31 Business

Small-cap spotlight SAVERS who used lockdown to boost their pension funds helped revenue at financial services group Curtis Banks grow 17.5% to £63.3 million Pre-tax profits at the AIM-listed Bristol-based company during the 12 months to 31 December 2021 rose 22.2% to £9.3 million. The company, one of the largest

providers of self-invested personal pensions (Sipps), said assets under administration

rose 15.4% to £37.4 billion. Shares were down 12p at 262p as the firm also warned of "revenue headwinds due to Covid-19" and the continuing integration of fintech provider . Dunstan Thomas.

Sorrell's S4 Capital dives after sudden results delay

Samantha Downes



MARKET ROUND-UP

SHARES in Sir Martin Sorrell's digital marketing group S4 Capital continued a downward slide today after nearly £1 billion was taken off the company's value late yesterday.

Investors were spooked after S4 Cap-ital was forced to pull a preliminary annual results announcement which had been due out this morning.

The company said the last-minute decision was at the instruction of its auditor PwC, with no detail beyond that. S4 would not comment, nor would it give a new date for its results. In January Sorrell reassured investors

that revenue and profit were already well ahead of company guidance.

S4 Capital shares dropped another 15.52p to 294.58p this morning. Hostelworld's full-year results pushed

its shares 2.8p higher at 76p. The online travel agent, which specialises in hostel accommodation, said there had been a notable decline in cancellations. Despite



the emergence of Omicron in late 2021 its net revenue for the period rose 10% to £14.31 million (€16.9 million).

Bookings also increased 30%, recov-ering compared with 2019, during the year ending December 31, 2021. Ticket booking intermediary Train-

line was in favour. Its price rose 43p to 241p after agreeing to reduce the commission it receives for selling train tickets from 5% to 4.5%. The company's agreement with the Rail Delivery Group takes effect from 1 April 2025. Food giant Tate & Lyle was also up,

20p to 739.4p, on the announcement of its £180.5 million (\$237 million) takeo-ver of Chinese dietary fibre firm Quantum Hi-Tech Biological from ChemPartner Pharmatech. The deal should be complete by mid 2022 but is subject to approval by ChemPartner's shareholders After enduring what analysts have

called "the scariest quarter ever", the FTSE was on course to end March slightly muted, down 2.71 points at

7.576.58 @Samantha_Downes

EN+ warns of trading and finance difficulties

METALS

James Drummond

EMBATTLED London-listed Russian metals group EN+ has warned of difficult trading conditions ahead and heightened financing costs as it is forced to fund itself in massively depreciated roubles. Announcing strong results for last year,

before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, EN+ warned in a statement of "difficulties in supply of equipment, which may lead to the postponement of investment projects". Earlier this month it said it was halting production at its Nikolaev aluminum smelter in southern Ukraine.

EN+ is itself unsanctioned but Russian billionaire Oleg Deripaska, who founded the group and retains a sizeable shareholding, has been targeted by multiple measures by the UK, US and other international actors. Deripaska has been accused by the US of helping to launder money on behalf of Vladimir Putin, the Russian president. The London Stock Exchange suspended trading in EN+ shares on March 3 along with a series of other Russian companies

EN+, which controls Rusal, the biggest aluminum producer outside China, said on Thursday that it had launched the first phase of the Taishet aluminium smelter in Siberia which it said was the world's most advanced low-carbon aluminum production plant. But it warned

Embattled: EN+ founder Oleg Derinaska seer here (right) with Vladimir Putin

that Rusal was likely to be hit by a ban

on alumina exports from Australia. The group said on Thursday that its managers were "analysing the possible impact of a variety of micro- and macroeconomic conditions on the company's future financial position and results of operations in 2022 and onwards".

Greg Barker, who served as climate minister in David Cameron's coalition government, stepped down as executive chairman following sustained pressure from the Conservative party and others earlier this month

EN+ said that Christopher Bancroft Burnham, a US grandee who is a former undersecretary-general of the United Nations and who was previously the group's senior independent director, has

been elected as chairman of the board. Adjusted earnings before interest tax and depreciation increased to \$3.9 bil-lion in 2021 from \$1.8 million, driven by a 45% increase in aluminum prices, as well as an increase in electricity production. EBITDA margin reached 28.3% compared with 18.0% in 2020. @drummo84

Female-led companies face £1.8m gender revenue gap

DIVERSITY Mark Banham

A GENDER revenue gap has been uncovered by new research highlighting that women-led businesses are missing out on more than £1.5 million in sales compared with male-led rivals.

The average turnover of female-owned UK companies is £1.3 million, compared with £3.1 million for maleowned companies, according to new research.

Businesses led by women are suffering from a lack of investor capital according to The Gender Index, an AI-based survey of 4.4 million ctive UK companies. Information sourced from tracking firm and data provider mnAI revealed that while there are more women starting companies than ever before, they are receiving less investment and so end

up with lower sales and growth figures. Of the 1.3 million UK investments that were identified by the research. 66.1% went to male-led firms and female-led companies obtained nearly six times less investments than male-led companies

Jill Pay, left, chairman of the Gender Index, said: "I think we need to get venture capitalists and private equity companies involved.

"Women-owned businesses are less risky as an investment and tend to be more sustainable, in that they last longer as an ongoing concern." Last year, chancellor Rishi Sunak

insisted that he wanted the UK to become a nation of entrepreneurs "regardless of gender" and said there needed to be more women running businesses in the UK. @Bamham72

Looking up: Hostelworld's shares floated

2.8p higher at 76p

as revenues rose

and cancellations

dropped

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SECTORS

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SHARE PRICES

London firms most upbeat

LONDON businesses are the most optimistic in the country, according to a new survey from Lloyds Bank. The lender's Business

Barometer found confidence among CEOs in the capital rose 13 points in March to reach 60%, the highest level of any region. Some 1,200 businesses were surveyed across the country.

Becci Wicks at Lloyds said: "What is particularly encouraging is the intent of companies to expand and invest in their teams in the months ahead."

ICE DATA SERVICES

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Rising confidence in London comes despite the Ukraine war, spiralling inflation and downgrades to growth forecasts

Across the UK, business confidence dropped 11 points to 33%.

Public & Legal Notices

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 201 OTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION Proposed development at: Land bounded by; the M20 and Channel Tunnel Railw (CTRL) to the north; the A20/Stone Street and Sandling Park to the east; Harr the west. and: Aldington Road to the south.

Take notice that application is being made by: Otterpool Park LLP.

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For glasming semision to: AMEIOBD Dutline planning application seeking permision for the redevelopment of the site through the doministina conversion of identificed existing buildings and erection of a residential led mixed sus development comprision for estential home: howevelow the dominest one conversion of identificed existing sedential home: howevelow the distribution of the distribution of the set of the sus spectra of the distribution of the distribution of the distribution surger of admitties, eventual and related uses; leisure fadities; business and commercial uses; gene space and upblic reality burling funds, sustainable und nariange systems; utility and energy fadities which and relating le links; undercords, urafice and multi-storey car parking; creation of new vehicular and pedestrian accesses into the site, and creation of any websical, predestrian and cycle network within the site; improvements to the existing highway and local read network; lighting; empored y structures required by the development and ther associated works including temporary meanwhile uses. Layout, act, appearance, loakcaping and means of access are reserved for approval.
Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Local Planning Authority address: Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Constant Denny Cormedy Mercon

late: 31/03/2022

nent of owners lose of their pr ent of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for i iment may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

wmer' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the uner inch is not less than seven years. Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural hold hich is comprised in the land.

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Public Notices

Public Notices

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at: Land bounded by; the M20 and Channel Tunnel Railway Link (CTRL) to the north; the A20/Stone Street and Sandling Park to the east; Harringe Lane to the west, and; Aldington Road to the south.

Take notice that application is being made by: Otterpool Park LLP

Park LLP, For planning permission to: AMENDED Outline planning application seeking permission for the redevelopment of the site through the demolition or conversion of identified existing buildings and erection of a residential ted mixed use development comprising up to 8,500 residential homes including market and affordable homes; age restricted homes, assisted living homes, extra care facilities, care homes, sheltered housing and care villages; a range of community uses including primary and secondary schools, health centres and nursery facilities; retail and related uses; leisure facilities; jusiness and commercial uses; open space and public realm; burial ground, sustainable urban drainage systems; utility and energy facilities and infrastructure; waste and waste water infrastructure and management facilities; vehicular bridge links; undercroft, surface and multi-storey car parking; creation of new vehicular and pedestrian accesses into the site, and creation of a new vehicular, pedestrian and cycle network within the site; improvements to the existing highway and local road network; lighting; engineering works, infrastructure and associated facilities; together with interim works or temporary structures required by the development and other associated works including For planning permission to: AMENDED Outline planning interim works or temporary structures required by the development and other associated works including temporary meanwhile uses. Layout, scale, appearance, landscaping and means of access are reserved for approval.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Folkestone and Hythe District Council Local Planning Authority address: Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make

representations about this applications, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice. Signatory: Poppy Carmody-Morgan Date: 31/03/2022

Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an

agreement or lease. Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure. "Owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a

leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years. "Tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

Legal Notices

EDWARD WILLIAM PEARSON

EDWARD WILLIAM PEARSON (decased) Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Acciai a louge, Ashford Read, Si Motase Is Freinterber Astronov Kern, TNOS Motase Ismerstein Ashford Read, Si Motase Ismerstein Ashford Re

KINGSFORDS SOLICITORS LTD, 2 Flwick Road, Ashford Kent, TN23 1PD

MARK DAVID LAMPIN (Decea

Pursuant to the Tastee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 22/24 Christchurch Road Folkestone Kent, CT20 25L, who died on 28/01/22/1, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 01/06/2022, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which hely have head notice. ROOTES & ALLIOTT, 27 Cheriton Gardens Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2AB

MARLENE FLORENCE DOWLE (Deceased)

(Becased) Pursuant to the Tastee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the State of the above named, late of 154 Crabble Hill Dover, Kent, C117 05E, who died on 31/01/2022, are required to send writen particular to the underspined the state will be detributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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