose Arrangement 1892 ("SPA1892").

Managing Agent's report continued

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

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Accident and Health	1,252	3,786
Marine	44	39
Aviation	(111)	(476)
Transport	386	102
Energy – Marine	4	3
Energy – Non Marine	603	(69)
Fire and other damage of Property	13,672	10,020
Third party liability	128,916	107,795
Pecuniary Loss	1,907	5,083
Reinsurance	27,089	19,521
	173,762	145,804

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

	2020	2019	Change
	£'000	£'000	%
Gross written premiums	173,762	145,804	19.2%
Loss for the financial year	(52,419)	(22,123)	136.9%
Combined ratio*	139.8%	120.7%	19.1%

**The combined ratio is the ratio of net claims incurred and net operating expenses to net premiums earned. Lower ratios represent better performance.*

	2020	2019	2018
	YOA	YOA	YOA
	Open	Open	Closed
Capacity (£'000)	150,000	120,000	130,000
Forecast loss (£'000)	(16,355)	(29,201)	(23,961)
Forecast result on capacity (%)	(10.9%)	(24.3%)	(18.4%)

Managing Agent's report continued

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 at least quarterly to oversee the risk management framework. The Syndicate Board, a sub-committee of the Agency Board, reviews the risk profile as reflected in the risk register, and monitors performance against risk appetite using a series of key risk indicators. The principal risk 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 reinsurance counterparty risk which 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.

The Syndicate has minimal exposure to changes to interest rate as funds are held in cash and cash equivalents.

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, or can only meet obligations at excessive cost. To mitigate this risk the Syndicate Board reviews cash flow projections regularly and ensures that, where needed, the Syndicate has liquidity facilities in place or has utilised the option of a cash call from capital providers.

Managing Agent's report continued

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 an operational risk and control framework, detailed procedures manuals, thorough training programme 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.

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 function that monitors business activity and regulatory developments to assess any effects on the Agency.

The Syndicate has no appetite for failing to treat customers fairly. The Syndicate manages and monitors its customer risk through a suite of risk indicators and reporting metrics as part of its documented customer risk framework. The customer risk framework is consistently applied across all Asta syndicates and is overseen by the Conduct Oversight Group (COG), which is an AMA Board Committee that includes a non-executive director as a member who fulfils the role of Customer Champion.

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).

Managing Agent's report continued

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 2021 year of account is £150.0m (2020 year of account £150.0m).

The syndicate is exposed to LIBOR through banks, investment holdings or reinsurance contracts, and with LIBOR being replaced at the end of 2021 the Syndicate is assessing the impact this will have on them with remedial action to be put in place should it be needed.

Managing Agent's report continued

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

In 2020 Asta initiated work to document relevant ESG requirements and complete an assessment of its current business model against these requirements. This work culminated in a number of actions to strengthen Asta's ESG Framework which will be completed in 2021. This work will also inform Asta's approach to its syndicates' ESG frameworks and is aligned to Lloyd's ESG work demonstrated through the Lloyd's ESG report produced in December 2020, and to Asta's climate change work detailed above.

Asta's complete ESG assessment can be found in the accounts of the Managing Agency.

Climate change

Following the Prudential Regulation Authority's (PRA) Supervisory Statement in 2019 and subsequent Dear CEO letter in 2020, AMA have ensured Board-level engagement and accountability with the PRA's requirements, assigning clear responsibilities for managing AMA's and its syndicate's financial risks associated with climate change. The AMA Finance Director, who is a Board member, is responsible for identifying and managing financial climate related risks.

The syndicate and AMA are working together to establish a framework for assessing the impacts of climate change. This framework considers the impacts in relation to Governance, Disclosure, Risk Management, Scenario Analysis, Counterparty assessment and Investment Strategy.

Coronavirus

Since the start of 2020, there has been a global outbreak of the Coronavirus, Covid-19, which is a new virus that predominantly affects lungs and airways. Many countries have reacted to contain the spread of the virus by isolating whole affected areas and infected individuals. This has resulted in wide-ranging operational changes across many industries, including syndicates operating in the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

As part of the ongoing activities of the Asta Risk Management Framework, such circumstances are considered and work has been undertaken to assess the insurance, operational and economic risks associated with the outbreak and any impact on the Syndicate has been mitigated or addressed where possible.

The Syndicate has incurred material losses as a result of Covid-19, with the financial impact assessed as part of the reserving and capital modelling processes.

There is continued assessment of liquidity, market and credit risk and the implications on the Syndicate are monitored, in conjunction with other insurance events, and are escalated to Board level where appropriate.

Working arrangements across the Agency and the Syndicate have been adjusted in line with government restrictions and guidance. While working remotely has proved challenging at times the overall experience has been successful. Staff have embraced new technology and maintained active communication with each other and clients. The IT infrastructure has dealt well with the changes and we have seen minimal downtime. The Agency and Syndicate have continued to meet the business and regulatory requirements.

Managing Agent's report continued

The Agency plans to maintain the current form of operations for the foreseeable future with no adverse effects anticipated.

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 2020 and subsequent to the year were as follows:

C N Griffiths

Appointed 01 January 2020

K A Green

Appointed 01 February 2020

Disclosure of information to the auditors

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 auditors in connection with the auditors' report, of which the auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

Independent Auditors

The Managing Agent intends to reappoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Syndicate's auditors.

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 30 April 2021.

On behalf of the Board

N J Burdett
Company Secretary
04 March 2021

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 auditors' report to the member of Syndicate 2786

Report on the audit of the syndicate annual accounts

Opinion

In our opinion, Syndicate 2786's syndicate annual accounts:

-) give a true and fair view of the state of the syndicate's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its loss 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, comprising 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 Syndicate Annual Report and Accounts (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020; the Income statement, the statement of cash flows, and the statement of changes in members' balances for the year then ended; 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 and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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.

Independent auditors' report continued

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 2020 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.

Independent auditors' report continued

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 UK and European 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 and management override of controls, including the potential for management bias in significant accounting estimates, particularly in relation to claims outstanding and estimated premium income. Audit procedures performed included:

-) Discussions with management involved in the Risk and Compliance functions, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
-) Inspecting the meeting minutes of the Syndicate Board and Reserve Committee meetings;
-) Inspecting key correspondence with the Prudential Regulation Authority, the Financial Conduct Authority and Lloyd's in relation to compliance with laws and regulations;
-) Identifying and testing journal entries, including any journal entries posted with unusual words, backdated journals, duplicate journals and journals posted by unexpected users;
-) Performing an independent assessment of the Syndicate's loss reserves and challenging management's assumptions used in setting those reserves;
-) Testing and challenging where appropriate the assumptions and judgements made by management in relation to the estimation of estimated premium income; and
-) Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

Independent auditors' report continued

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.

Deepti Vohra (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
London
04 March 2021

Income statement

Technical account - General business

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Gross premiums written	3	173,762	145,804
Outward reinsurance premiums		<u>(32,043)</u>	<u>(17,121)</u>
Net written premiums		141,719	128,683
Change in the provision for unearned premiums			
Gross amount		(9,139)	(6,497)
Reinsurers' share		<u>1,559</u>	<u>(1,581)</u>
	4	(7,580)	(8,078)
Earned premiums, net of reinsurance		134,139	120,605
Allocated investment return transferred from the non-technical account		795	870
Claims paid			
Gross amount		(60,407)	(50,144)
Reinsurers' share		<u>8,554</u>	<u>14,812</u>
		(51,853)	(35,332)
Changes in the provision for claims outstanding			
Gross amount		(96,734)	(69,422)
Reinsurers' share		<u>20,207</u>	<u>12,718</u>
	4	(76,527)	(56,704)
Claims incurred, net of reinsurance		(128,380)	(92,036)
Net operating expenses	5	<u>(59,135)</u>	<u>(53,589)</u>
Balance on technical account – general business		<u>(52,581)</u>	<u>(24,150)</u>

All the amounts above are in respect of continuing operations.

The notes on pages 19 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

Income statement continued

Non-technical account - General business

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Balance on technical account – general business	(52,581)	(24,150)
Investment income	795	870
Allocated investment return transferred to the general business technical account	(795)	(870)
Exchange gains	162	2,027
Loss for the financial year	<u>(52,419)</u>	<u>(22,123)</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those reported in the Income Statement 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 19 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in members' balances

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Members' balances brought forward at 1 January	(49,199)	(37,336)
Loss for the financial year	(52,419)	(22,123)
Loss collection	22,525	10,260
Members' balances carried forward at 31 December	<u>(79,093)</u>	<u>(49,199)</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Assets			
<i>Investments</i>			
Other financial investments	9	43,838	28,620
<i>Reinsurers' share of technical provisions</i>			
Provision for unearned premiums	4	7,243	5,685
Claims outstanding	4	60,977	40,978
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		68,220	46,663
<i>Debtors</i>			
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	10	76,301	53,128
Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations	11	55,077	54,077
Other debtors		6,028	5,006
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		137,406	112,211
<i>Cash and other assets</i>			
Cash at bank and in hand	14	57,153	36,156
Other assets	15	33,914	17,869
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		91,067	54,025
<i>Prepayments and accrued income</i>			
Prepayments		-	9
Deferred acquisition costs	4	18,891	17,161
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		18,891	17,170
<i>Total assets</i>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		359,422	258,689

The notes on pages 19 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position continued

As at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Members' balance and liabilities			
<i>Capital and reserves</i>			
Members' balances		(79,093)	(49,199)
<i>Liabilities</i>			
<i>Technical provisions</i>			
Provision for unearned premiums	4	75,453	65,080
Claims outstanding	4	286,517	189,719
		361,970	254,799
<i>Creditors</i>			
Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations	12	14,696	10,234
Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations	13	61,628	41,348
Other creditors		-	-
		76,324	51,582
<i>Accruals and deferred income</i>		221	1,507
<i>Total liabilities</i>		438,515	307,888
<i>Total members' balances and liabilities</i>		359,422	258,689

The notes on pages 19 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 46 were approved by board of directors on 24 February 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

R P Barke
Director
04 March 2021

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
<i>Loss for the financial year</i>	(52,419)	(22,123)
Increase in gross technical provisions	107,171	70,204
(Increase) in reinsurers' share of gross technical provisions	(21,557)	(11,395)
(Increase) in debtors	(25,195)	(22,496)
Increase in creditors	24,742	12,359
Movement in other asset/liabilities	(19,051)	(6,576)
Changes to market value and currency	1,018	(1,242)
Investment Return	(795)	(870)
<i>Net cash inflow from operating activities</i>	13,914	17,861
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of other financial investments	(1,962)	(446)
Sale of other financial investments	-	-
Investment income received	795	870
<i>Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities</i>	(1,167)	424
Cash flows from financing activities		
Loss collections from members' personal reserve fund	22,525	10,260
Members' agents fee advances	-	-
<i>Net cash inflow from financing activities</i>	22,525	10,260
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	35,272	28,545
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	64,330	34,543
Changes to market value and currency	(1,018)	1,242
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	98,584	64,330

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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 on a going concern basis, 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.

2. Accounting policies

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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 financial statements.

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.

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.

Accounting policies continued

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 incepts. 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).

The IBNR provision also includes an explicit margin, a liability for a reasonable and prudent level of conservatism to cover adverse claim deviation.

The amount included in respect of IBNR is based on statistical techniques of estimation applied by 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.

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 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 are 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 the 31 December 2020 the Syndicate had £1,224,441 of net unexpired risk provision (2019: £154,593).

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 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 2019.

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:

	2020	2019
	Year End	Year End
USD	1.37	1.32
CAD	1.74	1.72
EUR	1.12	1.18
AUD	1.77	1.88
HKD	10.60	10.32
JPY	141.12	143.93
SGD	1.81	1.78

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.

All regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date, i.e. the date the Syndicate commits to purchase or sell the asset. Regular way purchases or sales of financial assets require delivery of assets within the time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the market place.

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 the profit and loss are measured at fair value with fair value changes recognised immediately in the profit and 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 measured 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.

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.

Accounting policies continued

Investment return is initially recorded in the non-technical account. A transfer is made from the non-technical account to the general business technical account to reflect the investment return on funds supporting underwriting business.

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.
-) Money Market Funds are valued on a stable net asset value (NAV) basis. Money Market Funds are readily convertible into cash, 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.

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 based on the valuations 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 based 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 Lloyd's Central Fund loan is categorised as a Level 3 financial investment.

Accounting policies continued

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'.

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.

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:

2020	Gross written premiums	Gross premium earned	Gross claims incurred	Net operating expenses	Reinsurance balance	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct insurance:						
Accident and Health	1,252	2,432	(5,323)	(904)	(64)	(3,859)
Marine	44	46	(20)	(28)	(5)	(7)
Aviation	(111)	(112)	47	20	-	(45)
Transport	386	229	(12)	(84)	(80)	53
Energy – Marine	4	17	(7)	(5)	(1)	4
Energy – Non-Marine	603	497	(225)	(177)	(22)	73
Fire and other damage of property	13,672	11,448	(9,128)	(4,096)	(2,327)	(4,103)
Third-party liability	128,916	119,844	(96,615)	(42,482)	(8,962)	(28,215)
Pecuniary Loss	1,907	2,331	(16,906)	(742)	10,994	(4,323)
	<u>146,673</u>	<u>136,732</u>	<u>(128,189)</u>	<u>(48,498)</u>	<u>(467)</u>	<u>(40,422)</u>
Reinsurance:	<u>27,089</u>	<u>27,891</u>	<u>(28,952)</u>	<u>(10,637)</u>	<u>(1,256)</u>	<u>(12,954)</u>
Total	<u>173,762</u>	<u>164,623</u>	<u>(157,141)</u>	<u>(59,135)</u>	<u>(1,723)</u>	<u>(53,376)</u>

Segmental Analysis continued

2019	Gross written premiums	Gross premium earned	Gross claims incurred	Net operating expenses	Reinsurance balance	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct insurance:						
Accident and Health	3,786	3,938	(4,161)	(1,742)	213	(1,752)
Marine	39	52	(25)	(33)	-	(6)
Aviation	(476)	170	332	(42)	-	460
Transport	102	109	(295)	(43)	-	(229)
Energy – Marine	3	9	(4)	(3)	-	2
Energy – Non-Marine	(69)	52	(25)	(20)	-	7
Fire and other damage of property	10,020	11,686	(11,378)	(4,777)	(1,183)	(5,652)
Third-party liability	107,795	101,871	(76,055)	(39,738)	2,276	(11,646)
Pecuniary Loss	5,083	5,500	(3,218)	(1,887)	(17)	378
	126,283	123,387	(94,829)	(48,285)	1,289	(18,438)
Reinsurance:	19,521	15,920	(24,737)	(5,304)	7,539	(6,582)
Total	145,804	139,307	(119,566)	(53,589)	8,828	(25,020)

Premiums were predominately concluded in the UK during 2019 and 2020.

Commissions on direct insurance gross premiums written during 2020 were £31,884,405 (2019: £31,876,577).

4. Technical provisions

	Gross provisions £'000	2020 Reinsurance assets £'000	Net £'000
Claims outstanding			
Balance at 1 January	189,719	(40,978)	148,741
Change in claims outstanding	96,734	(20,207)	76,527
Effect of movements in exchange rates	64	208	272
Balance at 31 December	286,517	(60,977)	225,540
Claims notified	71,758	(20,029)	51,729
Claims incurred but not reported	214,759	(40,948)	173,811
Balance at 31 December	286,517	(60,977)	225,540
Unearned premiums			
Balance at 1 January	65,080	(5,685)	59,395
Change in unearned premiums	9,139	(1,559)	7,580
Effect of movements in exchange rates	1,234	1	1,235
Balance at 31 December	75,453	(7,243)	68,210
Deferred acquisition costs			
Balance at 1 January	17,161	(14)	17,147
Change in deferred acquisition costs	1,332	(65)	1,267
Effect of movements in exchange rates	398	-	398
Balance at 31 December	18,891	(79)	18,812
	Gross provisions £'000	2019 Reinsurance assets £'000	Net £'000
Claims outstanding			
Balance at 1 January	123,693	(28,002)	95,691
Change in claims outstanding	69,422	(12,718)	56,704
Effect of movements in exchange rates	(3,396)	(258)	(3,654)
Balance at 31 December	189,719	(40,978)	148,741
Claims notified	44,535	(10,979)	33,556
Claims incurred but not reported	145,184	(29,999)	115,185
Balance at 31 December	189,719	(40,978)	148,741
Unearned premiums			
Balance at 1 January	60,902	(7,266)	53,636
Change in unearned premiums	6,497	1,581	8,078
Effect of movements in exchange rates	(2,319)	-	(2,319)
Balance at 31 December	65,080	(5,685)	59,395
Deferred acquisition costs			
Balance at 1 January	17,054	(1,585)	15,469
Change in deferred acquisition costs	731	1,571	2,302
Effect of movements in exchange rates	(624)	-	(624)
Balance at 31 December	17,161	(14)	17,147

5. Net operating expenses

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Acquisition costs	(36,813)	(34,680)
Change in deferred acquisition costs	1,332	731
RI Acquisition costs	(317)	(1,518)
Change in RI deferred acquisition costs	(65)	1,571
Administration expenses	<u>(23,272)</u>	<u>(19,693)</u>
Net operating expenses	<u>(59,135)</u>	<u>(53,589)</u>

Members' standard personal expenses amounting to £2,334,276 (2019: £1,981,713) are included in administrative expenses. Members' standard personal expenses include Lloyd's subscriptions, new Central Fund contributions and Managing Agent's fees.

6. Staff costs

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	(9,984)	(8,453)
Social security costs	(1,007)	(943)
Other pension costs	<u>(390)</u>	<u>(254)</u>
	<u>(11,381)</u>	<u>(9,650)</u>

Staff that support the Syndicate are employed by Everest Service Company Ltd and Asta Managing Agency Ltd. The associated costs are recharged to Syndicate 2786.

7. Auditors' remuneration

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Audit of the financial statements	(105)	(75)
Other services pursuant to Regulations and Lloyd's Byelaws	(35)	(30)
Other services relating to actuarial review	<u>(90)</u>	<u>(85)</u>
	<u>(230)</u>	<u>(190)</u>

Auditors' 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:

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Active Underwriter's emoluments	904	737
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	904	737

9. Financial investments

	2020	
	Carrying value	Purchase price
	£'000	£'000
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts		
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	43,838	43,838
Debt securities and other fixed income securities		
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	-	-
	43,838	43,838
	2019	
	Carrying value	Purchase price
	£'000	£'000
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts		
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	28,620	28,620
Debt securities and other fixed income securities		
- Designated at fair value through profit or loss	-	-
	28,620	28,620

Amounts included within Shares and other variable securities include CIS (Collective Investment Scheme) where funds are invested in a single vehicle which invests in investments.

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 2020				
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts	13,265	28,166	2,407	43,838
Debt securities and other fixed income securities	-	-	-	-
Total	13,265	28,166	2,407	43,838

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
31 December 2019				
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts	11,406	16,768	446	28,620
Debt securities and other fixed income securities	-	-	-	-
Total	11,406	16,768	446	28,620

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 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.

10. Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Due from intermediaries (within one year)	76,301	53,128
	<u>76,301</u>	<u>53,128</u>

11. Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Due from ceding insurers (within one year)	53,649	42,588
Due from ceding insurers (after one year)	1,428	11,489
	<u>55,077</u>	<u>54,077</u>

12. Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Direct Business - Intermediaries (within one year)	14,696	10,234
	<u>14,696</u>	<u>10,234</u>

13. Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Reinsurance ceded (within one year)	55,601	41,310
Reinsurance ceded (after one year)	6,027	38
	<u>61,628</u>	<u>41,348</u>

14. Cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank and in hand	57,153	36,156
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts (excluding Syndicate Loan to Central Fund)	41,431	28,174
	<u>98,584</u>	<u>64,330</u>

15. Other assets

Other assets comprise overseas deposits which are lodged as a condition of conducting underwriting business in certain countries.

16. Related parties

Asta provides services and support to Syndicate 2786 in its capacity as Managing Agent. During the year, managing agency fees of £1,214,251 (2019: £1,241,250) were charged to the Syndicate. Asta also recharged £2,259,094 (2019: £1,956,334) worth of service charges in the year and as at 31 December 2020 an amount of £152,874 (2019: £545,290) was owed to Asta in respect of this service.

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 Byelaw provisions. All transactions are entered into on an arms length basis.

Everest Re Group Ltd provides 100% of the Syndicate's insurance capacity. The Group has recharged expenses to the Syndicate during 2020 of £13,810,827 (2019: £11,716,647) from Everest Service Company Ltd, Everest Global Services and Everest Reinsurance Company.

There is an 80% quota share agreement between Syndicate 2786 and SPA 1892.

The ultimate parent company of Asta Managing Agency Ltd is Asta Capital Ltd.

17. Disclosure of interests

Managing Agent's interest

During 2020 Asta was the Managing Agent for ten Syndicates, three Special Purpose Arrangements and one Syndicate in a box. Syndicates 1729, 1897, 1980, 2288, 2525, 2689, 2786, 3268, 4242 and 5886, Special Purpose Arrangements 1892, 6123 and 6131 and Syndicate in a box 4747 were managed on behalf of third party capital providers.

On 1 January 2020 Asta took on management of Syndicate 2288.

On 1 July 2020 Asta took on management of Syndicate in a Box 4747.

On 1 January 2021, Asta novated Syndicate 1897 to Riverstone Managing Agency.

On 4 February 2021 Asta took on management of Syndicate 1609.

The Agency provides administrative services to Syndicates and Special Purpose Arrangements, also undertaking a number of ancillary roles for 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 Ltd 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 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.

Risk management continued

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 2786 is not disclosed in these financial statements.

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 participating 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 2020 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 15, represent future cash calls required from members at the reporting date.

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.

Risk management continued

The Syndicate purchases reinsurance as part of its risk mitigation programme. The Syndicate's reinsurance program is predominantly covered by a whole account, non-proportional losses occurring during policy which covers the calendar year. 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.

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 Syndicate's in-force exposure at 31 December 2020.

	Estimated Gross Loss £'000	Estimated Net Loss £'000
Alternative RDS B	(10,113)	(3,937)
Cyber – Major Data Security Breach	(29,900)	(20,000)
AEP Loss 30 Year Return Period – Whole World	(13,401)	(9,232)
Liability – Internal Scenario 2	(21,654)	(5,905)
Liability – Internal Scenario 1	(11,811)	(3,937)

The figures above are sought from the Syndicate Business Forecast (SBF) which is unaudited.

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.

Risk management continued

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.

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, assumptions had to be changed on an individual basis. It should be noted that movements in these assumptions are non-linear.

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Gross		
Five percent increase in claim liabilities	14,326	9,486
Five percent decrease in claim liabilities	(14,326)	(9,486)
Net		
Five percent increase in claim liabilities	11,277	7,437
Five percent decrease in claim liabilities	(11,277)	(7,437)

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.

Underwriting year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimate of cumulative gross claims incurred:					
At end of first underwriting year	20,449	39,347	35,766	36,767	63,376
One Year Later	48,333	78,669	90,356	112,543	
Two Years Later	50,159	90,506	102,627		
Three Years Later	66,873	90,350			
Four Years Later	68,559				
Less cumulative gross paid	(37,644)	(51,508)	(39,960)	(19,235)	(2,591)
Liability for gross outstanding claims (2016 to 2020)	30,915	38,842	62,667	93,308	60,785
Total gross outstanding claims (all years)					<u>286,517</u>

Risk management continued

Underwriting year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimate of cumulative net claims incurred:					
At end of first underwriting year	15,928	27,496	28,661	28,680	41,573
One Year Later	36,605	57,788	75,335	94,666	
Two Years Later	39,907	68,136	91,290		
Three Years Later	46,023	69,797			
Four Years Later	45,247				
Less cumulative net paid	(28,100)	(37,700)	(32,806)	(16,171)	(2,256)
Liability for net outstanding claims (2016 to 2020)	17,147	32,097	58,484	78,495	39,317
Total net outstanding claims (all years)					225,540

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 Syndicates 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.

Risk management continued

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.

2020	£'000			Total
	Neither past due or impaired	Past due	Impaired	
Shares and other variable yield securities	43,838	-	-	43,838
Debt Securities	-	-	-	-
Overseas Deposits	33,914	-	-	33,914
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	60,977	-	-	60,977
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	76,301	-	-	76,301
Reinsurance Debtors	25,502	-	-	25,502
Other debtors	61,737	-	-	61,737
Cash and cash equivalents	57,153	-	-	57,153
Total	359,422	-	-	359,422

2019	£'000			Total
	Neither past due or impaired	Past due	Impaired	
Shares and other variable yield securities	28,620	-	-	28,620
Debt Securities	-	-	-	-
Overseas Deposits	17,869	-	-	17,869
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	40,978	-	-	40,978
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	53,128	-	-	53,128
Reinsurance Debtors	20,936	-	-	20,936
Other debtors	61,002	-	-	61,002
Cash and cash equivalents	36,156	-	-	36,156
Total	258,689	-	-	258,689

Risk management continued

The table below provides information regarding the credit risk exposure of the Syndicate at 31 December 2020 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.

2020	£'000						Total
	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BBB or less	Not Rated	
Shares and other variable yield securities	-	-	43,838	-	-	-	43,838
Debt Securities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overseas Deposits	19,637	3,276	2,502	1,729	3,438	3,332	33,914
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	-	-	60,977	-	-	-	60,977
Reinsurance Debtors	-	-	25,502	-	-	-	25,502
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	57,153	-	-	-	57,153
Total	19,637	3,276	189,972	1,729	3,438	3,332	221,384

2019	£'000						Total
	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BBB or less	Not Rated	
Shares and other variable yield securities	-	-	28,620	-	-	-	28,620
Debt Securities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overseas Deposits	10,917	2,469	1,749	713	398	1,623	17,869
Reinsurers share of claims outstanding	-	-	40,978	-	-	-	40,978
Reinsurance Debtors	-	-	20,936	-	-	-	20,936
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	36,156	-	-	-	36,156
Total	10,917	2,469	128,439	713	398	1,623	144,559

Maximum credit exposure

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.

2020	£'000					Total
	No stated maturity	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 years	
Creditors	-	70,297	6,027	-	-	76,324
Claims Outstanding	-	81,133	98,874	52,503	54,007	286,517
Total	-	151,430	104,901	52,503	54,007	362,841

2019	£'000					Total
	No stated maturity	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 years	
Creditors	-	51,544	38	-	-	51,582
Claims Outstanding	-	43,842	66,928	37,640	41,309	189,719
Total	-	95,386	66,966	37,640	41,309	241,301

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.

Risk management continued

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, Canadian and Australian dollars. The Syndicate seeks to mitigate the risk by matching the estimated foreign currency denominated liabilities with assets denominated in the same currency.

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

2020	£'000						Total
	GBP	USD	EUR	CAD	AUD	OTH	
Total Assets	141,166	69,403	35,599	26,787	82,809	3,658	359,422
Total Liabilities	(198,143)	(91,043)	(48,289)	(21,376)	(78,678)	(986)	(438,515)
Net Assets	(56,977)	(21,640)	(12,690)	5,411	4,131	2,672	(79,093)

2019	£'000						Total
	GBP	USD	EUR	CAD	AUD	OTH	
Total Assets	128,047	47,075	20,527	11,377	49,276	2,387	258,689
Total Liabilities	(138,827)	(62,413)	(35,345)	(8,298)	(62,295)	(710)	(307,888)
Net Assets	(10,780)	(15,338)	(14,818)	3,079	(13,019)	1,677	(49,199)

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.

Risk management continued

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, Australian dollar and Euro simultaneously. The analysis is based on the information as at 31st December 2020.

	Impact on profit and members' balance	
	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Sterling weakens		
10% against other currencies	(2,479)	(4,010)
20% against other currencies	(4,958)	(8,019)
Sterling strengthens		
10% against other currencies	2,479	4,010
20% against other currencies	4,958	8,019

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.

The Syndicate has no significant concentration of interest rate risk.

21. Post balance sheet events

The Syndicate will collect £24.0m from members of the 2018 YoA.

Part VII Transfer

On 30 December 2020, the Syndicate transferred its EEA non-life insurance policies written between 2016 and 2020 to Lloyd's Insurance Company S.A. ('Lloyd's Brussels') pursuant to Part VII of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The value of the net liabilities transferred was \$25.2m. The Syndicate transferred cash of the same amount to Lloyd's Brussels. Lloyd's Brussels subsequently reinsured the same liabilities back to the Syndicate on the same day. The reinsurance premium received was of the same amount of \$25.2m. There was no gain or loss arising on either transaction.

Both the cash transferred for the Part VII transfer and the premium subsequently received back from Lloyd's Brussels have been included in the 'gross written premiums' line of the income statement. This is the appropriate treatment that best reflects the connection between economic substance of both the Part VII transfer and the associated reinsurance arrangement, and the resulting economic substance of the combined transaction.

On the balance sheet, certain policy-level balances impacted by the transfer that were previously reflected as amounts arising from direct insurance operations, have been reclassified to amounts arising from inwards reinsurance business.

The transaction has no impact on equity.