

VT ASTUTE FUNDS ICVC
(Sub-funds VT Astute Conservative Fund, VT Astute Balanced Fund and VT Astute Growth Fund)

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited)
for the six-month period ended 30 September 2023

CONTENTS

	Page
Company Overview	1
Statement of the Authorised Fund Manager's (AFM's) Responsibilities	2
VT Astute Conservative Fund	
Sub-fund Overview	3
Investment Manager's Review	5
Performance Record	6
Portfolio Statement	7
Summary of Material Portfolio Changes	8
Statement of Total Return	9
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders	9
Balance Sheet	10
Distribution Tables	11
VT Astute Balanced Fund	
Sub-fund Overview	12
Investment Manager's Review	14
Performance Record	15
Portfolio Statement	16
Summary of Material Portfolio Changes	17
Statement of Total Return	18
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders	18
Balance Sheet	19
Distribution Tables	20
VT Astute Growth Fund	
Sub-fund Overview	21
Investment Manager's Review	23
Performance Record	24
Portfolio Statement	25
Summary of Material Portfolio Changes	26
Statement of Total Return	27
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders	27
Balance Sheet	28
Distribution Tables	29
Information for Investors	30
Corporate Directory	31

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Type of Company

VT Astute Funds ICVC (the Company) is an investment company with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under the OEIC Regulations with registered number IC029376 and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (PRN: 928663) pursuant to an authorisation order dated 26 June 2020. The Company has an unlimited duration.

The Company is a UCITS scheme and is an umbrella company (as defined in the OEIC Regulations). Each Sub-fund would be a UCITS scheme if it had a separate authorisation order.

Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company.

STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORISED FUND MANAGER'S (AFM's) RESPONSIBILITIES

The rules of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook require the Authorised Fund Manager to prepare financial statements for each accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at the end of the financial period and its net revenue and net capital losses for the period. In preparing these financial statements the Authorised Fund Manager is required to:

- > comply with the Prospectus, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014, the Instrument of Incorporation, generally accepted accounting principles and applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures which are required to be disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- > select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- > make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- > prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

The Authorised Fund Manager is required to keep proper accounting records and to manage the Company in accordance with the COLL regulations, the Instrument of Incorporation, and the Prospectus. The Authorised Fund Manager is responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Scheme's Sourcebook, we hereby certify the interim report.

David E. Smith CA

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Authorised Fund Manager

Date:

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Sub-fund name	VT Astute Conservative Fund
Size of Sub-fund	£93,131,500
Launch date	20 July 2020
Sub-fund objective and policy	<p>The investment objective of the Sub-fund is to deliver total returns (comprised of income and capital growth) in line with the Consumer Prices Index over the long term (5 years) (net of fees and underlying fund charges). Capital is in fact at risk and there is no guarantee that a positive return will be achieved over a five year, or any, period.</p> <p>The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 70% in a range of collective investment vehicles (including exchange traded Sub-funds, investment trusts and funds managed and/or operated by the AFM or Investment Manager) providing exposure to asset classes including equities, fixed interest investments, cash, structured products and alternative assets such as absolute return funds, property and infrastructure. Equity exposure within the portfolio is expected to be less than 50% (and typically around 25%).</p> <p>The Sub-fund may also invest directly in equities, fixed income, money market instruments, deposits, cash and near cash.</p> <p>The Sub-fund will be actively managed and the investments will be selected to achieve a mix of growth and defensive assets. A greater proportion of the portfolio will be allocated to defensive assets (such as fixed interest and cash (and collective investment schemes investing in such assets)) than to growth assets (such as equities (and collective investment schemes investing in such assets)).</p> <p>The Sub-fund will not have any particular geographic, industry or economic sector focus and as such weightings in these may vary as required.</p>
Derivatives	<p>The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund. The Sub-fund may invest in other collective investment schemes which may themselves use derivatives for investment purposes.</p>
Benchmark	<p>A target for the Sub-fund's performance has been set by reference to the UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) (the "Index") over a five year period. The Consumer Price Index is published by the Office for National Statistics, further information for which can be obtained from www.ons.gov.uk.</p> <p>The Index has been selected as a target to match as it is a common standard which will allow assessment as to whether shareholders' investments are growing in real terms.</p>
Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Ex-distribution dates	31 March, 30 September
Distribution dates	31 May, 30 November
Individual Savings Account (ISA)	The Sub-fund is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.
Shares Classes	Class A (Accumulation)

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (Continued)

Minimum investment*

Lump sum subscription:	£1,000
Top-up:	£100
Holding:	£1,000
Regular savings:	£100 per month
Redemption & Switching	N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)
Initial, redemption and switching charges	Nil

*The AFM may waive the minimum levels and waive or discount the initial charge at its discretion.

Annual management charges

The AFM charges (which include the management fee) were £25,000[^] plus 0.35% per annum of the net asset value of the Sub-fund.

[^]The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index) on 1 January each year (from 1 January 2021)). In the event of negative inflation, this fee will remain unchanged.

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW

During the period from 31 March 2023 to September 30, 2023, the VT Astute Conservative fund delivered a total return of -1.27%¹, which was lower than the benchmark return (CPI) of +2.43%.

Despite the promising start to the summer, the fund's performance turned negative as concerns resurfaced over the likelihood of a soft landing given the recent downside surprises in economic growth. Whilst interest rates in the US and UK remained unchanged in September, the primary focus clearly shifted from the level that rates would peak at, to the length of time that rates would have to stay restrictive for. As investors finally realigned to this "higher for longer" narrative, something that had been emphasized by policymakers at every one of their meetings, bonds and equity prices fell simultaneously again.

While this may bring back some memories from 2022, the moderation in inflation this year provides us with confidence that the current rate hiking cycle is near its end, and rates should only persist at these levels if economic growth remains robust, and the recession, if it occurs, is mild and short. However, with concerns about fiscal stability and government shutdowns also lingering in the background, we once again saw investors favour larger and higher quality stocks over those sensitive to economic growth. This preference resulted in a below-average performance in most of our equity holdings, but our conviction remains unchanged considering the ever-improving fundamentals and the historical small-cap outperformance over large caps.

Although some questions about peak rates seem to have been addressed, a lot of uncertainties persist. Recent increases in the oil price due to output cuts, and the strong US nonfarm payroll figures, served as reminders that the inflation rollercoaster is not yet over, and could re-accelerate, pressuring consumer spending once again. Furthermore, higher fixed income yields raised hopes for the return of traditional diversification especially if weaker economic growth can help contain inflation, but the recent positive correlation is concerning and highlights the important role our alternatives play, particularly the structured products.

Considering all the above, our belief is that central banks will maintain the current level of interest rates with no rate cuts until early to mid-2024. The two main scenarios we envisage is either central banks keep rates higher for an extended period, inducing a recession, which will push equities lower as pressure on profit margins becomes overwhelming, but in this scenario, rates should fall more quickly than expected and our recent move to add more bond duration should see prices rally more sharply to help offset any equity drawdowns. Or we see no recession, policymakers allow inflation to sit slightly above the 2% target, and in this scenario, we see equities as being fairly valued, and we can afford to wait given the high coupons available on our bond positions.

In terms of portfolio activity, focus remained on introducing more fixed income assets into the portfolio at attractive levels and high coupon rates due to the further declines in longer-dated bond prices. Corporate bonds emerged as a bright spot for us, given our belief that currently the corporate credit space presents valuable opportunities that are being overlooked, due to an investor's preference for quality during times of uncertainty. We think that the market is significantly overestimating the risk of defaults in this space and are not fully appreciating the fact that overall fundamentals in the arena have improved significantly since the financial crisis. As such, we introduced both Man GLG Sterling Corporate Bond and Man GLG Dynamic Income, both managed by the same team who have a proven track record of being able to identify and exploit the higher yields without taking undue risks.

We also took this opportunity to continue to add duration through long end Gilts and Treasuries following the sharp rise in yields over the last 3 months. Whilst timing hasn't been particularly favourable, and this change was the main reason for our underperformance over the period, these positions play two key roles within the portfolio. Firstly, they allow us to lock in higher yields with the potential for significant capital upside, and secondly, and most importantly, they help provide diversification against our equity positioning if a recession were to materialise. For example, studies have shown that over the last 20 years the following two-year period after a peak in rates has delivered double digit returns for Gilt holders in all scenarios.

These trades came from two sources and represents a continuation of trades that we have been making over the course of the year. The first was in our alternatives bucket, primarily our real asset holdings which have been negatively impacted by the rise in inflation as their income streams have failed to keep pace with increasing costs. While we still maintain strong beliefs in the underlying fundamentals and the quality of the assets, the inherent economic risks, and the possibility of further weakness in a recessionary environment makes fixed income a more appealing option, as they will undoubtedly offer better protection against different negative growth scenarios, and pricing is becoming increasingly cheap.

The second source of capital came from our best performing short-duration and other higher quality fixed income holdings. Whilst this adjustment doesn't increase our overall bond allocation, it does enhance our sensitivity to interest rate fluctuations. Those holdings have provided us with great returns over the past 2 years but as of today, they seem to offer less upside potential compared to more traditional bonds with a higher level of duration. Despite our ongoing efforts to diversify our equity risk in light of macroeconomic uncertainties and potential market headwinds, it's essential to emphasize that we are not bearish. In fact, we hold a rather optimistic view of the outlook and are currently well-positioned to adopt a risk-on approach in areas that have been overlooked and underestimated, offering significant growth potential in more positive economic scenarios.

Scott Osborne
Investment Manager
Astute Investment Management Limited
24 October 2023

1- Data Source - Refinitiv Lipper for Investment Management. Performance quoted is for the 'A Acc' share class net of fees and dividends reinvested.

PERFORMANCE RECORD

Financial Highlights

Class A (Accumulation)	Six months ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
Changes in net assets per share	GBP	GBP	GBP
Opening net asset value per share	103.3533	107.5973	102.9172
Return before operating charges	(0.8559)	(3.2420)	5.7327
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.4570)	(1.0020)	(1.0526)
Return after operating charges *	(1.3129)	(4.2440)	4.6801
Closing net asset value per share	102.0404	103.3533	107.5973
Distribution on accumulation shares	1.1663	1.7530	1.7326
*after direct transactions costs of:	-	0.0105	0.0105
Performance			
Return after charges	(1.27%)	(3.94%)	4.55%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£93,177,932	£93,393,399	£86,021,392
Closing number of shares	91,314,761	90,363,240	79,947,516
Operating charges (note 2)	0.89%	0.95%	1.00%
Direct transaction costs	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%
Prices			
Highest share price	104.4631	107.6242	110.4321
Lowest share price	101.5282	99.4452	103.1801

1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.

2. The ongoing charges figure is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund together with the ongoing charges included within the underlying holdings held within the Sub-fund.

Risk Profile

Based on simulated monthly historical performance, the Sub-fund is ranked a '4' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (31 March 2023: ranked 3). The Sub-fund is ranked '4' because monthly historical performance data indicates that average rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

As at 30 September 2023 (unaudited)

Holding	Value £	% of total net assets
Collective Investment Schemes (31.03.2023: 59.50%)		
585,173 Allianz China A-Shares Equity	435,193	0.47
737,066 abrdn UK Mid-Cap Equity	903,422	0.97
3,328,597 BlackRock European Absolute Alpha	5,737,200	6.16
18,237 BlackRock ICS Sterling Liquid Environmentally Aware Fund	1,919,164	2.06
24,937 BlueBay Financial Capital Bond	2,374,771	2.55
18,901 Comgest Growth Europe ex UK	493,325	0.53
1,434,283 ES River and Mercantile European Fund	1,862,847	2.00
384,551 ES River and Mercantile UK Recovery	959,071	1.03
1,508,416 Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	2,719,674	2.92
419,917 JPM UK Equity Core	1,868,211	2.01
2,573,100 Jupiter Japan Income	1,900,234	2.04
169,071 Premier Miton European Opportunities	438,740	0.47
1,761,079 M&G Global Listed Infrastructure	2,300,146	2.47
5,122,804 M&G UK Inflation Linked Corporate Bond	5,607,934	6.02
17,279 Man GLG Dynamic Income	1,889,615	2.03
3,755,079 Man GLG Sterling Corporate Bond Professional	3,750,198	4.03
249,648 Polar Capital Emerging Markets Stars	2,281,787	2.45
33,342 Protea UCITS II - ECO Advisors ESG Absolute Return	3,715,606	3.99
441,176 Regnan Sustainable Water and Waste	449,559	0.48
34,992 Robeco QI Global Multi-Factor Credits	3,739,269	4.02
4,441,786 Royal London Short Duration Global High Yield Bond Fund	3,320,235	3.57
628,254 VT Gravis Clean Energy Income^	893,799	0.96
	49,560,000	53.23
Exchange Traded Funds (31.03.2023: 31.17%)		
1,498,250 iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF	14,858,894	15.95
246,000 iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF	1,798,260	1.93
1,366,400 iShares \$ Treasury Bond UCITS ETF	5,624,786	6.04
258,000 iShares MSCI EM SRI UCITS ETF	1,386,750	1.49
915,000 iShares \$ Treasury Bond 20+yr UCITS ETF	2,804,933	3.01
339,200 L&G US Equity UCITS ETF	4,654,502	5.00
552,600 L&G ESG GBP Corporate Bond UCITS ETF	4,234,574	4.55
	35,362,699	37.97
Investment Trusts (31.03.2023: 3.43%)		
999,024 Aberdeen Standard European Logistics Income PLC	608,406	0.65
815,866 Gresham House Energy Storage Fund PLC	853,396	0.92
426,675 Starwood European Real Estate Finance Limited	369,501	0.40
1,417,000 Tritax EuroBox PLC	711,334	0.76
	2,542,637	2.73
Real Estate Investment Trusts (31.03.2023: 0.41%)		
392,000 LXi REIT PLC	355,543	0.37
	355,543	0.37
Structured Notes (31.03.2023: 5.21%)		
1,000,000 Barclays 1440 FTSE 100/S&P 500 Defensive Autocall (11.35%)	1,106,900	1.19
1,800,000 Barclays 1445 FTSE 100/S&P 500 Daily Accrual Income Autocall Note (2.25%)	1,828,620	1.96
1,900,000 Natixis 1474 EuroStoxx Banks Reverse Convertible (8% p.a.) MTN	1,912,920	2.05
	4,848,440	5.20
Portfolio of investments (31.03.2023: 99.72%)		92,669,319
Net other assets (31.03.2023: 0.28%)		462,181
	93,131,500	100.00

^related security due to the AFM of the company also being the AFM of this holding

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

	£
Total sales for the period	16,905,002
Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	485,000
Hermes Multi Strategy Credit	3,788,966
iShares \$ Treasury Bd 1-3yr UCITS ETF	4,757,111
iShares \$ Treasury Bond UCITS ETF	935,830
iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF	238,526
iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF	231,785
iShares UK Gilts 0-5yr UCITS ETF	1,423,085
L&G US Equity UCITS ETF	458,637
Royal London Diversified Asset-Backed Security	1,861,062
VT Gravis Clean Energy Income	1,805,000
Various other sales	920,000

	£
Total purchases for the period	18,076,914
BlackRock European Absolute Alpha	270,000
Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	120,000
iShares \$ Treasury Bd 1-3yr UCITS ETF	151,548
iShares \$ Treasury Bond 20+yr UCITS ETF	2,789,378
iShares \$ Treasury Bond UCITS ETF	306,517
iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF	11,463,954
L&G ESG GBP Corporate Bond UCITS ETF	129,037
Man GLG Dynamic Income	1,875,000
Robeco QI Global Multi-Factor Credits	130,000
VT Gravis Clean Energy Income	185,000
Various other purchases	656,480

The above transactions represent the top 10 sales and purchases during the period.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six months ended 30 September (unaudited)	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Net capital (losses)		(2,041,446)		(5,832,615)
Revenue	1,168,416		681,908	
Expenses	(211,596)		(192,635)	
Interest payable and similar charges	<u>(1,328)</u>		<u>(83)</u>	
Net revenue before taxation	955,492		489,190	
Taxation	<u>(64,646)</u>		<u>(41,673)</u>	
Net revenue after taxation		<u>890,846</u>		<u>447,517</u>
Total return before distributions		(1,150,600)		(5,385,098)
Finance costs: distributions		<u>(1,067,254)</u>		<u>(675,177)</u>
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		<u>(2,217,854)</u>		<u>(6,060,275)</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

For the six months ended 30 September (unaudited)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	93,290,653	85,905,819
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	6,945,274	11,150,575
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(5,951,532)	(5,085,722)
Dividend reinvestment	1,064,959	701,885
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	<u>(2,217,854)</u>	<u>(6,060,275)</u>
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	<u>93,131,500</u>	<u>86,612,282</u>

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives are shown for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Company net asset value as at 31 March 2023 was £93,290,653.

BALANCE SHEET

As at	30.09.2023		31.03.2023	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investment assets		92,669,319		93,027,413
Current assets				
Debtors	3,001,146		487,886	
Cash and bank balances	<u>1,232,759</u>		<u>1,558,295</u>	
Total current assets		<u>4,233,905</u>		<u>2,046,181</u>
Total assets		<u>96,903,224</u>		<u>95,073,594</u>
Current liabilities				
Bank overdraft	(629,908)		(1,092,855)	
Other creditors	<u>(3,141,816)</u>		<u>(690,086)</u>	
Total current liabilities		<u>(3,771,724)</u>		<u>(1,782,941)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>93,131,500</u>		<u>93,290,653</u>

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and to the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017. The functional currency is Sterling.

DISTRIBUTION TABLES

Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 April 2023

Group 2 : Shares purchased on or after 01 April 2023 and on or before 30 September 2023

	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.1663p	-	1.1663p	0.8184p
Group 2	0.6279p	0.5384p	1.1663p	0.8184p

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Sub-fund name	VT Astute Balanced Fund
Size of Sub-fund	£237,243,752
Launch date	20 July 2020
Sub-fund objective and policy	<p>The investment objective of the Sub-fund is to deliver total returns (comprised of income and capital growth) of the Consumer Prices Index + 1.5% over the long term (7 years) (net of management fees and underlying fund charges). Capital is in fact at risk and there is no guarantee that a positive return will be achieved over a seven year, or any, period.</p> <p>The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 70% in a range of collective investment vehicles (including exchange traded funds, investment trusts and funds managed and/or operated by the AFM or Investment Manager) providing exposure to asset classes including equities, fixed interest investments, cash, structured products and alternative assets such as absolute return funds, property and infrastructure. Equity exposure within the portfolio is expected to be between 40-60% and typically around 50%.</p> <p>The Sub-fund may also invest directly in equities, fixed income, money market instruments, deposits, cash and near cash.</p> <p>The Sub-fund will be actively managed and the investments will be selected to achieve a balance (roughly equal) between growth assets (such as equities (and collective investment schemes investing in such assets)) and defensive assets (such as fixed interest and cash (and collective investment schemes investing in such assets)).</p> <p>The Sub-fund will not have any particular geographic, industry or economic sector focus and as such weightings in these may vary as required.</p>
Derivatives	<p>The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund. The Sub-fund may invest in other collective investment schemes which may themselves use derivatives for investment purposes.</p>
Benchmark	<p>A target for the Sub-fund's performance has been set by reference to the UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 1.5% (the "Index") over a seven year period. The Consumer Price Index is published by the Office for National Statistics, further information for which can be obtained from www.ons.gov.uk.</p> <p>The Index has been selected as a target to beat as it a common standard which will allow assessment as to whether shareholders' investments are growing in real terms.</p>
Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Ex-distribution dates	31 March, 30 September
Distribution dates	31 May, 30 November
Individual Savings Account (ISA)	The Sub-fund is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.
Shares Classes	Class A (Accumulation)

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (Continued)

Minimum investment*

Lump sum subscription:	£1,000
Top-up:	£100
Holding:	£1,000
Regular savings:	£100 per month
Redemption & Switching	N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)
Initial, redemption and switching charges	Nil

*The AFM may waive the minimum levels and waive or discount the initial charge at its discretion.

Annual management charges

The AFM charges (which include the management fee) were £25,000[^] plus 0.35% per annum of the net asset value of the Sub-fund.

[^]The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index) on 1 January each year (from 1 January 2021)). In the event of negative inflation, this fee will remain unchanged.

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW

During the period from 31 March 2023 to September 30, 2023, the VT Astute Balanced fund delivered a total return of -0.68%¹ which was lower than the benchmark return (CPI) of +3.15%.

Despite the promising start to the summer, the fund's performance turned negative as concerns resurfaced over the likelihood of a soft landing given the recent downside surprises in economic growth. Whilst interest rates in the US and UK remained unchanged in September, the primary focus clearly shifted from the level that rates would peak at, to the length of time that rates would have to stay restrictive for. As investors finally realigned to this "higher for longer" narrative, something that had been emphasized by policymakers at every one of their meetings, bonds and equity prices fell simultaneously again.

While this may bring back some memories from 2022, the moderation in inflation this year provides us with confidence that the current rate hiking cycle is near its end, and rates should only persist at these levels if economic growth remains robust, and the recession, if it occurs, is mild and short. However, with concerns about fiscal stability and government shutdowns also lingering in the background, we once again saw investors favour larger and higher quality stocks over those sensitive to economic growth. This preference resulted in a below-average performance in most of our equity holdings, but our conviction remains unchanged considering the ever-improving fundamentals and the historical small-cap outperformance over large caps.

Although some questions about peak rates seem to have been addressed, a lot of uncertainties persist. Recent increases in the oil price due to output cuts, and the strong US nonfarm payroll figures, served as reminders that the inflation rollercoaster is not yet over, and could re-accelerate, pressuring consumer spending once again. Furthermore, higher fixed income yields raised hopes for the return of traditional diversification especially if weaker economic growth can help contain inflation, but the recent positive correlation is concerning and highlights the important role our alternatives play, particularly the structured products.

Considering all the above, our belief is that central banks will maintain the current level of interest rates with no rate cuts until early to mid-2024. The two main scenarios we envisage is either central banks keep rates higher for an extended period, inducing a recession, which will push equities lower as pressure on profit margins becomes overwhelming, but in this scenario, rates should fall more quickly than expected and our recent move to add more bond duration should see prices rally more sharply to help offset any equity drawdowns. Or we see no recession, policymakers allow inflation to sit slightly above the 2% target, and in this scenario, we see equities as being fairly valued, and we can afford to wait given the high coupons available on our bond positions.

In terms of portfolio activity, focus remained on introducing more fixed income assets into the portfolio at attractive levels and high coupon rates due to the further declines in longer-dated bond prices. This also gave us the opportunity to further add duration through long end Gilts and Treasuries following the sharp rise in yields over the last 3 months. Whilst timing hasn't been particularly favourable, and this change was one of main reasons for our underperformance over the period, these positions play two key roles within the portfolio. Firstly, they allow us to lock in higher yields with the potential for significant capital upside, and secondly, and most importantly, they help provide diversification against our equity positioning if a recession were to materialise. For example, studies have shown that over the last 20 years the following two-year period after a peak in rates has delivered double digit returns for Gilt holders in all scenarios.

These trades came from two sources and represents a continuation of trades that we have been making over the course of the year. The first was in our alternatives bucket, primarily our real asset holdings which have been negatively impacted by the rise in inflation as their income streams have failed to keep pace with increasing costs. While we still maintain strong beliefs in the underlying fundamentals and the quality of the assets, the inherent economic risks, and the possibility of further weakness in a recessionary environment makes fixed income a more appealing option, as they will undoubtedly offer better protection against different negative growth scenarios, and pricing is becoming increasingly cheap.

The second source of capital came from our best performing short-duration and other higher quality fixed income holdings. Whilst this adjustment doesn't increase our overall bond allocation, it does enhance our sensitivity to interest rate fluctuations. Those holdings have provided us with great returns over the past 2 years but as of today, they seem to offer less upside potential compared to more traditional bonds with a higher level of duration. Despite our ongoing efforts to diversify our equity risk in light of macroeconomic uncertainties and potential market headwinds, it's essential to emphasize that we are not bearish. In fact, we hold a rather optimistic view of the outlook and are currently well-positioned to adopt a risk-on approach in areas that have been overlooked and underestimated, offering significant growth potential in more positive economic scenarios.

Scott Osborne
Investment Manager
Astute Investment Management Limited
24 October 2023

¹ - Data Source - Refinitiv Lipper for Investment Management. Performance quoted is for the 'A Acc' share class net of fees and dividends reinvested.

PERFORMANCE RECORD

Financial Highlights

Class A (Accumulation)	Six months ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
Changes in net assets per share	GBP	GBP	GBP
Opening net asset value per share	106.6594	112.6554	107.5511
Return before operating charges	(0.2483)	(5.0091)	6.1833
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.4783)	(0.9869)	(1.0790)
Return after operating charges *	(0.7266)	(5.9960)	5.1043
Closing net asset value per share	105.9328	106.6594	112.6554
Distribution on accumulation shares	1.0881	1.6502	1.2553
*after direct transactions costs of:	-	0.011	0.011
Performance			
Return after charges	(0.68%)	(5.32%)	4.75%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£237,347,992	£234,276,066	£217,804,220
Closing number of shares	224,055,153	219,648,809	193,336,625
Operating charges (note 2)	0.90%	0.90%	0.98%
Direct transaction costs	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%
Prices			
Highest share price	109.4729	112.5317	119.3640
Lowest share price	105.4238	101.6434	106.8605

1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.

2. The ongoing charges figure is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund together with the ongoing charges included within the underlying holdings held within the Sub-fund.

Risk Profile

Based on simulated monthly historical performance, the Sub-fund is ranked a '4' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (31 March 2023: ranked 4). The Sub-fund is ranked '4' because monthly historical performance data indicates that average rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

As at 30 September 2023 (unaudited)

Holding	Value £	% of total net assets
Collective Investment Schemes (31.03.2023: 61.43%)		
3,184,806 Allianz China A-Shares Equity	2,368,540	1.00
2,837,010 abrdrn UK Mid-Cap Equity	3,477,324	1.46
311,480 Baillie Gifford American	3,429,389	1.44
4,949,137 BlackRock European Absolute Alpha	8,530,377	3.59
46,916 BlackRock ICS Sterling Liquid Environmentally Aware Fund	4,937,130	2.08
78,650 BlueBay Financial Capital Bond	7,489,842	3.15
5,400,082 ES River and Mercantile European Fund	7,013,626	2.95
1,428,584 ES River and Mercantile UK Recovery	3,562,888	1.50
3,693,484 Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	6,659,352	2.80
22,949 Granahan US SMID Select Fund	3,268,194	1.37
2,130,708 JPM UK Equity Core	9,479,521	3.99
9,939,255 Jupiter Japan Income	7,340,140	3.09
2,222,279 Premier Miton European Opportunities	5,766,814	2.43
4,250,465 M&G Global Listed Infrastructure	5,551,532	2.34
3,093,273 M&G Japan Smaller Companies Sterling	3,719,042	1.56
4,449,305 M&G UK Inflation Linked Corporate Bond	4,870,654	2.05
2,514,601 Man GLG Sterling Corporate Bond Professional	2,511,332	1.06
1,869,947 Ninety One Emerging Market Blended Debt	2,416,158	1.02
1,022,858 Polar Capital Emerging Markets Stars	9,348,923	3.94
74,564 Protea UCITS II - ECO Advisors ESG Absolute Return	8,309,360	3.50
2,347,891 Regnan Sustainable Water and Waste	2,392,501	1.01
111,665 Robeco QI Global Multi-Factor Credits	11,932,491	5.03
9,736,070 Royal London Short Duration Global High Yield Bond Fund	7,277,713	3.07
	131,652,843	55.43
Exchange Traded Funds (31.03.2023: 28.59%)		
2,425,500 iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF	24,054,896	10.14
1,415,000 iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF	10,343,650	4.36
1,746,500 iShares MSCI EM SRI UCITS ETF	9,387,438	3.96
579,300 iShares \$ Treasury Bond UCITS ETF	2,384,688	1.01
2,330,000 iShares \$ Treasury Bond 20+yr UCITS ETF	7,142,615	3.01
1,564,500 L&G US Equity UCITS ETF	21,468,069	9.05
469,100 L&G ESG GBP Corporate Bond UCITS ETF	3,594,713	1.52
108,400 SPDR MSCI USA Small Cap Value Weighted UCITS ETF	4,793,357	2.02
	83,169,426	35.07
Investment Trusts (31.03.2023: 3.03%)		
1,623,000 Aberdeen Standard European Logistics Income PLC	988,407	0.42
2,019,734 Gresham House Energy Storage Fund PLC	2,112,642	0.89
1,217,335 Syncona Limited Ord Npv	1,399,935	0.59
1,789,500 Tritax EuroBox PLC	898,330	0.39
	5,399,314	2.29
Structured Notes (31.03.2023: 6.73%)		
2,450,000 Barclays 1440 FTSE 100/S&P 500 Defensive Autocall (11.35%)	2,711,905	1.15
3,400,000 Barclays 1445 FTSE 100/S&P 500 Daily Accrual Income Autocall Note (2.25%)	3,454,060	1.47
3,500,000 Natixis S&P 500/EuroStoxx 50 Digital Synthetic (21.50%) 10/2024	3,827,950	1.62
5,900,000 Natixis 1474 EuroStoxx Banks Reverse Convertible (8% p.a.) MTN	5,940,120	2.51
	15,934,035	6.75
Portfolio of investments (31.03.2023: 99.78%)	236,155,618	99.54
Net other assets (31.03.2023: 0.22%)	1,088,134	0.46
	237,243,752	100.00

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

	£
Total sales for the period	27,381,985
BlackRock European Absolute Alpha	1,120,000
Federated Hermes China Equity	1,099,041
iShares \$ Treasury Bond UCITS ETF	6,802,290
iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF	888,703
iShares UK Gilts 0-5yr UCITS ETF	3,359,538
L&G US Equity UCITS ETF	1,502,533
M&G UK Inflation Linked Corporate Bond	2,290,000
Protea UCITS II - ECO Advisors ESG Absolute Return	1,180,000
Royal London Short Duration Global High Yield Bond Fund	1,100,000
VT Gravis Clean Energy Income	5,480,826
Various other sales	2,559,054

	£
Total purchases for the period	31,926,038
Allianz China A-Shares Equity	580,000
BlueBay Financial Capital Bond	385,000
iShares \$ Treasury Bond 20+yr UCITS ETF	7,199,933
iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF	18,785,633
iShares MSCI EM SRI UCITS ETF	1,371,807
JPM UK Equity Core	455,000
L&G ESG GBP Corporate Bond UCITS ETF	346,231
M&G UK Inflation Linked Corporate Bond	280,000
Polar Capital Emerging Markets Stars	655,000
Royal London Short Duration Global High Yield Bond Fund	285,000
Various other purchases	1,582,434

The above transactions represent the top 10 sales and purchases during the period.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six months ended 30 September (unaudited)	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Net capital (losses)		(2,898,113)		(18,419,169)
Revenue	1,995,400		1,374,181	
Expenses	(494,161)		(445,489)	
Interest payable and similar charges	<u>(5,132)</u>		<u>(1,413)</u>	
Net revenue before taxation	1,496,107		927,279	
Taxation	<u>(50,716)</u>		<u>-</u>	
Net revenue after taxation		<u>1,445,391</u>		<u>927,279</u>
Total return before distributions		(1,452,722)		(17,491,890)
Finance costs: distributions		<u>(2,436,738)</u>		<u>(1,820,232)</u>
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		<u>(3,889,460)</u>		<u>(19,312,122)</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

For the six months ended 30 September (unaudited)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	233,967,208	217,677,358
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	15,912,927	23,671,130
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(11,184,855)	(9,840,763)
Dividend reinvested	2,437,932	1,881,267
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	<u>(3,889,460)</u>	<u>(19,312,122)</u>
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	<u>237,243,752</u>	<u>214,076,870</u>

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives are shown for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Company net asset value as at 31 March 2023 was £233,967,208.

BALANCE SHEET

As at	30.09.2023		31.03.2023	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investment assets		236,155,618		233,452,548
Current assets				
Debtors	7,474,032		362,853	
Cash and bank balances	<u>2,535,681</u>		<u>3,061,592</u>	
Total current assets		<u>10,009,713</u>		<u>3,424,445</u>
Total assets		<u>246,165,331</u>		<u>236,876,993</u>
Current liabilities				
Bank overdraft	(1,232,993)		(2,263,231)	
Other creditors	<u>(7,688,586)</u>		<u>(646,554)</u>	
Total current liabilities		<u>(8,921,579)</u>		<u>(2,909,785)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>237,243,752</u>		<u>233,967,208</u>

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and to the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017. The functional currency is Sterling.

DISTRIBUTION TABLES

Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 April 2023

Group 2 : Shares purchased on or after 01 April 2023 and on or before 30 September 2023

	Net revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.0881p	-	1.0881p	0.9125p
Group 2	0.7050p	0.3831p	1.0881p	0.9125p

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Sub-fund name	VT Astute Growth Fund
Size of Sub-fund	£81,610,566
Launch date	20 July 2020
Sub-fund objective and policy	<p>The investment objective of the Sub-fund is to deliver total returns (comprised of income and capital growth) of the Consumer Prices Index + 3.5% over the long term (10 years) (net of management fees and underlying fund charges). Capital is in fact at risk and there is no guarantee that a positive return will be achieved over a ten year, or any, period.</p> <p>The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 70% in a range of collective investment vehicles (including exchange traded funds, investment trusts and funds managed and/or operated by the AFM or Investment Manager) providing exposure to asset classes including equities, fixed interest investments, cash, structured products and alternative assets such as absolute return funds, property and infrastructure. Equity exposure within the portfolio is expected to be more than 50% and typically around 80%.</p> <p>The Sub-fund may also invest directly in equities, fixed income, money market instruments, deposits, cash and near cash.</p> <p>The Sub-fund will not have any particular geographic, industry or economic sector focus and as such weightings in these may vary as required.</p>
Derivatives	<p>The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund. The Sub-fund may invest in other collective investment schemes which may themselves use derivatives for investment purposes.</p>
Benchmark	<p>A target for the Sub-fund's performance has been set by reference to the UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 3.5% (the "Index") over a ten year period. The Consumer Price Index is published by the Office for National Statistics, further information for which can be obtained from www.ons.gov.uk.</p> <p>The Index has been selected as a target to beat as it a common standard which will allow assessment as to whether shareholders' investments are growing in real terms.</p>
Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Ex-distribution dates	31 March, 30 September
Distribution dates	31 May, 30 November
Individual Savings Account (ISA)	The Sub-fund is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.
Minimum investment*	
Lump sum subscription:	£1,000
Top-up:	£100
Holding:	£1,000
Regular savings:	£100 per month
Redemption & Switching	N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)
Initial, redemption and switching charges	Nil

*The AFM may waive the minimum levels and waive or discount the initial charge at its discretion.

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (Continued)

Annual management charges

The AFM charges (which include the management fee) were £25,000[^] plus 0.35% per annum of the net asset value of the Sub-fund.

[^]The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index) on 1 January each year (from 1 January 2021)). In the event of negative inflation, this fee will remain unchanged.

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW

During the period from 31 March 2023 to September 30, 2023, the VT Astute Growth fund delivered a total return of +0.32%¹, which was lower than the benchmark return (CPI) of +4.11%.

Despite the promising start to the summer, the fund's performance turned negative as concerns resurfaced over the likelihood of a soft landing given the recent downside surprises in economic growth. Whilst interest rates in the US and UK remained unchanged in September, the primary focus clearly shifted from the level that rates would peak at, to the length of time that rates would have to stay restrictive for. As investors finally realigned to this "higher for longer" narrative, something that had been emphasized by policymakers at every one of their meetings, bonds and equity prices fell simultaneously again.

While this may bring back some memories from 2022, the moderation in inflation this year provides us with confidence that the current rate hiking cycle is near its end, and rates should only persist at these levels if economic growth remains robust, and the recession, if it occurs, is mild and short. However, with concerns about fiscal stability and government shutdowns also lingering in the background, we once again saw investors favour larger and higher quality stocks over those sensitive to economic growth. This preference resulted in a below-average performance in most of our equity holdings, but our conviction remains unchanged considering the ever-improving fundamentals and the historical small-cap outperformance over large caps.

Although some questions about peak rates seem to have been addressed, a lot of uncertainties persist. Recent increases in the oil price due to output cuts, and the strong US nonfarm payroll figures, served as reminders that the inflation rollercoaster is not yet over, and could re-accelerate, pressuring consumer spending once again. Furthermore, higher fixed income yields raised hopes for the return of traditional diversification especially if weaker economic growth can help contain inflation, but the recent positive correlation is concerning and highlights the important role our alternatives play, particularly the structured products.

Considering all the above, our belief is that central banks will maintain the current level of interest rates with no rate cuts until early to mid-2024. The two main scenarios we envisage is either central banks keep rates higher for an extended period, inducing a recession, which will push equities lower as pressure on profit margins becomes overwhelming, but in this scenario, rates should fall more quickly than expected and our recent move to add more bond duration should see prices rally more sharply to help offset any equity drawdowns. Or we see no recession, policymakers allow inflation to sit slightly above the 2% target, and in this scenario, we see equities as being fairly valued, and we can afford to wait given the high coupons available on our bond positions.

In terms of portfolio activity, focus remained on introducing more fixed income assets into the portfolio at attractive levels and high coupon rates due to the further declines in longer-dated bond prices. Corporate bonds emerged as a bright spot for us, given our belief that currently the corporate credit space presents valuable opportunities that are being overlooked, due to an investor's preference for quality during times of uncertainty. We think that the market is significantly overestimating the risk of defaults in this space and are not fully appreciating the fact that overall fundamentals in the arena have improved significantly since the financial crisis. As such, we introduced both Man GLG Sterling Corporate Bond and Man GLG Dynamic Income, both managed by the same team who have a proven track record of being able to identify and exploit the higher yields without taking undue risks.

These trades came from two sources and represents a continuation of trades that we have been making over the course of the year. The first was in our alternatives bucket, primarily our real asset holdings which have been negatively impacted by the rise in inflation as their income streams have failed to keep pace with increasing costs. While we still maintain strong beliefs in the underlying fundamentals and the quality of the assets, the inherent economic risks, and the possibility of further weakness in a recessionary environment makes fixed income a more appealing option, as they will undoubtedly offer better protection against different negative growth scenarios, and pricing is becoming increasingly cheap.

The second source of capital came from our best performing short-duration and other higher quality fixed income holdings. Whilst this adjustment doesn't increase our overall bond allocation, it does enhance our sensitivity to interest rate fluctuations. Those holdings have provided us with great returns over the past 2 years but as of today, they seem to offer less upside potential compared to more traditional bonds with a higher level of duration. Despite our ongoing efforts to diversify our equity risk in light of macroeconomic uncertainties and potential market headwinds, it's essential to emphasize that we are not bearish. In fact, we hold a rather optimistic view of the outlook and are currently well-positioned to adopt a risk-on approach in areas that have been overlooked and underestimated, offering significant growth potential in more positive economic scenarios.

Scott Osborne
Investment Manager
Astute Investment Management Limited
24 October 2023

¹- Data Source - Refinitiv Lipper for Investment Management. Performance quoted is for the 'A Acc' share class net of fees and dividends reinvested.

PERFORMANCE RECORD

Financial Highlights

Class A (Accumulation)	Six months ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
Changes in net assets per share	GBP	GBP	GBP
Opening net asset value per share	107.4107	116.0935	111.5335
Return before operating charges	0.9201	(7.6212)	5.6868
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.5756)	(1.0616)	(1.1268)
Return after operating charges *	0.3445	(8.6828)	4.5600
Closing net asset value per share	107.7552	107.4107	116.0935
Distribution on accumulation shares	1.0015	1.2882	0.3172
*after direct transactions costs of:	-	0.011	-
Performance			
Return after charges	0.32%	(7.48%)	4.09%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£81,642,875	£77,856,334	£67,566,974
Closing number of shares	75,766,968	72,484,699	58,200,484
Operating charges (note 2)	1.07%	0.95%	0.99%
Direct transaction costs	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%
Prices			
Highest share price	112.8241	115.7443	127.8151
Lowest share price	106.5828	100.4180	107.1426

1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.

2. The ongoing charges figure is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund together with the ongoing charges included within the underlying holdings held within the Sub-fund.

Risk Profile

Based on simulated monthly historical performance, the Sub-fund is ranked a '5' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (31 March 2023: ranked 5). The Sub-fund is ranked '5' because monthly historical performance data indicates that relatively high rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

As at 30 September 2023 (unaudited)

Holding	Value £	% of total net assets
Collective Investment Schemes (31.03.2023: 66.47%)		
207,150 Baillie Gifford American	2,280,720	2.79
2,143,138 Allianz China A-Shares Equity	1,593,852	1.95
1,976,011 abrdn UK Mid-Cap Equity	2,421,997	2.97
1,204,901 BlackRock European Absolute Alpha	2,076,778	2.54
15,843 BlackRock ICS Sterling Liquid Environmentally Aware Fund	1,667,174	2.04
31,668 BlueBay Financial Capital Bond	3,015,722	3.70
3,459,711 ES River and Mercantile European Fund	4,493,473	5.51
957,347 ES River and Mercantile UK Recovery	2,387,625	2.93
2,243,111 Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	4,044,329	4.96
10,858 Granahan US SMID Select Fund	1,546,279	1.89
1,123,975 JPM UK Equity Core	5,000,564	6.13
5,805,028 Jupiter Japan Income	4,287,013	5.25
7,802 Man GLG Dynamic Income	853,216	1.05
652,106 Man GLG Sterling Corporate Bond Professional	651,259	0.80
2,745,096 M&G Global Listed Infrastructure	3,585,370	4.39
1,360,371 M&G Japan Smaller Companies Sterling	1,635,574	2.00
1,218,466 Ninety One Emerging Market Blended Debt	1,574,380	1.93
1,377,906 Premier Miton European Opportunities	3,575,666	4.38
522,408 Polar Capital Emerging Markets Stars	4,774,811	5.85
2,360,242 Regnan Sustainable Water and Waste	2,405,087	2.95
	53,870,889	66.01
Exchange Traded Funds (31.03.2023: 29.25%)		
884,850 iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF	6,468,254	7.93
921,800 iShares MSCI EM SRI UCITS ETF	4,954,675	6.07
800,000 L&G US Equity UCITS ETF	10,977,600	13.45
59,300 SPDR MSCI USA Small Cap Value Weighted UCITS ETF	2,622,196	3.21
	25,022,725	30.66
Investment Trusts (31.03.2023: 2.28%)		
950,859 Syncona Limited Ord Npv	1,093,487	1.34
	1,093,487	1.34
Structured Notes (31.03.2023: 1.50%)		
1,100,000 Natixis S&P 500/EuroStoxx 50 Digital Synthetic (21.50%) 10/2024	1,203,070	1.47
	1,203,070	1.47
Portfolio of investments (31.03.2023: 99.50%)	81,190,171	99.48
Net other assets (31.03.2023: 0.50%)	420,395	0.52
	81,610,566	100.00

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

	£
Total sales for the period	3,606,619
abrdrn European Logistics Income PLC	378,086
Baillie Gifford American	360,000
BlackRock European Absolute Alpha	435,000
Federated Hermes China Equity	1,141,299
Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	325,000
iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF	317,073
JPM UK Equity Core	165,000
L&G US Equity UCITS ETF	150,449
Tritax EuroBox PLC	334,712
	£
Total purchases for the period	7,338,974
abrdrn UK Mid-Cap Equity	370,000
Allianz China A-Shares Equity	695,000
ES River and Mercantile European Fund	555,000
Federated Hermes US SMID Equity	340,000
iShares MSCI EM SRI UCITS ETF	1,174,414
JPM UK Equity Core	355,000
M&G Global Listed Infrastructure	400,000
Man GLG Dynamic Income	805,000
Man GLG Sterling Corporate Bond Professional	630,000
Premier Miton European Opportunities	300,000
Various other purchases	1,714,560

The above transactions represent all of the sales and top 10 purchases during the period.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six months ended 30 September (unaudited)		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
	Net capital (losses)		(18,167)		(7,933,219)
	Revenue	430,889		291,148	
Expenses		(184,607)		(153,063)	
Interest payable and similar charges		(102)		(16)	
Net revenue before taxation		246,180		138,069	
Taxation		-		-	
Net revenue after taxation		246,180		138,069	
Total return before distributions		228,013		(7,795,150)	
Finance costs: distributions		(746,971)		(484,763)	
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		(518,958)		(8,279,913)	

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

For the six months ended 30 September (unaudited)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	77,813,617	67,540,198
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	6,698,207	9,663,719
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(3,141,139)	(1,627,447)
Dividend reinvestment	758,839	514,387
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	(518,958)	(8,279,913)
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	81,610,566	67,810,944

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives are shown for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Company net asset value as at 31 March 2023 was £77,813,617.

BALANCE SHEET

As at	30.09.2023		31.03.2023	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investment assets		81,190,171		77,421,601
Current assets				
Debtors	201,304		387,325	
Cash and bank balances	<u>759,244</u>		<u>1,034,005</u>	
Total current assets		<u>960,548</u>		<u>1,421,330</u>
Total assets		<u>82,150,719</u>		<u>78,842,931</u>
Current liabilities				
Bank overdraft	(477,141)		(587,751)	
Other creditors	<u>(63,012)</u>		<u>(441,563)</u>	
Total current liabilities		<u>(540,153)</u>		<u>(1,029,314)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>81,610,566</u>		<u>77,813,617</u>

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and to the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017. The functional currency is Sterling.

DISTRIBUTION TABLES

Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 April 2023

Group 2 : Shares purchased on or after 01 April 2023 and on or before 30 September 2023

	Net revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.0015p	-	1.0015p	0.7831p
Group 2	0.5819p	0.4196p	1.0015p	0.7831p

INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

Distribution

Distributions of the revenue of the Company will be made to shareholders on or before 31 May each year and interim allocations of revenue on or before 30 November.

Individual shareholders

Income tax: Tax-free annual dividend allowance now standing at £1,000 (2023/24). UK resident shareholders are now subject to new, higher rates of tax on dividend income in excess of the annual allowance. UK resident shareholders are subject to tax on dividend income in excess of the annual allowance.

Capital gains tax: Individual shareholders resident in the UK for tax purposes may be liable to capital gains tax on realisation of their shares as with other chargeable assets. However, the first £6,000 (2023/24) of gains each year are presently tax free for individuals. Gains in excess of that amount are charged at the rate of tax applicable to the individual tax payer.

Taxation

The Company will pay no corporation tax on its profits for the period ended 30 September 2023 and capital gains within the Company will not be taxed.

Corporate shareholders

Companies resident for tax purposes in the UK which hold shares should note that OEIC distributions are streamed into both franked and unfranked income. The unfranked income element will be treated as an annual payment which has been subject to income tax at a rate of 20% and will be liable to tax accordingly. On realisation of their shares, UK resident companies may be liable to pay corporation tax on any capital gains.

The above information on taxation is only a general summary, and shareholders should consult their own tax advisors in relation to their own circumstances. Shareholders should also note that the position as outlined may change to reflect future changes in tax legislation.

Issue and redemption of shares

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited is the AFM and Registrar. Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited will receive requests for the purchase or sale of shares at any time during normal business hours (8.30am and 5.30pm). Instructions may be given by email to (astute@valu-trac.com) or by sending an application form to the Registrar. Application forms are available from the Registrar.

The price of shares will be determined by reference to a valuation of the Company's net assets at 12:00 noon on each dealing day.

The AFM has the right to reject, on reasonable grounds relating to the circumstances of the applicant, any application for shares in whole or part, and in this event the AFM will return any money sent, or the balance of such monies, at the risk of the applicant. In addition the AFM may reject any application previously accepted in circumstances where the applicant has paid by cheque and that cheque subsequently fails to be cleared.

Any subscription monies remaining after a whole number of shares has been issued will not be returned to the applicant. Instead, smaller denomination shares will be issued in such circumstances.

A contract note giving details of the shares purchased and the price used will be issued by the Registrar by the end of the business day following the valuation point by reference to which the purchase price is determined. Settlement is due four business days after the trade date shown on the contract note and should be made to the AFM's dealing account.

Ownership of shares will be evidenced by an entry on the Company's Register of Shareholders. Certificates will not be issued. Statements in respect of periodic distributions of revenue will show the number of shares held by the recipient in respect of which the distribution is made. Individual statements of a shareholder's shares will also be issued at any time on request by the registered holder.

The most recent issue and redemption prices are available from the AFM.

CORPORATE DIRECTORY

Authorised Fund Manager & Registrar	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited Mains of Orton Fochabers Moray IV32 7QE Telephone: 01343 880344 Fax: 01343 880267 Email: astute@valu-trac.com Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority Registered in England No 2428648
Director	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited as AFM
Investment Manager	Astute Investment Management Limited 2nd Floor, Vista Building St David's Park Ewloe Flintshire CH5 3DT Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Depositary	NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited House A Floor 0, 175 Glasgow Road Gogarburn Edinburgh EH12 1HQ Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Auditor	Johnston Carmichael LLP Commerce House South Street Elgin IV30 1JE