

21/4/1999

**Chairman's AGM Trading Statement (for the three months to 28 March 1999)**

At today's Annual General Meeting of The Rank Group Plc the Chairman, Sir Denys Henderson, made the following comments:

"For the first three months operating profit was in line with expectations. This was below last year, largely due to the impact of sale and leaseback rentals (which began in April 1998), increased gaming duty and considerably weaker film product for Odeon. Turnover was similar to last year with shortfalls in Holidays (principally reflecting closure of Ayr and Pwllheli during their conversion to Haven sites) and Entertainment (mainly Odeon) offset by growth in other businesses particularly Deluxe.

Many of Rank's longer term projects have now been completed or are nearing completion and with signs of the UK economy now recovering Rank is in a position to benefit from past investment. The outlook for 1999 remains satisfactory with the new Sony US film processing contract at Deluxe, the new merchandise at Hard Rock, the increase in holiday bookings tariff and the strong film line up for Odeon from June onwards."