

The Stellar Fund

Annual Report

for the year ended 5 April 2025

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The Stellar Fund

Report of the Authorised Corporate Director ('ACD')

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL'), as ACD, presents herewith the Annual Report for The Stellar Fund for the year ended 5 April 2025.

The Stellar Fund ('the Company' or 'the Fund') is an authorised open-ended investment company with variable capital ('ICVC') further to an authorisation order dated 29 April 2008. The Company is incorporated under registration number IC000616. It is a non-UCITS retail scheme ('NURS') complying with the investment and borrowing powers rules in the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') and the Investment Funds sourcebook ('FUND'), as published by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA'). As the Company is a NURS, the ACD also acts as Alternative Investment Fund Manager ('AIFM') in order to comply with the Alternative Investment Fund Manager's Directive ('AIFMD').

The ACD is of the opinion that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts as the assets of the Company consist predominantly of securities which are readily realisable and, accordingly, the Company has adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Further, appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, have been used in the preparation of these accounts and applicable accounting standards have been followed.

The Financial Stability Board ('FSB') created the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ('TCFD') to improve and increase reporting of climate-related financial information. EPFL have produced TCFD reports in compliance with the FCA's rules on climate-related financial disclosures. The TCFD Product report is designed to help you understand the impact the Company has on the climate and equally how climate change could influence the performance of the Company. The report will also give you the ability to compare a range of climate metrics with other funds. To understand the governance, strategy, and risk management that EPFL has in place to manage the risks and opportunities related to climate change, please refer to the TCFD Entity report. These reports are available on our website <https://www.evelyn.com/services/fund-solutions/tcfd-reporting/>.

The shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company.

The Company has no Directors other than the ACD.

The Instrument of Incorporation can be inspected at the offices of the ACD.

Copies of the Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document ('KIID') are available on request free of charge from the ACD.

Investment objective and policy

The Fund will aim to achieve (through a combination of capital and income) a return of 4% per year more than the Consumer Price Index ('CPI') over a rolling 10-year period after deducting fees and costs.

The Fund is actively managed and invests at least 60% in companies that are listed on major stock exchanges around the world and in emerging markets. In normal market conditions, the Fund will normally be invested in between 50 – 80 companies. This exposure will be mostly direct, with up to 5% through collective investment schemes and investment trusts.

The Fund may also invest up to 30% in a wide range of alternative assets accessed through listed investment vehicles, such as listed investment trusts and listed investment companies. Such alternative assets include infrastructure bonds or equities, green energy bonds or equities, commodities, including gold, through ETCs, private equity, distressed debt, hedge funds, alternative bonds (including high yield bonds and asset backed bonds).

The Fund also has the ability to invest up to 10% in government and corporate bonds from anywhere in the world that have a minimum credit rating of BB at the time of purchase.

The Fund may also invest up to 10% indirectly in property, through REITs and property unit trusts.

The Fund will also invest up to 10% in cash, near cash and deposits.

Exposure to any of the above asset classes may be obtained through investment in other collective investment schemes (including funds managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP) in line with the Fund's investment and borrowing powers.

The Investment Manager will identify core "themes" that it considers offer attractive long-term investment opportunities. These themes will be kept under review by the Investment Manager and may change from time to time.

The Fund will also invest in derivatives for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Derivatives are financial contracts whose value is linked to the price of another asset (e.g. indices, rates, share prices, currencies).

Report of the Authorised Corporate Director (continued)

Changes affecting the Company in the year

There were no fundamental or significant changes to the Company in the year.

Further information in relation to the Company is illustrated on page 36.

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook and the Investment Funds sourcebook, we hereby certify the Annual Report on behalf of the ACD, Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited.

Neil Coxhead

Director

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited

27 June 2025

Statement of the Authorised Corporate Director's responsibilities

The Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') and the Investment Funds sourcebook ('FUND') published by the FCA, require the Authorised Corporate Director ('ACD') to prepare financial statements for each annual accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company and of the net revenue and net capital losses on the scheme property of the Company for the year.

In preparing the financial statements the ACD is responsible for:

- selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- following UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland;
- complying with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for the Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds ('the SORP') issued by The Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017;
- keeping proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the financial statements as prepared comply with the above requirements;
- assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so;
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities; and
- the maintenance and integrity of the Company's information on the ACD's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

COLL also requires the ACD to carry out an Assessment of Value on the Company, previously published within the Annual Report, this assessment can now be found on the ACD's website at:

<https://www.evelyn.com/services/fund-solutions/other-funds-administered-by-evelyn-partners-fund-solutions-limited/evelyn-partners-funds-q-w/>

The ACD is responsible for the management of the Company in accordance with the Instrument of Incorporation, the Prospectus, COLL and FUND.

Report of the Depositary to the shareholders of The Stellar Fund

Depositary's responsibilities

The Depositary must ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, the Investment Funds sourcebook, the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1228) (the OEIC regulations), as amended, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together 'the Regulations'), the Instrument of Incorporation and Prospectus (together 'the Scheme documents') as detailed below.

The Depositary must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Company and its investors.

The Depositary is responsible for the safekeeping of all custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Company in accordance with the Regulations.

The Depositary must ensure that:

- the Company's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Company is booked into the cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, redemption and cancellation of shares are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- the value of shares of the Company are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- any consideration relating to transactions in the Company's assets is remitted to the Company within the usual time limits;
- the Company's revenue is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- the instructions of the Alternative Investment Fund Manager ('AIFM') are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Depositary also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Company.

Having carried out such procedures as we consider necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Depositary of the Company, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that in all material respects the Company, acting through the ACD:

Having carried out such procedures as we consider necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Depositary of the Company, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that in all material respects the Company, acting through the AIFM:

- (i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Company's shares and the application of the Company's revenue in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Company; and
- (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Company.

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited
27 June 2025

Independent Auditor's report to the shareholders of The Stellar Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Stellar Fund (the 'Company') for the year ended 5 April 2025, which comprise the Statement of total return, Statement of change in net assets attributable to shareholders, Balance sheet, the related Notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies and the Distribution table. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 5 April 2025 and of the net revenue and the net capital losses on the scheme property of the Company for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the Investment Association Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook (COLL Rules) of the Financial Conduct Authority and the Instrument of Incorporation.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Authorised Corporate Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Authorised Corporate Director with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on Other Matters Prescribed by the COLL Rules

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- Proper accounting records for the Company have been kept and the accounts are in agreement with those records;
- We have received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit; and
- The information given in the Report of the Authorised Corporate Director for the year is consistent with the financial statements.

Independent Auditor's report to the shareholders of The Stellar Fund (continued)

Responsibilities of the Authorised Corporate Director

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Authorised Corporate Director's responsibilities set out on page 4, the Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Authorised Corporate Director determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Authorised Corporate Director either intends to wind up the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We assessed whether the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations by considering their experience, past performance and support available.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Company and the sector in which it operates, focusing on those provisions that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice including Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds;
- The Financial Conduct Authority's COLL Rules;
- The Financial Conduct Authority's Investment Funds sourcebook; and
- The Company's Prospectus.

We gained an understanding of how the Company is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of the Authorised Corporate Director. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns, external inspections, relevant correspondence with regulatory bodies and the Company's breaches register.

Independent Auditor's report to the shareholders of The Stellar Fund (continued)

Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how the Authorised Corporate Director was remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how the Authorised Corporate Director oversees the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk. We identified a heightened fraud risk in relation to:

- Management override of controls; and
- The completeness and classification of special dividends between revenue and capital.

In addition to the above, the following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Reviewing the level of and reasoning behind the Company's procurement of legal and professional services;
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business, review of a pre sign-off Net Asset Valuation (NAV) statement for any unexpected activity and reviewing judgements made by the Authorised Corporate Director in its calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias;
- Using a third-party independent data source to assess the completeness of the special dividend population and determining whether special dividends recognised were revenue or capital in nature with reference to the underlying circumstances of the investee companies' dividend payments;
- Assessing the Company's compliance with the key requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, Investment Funds sourcebook and its Prospectus;
- Completion of appropriate checklists and use of our experience to assess the Company's compliance with the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds; and
- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to supporting documentation.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

Use of Our Report

This report is made solely to the Company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Rule 4.5.12 of the COLL Rules issued by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Johnston Carmichael LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Bishop's Court
29 Albyn Place
Aberdeen AB10 1YL
27 June 2025

Accounting policies of The Stellar Fund

for the year ended 5 April 2025

a Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments. They have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ('FRS 102') and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds ('the SORP') published by The Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017, and the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') and the Investment Funds sourcebook ('FUND').

The ACD has considered a detailed assessment of the Fund's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment, the Fund continues to be open for trading and the ACD is satisfied the Fund has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for at least the next 12 months and accordingly it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

b Valuation of investments

The purchases and sales of investments are included up to close of business on the last business day of the accounting year.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised when a legally binding and unconditional right to obtain, or an obligation to deliver an asset arises.

The quoted investments of the Fund have been valued at the global closing bid-market prices ruling on the principal markets on which the stocks are quoted on the last business day of the accounting year.

Collective investment schemes are valued at the bid price for dual priced funds and at the single price for single priced funds and are valued at their most recent published price prior to the close of business valuation on 5 April 2025.

Derivatives are valued at the price which would be required to close out the contract at the balance sheet date.

c Foreign exchange

The base currency of the Fund is UK sterling which is taken to be the Fund's functional currency.

All transactions in foreign currencies are converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the dates of such transactions. The resulting exchange differences are disclosed in note 2 of the Notes to the financial statements.

Any foreign currency assets and liabilities at the end of the accounting period are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the balance sheet date.

d Revenue

Revenue is recognised in the Statement of total return on the following basis:

Dividends from quoted equity instruments and non equity shares are recognised as revenue, net of attributable tax credits on the date when the securities are quoted ex-dividend.

Overseas dividends are recognised as revenue gross of any withholding tax and the tax consequences are recognised within the tax expense.

Distributions from collective investment schemes are recognised as revenue on the date the securities are quoted ex-dividend. Equalisation on distributions from collective investment schemes is deducted from the cost of the investment and does not form part of the Fund's distribution.

Excess reportable income from reporting offshore funds is recognised as revenue when the reported distribution rate is available and forms part of the Fund's distribution.

Special dividends are treated as either revenue or a repayment of capital depending on the facts of each particular case.

Interest on bank deposits and short term deposits is recognised on an accruals basis.

Accounting policies of The Stellar Fund (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

d Revenue (continued)

Interest on debt securities is recognised on an accruals basis, taking into account the effective yield on the investment. Accrued interest purchased and sold on interest bearing securities is excluded from the capital cost of these securities and dealt with as part of the revenue of the Fund. The effective yield is a calculation that amortises any discount or premium on the purchase of an investment over its remaining life based on estimated cash flows. The amortised amounts form part of the distributable revenue and are calculated at each month end.

e Expenses

All expenses, other than those relating to the purchase and sale of investments, are charged to revenue on an accrual basis.

Bank interest paid is charged to revenue.

f Taxation

Tax payable on profits is recognised as an expense in the period in which profits arise. The tax effects of tax losses available to carry forward are recognised as an asset when it is probable that future taxable profits will be available, against which these losses can be utilised.

UK corporation tax is provided as amounts to be paid/recovered using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted at the balance sheet date.

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation at 5 April 2025 to pay more or less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current rates and tax laws. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Provision for deferred tax assets are only made to the extent the timing differences are expected to be of future benefit.

All foreign dividend revenue is recognised as a gross amount which includes any withholding tax deducted at source. Where foreign tax is withheld in excess of the applicable treaty rate a tax debtor is recognised to the extent that the overpayment is considered recoverable.

When a disposal of a holding in a non-reporting offshore fund is made, any gain is an offshore income gain and tax will be charged to capital. There may be instances where tax relief is due to revenue for the utilisation of excess management expenses.

g Efficient Portfolio Management

Where appropriate, certain permitted instruments such as derivatives or forward currency contracts may be used for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes. Where such instruments are used to protect or enhance revenue, the revenue or expenses derived therefrom are included in the Statement of total return as revenue related items and form part of the distribution. Where such instruments are used to protect or enhance capital, the gains and losses derived therefrom are included in the Statement of total return as capital related items.

h Dilution levy

The need to charge a dilution levy will depend on the volume of sales or redemptions. The ACD may charge a discretionary dilution levy on the sale and redemption of shares if, in its opinion, the existing shareholders (for sales) or remaining shareholders (for redemptions) might otherwise be adversely affected, and if charging a dilution levy is, so far as practicable, fair to all shareholders and potential shareholders. Please refer to the Prospectus for further information.

Accounting policies of The Stellar Fund (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

i Distribution policies

i Basis of distribution

The distribution policy is to distribute all available revenue after deduction of expenses payable from revenue. Distributions attributable to income shares are paid to shareholders.

ii Unclaimed distributions

Distributions to shareholders outstanding after 6 years are taken to the capital property of the Fund.

iii Revenue

All revenue is included in the final distribution with reference to policy d.

iv Expenses

Expenses incurred against the revenue of the Fund are included in the final distribution, subject to any expense which may be transferred to capital for the purpose of calculating the distribution, with reference to policy e.

v Equalisation

Group 2 shares are shares purchased on or after the previous XD date and before the current XD date. Equalisation applies only to group 2 shares. Equalisation is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of group 2 shares and is refunded to holders of these shares as a return of capital. Being capital it is not liable to income tax in the hands of the shareholders but must be deducted from the cost of shares for capital gains tax purposes. Equalisation per share is disclosed in the Distribution table.

Investment Manager's report

Investment performance*

Performance of the Fund to 5 April 2025[^]

	1 year
The Stellar Fund	2.4%
CPI (Consumer Price Index) +4%	6.8%

The Fund produced a total return of +2.4% for the year to 5 April 2025.

Equities within the Fund returned +1.8% during the period (31.03.2024 – 31.03.2025). Performance within both the Fund and the broader market over the period was more muted in comparison to the same time last year, largely due to rising geopolitical tensions and the re-emergence of protectionist trade policies. In particular, the announcement and implementation of new tariffs by both the US and China introduced new uncertainty around the global economic outlook. Within the Fund's equity allocation, technology names such as NVIDIA, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing ADR and Amazon.com, which had previously driven strong performance, experienced a pullback at the end of the reporting period as markets reassessed demand forecasts and the potential impact of cross-border restrictions. Value and dividend-focused investment styles saw a resurgence, helping European equities recover. However, much of the rally had been led by lower-quality, cyclical names that are less aligned with our long-term thematic views.

The alternatives in the portfolio produced a positive return of +14.5% over the year (31.03.2024 – 31.03.2025). The largest contributor to this positive performance was the Fund's allocation to gold, which has continued to perform strongly as a hedge against market fluctuations and currency risks. This was complemented by positive contributions from the absolute return holdings, whilst there was some weakness in infrastructure investment trusts.

Investment activities*

Whilst our initial overweight to equities throughout 2024 and early 2025 added value, we reduced risk in February and March by taking a little out of equities. We increased our allocation to gold which proved valuable, as geopolitical uncertainty and rising demand for safe-haven assets supported its performance.

We initiated a position in Zoetis, a global leader in animal pharmaceutical therapies. We also initiated a position in LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (the largest purchase over the period), which is set to benefit from the strong thematic growth of prestige brands across the globe, in particular driven by the Chinese consumer and fuelled by the exponential growth of social media. Another significant addition was Fortinet, a security technology company operating in the network firewall and the secure network software markets. The company is set to benefit from long-term trends in cybersecurity, particularly due to the increased threat landscape and the widespread adoption of cloud computing.

Sales within the portfolio include some of the prominent US technology companies, namely Amazon.com, following concerns of U.S. consumer slowdown. Within the Fund's broader technology holdings, we have been rotating out of the semiconductor and IT infrastructure companies, such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing ADR, into software businesses which our analysts have identified as offering the greatest opportunity. We also exited our position in Air Liquide in favour of Linde, as we saw this as the preferred company within the industrial gases sector.

Investment strategy and outlook

Looking ahead, we expect markets to remain sensitive to the interplay between economic growth, inflation pressures, and central bank policy decisions. If US tariffs remain at current levels, we expect inflation to rise and for there to be a dampening of consumer spending. Globally, a sharp growth shock is likely to impact Europe and Asia, given their heavy reliance on net trade, while a sustained US retreat from global trade could lead to structurally higher inflation, reduced dollar dominance, and lasting pressure on consumer welfare.

* Source: Sarasin & Partners LLP and Bloomberg.

[^] Source: Sarasin & Partners LLP, total return, net of fees. Based on valuation points of 28 March 2024 and 31 March 2025 at 12pm.

Investment Manager's report (continued)

Investment strategy and outlook (continued)

Geopolitical risks continue to be a concern, particularly the potential for further escalation in Ukraine and in US-China relations. While such developments pose near-term risks to global supply chains and could lead to renewed market volatility, they also reinforce the growing importance of national security and cybersecurity.

Against this backdrop, our positioning remains cautious, with less invested in equities than was the case 12 months ago. But we are open to the opportunities that these market sell-offs may create to deploy the higher than usual allocation to cash. As recent market leadership has broadened beyond US technology companies, careful stock selection remains key.

Sarasin & Partners LLP

12 June 2025

Summary of portfolio changes

for the year ended 5 April 2025

The following represents the major purchases and sales in the year to reflect a clearer picture of the investment activities.

	Cost £
Purchases:	
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton	3,315,512
Zoetis	2,983,774
Microsoft	2,576,976
UnitedHealth Group	2,427,812
Givaudan	2,380,732
Home Depot	2,169,385
Fortinet	2,132,840
Linde	2,041,869
JPMorgan Chase	1,984,657
Keyence	1,943,051
Invesco Physical Gold	1,898,220
ING Groep	1,851,085
iShares MSCI EM IMI Screened UCITS ETF	1,730,314
Occidental Petroleum	1,664,311
Rio Tinto	1,614,336
AO Smith	1,591,619
Otis Worldwide	1,519,901
Ross Stores	1,502,283
Emerson Electric	1,383,344
Unilever	1,376,379
	Proceeds £
Sales:	
Ecolab	3,321,617
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing ADR	2,654,019
Amgen	2,573,529
Equinor	2,087,385
Amazon.com	2,079,518
DSM-Firmenich	2,047,178
Medtronic	1,885,590
Invesco Physical Gold	1,853,133
Walt Disney	1,787,578
ServiceNow	1,741,012
Alphabet 'A'	1,691,149
Middleby	1,662,989
Air Liquide	1,617,933
Service Corporation International	1,514,071
Ross Stores	1,456,820
Meta Platforms 'A'	1,440,225
AIA Group	1,432,681
Samsonite International	1,415,624
Occidental Petroleum	1,368,280
AO Smith	1,333,252

Portfolio statement
as at 5 April 2025

	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Investment			
Equities 78.47% (84.47%)			
Equities - United Kingdom 7.09% (7.02%)			
Equities - incorporated in the United Kingdom 7.09% (7.02%)			
Materials 1.36% (0.54%)			
Rio Tinto	32,972	<u>1,397,518</u>	<u>1.36</u>
Consumer Discretionary 2.98% (1.79%)			
Compass Group	121,860	<u>3,057,467</u>	<u>2.98</u>
Health Care 0.00% (0.78%)		-	-
Financials 2.75% (3.91%)			
London Stock Exchange Group	25,366	<u>2,827,041</u>	<u>2.75</u>
Total equities - incorporated in the United Kingdom		<u>7,282,026</u>	<u>7.09</u>
Total equities - United Kingdom		<u>7,282,026</u>	<u>7.09</u>
Equities - Europe 15.05% (18.25%)			
Equities - France 4.12% (4.34%)			
EssilorLuxottica	12,237	2,529,392	2.46
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton	3,794	<u>1,707,630</u>	<u>1.66</u>
Total equities - France		<u>4,237,022</u>	<u>4.12</u>
Equities - Germany 1.78% (2.29%)			
Siemens	11,620	<u>1,829,517</u>	<u>1.78</u>
Equities - Ireland 2.32% (1.88%)			
Accenture	1,933	425,486	0.41
Linde	5,812	<u>1,966,320</u>	<u>1.91</u>
Total equities - Ireland		<u>2,391,806</u>	<u>2.32</u>
Equities - Italy 0.89% (0.00%)			
Terna Rete Elettrica Nazionale	129,424	<u>915,327</u>	<u>0.89</u>
Equities - Luxembourg 0.00% (1.75%)		-	-
Equities - Netherlands 3.80% (3.08%)			
ASML Holding	2,471	1,183,512	1.15
Ferrari	2,896	948,077	0.92
ING Groep	131,131	<u>1,774,620</u>	<u>1.73</u>
Total equities - Netherlands		<u>3,906,209</u>	<u>3.80</u>

Portfolio statement (continued)
as at 5 April 2025

Investment	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Equities (continued)			
Equities - Europe (continued)			
Equities - Norway 0.00% (1.98%)		-	-
Equities - Switzerland 2.14% (2.93%)			
Givaudan	637	2,200,755	2.14
Total equities - Europe		15,480,636	15.05
Equities - United States 53.28% (50.96%)			
Alphabet 'A'	24,455	2,750,065	2.68
Amazon.com	26,296	3,474,702	3.38
American Tower	6,252	1,063,799	1.04
Apple	16,826	2,449,487	2.38
Broadcom	4,341	490,612	0.48
Chipotle Mexican Grill	21,294	778,067	0.76
CME Group	17,129	3,367,157	3.28
Colgate-Palmolive	31,074	2,200,960	2.14
Costco Wholesale	2,765	1,957,948	1.91
Deere	3,436	1,141,625	1.11
Eli Lilly	2,504	1,429,309	1.39
Emerson Electric	17,402	1,272,117	1.24
Fortinet	23,978	1,569,378	1.53
Home Depot	4,724	1,292,214	1.26
JPMorgan Chase	12,052	1,958,107	1.91
Kimberly-Clark	11,967	1,275,543	1.24
Mastercard	7,444	2,819,279	2.74
MercadoLibre	733	1,043,002	1.02
Meta Platforms 'A'	7,196	2,806,993	2.73
Microsoft	18,715	5,202,797	5.04
Moody's	7,604	2,365,793	2.30
NVIDIA	29,014	2,114,023	2.06
Otis Worldwide	38,000	2,789,320	2.72
ServiceNow	809	450,438	0.44
Tetra Tech	50,090	1,126,488	1.10
Thermo Fisher Scientific	4,251	1,436,361	1.40
UnitedHealth Group	5,894	2,394,314	2.33
Zoetis	14,596	1,710,866	1.67
Total equities - United States		54,730,764	53.28
Equities - Australia 0.00% (0.70%)		-	-

Portfolio statement (continued)
as at 5 April 2025

	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Investment			
Equities (continued)			
Equities - Asia Pacific 3.05% (6.31%)			
Equities - Hong Kong 0.00% (1.37%)		-	-
Equities - Japan 1.64% (1.59%)			
Keyence	5,800	<u>1,680,784</u>	<u>1.64</u>
Equities - Taiwan 1.41% (3.35%)			
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing ADR	12,806	<u>1,451,469</u>	<u>1.41</u>
Total equities - Asia Pacific		<u>3,132,253</u>	<u>3.05</u>
Equities - India 0.00% (1.23%)		-	-
Total equities		<u>80,625,679</u>	<u>78.47</u>
Closed-Ended Funds 6.72% (6.72%)			
Closed-Ended Funds - United Kingdom 6.72% (6.48%)			
Closed-Ended Funds - incorporated in the United Kingdom 1.92% (2.12%)			
BioPharma Credit	1,129,590	752,507	0.73
Gresham House Energy Storage Fund	309,787	184,323	0.18
HgCapital Trust	231,998	<u>1,039,351</u>	<u>1.01</u>
Total closed-ended funds - incorporated in the United Kingdom		<u>1,976,181</u>	<u>1.92</u>
Closed-Ended Funds - incorporated outwith the United Kingdom 4.80% (4.36%)			
3i Infrastructure	667,795	2,060,148	2.01
International Public Partnerships	1,287,424	1,411,017	1.37
Renewables Infrastructure Group	1,050,943	789,258	0.77
Schiehallion Fund	603,770	419,949	0.41
Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income Fund	331,083	<u>245,664</u>	<u>0.24</u>
Total closed-ended funds - incorporated outwith the United Kingdom		<u>4,926,036</u>	<u>4.80</u>
Total closed-ended funds - United Kingdom		<u>6,902,217</u>	<u>6.72</u>
Offshore Collective Investment Schemes 4.15% (2.00%)			
Coremont Investment Fund			
- Brevan Howard Absolute Return Government Bond Fund A	4,054	581,871	0.57
Coremont Investment Fund			
- Brevan Howard Absolute Return Government Bond Fund A2	9,820	1,144,972	1.11
Fulcrum Ucits SICAV-Fulcrum Equity Dispersion Fund	7,055	997,133	0.97
iShares MSCI EM IMI Screened UCITS ETF	363,806	<u>1,543,283</u>	<u>1.50</u>
Total offshore collective investment schemes		<u>4,267,259</u>	<u>4.15</u>

Portfolio statement (continued)
as at 5 April 2025

	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Investment			
Exchange Traded Commodities 5.68% (4.36%)			
Invesco Physical Gold	25,894	5,830,177	5.68
Forward currency contracts -0.02% (-0.03%)			
Sell euro	-€2,550,000	(2,173,896)	
Buy UK sterling	£2,161,176	2,161,176	
Expiry date 12 June 2025		(12,720)	(0.02)
Sell US dollar	-\$8,840,000	(6,832,356)	
Buy UK sterling	£6,837,342	6,837,342	
Expiry date 12 June 2025		4,986	0.00
Forward currency contracts assets		4,986	0.00
Forward currency contracts liabilities		(12,720)	(0.02)
Total forward currency contracts		(7,734)	(0.02)
Investment assets		97,630,318	95.04
Investment liabilities		(12,720)	(0.02)
Portfolio of investments		97,617,598	95.02
Other net assets		5,115,374	4.98
Total net assets		102,732,972	100.00

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges and are approved securities or regulated collective investment schemes within the meaning of the FCA rules unless otherwise stated.

The comparative figures in brackets are as at 5 April 2024.

United Kingdom equities are grouped in accordance with Global Industry Classification Standard ('GICS').

GICS was developed by and is the exclusive property and a service mark of MSCI Inc. ('MSCI') and Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ('S&P') and is licensed for use by Evelyn Partners Services Limited. Neither MSCI, S&P nor any third party involved in making or compiling the GICS or any GICS classifications makes any express or implied warranties or representations with respect to such standard or classification (or the results to be obtained by the use thereof), and all such parties hereby expressly disclaim all warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of such standard or classification. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall MSCI, S&P, any of their affiliates or any third party involved in making or compiling the GICS or any GICS classifications have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages.

Risk and reward profile*

The risk and reward indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the risk and reward indicator.

← Typically lower rewards, lower risk			Typically higher rewards, higher risk →			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The Fund is in a higher category because the price of its investments have risen or fallen frequently and more dramatically than some other types of investment. The category shown is not guaranteed to remain unchanged and may shift over time. Even the lowest category does not mean a risk-free investment.

For full details on risk factors for the Fund, please refer to the Prospectus.

There have been no changes to the risk and reward indicator in the year.

* As per the KIID published on 12 February 2025.

Comparative table

The following disclosures give a shareholder an indication of the performance of a share in the Fund. It also discloses the operating charges and direct transaction costs applied to each share. Operating charges are those charges incurred in operating the Fund and direct transaction costs are costs incurred when purchasing or selling securities in the portfolio of investments.

	2025	2024	2023
	p	p	p
Income			
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	195.92	179.83	191.06
Return before operating charges	(5.54)	19.75	(7.89)
Operating charges	(1.24)	(1.21)	(1.43)
Return after operating charges *	(6.78)	18.54	(9.32)
Distributions [^]	(1.72)	(2.45)	(1.91)
Closing net asset value per share	187.42	195.92	179.83
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.16	0.09	0.11
Performance			
Return after charges	(3.46%)	10.31%	(4.88%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value (£)	102,732,972	107,001,467	94,934,354
Closing number of shares	54,813,350	54,614,992	52,791,084
Operating charges ^{^^}	0.61%	0.66%	0.79%
Direct transaction costs	0.08%	0.05%	0.06%
Published prices			
Highest share price	220.5	199.6	192.4
Lowest share price	192.9	172.8	172.0

Investments carry risk. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

[^] Rounded to 2 decimal places.

^{^^} The operating charges are represented by the Ongoing Charges Figure ('OCF'). The OCF consists principally of the ACD's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee which are included in the annual management charge, but also includes the costs for other services paid. It is indicative of the charges which may occur in a year as it is calculated on historical data.

The OCF includes expenses incurred by underlying holdings of collective investment schemes and closed ended vehicles such as investment trusts in relation to the Fund (the synthetic 'OCF'). Following guidance issued by the Investment Association on 30 November 2023, the synthetic OCF calculation no longer includes closed ended vehicles.

Financial statements - The Stellar Fund

Statement of total return for the year ended 5 April 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Income:					
Net capital (losses) / gains	2		(4,725,544)		8,794,656
Revenue	3	1,767,064		2,056,810	
Expenses	4	<u>(677,933)</u>		<u>(614,482)</u>	
Net revenue before taxation		1,089,131		1,442,328	
Taxation	5	<u>(151,802)</u>		<u>(133,666)</u>	
Net revenue after taxation			<u>937,329</u>		<u>1,308,662</u>
Total return before distributions			(3,788,215)		10,103,318
Distributions	6		(937,641)		(1,308,743)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			<u>(4,725,856)</u>		<u>8,794,575</u>

Statement of change in net assets attributable to shareholders for the year ended 5 April 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		107,001,467		94,934,354
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	1,940,670		3,845,560	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	<u>(1,483,309)</u>		<u>(573,022)</u>	
		457,361		3,272,538
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		(4,725,856)		8,794,575
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>102,732,972</u>		<u>107,001,467</u>

Balance sheet
as at 5 April 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Assets:			
Fixed assets:			
Investments		97,630,318	104,382,104
Current assets:			
Debtors	7	1,189,074	974,681
Cash and cash equivalents	8	4,929,392	4,060,900
Total assets		<u>103,748,784</u>	<u>109,417,685</u>
Liabilities:			
Investment liabilities			
		(12,720)	(30,811)
Creditors:			
Distribution payable		(940,597)	(1,339,706)
Other creditors	9	(62,495)	(1,045,701)
Total liabilities		<u>(1,015,812)</u>	<u>(2,416,218)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u><u>102,732,972</u></u>	<u><u>107,001,467</u></u>

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 5 April 2025

1. Accounting policies

The accounting policies are disclosed on pages 9 to 11.

2. Net capital (losses) / gains	2025	2024
	£	£
Non-derivative securities - realised gains / (losses)	2,182,411	(3,819,091)
Non-derivative securities - movement in unrealised (losses) / gains	(7,018,504)	12,675,547
Derivative contracts - realised losses	-	(32,643)
Currency losses	(119,219)	(1,682)
Forward currency contracts gains / (losses)	237,779	(19,732)
Compensation	-	19
Transaction charges	(8,011)	(7,762)
Total net capital (losses) / gains	<u>(4,725,544)</u>	<u>8,794,656</u>
3. Revenue	2025	2024
	£	£
UK revenue	234,906	388,433
Unfranked revenue	157,130	198,672
Overseas revenue	1,355,641	1,300,926
Interest on debt securities	-	139,276
Bank and deposit interest (including futures interest)	19,387	29,503
Total revenue	<u>1,767,064</u>	<u>2,056,810</u>
4. Expenses	2025	2024
	£	£
Payable to the ACD and associates		
ACD's periodic charge*	166,802	146,882
Investment Manager's fee*	458,351	419,016
	<u>625,153</u>	<u>565,898</u>
Payable to the Depositary		
Depositary fees	<u>34,173</u>	<u>30,820</u>
Other expenses:		
Audit fee	9,130	8,700
Non-executive directors' fees	1,383	1,760
Safe custody fees	6,462	6,233
FCA fee	1,133	612
KIID production fee	499	459
	<u>18,607</u>	<u>17,764</u>
Total expenses	<u>677,933</u>	<u>614,482</u>

* The annual management charge is 0.56% and includes the ACD's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fees.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

5. Taxation

	2025	2024
	£	£
<i>a. Analysis of the tax charge for the year</i>		
Overseas tax withheld	151,802	133,666
Total taxation (note 5b)	<u>151,802</u>	<u>133,666</u>

b. Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2024: lower) than the standard rate of UK corporation tax for an authorised collective investment scheme of 20% (2024: 20%). The differences are explained below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net revenue before taxation	<u>1,089,131</u>	<u>1,442,328</u>
Corporation tax @ 20%	217,826	288,466
Effects of:		
UK revenue	(46,981)	(77,687)
Overseas revenue	(260,777)	(249,972)
Overseas tax withheld	151,802	133,666
Excess management expenses	89,932	39,193
Total taxation (note 5a)	<u>151,802</u>	<u>133,666</u>

c. Provision for deferred taxation

At the year end, a deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of timing differences relating to excess management expenses as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recovered. The amount of the asset not recognised is £435,685 (2024: £345,753).

6. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue added on the issue of shares and revenue deducted on the cancellation of shares, and comprise:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Final income distribution	<u>940,597</u>	<u>1,339,706</u>
Equalisation:		
Amounts deducted on cancellation of shares	7,848	4,200
Amounts added on issue of shares	(10,804)	(35,163)
Total net distributions	<u>937,641</u>	<u>1,308,743</u>

Reconciliation between net revenue and distributions:

Net revenue after taxation per Statement of total return	937,329	1,308,662
Undistributed revenue brought forward	319	400
Undistributed revenue carried forward	(7)	(319)
Distributions	<u>937,641</u>	<u>1,308,743</u>

Details of the distribution per share are disclosed in the Distribution table.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

7. Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Sales awaiting settlement	1,039,987	826,971
Currency trades outstanding	10,674	-
Accrued revenue	100,299	113,284
Recoverable overseas withholding tax	38,114	34,426
	<u>1,189,074</u>	<u>974,681</u>
8. Cash and cash equivalents	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank balances	4,926,943	4,058,451
Amounts held at futures clearing houses and brokers	2,449	2,449
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>4,929,392</u>	<u>4,060,900</u>
9. Other creditors	2025	2024
	£	£
Purchases awaiting settlement	-	985,634
Accrued expenses:		
Payable to the ACD and associates		
ACD's periodic charge	2,264	3,560
Investment management fees	46,518	43,590
	<u>48,782</u>	<u>47,150</u>
Other expenses:		
Depository fees	465	734
Safe custody fees	1,720	1,759
Audit fee	9,130	8,700
Non-executive directors' fees	1,895	511
FCA fee	15	8
KIID production fee	88	89
Transaction charges	400	1,116
	<u>13,713</u>	<u>12,917</u>
Total accrued expenses	<u>62,495</u>	<u>60,067</u>
Total other creditors	<u>62,495</u>	<u>1,045,701</u>

10. Commitments and contingent liabilities

At the balance sheet date there are no commitments or contingent liabilities.

11. Share classes

The following reflects the change in shares in issue in the year:

	Income
Opening shares in issue	54,614,992
Total shares issued in the year	933,711
Total shares cancelled in the year	<u>(735,353)</u>
Closing shares in issue	<u>54,813,350</u>

Further information in respect of the return per share is disclosed in the Comparative table.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

12. Related party transactions

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited, as ACD is a related party due to its ability to act in respect of the operations of the Fund.

The ACD acts as principal in respect of all transactions of shares in the Fund. The aggregate monies received and paid through the creation and cancellation of shares are disclosed in the Statement of change in net assets attributable to shareholders of the Fund.

Amounts payable to the ACD and its associates are disclosed in note 4. The amount due to the ACD and its associates at the balance sheet date is disclosed in note 9.

13. Events after the balance sheet date

Subsequent to the year end, the net asset value per income share has increased from 187.4p to 201.8p as at 24 June 2025. This movement takes into account routine transactions but also reflects the market movements of recent months.

14. Transaction costs

a Direct transaction costs

Direct transaction costs include fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers; levies by regulatory agencies and security exchanges; and transfer taxes and duties.

Commission is a charge which is deducted from the proceeds of the sale of securities and added to the cost of the purchase of securities. This charge is a payment to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers in respect of their services in executing the trades.

Tax is payable on the purchase of securities in the United Kingdom. It may be the case that 'other taxes' will be charged on the purchase of securities in countries other than the United Kingdom.

The total purchases and sales and the related direct transaction costs incurred in these transactions are as follows:

	Purchases before transaction costs		Commission		Taxes		Financial transaction tax		Purchases after transaction costs
	£		£	%	£	%	£	%	£
2025									
Equities	57,072,695		17,407	0.03%	25,683	0.05%	12,870	0.02%	57,128,655
Closed-Ended Funds	3,679,654		1,350	0.04%	1,957	0.05%	-	-	3,682,961
Collective Investment Schemes	2,802,884		432	0.02%	-	-	-	-	2,803,316
Total	63,555,233		19,189	0.08%	27,640	0.10%	12,870	0.02%	63,614,932

	Purchases before transaction costs		Commission		Taxes		Financial transaction tax		Purchases after transaction costs
	£		£	%	£	%	£	%	£
2024									
Equities	31,221,675		18,232	0.06%	13,214	0.04%	1,665	0.01%	31,254,786
Closed-Ended Funds	647,954		304	0.05%	898	0.14%	-	-	649,156
Bonds*	1,734,890		-	-	-	-	-	-	1,734,890
Collective Investment Schemes*	1,287,694		-	-	-	-	-	-	1,287,694
Exchange Traded Commodities	2,916,541		729	0.03%	-	-	-	-	2,917,270
Total	37,808,754		19,265	0.13%	14,112	0.18%	1,665	0.01%	37,843,796

* No direct transaction costs were incurred in these transactions.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

14. Transaction costs (continued)

a Direct transaction costs (continued)

	Sales before transaction costs		Commission		Taxes		Financial transaction tax		Sales after transaction costs
	£		£	%	£	%	£	%	£
2025									
Equities	61,394,768	(23,913)	0.04%	(23)	0.00%	-	-	-	61,370,832
Closed-Ended Funds	3,507,521	(1,290)	0.04%	(19)	0.00%	-	-	-	3,506,212
Collective Investment Schemes*	662,677	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	662,677
Total	65,564,966	(25,203)	0.08%	(42)	0.00%	-	-	-	65,539,721
2024									
Equities	24,994,700	(12,021)	0.05%	(26)	0.00%	-	-	-	24,982,653
Closed-Ended Funds	3,582,702	(1,562)	0.04%	(14)	0.00%	-	-	-	3,581,126
Bonds*	1,847,068	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,847,068
Collective Investment Schemes*	3,224,372	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,224,372
Exchange Traded Commodities	1,526,825	(382)	0.03%	-	-	-	-	-	1,526,443
Total	35,175,667	(13,965)	0.12%	(40)	0.00%	-	-	-	35,161,662

Capital events amount of £1,757 (2024: £1) is excluded from the total sales as there were no direct transaction costs charged in these transactions.

Summary of direct transaction costs

The following represents the total of each type of transaction cost, expressed as a percentage of the Fund's average net asset value in the year:

2025	£	% of average net asset value
Commission	44,392	0.04%
Taxes	27,682	0.03%
Financial transaction tax	12,870	0.01%
2024	£	% of average net asset value
Commission	33,230	0.03%
Taxes	14,152	0.02%
Financial transaction tax	1,665	0.00%

b Average portfolio dealing spread

The average portfolio dealing spread is calculated as the difference between the bid and offer value of the portfolio as a percentage of the offer value.

The average portfolio dealing spread of the investments at the balance sheet date was 0.12% (2024: 0.11%).

* No direct transaction costs were incurred in these transactions.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

15. Risk management policies

In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, as set out in the Prospectus, the following are accepted by the ACD as being the main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments, either directly or indirectly through its underlying holdings. These are presented with the ACD's policy for managing these risks. To ensure these risks are consistently and effectively managed these are continually reviewed by the risk committee, a body appointed by the ACD, which sets the risk appetite and ensures continued compliance with the management of all known risks.

a Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices and comprise three elements: other price risk, currency risk, and interest rate risk.

(i) Other price risk

The Fund's exposure to price risk comprises mainly of movements in the value of investment positions in the face of price movements.

The main elements of the portfolio of investments exposed to this risk are equities, collective investment schemes, closed-ended funds and exchange traded commodities, which are disclosed in the Portfolio statement.

This risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements: stock specific risk and market risk. Through these two factors, the Fund is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the ACD in pursuance of the investment objective and policy.

Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective of the Fund, spreading exposure in the portfolio of investments both globally and across sectors or geography can mitigate market risk.

At 5 April 2025, if the price of the investments held by the Fund increased or decreased by 5%, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to shareholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £4,881,267 (2024: £5,219,105).

(ii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investments or future cash flows will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Investment in overseas securities or holdings of foreign currency cash will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates against sterling. Investments in UK securities investing in overseas securities will give rise to indirect exposure to currency risk. These fluctuations can also affect the profitability of some UK companies, and thus their market prices, as sterling's relative strength or weakness can affect export prospects, the value of overseas earnings in sterling terms, and the prices of imports sold in the UK.

Forward currency contracts are used to help the Fund achieve its investment objective as stated in the Prospectus. The ACD monitors the exposure to these contracts to ensure they are in keeping with the investment objective.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

15. Risk management policies (continued)

(ii) Currency risk (continued)

The foreign currency risk profile of the Fund's financial instruments and cash holdings at the balance sheet date is as follows:

	Financial instruments and cash holdings	Net debtors and creditors	Total net foreign currency exposure
2025	£	£	£
Euro	10,875,374	11,976	10,887,350
Japanese yen	1,680,784	4,736	1,685,520
Norwegian krone	-	25,083	25,083
Swiss franc	2,200,755	-	2,200,755
US dollar	67,125,973	637,072	67,763,045
Total foreign currency exposure	<u>81,882,886</u>	<u>678,867</u>	<u>82,561,753</u>

	Financial instruments and cash holdings	Net debtors and creditors	Total net foreign currency exposure
2024	£	£	£
Australian dollar	747,212	-	747,212
Euro	12,317,259	10,117	12,327,376
Hong Kong dollar	3,338,444	-	3,338,444
Japanese yen	1,702,418	4,971	1,707,389
Norwegian krone	2,113,621	23,227	2,136,848
US dollar	68,573,703	(908,716)	67,664,987
Total foreign currency exposure	<u>88,792,657</u>	<u>(870,401)</u>	<u>87,922,256</u>

At 5 April 2025, if the value of sterling increased or decreased by 5% against all other currencies, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to shareholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £3,678,411 (2024: £4,397,653). Forward currency contracts are used to manage the portfolio exposure to currency movements.

(iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes.

During the year the Fund's direct exposure to interest rates consisted of cash and bank balances and interest bearing securities. The Fund also has indirect exposure to interest rate risk as it invests in bond funds. The amount of revenue receivable from bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. In the event of a change in interest rates, there would be no material impact upon the net assets of the Fund. The Fund would not in normal market conditions hold significant cash balances and would have limited borrowing capabilities as stipulated in the COLL rules.

Derivative contracts have been utilised in the period to hedge the exposure to interest rate risk.

There is no exposure to interest bearing securities at the balance sheet date.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

15. Risk management policies (continued)

b Credit risk

This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. This includes counterparty risk.

The Depositary has appointed the custodian to provide custody services for the assets of the Fund. There is a counterparty risk that the custodian could cease to be in a position to provide custody services to the Fund. The Fund's investments (excluding cash) are ring fenced hence the risk is considered to be negligible.

The Fund holds cash and cash deposits with financial institutions which potentially exposes the Fund to counterparty risk. The credit rating of the financial institution is taken into account so as to minimise the risk to the Fund of default.

Holdings in collective investment schemes are subject to direct credit risk. The exposure to pooled investment vehicles is unrated.

c Liquidity risk

A significant risk is the cancellation of shares which investors may wish to sell and that securities may have to be sold in order to fund such cancellations if insufficient cash is held at the bank to meet this obligation. If there were significant requests for the redemption of shares at a time when a large proportion of the portfolio of investments were not easily tradable due to market volumes or market conditions, the ability to fund those redemptions would be impaired and it might be necessary to suspend dealings in shares in the Fund.

Investments in smaller companies at times may prove illiquid, as by their nature they tend to have relatively modest traded share capital. Shifts in investor sentiment, or the announcement of new price sensitive information, can provoke significant movement in share prices, and make dealing in any quantity difficult.

The Fund may also invest in securities that are not listed or traded on any stock exchange. In such situations the Fund may not be able to immediately sell such securities.

The equity markets of emerging countries tend to be more volatile than the more developed markets of the world. Standards of disclosure and accounting regimes may not always fully comply with international criteria, and can make it difficult to establish accurate estimates of fundamental value. The dearth of accurate and meaningful information, and inefficiencies in its distribution, can leave emerging markets prone to sudden and unpredictable changes in sentiment. The resultant investment flows can trigger significant volatility in these relatively small and illiquid markets. At the same time, this lack of liquidity, together with low dealing volumes, can restrict the ACD's ability to execute substantial deals.

To reduce liquidity risk the ACD will ensure, in line with the limits stipulated within the COLL rules, a substantial portion of the Fund's assets consist of readily realisable securities. This is monitored on a monthly basis and reported to the Risk Committee together with historical outflows of the Fund.

In addition liquidity is subject to stress testing on an annual basis to assess the ability of the Fund to meet large redemptions, while still being able to adhere to its objective guidelines and the FCA investment borrowing regulations.

All of the financial liabilities are payable on demand. In the case of forward foreign currency contracts these are payable in less than one year.

d Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities

There is no material difference between the value of the financial assets and liabilities, as shown in the balance sheet, and their fair value.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

15. Risk management policies (continued)

d Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities (continued)

To ensure this, the fair value pricing committee is a body appointed by the ACD to analyse, review and vote on price adjustments/maintenance where no current secondary market exists and/or where there are potential liquidity issues that would affect the disposal of an asset. In addition, the committee may also consider adjustments to the Fund's price should the constituent investments be exposed to closed markets during general market volatility or instability.

Basis of valuation	Investment assets	Investment liabilities
	2025	2025
	£	£
Quoted prices	94,901,355	-
Observable market data	2,728,963	(12,720)
Unobservable data	-	-
	<u>97,630,318</u>	<u>(12,720)</u>

Basis of valuation	Investment assets	Investment liabilities
	2024	2024
	£	£
Quoted prices	102,239,090	-
Observable market data	2,143,014	(30,811)
Unobservable data	-	-
	<u>104,382,104</u>	<u>(30,811)</u>

No securities in the portfolio of investments are valued using valuation techniques.

e Assets subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature

There are no assets held in the portfolio of investments which are subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature.

f Derivatives

The Fund may employ derivatives with the aim of reducing the Fund's risk profile, reducing costs or generating additional capital or revenue, in accordance with Efficient Portfolio Management.

The ACD monitors that any exposure is covered globally to ensure adequate cover is available to meet the Fund's total exposure, taking into account the value of the underlying investments, any reasonably foreseeable market movement, counterparty risk, and the time available to liquidate any positions.

In the year there was direct exposure to derivatives. On a daily basis, exposure is calculated in UK sterling using the commitment approach with netting applied where appropriate. The total global exposure figure is divided by the net asset value of the Fund to calculate the percentage global exposure. Global exposure is a risk mitigation technique that monitors the overall commitment to derivatives in the Fund at any given time and may not exceed 100% of the net asset value of the property of the Fund.

For certain derivative transactions cash margins may be required to be paid to the brokers with whom the trades were executed and settled. These balances are subject to daily reconciliations and are held by the broker in segregated cash accounts that are afforded client money protection.

Derivatives may be used for investment purposes and as a result could potentially impact upon the risk factors outlined above.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 5 April 2025

15. Risk management policies (continued)

(i) Counterparties

Transactions in securities give rise to exposure to the risk that the counterparties may not be able to fulfil their responsibility by completing their side of the transaction. This risk is mitigated by the Fund using a range of brokers for security transactions, thereby diversifying the risk of exposure to any one broker. In addition the Fund will only transact with brokers who are subject to frequent reviews with whom transaction limits are set.

The Fund may transact in derivative contracts which potentially exposes the Fund to counterparty risk from the counterparty not settling their side of the contract. Transactions involving derivatives are entered into only with investment banks and brokers with appropriate and approved credit rating, which are regularly monitored. Forward currency transactions are only undertaken with the custodians appointed by the Depositary.

At the balance sheet date, there are no securities in the portfolio of investments subject to a repurchase agreement.

(ii) Leverage

The leverage is calculated as the exposure generated through the use of derivatives (calculated in accordance with the commitment approach) divided by the net asset value.

There have been no leveraging arrangements in the year.

(iii) Global exposure

Global exposure is a measure designed to limit the leverage generated by a fund through the use of financial derivative instruments, including derivatives with embedded assets.

At the balance sheet date the global exposure is as follows:

	Gross exposure value £	% of the total net asset value
Investment		
Forward Currency Contracts		
Value of short position - euro	2,173,896	2.12%
Value of short position - US dollar	6,832,356	6.65%

There have been no collateral arrangements in the year.

Distribution table

for the year ended 5 April 2025

Final distribution in pence per share

Group 1 - Shares purchased before 6 April 2024

Group 2 - Shares purchased 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025

	Net revenue	Equalisation	Total distribution 5 August 2025	Total distribution 5 August 2024
Income				
Group 1	1.716	-	1.716	2.453
Group 2	0.559	1.157	1.716	2.453

Equalisation

Equalisation applies only to group 2 shares. It is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of group 2 shares and is refunded to holders of these shares as a return of capital. Being capital it is not liable to income tax in the hands of the shareholders but must be deducted from the cost of shares for capital gains tax purposes.

Remuneration

Remuneration code disclosure

The remuneration committee is responsible for setting the remuneration policy for all partners, directors and employees within Evelyn Partners Group Limited ('the Group'), including individuals designated as Material Risk Takers (MRTs) under the Remuneration Code. The remuneration policy is designed to be compliant with the Code and provides a framework to attract, retain, motivate and reward partners, directors and employees. The overall policy is designed to promote the long-term success of the group and to support prudent risk management, with particular attention to conduct risk.

Remuneration committee

The remuneration committee report contained in the Group Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 includes details on the remuneration policy. The remuneration committee comprises three independent non-executive directors¹ and is governed by formal terms of reference, which are reviewed and agreed by the board. The committee met seven times during 2024.

Remuneration policy

The main principles of the remuneration policy are:

- aligns the interests of employees with those of our clients/customers and investors;
- is compliant with relevant regulation and considers market best practice;
- is pragmatic, flexible, economic, and considers the commercial objectives of the business;
- is competitive and helps the Group attract and retain talented people;
- encourages behaviours consistent with the Group's values, ambitions, strategy, and risk appetite (including environmental, social and governance risk factors);
- supports the delivery of fair outcomes for our clients; and
- is clear, fair, free from bias and based on objective criteria that avoids discrimination (including gender).

Remuneration systems

Fixed pay is determined by considering an employee's role and responsibilities, external market information, and internal budgets/affordability. The remuneration committee considers all of these factors when determining appropriate salary/fixed profit share budgets as part of the annual pay review, and by exception any increases outside of the annual pay review.

Evelyn Partners operates Discretionary Incentive Plans (DIP) – these are discretionary bonus schemes that enable employees to be recognised for their hard work and commitment, through linking reward to the performance and outcomes, including client outcomes, of both the business and the individual employee.

Bonus awards under a DIP are made in cash and/or equity awards and are driven by the following factors:

- The financial performance (primarily EBITDA performance) of the business;
- An employee's individual performance in relation to the Group's key performance indicators and financial outcomes;
- An employee's individual performance in relation to behaviours which are in line with the Group's values, which includes client outcomes and regulatory compliance; and
- A risk and control review, which includes client outcomes.

¹ Please note that the data provided for the independent non-executive directors is as at 31 December 2024. The data provided is for independent non-executive directors only.

Remuneration (continued)

Aggregate quantitative information

The total amount of remuneration paid by Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL') is nil as EPFL has no employees. However, a number of employees have remuneration costs recharged to EPFL and the annualised remuneration for these 70 employees is £3.58 million of which £3.19 million is fixed remuneration. This is based on the salary and benefits for those identified as working in EPFL as at 31 December 2024. Any variable remuneration is awarded for the year ended 31 December 2024. This information excludes any senior management or other Material Risk Takers (MRTs) whose remuneration information is detailed below.

Evelyn Partners Group Limited reviews its MRTs at least annually. These individuals are employed by and provide services to other companies in the Group. It is difficult to apportion remuneration for these individuals in respect of their duties to EPFL. For this reason, the aggregate total remuneration awarded for the year ended 31 December 2024 for senior management and other MRTs detailed below has not been apportioned.

Table to show the aggregate remuneration split by		For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024				
Senior Management and other MRTs for EPFL		Fixed	Variable	Variable	Total	No. MRTs
		£'000	Cash	Equity	£'000	
			£'000	£'000		
Senior Management		3,448	2,470	-	5,918	15
Other MRTs		477	338	-	815	5
Total		3,925	2,808	-	6,733	20

Investment Manager

The ACD has appointed Sarasin & Partners LLP to provide investment management and related advisory services to the ACD. Sarasin & Partners LLP is paid a monthly fee out of the scheme property of The Stellar Fund which is calculated on the total value of the portfolio of investments at each valuation point. Sarasin & Partners LLP are compliant with the Capital Requirements Directive regarding remuneration and therefore their staff are covered by remuneration regulatory requirements.

Further information

Distributions and reporting dates

Where net revenue is available it will be distributed annually on 5 August. In the event of a distribution, shareholders will receive a tax voucher.

XD dates:	6 April	final
Reporting dates:	5 April	annual
	5 October	interim

Buying and selling shares

The property of the Fund is valued at 12 noon every Tuesday except in the week when the last business day of the month falls, when the valuation will be the last business day of the month only, with the exception of any bank holiday in England and Wales or the last business day prior to those days annually, where the valuation may be carried out at a time agreed in advance between the ACD and the Depositary, and prices of shares are calculated as at that time. Share dealing is on a forward basis i.e. investors can buy and sell shares at the next valuation point following receipt of the order.

Prices of shares and the estimated yield of the Fund are published on the following website: www.trustnet.com or may be obtained by calling 0141 222 1151.

Benchmark

CPI (Consumer Price Index) Plus 4% is the target set for the Fund's performance to exceed over a rolling 10-year period.

The ACD has selected this target benchmark as the ACD believes it best reflects the strategic allocation of the Company.

Appointments

ACD and Registered office

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited
45 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7BG
Telephone 0207 131 4000
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Administrator and Registrar

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited
177 Bothwell Street
Glasgow G2 7ER
Telephone 0141 222 1151 (Registration)
0141 222 1150 (Dealing)
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Directors of the ACD

Andrew Baddeley - resigned 31 March 2025
Brian McLean
Mayank Prakash - resigned 30 April 2025
Neil Coxhead

Independent Non-Executive Directors of the ACD

Dean Buckley
Linda Robinson
Victoria Muir
Sally Macdonald

Non-Executive Directors of the ACD

Guy Swarbreck - resigned 31 March 2025

Investment Manager

Sarasin & Partners LLP
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8BU
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Depositary

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited
House A, Floor 0
Gogarburn
175 Glasgow Road
Edinburgh EH12 1HQ
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Auditor

Johnston Carmichael LLP
Bishop's Court
29 Albyn Place
Aberdeen AB10 1YL