

# New book tells the story of how Hearts fans saved their club

Former

Foundation of Hearts chairman Ian Murray MP has suggested that full or partial

fan ownership could be a new model for Scottish football.

By June

2020, the supporters of Heart of Midlothian FC will become the majority

shareholder of the club, owning 79.9 per cent, having contributed over £10

million to the saving and rebuilding of the club.

Speaking at the

launch of *This Is Our Story*, a new book which tells the inside story of how

Hearts fans saved their club from extinction, Murray believes that 'fan

ownership in some shape or form appears to be here to stay – whether it be to

save a football club, give an owner a feasible exit strategy, or to give

supporters a stake.'

A lifelong

Jambo, Murray was part of the efforts to wrestle the club out of the hands of

the former owners, prevent liquidation and defy the proposal to sell Tynecastle

Park. He details the ups and downs of the Romanov era – the famous 5-1 Scottish

Cup win against Hibernian FC, the sacking of George Burley and

Romanov's

proposal to change the club colours to green and yellow with a tartan trim.

The

Foundation of Hearts, supported by top professional advisors, has become the vehicle to harness the power of the fan base. As Murray puts it, 'the thrust behind FOH was borne out of crisis but today, the Foundation is an example of how fan ownership can work.'

This Is Our Story: How the Fans Kept their Hearts Beating is published by Luath Press.