## US businessman Ron Gordon buys majority shareholding in Hibs



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Earlier today the Board announced that the majority shareholding in the Club has passed from HFC Holdings Limited — owned by Sir

Tom Farmer and Rod Petrie — to Bydand Sports LLC, a new company set up for that purpose by Mr Gordon.

As a result of the transaction, Mr Gordon has become the Executive Chairman of the club.

The Club's mortgage debt has been cleared and Hibs are now debt free, six years ahead of plan.

Mr Gordon is making a seven-figure cash injection to the Club and Archie Paton, a senior Sports Industry Executive who has assisted Mr Gordon

in the transaction, will become a Non-Executive on the Board

Following the transaction around one-third of the shares in Hibs

will be owned by existing shareholder supporters with Mr Gordon becoming the new majority shareholder.

Sir Tom Farmer said: "From the day supporters asked me to get involved to help save the Club back in 1991 this day was always going to come.

"After almost 30 years the approach from Ron has struck a chord and the time is right to transfer the stewardship of our great club.

"I want to pay tribute to Rod Petrie who has been integral to the building of the Club.

"Together we picked up the pieces from the receivers of its parent company when the club had nothing and after 28 years of hard work we

leave this Club significantly better off than when we walked through the doors

all those years ago, with a 20,000 all-seater stadium that is one of the best

in Scotland, a first-class training centre and no debt.

"There have been approaches over the years, and we have done them all the courtesy of hearing what they had to say. Ron's passion for

Hibernian and its origins and his commitment to the community and the

engagement he wants with supporters shone through.

"The Directors of the Club met Ron so that they could hear and assess his plans and the investment on offer. It was good to hear their

enthusiasm and excitement for how Ron can help take the Club forward, building

on all we have created in the last 28 years.

"It is also important to recognise the work of all the Board members over those years. This is an unpaid position and often a thankless task, but to all those directors, past and present, I give my thanks."

Ron Gordon told Hibernian Media: "I know that Hibernian is the right club for me, and I am committed to working with supporters, other

shareholders and everyone connected with Hibernian to build on Sir Tom's legacy

and take the Club forward.

"I had a great first conversation with Sir Tom. We swapped stories from our childhood and compared our approach to business.

"There are many similarities and those values are evident in Hibernian not only as an outstanding football club but also its engagement with

young people and through the Hibernian Community Foundation. That it is such a

well-run Club was one of the major attractions for me.

"Hibernian will always be Sir Tom's club and Easter Road will always be his home.

"I am looking forward to getting to know the supporters and shareholders as quickly as possible, hearing what they have to say and then

working with them to help the Club build a successful future. And I will be

there as often as I can to support the team!"

Rod Petrie has stood down from the Board of the Club after 22 years - 15 of them as Chairman.

"In agreeing this transition, Sir Tom and Ron have put the football club first and everyone should recognise and applaud that.

"The legacy of Sir Tom's tenure is not just the Club's infrastructure — our magnificent stadium and training centre — but also the imperative that the Club should live within its means to ensure its stability and well-being.

"During that time, the Club reached 9 cup finals, won the League Cup twice and the long-awaited Scottish Cup in 2016. There were also 10 campaigns in Europe."

Bruce Langham, Senior Independent Non-Executive Director added on behalf of the Club's Board: "The Board is entirely supportive of this orderly transition to new ownership, something that does not always happen within Scottish football.

"We are grateful to Sir Tom and to Rod and excited by Ron taking charge of the Club and bringing his considerable energy and ability to bear to help take it forward."

Leeann Dempster, Chief Executive "Everyone at the Club is excited about the future. Ron is a man who loves football and who is determined

to bring a bright future to the Club. He buys into everything we are trying to

achieve at Hibernian through our structure and our vision and

he brings a wealth of experience in business to add value to that."