# **Castlefield**Investments



# Premier Castlefield Monthly Equity Income Fund

ANNUAL SHORT REPORT OF THE AUTHORISED CORPORATE DIRECTOR: FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2 MAY 2006 2006 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2007

NET ASSET VALUES	(In pence per share)
General Income	
28 February 2007	111.45

Institutional Income 28 February 2007	111.49
Charity Income 28 February 2007	109.81

Any income available will be removed from the Net Asset Value per Share price and used for the Fund's year-end distribution/accumulation. As a result, no parallel should be made with the quoted high/low prices for the period. Past performance is no guarantee to future performance and the value of the investment can go down as well as up.

XD D	DATES	
28 F	ebruary (final)	
Last	day of each month	(interim)

# DISTRIBUTION DATES

27 May (final) 27 of each month (interim)

TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO General Shares 28 February 2007	3.46%
Institutional Shares 28 February 2007	2.96%
Charity Shares 28 February 2007	2.71%

The total expense ratio (TER) shows the annual operating expenses of the Fund, including the annual management charge and other expenses. It does not include transaction charges. All UCITS schemes highlight the TER to help you compare the annual operating expenses of different schemes. The TER for income and accumulation shares is the same. As the Fund was launched on 2 May 2006, no comparative figures are available.

SHARE PRICE RANGE	<b>i (in pence)</b>	<b>per share)</b>
General Income	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
2006 <sup>3</sup>	114.56	113.02
2007 <sup>4</sup>	117.18	113.06
Institutional Income	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
2006 <sup>2</sup>	115.03	105.91
2007 <sup>4</sup>	117.68	113.53
<b>Charity Income</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
2006 <sup>1</sup>	114.56	93.14
2007 <sup>4</sup>	116.76	112.67

<sup>1</sup> From 2 May 2006 to 31 December 2006.

<sup>2</sup> From 6 October 2006 to 31 December 2006.

<sup>3</sup> From 13 December 2006 to 31 December 2006.

<sup>4</sup> To 28 February.

#### INTERIM DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS (In pence per share) Charity Income

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XD date	Paid on	Distribution
31/07/2006	27/08/2006	0.2280
31/08/2006	27/09/2006	0.2280
30/09/2006	27/10/2006	0.2280
31/10/2006	27/11/2006	0.2280
30/11/2006	27/12/2006	0.2280
31/12/2006	27/01/2007	0.2280
31/01/2007	27/02/2007	0.2280
28/02/2007	27/03/2007	0.2280

FINAL DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS (In pence per share) General Income XD date Paid on 28/02/2007 27/05/2007

28/02/2007	27/05/2007	0.6756
Institutional Income		
XD date	Paid on	Distribution
28/02/2007	27/05/2007	1.1015
Charity Income		
XD date	Paid on	Distribution
28/02/2007	27/05/2007	1.7038

Distribution

The Fund operates a smoothing policy, whereby a controlled rate is paid monthly until the year end final distribution, where the income remaining is distributed.

# **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY AND PROCESS**

The investment process of the Premier Castlefield Monthly Equity Income Fund incorporates a four-stage approach, encompassing both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The first step involves running stocks though a stock screening model in order to identify companies that meet specific criteria. We aim to identify high yielding stocks with good dividend cover and healthy free cash flow that can also demonstrate consistency of earnings growth. Stocks that do not meet the criteria do not move to the next stage. Stocks are then split into one of three groups - core income stocks, income growth stocks or high income stocks. Whilst the stock selection methodology is consistent for each group, we employ a weighted ratio approach, where the importance of each particular ratio varies dependant on the category. Once the stocks have been put into the appropriate group, we carry out a disciplined fundamental analysis of each company in order to grade the stocks into one of seven categories. Each category has a specific risk profile and the process should result in the greatest exposure to the least risky stocks. The final stage involves modelling the portfolio to assess the total returns going forward. This involves modelling the exposure to the three groups outlined in stage two. The purpose of this is to attain the highest income achievable with the strongest dividend growth possible.

# PERFORMANCE

The Premier Castlefield Monthly Equity Income Fund (charity share class) produced a total return of 14.4% from launch to the end of February 2007, compared to a total return of 6.4% for the FTSE All-Share Index.

# **PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY**

During the period under review, Vodafone, the mobile telecommunications company, was added to the Fund. Following a strategic review, the company announced a number of initiatives that should boost shareholder returns in the medium term.

Wichford was also added to the Fund. At the time of purchase, this specialist property company was trading at a discount to Net Asset Value (NAV), while yielding in excess of 5%. The final new holding introduced was RHM, the food manufacturing company. The company was trading on a single digit Price/Earnings ratio and was yielding close to 6%. Moreover, top line growth was showing signs of improving and the company was in the process of implementing a cost cutting strategy. Following the purchase, RHM was taken over by Premier Foods.

Tate & Lyle, the food manufacturing company, was sold following a period of strong performance that resulted in the yield falling below acceptable levels for the Fund. Our holding in F&C Asset Management was also sold. After losing a number of large mandates, the management announced a new three-year strategy aimed at reviving its ailing business. The new strategy is a considerable change in direction from their previous acquisition driven strategy and has significant execution risk. Moreover, the dividend will be cut to help finance increased investment and any benefits are unlikely to come through for a number of years.

Other stocks that were sold include the house builder Wimpey (George) and Biffa, the waste management group (following its demerger from Severn Trent).

Takeover activity was a highlight of the market during the period and the Fund benefited from a number of stocks being on the receiving end of bids. In addition to Premier Foods bidding for RHM, Anglian Water was bought by Osprey Acquisitions Ltd (a newly formed consortium consisting of a number of financial institutions) and Scottish Power accepted an offer from Spanish utility Iberdrola.

Source: Castlefield Investment Partners LLP, March 2007.

Performance figures are taken from Morningstar Micropal and are quoted on a bid to bid, income unadjusted, UK sterling basis.



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# **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE & POLICY**

THE INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE OF THE PREMIER CASTLEFIELD MONTHLY EQUITY INCOME FUND IS PREDOMINATELY TO GENERATE A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF INCOME, TOGETHER WITH INCOME GROWTH AND SOME CAPITAL GROWTH OVER THE LONG-TERM. THIS IS TO BE ACHIEVED BY INVESTING PRINCIPALLY IN A PORTFOLIO OF UK EQUITIES, ALTHOUGH MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS, COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES, DEPOSITS, WARRANTS, DERIVATIVES (FOR HEDGING PURPOSES) AND OTHER PERMITTED INVESTMENTS AND TRANSACTIONS MAY ALSO BE INVESTED IN.

Financials

Consumer Goods

Utilities

# TOP TEN HOLDINGS AS AT 28/02/2007

	% of NAV
ВТ	5.82%
Scottish Power	5.72%
Lloyds TSB	5.12%
Alliance & Leicester	4.99%
National Grid	4.99%
United Utilities	4.68%
Scottish & Southern Energy	4.36%
Northumbrian Water	3.76%
RHM	3.54%
Premier Foods	3.47%

# FUND SPECIFIC RISK FACTORS

As the Fund invests primarily in the UK, there is a market risk that the Fund might suffer through holding market positions concentrated in the UK in the face of price movements. The value of these investments may decline over a given period because of economic changes or other events that impact large portions of the market.

There is no guarantee that a constant level of income will be maintained throughout the year since the ACD will attempt to smooth the monthly distributions paid during the year. This will be achieved by carrying over the income received in a month which has above average income expectations in order to supplement the income received in another month which has a lower level of income. The value of shares, and any income from them, can go down as well as up and you might get back less than you invested.

The Fund deducts all charges from capital which may result in the income paid by the Fund being higher than would otherwise be the case and the growth in the capital sum may be constrained.

# **GENERAL RISK FACTORS**

You should remember that past performance is not a guide to the future. The price of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may get back less than you originally invested. Exchange rates will also cause the underlying investments to fall or rise. Tax concessions are not guaranteed and may change at any time; their value will depend on your individual circumstances.

**RISK WARNINGS FOR PRIVATE CUSTOMERS** If you have any doubt as to the suitability of this Fund, you should contact your financial adviser.

Details of the basis or amount of any taxes, charges and expenses are contained in the Simplified Prospectus which can be obtained from the ACD.

Castlefield Investments, its directors, officers, employees and their associates may have a holding in the Fund as

well as in the securities referred to herein. Reference to any particular stock does not constitute a recommendation to buy or sell the stock.

**INVESTMENT PROFILE AS AT 28/02/2007** 

% of NAV

29.13%

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

The information in this report is designed to enable shareholders to make an informed judgment on the activities of the Fund during the period it covers and the result of those activities at the end of the period. For more information about the activities and performance of the Fund during the period and previous periods, please contact the ACD. For your protection when dealing, your call may be recorded and monitored.

#### NOTABLE CHANGES

On 1st January 2006, the Royal Bank of Scotland took over the duties and responsibilities of Depositary of the Company from the Bank of New York Trust and Depositary Company Limited.

Also on this date, Northern Trust International Fund Administration Services (UK) Limited took over the duties and the responsibilities of Administrator of the Company from Sinclair Henderson Fund Administration Limited.

On 1st May 2006, the Investment Adviser's fee in respect of general shares held in the Premier Castlefield UK Equity Fund increased from 1% per annum to 1.25% per annum, having received prior approval from the FSA.

During the period under review and as agreed by the ACD and Depositary, the Company's year end date changed from 31st December to 28th February and therefore these financial statements cover a period of 14 months.

During the period under review and as agreed by the ACD and Depositary, the Registrar has imposed a minimum monthly charge in respect of dealing and registration activity. Details of the rates applied are set out in the Prospectus.

Issued by: Premier Portfolio Managers Limited, Eastgate Court, High Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3DE. Tel: 01483 306 090 Email: premier@premierfunds.co.uk Website: www.premierassetmanagement.co.uk 0406074202

# AUTHORISED CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY (ACD) Premier Portfolio Managers Limited

Registered Office Eastgate Court, High Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3DE (Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

**DEPOSITARY OF THE COMPANY** The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, The Broadstone, 50 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9UZ

ADMINISTRATOR AND REGISTRAR Northern Trust International Fund Administration Services (UK) Limited.

#### Address

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AUDITORS RSM Robson Rhodes LLP 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2P 2YU

# INVESTMENT ADVISER

Castlefield Investments (A registered trademark and the property of Castlefield Investment Partners LLP)

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#### **REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

Copies of the Annual Long-Form Report and Financial Statements of this Fund are available free of charge on request. Please contact the ACD on 01483 306 090 or visit www.premierassetmanagement.co.uk