royalblue group plc Share Bonus Trust ("the Trust")

The Company has been notified that, in order to provide for the vesting of awards to executive directors and senior managers under the royal**blue** group plc Share Bonus Plan, the Trust has purchased in the market 5,231 ordinary 10p shares in the Company at a price of 427.5p per share.

As potential beneficiaries of the Trust, the executive directors of the Company are deemed to have a potential beneficial interest in the Trust's shares.

7 October 2004