

UpOurs Introduction to New Members.

July 2015.

The club was formed in 2002 and currently has 13 members, both male and female. Meetings are held monthly in the Poole/Bournemouth area. UpOurs is a friendly club with a mix of both serious investors and a few stock market dabblers having fun.

Members pay a £100 joining fee and a £30 per month membership fee. Both fees buy units in the club fund and a few members therefore elect to pay the maximum £50 per month. Members that wish to increase their involvement further may request to purchase additional units but this is at the discretion of the club.

Each member has his or her own reasons for being a member. The two extremes can probably be summarised as:

- a) A member that treats the £30 monthly fee as 'already spent' on the monthly competition, annual meal and investment education with the gains made being a pleasant surprise. The benefits of membership being to enjoy the meetings and the buzz from investing. Several members use the information gained at the meetings in developing their own investment portfolios.
- b) A member that treats the monthly fee as a £360 annual investment that must return a profit greater than bank interest and hopefully greater than the growth in the FTSE 100 index, whilst minimising the risk to the annual investment. Attend meetings to exercise some control over the investments made.

Your reasons for being a member may not fit either of the extremes but may be a mix of them both. My reasons tend towards (a) with the added pleasure of seeing the club's investments pay for my membership. (But not all of my beer – yet).

UpOurs does not have a written investment strategy so that members are not restricted in their thinking when introducing potential investments at club meetings. However, not having a written strategy can result in new members taking some time to understand the decisions that are made. The following notes may speed up the process of understanding.

Guidance to new members

The club does not operate under a stringent investment strategy. The members are open-minded to consider any share or fund that is traded on any sector of the UK stock market(s).

The current membership tends to apply the following principles when selecting future investments.

- 1) Investments to be made in £ sterling to avoid exchange rate complications.
- 2) Shares or funds should be tradable through the club's brokers. (Ideally).
- 3) New investments normally have either a short or medium term prospect for capital growth.
- 4) Access to overseas shares or specialist sectors is made by investing in quoted funds that specialise in these areas.
- 5) Create a varied portfolio of approximately 20 different investments. A mix of both large and small companies with varying levels of risk.
- 6) Limits such as a stop loss or a stop sell may be applied to a share by a majority vote. A stop loss or trailing stop loss has previously been used in an attempt to either protect substantial gains or to partially protect the initial outlay on a high risk investment.

These principles are not rules and are not set in stone and members are encouraged to bring new ideas to the table.