

Hibs sack Paul Heckingbottom after dismal start to season



Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Celtic. Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh, Midlothian, UK. 28/09/2019. Pic shows: Hibs' Manager, Paul Heckingbottom, argues with the 4th official as Hibs play host to Celtic at Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh. Credit: Ian Jacobs

Paul Heckingbottom has been sacked as Hibs' Head Coach after almost nine months in charge.

The 42-year-old has overseen 32 games winning 12, drawing 11 and losing nine.

After taking over from Neil Lennon in February, Heckingbottom led Hibs to a top six finish but failed to win any of their five

post-split matches and eventually missed out on a European place.

He signed nine players in the summer, mostly from the lower divisions in England and none have excited the supporters.

His decision to allow defensive midfielders Marvin Bartley and Mark Milligan to leave the club without a suitable replacement in place has been heavily criticised by the fans.

After successfully negotiating the League Cup group, Hibs started the season with a last-gasp victory over St Mirren on the opening day of the campaign but since they suffered a heavy loss to Rangers at Ibrox, were held at home by St Johnstone, Ross County and Livingston and were easily swept aside at Motherwell and Kilmarnock.

The turning point for most fans came in September when Hibs surrendered a 1-0 lead at home to struggling rivals Hearts and he has never been forgiven particularly as that was Hearts only win of the season.

Speculation has already begun as to his replacement with former Sunderland and St Mirren manager Jack Ross listed amongst the favourites.

A statement is expected from Hibs soon.