### **The Search for Income**

Where to find small caps that can grow their yield

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# Agenda



- Trends of the last 25 years
- Prospects for dividends and other income
- What are the characteristics of those stocks that will buck the trend
- The optimised investment strategy
- Implementation in the GGO Trust

# The Smallest Stocks Tend to Deliver the Highest Returns Gartmore

- > Differential between UK Large and UK Small Cap reduces portfolio volatility for those who hold both
- > Small Cap deliver higher returns over time
- >The Small Cap effect tends to be evident in many equity markets
- At the start of 2009:
- > FTSE All-Share: £99bn and below
- > HGSC: £1,911m and below
- > HG 1000: £232m and below



Source: ABN AMRO/London Business School, Paul Marsh and Elroy Dimson. As at 1st January year end. Years 1955 to 2009 Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Smaller companies are riskier and less liguid than larger companies which means their share price may be more volatile

# The Small Cap Opportunity

Small Cap underperformance for whole of credit cycle





 Despite the long term trend of small cap outperformance, the UK Small Cap sector has underperformed for over 25 years

- Almost all investors dislike small caps
  - Underperform
  - Illiquid
  - Outside benchmark
- Most portfolios have largely abandoned the sector for richer pickings elsewhere

Source: Thomson Datastream, as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 Rebase to 100

# Where has Dividend Growth come from the Last 25 Years Gartmore



Source: Morgan Stanley Research, Bureau of Economic Analysis/Bloomberg/The Statistical History of the US: From Colonial Times to Present, as at October 2008

- The credit cycle has lead all corporate capital structures to become over optimised to enhance ROE
- This trend has been highly beneficial to the financial sector who have grown their dividends particularly rapidly
- The extended period of the credit cycle has caused many quoted companies to over distribute dividends

Excessive Debt principally concentrated in the financials





Source: Barclays Capital/FTfm, as at 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

- Substantial dividend cuts have come through initially in those businesses most highly geared
  - Banks
  - Retail
  - Property
  - Utilities
- This will be followed by those with large pension schemes where deficits balloon on the falling dividend income
  - Large Cap stocks
  - Insurance

# Sustained Income is Becoming Difficult to Find Gartmore



Source: Bloomberg/Bank of England, as at 21st April 2009

- Equity dividends are expected to fall sharply
- Income on cash balances has fallen substantially
- Income on bonds has also reduced even at the long end of curve. The policy of Quantitative Easing is making matters worse
- Corporate Bonds offer more significant yields, but also carry equity type risks with no compensating yield growth and limited capital appreciation
- A sizeable increase in the void ratio is expected to reduce income from the property sector

#### Investments with Good and Growing Dividends will be Valuable



Most large cap stocks will find their existing dividend under pressure and many will cut it A quoted stock that can Exposure to a specific issue shares to pick up International diversification is market sector that is cheap assets from unhelpful at present as all major still expanding overgeared businesses economies are seeing a slowdown or a recession Overall equity index returns likely to be unattractive for an

An underleveraged balance sheet and with no pension fund legacy

A business that is underdistributing dividends

extended period

- Little capital growth
- Falling dividend income

# **Origin Enterprises**





**Origin Enterprises Share Price** 

Source: Thomson Datastream, as at 4th June 2009

- Agricultural business that works with farmers to maximise crop vields
- Strong markets position with significant scope to grow the business
- Under leveraged balance sheet with financial headroom on gearing at €150m
- Recently announced that it will pay a 4% yield, having not paid a dividend previously. Plenty of scope for dividend growth as business expected to expand and dividend growth as business expected to expand and dividend cover 6x
- Scope to grow at a faster rate by incremental ٠ acquisitions. These will be easily fundable by equity if necessary



- The best opportunities for sustained <u>income</u> <u>growth</u> principally lie outside the largest stocks
- Large numbers of AIM stocks in particular are under distributing dividends
- Those with good and growing dividends are likely to be rewarded with scarce investment capital and make disproportionate returns on this incremental investment
- Portfolios will gradually move capital from large to small cap to take advantage of this trend

# **FTSE 100** 102 **FTSE 250** 255 All-Share 260 FTSE Small Cap 212 FTSE Fledgling\* 1.065 FTSE AIM

#### Source: Gartmore, London Stock Exchange as at 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 \* FTSE Fledgling ex IC Index

#### Number of Constituents

# Premium Growth of Smallcap Dividends has Happened in the Past





- Many AIM stocks have been advised that dividends are irrelevant to investors and don't pay a dividend yield
- Two periods of rapid real dividend growth in the last 50 years
- In those two periods small caps <u>outperformed</u> large caps for a <u>multiyear period</u>

Source: Thomson Datastream, as at 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008 Basis: Log Scale



- Credit bubble has inflated large cap (financials in particular)
- All forms of income likely to be under pressure
- There is a subset of the quoted market, made up of stocks with improving prospects, strong balance sheets, and will be able to take advantage of the weakness of others, that are now likely to pay out a growing stream of dividends
- Investments with these characteristics are likely to have good and growing income plus capital growth in time

# Our clients positioned to benefit from this trend Gartmore

Performance		
As at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2009	Gartmore Growth Opportunities %	FTSE Small Cap ex IT %
1 Month	5.95	1.35
3 Months	37.73	35.27
6 Months	38.93	27.44
1 Year	12.41	-30.06
3 Years	10.37	-42.59
5 Years	49.15	-23.93
10 Years	136.12	-23.82

- FTSE Small Cap market peaked out in 2007
- GGO fell back in 2008 but the FTSE 100 put option added substantial value to offset this
- Now positioning for the market recovery
  - Portfolio geared 10%

Source: Gartmore/Lipper/Thomson Datastream, as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 Basis: All fund returns calculated in Sterling on NAV at par. All index returns are capital only

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