

# The Brunner Investment Trust PLC

Interim Report for the six months ended 31st May 2002





## Key Facts

#### **Investment Objective**

To achieve a total return higher than that of the benchmark index of 60% FTSE All-Share and 40% FT/S&P World Index (ex UK sterling adjusted) over the long-term.

#### Strategy

This objective will be achieved by investing in UK and international securities and by using appropriate gearing to enhance returns. The strategy is designed to meet the requirements of those making a single investment in a diversified and professionally managed portfolio.

#### **Financial Highlights**

	For the six me		
Revenue	2002	2001	% change
Available for Ordinary Dividend	£2.35m	£3.09m	-23.9
Earnings per Ordinary Share	4.01p	5.12p	-21.7
Dividend per Ordinary Share	3.30p	3.20p	3.1
	At 31st May 30th	At November	
Assets	2002	2001	% change
Total Asset less Current Liabilities	£288.4m	£306.0m	-5.8
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	405.6p	424.3p	-4.4
NAV Total Return#			-3.6
60% FTSE All-Share and 40% FT/S&P World Ir	ndex (ex UK) in sterling* (To	tal Return)	-1.8

#NAV total return reflects both the change in net asset value per Ordinary Share and the net ordinary dividend declared in respect of the period.

<sup>\*</sup>Indices are price index returns rebalanced on a monthly basis.

# Chairman's Statement

#### **Net Asset Value**

A summary of the results for the six months ended 31st May 2002 is set out below. The Net Asset Value attributable to each Ordinary Share at 31st May 2002 was 405.6p. This compares with 424.3p at 30th November 2001, a fall of 4.4%. Taking into account the net ordinary dividend declared in respect of the period, the Net Asset Value total return amounted to -3.6% compared with a return on the benchmark index of -1.8%. The principal reason for the shortfall was disappointing stock selection in the US.

#### **Earnings**

Earnings in the six months to 31st May 2002 of 4.01p per Ordinary Share have decreased by 21.7% compared with the same period last year. This reflects a fall in dividend income from UK equities following sales from that part of the portfolio to reduce gearing prior to the main dividend season, lower interest rates on cash on deposit and some dividend cuts.

#### Interim Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 3.30p net (2001: 3.20p) per Ordinary Share payable on 30th August 2002 to holders on the Register of Members at the close of business on 2nd August 2002.

#### Forecast Final Dividend

It is the Board's intention to pay a final dividend of 4.10p per share (2001: 4.10p) which would make a total of 7.40p per share for the full year.

#### Investment Review

Markets were highly volatile over the period. The significant cuts in interest rates worldwide that had taken place at the end of our last financial year

provided some support, and consumer spending in the US remained buoyant despite a high level of consumer indebtedness. Corporate earnings however showed little signs of recovery and US companies, in particular, remained on relatively high valuations which required strong earnings growth for their justification.

Sector performances remained divergent. Weakness in technology, media and telecoms ("TMT") shares resumed in 2002 after a brief period of good performance in the last quarter of 2001. The better performing sectors have been those which have stable cash flows and those which have seen strengthening demand for their products, such as basic industries.

Currency markets were also volatile, with Japanese ven depreciating significantly against the US dollar for the first half of the period. This gave Japanese exporters an unexpected boost which was a most welcome source of strength to an otherwise depressed economy. Towards the end of the period, the emergence of US dollar weakness made the global environment more challenging for Asian and European exporters. Against this background global investors have been reallocating investments from the USA other regions of the world, particularly Asia, which have similar or better growth but are on more attractive valuations.

Against the uncertain global economic environment, the portfolio remained cautiously positioned, with a high cash position offsetting long-term debt. In terms of sectors, exposure has been increased in areas with stable cashflows and in consumer related stocks. The relatively highly valued areas of the market with uncertain growth prospects

(such as TMT) have been reduced further.

The divergence between some stronger economic numbers and deteriorating equity markets continues. For this stage of the cycle, debt levels and oil prices are high, and unemployment low. Against this background, achieving the sort of recovery in stockmarkets that many analysts are forecasting will be difficult. In addition the ongoing accounting issues. highlighted Worldcom, are reducing investor risk appetite. In the last Annual Report I mentioned the high level of our cash reserves which offset our gearing and reflected our doubts on the near-term outlook of the markets. Valuations have become more attractive as a result of recent market weakness and there may be some attractive buying opportunities. However further weakness in the USA could impact all global markets and in general continued caution seems warranted.

J F H Trott Chairman

18th July 2002

# Statement of Total Return

		For the six mo Revenue £'000s	onths ended 31st Capital £'000s	May 2002 Total £'000s
		(Note 2)		
Net losses on investments		·	(10,669)	(10,669)
Income from investments		3,119	_	3,119
Other income Investment management fee		671 (230)	(536)	671 (766)
Expenses of administration		(128)	(555)	(128)
Return before finance costs and taxation		3,432	(11,205)	(7,773)
Finance costs of borrowings		(681)	(1,589)	(2,270)
Return on ordinary activities before taxation Taxation		2,751	(12,794)	(10,043)
Overseas taxation		(54)	_	(54)
UK taxation		(335)	336	1
		(389)	336	(53)
Return on ordinary activities after taxation		2,362	(12,458)	(10,096)
Dividends on Preference Stock		(11)	_	(11)
Return attributable to Ordinary Shareholders Dividends on Ordinary Shares		2,351	(12,458)	(10,107)
First Interim	3.3p	(1,897)	_	(1,897)
Second Interim				
_	3.3p	(1,897)	_	(1,897)
Transfer to (from) Reserves		454	(12,458)	(12,004)
Return per Ordinary Share (Note 1)		4.01p	(21.24)p	(17.23)p
·				

### Net Asset Statement

Net Asset St	tatement	as at 31st May 2002 £'000s
Fixed asset investments Net current assets		256,881 31,478
Total assets less current liabiliti Creditors: amounts falling due		288,359 (51,922)
Total Net Assets		236,437
Called up Share Capital  Capital Redemption Reserve Capital Reserves  Revenue Reserve	- Ordinary - Preference - Realised - Unrealised	14,547 450 1,453 217,612 (4,264) 6,639
Shareholders' Funds		236,437
Net asset value per Ordinary Share		405.6p

The net asset value is based on 58,188,416 Ordinary Shares in issue.

The net asset value per share as at 31st May 2001 is based on 60,283,416 Ordinary Shares in issue and at 30th November 2001 is based on 59,763,416 shares in issue.

	or the six me Revenue £'000s	onths ended 31s Capital £'000s	st May 2001 Total £'000s			r the year levenue £'000s	ended 30th No Capital £'000s	vember 2001 Total £'000s
	(Note 2) - 3,924 641 (281) (247)	(20,795) - - (655) -	(20,795) 3,924 641 (936) (247)	•		(Note 2) - 6,303 1,192 (526) (452)	(66,433) - - (1,228)	(66,433) 6,303 1,192 (1,754) (452)
	4,037 (649)	(21,450) (1,510)	(17,413) (2,159)	•		6,517 (1,250)	(67,661) (2,906)	(61,144) (4,156)
	3,388	(22,960)	(19,572)	•		5,267	(70,567)	(65,300)
	(84) (204)	204	(84)			(75) (366)	_ 366	(75) -
	(288)	204	(84)			(441)	366	(75)
	3,100 (11)	(22,756)	(19,656) (11)			4,826 (22)	(70,201) –	(65,375) (22)
	3,089	(22,756)	(19,667)	•		4,804	(70,201)	(65,397)
3.2p -	(1,929)	_ _	(1,929)		3.2p 4.1p	(1,913) (2,450)	_ _	(1,913) (2,450)
3.2p	(1,929)	=	(1,929)		7.3p	(4,363)	-	(4,363)
	1,160	(22,756)	(21,596)	•		441	(70,201)	(69,760)
	5.12p	(37.75p)	(32.63p)			8.00p	(116.90p)	(108.90p)
		as at 31st	May 2001 £'000s				as at 30th No	vember 2001 £'000s
			330,531 25,960	•				273,744 32,264
			356,491 (51,985)	•				306,008 (51,953)
			304,506	•				254,055
			15,071 450 929 268,878 12,274 6,904	•				14,941 450 1,059 237,221 (5,801) 6,185
			304,506	•				254,055
			504.4p	•				424.3p

# Cash Flow Statement

for the six months ended 31st May 2002 and comparative periods

		six months 31st May 3 2001 £'000s	Year ended 30th November 2001 £'000s
Net cash inflow from operating activities	2,001	3,100	5,495
Servicing of Finance Interest paid Dividends paid on Preference Stock Net cash outflow on servicing of finance	(2,117) (11) (2,128)	(2,107) (11) (2,118)	(4,218) (23) (4,241)
<b>Taxation</b> UK income tax repaid (paid)	2	(250)	(251)
Financial investment Purchase of fixed asset investments Sale of fixed asset investments	(110,959) 111,771	(130,571) 139,010	(227,858) 249,284
Net cash inflow from financial activities	812	8,439	21,426
Equity dividends paid	(2,427)	(2,411)	(4,324)
Net cash inflow (outflow) before financing	(1,740)	6,760	18,105
Financing Purchase of Ordinary Shares for cancellation Decrease in short-term loan  Net cash outflow from financing	(5,614) (220) (5,834)	(209)	(2,287) (417) (2,704)
(Decrease) increase in cash	(7,574)	6,551	15,401

### Notes

#### Note 1

The returns per Ordinary Share are based on revenue or capital return to Ordinary Shareholders, as appropriate, and on 58,656,553 Ordinary Shares being the weighted average number of shares in issue throughout the period (31st May 2001 – 60,283,416 Shares; 30th November 2001 – 60,052,238 Shares).

#### Note 2

The revenue column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the Company. All revenue and capital items derive from continuing operations. No operations were acquired or discontinued in the period.

#### Note 3

This interim statement has been neither audited nor reviewed by the Company's auditors. The interim statement has been prepared using the same accounting policies as those adopted in the annual accounts for the year ended 30th November 2001.

The non-statutory accounts for the year to 30th November 2001 are an extract from the latest published accounts of the Company which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors' opinion on those accounts was unqualified and did not contain a statement under Section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

# Portfolio Analysis

as at 31st May 2002



# Twenty Largest Equity Holdings

as at 31st May 2002

Security Name	Market Value £'000s	% of Total Assets*	Principal Activities
BP	13,748	4.77	Integrated oil and gas
GlaxoSmithKline	8,768	3.04	Pharmaceuticals
Royal Bank of Scotland	7,215	2.50	Banking and financial services
HSBC Holdings	6,803	2.36	Banking and financial services
Vodafone Group	6,383	2.21	Telecommunications
Shell Transport & Trading	5,353	1.86	Integrated oil and gas
Barclays	5,274	1.83	Banking and financial services
HBOS	4,929	1.71	Banking and financial services
Abbey National	4,349	1.51	Banking and financial services
AstraZeneca	3,908	1.36	Pharmaceuticals
Canary Wharf Group	3,287	1.14	Real estate
Tesco	2,838	0.98	Food and drug retail
Rank Group	2,699	0.94	Leisure entertainment and hotels
United Utilities	2,669	0.93	Utilities
Severn Trent	2,560	0.89	Utilities
Compass Group	2,527	0.88	Leisure entertainment and hotels
Allied Domecq	2,143	0.74	Beverages
Hanson	2,105	0.73	Construction and building maintenance
Hilton	2,087	0.72	Leisure entertainment and hotels
BPB	2,080	0.72	Construction and building maintenance
	91,725	31.82	

<sup>\*</sup> Total assets include current liabilities.

## Investor Information

#### **Directors**

J F H Trott (Chairman) J S Flemming B C R Siddons R K A Wakeling W R Worsley

#### Managers

Dresdner RCM Global Investors (UK) Ltd (regulated by FSA) represented by Neil Dwane. Mark Lovett and Nersen Pillay (Fund Managers)

Telephone: 020 7475 2700

#### Secretary, Registered Office and Number

Gerry Absalom FCIS 10 Fenchurch Street. London EC3M 3LB. Registered Number: 226323

#### Registrars

Capita IRG Plc Bourne House. 34 Beckenham Road. Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TU. Telephone: 0870 1623100 or, if telephoning from overseas, 0044 2086 392 157.

#### Results

Half-year announced in July. Full-year announced in February. Report and Accounts posted to shareholders in March. Annual General Meeting held in April.

#### Dividends

Interim dividend payable 30th August 2002 (ex-dividend 31st July 2002). Final dividend payable before 5th April 2003.

#### Savings Scheme

The Dresdner RCM Global Investors Investment Trust Savings Scheme provides a convenient and economical way for Shareholders to increase their existing holdings. Investments can be in the form of a regular payment or an individual lump sum and there is an arrangement for the reinvestment of dividends. There are also facilities for selling and switching.

#### Investment Trust Maxi ISA

Shareholders can invest in the shares of the Trust through the Dresdner RCM Investment Trust ISA.

#### **Investment Trust Helpline**

Full details of the Savings Scheme and ISA are available on the Dresdner RCM Investment Trust Helpline on 020 7475 6151.

#### Website

Further information about the Trust is available at: www.brunner.co.uk

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies Category: Global Growth