



31 March 2005

## **THE WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY BREWERIES, PLC ('W&DB')**

### **24 WEEKS TRADING STATEMENT**

In accordance with its usual practice, the Board of The Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, PLC has issued the following trading update\* prior to the end of the current half-year on 2 April 2005.

#### **Trading**

Trading overall in the 24 weeks to 19 March 2005 has been good and in line with expectations.

Total like-for-like sales were 3.1% ahead of last year in Pathfinder Pubs, and 3.2% ahead in The Union Pub Company. In WDB Brands, turnover and volumes were strong driven by good progress in the free trade and new distribution to other pub companies.

This year, the half year results will also include the benefit of trading over the Easter bank holiday weekend, which was satisfactory.

#### **Burtonwood**

The acquisition of Burtonwood PLC was completed on 6 January 2005. The majority of the integration projects, including the transfer of systems, will be completed by the end of March, ahead of schedule. We have increased our expectations of synergies available from £3 million per annum to at least £3.5 million per annum. The estate is trading in line with our plans.

**Commenting, Ralph Findlay, Chief Executive, said:** "The outlook for consumer spending has generally become more cautious in recent months. Against that background our high quality pubs and beer business have continued to perform well."

#### **ENQUIRIES:**

**The Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, PLC**  
Ralph Findlay, Chief Executive  
Paul Inglett, Finance Director  
Tel: 01902 329516

**gcg hudson sandler**  
Nick Lyon  
Wendy Baker  
Tel: 020 7796 4133

\* the update covers the 24 week period ended 19 March 2005. The results for the 26 week period ending on 2 April 2005 (the interim results) will be released on 20 May 2005.