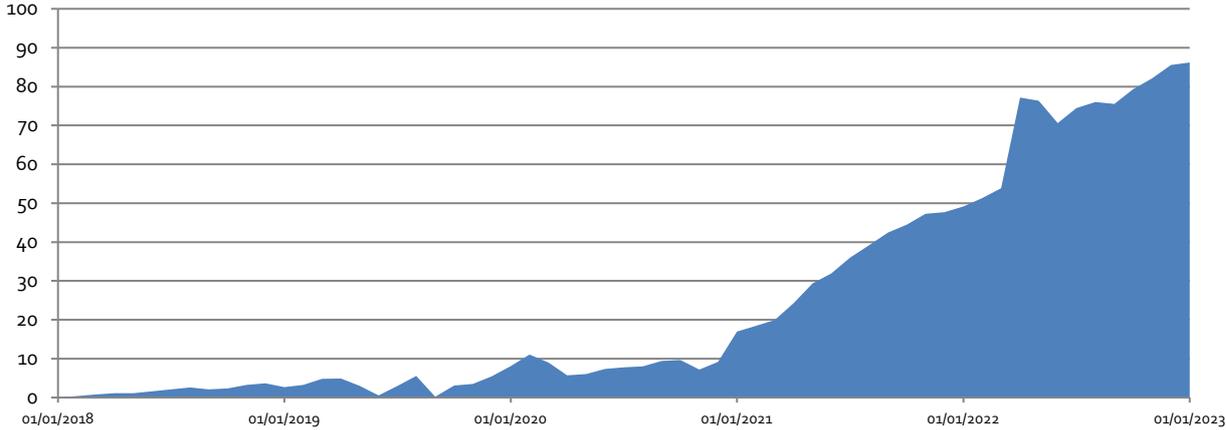




RIO Stock Trading GBP saw a small gain in December, adding to its overall returns in what has been an exceptional year with the investment up 24.82%. The FTSE, in comparison, has registered just 0.91% over the same period. Despite the volatility and dismal performance of the UK stock market, the Stock Trading account ended the year filing nine gaining months in the twelve month period.



Looking back, this high-risk equity investment was launched in June 2016, and members who have remained invested since inception have seen awe-inspiring results, with the net return to date being 178.86%. Incredible!

**The Market**

The FTSE ended the year's final day in a shortened trading session lower. The FTSE 100 was the world's best-performing major stock market in 2022, this was just as I had predicted twelve months previously. As for Global stock markets they suffered their worst year since 2008, with a near 20% crash by year end. The FTSE 100 had benefit from a falling pound, which boosts companies that earn money abroad and then turn it into British currency; there was also a strong performance by heavyweight energy and defence stocks.

December has historically earned a reputation as a strong month for stock markets, but this year was the exception. Historically December has the highest incidence of any month in providing investors with positive returns, with shares making gains 76% of the time and an average monthly gain of 2.26% over the past 50 years. For those interested this is a far higher proportion than any other month in the year. Looking forward January could start well but I still expect volatility as 2023 opens.

William Gray  
The RIO Club