



**EMBARGOED FOR 07:00AM 14 April 2021**

## **ADMIRAL TAVERNS**

### **ANNUAL RESULTS FOR 52 WEEKS TO 30 MAY 2020**

#### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT IN FINAL QUARTER MASKS A YEAR OF FURTHER STRATEGIC PROGRESS**

Admiral Taverns (“Admiral”), the UK’s leading community pub company today publishes its Annual Results for the 52 weeks to 30 May 2020 (“the period”).

#### **Key Financials**

Turnover	<b>£64.7m</b>
Underlying operating profit (after excluding exceptional and non-underlying items)	<b>£11.1m</b>
Underlying profit after tax	<b>£0.4m</b>

#### **Performance Overview**

The period was significantly impacted by the Pandemic which resulted in the UK Government’s mandated closure of all the Group’s pubs on 21st of March in response to a rising number of Covid-19 infections. This resulted in an almost complete loss of income for the Group leading up to the end of the accounting period, with income from sales of beverages falling to zero and rents charged to licensees initially cancelled.

Despite these unprecedented challenges, the Group achieved an underlying operating profit of £11.1m (2019 - £17.2m) and an underlying profit after tax of £0.4m (2019 profit after tax - £6.2m). Up until the closure of pubs in March, Admiral had made good progress against its strategic targets and traded in line with Management’s expectations.

Significant investment was made over the course of the year to expand the Group’s estate of community pubs. The Group acquired 287 pubs in two transactions, in October and November 2019, for an aggregate consideration of £97.9m and launched a new Operator Managed division, Oasis Pubs. This resulted in the estate growing to 1,032 pubs by the year end. A total of £11m was also spent over the course of the year to refurbish the Group’s pubs, improving the customer experience and positioning these individual businesses to thrive.

The Group also invested in its own people and the facilities and technology used in their roles. The business moved into modern office space in Chester, greatly improving the workspace of the central team, and introduced new technology to enable both efficient home working and to optimise the remote working experience for the field-based teams.

#### *Covid-19 Pandemic*

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the UK hospitality sector has been hugely significant and throughout this incredibly challenging period the Group has worked hard to support our licensees and our people. Within 24 hours of the first lockdown, the Group acted to reassure licensees by granting a 6-week cancellation of rent. In turn, licensees excelled at supporting their communities, despite

# admiral

T A V E R N S

being unable to trade. The Group later provided a runway of support covering each month up to July 2021 and helped licensees to 'rise out of lockdown' successfully in July 2020. Admiral's longstanding strategy to work closely with licensees and to succeed together has never been more appropriate and the Group's investors, Proprium Capital Partners and C&C Group Plc, have been hugely supportive throughout this difficult time. The strong performance from our pubs when they have reopened between lockdowns has demonstrated the resilience of the Group's community wet led model.

**Commenting on the results Chris Jowsey, CEO of Admiral Taverns, said:** "Admiral Taverns made significant strategic progress in the last financial year delivering an underlying profit of £11.1m despite the huge impact of Covid-19 pandemic, which fell in the final quarter.

"As the industry begins to reopen its doors, the role of the community pub has never been more important. An integral part of the UK's social tapestry, they are vital hubs which bring people together, provide a forum to combat loneliness and raise over £100 million pounds for charity each year.

"From the onset of the pandemic we have worked hard to ensure our licensees received the support needed to emerge from the crisis energised, motivated, and not weighed down by debt. As consumer macro trends for 'localism' and authenticity grow ever stronger, the Group remains well placed to succeed with its strategic plans for long-term growth, once the UK's pathway out of the pandemic is firmly established."

**-ENDS-**

## **Notes to Editors**

Admiral Taverns ("Admiral"), the UK's number one community pub group. Headquartered in Chester; the Group operates a national estate of c.1000 predominantly wet-led community pubs. Admiral's unique operational approach has earned industry recognition with the Group awarded Best Leased and Tenanted Pub Company in 2019, 2016 and 2013 and ranked highly commended as Best Community Pub Operator in 2017. The Group has also been consistently highly rated by licensees in the industry's independent annual Licensee Index survey, exceeding the scores of all its national peers.