

Ennismore Global Equity Fund

Investor Newsletter for the month of January 2025

Issued on 7th February 2025

Fund Details

Daily dealing UCITS and Irish Central Bank regulated open-ended investment company with Financial Conduct Authority recognition and registered in Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden. The Fund size was GBP 137m as at 31st January. Total assets under management by Ennismore Fund Management were GBP 419m. We currently have capacity available in the Global Equity Fund. If you would like more information or to invest, please contact Margaret Webb on +44 (0) 20 7368 4250 or email clients@ennismorefunds.com.

Performance as at 31st January 2025

	Share Class ¹					
	GBP	GBP A	EUR	CHF	EUR I	USD I
NAV per Share ²	15.05	14.97	15.59	13.84	11.34	11.82
	% Change					
January 25	1.6	1.6	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.5
2025 to date	1.6	1.6	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.5
Annualised return ³	5.0	5.0	5.5	4.0	1.9	2.8
Since launch ³	50.5	49.7	55.9	38.4	13.4	18.2
Note: All performance figures net of fees. Past performance is not a guide to future returns.						

Comments below on performance refer to GBP A NAV per share unless otherwise stated, exclude fx and interest contributions to cash and are prior to expenses.

The GBP A NAV per share increased by 1.6% in January, with the long book contributing 4.1%. Several of our holdings such as Genus, St James Place, and Ryanair, gave positive trading updates which beat expectations, while Philip Morris International got the FDA's approval to start marketing its Zyn nicotine pouches in the US.

Calumet shares declined after a month of mixed news. The company is planning to expand its biodiesel refinery in Montana and convert a significant proportion of the production to higher yielding sustainable aviation fuel. We believe the economics of this project are attractive. The US Department of Energy (DoE) made a conditional commitment in December to provide a low-cost loan to fund this project, and the loan was closed in early January. Calumet also released preliminary 2024 financials, issued a bond, and announced a small equity facility. However, the US presidential transition has clouded the picture on the DoE loan, as disbursements have been paused whilst commitments are reviewed against the new administration's policy priorities. Calumet's refinery project has solid local political support in what is a Republican state. We see cancellation of this loan as extremely unlikely, and expect the stock to recover once it is funded.

The short book detracted -2.0% over the month with no individual short costing us more than 30bps. Whilst net exposure stood at ca. 71% at month end, ex-ante beta adjusted exposure is considerably lower (ca. 30%).

Top Five Contributors and Detractors for January 2025

Contributors	Bps	Detractors	bps
Genus Plc	41	Calumet Inc	-60
Lottomatica Group SpA	35	German defence company	-28
Philip Morris International Inc	33	Swedish technology company	-26
St James's Place Plc	31	Becle S.A.B. de C.V.	-24
thyssenkrupp AG	31	US food producer	-23

¹ Source: Administrator, Net Asset Value, net income reinvested.

² Source: Administrator, Net Asset Value.

³ Since inception of GBP, GBP A, EUR and CHF share classes on 03/10/16, EUR I share class on 03/07/18, USD I share class on 02/01/19.

Top Five Long Holdings as at 31st January 2025

Company	Country	Sector	% of NAV
Admiral Group Plc	United Kingdom	Financials	5.5
Auto Trader Group Plc	United Kingdom	Communication Services	4.9
Nippon Television Holdings Inc	Japan	Communication Services	3.9
Philip Morris International Inc	United States	Consumer Staples	3.9
Baltic Classifieds Group Plc	Lithuania	Communication Services	3.5
			21.7

Exposures as at 31st January 2025

Longs%	Shorts%	Gross Exposure%	Net Exposure%
113.6 (107.9)	42.7 (43.8)	156.3 (151.7)	70.9 (64.1)

Figures in brackets refer to previous month end. All exposures are calculated on a delta adjusted basis. All calculations are subject to the impact of rounding

Exposures by Country, Market Cap & Sector as % NAV and Positions as at 31st January 2025

Country	Gross%	Net%	Market Cap	Gross%	Net%	Sector	Gross%	Net%
United States	39.6	-5.7	>\$50bn	17.0	13.1	Communication Services	28.9	25.4
United Kingdom	33.9	29.5	\$20bn - \$50bn	8.0	3.4	Consumer Discretionary	20.4	9.9
Japan	13.7	13.6	\$2bn - \$20bn	81.2	29.6	Consumer Staples	11.1	0.2
Sweden	7.9	-0.2	\$500m - \$2bn	35.7	15.4	Energy	3.7	2.5
Canada	7.5	6.7	<\$500m	14.3	9.4	Financials	29.7	20.5
Germany	6.9	3.3				Health Care	7.8	2.9
Belgium	5.4	5.4				Industrials	24.4	3.0
Italy	5.1	2.2				Information Technology	17.5	-1.3
France	5.1	-3.8				Materials	8.3	4.5
Norway	4.1	3.7				Real Estate	3.2	2.4
Lithuania	3.5	3.5				Utilities	0.2	-0.2
Ireland	2.9	2.9				Other	0.9	0.9
Hong Kong	2.9	1.8						
Bermuda	2.0	2.0						
Israel	1.6	0.4						
Spain	1.5	0.9						
Finland	1.3	-1.3						
South Korea	1.3	1.3						
Philippines	1.1	1.1						
Singapore	1.0	1.0						
Switzerland	1.0	-0.6						
Taiwan	0.9	0.9						
India	0.9	0.9						
Poland	0.9	-0.9						
Other	4.1	2.0						

Geographic analysis relates to country of incorporation or listing. This may not represent the underlying economic exposure of the operating business.

Tilaknagar Industries – Indian brandy producer (0.9% NAV)

Tilaknagar Industries was founded in 1933 when Mahadev Dahanukar established India's first private sugar mill. Over the past nine decades under the leadership of four generations of the Dahanukar family, Tilaknagar has evolved into India's leading premium brandy producer, anchored by its flagship brands, Mansion House (launched in 1983) and Courier Napoleon (1995). These two brands contributed to the company selling over 11m cases⁴ last year, which has increased by an impressive 11% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) over the last five years. Mansion House Brandy alone accounts for 8.5m cases, making it the best-selling brandy in India and number two globally.

⁴ One case contains twelve 750 ml bottles.

Tilaknagar's competitive advantage is the strength of its brands. This is an intangible advantage built over four decades of consistent product quality, unique marketing and broad distribution, earning consumer trust and a dominant market share position with two of the most recognisable brands in India. Tilaknagar's moat was tested in the mid-2010s, when the company faced severe financial distress due to a combination of excessive debt, high raw material costs, price caps and liquor bans in certain states. At its worst, Tilaknagar was burdened with nearly \$160m of net debt in FY16 leading to liquidity constraints, defaulted payments and a significant working capital crunch. The company raised equity, renegotiated its debt, cut costs and diverted all resources towards the growth of its high-margin premium and semi-premium products. Despite these challenges, the strength of its brand portfolio proved resilient. While many struggling firms might have lost market share or faced consumer attrition, Tilaknagar's flagship brands continued to dominate the premium brandy segment, with Mansion House growing volumes at a 9.1% annualised rate from FY16-22, 3.5x faster than the industry. Today, the company has a market capitalisation of \$920m after having grown revenues at a 15% CAGR from FY16-24, is net-debt free, operates in a more favourable environment, and generated a respectable after-tax return on capital employed of 16% last fiscal year.

India is predominantly a whisky market, with whisky representing 65% of the 400m cases of Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL) consumed every year, while brandy represents 22% and rum 13%. Overall IMFL consumption in India has grown at a 3-4% CAGR since 2019 with premium categories growing at 8%. Within this, premium brandy has grown over 12%, making it the fastest growing segment within all alcohol categories in India. Our research suggests enduring reasons for higher brandy consumption in India: rising middle class incomes, emergence of cocktail culture, changing social norms/urbanisation, attractive demographics, health perception, marketing and product innovation. Tilaknagar's growth potential is significant.

Characterising Tilaknagar as owning 12% of India's total brandy market of 90m cases understates the company's dominance as over 40m cases are consumed in the southernmost state of Tamil Nadu where there is a state-controlled alcohol monopoly. We do not factor an expansion into Tamil Nadu into our numbers although an employee of competitor Inbrew Beverages told us in January "if Tamil Nadu opens up, it will easily double Tilaknagar's volumes." Tilaknagar's market share is over 20% in the five south Indian states within which it is present: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Telangana and Kerala. We estimate its share of the premium brandy segment is over 50% in these states. In Karnataka and Telangana, two of Tilaknagar's largest markets, more than 85% of all spirits consumption is whisky. Yet Tilaknagar is the third largest seller of premium liquor in these two markets, behind Diageo and Pernod Ricard, illustrating the power of its local brands. The five southern states represent 86% of Tilaknagar's volumes, growing at a low double-digit rate while Tilaknagar is expanding into north India, where prices are higher. Export markets, representing less than 1% of revenue today, have potential as over 15m expat Indians with higher disposable incomes live in the Middle East and South East Asia.

Alongside geographic expansion, further growth in volumes at a higher price/mix will be driven by premiumisation of the existing category and new category growth. Premiumisation within its core brandy category has significant growth potential as premium volumes as a percentage of industry-wide IMFL volumes is 60% for vodka, 54% for whisky, and less than 35% for brandy. New launches of flavoured brandy (Mansion House Flandy) and luxury brandy (Monarch Legacy Edition) are performing well according to our conversations with sources on the ground. Management expects non-brandy categories to grow from 7% of volumes to 20% in the next five years, a target we feel is conservative. The company recently launched premium whisky (Mansion House Whisky) and flavoured gin (Blue Lagoon Gin), and we are monitoring its progress. Recent changes in the regulatory environment are also contributing to price/mix, for example, reduced excise duties in Karnataka last summer have led to record sales and a shift from public to private retail distribution in Andhra Pradesh in October (there were 85k applicants for 3.5k stores!) should provide a similar tailwind.

Overall, we believe Tilaknagar's multiple growth drivers should sustain low to mid-teens annual revenue growth over the next few years. Operating margins should continue their upward trajectory from 9% in FY23 to close to 14% this year

supported by operating leverage from higher volumes and stable raw material costs, partially offset by a small increase in marketing spend. Capital intensity should remain low as 16 of Tilaknagar's 20 manufacturing facilities are outsourced.

With the company becoming net debt-free last September and subsequently paying off its term loan at the start of this year, there isn't much left to spend on beyond supportive marketing investments and brand acquisitions to round out the portfolio. With the significant free cash-flow growth we expect and a modest dividend payout ratio of under 5%, Tilaknagar Industries could afford to materially increase its dividend or begin repurchasing shares as early as this year, leading to a mid-teen annualised return over the next few years. At 33x our estimate of current year earnings, Tilaknagar is not "cheap", yet its valuation is a discount to peers such as Radico Khaitan (58x), despite its leadership position in a rapidly growing category. Given our expectation of over 20% annualised growth in free cash flow over the next few years, supported by an improved capital allocation framework, we believe the risk-reward is attractive.

Key risks include growth slowing in key markets, weak response to new products, market share loss, quality issues from contract manufacturing, regulatory challenges, higher marketing costs, raw material inflation, and execution issues in new geographies. However, management's track record, characterised by double-digit growth, prudent cost management, margin expansion, and repayment of debt give us confidence in their ability to navigate these challenges alongside their alignment with shareholders. A unique feature of investing in India is that insiders own almost one-third of the total capitalisation of companies listed on the National Stock Exchange of India. Tilaknagar is no exception as the founding Dahanukar family owns over 40% of shares outstanding and are actively involved in its operations. We will be visiting Tilaknagar's facilities and meeting the Dahanukar family in India later this year.

Monthly percentage return for the GBP A share class of the Global Equity Fund

Year	Jan (%)	Feb (%)	Mar (%)	Apr (%)	May (%)	Jun (%)	Jul (%)	Aug (%)	Sep (%)	Oct (%)	Nov (%)	Dec (%)	Annual
2025	1.6												1.6
2024	3.3	-3.1	1.9	1.1	2.7	-0.9	0.7	1.5	-1.4	-0.3	0.4	0.5	6.5
2023	0.7	0.8	0.1	3.4	-1.7	-0.9	0.8	2.5	4.9	0.9	-0.4	-0.1	11.4
2022	-1.7	-3.2	-3.3	3.4	0.4	-5.2	4.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5	4.1	6.2	5.2
2021	-2.6	1.4	2.7	3.0	0.7	-0.9	2.2	1.2	1.9	-3.9	1.7	2.3	10.0
2020	-4.8	-6.6	-5.4	4.6	-1.0	2.2	-4.5	-10.3	5.3	-0.8	-3.6	2.2	-21.3
2019	2.9	1.0	0.3	1.7	-0.2	0.5	1.0	1.8	1.9	0.0	-4.5	0.8	7.3
2018	-4.4	5.8	-0.9	3.3	2.8	5.9	1.8	4.0	1.0	0.7	0.5	-3.0	18.6
2017	-0.1	-1.4	-1.2	-2.9	1.7	-1.5	1.0	3.2	-2.8	1.3	-1.2	5.5	1.3
2016										1.3	-0.8	5.3	5.8

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