

SFA choose Hampden Park over Murrayfield as home of Scottish football



The Scottish FA today announced that it is going to remain at Hampden Park and as part of that has agreed terms to buy the stadium from Queen's Park FC, when the existing lease of Hampden expires in summer 2020.

The decision follows a lengthy and rigorous process that saw Hampden Park competing with BT Murrayfield to be the home of Scottish football, following the UEFA European Championships in two years' time.

The Scottish FA will now work with Queen's Park FC to complete the agreement, which will see the ownership of Hampden Park

transfer to the Scottish FA for a cash price of £5m. This sum will allow Queen's Park FC to adapt Lesser Hampden to become its new registered licensed ground for all its matches.



Ownership of Hampden Park will enable the Scottish FA to control the future of the stadium. It will open up opportunities to continue to develop the

infrastructure and create a national stadium that will inspire the next generation of football fans.

The Scottish FA is extremely grateful to Lord Willie Haughey, who has pledged half of the total cash commitment (£2.5m) as direct financial support to the Scottish FA.

The Scottish FA would also like to thank Scottish Rugby for the huge amount of effort invested into their bid.

Scottish FA President Alan McRae said: "Today's announcement has been the conclusion of a fouryear process to review our national stadium beyond 2020.

"It was a hugely difficult decision and I would like to place on record our thanks to Scottish Rugby for their professionalism throughout the process.

"They made a truly compelling case to move to Edinburgh and gave us a very difficult decision to make. I would like to pay tribute to the inspiration, energy and hard work of Scottish Rugby Chief Executive, Mark Dodson, and his Chief Operating Officer, Dominic McKay – both are true leaders in Scottish

sport.”

“This decision is about what was best for Scottish football and our members. It is about the future of football in Scotland.

“I would also like to thank everyone who has been part of this process and to recognise the enormous generosity of Lord Haughey.

“Finally, it has also been a hugely challenging time for Queen’s Park, Hampden Park Limited and all of the people who will be directly affected by this decision. We appreciate all their efforts to reach an agreement today and look forward to working with them to shape the future and continue to develop a national stadium that we can all be proud of.”

Scottish FA Chief Executive Ian Maxwell said: “I would first of all like to offer my thanks to Dominic McKay and his team at Scottish Rugby. They have been impressive throughout the process and I would like to continue to build that relationship. There is a lot we can learn from each other.

“Today is a big day for Scottish football. Hampden Park has been the spiritual home of Scottish football for over 100 years it has been central to our sport’s identity in this country. But today’s decision is about the future, not the past.

“Our mission is to inspire a nation to love the game and having a home that we can call our own is an important part of that. It will enable us to drive investment into the game and give us the best chance to improve football in Scotland.

“While we are now committed to Hampden Park we also recognise that it needs to change. We have heard the fans’ views throughout the process and agree with them that we need to improve access, transport links and the overall experience. We are committed to doing that.

“With all the commitments that have been made to the Scottish FA and Hampden Park Limited throughout this process, taking ownership of the Hampden Park site will create the potential to transform the home of Scottish football for the benefit of Scottish football fans. Ownership really will change the game. We look forward to working with all interested parties to achieve an exciting and fan-friendly vision for Hampden Park.

“With that in mind, we need all of Scotland to pull together to make it Scotland’s national stadium. We have heard many voice their support for the stadium. We need collective action, driven by the Scottish FA, to ensure it remains the beating heart of Scottish football.”