



RIO CLUB ON THE RISE

Record new membership applications submitted during February

The Club witnessed an incredible increase in new membership applications in February. In fact this is the reason I was drawn in to assist Rob on several appointments in order to bring in new members during the month. If this trend continues next month we will recruit another membership liaison officer to assist with this process.

The number of new members coming on board last month set a new record for the Club, and February 2015 will go down as producing the best February in over a decade in terms of new membership applications. On surveying the Club's historical statistics I had to go back to 1997 to see similar numbers, not long after the Club's inception, when RIO processed 28 new members in the same four week period. Amazingly, that record, the previous all time high, was equaled this month although not broken. (Surely an achievement worth a mention!)

A prime reason for the drive is because we are close to our next membership benchmark target of 888, this target had been set during 2005 when previous target membership had been attained. At the current rate we shall reach this target by the end of April and this will mark yet another milestone for the Club. This coincides with a time when all lump sum products are in positive territory for 2015 and with three products far ahead of their respective annual target returns, what better way to celebrate the twentieth year in business?

Having reached the 888 target number we shall as always close the Club to new membership applications for a short period. The reason for this pause is to allow us to reassess the Club's online reporting procedures and to carry out testing of our new improved system; having planned the upgrade of the online reporting system, we had earmarked implementation of this to take place when membership reached the desired target.

We shall also be reviewing all Club products and the web site.

Twentieth anniversary of the RIO Club celebrated

To mark our twentieth anniversary this year RIO signed a three year sponsorship deal with the Java St Andrew Society, which cements our twenty year sponsorship of the Society.

At both the St Andrew's Ball in November 2014 and the Burns Supper in January 2015 RIO put up a significant prize draw, the first being for six thousand pounds and the other being no small sum either at five thousand pounds with the condition that 50% of the winning amount be directed to the charity of the winner's choice. Our lucky winners can be seen on both our web site and the St Andrews site.

Hard work rewarded - RIO ARC Bullion Account remains the top performing physical gold bullion investment product in the world.

February was yet another gaining month for RIO's ARC Bullion Account, when a gain of 0.53% was recorded during the month whilst standard issue one kilo bullion bars lost 5.16% in the same period.

This proves again that “buy and hold” is to buy and lose more often than not! Our traded physical bullion coins have offered a much superior return and less risk.

More importantly the Account’s performance in 2014 has meant that the ARC Bullion account has become the best performing physical gold investment in the world, a pleasing achievement and a true testament to creating the right product for the right market at the right time.

Due to the popularity of the ARC Bullion Account, the Club launched a Sterling version of the product to complement the dollar account at the beginning of 2015. This was expedited to meet the rising demand from membership. Since its launch, the account has produced excellent returns, recording a 13.89% gain in three months and the second ARC Sterling version, has been well received by our membership.

Finally, welcome on board to all our new members and a heartfelt thank you to our entire membership, especially our existing members who have referred family and friends to our Club over the years. I am glad that you have shared in our successes and prosperity in 2014! And I for one look forward to a prosperous 2015 together.

My trading ideology

It's not whether you are right or wrong that's important, but how much you make when you are right, and how much you lose when you are wrong! This philosophy, in my opinion, is the very foundation of making money in the market year after year. I am continually searching for investment opportunities where the reward can be more than acceptable, and the risk is small /quantifiable. If you do this consistently, you can be virtually guaranteed to make money in the market.

Hence the success of the RIO Professional Investors Fund, its consistent performance over the past five years is well known, the Fund has produced 50 gaining months since March 2010 and only 10 losing months, with a net gain of 68.05%. These statistics can only be seen as a remarkable record and stands as a testament to consistent sound management of the Fund, especially since it witnessed little to no volatility over the same period, a period which has been accounted for as one of the most volatile in financial history.

Later this week I will put pen to paper on our high risk product, The Regular Investment Account.

William Gray
The RIO Club