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## **AGENDA**



HIGHLIGHTS & OVERVIEW

Tarak Ramzan Chief Executive Officer



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Gerry Sweeney Chief Financial Officer



OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Sheraz Ramzan Chief Commercial Officer



CURRENT TRADING
AND OUTLOOK

Tarak Ramzan Chief Executive Officer



## HIGHLIGHTS & OVERVIEW

Tarak Ramzan CEO

## SIX MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 OVERVIEW

## Highlights

- Group revenues decreased 14% reflecting challenging prior year comparatives as well as inflationary pressures impacting consumer demand
- Gross margins maintained at 61.8%
- EBITDA of £1.1m; a £2.6m reduction year-on-year
- Loss before tax of £1.5m; a £3.3m decline year-on-year
- Operating cash flows of £2.1m in the year, £4.4m lower year-on-year
- Capital expenditure of £3.4m; reflects spend at Distribution Centre and on stores
- Three new stores opened, two relocated and two closed
- Total liquidity headroom of £7.6m, including £3.6m of cash at period end

## Review of Strategic Options

- Given the Group's recent trading performance the Board has decided to immediately initiate a through review of strategic options available to maximise shareholder value
- Review to be led by Chairman Peter Cowgill and report in Q1 of 2024

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

**Gerry Sweeney**CFO



## **SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT**

| 1.1        | 3./  | - 70%  |
|------------|--|--|
|            |  | - 70%  |
| 2.4        | 1.8  |  |
| -1.3       | 1.9  |  |
| -1.3       | 1.9  |  |
| -          | 0.1  | -  |
| - 27.4     | - 28.6                                       | - 4%   |
| 61.8%      | 61.6%  | + 0.2%   |
| 26.1       | 30.5   | - 14%  |
| 42.3       | 49.4   | - 14%  |
| FY 2024 HI | FY 2023 HI                                   | YoY change   |
|            | 42.3<br>26.1<br>61.8%<br>- 27.4<br>-<br>-1.3 | 42.3 49.4 26.1 30.5 61.8% 61.6% - 27.4 - 28.6 - 0.1  -1.3 1.9  2.4 1.8 |

#### Overview

- Reduced consumer demand reflects reduced traffic online and offline
- Gross margins maintained as demand remained for new full price product
- Operating cost decrease limited to 4% reflecting large fixed element to costs
- Positive EBITDA/cash generation maintained

## **REVENUE AND MARGIN**

| (£m)                      | FY 2024 HI | FY 2023 HI | YoY<br>change |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| UK stores and concessions | 22.0       | 24.6       | - 11%         |
| Online                    | 12.6       | 16.1       | - 22%         |
| International             | 7.7        | 8.7        | - 11%         |
| Total sales               | 42.3       | 49.4       | - 14%         |

| Business Mix              |       |       |        |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| UK stores and concessions | 52%   | 50%   | + 2%   |
| Online                    | 30%   | 33%   | - 3%   |
| International             | 18%   | 17%   | + 1%   |
|                           |       |       |        |
| Gross margin              | 61.8% | 61.6% | + 0.2% |

#### Continued focus on own stores and website

UK stores and concessions

- Lower revenues further to reduced footfall
- LFL impacted by strong sales in 2022

#### Online revenues

 Sales through QUIZ website reduced 24% to £8.6m; represents 68% of overall online sales
 International

- Drop of 23% in Irish revenues partially reflects closure of one store in Period
- Franchise revenues of £5.1m, broadly consistent with prior year
- Gross margin consistent with prior year

## **OPERATING COSTS**

| (£m)                                | FY 2024 HI | FY 2023 HI | YoY change |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Employment costs*                   | 10.9       | 10.0       | + 9%       |
| Property costs (incl property depn) | 4.7        | 4.9        | - 4%       |
| Marketing costs                     | 1.5        | 1.5        | -          |
| Depreciation (excl property depn)   | 1.1        | 0.9        | + 22%      |
| Other costs                         | 3.7        | 4.7        | - 21%      |
| Administration costs                | 21.9       | 22.0       | -          |
|                                     |            |            |            |
| Distribution costs                  | 5.5        | 6.6        | - 16%      |
|                                     |            |            |            |
| Total costs                         | 27.4       | 28.6       | - 4%       |
|                                     |            |            |            |
| Other income                        | -          | -0.1       | -          |
|                                     |            |            |            |
| Net costs                           | 27.4       | 28.5       | - 4%       |
|                                     |            |            |            |

#### Administration costs

- Higher employee costs driven by impact of National Living Wage on payments to store and distribution centre staff
- Property costs decreased due to lower store revenues and amendments to business rates
- Consistent marketing spend year-on-year
- Higher depreciation costs reflect investment in current year

#### Distribution costs

- Commission costs fall in line with third-party sales
- Lower carriage costs further to lower revenues

<sup>\* -</sup> includes directly employed and agency employees

## **BALANCE SHEET**

| (£m)                          | Sept 2023 | March 2023 | YoY change |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Property, plant and equipment | 6.8       | 4.7        |            |
| Right to use assets           | 6.8       | 6.5        |            |
| Intangible assets             | 2.8       | 2.7        |            |
| Deferred tax asset            | 1.0       | 1.0        |            |
| Total non-current assets      | 17.4      | 14.9       | + 2.5      |
|                               |           |            |            |
| Inventory                     | 11.3      | 12.3       |            |
| Receivables - trade and other | 7.3       | 7.4        |            |
| Payables - trade and other    | - 12.5    | - 13.0     |            |
| Net trade working capital     | 6.1       | 6.7        | - 0.6      |
|                               |           |            |            |
| Lease liabilities             | - 7.4     | - 6.9      | - 0.5      |
|                               |           |            |            |
| Cash, net of borrowings       | 3.6       | 6.2        | - 2.6      |
|                               |           |            |            |
| Net assets                    | 19.7      | 20.9       | - 1.2      |

#### Non-current assets

- Additions of £3.4m in PP&E and Intangible assets (software)
- £1.3m on distribution centre and £1.2m spend on new stores
- New store leases result in £1.5m additions to in Right to Use assets
- Depreciation of £2.4m

## Working capital

- Continued focus on tight management of inventory
- Payables consistent with prior year

Lease liabilities reflect future lease payments

## **CASH FLOWS**

| (£m)                           | FY 2024 HI | FY 2023 HI | YoY change |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Loss/profit after tax          | -1.2       | 1.5        | - 2.7      |
| Dep'n and amortisation         | 2.4        | 1.8        | + 0.6      |
| Other non cash charges         | 0.2        | 0.2        | -          |
| Tax and interest credit        | -0.3       | 0.4        | - 0.7      |
| Working capital movements      | 1.0        | 2.5        | - 1.5      |
| Cash from operating activities | 2.1        | 6.4        | - 4.3      |
| Capital expenditure            | - 3.3      | - 0.7      | - 2.6      |
| Loans repaid                   | - 1.2      | - 1.4      | + 0.2      |
| Lease payments                 | - 1.3      | - 1.0      | - 0.3      |
| Cash (outflow)/inflow          | -3.7       | 3.3        | - 7.0      |
|                                |            |            |            |
| Cash                           | 3.9        | 9.2        | - 5.3      |
| Bank borrowings                | - 0.3      | -          | - 0.3      |
| Cash, net of bank borrowings   | 3.6        | 9.2        | - 5.6      |

- Operating cash flows of £2.1m
- Net working capital inflow lower inventory relative to year end
  - Capital expenditure to be limited in the second half year
- Bank borrowings represented use of working capital facility
  - £4.0m bank facilities scheduled for renewal in 30 June 2024
- No financial covenants applicable to bank facilities



## OPERATIONAL REVIEW

**Sheraz Ramzan** CCO

## **OPTIMISING THE OMNI-CHANNEL MODEL**

#### **UK** online

- QUIZ website revenues of £8.6m; 68% of online sales in H1 FY23
- Active customers 533,000, I I% lower than March 2023
- Investment to improve online offering including order from and pick up in store expected to complete in Q4 on FY 24
- Third party sites remain important for brand exposure subject to delivering acceptable returns





### UK store and concessions

- Three new stores opened, two relocated and one closed in H1 FY24
- One new store and two relocations in H2 FY2024
- Flexible rental arrangements; average lease term of 23 months; up from 18 months further to lease renewals
- Flexible concession arrangements with limited capital outlay

| Stores            | Sept 2023 | <b>S</b> ept 2022 | Change |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------|
| UK stores         | 64        | 62                | +2     |
|                   |           |                   |        |
| Concessions       |           |                   |        |
| New Look          | 49        | 55                | - 6    |
| Other             | 11        | 12                | -1     |
| Total concessions | 60        | 67                | -7     |

## **MANAGING GROSS MARGIN**

- Continued preference for new products from customers
- Gross margins improved 20bps year-on-year to 61.8%
- Selective price increases helped address higher costs
- Continue to carefully manage stock levels with a £1.0m reduction in the Period



## **RIGHT-SIZING OUR COST BASE**

- Group's infrastructure well positioned to facilitate higher revenues
- Investment at distribution centre will increase capacity improve efficiencies
- Increased industry-wide cost pressures likely to continue into current and next year:
  - Wage inflation (including NLW)
  - Higher energy costs (fixed contract expired in August 2023)
- Focussed on proactive management of costs



## TARGETED INVESTMENT SUPPORTING THE BRAND

- QUIZ brand is differentiated in the market
- Broad age appeal
- Specialise in occasion wear and dressy casual
- Increased spend on promotional activity
- Olivia Bowen campaign helped to drive traffic and interest around Christmas Party Season





- Marketing spend consistent at £1.3m (2022: £1.3m)
- Marketing investment in Period equated to 3.3% of revenue (2022: 3.1%)
- Focussed on achieving clear returns from all marketing activity

# CURRENT TRADING & OUTLOOK

Tarak Ramzan CEO



## **CURRENT TRADING**

| Revenue (£m)              | Oct-Nov<br>2023 | Oct-Nov<br>2022 | YoY<br>change |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| UK stores and concessions | 6.9             | 7.3             | - 6%          |
| Online                    | 5.2             | 6.5             | - 20%         |
| International             | 2.1             | 2.2             | - 5%          |
| Total sales               | 14.2            | 16.0            | - 11%         |

- Total sales across October and November behind expectations
- Sharp drop compared to expectations in October
- Revenues remained weak during November particularly online
- Disappointing sales across the Black Friday period
- £4.9 million of cash headroom as at 4 December

## **OUTLOOK**

#### Short term considerations

- Uncertainty remains with regards to consumer demand over remainder of the Christmas trading and January sales period
- Cost of living pressures expected to impact consumer demand further in the New Year
- Full year revenue outcome expected to be between 6-8% below expectations

#### Longer term considerations

- Confident that brand remains relevant to customers who can afford to shop
- Review of strategic options to consider options to maximise shareholder value
- Expect to deliver findings in first quarter of 2024
- Confident that business can grow revenues and profits

