

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 4

Statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2013-01-15** | Period of Report: **2013-01-11**
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REPORTING OWNER

Lewis William M Jr

CIK: **1330515**

Type: **4** | Act: **34** | File No.: **001-13666** | Film No.: **13530282**

Mailing Address
C/O DARDEN
RESTAURANTS, INC.
1000 DARDEN CENTER
DRIVE
ORLANDO FL 32837

ISSUER

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

CIK: **940944** | IRS No.: **593305930** | State of Incorp.: **FL** | Fiscal Year End: **0527**
SIC: **5812** Eating places

Mailing Address
1000 DARDEN CENTER
DRIVE
ORLANDO FL 32837

Business Address
1000 DARDEN CENTER
DRIVE
ORLANDO FL 32837
4072454000

FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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. Name and Address of Reporting Person Lewis William M Jr | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC [DRI] | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/11/2013 | | | |
| 1000 DARDEN CENTER DRIVE | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person | |
| (Street) | | | | | | |
| ORLANDO, FL 32837 | | | | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | | | |
| Common Stock | 01/11/2013 | | P | | 11,000 | A | \$44.9127 ⁽¹⁾ | 50,823 | D |

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

| 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 Derivative 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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$44.46 to \$45.34. The price reported above reflects the weighted average purchase price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the Issuer or a security holder of the Issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the transaction was effected.

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for LEWIS, WILLIAM M., JR.

01/14/2013

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.