

Courts (Jamaica) Limited 1998

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their annual report with the financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 1998.

Identification

The company is a subsidiary of Courts Furnishers (Overseas) Limited which is incorporated in England and holds 79.9% (1997- 79.9%) of the company's issued capital. The ultimate holding company is Courts PLC also incorporated in England. The principal activities of the company consist of the retailing and the hire purchase financing of furniture and appliances.

All amounts in these statements are stated in Jamaican dollars

Trading Results

	1998	1997
	\$000s	\$000s
Turnover	3,035,223	2,217,742
Profit before Deferred Profit Transfer	573,210	276,620
Profit before Taxation	395,510	111,064
Profit after Taxation	264,953	85,934

Bonus Issue

At the last Annual General Meeting the shareholders approved a bonus issue of one 50 cent par value ordinary share for every three held. The directors intend to recommend a further bonus issue at the next Annual General Meeting of four 50 cent par value ordinary shares for every one held. These bonus shares will also qualify for the final dividend of 5 cents per share.

Dividends

An interim dividend of \$2,397,000 (5 cents) was declared and paid in April 1998. The directors recommend a final dividend of \$11,986,000 (5 cents) which if approved at the annual general meeting will be paid less income tax on 9th October 1998 to registered stockholders as at the close of business on 25th September 1998.

Directors

The directors retiring by rotation and who being eligible offer themselves for re-election:

R. Hayden Singh	Richard J. Cohen
Keith M. Fredricks	William A. Stephens

Four directors held stocks in the company as at 31st March 1998 as follows:

Directors	Number of Units
Richard W.T. Coe	118,518
Keith M. Fredricks	597,180
Robert Humphries	10,000
Ouida Y. Ridgard	7,488

No senior manager held stocks in the Company as at 31st March 1998.

Change of Articles

To facilitate its modernization the Jamaica Stock Exchange has requested a change in the Company's Articles of Association by eliminating the need for the Transferee to sign the instrument of transfer of a share. The directors are in support of the Stock Exchange modernization project and have therefore included a resolution for the change of Clause 21 of the Articles of Association at the Annual General Meeting.

Substantial Stockholdings

The ten largest stockholdings as at 31st March 1998 were:

	Number of Units
Courts Furnishers (Overseas) Limited	38,287,369
Keith Fredricks	597,180
Scotiabank Jamaica Trust & Merchant Bank A/C319	574,178
Donwis Limited	454,636
Jamaica Development Bank	453,333
Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society	441,728
Courts (Ja) Ltd.- Employee Share Options Trust	311,158
Ideal Finance Corporation.	189,329
M/VL Stockbrokers Ltd	172,672
Ideal Betting Company Ltd.	165,224

Auditors

The auditors, Price Waterhouse, have signified their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 153 of the Companies Act.

By Order of the Board
Dennis Harris, Secretary
