

# HALFORDS GROUP PLC

Investor Presentation National Distribution Centre Coventry 7 October 2010

# Agenda



- Group Strategic Vision
- Pre-Close Trading Statement
- Questions and Answers
- Warehouse and Distribution Strategy
- Tour of the National Distribution Centre

David Wild

David Wild/Nick Wharton

David Wild/Nick Wharton

Andy Torrance

## **Group Strategic Vision**



## Halfords Group generates long-term sustainable growth

- Grow retail operating profit at 8% CAGR extending market leadership
- Develop multi-channel sales and improve net margin
- Expand Halfords brand in UK automotive aftermarket
- Leverage retail capabilities in other similar out-of-town, speciality sectors
- Explore international growth opportunities, but not at expense of UK
- Maintain efficient balance sheet and progressive dividend

## Ambition to deliver medium-term earnings growth of 15% CAGR

# Pre-Close Trading Statement Background



## "Cautious regarding economic backdrop in 20101"

- Challenging comparatives
- Tough consumer environment
- Distribution centre re-configuration
- Store rostering programme
- Far East supply
- Spring/Summer promotion

halfords halfords



Cost initiatives developed to mitigate challenging revenue progression

## Halfords Retail Context



### Broad offer and market position provides revenue protection

	H1	H1	Full Year
LFL Growth %	FY11	FY10	FY10
Total Retail	-4.5	+1.7	+1.3
Car Maintenance	+0.6	+5.1	+8.1
Satellite Navigation	-16.4	-25.6	-24.8
Camping	+6.4	+5.9	+7.7
Cycling	-1.4	+20.2	+15.1

# **Pre-Close Category Overview**



### Car Maintenance

- Attractive market needs driven
- 30% wefit growth
- Most profitable category
- Tools availability impacted by supply challenges

#### Camping

- Successful season underpinned by domestic vacations
- Clean stock exit

### Satellite Navigation

- Continued market decline
- Halfords market share increases
- Accessorisation protects profitability
- Ongoing innovation Tom Tom Live

LFL Growth %	H1 FY11	H1 FY10	Full Year FY10
Car Maintenance	+0.6	+5.1	+8.1
Camping	+6.4	+5.9	+7.7
Satellite Navigation	-16.4	-25.6	-24.8



# **Pre-Close Category Overview**

### Cycling

- Long-term market growth
  - Health
  - Economy
  - Sustainability
- Trading challenges:
  - Apollo relaunch
  - Price competitiveness
  - Town & Trail growth at the expense of Mountain Bikes
  - Accessory availability
- Strong Boardman growth +40%



LFL Growth %	H1	H1	Full Year
	FY11	FY10	FY10
Cycling	-1.4	+20.2	+15.1





# **Multi-Channel**



## Dot com represents fast growing profitable channel

Strategic Opportunity

- Accesses "web only" customers
- Drives footfall to stores through Reserve & Collect
- Shop window for customer research
- Own brand model protects profitability
- Cost effective marketing medium

### FY11 Progress

- Sales growth Q2 51% (YTD: 59%)
- Visitor growth 48%
- Faster profitability growth
- Order and Collect exceeding expectations
- Enhanced useability of site
  - Top 30 in IMRG Hitwise Hot Shops list



# **Second Half Trading Stance**



## Stronger trading stance in response to tougher market conditions

- Impactful tactical activity and promotional overlays
- Strengthening of peak trading base plan
- Supplier investment to strengthen deals
- Up-weighted marketing
- Enhanced web activity
- Stock investment backing our key seasonal areas





# Nick Wharton Finance Director

# **Operating Costs**



## Costs and productivity focus offsets revenue and inflationary pressures

### Store Labour

- £4m<sup>1</sup> pa reduction from optimised rotas
- Service metric progress continues
- More flexible cost base established

### Property Costs

- Historically low settlements
- 147 outstanding (Average length 1.2 years)
- Re-gear reduction potential
- Depreciation maturity

#### Incentive payments

Re-based in line with earnings growth ambition

#### Warehouse and Distribution

Note: 1. Total savings now estimated at £6m since FY09

Sustainably lower and more flexible operating cost base



H1 Service Metrics	YOY
Wefit jobs	+20%
Batteries	+20%
Bulbs	+48%
Blades	+33%
Bike Care Plan	+32%
Р	enetration
Cycle Accessories	20%
Sat Nav Accessories	61%

# **Balance Sheet Management**



## Ongoing Commitment to Balance Sheet efficiency

### Capital Expenditure

- Disciplined investment centred on high returns
- Group has low capex requirement

### Working Capital

- Group generates small working capital inflows
- H1 stock investment to secure peak inventory

### Debt/Re-financing

- Optimal debt c.1.5x EBITDA (3.5x Capitalised)
- Bank debt negotiations well progressed
  - Strong bank support
  - Pricing at low-end of market
  - Existing covenants maintained



# David Wild Chief Executive Officer

# Halfords Autocentres



## Autocentres gaining share in challenging market

#### <u>Revenue</u>

- Growing fleet business
  - New customers
  - Increased penetration
- Growing customer share
- Customer ATV decline
- **Operating margins**
- Gross margins pressured by:
  -ve Enhanced tyre participation
  -ve Trading down
  - +ve Group sourcing benefits
- Ongoing productivity gains
- Tight control of costs
- Customer offer
- Increased customer retention and satisfaction
- Investment in sales skills training





On track to deliver Business Plan Operating Profit

## Halfords Autocentres



## Three-year development plan on track

### New centres

- Strong pipeline established
- 6 centres opened to date
- 10-15 centres in FY11
- Confidence high for 25-30 openings in FY12

### Re-branding

- Cost effective re-branding model established
- Customer service road tested
- 28 centres re-branded to date further 120 by Christmas
- Completion Feb 2011, prior to broadscale advertising





## **Group Financial Guidance**



## Group on track to deliver earnings growth

- Balance of year prudently predicated on -3% like-for-like
- Broadly flat retail gross margin for the year
- Sustainable cost reductions in place
- H1 PBT £67m £69m, representing 12% YOY growth at the mid-point
- Revenues uncertain: Planning scenarios in range of market expectations

Ambition to deliver medium-term earnings growth of 15% CAGR

## Summary



- Tough consumer environment: negative LFL sales
- Sales disruption from cost saving initiatives
- Halfords Retail
  - More compelling marketing/promotion programme in H2
  - Continued focus on cost savings
- Autocentres
  - Fleet and customer share gains in challenging market
  - + 3-year development plan remains on track
- H1 PBT £67m £69m, representing 12% YOY growth
- Strong foundation for full year growth



## **Questions and Answers**

# David Wild Nick Wharton



# **Distribution Centre**

## Andy Torrance Store Operations & Logistics Director

# Distribution Reconfiguration Overview

Historic 3 DC infrastructure sub-optimal:

Location

- Physical constraints
- Migration to optimal configuration:
  - Coventry NDC located at centre of gravity
  - Dedicated cycle warehouse at Redditch site
  - Investment in proven automation
- Programme to manage risk to base business
  - Flexible contract termination
  - Inventory pre-positioning







# Distribution Reconfiguration Overview

Optimum

location

based on

store

footprint



### Old Configuration



- Redditch1 240k sq ft
- Redditch 2 140k sq ft
- Cowley 300k sq ft
- Redditch to Cowley 70 miles

### **New Configuration**



- Redditch 240k sq ft
- Coventry NDC 320k sq ft
- Redditch to Coventry 32 miles

## **Distribution Centre**



## Logistics reconfiguration delivers significant savings

- Operating cost improvement, £4m pa from:
  - Reduced space costs
  - Rebased pay rates and working practices
  - Optimal centre of gravity saves 2m road kms
  - Productivity gains through proven technology
  - Increased fleet efficiency through double decker trailers
- Other benefits
  - Store friendly deliveries improves retail productivity
  - Improved delivery accuracy

Nature of cost savings supports high confidence in delivery





## **Distribution Centre**



### Transition Experience

- Challenges anticipated with mitigating actions
- Significant short-term small parts disruption
  - 🔶 Data take-on
  - Pick by voice stability
  - Operator learning curve
- c.3% Revenue disruption over 6-week period
- Limited brand impact

### Current Position

- Store availability recovered
- Anticipated benefits now on stream
- Store deliveries operating to schedule
- Permanent colleagues recruited







## **Questions and Answers**

# **Andy Torrance**

# **Distribution Centre Tour**



Α	В	С
David Wild	Nick Wharton	Andy Torrance
Mark Shirley	Lee Tevlin	Tony Newbould
Gillian Hilditch	David Jeary	Ben Spruntulis
Ed Wright	Paul Rossington	Andy Wade
Jamie Bajwa	John Stevenson	Nick Bubb
Isabel Green	Charlie Muir-Sands	Sanjay Viryathi
Andrew Mobbs	Assad Malic	Ramona Tipnis
Mark Photiades	Kate Calvert	John Cummins
Nick Hawkins	Jonathan Pritchard	Ted Truscott
Uzo Ekwue	Mira Bhogaita	Matt Hall
Joanne Rands	Bilquis Ahmed	Peter Smedley
George Viney	Ian McDonald	Matthew McEachran



# **Appendix** Pre-Close Trading Statement