

# APRIL UPDATE

Stock Codes	Capital Shares	Income Shares	ZDP Shares
Topic	EQPC	EQPI	EQPZ
Bloomberg	EQPC LN	EQPI LN	EQPZ LN
Reuters	EQPL	EQPi.L	EQPZo.L
ISIN	GB0030735483	GB0030735376	GB00B114S147

31 January 2008	Capital Shares	Income Shares	ZDP Shares
Mid Price	92.13p	108.25p	112.5p
NAV	105.47p	102.97p	110.81p

Issue seventeen

April 2008

## Fund Manager: EPIC Asset Management Limited (EPAM)



Fund Manager Profile  
Jo Welman

Jo Welman graduated in economics from Exeter University in 1979. He joined Baring Brothers where he managed several large segregated UK and US public company pension funds and The Barings UK Smaller Companies Unit Trust. In 1989 he was recruited by Rea Brothers to become the managing director of the investment management subsidiary. He resigned as a director of Rea Brothers Group plc in August 1999 following the bank's take-over by Close Brothers and became Chairman of Brit Insurance Holdings PLC. He resigned from Brit in September 2002 and is managing director of EPIC Investment Partners Limited (formerly Equity Partnership Limited), the investment manager to the Company.

## Corporate Details

Launch Date:	17 August 2001
Launch Assets:	£67.63m (net of expenses)
Total Assets:	£86.3m
Capital Structure:	Capital Shares: 40,304,312 Income Shares: 20,736,333 ZDP Shares: 20,000,000
ZDP Shares:	Redemption Price: 139.3p due 31 July 2011
	At time of issue this equated to a 6.5% GRY
Year End:	31 July
NAV:	Monthly
Directors:	Dr C McPhail, Chairman, DC McCrickard, M Richardson, PP Scales
Winding up Provisions:	31 July 2011
Annual Management Fee:	1%
Brokers:	Landsbanki Securities (UK) Limited

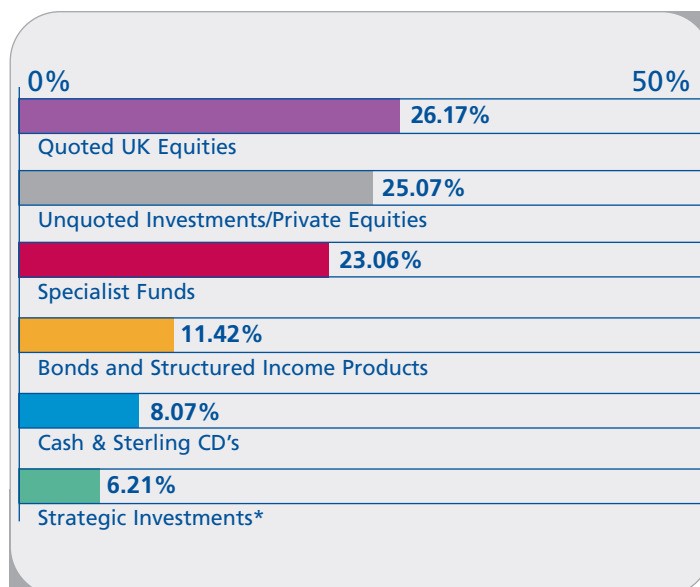
## Investment Objective

The Company can invest in quoted and unquoted equities, bonds and structured income products and investment funds to generate capital growth for capital shares and an initial 10% yield for income shares.

## Benchmark

**Capital Share NAV:** Libor + 3% per annum  
**Income Shares:** Entitled to 10% per annum with annual RPI increases (capped at 5% per annum)

## Asset Allocation as at 30 April 2008



\*Syndicate Asset Management PLC, Strand Partners Limited,  
Note: figures do not include the exposure to EPIC Securities PLC

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## Manager's Commentary

### Market Commentary

The focus in the third quarter shifted to the ability of capital market participants, namely banks and building societies, to raise capital in order to shore up their capital base, which has been eroded from further write-downs and losses relating to asset backed securities. Rumours of losses fuelled an overnight run on Bear Stearns, one of the largest US investment banks, that resulted in a Federal Reserve orchestrated bailout by JP Morgan Chase in March.

The associated flight to quality took US Treasury yields to their lowest level since 2003, caused by the amalgamation of weak economic data and bank losses, when the Fed Fund rate was at 1%. As credit markets bore the brunt of the flight to quality, corporate bond spreads had continued to widen particularly for lower quality and emerging market issuers throughout March. Stresses in the banking sector had been reflected in higher inter-bank lending rates. The pace of asset write-downs and losses in the financial sector appears to have slowed, however confidence in the financial markets remains fragile, marred by the \$250 billion losses that have so far been announced. With government bond yields recovering from the lows reached at the end of February, corporate bond spreads and money market yield spreads have begun to narrow in April. Global equities have also begun to recover their early Q2 losses as investors are placing more emphasis on the size of the write-downs relative to expectations rather than the absolute numbers.

Central banks have been faced with task of restoring confidence in the banking sector in order to address the credit and liquidity crisis. The Federal Reserve have wasted no time with rapid monetary policy easing, taking the Fed Funds rate

to 2.25% in March, as well as a number of temporary liquidity boosting measures that have included widening the collateral for short-term lending facilities. Lower interest rates alone have been unsuccessful in easing monetary conditions due to tighter lending standards and the rise in inter-bank lending rates. The Bank of England appeared concerned by the rise in LIBOR rates and the softer economic outlook in the UK, which resulted in an interest rate cut in April. With pressure from the government and from financial institutions, together with conditions in the financial markets, the BoE in conjunction with the Treasury, announced special liquidity facilities permitting banks to swap their asset backed securities with treasury gilts.

Looking ahead, more rate cuts will be necessary from the major central banks, in order to relieve the ongoing stresses in the money and credit markets, minimise the downside risks to growth and to restore confidence in both the consumer and business sectors. With the credit crisis now directly impacting consumers through the reduction in lending by financial institutions, the threat to the real economy has begun to materialise, we expect that rates of economic growth will continue to slow. In this environment,

bond markets are likely to outperform cash investments, although we believe that selective financial sector corporate bonds appear to offer greater value where yields have risen sufficiently to factor in market conditions.

### Quoted Equity

The FTSE All Share Index rose by 3.5% during the period. This performance was driven by the continuing strength of the natural resource stocks and by hopes that the world credit crisis might be easing as major banks took the first steps in recapitalising their balance sheets. EPIC sold its holdings of property consultant DTZ and property company Primary Health (REIT) as a precaution against falling property prices. The small holdings in garage group Lookers and engineering consultant Ricardo were also sold. The large holding in process engineer Invensys was trimmed. Additions were made to construction group Eleco, retailer Findel and software provider Microgen.

### Specialist Funds

The Specialist Funds portfolio is targeted at diversifying assets to achieve non-correlated returns in excess of the Company's Libor + 3% per annum performance benchmark. The largest holdings are Jupiter Hyde Park Hedge

## Manager's Commentary (cont.)

Fund Ltd (\$6.4m), a long/short equity fund which has performed strongly over the past quarter; CCFM Bristol & Stone Baltic Property Ltd (€3.3m), a fund which invests in a portfolio of real estate assets in the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia; AHG Trading GmbH (€3m), German tax transaction sponsored by Macquarie Bank; EEA Life Settlement Fund (\$3.5m), a US Viatical Fund which purchases life insurance policies where the insured has an impaired life expectancy and which has now risen for 24 consecutive months. Regrettably our investment in European Equity Tranche Income Ltd ("EET") continues to fall - the market value of our investment at end-April was £0.7m and may fall further before it improves. This reflects, we believe, present market conditions rather than weakness in the company or its model. EET is a fund established to invest in the equity tranche of high quality European residential mortgage-backed securities. It has no US or sub-prime mortgage exposure.

### Private Equity

The Private Equity division aims to generate yield through investment in mezzanine debt coupled with significant capital appreciation by investing in equity stakes in smaller private companies. The portfolio as a whole is performing well, with some businesses showing signs of achieving their full potential and therefore moving towards an exit. The £0.3m investment in Kilgour French & Stanbury, the Saville Row tailor, was recently realised, providing an investment

return of 5.2x money, an IRR of 47%. Another portfolio company, Indicia, completed the next phase of its buy and build strategy with the acquisition of Entire on 28 March. Entire supplies direct marketing services to customers in the tourism, mail order retail, publishing and charity sectors. It combines data analysis and creative services, providing clients with campaign targeting and execution solutions within one house. The transaction was completed for a gross consideration of £2.9m, and takes Indicia's turnover to nearly £8m in 2008. The Manager has continued to see a strong deal flow over the past quarter and is currently investigating a number of potential new deals for completion during 2008.



## Market Data

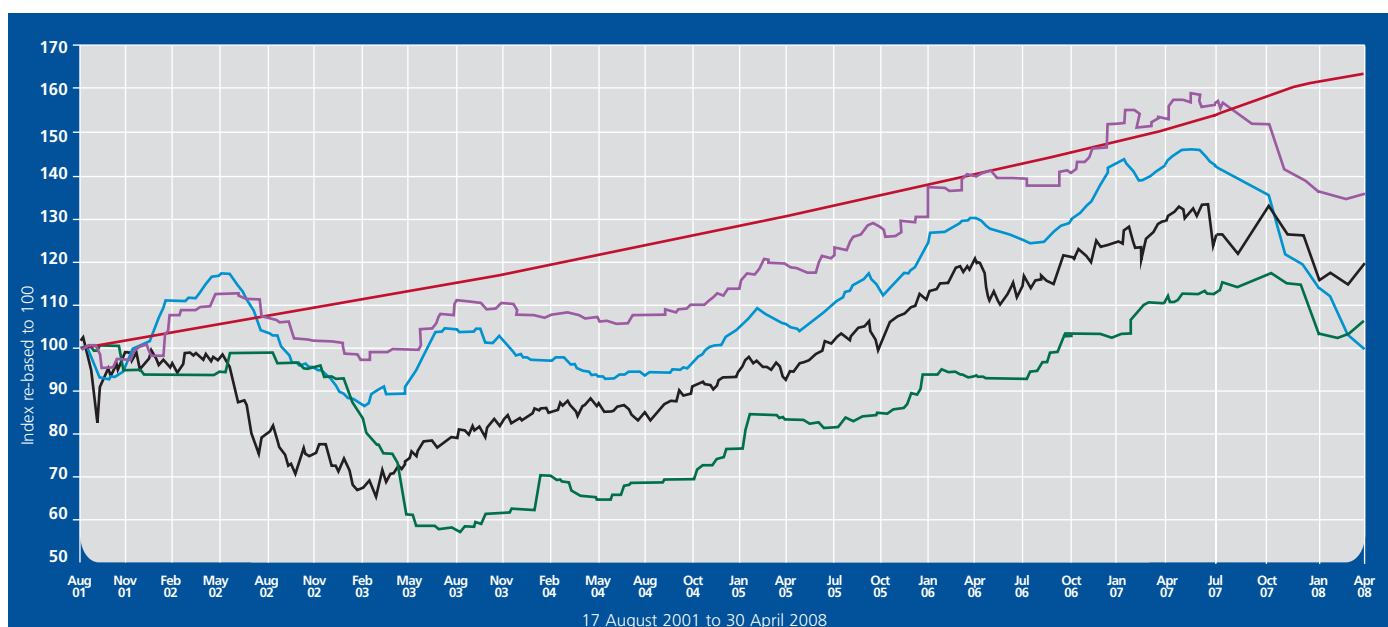
	80.5 months since launch
Capital Shares	-6.82%
FTSE All Share Index	19.50%
NAV	5.47%
Benchmark	60.29%

- Capital Share Price
- Capital Share NAV
- Benchmark (Libor + 3%)
- FTSE All Share Index
- NAV (Cap+Inc) Divs Reinvested

## Largest Investments

	% of total investments
Nexus Industries Limited	5.31%
Palatinate School Holdings Limited	5.16%
Alpha Real Estate GmbH 8pct 11 Feb 2010	4.77%
Indicia Limited	4.56%
Jupiter Hyde Park Hedge Fund Limited	3.84%
Diploma Plc	3.61%
CCFM Bristol & Stone Baltic Property Limited	3.15%
Syndicate Asset Management - 6% Loan Stock	3.04%
Delta Plc	2.93%
Pinnacle-psg Limited	2.91%
AHG Trading Genussscheine	2.86%
Aurum Mining Plc	2.65%
Lupus Capital Plc	2.56%
Invensys Plc	2.54%
Irish Nationwide 4.75pct 22DEC2008	2.44%
<b>Total of 15 largest investments</b>	<b>52.32%</b>
<b>Other Investments</b>	<b>39.58%</b>
<b>Cash at bank</b>	<b>8.10%</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Share Price and NAV Performance vs Benchmark (from 17 August 2001 to 30 April 2008 - re-based to 100)



Source: Bloomberg

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