

13 January 2017

# MITCHELLS & BUTLERS (MAB): 262p Q1 Trading Update – 15wks to 7 Jan 2017:

Group reports 'LfL sales growth for the year to date has increased to 1.7%...' with Xmas trading 'particularly strong'...

| Year to<br>end-Sep | PBT<br>(£m) | EPS<br>(p) | PER<br>(x) | DPS<br>(p) | Yield<br>(%) |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 2016 (A)           | 173.0       | 34.8       | 7.5        | 7.5        | 2.9          |
| 2017 (E)           | 180.5       | 34.8       | 7.5        | 7.6        | 2.9          |
| 2018 (E)           | 181.1       | 35.7       | 7.3        | 7.8        | 3.0          |

Source: Company & Broker Estimates

# Q1 Trading Update - 15wks to 7 Jan 2017:

Mitchells & Butlers has this morning updated on Q1 trading covering the period comprising the 15wks to 7 Jan and further comments are set out below:

- M&B reports that 'LfL sales growth for the YtD has increased to 1.7%'
- It says this is 'continuing to build on the progress reported earlier in the year' and adds 'trading over the festive period was particularly strong across all brands'
- Xmas LfL +4.7% (4wks to 7 Jan) & recent sales are set out below:

# • Tab.1. Mitchells & Butlers LfL Sales Trends:

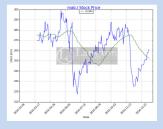
| Period            | LfL sales<br>(%) |
|-------------------|------------------|
| FY 08/09          | +1.6             |
| FY 09/10          | +2.8             |
| FY 10/11          | +2.6             |
| FY 11/12          | +2.1             |
| FY 12/13          | +0.4             |
| FY 13/14          | +0.6             |
| H1 14/15          | +1.7             |
| First 43wks       | +1.3             |
| FY 14/15          | +0.8             |
| H1 15/16          | -1.6             |
| FY 15/16          | -0.8             |
| 8wks to 19 Nov 16 | +0.5             |
| 15wks to 7 Jan 17 | +1.7             |
| 4wks of Xmas      | +4.7             |

Source: Company Reports



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Market Cap: £1.1bn 12m range 217p - 299p

# More on Recent Trading:

- M&B reports that total sales have increased by 2.3% in the year-to-date.
- In the 15wks to 7 Jan, food sales LfL rose by 1.6% and wet sales rose by 1.7%
- City centres may have performed well in the long run-up week to a Sunday Christmas Day

#### Margins:

 M&B cautions that 'as previously advised, increased cost pressure is expected to lead to margins being lower than last year.'

### Balance Sheet & Other:

- M&B says 'we have opened 1 new site and completed 69 conversions and remodels in the financial year to date.'
- It says 'we expect to complete around 300 remodels and conversions in the full year.'

#### Conclusion:

- M&B CEO Phil Urban reports 'this is an encouraging performance, building on positive momentum from earlier in the year.'
- He adds 'we are starting to benefit from the many initiatives we continue to put in place, which gives us confidence in successfully delivering our strategic priorities going into the new year and a performance in line with the Board's expectations.'

#### Langton Comment: M&B has seen performance improve in the current year to date.

The fact that the group refers to evidence that a number of its initiatives are working is encouraging.

Xmas was clearly good. This is a theme across chunks of the industry and our belief is that wet-led units in particularly saw good trading over the festive period.

As we have reported on a number of occasions, M&B is a big ship and it will take time to turn. Evidence of such a turn may be emerging.

As regards its share price, we are now at a point where the group is trading at only around 7.5x current year earnings and it has a 2.9% (and hopefully growing) yield.

M&B has an extremely attractive estate but it still has much to do. Nonetheless, today's announcement should, all other things being equal, be taken well.

#### Contact – Mark Brumby - +44(0)20 7702 3389

mark.brumby@langtoncapital.co.uk

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