

# FUNDMANAGER'S DIARY



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"The party goes with such a bang that it causes a few of the neighbours' alarms to go off"

## MONDAY 31 OCTOBER

The working week starts with an investment-floor catch-up – a daily ritual which provides an opportunity to share ideas and market insight across the teams. Financial stocks were the topic of the session, and our analysts highlighted a few changes in their recommendations.

In the afternoon I have the chance to catch up with our risk team to discuss some stock ideas I have for my funds. Risk is an important part of portfolio construction, and the team helps us with pre-trade analysis to assess the impact of new stocks entering the portfolios. This ensures that the risk profile is what we want it to be and is appropriate for our clients.

I leave the office earlier than usual to take my six-year-old son out guising – what we Scots call trick or treating – for the first time, which is a great success.

## TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

I catch up with one of the big European banks this morning. We often meet companies that we don't own, as in this case, to help further our understanding of the environments that influence the stocks that we do own. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the discussion focuses on Greece, the ECB, capital and funding – important topics for the whole banking sector at the moment.

In the afternoon we have one of our regular global meetings where we cover the industrials and utilities sectors. These stock meetings are the bread and butter of what we do and allow us to challenge one another on portfolio construction. Several interesting ideas are raised which merit some follow-up work.

## WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER

I do a 'show and tell' this morning on the Global Income Fund – it's now a year on from launch and things are going well. This is a great forum to keep everyone in the loop on the portfolio-construction element of fund management. Then, following on from yesterday's sector meeting, I spend time researching one of the Eastern European electricity companies we discussed.

After work it's straight onto dad-taxi duties as I pick my nine-year-old up from football practice. He's easy to spot a mile off as the only one in a St. Johnstone's strip – he's one of the club's rare breed of fans!

## THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER

We're in the midst of third-quarter results season, so between meetings I spend time reading through transcripts of recent management calls to make sure that our investment case for each stock is on track and to get an update on current business conditions. It's invariably the Q&A section at the end of these calls that offers the most insight. Generally speaking, the results season has been very positive, but company outlooks have been cautious.

## FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

Once a quarter the investment floor has a Friday-morning meeting with the grand title of 'Global Perspectives'. This is a great forum for discussing the bigger macroeconomic issues of the day, such as inflation and interest rates, and tying this back to our stock-specific analysis. Some of what we discuss enables us to frame important questions for company management, such as 'what funding behaviour are you seeing from your banks?' and 'what is the risk of you under-investing?'.

Later in the day I take part in a client webcast (audio rather than video, which is a relief). I give a three-month update for the Securities Trust of Scotland, the investment trust that I started managing in August. This is an important and effective way of updating clients, and I discuss my strategy, current market views and give some insight into some of the stocks I hold.

## SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 5 AND 6 NOVEMBER

With two kids, bonfire night is the major event of the weekend, and we join friends for a fantastic firework display. The firework party goes with such a bang that it causes a few of the neighbours' alarms to go off, but a good time was had by kids and adults alike (including the neighbours!).

**martin  
currie**

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