Always Summer
Asset Management

Monthly Report
Always Opportunities

Always Opportunities is an absolute-return credit fund focused on the Nordic corporate bond market. The strategy is designed to preserve capital and generate returns across market cycles, ready to act as a buyer when uncertainty pushes prices below fair value. To keep returns anchored in credit selection rather than broader market direction, we systematically hedge what we do not need to take a view on: currency, interest rates, and market beta.

July 2026

NAV as of 31 July 2026
Reporting Currency: SEK

Slow month where returns were mainly since inception driven by carry in the credit book

Net Return	Gross Return	Portfolio YTM	NAV/Unit
+0.34%	+0.49%	~10.1%	104.51
June 2026	Net of fees	Incl. derivatives	SEK

Risk information: Past performance is no guarantee for future performance. The value of the money invested in the fund can increase or decrease and there is no guarantee that all of your invested capital can be redeemed.

Portfolio at a glance

Issuers	WAL	FRN Allocation	Largest position
59	3.3 yrs	79%	7.4%
Cash bonds	Excl. perpetuals	Of Cash Bonds	Of Cash Book

Key Takeaways

Performance

Always Opportunities returned 0.34% net (0.49% gross) in July, which was a month characterized by very low deal activity. Since the fund launched on April 1st, the fund has returned 4.51% net achieved with low return variance, only a handful of down days and significant alpha generation towards relevant indices

Portfolio

As the fund grows in size, we are diversifying the portfolio assets into new issuers and instruments mainly designed to add new sources of carry which are less correlated with the rest of the portfolio.
Running yield is approximately 10.1% (~8.0% through cash bonds and 2.1% through credit derivatives)

Outlook

We are increasingly defensive in our positioning as market concentration into certain names and sectors is growing and credit supply is expected to be very high. We remain long credit carry which paired with a convex short book, mainly against private credit, equity risk premia and cross-sector dispersion, held as low-cost tail protection. The fund remains strongly positioned to deploy into any volatility.

Manager Commentary

The fund returned +0.49% gross and +0.34% net in July in a very calm market with little to no credit issuance and closed the period at a NAV per unit of 104.51 SEK - up +4.51% net since the 1 April inception.

Nordic credit kept summer hours: new issuance was close to dormant, secondary turnover thin and price discovery limited for much of the period. Almost the entire result came from where we would want it to in a month like this - credit carry accruing day by day, with only a marginal contribution from spread moves and nothing from interest rates or market beta.

That makes four consecutive positive months, each earned in a different environment, with return dispersion that has remained very low and no significant drawdown worth naming. A quiet month is in some respects the more searching test of the investment strategy: with little to trade and no dislocation to exploit, what remains is the cashflow the book generates on its own.

The fund remains fully invested in notional terms, with an approximate running yield in the region of 10%, split between cash-bond coupon income and the contribution from the credit-derivative book. Alongside that we continue to hold ample liquidity in cash and cash-equivalent paper, ready to be put to work if volatility returns and prices move in our favour. Exposure has increasingly been broadly distributed across sectors, instruments and issuers giving the fund an increased diversification of cashflow streams as we head into the second half of the year.

Looking into the autumn, we are deliberately moving the portfolio to a more defensive footing. Our conviction in the carry Nordic credit pays is undiminished, but three things argue for patience rather than jumping into new paper. Valuations across risk assets leave thin margin for error, and the concentration of global equity indices in a narrow group of names means an equity setback need not be broad-based to transmit into credit spreads. As an example, the two companies Micron Technologies and SK Hynix generated 17% of returns of the entire global stock market gains (defined as the MSCI All Country World Index) for the month of May.

In credit, issuance calendars point to a heavy supply of paper once the market returns from holiday, and a market that has absorbed everything put in front of it at ever tighter levels tends to reprice when the volume arrives and we would rather keep dry powder available if any buying opportunities arise.

Inflation and rate expectations have meanwhile been drifting higher, as several forces are lifting market rates higher. Additionally, deteriorating public finances are leaving sovereign debt particularly vulnerable through a dangerous feedback loop as rising debt supply raises yields and interest costs higher and making already-deteriorating fiscal deficits harder to stabilize leading to an increasing government intervention in the global debt markets, which historically have shown limited success. Against that backdrop, we are content to maintain a defensive posture in the fund, let liquidity build and be paid to wait rather than to add significant credit risk at these levels.

Market Backdrop

Equity Markets

Equity markets spent July on holiday hours. Volumes were thin, index moves were small and direction was set less by news than by the absence of it. What the quiet did not do was broaden the market out. It is worth recalling how narrow the leadership had already become: in May, the gains in two semiconductor names alone - Micron Technology in the US and SK Hynix in South Korea - accounted for roughly 17% of the total return of the entire listed equity universe (defined as the MSCI All Country World Index). Two companies, both geared to the same memory-pricing cycle, delivering close to a sixth of the world's equity return is not a description of a healthy market so much as a load-bearing one. Nothing in July's drift changed that arithmetic; it simply postponed the test of it.

Our concern is less the level of valuations than what concentration of this order does to the behaviour of a portfolio that owns the index. Diversification across several hundred names is less impactful when the marginal return is set by a single AI-driven capital-expenditure cycle: the correlation that matters is not between sectors but between each of those names and the same underlying assumption about AI demand. Passive flows reinforce the effect, allocating new money in proportion to weights that concentration itself has inflated. The result is not a forecast of a drawdown. It is a market in which the distance between expectations and delivery has narrowed to the point where disappointment does not need to be broad to be felt everywhere.

The build-out has moved beyond what operating cashflow alone covers - Alphabet's second quarter, with $44.9bn of capital expenditure against $39.1bn of cash from operations, produced the first negative free cash flow in the company's listed history - and the shortfall increasingly reaches the debt markets, whether directly through corporate issuance, through vendor and supplier financing, or through structures secured on data-centre assets whose useful life is being underwritten with more confidence than we would apply ourselves. That migration converts an equity story into a credit one, and it arrives at the same time as an already heavy autumn issuance calendar.

Meanwhile the market has begun to price a less unconditionally optimistic path for the hyperscalers, and the eventual public listing of the frontier model developers will move a valuation debate that has so far been conducted privately into full view. Because these companies underwrite a significant share of the capex cycle and, by extension, of headline GDP growth, a change in how they are priced would not remain contained within their own sector.

For a credit fund the linkage is indirect but dependable: equity drawdowns of the magnitude this concentration permits have historically travelled with wider spreads across rating buckets, with limited regard for individual issuer fundamentals. Our response is not to forecast the event but to make sure we are paid for waiting and positioned to act when others are forced to sell. That means holding protection while it is inexpensive, liquidity kept genuinely liquid, and a growing preference for the parts of the market where our return does not depend on the AI trade continuing to work.

Credit Markets

Nordic credit produced almost no new supply in July. Syndicate desks closed for the holidays, the primary calendar was effectively empty and secondary trading was reduced to modest two-way flow in familiar names. For a fund that earns its return from carry rather than turnover, that is an unremarkable month by design: with no new paper to price and little movement in spreads, the book simply accrued.

Our attention is therefore on what happens when the market comes back. The pipeline building for the second half of August and into the autumn looks unusually full, and for reasons that compound rather than offset each other. Issuance deferred from a quiet summer must be done. The 2027 and 2028 maturity walls have moved inside the window where refinancing becomes a board-level matter rather than a plan. Market rates have risen with inflation and rate expectations over recent months, which raises the coupon borrowers must pay to term out and, in doing so, tends to bring issuance forward rather than delay it. And a growing share of the global capital-expenditure cycle is now looking to the debt markets for funding it can no longer generate internally.

The relevant question is whether that volume meets a bid at current spread levels. Through the first half of the year, the market absorbed the volumes issued with ease, frequently inside the secondary curves of comparable paper, which we read as mandate-driven flow rather than considered pricing. Concessions were minimal because they did not need to be. A heavier issuance calendar, arriving into a market with less cash to put to work and a higher risk-free alternative, is where new-issue premia normally reappear. We would welcome that as that is the most likely route to being paid properly for risk we are currently skeptical to take, which is why we are content to enter the autumn with liquidity rather than to rush into new positions.

What drove performance?

July's return was carry, almost in its entirety. With no primary market to speak of and secondary spreads broadly unchanged, there was little for mark-to-market to contribute in either direction, and the month became a clean read on what the book generates when it is left alone: coupon income accruing daily from the cash bonds, supplemented by the carry on the credit-derivative and structured book. Each component behaved as designed.

The floating-rate cash bonds produced income with no sensitivity to the move higher in market rates. FX hedging on the non-SEK exposures ran at expected cost with no drag on the result. The convex protection positions cost us a small amount to hold, as they should in a quiet month, and that cost is the principal reason the month's return sits below the run-rate implied by the portfolio's running yield.

The result is a fourth consecutive positive month and the smallest of the four in absolute terms, which is what a market with no volatility and no supply ought to produce for a strategy of this design. We would rather report a modest month earned from carry in a market that offered nothing than a larger one earned from taking increased risk at levels we do not think pay.

Positioning & Outlook

The fund enters August fully constructed and with the defensive tilt deliberately increased. The core of the book remains broadly the same: senior secured and senior unsecured floating-rate paper from issuers and sectors we have followed closely, with a contained allocation to selective high-yield names where the credit case supports the premium being paid. The maturity ladder stays distributed across the 2027 to 2030+ buckets, which gives us a regular reinvestment cadence and keeps us from concentrating exposure in any single refinancing vintage - a discipline that matters more, not less, as those vintages approach a market with heavier supply and higher rates.

What we are changing is the emphasis rather than the construction. Where the past four months were about building and then holding a carry engine, the months ahead are about being liquid, diversified and protected if volatility in markets returns. We are letting cash and cash-equivalent reserves accumulate rather than clearing the primary market's tighter deals, and we are content for that to cost us a little carry in the near term. Our underwriting standards for anything new are tightening accordingly, with particular reluctance in participating in deals within sectors like data centers, real estate and in the more crowded corners of the Nordic high yield market.

Alongside the core credit book we continue to build out the derivatives programme with the additions of new carry- and downside protection instruments. The additions are chosen on the same test as everything else: they should either cost very little to carry, and pay disproportionately if sentiment deteriorates sharply or add a new source of cashflow to the fund. That gives us two complementary sources of return - a steady income stream from the carry programmes and a convex payoff from the hedges - and it means a genuine widening in credit spreads would find the fund positioned to earn from the dislocation rather than merely to survive it.

Appendix
Portfolio Detail

Performance

Period	Start	End	Return
Month (31 July 2026)	104.16	104.51	+0.34%
Since inception (1 April 2026)	100.0	104.51	+4.51%

Portfolio Yield Profile

Yield component	Contribution
Cash Bonds — Wtd Avg YTM	8.0%
Credit Derivatives — Est. Contribution	+2.1%
Total Portfolio YTM	~10.1%
Cash Bonds — Wtd Avg Running Yield	8.1%
Total Portfolio Running Yield	~10.2%

Maturity Profile

Maturity	Distribution	% Cash Bonds
2027		6.4%
2028		7.7%
2029		28.9%
2030+		57.0%

Currency Exposure (Gross)

Currency	Gross Exposure (% of NAV)
SEK	59.9%
EUR	23.8%
NOK	3.2%
USD	13.1%

Key Fund Characteristics

Characteristic	Detail
Inception Date	1 April 2026
Domicile	Sweden
Legal Structure	AIF
Base Currency	SEK
Subscription Frequency	Monthly
SRI Risk Classification	3 of 7

Important information

This report is provided for informational purposes. It is preliminary and based on a NAV calculation as of 31 July 2026. Final figures may differ following completion of all reconciliation and audit procedures.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise, and investors may not recover the amount originally invested. The fund may use leverage, derivatives, and currency hedging instruments, which may amplify gains and losses.

This document does not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any security or financial instrument, nor investment advice. Prospective investors should refer to the fund's prospectus and key investor information document before making any investment decision.

All figures in SEK unless otherwise stated. Source: Fund administrator, IVAR™ NAV system.