VT ARGONAUT FUNDS

(Sub-funds VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund, VT Argonaut Absolute Return Fund and VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund)

Interim Report & Financial Statements (Unaudited)
for the six months ended 31 August 2024

CONTENTS

Type of Company:	VT Argonaut Funds ("the Company") is an investment company with variable capital ("ICVC") incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC000943 and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority with effect from 12 March 2012. It is a UCITS scheme as defined in COLL and also an umbrella company for the purposes of the OEIC Regulations. The company has unlimited duration
	The Company has currently two Sub-funds available for investment, VT Argonaut Absolute Return Fund and VT Argonaut Flexible Fund. 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.
	A shareholder is not liable to make any further payment to the Company after they have paid the price on the purchase of the shares.
Changes to the Company:	On the 11 October 2024 a new Sub-fund VT Argonaut Flexible Fund was launched.
	On 26 September 2024, scheme of arrangements were approved by shareholders for VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund and VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund to merge into VT Argonaut Flexible Fund. This was effective on 11 October 2024. The FCA has approved the commencement of termination for VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund and VT Argonaut Equity Income fund effective 11 October 2024.

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)/gains 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.

Going Concern
The Authorised Fund Manager has considered a detailed assessment of the Company and its Sub-funds' ability to meet their liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis with the exception of VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund and VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund. The Authorised Fund Manager intends to terminate VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund and VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund, following FCA approval to commence the termination of these Sub-funds on 11 October 2024, and therefore does not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements for these Sub-funds. This Sub-funds are in the process of terminating and the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern. Under this basis the Authorised Fund Manager is required to consider whether any investments should be adjusted to net realisable value, where the change in status of the Sub-funds will result in restrictions to the realisable value. The Authorised Fund Manager is also required to make provision for any contractual commitments that have become onerous at the balance sheet date. In the application of this policy there has been no impact on the valuation and recognition of the Sub-fund's assets and liabilities. Furthermore the financial statements do not include any provision for the future costs of winding up the business of the Sub-funds except to the extent that such costs were committed at the balance sheet date.

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 Sm

David E. Smith CA

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Authorised Fund Manager

Date: 31 October 2024

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund	VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund
Size of Sub-fund	£18,593,152
Launch date	14 July 2012
Sub-fund objective and policy	The Sub-fund aims to achieve returns (capital and income) in excess of the returns of the Investment Association (IA) Europe ex UK Sector over the long term (5 years). The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing in a concentrated portfolio of approximately 30-60 stocks. The Sub-fund will invest at least 80% in companies incorporated in countries in Europe. The Sub-fund may also invest in companies that are headquartered or quoted outside Europe which derive a significant part of their business from Europe and whose securities are listed or traded on an eligible securities exchange. The Sub-fund will not concentrate on any particular sector but will invest in a broad range of companies without regard to market capitalisation. The Sub-fund may also invest in other equities, fixed interest, units in collective investment schemes, money market instruments and deposits. The Sub-fund may also make use of certain financial contracts known as derivatives and forward transactions for the purpose of efficient portfolio management, including the use of hedging techniques and stock lending. It is not intended that the use of derivatives for efficient portfolio management purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund. A target for the Sub-fund's performance has been set by reference to the IA Europe ex UK Sector (the "Target Benchmark") over a five year period.
Benchmark	The IA Europe ex UK Sector is considered to be an appropriate benchmark because it enables investors to compare the performance of the portfolio against competing funds in the same sector. Investors may use the Sub-fund's performance against the Target Benchmark to assess the comparable Sub-fund's rank or quartile as compared to the performance of other funds in the IA Europe ex UK Sector over a variety of time frames. The AFM reserves the right to change the comparator following consultation with the Depositary and in accordance with the rules of COLL. A change could arise, for example, where the AFM determines that an alternative may be more appropriate. Shareholders will be notified of such a change, in accordance with the rules in COLL.
Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Ex-distribution dates	31 August, Last day of February
Distribution dates	31 October, 30 April
Individual Savings Account (ISA)	The Sub-fund is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.

Share class information

Share class*	Minimum initial subscription	Minimum subsequent investment	Minimum holding	Minimum redemption	Initial charge **
Class A Retail Net Income	£500	£250	£250	£100	5.25%
Class A Retail Net Accumulation	£500	£250	£250	£100	5.25%
Class R Retail Net Income	£500	£250	£250	£100	0.00%
Class R Retail Net Accumulation	£500	£250	£250	£100	0.00%
Class I Institutional Net Income	£3,000,000	£1,000	£3,000,000	£1,000	0.00%
Class I Institutional Net Accumulation	£3,000,000	£1,000	£3,000,000	£1,000	0.00%
Class I Institutional Net Income (Currency Hedged)^	£3,000,000	£1,000	£3,000,000	£1,000	0.00%
Class I Institutional Net Accumulation (Currency Hedged)	£3,000,000	£1,000	£3,000,000	£1,000	0.00%
Class A (Eur) Retail Net Accumulation	€ 2,500	€ 1,000	€ 2,500	€ 1,000	5.25%
Class I (Eur) Institutional Net Accumulation	€ 3,000,000	€ 1,000	€ 3,000,000	€ 1,000	0.00%

^ Share class not launched

* Investors should note the eligibility criteria for each class of share as set out in paragraph 2.2.2 of the Sub-fund's prospectus before subscribing.

**The initial charge is shown as a percentage of the amount invested which is equivalent to 5.5409% of the price of shares.

Annual Management Charges

In respect of the A shares, it is equal to 1.75% per annum of the net asset value of the A shares.

In respect of the R shares, it is equal to 0.75% per annum of the net asset value of the B shares.

In respect of the I shares, it is equal to 0.75% per annum of the net asset value of the C shares.

Changes to Sub-fund

On 26 September 2024, scheme of arrangement was approved by shareholders for VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund to merge into VT Argonaut Flexible Fund. This was effective on 11 October 2024. The FCA has approved the commencement of termination for VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund effective 11 October 2024.

Investment Review
The fund posted a gain of +2.6% (Class R Retail Net Accumulation) over the 6-month review period (29 February 2024 to 31 August 2024) vs. the IA Europe-ex-UK Equity sector of +4.1%*. Since launch the fund has delivered a return of +313.2% vs. +369.5%* for the peer group.

The biggest winners within the underlying portfolio during the review period were defence contractor Kongsberg Gruppen (+61%), petroleum shipping company BW LPG (+54%), German weaponsmith Rheinmetall AG (+27%), Spanish bank Caixabank (+26%) and Finnish energy company Fortum (+24%). While the Fund generated a positive return overall, the largest detractors in the period were Norwegian Salmon farming company Greig Seafood (-32%), chip manufacturer BE Semiconductor Industries (-29%) and French mining company Eramet (-20%)**.

The six months to 31 August 2024 were an eventful period for European equity markets, although overall they ended slightly higher, thereby extending the rally from last October's lows. Lower headline inflation enabled monetary easing expectations to gain momentum (with the US Federal Reserve cutting by 50bp shortly after the end of the period, and the ECB / SNB / BOE also lowering rates) while slowing macroeconomic demand indicators and a raft of political and geopolitical events served to undermine investor risk appetite.

In Europe, French President Macron's decision to call an early parliamentary vote and the right-wing anti-EU National Rally "winning" the first-round of elections led to French stocks underperforming and with no clear election winner in the end, President Macron must now coalesce with the anti-capitalist left-wing New Popular Front. In the US meanwhile a failed assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump in mid-July was the catalyst for a strong rally in low quality, domestic and smaller US stocks, viewed as beneficiaries of Trump's perceived higher probability of re-election.

Elsewhere, at the end of July, the Bank of Japan raised its overnight lending rate to 0.25% (from 0.1%), also signalling a further "normalisation" of rates, and this preceded a further bout of global equity market volatility in early August. Although August ended benignly in the end, the extreme volatility highlighted a fragility in financial markets which were seemingly priced for an immaculate soft landing, with little room for error on the direction of corporate profits, the maintenance of global liquidity or the delivery of interest rate relief. All the while, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to escalate.

In the context of the above we repositioned the Fund for a weaker global economy, initiating some long gold mining positions in early March. With $300bn of Russian financial assets frozen (mostly in Euroclear) countries which dissent from US hegemony are highly incentivised to diversify their assets "outside" the Western banking system to avoid political default risk. As stated previously, we view gold – with a market value of $15trillion, as the most liquid option. It is noteworthy too, when discussing gold, that Chinese holdings of US Treasuries are now down to just $800bn (from $1.2trillion at peak in 2016).

Market Overview | US Presidential Election
These first few months of a new interest rate cutting cycle are to be accompanied by heightened political risk in the US with the US Presidential election on November 5th. Although the mainstream media likes to focus on the personalities of the candidates, it is more useful for investors to study the differences in the economic agenda.

Donald Trump, ironically, is now something of a known quantity with an agenda to reduce corporation tax to 15% for homegrown companies and fund this by raising tariffs on imports (10-20% across the board and 60% on Chinese goods). This was standard Republican economic policy throughout the nineteenth century.

Democrat candidate Kamala Harris, by contrast remains something of an unknown quantity, having been parachuted in as a last-minute replacement, when after four years of vigorous service, President Biden, following a poor Presidential debate, was suddenly discovered to be senile.

In so far as Harris has been willing to reveal her agenda, she proposes rescinding Trump's 2018 personal tax cuts with additional taxes for those earning more than $400k; raising the corporate tax rate to 28% and increasing capital gains tax from 20% to 28%; with a 25% minimum tax on those with wealth above $100m (including unrealised gains). She has also proposed a doubling of the federal minimum wage, quadrupling taxes on share buy backs, banning non-existent "price gouging" and expanding antitrust enforcement.

Whereas Trump supports cheap and reliable energy, Harris will extend "renewable" subsidies. Neither Trump nor Harris sought to appeal to the middle ground by appointing a more conciliatory candidate as their Vice-President. It therefore would be understandable if major business decisions were postponed until the outcome of the election and the full agenda is known.

When Harris ran unsuccessfully in Democratic Primaries, her views were considered more left-wing than Biden's. We have recently seen in the UK that left-wing politicians can be uncannily silent on their real intentions until after they are elected.

What may be at stake in November's election is American "exceptionalism": its trust in free market enterprise and distrust of big government. So-called Democrat "Progressives" want America to be more like Europe, which with its structurally stagnant GDP per capita, is not something any investor should find compelling.

Market Overview | US Presidential Election (Continued)

Moreover, given Trump has said he wants to see a weak currency, and both candidates will likely continue to run big deficits, whomever wins, the outlook for the US dollar is much more uncertain.

Outlook

We continue to find compelling idiosyncratic opportunities from our bottom-up work. Hopes of an AI driven productivity boom continue to dominate certain parts of the stock market and while valuation disciple prevents us owning the most consensual names, we see a compelling opportunity in some less obvious areas, particularly natural gas.

Nuclear is well established as a potential beneficiary of the energy requirements of AI data centres yet natural gas generation requirements will likely benefit also. US-listed TC Energy Corp is an example of the type of position the fund owns – the owner of critical North American energy infrastructure, the company operates a low-risk business model with long-term contracts and minimal direct commodity price exposure.

Standing back, there have been several notable developments in recent months. First, the Federal Reserve declaring victory on inflation with an aggressive 50bps rate cut at a time where although unemployment is rising from a low level, GDPNow is running at a robust +2.5%-3.0%. The yield curve has subsequently steepened which threatens to disappoint expectations that the new easing cycle should reflate the US housing and commercial property markets or make refinancing debt easier for marginal assets. This may mean expectations of a long cutting cycle are either misplaced or irrelevant.

Second, the Central Bank of the People’s Republic of China (PBOC) surprised the market recently with what the commentariat has been quick to term a policy “bazooka”. But the sum of the stimulus measures so far announced are just 1.5% GDP with a further 2.4% GDP rumoured, which in our view is more akin to a “pop gun” relative to the 13% GDP announced in 2008 and 9% GDP in 2015-16. Moreover, whilst the PBOC swap facility for domestic financial institutions has engineered a short squeeze in Chinese equities in time for the 75th birthday celebrations of Communist control, it is unlikely to have sufficient multiplier effects to overcome the structural balance sheet recession and over-supply of over-valued and over-leveraged property.

China’s geopolitical ambition for the Renminbi (Yuan) to achieve reserve status would seem at odds with the obvious reflationary solution to devalue its currency and deploy large-scale QE. It seeks to revive its stock market but continues a policy of hostility to its entrepreneurs and fails to provide international capital the ability to carry out reasonable due diligence or give adequate confidence in property rights. China demonstrates how since capital is always and everywhere allocated less efficiently by the state relative to the “invisible hand” of Adam Smiths’ market economy, it is now stuck in the same economic malaise which ultimately saw the downfall of the Soviet Union forty years earlier.

Third, Mario Draghi’s report into the Euro sclerosis correctly diagnoses many of the problems: high energy prices, over-regulation, lack of productivity and entrepreneurialism. But just as the CCP is constrained by the dogma of “communist” political control, Draghi must offer solutions consistent with the religion of climate change alarmism (and the increase in authority of the EU) hence the risible solution that the EU spend €800bn (4.6% GDP) annually, largely on picking winners in “green technology”. It is beyond Draghi’s intellectual hinterland to ask whether the dogma of “energy transition” is the cause of - not the solution to - economic decline or understand that governments are even worse than fund managers at “picking winners”.

As the great Ronald Reagan once put it “the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: “I’m from the Government and I’m here to help.”” Just like early converts to Christianity were seduced by the promise of miracle healings and life-after-death, converts to the “green” energy transition have been promised the environmental atonement of mankind and the salvation of the polar bear. Just as the early Church thought the crucifixion an unpromising recruiting sergeant, the climate change religion lies about the economic costs of the energy transition, repeating the catechism that expensive renewable energy is cheap and that the costs of its intermittency can be easily overcome.

The European car industry is now in its death throes, sacrificed on the altar of Net Zero. It is not currently - and may never be - possible for the European car industry to profitably produce a desirable mass market EV. Meanwhile, Chinese OEMs who claim to have a battery technology edge but are also backstopped by government subsidies, take market share.

Without meddling government, EU OEMs would continue to satisfy consumer demands by profitably producing internal combustion engine (ICE) cars, but the EU operates an increasingly penal tax credit and debit system, meaning that its auto manufacturers are coerced into producing fewer ICE cars. The logical consequence is that the EU car industry – like the UK industry historically – will cease to be mass market, resulting in the hollowing out of the European industrial base. Following month end, Iran’s ballistic missile attack on Tel Aviv represents a significant escalation that highlights the future dangers of the Mullah state acquiring a nuclear warhead.

We remain grateful to our unitholders for their continued support and look forward to updating them in the coming months.

Barry Norris - Argonaut Capital Partners LLP - Investment Manager to the Fund - October 2024

Date source: * Morningstar, ** Bloomberg

Financial Highlights

Class A Retail Net Income

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	153.4113	148.6171	146.8459
Return before operating charges	4.8184	13.0014	10.9558
Operating charges (note 1)	(1.5659)	(3.1411)	(2.8069)
Return after operating charges *	3.2525	9.8603	8.1489
Distributions on income shares	-	(5.0661)	(6.3777)
Closing net asset value per share	156.6638	153.4113	148.6171
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.6202	0.6041	1.2409
Performance			
Return after charges	2.12%	6.63%	5.55%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£44,776	£43,847	£256,424
Closing number of shares	28,581	28,581	172,540
Operating charges (note 2)	2.02%	2.08%	1.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	171.9359	156.3910	164.0099
Lowest share price	148.1319	132.2221	136.1749

Class A Retail Net Accumulation

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	359.7698	334.4742	320.4489
Return before operating charges	11.2958	32.5157	20.2471
Operating charges (note 1)	(3.6722)	(7.2201)	(6.2218)
Return after operating charges *	7.6236	25.2956	14.0253
Closing net asset value per share	367.3934	359.7698	334.4742
Distributions on accumulation shares	-	11.5257	14.0239
*after direct transactions costs of:	1.4543	1.3885	2.7507
Performance			
Return after charges	2.12%	7.56%	4.38%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£2,516,119	£2,956,562	£13,325,504
Closing number of shares	684,857	821,792	3,984,015
Operating charges (note 2)	2.02%	2.08%	1.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	403.2111	363.7423	355.5717
Lowest share price	347.3859	300.8253	300.4352

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class A (Eur) Retail Net Accumulation

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	EURc	EURc	EURc
Opening net asset value per share	172.5908	156.6499	157.4389
Return before operating charges	8.6324	19.3650	2.1948
Operating charges (note 1)	(1.7778)	(3.4241)	(2.9838)
Return after operating charges *	6.8546	15.9409	(0.7890)
Closing net asset value per share	179.4454	172.5908	156.6499
Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	5.5428	6.6009
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.7041	0.6585	1.3192
Performance			
Return after charges	3.97%	10.18%	(0.50%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value	€ 9,241	€ 8,888	€ 8,067
Closing number of shares	5,150	5,150	5,150
Operating charges (note 2)	2.02%	2.08%	1.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	194.3164	174.7997	173.9689
Lowest share price	166.2923	143.7112	139.6609

Class I Institutional Net Income

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	159.4871	154.4438	151.8634
Return before operating charges	5.0161	13.3288	12.1672
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.8241)	(1.6952)	(1.3784)
Return after operating charges *	4.1920	11.6336	10.7888
Distributions on income shares	-	(6.5903)	(8.2084)
Closing net asset value per share	163.6791	159.4871	154.4438
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.0646	0.6279	1.2865
Performance			
Return after charges	2.63%	7.53%	7.10%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£710,848	£738,262	£1,010,380
Closing number of shares	434,294	462,898	654,205
Operating charges (note 2)	1.02%	1.08%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.04%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	179.2129	163.3217	170.9363
Lowest share price	154.6650	137.5361	141.6208

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class I Institutional Net Accumulation

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	336.2020	309.4232	293.5138
Return before operating charges	10.5929	30.2652	18.6226
Operating charges (note 1)	(1.7372)	(3.4864)	(2.7132)
Return after operating charges *	8.8557	26.7788	15.9094
Closing net asset value per share	345.0577	336.2020	309.4232
Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	13.7499	15.8184
*after direct transactions costs of:	1.3625	1.2913	2.5323
Performance			
Return after charges	2.63%	8.65%	5.42%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£1,712,134	£1,777,268	£2,556,756
Closing number of shares	496,188	528,631	826,297
Operating charges (note 2)	1.02%	1.08%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	377.7839	339.8955	326.5771
Lowest share price	326.0439	279.2720	276.8255

Class I Institutional Net Accumulation (Currency Hedged)

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	128.0317	112.2733	108.7987
Return before operating charges	6.4258	17.0560	4.4469
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.6676)	(1.2976)	(0.9948)
Return after operating charges *	5.7582	15.7584	3.4521
Closing net asset value per share	133.7899	128.0317	112.2733
Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	5.1170	5.7508
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.5267	0.4806	0.9285
Performance			
Return after charges	4.50%	14.04%	3.19%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£605,898	£305,473	£183,421
Closing number of shares	452,873	238,592	163,370
Operating charges (note 2)	1.02%	1.08%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	143.8500	128.8629	119.1204
Lowest share price	125.2973	105.1936	97.1046

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class I (Eur) Institutional Net Accumulation

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	EURc	EURc	EURc
Opening net asset value per share	195.8342	175.9701	175.1069
Return before operating charges	9.8241	21.8718	2.4430
Operating charges (note 1)	(1.0212)	(2.0077)	(1.5798)
Return after operating charges *	8.8029	19.8641	0.8632
Closing net asset value per share	204.6371	195.8342	175.9701
Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	8.0100	9.0837
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.8009	0.7436	1.4745
Performance			
Return after charges	4.50%	11.29%	0.49%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	€ 82,146	€ 78,612	€ 70,638
Closing number of shares	40,142	40,142	40,142
Operating charges (note 2)	1.02%	1.08%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	221.0626	198.3242	193.7296
Lowest share price	189.5083	161.9723	156.2302

Class R Retail Net Income

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	179.5542	173.8818	170.9795
Return before operating charges	5.6580	15.1595	13.7129
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.9278)	(1.9086)	(1.5519)
Return after operating charges *	4.7302	13.2509	12.1610
Distributions on income shares	-	(7.5785)	(9.2587)
Closing net asset value per share	184.2844	179.5542	173.8818
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.7277	0.7069	1.4484
Performance			
Return after charges	2.63%	7.62%	7.11%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£1,050,731	£1,033,352	£810,361
Closing number of shares	570,168	575,510	466,041
Operating charges (note 2)	1.02%	1.08%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	201.7617	183.8713	192.4659
Lowest share price	174.1296	154.8410	159.4458

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class R Retail Net Accumulation

	Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share			
	GBp	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	218.3733	200.9783	190.6448
Return before operating charges	6.8806	19.6595	12.0958
Operating charges (note 1)	(1.1284)	(2.2645)	(1.7623)
Return after operating charges *	5.7522	17.3950	10.3335
Closing net asset value per share	224.1255	218.3733	200.9783
Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	8.9277	10.4059
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.8850	0.8387	1.6448
Performance			
Return after charges	2.63%	8.66%	5.42%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£11,883,069	£12,020,933	£9,366,688
Closing number of shares	5,301,972	5,504,764	4,660,547
Operating charges (note 2)	1.02%	1.08%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.40%	0.84%
Prices			
Highest share price	245.3822	220.7724	212.1204
Lowest share price	211.7754	181.3949	179.8049

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 operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

Risk Profile

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '6' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (29 February 2024: ranked 6). The Sub-fund is ranked 6 because historical performance data indicates that high rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

As at 31 August 2024 (Unaudited)

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Equities (29.02.2024: 95.84%)		
10,000	AerCap Holdings NV	732,263	3.94%
100,000	Bank of Cyprus Holdings PLC	413,000	2.22%
19,966	Buzzi Unicem SpA	592,506	3.19%
45,000	BW LPG Ltd	526,214	2.83%
160,000	Caixabank SA	730,522	3.93%
4,500	Eiffage SA	358,229	1.93%
18,000	Erste Group Bank AG	747,194	4.02%
35,000	Fortum Oyj	427,767	2.30%
20,000	Fresenius SE & Co KGaA	561,888	3.02%
220,500	Hafnia Ltd	1,337,709	7.19%
3,500	Hannover Rueck SE	754,848	4.06%
4,000	Hochtief AG	373,134	2.01%
270,000	Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	858,364	4.62%
85,000	Just Eat Takeaway.com NV	947,703	5.10%
10,000	Kongsberg Gruppen ASA	806,731	4.34%
40,000	Mowi ASA	530,323	2.85%
119,750	National Bank of Greece SA	783,057	4.21%
5,000	Orion Oyj	199,857	1.07%
20,000	OTP Bank Nyrt	786,569	4.23%
250,173	Piraeus Financial Holdings SA	811,430	4.36%
2,000	Rheinmetall AG	912,816	4.91%
16,000	SalMar ASA	631,543	3.40%
25,000	SBM Offshore NV	358,120	1.93%
3,000	Spotify Technology SA	774,533	4.17%
45,000	Torm PLC	1,228,632	6.61%
4,000	Vinci SA	365,227	1.96%
		17,550,179	94.40%
	Government Bond (29.02.2024: 0.00%)		
700,000	UK T Bill 0% 16/12/2024	689,865	3.70%
		689,865	3.70%
	Forward currency contracts (29.02.2024: 0.01%)		
	FxFWD: DKK/GBP - 30 September 2024	60	0.00%
	FxFWD: EUR/GBP - 30 September 2024	367	0.00%
	FxFWD: HUF/GBP - 30 September 2024	(70)	0.00%
	FxFWD: NOK/GBP - 30 September 2024	(249)	0.00%
	FxFWD: USD/GBP - 30 September 2024	(152)	0.00%
		(44)	0.00%
	Portfolio of investments (29.02.2024: 95.85%)	**18,240,000**	**98.10%**
	Net other assets (29.02.2024: 4.15%)	**353,152**	**1.90%**
		18,593,152	**100.00%**

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

	£
Total purchases for the period	**24,077,911**
Vallourec SA	1,459,309
Eramet SA	1,427,001
Just Eat Takeaway.com NV	1,177,817
Caixabank SA	1,041,575
Erste Group Bank AG	1,005,869
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Government)	975,500
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	942,008
Spotify Technology SA	765,649
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	756,297
TGS ASA	752,028
Other various purchases	13,774,858
Total sales for the period	**23,949,116**
Vallourec SA	1,374,819
Eramet SA	1,055,663
Novo Nordisk A/S	1,032,916
Pandora A/S	1,009,516
Buzzi Unicem SpA	813,465
Tenaris SA	812,830
BE Semiconductor Industries NV	736,150
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	729,523
Saab AB	719,927
Volkswagen AG	718,812
Other various sales	14,945,495

The above transactions represents all the purchases and sales for the period.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six months ended 31 August (unaudited)

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Net capital (losses)		(34,272)		(2,105,561)
Revenue	719,088		1,052,441	
Expenses	(121,165)		(174,257)	
Interest payable and similar charges	(5,050)		(2,056)	
Net revenue before taxation	592,873		876,128	
Taxation	(64,128)		(137,793)	
Net revenue after taxation		528,745		738,335
Total return before distributions		494,473		(1,367,226)
Finance costs: distributions		(13,267)		(736,279)
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		481,206		(2,103,505)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

For the six months ended 31 August (unaudited)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	18,940,685	27,549,724
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	3,320,201	340,399
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(4,148,940)	(7,901,754)
Dividend reinvested	-	520,332
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	481,206	(2,103,505)
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	18,593,152	18,405,196

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be 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 fund net asset value as at 29 February 2024 was £18,940,685

BALANCE SHEET

As at (unaudited)	31.08.2024		29.02.2024	
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Investment assets		18,240,044		18,153,152
Current assets				
Debtors	842,960		571,970	
Cash and bank balances	84,949		670,396	
Total current assets		927,909		1,242,366
Total assets		19,167,953		19,395,518
LIABILITIES				
Investment liabilities		(44)		(672)
Current liabilities				
Distribution payable on income shares	-		(23,244)	
Bank overdraft	(11,907)		(358,684)	
Creditors	(562,850)		(72,233)	
Total current liabilities		(574,757)		(454,161)
Net assets attributable to shareholders		18,593,152		18,940,685

Accounting policies

As noted in the Statement of the Authorised Fund Manager's (AFM's) Responsibilities, this Sub-fund is in the process of terminating and the financial statements for the six months ending 31 August 2024 have been prepared on a basis other than going concern. This differs to the year ended 29 February 2024 where the financial statements were prepared on a going concern basis.

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

DISTRIBUTION TABLES

Interim distributions in pence per share
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 March 2024
Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 March 2024 to 31 August 2024

Unit Type	Share Class	Net Revenue 31.10.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 31.10.2024	Distribution 31.10.2023
Group 1	Class A Retail Net Income	-	-	-	3.7943p
Group 2	Class A Retail Net Income	-	-	-	3.7943p
Group 1	Class A Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	8.5785p
Group 2	Class A Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	8.5785p
Group 1	Class A (Eur) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	3.5362p
Group 2	Class A (Eur) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	3.5362p
Group 1	Class I Institutional Net Income	-	-	-	4.5305p
Group 2	Class I Institutional Net Income	-	-	-	4.5305p
Group 1	Class I Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	9.4645p
Group 2	Class I Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	9.4645p
Group 1	Class I Institutional Net Accumulation (Cur Hdg)	-	-	-	3.5047p
Group 2	Class I Institutional Net Accumulation (Cur Hdg)	-	-	-	3.5047p
Group 1	Class I (Eur) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	4.7272p
Group 2	Class I (Eur) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	4.7272p
Group 1	Class R Retail Net Income	-	-	-	5.2595p
Group 2	Class R Retail Net Income	-	-	-	5.2595p
Group 1	Class R Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	6.1434p
Group 2	Class R Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	6.1434p

SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund	VT Argonaut Absolute Return Fund
Size of Sub-fund	£93,049,343
Launch date	14 July 2012
Sub-fund objective and policy	To provide positive returns over a 3 year period, regardless of market conditions. Capital invested in the Sub-fund is at risk and there is no guarantee that the investment objective will be met over a 3 year, or any other period. The Sub-fund may, at times, invest in a relatively small number of equities, the selection of which will not be restricted either by size, industry, or geographical location of the underlying companies, although exposure is expected to be mainly (over 50% of gross exposure) to companies incorporated in Europe. The Sub-fund may take investment exposure to equities, fixed interest instruments, collective investment schemes (which may include those managed/operated by the AFM) cash and near cash (which includes money market instruments and deposits in any currency). Any such exposures could be gained by direct investment or through funds or derivative instruments. In pursuit of its investment policy, all or a substantial proportion of the Sub-fund's assets may consist of cash, near cash, deposits, warrants and/or money market instruments. The Sub-fund may use derivatives and forward transactions (that is sophisticated investment instruments linked to the rise and fall of the price of other assets) for the purposes of meeting the investment objective or efficient portfolio management.
Investment strategy	The Investment Manager will seek to identify methodically those investments, generally in European markets including the UK and Eastern Europe, with the most and least attractive characteristics for investment. This assessment will be made with a view to being long on stocks with superior or underestimated earnings trends and being short on stocks with inferior or overestimated earnings trends. The investment process will involve traditional long investing (taking a position in a stock on the expectation of the stock rising) and also "shorting" (taking a position with the expectation of the stock falling). Stocks are selected by the Investment Manager primarily on over (shorts) and under (longs) estimated corporate earnings trends with the aim of providing "double alpha" from their stock-picking. Alpha is the difference between our returns and those of the market average. Successfully executed this will result in positive returns from the Sub-fund regardless of market conditions. The Sub-fund may also use leverage to enhance returns or cash to protect capital. The Investment Manager will vary leverage and market exposure according to market conditions. Investment strategies will be achieved through some use of derivative products (which will include contracts for difference (swaps), traded options and financial futures) in the pursuit of the investment objective. Direct investment will be made in equities and corporate debt securities for long exposure whereas exchange-traded financial derivative instruments and over-the-counter financial derivative instruments (together 'derivatives'). Short positions will be generated synthetically through derivatives, designed to allow the Sub-fund to benefit economically from the fall in the price of the underlying securities to which the derivatives relate. In pursuit of its investment policy, all or a substantial proportion of the Sub-fund's assets may consist of cash, near cash, deposits, warrants and/or money market instruments; the Sub-fund may also invest in government bonds and other transferable securities collective investment schemes (and use may be made of stock lending, borrowing, hedging techniques permitted by the FCA Rules).

Investment strategy (continued)

In addition to a cash holding being maintained to contribute to the absolute return, substantial cash holdings could be required in support of derivatives to achieve the same economic return as holding the securities themselves.

The Sub-fund's over-the-counter financial derivatives may be transacted with a single counterparty and strategies may be generated through a single derivative contract. In all circumstances, however, the Sub-fund will comply with the investment restrictions and limits set out in the Prospectus. Derivatives strategies are designed to have the same economic effect as if the Sub-fund were investing directly in the equities underlying the derivatives.

In addition, the Sub-fund has the ability to invest in transferable securities embedding derivatives such as convertible bonds and to employ techniques involving, foreign exchange forwards, futures, options, stock lending and contracts for difference for the purpose of efficient portfolio management. These strategies may be used for reducing risk, reducing cost or generating additional capital for the Sub-fund.

The Sub-fund aims to generate absolute returns from five principal strategies:

- Long investing where there is a strong conviction that the stock price will rise;
- Short investing where there is a strong conviction that the stock price will fall;
- Pair trades – a combination of long and short investments to minimise sector and market risk. This could take the form of arbitrage opportunities such as long corporate debt paired with short equity;
- Cash holdings of up to 100% of the portfolio;
- Leverage to increase exposure to equity and corporate debt securities whether long or short but only to the extent permitted by the FCA Regulations.†

† The AFM has taken the decision to not permit the Sub-fund's leverage to exceed a maximum limit of 200% of the Net Asset Value of the Sub-fund.

Performance Comparator:

The Sub-fund is not managed against any formal benchmark. The Sub-fund uses the Investment Association's (IA) IA Targeted Absolute Return Sector for performance comparison purposes only ("Performance Comparator"). The Performance Comparator is not used as a performance target or as a constraint in relation to the composition of the Sub-fund's portfolio.

The Performance Comparator was chosen because it enables investors to compare the performance of the portfolio against competing funds in the same sector.

The Performance Comparator is used to compare the Sub-fund's rank or quartile as compared to the performance of other Sub-funds in the IA Targeted Absolute Return Sector over a variety of time frames.

The AFM reserves the right to change the comparator following consultation with the Depositary and in accordance with the rules of COLL. A change could arise, for example, where the AFM determines that an alternative may be more appropriate. Shareholders will be notified of such a change, in accordance with the rules in COLL.

Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Ex-distribution dates	31 August, Last day of February
Distribution dates	31 October, 30 April
Individual Savings Account (ISA)	The Sub-fund is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.

Share class information

Share class*	Minimum initial subscription	Minimum subsequent investment	Minimum holding	Minimum redemption	Initial charge **
Class A (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation	£ 500	£ 250	£ 250	£ 100	5.25%
Class R (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation	£ 500	£ 250	£ 250	£ 100	0.00%
Class I (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation	£ 3,000,000	£ 1,000	£ 3,000,000	£ 1,000	0.00%
Class O (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation	£ 500	£ 250	£ 250	£ 100	5.00%
Class A (Eur) (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation	€ 2,500	€ 1,000	€ 2,500	€ 1,000	5.25%
Class I (Eur) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation	€ 3,000,000	€ 1,000	€ 3,000,000	€ 1,000	0.00%
Class O (Eur) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation	€ 2,500	€ 1,000	€ 2,500	€ 1,000	5.00%
Class A (USD) (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation	$ 2,500	$ 1,000	$ 2,500	$ 1,000	5.25%
Class I (USD) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation	$ 3,000,000	$ 1,000	$ 3,000,000	$ 1,000	0.00%
Class O (USD) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation	$ 2,500	$ 1,000	$ 2,500	$ 1,000	5.00%
Class A (CHF) (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation^	2,500 CHF	1,000 CHF	2,500 CHF	1,000 CHF	5.25%
Class I (CHF) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation^	3,000,000 CHF	1,000 CHF	3,000,000 CHF	1,000 CHF	0.00%

^Share classes not launched

* Investors should note the eligibility criteria for each class of share as set out in paragraph 2.2.2 of the Sub-fund's prospectus before subscribing.

**The initial charge is shown as a percentage of the amount invested which is equivalent to 5.5409% of the price of shares.

Annual management charges
In respect of the A shares, it is equal to 1.50% per annum of the net asset value of the A shares.

In respect of the R shares, it is equal to 0.75% per annum of the net asset value of the B shares.

In respect of the I shares, it is equal to 0.75% per annum of the net asset value of the I shares.

In respect of the O shares, it is equal to 1.50% per annum of the net asset value of the O shares.

Performance fee
The performance fee will be calculated and accrued daily but will only become payable annually in arrears in respect of each discrete period of twelve months ending 31 December (the “Performance Period”). The performance fee will accrue daily as if each day were the end of a performance period, therefore if relevant; the fee may be payable upon redemptions and will be paid to the Investment Manager at the end of the performance period. There is no maximum value on the performance fee that could be taken. Full details can be found in the Prospectus.

The amount of performance fee payable in respect of each performance period is a Sterling amount equivalent to the product of:
(a) the higher of:
• the excess performance over 5% (the “Hurdle Rate”); and
• the highest mid price, net of any performance fee, calculated at the end of any previous performance period (the “High Watermark”); the higher being the “Target Price”;
(b) the rate of the performance fee (being 20% of the outperformance of the Target Price); and
(c) the average number of shares in issue during the calculation period.

The accrual for a performance fee shall reflect the average number of shares in issue during the performance period. However, where the actual number of shares in issue (on any day) is less than 95% of the average number of shares in issue shown on the performance fee calculation (which could occur where large redemptions of shares are placed relative to the number of shares in issue in that share class), the average number of shares in issue will be reset to the actual number of shares in issue.

Investment Review

The fund returned -2.8% (Class I (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation) over the 6-month review period (29th February 2024 to 31st August 2024) vs. the IA Targeted Absolute Return sector of +3.8% and the Morningstar equity long/short sector of +3.2%. The correlation of the fund was 0.3 vs. European equities. Over the 5-year period to the end of August 2024 fund has returned +65.7% vs. the IA Targeted Absolute Return sector of +22.9% and the Morningstar equity long/short sector of +23.8%, with a negative correlation to European equities of -0.03*.

During the review period the fund posted good returns on the long book, but these were outweighed by the negative contribution from the short book. In the long book, the biggest winners were Kongsberg Gruppen (+61%), Newmont Corp. (+56%), BW LPG (+56%), Agnico Eagle Mines (+49%) and Rheinmetall (+27%). The largest detractors in the long book were Uber Technologies (-27%), Eramet (-22%) and Western Digital (-17%)**.

In the short book, the biggest winners were Hertz Global Holdings (-58%), SSAB (-26%), Super Micro Computer Inc. (-20%) and Moderna (-19%), whereas the main losers were Hexatronic Group (+87%), Siemens Energy (+56%), Columbia Banking System (+55%) and Tesla (+15%)**.

The six months to 31 August 2024 were an eventful period for European and global equity markets, although overall they ended slightly higher, thereby extending the rally from last October's lows. Lower headline inflation enabled monetary easing expectations to gain momentum (with the US Federal Reserve cutting by 50bp shortly after the end of the period, and the ECB / SNB / BOE also lowering rates) while slowing macroeconomic demand indicators and a raft of political and geopolitical events served to undermine investor risk appetite.

In Europe, French President Macron's decision to call an early parliamentary vote and the right-wing anti-EU National Rally "winning" the first-round of elections led to French stocks underperforming and with no clear election winner in the end, President Macron must now coalesce with the anti-capitalist left-wing New Popular Front. In the US meanwhile a failed assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump in mid-July was the catalyst for a strong rally in low quality, domestic and smaller US stocks, viewed as beneficiaries of Trump's perceived higher probability of re-election.

Elsewhere, at the end of July, the Bank of Japan raised its overnight lending rate to 0.25% (from 0.1%), also signalling a further "normalisation" of rates, and this preceded a further bout of global equity market volatility in early August. Although August ended benignly in the end, the extreme volatility highlighted a fragility in financial markets which were seemingly priced for an immaculate soft landing, with little room for error on the direction of corporate profits, the maintenance of global liquidity or the delivery of interest rate relief. All the while, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to escalate.

In the context of the above we repositioned the Fund for a weaker global economy, initiating some long gold mining positions in early March. With $300bn of Russian financial assets frozen (mostly in Euroclear) countries which dissent from US hegemony are highly incentivised to diversify their assets "outside" the Western banking system to avoid political default risk. As stated previously, we view gold – with a market value of $15trillion, as the most liquid option. It is noteworthy too, when discussing gold, that Chinese holdings of US Treasuries are now down to just $800bn (from $1.2trillion at peak in 2016).

Market Overview | US Presidential Election

These first few months of a new interest rate cutting cycle are to be accompanied by heightened political risk in the US with the US Presidential election on November 5th. Although the mainstream media likes to focus on the personalities of the candidates, it is more useful for investors to study the differences in the economic agenda.

Donald Trump, ironically, is now something of a known quantity with an agenda to reduce corporation tax to 15% for homegrown companies and fund this by raising tariffs on imports (10-20% across the board and 60% on Chinese goods). This was standard Republican economic policy throughout the nineteenth century.

Democrat candidate Kamala Harris, by contrast remains something of an unknown quantity, having been parachuted in as a last-minute replacement, when after four years of vigorous service, President Biden, following a poor Presidential debate, was suddenly discovered to be senile.

In so far as Harris has been willing to reveal her agenda, she proposes rescinding Trump's 2018 personal tax cuts with additional taxes for those earning more than $400k; raising the corporate tax rate to 28% and increasing capital gains tax from 20% to 28%; with a 25% minimum tax on those with wealth above $100m (including unrealised gains). She has also proposed a doubling of the federal minimum wage, quadrupling taxes on share buy backs, banning non-existent "price gouging" and expanding antitrust enforcement.

Market Overview | US Presidential Election (Continued)
Whereas Trump supports cheap and reliable energy, Harris will extend “renewable” subsidies. Neither Trump nor Harris sought to appeal to the middle ground by appointing a more conciliatory candidate as their Vice-President. It therefore would be understandable if major business decisions were postponed until the outcome of the election and the full agenda is known.

When Harris ran unsuccessfully in Democratic Primaries, her views were considered more left-wing than Biden’s. We have recently seen in the UK that left-wing politicians can be uncannily silent on their real intentions until after they are elected.

What may be at stake in November’s election is American “exceptionalism”: its trust in free market enterprise and distrust of big government. So-called Democrat “Progressives” want America to be more like Europe, which with its structurally stagnant GDP per capita, is not something any investor should find compelling.
Moreover, given Trump has said he wants to see a weak currency, and both candidates will likely continue to run big deficits, whomever wins, the outlook for the US dollar is much more uncertain.

Outlook
We continue to find compelling idiosyncratic opportunities from our bottom-up work. Hopes of an AI driven productivity boom continue to dominate certain parts of the stock market and while valuation disciple prevents us owning the most consensual names, we see a compelling opportunity in some less obvious areas, particularly natural gas.

Nuclear is well established as a potential beneficiary of the energy requirements of AI data centres yet natural gas generation requirements will likely benefit also. US-listed TC Energy Corp is an example of the type of position the fund owns – the owner of critical North American energy infrastructure, the company operates a low-risk business model with long-term contracts and minimal direct commodity price exposure.

Standing back, there have been several notable developments in recent months. First, the Federal Reserve declaring victory on inflation with an aggressive 50bps rate cut at a time where although unemployment is rising from a low level, GDPNow is running at a robust +2.5%-3.0%. The yield curve has subsequently steepened which threatens to disappoint expectations that the new easing cycle should reflate the US housing and commercial property markets or make refinancing debt easier for marginal assets. This may mean expectations of a long cutting cycle are either misplaced or irrelevant.

Second, the Central Bank of the People’s Republic of China (PBOC) surprised the market recently with what the commentariat has been quick to term a policy “bazooka”. But the sum of the stimulus measures so far announced are just 1.5% GDP with a further 2.4% GDP rumoured, which in our view is more akin to a “pop gun” relative to the 13% GDP announced in 2008 and 9% GDP in 2015-16. Moreover, whilst the PBOC swap facility for domestic financial institutions has engineered a short squeeze in Chinese equities in time for the 75th birthday celebrations of Communist control, it is unlikely to have sufficient multiplier effects to overcome the structural balance sheet recession and over-supply of over-valued and over-leveraged property.

China’s geopolitical ambition for the Renminbi (Yuan) to achieve reserve status would seem at odds with the obvious reflationary solution to devalue its currency and deploy large-scale QE. It seeks to revive its stock market but continues a policy of hostility to its entrepreneurs and fails to provide international capital the ability to carry out reasonable due diligence or give adequate confidence in property rights. China demonstrates how since capital is always and everywhere allocated less efficiently by the state relative to the “invisible hand” of Adam Smiths’ market economy, it is now stuck in the same economic malaise which ultimately saw the downfall of the Soviet Union forty years earlier.

Third, Mario Draghi’s report into the Euro sclerosis correctly diagnoses many of the problems: high energy prices, over-regulation, lack of productivity and entrepreneurialism. But just as the CCP is constrained by the dogma of “communist” political control, Draghi must offer solutions consistent with the religion of climate change alarmism (and the increase in authority of the EU) hence the risible solution that the EU spend €800bn (4.6% GDP) annually, largely on picking winners in “green technology”. It is beyond Draghi’s intellectual hinterland to ask whether the dogma of “energy transition” is the cause of - not the solution to - economic decline or understand that governments are even worse than fund managers at “picking winners”.

As the great Ronald Reagan once put it “the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: “I’m from the Government and I’m here to help.”” Just like early converts to Christianity were seduced by the promise of miracle healings and life-after-death, converts to the “green” energy transition have been promised the environmental atonement of mankind and the salvation of the polar bear. Just as the early Church thought the crucifixion an unpromising recruiting sergeant, the climate change religion lies about the economic costs of the energy transition, repeating the catechism that expensive renewable energy is cheap and that the costs of its intermittency can be easily overcome.

The European car industry is now in its death throes, sacrificed on the altar of Net Zero. It is not currently - and may never be - possible for the European car industry to profitably produce a desirable mass market EV. Meanwhile, Chinese OEMs who claim to have a battery technology edge but are also backstopped by government subsidies, take market share.

Outlook (Continued)
Without meddling government, EU OEMs would continue to satisfy consumer demands by profitably producing internal combustion engine (ICE) cars, but the EU operates an increasingly penal tax credit and debit system, meaning that its auto manufacturers are coerced into producing fewer ICE cars. The logical consequence is that the EU car industry – like the UK industry historically – will cease to be mass market, resulting in the hollowing out of the European industrial base. Following month end, Iran’s ballistic missile attack on Tel Aviv represents a significant escalation that highlights the future dangers of the Mullah state acquiring a nuclear warhead.

We see the probability that the Middle East conflict continues to escalate, leading to an impairment of Iranian oil exports, offset by increased Saudi production. Linked to this albeit by no means driven by this, we retain our conviction view in gold as well. We have previously outlined the geopolitical appeal of gold with a reshaping of the global economy into two economic blocks, boosting the appeal of “outside money”. With geopolitical conflict unlikely to go away, particularly if, as seems likely, Harris is perceived as weak by America’s enemies and with real interest rates falling and the greenback weakening, the appeal of gold has increased further.

The Fund currently has 11% of NAV in blue-chip gold miners, which despite their ongoing unpopularity, currently not only trade cheaply relative to their history but (according to Argonaut research) are displaying the best positive earnings revisions in the stock market. Like George Bernard Shaw, we believe gold is the best hedge against bad government:

“You have to choose between trusting to the natural stability of gold and the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government. And, with due respect to these gentlemen, I advise you, as long as the capitalist system lasts, to vote for gold.”

We remain grateful to our unitholders for their continued support and look forward to updating them in the coming months.

Barry Norris
Argonaut Capital Partners LLP
Investment Manager to the Fund
October 2024

Date source: * Morningstar
Date source: ** Bloomberg

Financial Highlights

Class A (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share		GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	305.5121	235.1301	241.9389
	Return before operating charges	(6.6802)	74.9234	(2.9684)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(2.4527)	(4.5414)	(3.8404)
	Return after operating charges *	(9.1329)	70.3820	(6.8088)
	Closing net asset value per share	296.3792	305.5121	235.1301
	Distributions on accumulation shares	-	4.4817	3.3991
	*after direct transactions costs of:	1.2941	1.6490	0.0477
Performance				
	Return after charges	(2.99%)	29.93%	(2.81%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	£11,747,776	£9,161,760	£5,960,726
	Closing number of shares	3,963,765	2,998,821	2,535,076
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.63%	1.68%	1.61%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	319.1650	308.4442	282.7941
	Lowest share price	283.2699	233.6934	218.9774

Class A (Eur) (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share				
		EURc	EURc	EURc
	Opening net asset value per share	188.8303	145.5642	150.6643
	Return before operating charges	(5.8687)	46.0750	(2.7155)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.5089)	(2.8089)	(2.3846)
	Return after operating charges *	(7.3776)	43.2661	(5.1001)
	Closing net asset value per share	181.4527	188.8303	145.5642
	Distributions on accumulation shares	-	2.8521	2.1754
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.7961	1.0199	0.0296
Performance				
	Return after charges	(3.91%)	29.72%	(3.39%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	€ 2,849,003	€ 2,277,821	€ 1,784,288
	Closing number of shares	1,570,108	1,206,280	1,225,773
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.63%	1.68%	1.61%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	196.6627	190.6062	175.3945
	Lowest share price	173.3704	144.6188	135.8332

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class A (USD) (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share				
		USDc	USDc	USDc
	Opening net asset value per share	152.2260	116.7598	121.5182
	Return before operating charges	(2.8949)	37.7257	(2.8403)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.2239)	(2.2595)	(1.9181)
	Return after operating charges *	(4.1188)	35.4662	(4.7584)
	Closing net asset value per share	148.1072	152.2260	116.7598
	Distributions on accumulation shares	-	2.3084	1.9707
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.6457	0.8204	0.0238
Performance				
	Return after charges	(2.71%)	30.38%	(3.92%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	$9,546,548	$7,392,744	$4,488,764
	Closing number of shares	6,445,700	4,856,426	3,844,444
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.63%	1.68%	1.61%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	159.1070	153.7122	141.4550
	Lowest share price	141.4290	116.0460	108.7141

Class I (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share				
		GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	340.2762	260.1887	267.2182
	Return before operating charges	(8.0178)	82.8797	(4.7617)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.4763)	(2.7922)	(2.2678)
	Return after operating charges *	(9.4941)	80.0875	(7.0295)
	Closing net asset value per share	330.7821	340.2762	260.1887
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	5.9183	4.3660
	*after direct transactions costs of:	1.4428	1.8314	0.0527
Performance				
	Return after charges	(2.79%)	30.78%	(2.63%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	£75,214,241	£48,573,516	£25,458,876
	Closing number of shares	22,738,304	14,274,730	9,784,773
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.88%	0.93%	0.86%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	355.9210	343.5390	312.9567
	Lowest share price	316.2445	258.6361	242.1453

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class I (Eur) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share				
		EURc	EURc	EURc
	Opening net asset value per share	275.0259	212.8243	219.9703
	Return before operating charges	(7.2571)	64.4701	(5.2850)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.1915)	(2.2685)	(1.8610)
	Return after operating charges *	(8.4486)	62.2016	(7.1460)
	Closing net asset value per share	266.5773	275.0259	212.8243
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	4.9361	3.8874
	*after direct transactions costs of:	1.1644	1.4879	0.0433
Performance				
	Return after charges	(3.07%)	29.23%	(3.25%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	€ 4,660,418	€ 2,910,546	€ 1,985,038
	Closing number of shares	1,748,243	1,058,281	932,712
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.88%	0.93%	0.86%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	286.6943	277.5770	257.7488
	Lowest share price	254.9113	211.4747	198.4557

Class I (USD) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share				
		USDc	USDc	USDc
	Opening net asset value per share	194.2714	147.6584	151.9790
	Return before operating charges	(3.4528)	48.2030	(3.0322)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.8453)	(1.5900)	(1.2884)
	Return after operating charges *	(4.2981)	46.6130	(4.3206)
	Closing net asset value per share	189.9733	194.2714	147.6584
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	3.5302	2.8289
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.8261	1.0429	0.0300
Performance				
	Return after charges	(2.21%)	31.57%	(2.84%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	$9,098,032	$6,701,299	$4,017,607
	Closing number of shares	4,789,111	3,449,452	2,720,880
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.88%	0.93%	0.86%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	203.0596	196.1053	178.2502
	Lowest share price	181.4124	146.7742	137.3407

Financial Highlights (Continued)

Class R (Currency Hedged) Retail Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share		GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	289.2524	221.4443	227.6359
	Return before operating charges	(6.3395)	70.1828	(4.2606)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.2560)	(2.3747)	(1.9310)
	Return after operating charges *	(7.5955)	67.8081	(6.1916)
	Closing net asset value per share	281.6569	289.2524	221.4443
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	5.0862	3.9825
	*after direct transactions costs of:	1.2275	1.5576	0.0449
Performance				
	Return after charges	(2.63%)	30.62%	(2.72%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	£77,049,334	£65,567,137	£40,577,241
	Closing number of shares	27,355,744	22,667,796	18,323,907
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.88%	0.93%	0.86%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	302.3019	292.0224	266.8351
	Lowest share price	269.3334	220.1229	206.0870

Class O (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share		GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	155.4842	119.6514	123.6336
	Return before operating charges	(3.5778)	38.1439	(2.0238)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.2475)	(2.3111)	(1.9584)
	Return after operating charges *	(4.8253)	35.8328	(3.9822)
	Closing net asset value per share	150.6589	155.4842	119.6514
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	2.2856	1.7237
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.6582	0.8392	0.0243
Performance				
	Return after charges	(3.10%)	29.95%	(3.22%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	£13,504,842	£7,245,229	£6,922,236
	Closing number of shares	8,963,853	4,659,786	5,785,337
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.63%	1.68%	1.61%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	162.4672	156.9491	145.2882
	Lowest share price	143.9060	118.9202	111.4315

Financial Highlights (Continued)
Class O (Eur) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share		EURc	EURc	EURc
	Opening net asset value per share	150.0956	116.2575	121.8838
	Return before operating charges	(3.9494)	36.0755	(3.7093)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.2023)	(2.2374)	(1.9170)
	Return after operating charges *	(5.1517)	33.8381	(5.6263)
	Closing net asset value per share	144.9439	150.0956	116.2575
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	2.2575	1.8335
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.6343	0.8124	0.0238
Performance				
	Return after charges	(3.43%)	29.11%	(4.62%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	€ 1,931,723	€ 1,037,583	€ 1,156,208
	Closing number of shares	1,332,738	691,281	994,523
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.63%	1.68%	1.61%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	156.4726	151.4940	142.2586
	Lowest share price	138.5198	115.5037	108.5200

Class O (USD) (Currency Hedged) Institutional Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share		USDc	USDc	USDc
	Opening net asset value per share	153.4498	117.4775	121.9787
	Return before operating charges	(3.2214)	38.2481	(2.5736)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(1.2325)	(2.2758)	(1.9276)
	Return after operating charges *	(4.4539)	35.9723	(4.5012)
	Closing net asset value per share	148.9959	153.4498	117.4775
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	-	2.3490	1.9468
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.6503	0.8263	0.0239
Performance				
	Return after charges	(2.90%)	30.62%	(3.69%)
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	$8,190,290	$5,817,891	$3,536,258
	Closing number of shares	5,496,989	3,791,397	3,010,159
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.63%	1.68%	1.61%
	Performance fee	0.00%	3.26%	0.79%
	Direct transaction costs	0.43%	0.61%	0.02%
Prices				
	Highest share price	160.2773	154.8987	142.7770
	Lowest share price	142.0988	116.7780	109.3863

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 operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

Risk Profile

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '6' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document 29 February 2024: ranked 6). The Sub-fund is ranked 6 because historical performance data indicates that high rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

As at 31 August 2024 (Unaudited)

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Equities (29.02.2024: 89.71%)		
115,000	AerCap Holdings NV	8,421,020	4.09%
160,000	Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd	9,966,482	4.84%
70,000	Amazon.com Inc	9,143,531	4.44%
620,000	Barrick Gold Corp	9,565,631	4.65%
110,000	Bristol-Myers Squibb Co	4,151,411	2.02%
6,500	First Citizens BancShares Inc (Delaware)	9,814,102	4.77%
2,236,745	Hafnia Ltd	13,569,677	6.59%
964,735	Just Eat Takeaway.com NV	10,756,258	5.23%
129,491	Kongsberg Gruppen ASA	10,446,446	5.08%
23,000	Meta Platforms Inc	9,045,026	4.40%
299,980	Mowi ASA	3,977,159	1.93%
1,200,409	National Bank of Greece SA	7,849,595	3.81%
250,000	Newmont Corporation	10,089,576	4.90%
235,000	OTP Bank Nyrt	9,242,190	4.49%
2,500,349	Piraeus Financial Holdings SA	8,109,818	3.94%
21,000	Rheinmetall AG	9,584,568	4.66%
100,000	SalMar ASA	3,947,145	1.92%
36,000	Spotify Technology SA	9,294,400	4.52%
150,000	Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd	2,132,130	1.04%
440,109	Torm PLC	12,016,270	5.84%
50,000	Grifols SA	357,909	0.17%
		171,480,344	83.33%
	Collective Investment Schemes (29.02.2024: 0.04%)		
10,056,842	Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Reserves Value	10,056,840	4.89%
		10,056,840	4.89%
	Contracts for Difference (29.02.2024: 0.53%)		
(18,000)	Advanced Micro Devices Inc	44,602	0.02%
(110,000)	Antofagasta PLC	38,225	0.02%
(300,000)	Arbor Realty Trust Inc	16,467	0.01%
(15,000)	Aurubis AG	(40,375)	(0.02%)
(130,000)	Azelis Group NV	(176,599)	(0.09%)
(60,000)	Bank Ozk	(87,653)	(0.04%)
619,831	Barratt Developments PLC	(210,123)	(0.10%)
1,050,000	Beazley PLC	78,750	0.04%
(30,000)	Birkenstock Holding PLC	33,563	0.02%
(60,000)	Capri Holdings Ltd	(120,306)	(0.06%)
(8,000)	Charter Communications Inc	2,186	-
(5,500)	Credit Acceptance Corp	(72,209)	(0.04%)
(100,000)	Columbia Banking System Inc	(106,246)	(0.05%)
(120,000)	Diageo PLC	17,904	0.01%
(15,000)	Dutch Bros Inc	10,357	0.01%
(75,000)	EchoStar Corp	(35,807)	(0.02%)
(160,000)	EDP Renovaveis SA	(68,914)	(0.03%)
780,000	Energy Transfer LP	(22,057)	(0.01%)
(22,000)	Eurofins Scientific SE	(13,324)	(0.01%)
(20,594)	Eramet SA	(5,772)	-
(450,000)	Fevertree Drinks PLC	58,688	0.03%
(649,987)	Figs Inc	(283,633)	(0.14%)
(20,000)	Floor & Decor Holdings Inc	(3,595)	-
(60,000)	Freeport-McMoRan Inc	(11,156)	(0.01%)
(300,000)	Full Truck Alliance Co Ltd	83,612	0.04%
(200,000)	Grifols SA	(331,581)	(0.16%)
(850,000)	Hertz Global Holdings Inc	177,393	0.09%
(300,380)	Hexatronic Group AB	(133,305)	(0.06%)
2,800,000	Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	604,854	0.29%

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Contracts for Difference (continued)		
400,000	Kinder Morgan Inc	98,657	0.05%
649,999	Lancashire Holdings Ltd	79,490	0.04%
(6,000)	LOreal SA	(77,848)	(0.04%)
(900,398)	Medical Properties Trust Inc	338,239	0.16%
(50,000)	Moderna Inc	342,264	0.17%
(70,000)	Munters Group AB	(20,226)	(0.01%)
(6,000,053)	Nel ASA	160,483	0.08%
(500,000)	Nibe Industrier AB	(82,424)	(0.04%)
(2,000,069)	Orron Energy AB	110,247	0.05%
(55,151)	Oersted A/S	(22,334)	(0.01%)
200,418	Persimmon PLC	(60,626)	(0.03%)
699,847	Plains All American Pipeline LP	204,490	0.10%
230,000	Plus500 Ltd	273,700	0.13%
(160,000)	Rivian Automotive Inc	(50,844)	(0.02%)
(75,000)	Salzgitter AG	(30,912)	(0.02%)
(5,000)	Sartorius AG	(60,387)	(0.03%)
(250,000)	Scatec ASA	(15,334)	(0.01%)
(1,000,000)	SSAB AB	68,178	0.03%
(45,000)	Starbucks Corp	(34,716)	(0.02%)
(12,000)	Swatch Group AG	9,074	-
(40,000)	Sweetgreen Inc	17,282	0.01%
2,000,000	Taylor Wimpey PLC	(50,000)	(0.02%)
(50,000)	Teck Resources Ltd	46,230	0.02%
(12,000)	Teleperformance SE	40,628	0.02%
(38,000)	Tesla Motors Inc	248,609	0.12%
(25,000)	Topgolf Callaway Brands Corp	609	-
(35,000)	Trupanion Inc	(105,051)	(0.05%)
(190,000)	Umicore SA	(15,183)	(0.01%)
(330,085)	Valley National Bancorp	(108,968)	(0.05%)
(170,000)	Vestas Wind Systems A/S	89,112	0.04%
(50,000)	Victorias Secret & Co	15,622	0.01%
240,000	Vistry Group PLC	28,800	0.01%
(1,000,000)	Volvo Car AB	(42,416)	(0.02%)
(30,000)	Wacker Chemie AG	(43,193)	(0.02%)
(299,634)	Watches of Switzerland Group PLC	(25,769)	(0.01%)
(1,500)	Wingstop Inc	13,660	0.01%
		783,089	0.38%
	Forward currency contracts (29.02.2024: (0.12%))		
	FxFWD: DKK/GBP - 30 September 2024	23,085	0.01%
	FxFWD: EUR/GBP - 30 September 2024	52,354	0.03%
	FxFWD: HUF/GBP - 30 September 2024	(2,115)	-
	FxFWD: NOK/GBP - 30 September 2024	43,663	0.02%
	FxFWD: SEK/GBP - 30 September 2024	168	-
	FxFWD: USD/GBP - 30 September 2024	(248,632)	(0.12%)
		(131,477)	(0.06%)
	Hedged currency forward contracts (29.02.2024: 0.04%)		
	FxFWD: USD/GBP - 30 September 2024	21,826	0.01%
	FxFWD: EUR/GBP - 30 September 2024	(5,545)	-
	FxFWD: USD/GBP - 30 September 2024	20,999	0.01%
	FxFWD: EUR/GBP - 30 September 2024	(2,299)	-
	FxFWD: USD/GBP - 30 September 2024	18,893	0.01%
	FxFWD: EUR/GBP - 30 September 2024	(3,391)	-
		50,483	0.03%
	Portfolio of investments (29.02.2024: 90.20%)	**182,239,279**	**88.57%**
	Net other assets (29.02.2024: 9.80%)	**23,526,926**	**11.43%**
		205,766,205	**100.00%**

	£
Total purchases for the period	**455,994,122**
Western Digital Corp	24,437,476
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd	22,665,858
Newmont Corporation	21,101,010
Barrick Gold Corp	21,040,973
Amazon.com Inc	19,672,157
Spotify Technology SA	14,617,197
Rheinmetall AG	14,563,248
First Citizens BancShares Inc (Delaware)	13,497,186
Hafnia Ltd	12,860,715
Micron Technology Inc	12,514,664
Other various purchases	279,023,638

	£
Total sales for the period	**410,277,865**
Western Digital Corp	21,959,739
Amazon.com Inc	17,576,624
Uber Technologies Inc	16,261,479
Alphabet Inc	15,996,083
Microsoft Corp	14,787,392
Rheinmetall AG	14,214,459
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd	14,156,316
Cameco Corp	14,056,722
Viatris Inc	13,706,322
Newmont Corporation	12,752,323
Other various sales	254,810,406

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

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six months ended 31 August (unaudited)

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Net capital (losses)/gains		(12,818,188)		3,994,873
Revenue	6,215,235		3,515,787	
Expenses	(144,410)		(511,658)	
Interest payable and similar charges	(826,540)		(503,226)	
Net revenue before taxation	5,244,285		2,500,903	
Taxation	(317,041)		(448,443)	
Net revenue after taxation		4,927,244		2,052,460
Total return before distributions		(7,890,944)		6,047,333
Finance costs: distributions		205,276		(2,092,942)
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		(7,685,668)		3,954,391

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

For the six months ended 31 August (unaudited)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	151,572,446	93,049,343
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	91,948,406	21,441,986
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(30,068,979)	(20,188,608)
Dividends reinvested	-	2,077,469
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	(7,685,668)	3,954,391
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	205,766,205	100,334,581

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be 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 fund net asset value as at 28 February 2024 was £151,572,446

BALANCE SHEET

As at (unaudited)	31.08.2024		29.02.2024	
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Investment assets		182,501,261		137,900,836
Current assets				
Debtors	10,125,705		11,500,362	
Cash and bank balances	33,282,453		19,284,279	
Total current assets		43,408,158		30,784,641
Total assets		225,909,419		168,685,477
LIABILITIES				
Investment liabilities		(261,982)		(1,179,473)
Current liabilities				
Bank overdraft	(7,115,873)		(6,676,345)	
Creditors	(12,765,359)		(9,257,213)	
Total current liabilities		(19,881,232)		(15,933,558)
Net assets attributable to shareholders		205,766,205		151,572,446

Accounting policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the period ended 29 February 2024 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds (SORP) issued by the Investment Association (IA) in May 2014 and the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017. The functional currency is Sterling.

Interim distributions in pence per share
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 March 2024
Group 2 : Shares purchased 01 March 2024 to 31 August 2024

Unit Type	Share Class	Net Revenue 31.10.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 31.10.2024	Distribution 31.10.2023
Group 1	Class A (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	4.4817p
Group 2	Class A (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	4.4817p
Group 1	Class A (Eur) (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	2.4457p
Group 2	Class A (Eur) (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	2.4457p
Group 1	Class A (USD) (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.8205p
Group 2	Class A (USD) (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.8205p
Group 1	Class I (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	5.9183p
Group 2	Class I (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	5.9183p
Group 1	Class I (Eur) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	4.2327p
Group 2	Class I (Eur) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	4.2327p
Group 1	Class I (USD) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	2.7841p
Group 2	Class I (USD) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	2.7841p
Group 1	Class R (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	5.0862p
Group 2	Class R (Cur Hdg) Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	5.0862p
Group 1	Class O (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	2.2856p
Group 2	Class O (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	2.2856p
Group 1	Class O (Eur) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.9358p
Group 2	Class O (Eur) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.9358p
Group 1	Class O (USD) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.8525p
Group 2	Class O (USD) (Cur Hdg) Institutional Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.8525p

Name of Sub-fund	VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund
Size of Sub-fund	£3,897,974
Launch date	30 December 2016
Sub-fund objective and policy	The Sub-fund aims to provide an income (net of fees) in excess of the yield of the European market (as represented by the IA Europe ex UK sector) with capital growth over any 5 year calendar period. The Sub-fund will invest in a concentrated portfolio of approximately 30-60 stocks. The Sub-fund will invest predominantly in securities of companies incorporated in Europe (including up to 5% in UK companies). The Sub-fund may also invest in companies that are headquartered or quoted outside Europe which derive a significant part of their business from Europe and whose securities are listed or traded on an eligible securities or derivatives exchange. The Sub-fund may also invest in emerging European markets including Russia and Eastern Europe. The Sub-fund is not constrained by any index weightings and will not concentrate on any particular country, sector or market capitalisation. To aid liquidity, the Sub-fund also has the ability to invest in assets such as American Depositary Receipts and Global Depositary Receipts. The Sub-fund may also invest in other transferable securities, units in collective investment schemes, money market instruments and deposits. The Sub-fund may make use of derivatives and forward transactions for the purposes of investment and for efficient portfolio management, including the use of hedging techniques and stock lending.
Benchmark	The Sub-fund aims to provide an income (net of fees) in excess of the yield of the IA (Investment Association's) Europe ex UK sector with capital growth over any 5 year calendar period. The Europe ex UK sector is therefore a target benchmark against which the performance of the Fund has been set ("Target Benchmark"). Investors may use the Sub-fund's performance against the Target Benchmark to assess the risks of investing in the Sub-fund.
Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Ex-distribution dates	30 November, last day of February, 31 May, 31 August
Distribution dates	15 January, 15 April, 15 July, 15 October
Individual Savings Account (ISA)	The Sub-fund is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.

Share class information

Share class*	Minimum initial	Minimum subsequent	Minimum holding	Minimum redemption	Initial charge
Class R Retail Net Income	£500	£250	£250	£100	0.00%
Class R Retail Net Accumulation	£500	£250	£250	£100	0.00%
Class R (currency hedged) Retail Net Income^	£500	£250	£250	£100	0.00%
Class R (currency hedged) Retail Net Accumulation^	£500	£250	£250	£100	0.00%

^Share classes not launched

* Investors should note the eligibility criteria for each class of share as set out in paragraph 2.2.2 of the Sub-fund's prospectus before subscribing.

Annual management charges

In respect of the R shares, it is equal to 0.65% per annum of the net asset value of the relevant share class.

Changes to Sub-fund

On 26 September 2024, scheme of arrangement was approved by shareholders for VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund to merge into VT Argonaut Flexible Fund. This was effective on 11 October 2024. The FCA has approved the commencement of termination for VT Argonaut Equity Income fund effective 11 October 2024.

Investment Review

The fund posted a gain of +3.9%, Class R Retail Net Accumulation over the 6-month review period (29th February 2024 to 31st August 2024) vs. the IA Europe-ex-UK Equity sector of +4.1%. Since launch the fund has delivered a return of +79.6% vs. a peer group of +76.9% (63/106 funds) in the IA Europe-ex-UK Equity sector and +58.6% in its European-ex-UK peer group (1/8 funds)*.

The biggest winners within the underlying portfolio during the review period were defence contractor Kongsberg Gruppen (+61%), petroleum shipping company BW LPG (+54%), Spanish bank Caixabank (+34%), German weaponsmith Rheinmetall AG (+27%) and Italian bank Intesa Sanpaolo (+25%). While the Fund generated a positive return overall, the largest detractors in the period were Norwegian Salmon farming company Greig Seafood (-32%), chip manufacturer BE Semiconductor Industries (-29%) and steel manufacturer Tenaris (-20%)**.

The six months to 31 August 2024 were an eventful period for European equity markets, although overall they ended slightly higher, thereby extending the rally from last October's lows. Lower headline inflation enabled monetary easing expectations to gain momentum (with the US Federal Reserve cutting by 50bp shortly after the end of the period, and the ECB / SNB / BOE also lowering rates) while slowing macroeconomic demand indicators and a raft of political and geopolitical events served to undermine investor risk appetite.

In Europe, French President Macron's decision to call an early parliamentary vote and the right-wing anti-EU National Rally "winning" the first-round of elections led to French stocks underperforming and with no clear election winner in the end, President Macron must now coalesce with the anti-capitalist left-wing New Popular Front. In the US meanwhile a failed assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump in mid-July was the catalyst for a strong rally in low quality, domestic and smaller US stocks, viewed as beneficiaries of Trump's perceived higher probability of re-election.

Elsewhere, at the end of July, the Bank of Japan raised its overnight lending rate to 0.25% (from 0.1%), also signalling a further "normalisation" of rates, and this preceded a further bout of global equity market volatility in early August. Although August ended benignly in the end, the extreme volatility highlighted a fragility in financial markets which were seemingly priced for an immaculate soft landing, with little room for error on the direction of corporate profits, the maintenance of global liquidity or the delivery of interest rate relief. All the while, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to escalate.

In the context of the above we repositioned the Fund for a weaker global economy, initiating some long gold mining positions in early March. With $300bn of Russian financial assets frozen (mostly in Euroclear) countries which dissent from US hegemony are highly incentivised to diversify their assets "outside" the Western banking system to avoid political default risk. As stated previously, we view gold – with a market value of $15trillion, as the most liquid option. It is noteworthy too, when discussing gold, that Chinese holdings of US Treasuries are now down to just $800bn (from $1.2trillion at peak in 2016).

Market Overview | US Presidential Election

These first few months of a new interest rate cutting cycle are to be accompanied by heightened political risk in the US with the US Presidential election on November 5th. Although the mainstream media likes to focus on the personalities of the candidates, it is more useful for investors to study the differences in the economic agenda.

Donald Trump, ironically, is now something of a known quantity with an agenda to reduce corporation tax to 15% for homegrown companies and fund this by raising tariffs on imports (10-20% across the board and 60% on Chinese goods). This was standard Republican economic policy throughout the nineteenth century.

Democrat candidate Kamala Harris, by contrast remains something of an unknown quantity, having been parachuted in as a last-minute replacement, when after four years of vigorous service, President Biden, following a poor Presidential debate, was suddenly discovered to be senile.

In so far as Harris has been willing to reveal her agenda, she proposes rescinding Trump's 2018 personal tax cuts with additional taxes for those earning more than $400k; raising the corporate tax rate to 28% and increasing capital gains tax from 20% to 28%; with a 25% minimum tax on those with wealth above $100m (including unrealised gains). She has also proposed a doubling of the federal minimum wage, quadrupling taxes on share buy backs, banning non-existent "price gouging" and expanding antitrust enforcement.

Whereas Trump supports cheap and reliable energy, Harris will extend "renewable" subsidies. Neither Trump nor Harris sought to appeal to the middle ground by appointing a more conciliatory candidate as their Vice-President. It therefore would be understandable if major business decisions were postponed until the outcome of the election and the full agenda is known.

When Harris ran unsuccessfully in Democratic Primaries, her views were considered more left-wing than Biden's. We have recently seen in the UK that left-wing politicians can be uncannily silent on their real intentions until after they are elected.

What may be at stake in November's election is American "exceptionalism": its trust in free market enterprise and distrust of big government. So-called Democrat "Progressives" want America to be more like Europe, which with its structurally stagnant GDP per capita, is not something any investor should find compelling.

Market Overview | US Presidential Election (Continued)
Moreover, given Trump has said he wants to see a weak currency, and both candidates will likely continue to run big deficits, whomever wins, the outlook for the US dollar is much more uncertain.

Outlook
We continue to find compelling idiosyncratic opportunities from our bottom-up work. Hopes of an AI driven productivity boom continue to dominate certain parts of the stock market and while valuation disciple prevents us owning the most consensual names, we see a compelling opportunity in some less obvious areas, particularly natural gas.

Nuclear is well established as a potential beneficiary of the energy requirements of AI data centres yet natural gas generation requirements will likely benefit also. US-listed TC Energy Corp is an example of the type of position the fund owns – the owner of critical North American energy infrastructure, the company operates a low-risk business model with long-term contracts and minimal direct commodity price exposure.

Standing back, there have been several notable developments in recent months. First, the Federal Reserve declaring victory on inflation with an aggressive 50bps rate cut at a time where although unemployment is rising from a low level, GDPNow is running at a robust +2.5%-3.0%. The yield curve has subsequently steepened which threatens to disappoint expectations that the new easing cycle should reflate the US housing and commercial property markets or make refinancing debt easier for marginal assets. This may mean expectations of a long cutting cycle are either misplaced or irrelevant.

Second, the Central Bank of the People's Republic of China (PBOC) surprised the market recently with what the commentariat has been quick to term a policy "bazooka". But the sum of the stimulus measures so far announced are just 1.5% GDP with a further 2.4% GDP rumoured, which in our view is more akin to a "pop gun" relative to the 13% GDP announced in 2008 and 9% GDP in 2015-16. Moreover, whilst the PBOC swap facility for domestic financial institutions has engineered a short squeeze in Chinese equities in time for the 75th birthday celebrations of Communist control, it is unlikely to have sufficient multiplier effects to overcome the structural balance sheet recession and over-supply of over-valued and over-leveraged property.

China's geopolitical ambition for the Renminbi (Yuan) to achieve reserve status would seem at odds with the obvious reflationary solution to devalue its currency and deploy large-scale QE. It seeks to revive its stock market but continues a policy of hostility to its entrepreneurs and fails to provide international capital the ability to carry out reasonable due diligence or give adequate confidence in property rights. China demonstrates how since capital is always and everywhere allocated less efficiently by the state relative to the "invisible hand" of Adam Smiths' market economy, it is now stuck in the same economic malaise which ultimately saw the downfall of the Soviet Union forty years earlier.

Third, Mario Draghi's report into the Euro sclerosis correctly diagnoses many of the problems: high energy prices, over-regulation, lack of productivity and entrepreneurialism. But just as the CCP is constrained by the dogma of "communist" political control, Draghi must offer solutions consistent with the religion of climate change alarmism (and the increase in authority of the EU) hence the risible solution that the EU spend €800bn (4.6% GDP) annually, largely on picking winners in "green technology". It is beyond Draghi's intellectual hinterland to ask whether the dogma of "energy transition" is the cause of - not the solution to - economic decline or understand that governments are even worse than fund managers at "picking winners".

As the great Ronald Reagan once put it "the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help."" Just like early converts to Christianity were seduced by the promise of miracle healings and life-after-death, converts to the "green" energy transition have been promised the environmental atonement of mankind and the salvation of the polar bear. Just as the early Church thought the crucifixion an unpromising recruiting sergeant, the climate change religion lies about the economic costs of the energy transition, repeating the catechism that expensive renewable energy is cheap and that the costs of its intermittency can be easily overcome.

The European car industry is now in its death throes, sacrificed on the altar of Net Zero. It is not currently - and may never be - possible for the European car industry to profitably produce a desirable mass market EV. Meanwhile, Chinese OEMs who claim to have a battery technology edge but are also backstopped by government subsidies, take market share.

Without meddling government, EU OEMs would continue to satisfy consumer demands by profitably producing internal combustion engine (ICE) cars, but the EU operates an increasingly penal tax credit and debit system, meaning that its auto manufacturers are coerced into producing fewer ICE cars. The logical consequence is that the EU car industry – like the UK industry historically – will cease to be mass market, resulting in the hollowing out of the European industrial base. Following month end, Iran's ballistic missile attack on Tel Aviv represents a significant escalation that highlights the future dangers of the Mullah state acquiring a nuclear warhead.

We remain grateful to our unitholders for their continued support and look forward to updating them in the coming months.

Barry Norris - Argonaut Capital Partners LLP - Investment Manager to the Fund - October 2024

Date source: * Morningstar, ** Bloomberg

Financial Highlights

Class R Retail Net Income

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share		GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	119.4598	120.5631	111.0305
	Return before operating charges	5.4977	8.0841	19.5643
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.5101)	(1.0201)	(0.9843)
	Return after operating charges *	4.9876	7.0640	18.5801
	Distributions on income shares	(3.8394)	(8.1673)	(9.0475)
	Closing net asset value per share	120.6080	119.4598	120.5631
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.4801	0.4680	0.8685
Performance				
	Return after charges	4.18%	5.86%	16.73%
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	£2,355,948	£1,898,752	£1,992,148
	Closing number of shares	1,953,393	1,589,449	1,652,369
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.85%	0.85%	0.85%
	Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.39%	0.75%
Prices				
	Highest share price	136.4618	123.6602	126.5303
	Lowest share price	114.4868	104.9657	107.8590

Class R Retail Net Accumulation

		Period ending 31 August 2024	Year ended 29 February 2024	Year ended 28 February 2023
Changes in net assets per share				
		GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	172.8749	163.0326	138.5356
	Return before operating charges	7.4533	11.2699	25.7787
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.7490)	(1.4276)	(1.2817)
	Return after operating charges *	6.7043	9.8423	24.4970
	Closing net asset value per share	179.5792	172.8749	163.0326
	Distributions on accumulation shares	5.5561	9.9560	11.7351
	*after direct transactions costs of:	1.4979	0.6550	1.2817
Performance				
	Return after charges	3.88%	6.04%	17.68%
Other information				
	Closing net asset value	£1,543,461	£1,157,430	£1,544,522
	Closing number of shares	859,488	669,519	947,370
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.85%	0.85%	0.85%
	Direct transaction costs	0.40%	0.39%	0.75%
Prices				
	Highest share price	199.0932	173.9490	166.0864
	Lowest share price	170.4651	146.7769	135.7156

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 operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

Risk Profile

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '6' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (29 February 2024: ranked 6). The Sub-fund is ranked 6 because historical performance data indicates that significant rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

As at 31 August 2024 (unaudited)

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Equities (29.02.2024: 97.91%)		
2,500	AerCap Holdings NV	183,066	4.70%
20,000	Bank of Cyprus Holdings PLC	82,600	2.12%
3,000	Buzzi Unicem SpA	89,027	2.28%
10,000	BW LPG Ltd	116,936	3.00%
34,000	Caixabank SA	155,236	3.98%
1,200	Eiffage SA	95,528	2.45%
4,000	Erste Group Bank AG	166,043	4.26%
7,000	Fortum Oyj	85,553	2.19%
3,000	Fresenius SE & Co KGaA	84,283	2.16%
40,047	Hafnia Ltd	242,953	6.23%
500	Hannover Rueck SE	107,835	2.77%
1,000	Hochtief AG	93,284	2.39%
60,000	Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	190,748	4.89%
15,000	Just Eat Takeaway.com NV	167,242	4.29%
2,000	Kongsberg Gruppen ASA	161,346	4.14%
8,000	Mowi ASA	106,065	2.72%
19,671	National Bank of Greece SA	128,631	3.30%
1,200	Orion Oyj	47,966	1.23%
4,000	OTP Bank Nyrt	157,314	4.04%
50,000	Piraeus Financial Holdings SA	162,174	4.16%
400	Rheinmetall AG	182,563	4.68%
2,500	SalMar ASA	98,679	2.53%
8,000	SBM Offshore NV	114,598	2.94%
500	Spotify Technology SA	129,089	3.31%
1,500	Swiss Re AG	155,769	4.00%
8,000	Torm PLC	218,424	5.61%
1,000	Vinci SA	91,305	2.35%
		3,614,257	92.72%
	Collective Investment Schemes (29.02.2024: 0.00%)		
150,000	Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Reserves Value	150,000	3.85%
		150,000	3.85%
	Portfolio of investments (29.02.2024: 97.91%)	**3,764,257**	**96.57%**
	Net other assets (29.02.2024: 2.09%)	**133,717**	**3.43%**
		3,897,974	**100.00%**

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

	£
Total purchases for the period	**5,282,444**
Eramet SA	252,307
Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Reserves Value	250,000
Piraeus Financial Holdings SA	226,170
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	213,775
Caixabank SA	197,436
AerCap Holdings NV	185,787
Vallourec SA	185,408
Grieg Seafood ASA	175,316
Just Eat Takeaway.com NV	161,338
Erste Group Bank AG	159,855
Other various purchases	3,275,052

	£
Total sales for the period	**4,445,657**
Eramet SA	177,211
BE Semiconductor Industries NV	168,064
Novo Nordisk A/S	166,568
Tenaris SA	162,981
Vallourec SA	162,613
Saab AB	137,580
Seadrill Ltd	134,386
Grieg Seafood ASA	133,102
Leonardo SpA	131,941
Pandora A/S	125,699
Other various sales	2,945,512

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

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six months ended 31 August (unaudited)

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Net capital (losses)		(65,314)		(328,590)
Revenue	178,559		174,429	
Expenses	(41,495)		(47,044)	
Interest payable and similar charges	(639)		(227)	
Net revenue before taxation	136,425		127,158	
Taxation	(15,256)		(26,196)	
Net revenue after taxation		121,169		100,962
Total return before distributions		55,855		(227,628)
Finance costs: distributions		(101,005)		(148,006)
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		(45,150)		(375,634)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

For the six months ended 31 August (unaudited)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	3,054,428	3,534,218
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	1,793,141	601,715
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(948,291)	(741,773)
Dividend reinvested	43,846	64,620
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	(45,150)	(375,634)
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	3,897,974	3,083,146

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be 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 fund net asset value as at 28 February 2024 was £3,054,428.

BALANCE SHEET

As at (unaudited)	31.08.2024		29.02.2024	
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Investment assets		3,764,257		2,990,606
Current assets				
Debtors	194,958		65,064	
Cash and bank balances	45,765		101,459	
Total current assets		240,723		166,523
Total assets		4,004,980		3,157,129
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Distribution payable on income shares	-		(20,831)	
Bank overdraft	(32,218)		(53,890)	
Creditors	(74,788)		(27,980)	
Total current liabilities		(107,006)		(102,701)
Net assets attributable to shareholders		3,897,974		3,054,428

Accounting policies

As noted in the Statement of the Authorised Fund Manager's (AFM's) Responsibilities, this Sub-fund is in the process of terminating and the financial statements for the six months ending 31 August 2024 have been prepared on a basis other than going concern. This differs to the year ended 29 February 2024 where the financial statements were prepared on a going concern basis.

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

Q1 Interim distributions in pence per share
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 March 2024
Group 2 : Shares purchased 01 March 2024 to 31 May 2024

Unit Type	Share Class	Net Revenue 15.07.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 15.07.2024	Distribution 14.07.2023
Group 1	Class R Retail Net Income	3.8394p	-	3.8394p	3.7216p
Group 2	Class R Retail Net Income	1.9328p	1.9066p	3.8394p	3.7216p
Group 1	Class R Retail Net Accumulation	5.5561p	-	5.5561p	5.0327p
Group 2	Class R Retail Net Accumulation	2.6342p	2.9219p	5.5561p	5.0327p

Q2 Interim distributions in pence per share
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 June 2024
Group 2 : Shares purchased 01 June 2024 to 31 August 2024

Unit Type	Share Class	Net Revenue 15.10.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 15.10.2024	Distribution 13.10.2023
Group 1	Class R Retail Net Income	-	-	-	1.2781p
Group 2	Class R Retail Net Income	-	-	-	1.2781p
Group 1	Class R Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.7853p
Group 2	Class R Retail Net Accumulation	-	-	-	1.7853p

Individual shareholders

Income tax: Tax-free annual dividend allowance now standing at £500 (2024/25). 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 £3,000 (2024/25) 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 has no corporation tax to pay on its profits in the VT Argonaut Funds for the period ended 31 August 2024. 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 prevailing rates 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 between 8.30am and 5.30pm. Instructions may be given by email to the below email addresses or by sending an application form to the Registrar. Application forms are available from the Registrar.

For VT Argonaut European Alpha Fund, VT Argonaut Absolute Return Fund and VT Argonaut Equity Income Fund; Argonaut@valu-trac.com

The price of shares will be determined by reference to a valuation of the Company's net assets at 12 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.

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. A contract note will be issued by close of business on the next business day after the dealing date to confirm the transaction.

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.

Where shares are redeemed, payment will be made not later than the close of business on the fourth business day following the next valuation point after receipt by the AFM of a request for redemption.

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

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("TCFD") reports

The AFM is required to prepare and publish a product TCFD report for each Sub-fund along with an entity level TCFD report. The latest reports can be obtained from https://www.valu-trac.com/administration-services/tcfd_reports.

Authorised Fund Manager & Registrar	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited Orton Fochabers Moray IV32 7QE Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Investment Manager	Argonaut Capital Partners LLP 4th Floor 115 George Street Edinburgh EH2 4JN 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 regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Auditor	Johnston Carmichael LLP Chartered Accountants Strathlossie House Kirkhill Avenue Elgin IV30 8DE