DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

Form 4 June 01, 2005

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Check this box

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

SMITH JACK A

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC [DRI]

(Check all applicable)

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

X_ Director Officer (give title 10% Owner

5900 LAKE ELLENOR

05/27/2005

below)

Other (specify

DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330 (Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

(Month/Day/Year)

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

(City) (State) (Zip) 1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Securities Form: Direct Indirect Beneficially (D) or Beneficial Ownership Owned Indirect (I) Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported Transaction(s)

(A) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

Common

Code V Amount (D) Price

43,323 D

Stock

Security

(Instr. 3)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

(Month/Day/Year)

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8 I S (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom Stock Units	<u>(1)</u>	05/27/2005		A	316.901	(2)	(2)	Common Stock	316.901	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

SMITH JACK A
5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE
P.O. BOX 593330
ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for SMITH, JACK A., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330

06/01/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The actual conversion rate is 1-for-1.
- The Reporting Person elected to defer all of the quarterly Director's compensation under the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Compensation Plan

 (2) for Non-Employee Directors, to be paid out in Darden Restaurants. Inc. common stock upon the reporting person's termination of board
- (2) for Non-Employee Directors, to be paid out in Darden Restaurants, Inc. common stock upon the reporting person's termination of board service.
- (3) Includes phantom stock units acquired pursuant to a dividend equivalent reinvestment feature of the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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