



A Leap of Faith Family Offices Navigate Challenging Markets in 2022

Overcoming tube strikes, braving heightened geopolitical risk and defying the pandemic, there was a strong turnout for Cap-Connect's Public & Private Markets event at the RAC Club last Wednesday.

Senior family office delegates gathered for a programme of high-quality funds, showcasing inflation-beating strategies and offering investment approaches to negotiate what is proving to be a very difficult year to generate returns. Investors joined group presentations or took one-on-one meetings with an impressive line-up of portfolio managers from TwentyFour, Benefit Street Partners, Templeton, Bluebay, Pictet, Wisdom Tree, Gravis and Wellington.

Given prevailing conditions in financial assets, there was intense interest in the wide variety of strategy offerings including Life Sciences & Healthcare, Fintech, Crypto & Blockchain, Digital Infrastructure, Private & Distressed Credit and ABS opportunities with family offices keen to explore opportunities in these areas. The volatility of recent years and huge amount of dry powder accumulated by PE firms has dislocated valuations to the extent that many private companies trade at a premium to their publicly listed peers and this is creating opportunities for funds able to operate in both markets.

Prior to the meetings, Freya Beamish, Head of Macro Research at TS Lombard, gave a polished presentation on the economic landscape in 2022, taking into account the recent conflict in Eastern Europe and its implications for growth, inflation and interest rates for the remainder of the year. Freya forecast a challenging year with the 'pincer movement' of a growth scare and inflation anxiety clouding the horizon for equities- even before the Ukrainian war.

Attendance for this, Cap-Connect's second physical event for 2022, was encouraging and spoke volumes for the eagerness of investors and fund managers to meet in person and engage in a more dynamic format. The success and obvious popularity of the occasion augurs well for the impressive pipeline of events Cap-Connect plans for 2022. Next on the schedule is one highlighting the opportunities in Emerging Markets in May and Cap-Connect looks forward to hosting another round of impressive managers and strategies on that occasion.