

# What

# Investment

F O R A W E A L T H I E R F U T U R E

## Fund Manager of the Year

Gervais Williams scoops the Fund Manager of the Year award in the What Investment Unit Trust Awards

Gervais Williams is hardly a new kid on the investment block, but the performance of his many funds in the past 12 months certainly justifies the reputation that he first earned as a fund manager at Gartmore. His Miton Multi-Cap Income fund has returned 29 per cent over the past year, compared to 16 per cent for the average fund in the IMA UK Equity Income sector in that time.

Williams is almost evangelical about the merits of investing in small companies. At the moment, he reckons that those with a market cap of less than £10 million are where there is most value. Even by the standards of small-cap managers, that is tiny. He is also a big advocate of small companies paying dividends.

But his small-cap focus has been paying off handsomely. His CF Miton UK Smaller Companies fund has returned 63 per cent in the past year, compared to 25 per cent for the IMA UK Smaller Companies sector. It is the absolute best performer in its sector over the past six and 12 months.

Though he is amply assisted by a team of rising stars such as George Godber and Georgina Hamilton, Williams's

individual stockpicking skill is recognised by the judging panel, who note that his 'stonking year' has been achieved 'while juggling the responsibilities of being managing director of one of the UK's most rapidly expanding boutiques'.

Williams himself comments, 'It's so pleasing to be recognised with this award, particularly against such strong industry competition. However, I'm not a one-man band. I'm extremely fortunate to have the complementary skills of my co-manager, Martin Turner, alongside me, as well as the wider UK equity team.'

Not strictly within the scope of these awards, Williams also heads up two investment trusts, The Diverse Income Trust and The Investment Company. The latter has net assets of just £19 million, even though it dates back to 1868.

### The shortlist

Giles Hargreave  
Mark Barnett  
Richard Buxton  
Richard Woolnough

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