

Press Release

For immediate release
11 August 2005

UK Shareholders Association
BM UKSA
London
WC1N 3XX

Phone: 0870-70-60-600
Email: uksa@uksa.org.uk
Web: www.uksa.org.uk

UKSA Fights Proxy Voting Battles at the Murray VCTs and Singer & Friedlander AIM 2 VCT

The UK Shareholders Association (UKSA) has been campaigning for changes at the Murray Venture Capital Trusts since February 2005 due to dire financial performance. The Murray VCT Plc, Murray VCT 2 Plc and Murray VCT 3 Plc companies announced at that time that they were switching the fund management contract to Close Bros from Aberdeen, but UKSA also asked for consideration of a merger of the companies to save costs, and for changes to the directors. Subsequently a third party, Mr Charles Clark, commenced a separate campaign to remove all the existing directors of these companies and appoint his own nominees. Mr Clark's campaign has apparently received financial support from Aberdeen.

Recently the boards of these companies have announced merger proposals, and the merged company would have a new board with a new Chairman recruited, other new directors and only two directors from the existing boards to provide some continuity. UKSA considers that the boards have therefore responded adequately and correctly to the concerns of shareholders, and we can see no further purpose in Mr Clark's campaign. However he has now requisitioned Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) of these three companies to force through his proposals. UKSA is asking for proxy votes from shareholders to block this attempt to take management control of these companies, and to ensure that the proposals of the current boards are not disrupted.

UKSA is also opposed to any further change in the fund management contract which would simply incur additional costs and further disruption with little likely benefit to shareholders. Close Bros, who have demonstrated superior performance in managing such funds, have said that they will resign if Mr Clark's nominees take control of the boards.

Polls will almost certainly be called at the EGMs and AGMs of the companies scheduled for the 5th and 6th of September at which UKSA will vote the proxies we receive in the interests of shareholders.

The Singer & Friedlander AIM VCTs

UKSA has also been campaigning to improve the performance of the Singer & Friedlander AIM VCTs (Singer & Friedlander AIM VCT Plc, Singer & Friedlander AIM 2 VCT Plc, and Singer & Friedlander AIM 3 VCT Plc). We wish to see more attention to cost reduction including the consideration of a merger of these companies. To that end we are collecting proxy votes for the AGM of Singer & Friedlander AIM 2 VCT on the 7th September. Unless there is a clear commitment on these issues at the meeting, we will be voting against reappointment of the existing auditors (PricewaterhouseCoopers) and against the reappointment of directors who are due for re-election.

Background Information Sources

More information on the history of the events at the Murray VCTs can be seen on the UKSA web site at: http://www.uksa.org.uk/Murray_VCTs.htm . Mr Clark's campaign web site is at: <http://www.murrayvct123action.com> and information from Close Bros is present at: <http://www.closeventures.co.uk> . More information on the S & F AIM VCT campaign can be seen at: http://www.uksa.org.uk/Singer_&_Friedlander_AIM_VCTs.htm .

About The UK Shareholders Association (UKSA)

UKSA is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private shareholders in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of shareholders in public companies, and to promote improved standards of corporate governance. Our educational activities, regular regional meetings, company "analyst" meetings and the resources of our web site, help to inform the public on investment management. UKSA is solely owned by and primarily financially supported by its individual members.

For further information, please contact:

Roger Lawson, Communications Director
Telephone: 020-8467-2686
Email: roger.lawson@btclick.com; or

David Blundell, Chairman
Telephone: 01937-572327
Email: dwwb@btinternet.com