

Meeting of Minds: Gatekeepers

Thursday 14 March 2024, The Berkeley Hotel, London, SW1X 7RL

Schedule of the Day					
The Belgravia	0815-0900	Breakfast	Informal networking over breakfast		
The Ballroom	0900-0920	Keynote	Welcome - incorporating the highlights of the Scene Setter research. With Daniel Gilmore , Sales Director at Owen James		
The Ballroom	0920-1000	Keynote	British Politics. What will 2024 hold, other than a General Election of course?! With Professor Anand Menon , Director, UK in a Changing Europe		
Boardrooms	1005-1115	Roundtable Session	<i>Turning Red – Anticipating a new political landscape in the UK</i>	<i>Style Sense - Consistency, forecasting and market dynamics</i>	<i>Taking Stock – Navigating shifting market regimes in global equities</i>
The Belgravia	1120-1150	Morning Coffee	Informal networking with your peers		
Boardrooms	1155-1305	Roundtable Session	<i>Transformative Potential - How to harness AI in asset management</i>	<i>Sharp Focus - Thematic thinking for the next decade</i>	<i>High Yield Outlook - Unlocking opportunities and avoiding pitfalls</i>
The Ballroom	1310-1400	Lunch	A seated formal two-course lunch		
Boardrooms	1405-1515	Roundtable Session	<i>Second Coming - Should we be preparing for a return of Trump?</i>	<i>Duty of Care - The need for evidencing reliable risk profiles</i>	<i>Attractive Behaviours - The changing needs and expectations of investors</i>
The Ballroom	1520-1550	Keynote	Hearts and Minds - The boundless capabilities of the human spirit to endure and overcome adversity. With Darren Edwards , record-breaking disabled adventurer and author		
The Belgravia	1550-1700	Farewell High Tea and Networking	With a glass of fizz on the side		

A MEETING OF MINDS: GATEKEEPERS

ROUNDTABLE THEMES

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ROUNDTABLE THEMES TABLED FOR DISCUSSION

ECONOMICS & GEOPOLITICS

I. Second Coming - Should we be preparing for a return of Trump?

If Donald Trump wins the upcoming US election the impact on the geopolitical landscape - particularly when it comes to global trade and China, will be seismic.

While there is still a long way to go until the election in November, the ‘what if’ regarding how his second administration might land, and his approach to issues like climate change, international cooperation and global agreements is still cause for concern - particularly when it comes to foreign policy given the increasing instability in the east.

This session will look at:

- The impact of a second coming for Trump compared with the re-election of Biden on financial markets

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- Strategies for resilience amidst the instability

Expert: Eric Shimp, Vice President, International Government Relations, Principal Global Investors

2. Turning Red – Anticipating a new political landscape in the UK

Anticipation is looming over a Labour victory in the upcoming 2024 UK election, heralding big changes to the investment landscape and the broader UK policy framework.

While the precise implications of Labour's policy proposals, fiscal priorities and regulatory alterations remain uncertain, clients will be seeking insights into the likely impact on their investment portfolios. This session will address:

- Strategies for aligning client investment goals with changes in policies, regulations and fiscal priorities under a Labour government
- The importance of monitoring political developments and staying agile to reassess investment strategies amidst an evolving political landscape

Expert: Graham Hook, Head of UK Government Relations and Public Policy, Invesco

3. Sharp Focus - Thematic thinking for the next decade

Change is everywhere. And it's rapid. Decision-makers and long-term investors are having to understand and ride multiple waves rippling through the global economy - from AI and the data revolution to energy policy, deglobalization and onshoring.

This session will discuss the major themes expected to dominate over the next decade – including technology, geopolitics, sustainability and the potential for recurring inflation in order to explain:

- Why decision-makers need to rethink their approach to long-term investment to take account of the profound impacts these forces will have upon the world economy
- How these broad themes are highlighting opportunities across multiple sectors and manifesting in many ways: industrial technology adoption; a capex supercycle driven by reshoring and national security concerns; changes in consumer behaviour and consumer companies benefiting from large datasets; the energy transition, electric vehicle adoption; and the second- and third-order effects of artificial intelligence use

Expert: Steve Wreford, Portfolio Manager, Lazard Asset Management

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

4. Transformative Potential - How to harness AI in asset management

While Gatekeepers' power for judgement and experience cannot be replicated by AI algorithms, its potential to transform your role shouldn't be ignored.

From boosting productivity by quickly analysing large volumes of research and allowing for faster and more informed investment decisions, to helping with the demands and the increased pressure coming from the FCA, this session will look at:

- How to leverage AI for asset management practices

Expert: Andy Uttley, Co-Head Business Data, Analytics & Tools at Capital Group

5. Attractive Behaviours - The changing needs and expectations of investors

Technological advancements have increased accessibility, data-driven insights, personalised options and innovative investment avenues, which means we now need to cater to a more diverse range of investor preferences and behaviours.

Asset managers are seeing more sophisticated and discerning investors than ever before, who are using online investment communities and social trading platforms which foster ideas and influence decisions on asset acquisition.

This session will explore the new investor categories and their preferences by asking:

- How this evolution is shaping the landscape of asset acquisition, attracting new investor segments and changing how traditional assets are acquired and managed

SECTOR CHALLENGES

6. Style Sense - Consistency, forecasting and market dynamics

Style cycles come in and out of fashion depending on market environments, while consistency stems from forecasting ability and implementation efficiency.

This session will address the challenges when it comes to maintaining consistency within evolving market environments, by:

- The use of data tools to maintain style consistency, forecasting, opportunity sets through different market environments
- Analysing past decisions to improve future decision making and make better risk adjusted decisions

Expert: Andy Evans, Fund Manager, Value and Jonathan Yow, Lead Data Scientist, Schroders

REGULATION

7. Duty of Care - The need for evidencing reliable risk profiles

The Consumer Duty has heightened the scrutiny and evidencing of reliable risk profiles, and now requires rigorous analysis, documentation and monitoring of risk metrics associated with selected investments.

This session will discuss whether:

- The increase in risk profiling funds is causing people to be more cautious, leading to client portfolios under delivering
- Failure to evidence reliable risk profiles could impact reputation, and as a result will we see a shift in focus from track record to reputation?

INVESTMENT THEMES

8. High Yield Outlook - Unlocking opportunities and avoiding pitfalls

After high yield bonds posted double-digit returns in 2023, can the strong performance continue in the year ahead? Elevated yields continue to look attractive, but credit spreads could widen as volatility resurfaces. Despite moderating recession fears and prospects for supportive monetary policy, macro headwinds persist and companies continue to grapple with slowing economic conditions.

In this presentation, we will discuss:

- The forces shaping the high yield market in 2024, including the factors that will drive returns and impact company fundamentals
- Why high yield bonds continue to present interesting opportunities for long-term investors, and how to avoid risks using a cautious approach
- How can investors avoid downside risk and capitalise on upside potential, and why this environment creates a ripe opportunity for active, high-conviction managers

Expert: Thomas Hanson, Head of Europe High Yield, Aegon Asset Management

9. Taking Stock – Navigating shifting market regimes in global equities

Global equity markets have delivered for investors, propelled forward by improving confidence in corporate earnings, industry change and receding fears of recession. Yet the post-pandemic world faced by investors looks very different to the one that existed prior.

Famously short-term markets have become even more so and the drivers of long-term value creation have been overlooked. This session will therefore discuss this new normal, as well as:

- The implications for global equity portfolios and the opportunities in quality companies for investors with a longer time horizon

Expert: Jeremy Richardson, Senior Portfolio Manager, RBC Global Equity Team, RBC BlueBay Asset Management