



SONS SUPPORTERS TRUST  
Strathclyde Homes Stadium  
Castle Road  
DUMBARTON G82 1JJ

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release/Publication

April 15<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **SONSTRUST COMMENT ON NEW OWNERSHIP AT DUMBARTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

Following the news of the recent change of ownership at Dumbarton Football Club the Supporters Trust Director on the DFC board, Stephen Lynch, has made the following comments.

Stephen said : “First, I would like to thank previous owner Neil Rankine for his time at the Club and adhering to his commitment not to sell out to any party who did not have the future interests of the Club at heart.

“From the feedback so far, the announcement on the sale of Neil’s majority shareholding has created a lot of questions and understandable concern amongst fans, especially when words more likely to be heard in the City of London are used, for example ‘special purposes corporate vehicle’ and ‘private equity’.

“For many fans alarm bells have been ringing and they are keen to understand what it really means to the Club.

“However, I have been supportive of the move due to my concern over the real possibility of other parties becoming involved whose aim was one of asset stripping, rather than the future of DFC.

“We welcome the statements of the new investors whose *“priority remains to secure the long term future of DFC both on and off the park”* and will meet with them to better understand the details of the finalised deal.



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“We also welcome the appointment of Gilbert Lawrie, a lifelong Dumbarton supporter as the new Chief Executive. This is of huge significance and benefit to the Club. We have agreed that Gilbert and I will meet with the Supporters Trust Board as soon as possible in an attempt to address any legitimate questions.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank current Chairman Ian MacFarlane whose contribution and dedication to the club are not fully appreciate by all. For this we thank him and wish him and his family well in the future.

“Ian will be replaced as Chairman by Alan Jardine, a true fan, and this appointment recognises his valuable contribution over the years and allows him to hand over the day to day activities to Gilbert.

“As the fans representative on the Board, I have the obligation to protect the fans and shareholders investment and their Club. However that has to be done working closely with the board and the new investors, demonstrating the positive benefits an active Trust can bring to the Club and how we can help protect their investment.

“Ensuring we are at the table, and aware of what is going on, is the best way to meet our collective aim of securing the long term future of DFC, which continues to include a community owned football club.”

ENDS.



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Notes:

1. The Sons Supporters Society Limited (Sonstrust) is a registered Industrial and Provident Society, built on not-for-profit community based principles.
2. The Sonstrust has a shareholding membership of 255.
3. The Sonstrust has an elected representative on the Board of Dumbarton FC following a £25,000 investment.
4. The Sonstrust currently maintains the Dumbarton FC website, produces the match programme, and assists the club in many different ways.
5. Dumbarton FC is Scotland's third oldest football club, founded in 1872.

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