

# DIVIDEND GROWTH FUND A GBP

FUND FACTSHEET - AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2018

# **OBJECTIVES**

## **FUND AIM**

The investment objective is to generate income and capital growth by investing in a concentrated portfolio of equities selected from European markets. Overwhelmingly, but not exclusively, the managers invest in companies that are at the larger end of the capitalisation scale.

## **INVESTMENT STYLE**

The Fund invests in wealth creating companies at attractive valuations. Building concentrated portfolios from the bottom up, unconstrained by the composition of the Fund's benchmark index, the managers seek to make a small number of long-term investments, primarily in growing companies, with strong management and operating in favourable business environments.

# **PERFORMANCE**

## PERFORMANCE SINCE INCEPTION



Risk Warning: Past performance is no guide to future performance. The value of holdings may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back their initial investment.

Important information: Performance displayed is for the Retail Share Class. Performance is calculated on a NAV to NAV basis and does not take into account any initial fees.

Performance is displayed net of fees and assumes income is reinvested.

Period	I Month	3 Months	YTD	l Year	3 Years	5 Years	Inception Nov 05
Portfolio (%)	-0.2	0.5	-0.9	14.2	50.9	99.9	187.0
Benchmark (%)	-2.7	-1.3	-1.5	112	32.0	59.1	138.0
Morningstar Peer Group (%)	-2.7	-0.9	-1.2	13.1	36.6	64.6	176.5
Quartile		1					

DISCRETE CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE					
Period	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Fund (%)	18.9	26.8	9.4	0.2	35.4
Benchmark (%)	15.8	18.6	5.1	-0.7	25.3

Fund (%)	14.2	31.2	0.6	7.6	23.1
Period I year to	28/02/2018	28/02/2017	29/02/2016	28/02/2015	28/02/2014
STANDARDISED PERFORMANCE					

# PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

Total	100.0%
Italy	5.2%
Denmark	5.3%
Other	5.5%
Norway	6.3%
Spain	6.5%
Switzerland	8.5%
Finland	8.5%
Portugal	9.1%
France	12.9%
Germany	13.9%
Sweden	18.4%
COUNTRY	

SECTOR	
Industrials	24.6%
Health Care	14.8%
Materials	14.5%
Consumer Staples	12.8%
Financials	7.5%
Energy	6.3%
Telecommunication Services	6.2%
Consumer Discretionary	5.2%
Utilities	3.5%
Cash	4.5%
Total	100.0%

TOP 10 HOLDINGS	
Novartis AG CHF0.50 (Regd)	5.0%
Eramet €3.05	3.6%
Swedish Match AB SEK I.2	3.6%
Kongsberg Gruppen ASA NOK 1.25	3.5%
Galp Energia SGPS SA €1	3.4%
Svenska Handelsbanken Series 'A'	3.3%
Linde AG NPV (ASD 24/10/2017)	3.3%
Deutsche Telekom AG (Regd)	3.2%
Metso Oyj	3.2%
Husqvarna AB Series 'B'	3.2%
Total	35.2%

Sources: Waverton Investment Management, Morningstar.

# COMMENTARY

The market fell 2.7% in Sterling terms and the Fund by 0.2%. The vast majority of Continental European companies have December year ends so February was a busy month for fourth quarter corporate results. At the time of writing this newsletter most have reported; Eramet and Salmar provided the best monthly stock returns. Most of our stocks reported favourably, although there were four disappointments, namely Bayer, Loomis, BATS and Lafarge.

#### US Steel Tariffs:

Recent news has been dominated by Trump's proposal to introduce heavy trade tariffs on steel and aluminium. It is impossible to know how this will pan out, but with equity valuations at a high markets are vulnerable to bad news. Last time steel tariffs were introduced in 2002, the Trade Partnership Worldwide calculated that 200,000 US citizens lost their jobs, as the resulting rise in the US steel price made the metal transformers globally uncompetitive. That was more people than were employed in the steel industry at that time! Tariffs were lifted the following year. On balance, as with last time, we feel it will not escalate into a full trade war as the effects become apparent and the US rows back under pressure from inside and outside. Boosting these two industries will be, in the short term at least, at the expense of value-added component manufacturers, which have rebounded in recent years. Higher import prices for industrial materials will encourage firms to move more production outside of the US. Over the years there have been many import tariffs on commodities that have come and gone. For example, last year the Portuguese paper company Navigator, which the fund holds, had 25% import tariffs slapped on its paper only to see the tariff sharply cut to below 2% on appeal.

#### Stock of the month:

The best defensive companies are ones that show reasonable earnings growth on reasonable ratings. We particularly like companies that are at the bottom of their earnings cycle and have recently invested in Metso, a leading mining equipment supplier. Miners have focussed on costs while commodity prices have been depressed, resulting in a near halving of Metso's turnover since the 2012 capex peak. However, operating margins have remained admirably high at 8-9%, the result of management's focus on high margin service revenues and prudent management. It has no net debt. Years of cost cutting has left the mining equipment fleet ageing, now at a record average age of 10 years across the industry. The mining capex cycle has to only turn up very modestly, encouraged by firming commodity prices, to make future new equipment orders likely. New products and superior technology should add some icing on the cake. Metso's new rock crusher, which cuts operational costs by 10% and enables 10% higher uptime compared to traditional crushers, is a key product area that it claims offers one of the biggest technology changes for 30 years.

## **FUND MANAGER**



Charles Glasse

## **FUND MANAGER**



Chris Garsten

## **ANALYST**



John Buckland

# **FUND DETAILS**

FUND FACTS	
Launch Date	14th November 2005
Morningstar Category	Europe Ex-UK Large Cap Equity
Benchmark	MSCI Europe ex UK TR
Fund Size	£36.7m
No. of Holdings	35
Domicile	Luxembourg
Sedol	BD5NVQ7
Bloomberg Code	ZENEINR:LX
Fund Type	SICAV
Base Currency	GBP
Other Currencies	None
Ex Dividend Dates	19-Jul 2017 (3.75p), 31-Jan 2018 (1.25p)

RISK STATISTICS	
3Y Annualised	
Fund Volatility (%)	9.7
Index Volatility (%)	10.9
Sharpe Ratio	1.4
Information Ratio	1.0
Tracking Error	5.0
Alpha (%)	7.9
Beta	0.8
Active Share (% - Current)	88.5

## **FUND INFORMATION**

Share class	ISIN	Minimum	AMC	INC/ACC	NAV	Historic yield (%)	Ongoing charge (%)
A GBP	LU0968447606	1,000,000 GBP	0.75%	INC	1.97	2.54%	1.01%
L GBP	LU0968447515	500,000 GBP	1.00%	INC	1.86	2.55%	1.30%

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Risk Warning: Past performance is no guide to future performance. The value of holdings may fall as well as rise. All financial investments involve an element of risk. The level of income from the investment may fluctuate in value. Currency movements may also affect the value of the investment. If the currency in which the past performance is displayed differs from the currency of the country in which you reside, then you should be aware that due to exchange rate fluctuations the performance shown may increase or decrease if converted into your local currency.

For full details of investment risks please refer to the Prospectus. A copy of the full prospectus and the KIID is available from Waverton Investment Management or ACD, Casa4 Funds.

Sources: Waverton, Morningstar.

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