



# FY23 Results

15 May 2024



# Agenda

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**Overview**

Shanker Patel, CEO

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**Financial review**

Chris Day, CFO & COO

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**Strategy update & ESG**

Shanker Patel / Chris Day

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**Summary & outlook**

Gary O'Brien, Chairman

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**Q&A**

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# Overview

# FY23 Highlights

## Resilient performance despite challenging economic backdrop with strategic actions to protect profitability and cashflow

- Performance in line with market expectations with Group revenue at record high (+2.8%) and LFL revenues resilient (-1.2%)
- Robust Plumbing & Heating division delivered revenue growth reflecting its recurring demand profile – total growth +8.0%, LFL growth +3.7%
- Strong focus on cost control discipline
- ESG strategy and Net Zero ambitions fully defined during FY23, identifying a roadmap to materially reduce emissions
- Confident in medium term prospects – maintain dividend of 2.0 pence
- Lords remains <1% of a £55bn market – growth strategy based on product range extension, branch expansion and accretive acquisitions





# Financial Review

# FY23 Financial Highlights



	FY23	FY22	Change
Revenue	£462.6m	£450.0m	+£12.6m / +2.8%
Adjusted EBITDA	£26.8m	£30.0m	-£3.2m / -10.5%
Adjusted EBITDA Margin	5.8%	6.7%	-0.9%
Adjusted Profit Before Tax	£10.4m	£17.4m	-£7.0m / -40.7%
Adjusted Earnings Per Share	4.35p	8.02p	-3.67p / -45.8%
Dividend Per Share	2.00p	2.00p	-
Free Cash Flow Conversion % <sup>1</sup>	59.2%	66.9%	-7.7%

- 2.8% revenue growth despite challenging market conditions
- EBITDA margin impacted by market conditions, operational leverage and Alloway acquisition
- Adjusted PBT reduced due to interest costs, depreciation and amortisation
- Dividend maintained, reflecting confidence in medium term growth prospects
- Robust free cash flow (from EBITDA) of £13.9m, 59.2%

<sup>1</sup> Cash conversion from EBITDA and thus FCF conversion shown excluding lease payments

# FY23 Financial Highlights

## – Merchanding

Resilient performance in Merchanding amidst a challenging trading environment, service-led proposition continues to attract and retain customer base.

	FY23	FY22	Change
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>£214.9m</b>	<b>£220.8m</b>	<b>-£5.9m / -2.6%</b>
<i>LFL Growth vs FY22</i>	<i>-6.3%</i>		
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>£14.0m</b>	<b>£16.1m</b>	<b>-£2.1m / -13.4%</b>
<i>Margin</i>	<i>6.5%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>-0.8%</i>

- Revenue reduction in Merchanding reflecting the market conditions and focus on servicing more profitable market segments
- EBITDA margin reduction from lower volumes and expected impact from the Alloway Timber business which was loss making at acquisition
- FY23 acquisitions successfully integrated and trading in line with expectations



# FY23 Financial Highlights – Plumbing & Heating

Robust P&H result in the year, growing like for like sales via range extension and market focus.

	FY23	FY22	Change
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>£247.7m</b>	<b>£229.3m</b>	<b>+£18.4m / +8.0%</b>
<i>LFL Growth vs FY22</i>	<b>+3.7%</b>		
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>£12.9m</b>	<b>£13.8m</b>	<b>-£0.9m / -7.1%</b>
<i>Margin</i>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>

- Like for like sales growth of 3.7% reflecting robust demand profile of business
- Total revenue growth of 8.0% including full year impact of Direct Heating and HRP Trade acquisitions in 2022
- EBITDA margin step back anticipated versus prior year as boiler availability normalised and remains 0.8% ahead of FY21
- Focus on promoting digital offering and broadening product range across bathroom showrooms, renewables and spares



Joe, Showroom Manager,  
Direct Heating, Chelmsford



# Stable balance sheet

- Debt structure refinanced on 5 April 2023, moving to a syndicate structure with HSBC, Natwest and BNP Paribas
- Plus 1 extension agreed in April 2024 extending maturity date to 5 April 2027
- Facility extension reflects lender confidence and endorsement of Lords resilience and growth potential
- Seasonal movement in Net Debt occurs annually driven by Group's positive working capital profile, movement between H1 and H2 to be expected annually

£m	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Net Debt <sup>3</sup> pre IFRS	28.5	19.4
Total debt facilities	95.0	70.0
Total undrawn headroom	46.7	34.6
Debt facility maturity date	5 April 2027	21 July 2024

<sup>3</sup> Net debt is defined as drawn borrowings less cash and cash equivalents.



Aimee, Branch Manager,  
Lords Builders Merchants, Cheam

# FY23 Financial highlights – Free cash flow



£m	FY23	FY22
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>28.6</b>
Exceptional Items and share based payments	3.4	1.3
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>30.0</b>
Working capital movement	(0.8)	(2.0)
Tax	(3.1)	(3.7)
Profit on disposal of PPE and on sale of business	(0.4)	(0.2)
<b>Adjusted Cash generated by operating activities</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>24.1</b>
Capex	(4.9)	(3.5)
Interest paid	(3.7)	(1.4)
<b>Free cash flow</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>19.1</b>
<i>Free cash flow / EBITDA %<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>66.9%</b>

- Free cash flow (from EBITDA) of £13.9m, 59.2%<sup>1</sup>
- Working capital continues to be tightly controlled
- Capex investments totalled £4.9m in FY23 including the £2.2 m payment to acquire the George Lines freehold near Heathrow reflecting the continued investment in the Group's growth strategy
- Interest paid reflects higher debt position and movement in base rate

<sup>1</sup> cash conversion from EBITDA and thus FCF conversion shown excluding lease payments

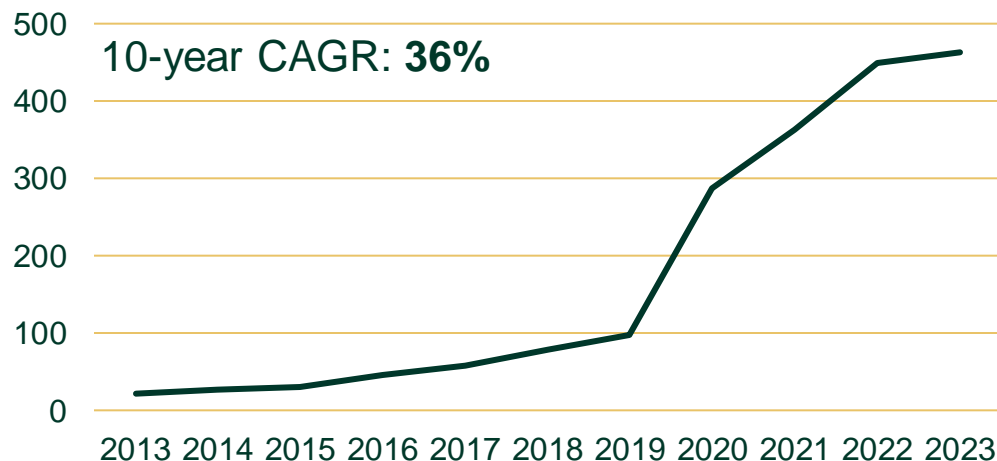


# Strategic Update

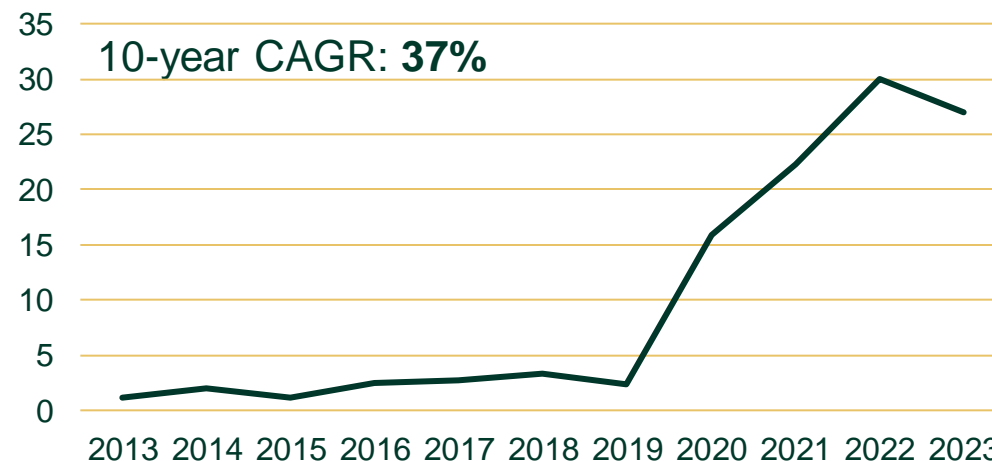
# Track record of growth



## Revenue (Figures in £m)



## Adjusted EBITDA (Figures in £m)



- 10 year CAGR profile reflects Lords market consolidation track record, delivering premium value creation for shareholders
- Whilst Lords has grown strongly, the Group still remain <1% of a large £55bn market with opportunity to sustain growth
- Management are ambitious and focused on growth, M&A remains a key focus

# Renewables range: Well positioned

- Renewables category enjoyed 60% revenue growth in FY23
- Air Source Heat Pump sub-category delivered strong momentum, with revenue growth of 300% in FY23. Average sale price of £2.8k v Boiler of £0.9k
- Lords is uniquely positioned to supply – distribution, merchandising and consumer channels
- Suppliers recognise Lords' track record of delivering new products into market – 6 new suppliers joined the Group's network in FY23
- Products are margin accretive and delivered via existing in-house network
- Government targeting 600,000 installations per annum by 2028



# Renewables range: Transition plan

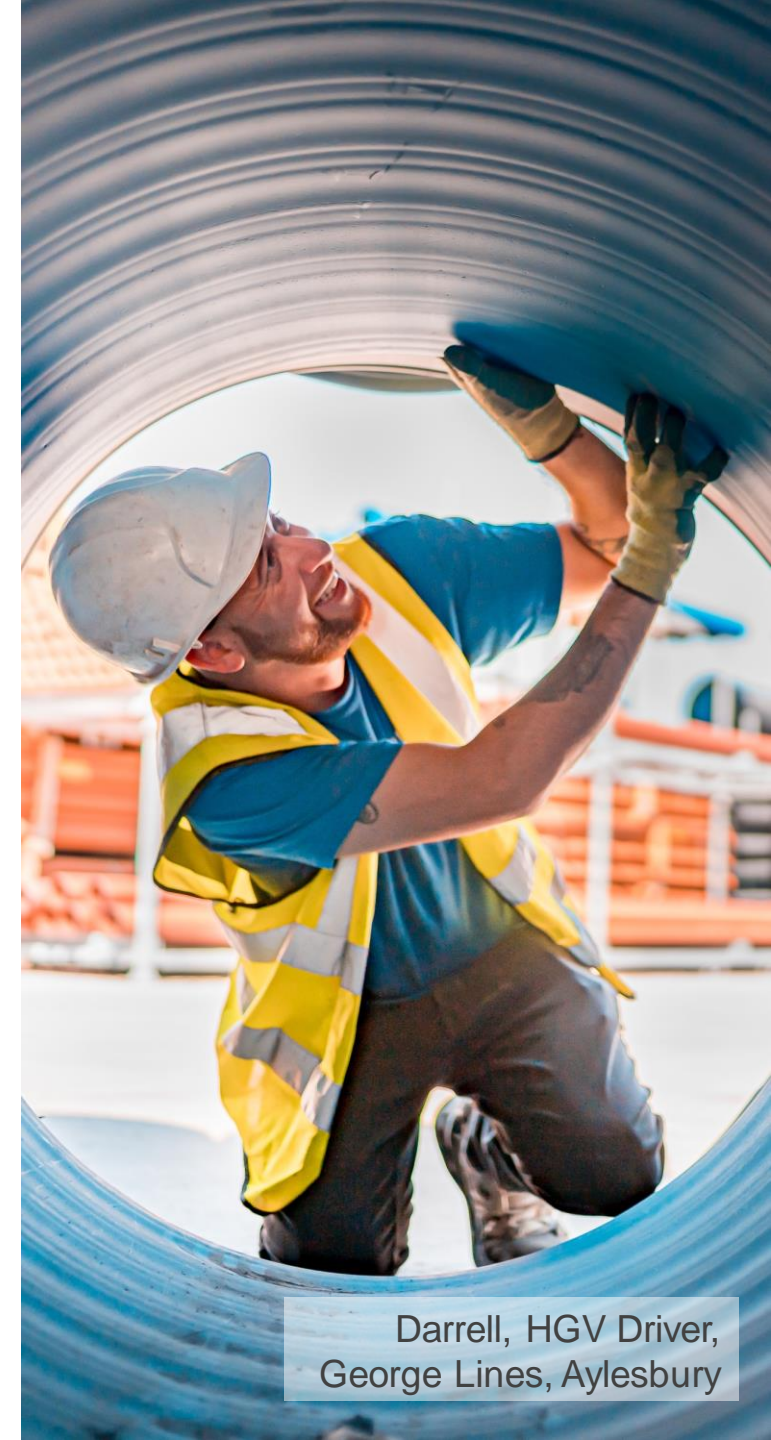
- Government announced 12 month adjustment to introduction of Clean Heat Market Mechanism ('CHMM'), now planned for April 2025
- CHMM incentivises boiler manufacturers and homeowners to accelerate the transition towards renewable energy sources in UK homes
- Initiative expected to increase demand for renewable products including air source heat pumps
- Deferment has caused demand disruption in Q1 24 within B2B channel, restocking activity anticipated in Q2 24



# Consolidation Model

- A strong track record of acquisitions with inhouse M&A expertise – 15 acquisitions completed since 2016
- All fully integrated and performing ahead of expectations, delivering 25%+ return on investment<sup>2</sup>
- Management teams retained and incentivised to perform
- Significant opportunities to accelerate consolidation
- Targets selected on ability to enhance:
  - Expand geographic footprint
  - Product range extension
  - eCommerce platform
- Targeting acquisitions on 4 - 6x maintainable EBITDA
- Pipeline of opportunities remains active, prudence to be exercised on timing given macro conditions

<sup>2</sup> Based on 13 acquisitions completed between 2016 and 2022



Darrell, HGV Driver,  
George Lines, Aylesbury

# ESG: Developing our strategy

- Strategy developed in FY22, providing an effective framework to drive our ESG performance
- Implemented new environmental policy outlining ambition to reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 90% by 2035 and reduce Scope 3 emissions by 90% by 2050
- Revised our supplier code of conduct policies with mandated compliance<sup>3</sup>
- Lords Group Foundation distributed £123k of £200k committed to the foundation for good causes within our local communities
- Shortlisted for the Corporate Governance award at the AIM Awards 2023

<sup>3</sup> Suppliers with annual purchases in excess of £50,000



Lords Foundation Initiative –  
Aylesbury Motor Project



# The Lords Investment Case



A leading, high-growth distributor of building materials in the UK

## Unique Customer First Proposition

- Customer service excellence is the central pillar of our strategy
- Engaged colleagues, fundamental to differentiated customer service
- Specialist highly-recognisable brands, local and regional leadership
- Creates loyal, long-term customer relationships
- Colleagues aligned with success of Group through shareholding

## Substantial Organic & Margin Accretive Growth

- New markets and customers via new store roll out of existing brands
- Accelerating digital capability creates new repeat customers
- Increasing share of customer wallet through marketing new products
- Growing penetration of decarbonisation products drives margin expansion

## Well Positioned In Substantial UK RMI Market

- <1% market share in highly fragmented market
- 45% of revenue within essential and resilient “Repair” sector of RMI
- Track record of high growth – 10yr revenue CAGR of revenue 36% and Adjusted EBITDA 37%

## Successful Value-Creative M&A Track Record

- Independent merchants hold 42% of market and are prime for consolidation
- Attractive buyer for family businesses – good continuity and development
- Lords track record of acquiring specialist merchants at 4-6x EBITDA which are earnings accretive
- 13 acquisitions in last 6 years, delivering 25%+ return on investment

## Strong Financial Profile

- Growth levers aiming to enhance EBITDA margin to 7.5% in medium term
- Highly cash generative, attractive working capital profile
- Committed to progressive dividend policy

## Management Track Record

- Recognised industry leaders and aligned with shareholders via significant majority shareholding
- Management team have in excess of 200 years industry experience
- CEO has led the Group that has delivered growth in previous 3 economic downturns



**CONDELL**  
BUILDING SUPPLIES



**5** MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT  
Drivers must be under the  
company supervision at all  
times when on the premises.  
**CAUTION**  
Fall or tripping  
**CAUTION**  
No U-Turn  
All vehicles must observe the traffic  
management system.

# Outlook

# Outlook

Whilst mindful of the macro-economic environment and its impact on the sector in the short term, the Group continues to trade in line with market expectations.

The fundamentals of the Lords investment proposition remain:

- High growth reflected by 10 year CAGR – Revenue +36%, Adjusted EBITDA +37%
- Post IPO acquisitions performing in line with or ahead of expectations
- Lords holds <1% of a £55bn building materials market: large market share opportunity via organic growth levers and value added acquisitions
- On track to deliver previous revenue target, when adjusted for the deferral of the CHMM, in 2024 and 7.5% EBITDA margin in the medium term



Alex, Trade Counter Assistant,  
Mr Central Heating, West Brom

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