

AGM Statement

Released : 08 May 2012

RNS Number : 8907C
William Hill PLC
08 May 2012

William Hill PLC

AGM statement

8 May 2012

William Hill PLC (LSE: WMH) announces the results of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held today, Tuesday, 8 May, at 11.00 am at the Cavendish Conference Centre, 22 Duchess Mews, London W1G 9DT. All resolutions as set out in the Notice of Meeting dated 13 March 2012 were duly passed on a show of hands. The final proxy voting position by resolution is shown below. Any proxy votes which are at the discretion of the Chairman have been included in the "In Favour" total.

Resolution		In Favour	Against	Withheld	Percentage in favour
1	Annual Report	529,429,763	3,251,583	5,925,235	99.39%
2	Remuneration Report	261,059,706	259,951,884	17,593,989	50.11%
3	Final Dividend	532,682,740	6,865	5,916,976	100.00%
4	Appoint Georgina Harvey	529,339,880	3,272,668	5,974,039	99.39%
5	Appoint Imelda Walsh	529,337,674	3,305,072	5,965,611	99.38%
6	Re-appoint Gareth Davis	507,970,553	24,639,047	5,997,869	95.37%
7	Re-appoint Ralph Topping	531,378,097	1,259,531	5,969,841	99.76%
8	Re-appoint Neil Cooper	531,423,948	1,211,116	5,972,405	99.77%
9	Re-appoint David Edmonds	500,057,143	32,516,338	6,034,876	93.89%
10	Re-appoint Ashley Highfield	502,821,983	29,759,459	6,022,027	94.41%
11	Re-appoint David Lowden	525,851,980	6,744,877	6,011,500	98.73%
12	Re-appoint Auditors	507,534,659	25,073,144	5,997,889	95.29%
13	Auditors' Remuneration	515,319,696	17,330,164	5,957,609	96.75%
14	Political Donations & Expenditure	526,050,349	7,713,101	4,837,550	98.55%
15	Allot Shares	464,599,449	67,896,892	6,110,328	87.25%
16	2012 Savings Related Share Option Plan (the "2012 Plan")	529,461,133	3,129,234	6,016,214	99.41%
17	Establish schedules to the 2012 Plan	530,521,480	2,037,229	6,048,760	99.62%
18	Allot Equity Securities for Cash	531,689,481	5,558,083	1,357,017	98.97%
19	Market Purchases of Ordinary Shares	530,145,212	1,248,176	7,214,969	99.77%
20	General Meeting	505,340,923	27,339,223	5,927,323	94.87%

Gareth Davis, Chairman, and David Edmonds, Chair of the Remuneration Committee and Senior Independent Non-executive Director, have engaged extensively with shareholders, holding a series of meetings in June last year and again over the last few weeks.

Gareth Davis commented:

"Ralph Topping has been instrumental in revitalising the fortunes of William Hill since taking the Chief Executive job in difficult circumstances four years ago. Since then, he has built on the William Hill heritage to create the leading online gambling business in the UK and to drive strong cash flow from the Retail estate. In the last year, William Hill has performed strongly against its financial and non-financial targets. In 2011, the share price rose by 18% and we increased our dividend by 16%, delivering a total shareholder return ahead of our peer group. The Group has recently announced 12% revenue growth and 19% operating profit growth in the first quarter of 2012 and the share price has increased by a further 33%.

"The Board believes this exceptional delivery should be reflected in Ralph Topping's remuneration and has effected the catch-up in his salary over the last couple of years. As the Board manages the succession highlighted to shareholders last year, we also believe it is in shareholders' interests to ensure that Ralph remains with William Hill at a critical time in the Group's evolution and last year put in place a one-off retention package that secures Ralph at least through the end of 2013. This has given the Group the stability and time needed to put in place effective succession planning at a senior level.

"Whilst we recognise that some shareholders are not supportive of this one-off agreement, we believe that there is widespread appreciation of the very significant contribution of Ralph Topping to the success of William Hill. This is evident from the high level of votes in favour of re-electing all the directors, including Ralph who received 99.8% support.

"We consulted with the majority of our major shareholders and most recognised the importance of what was being put in place for William Hill's future. Whilst many of our largest shareholders supported the Remuneration Report resolution, one of the most influential vote advisory bodies recommended a vote against. It appears that a large number of shareholders across our share register voted in line with this recommendation.

"We understand shareholder concerns but in this exceptional case believe it was the right thing for the Group, the shareholders and the longer term future of the business that we retain Ralph Topping's services at this important time."

The Company has submitted two copies of the resolutions passed at the meeting (other than resolutions concerning ordinary business) to the UK Listing Authority and these documents will be available shortly for inspection at the UK Listing Authority's Document Viewing Facility which is situated at:

Financial Services Authority
25 The North Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 5HS
Tel. No. 020 7676 1000

The proxy figures for the resolutions will also be displayed on the corporate website www.williamhillplc.com.

-ends-

Enquiries:

William Hill PLC
Lyndsay Wright, Director of IR
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8918 3614

Brunswick Group
Simon Sporborg
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7404 5959

This information is provided by RNS
The company news service from the London Stock Exchange

END

AGMEAASPEEPAEFF