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## New owners issue Derby promise

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Derby's new American owners have promised not to drag the club into the same financial turmoil that has engulfed Liverpool after securing the club in a £50million takeover.

The General Sports and Entertainment (GSE) group have bought 93% of Derby and say they aim to make the club a "global brand", but insist the identity of the consortium who have put up the money for the purchase must remain secret for the time being.

Derby chairman Adam Pearson said: "It's a positive deal and very different to the Liverpool deal."

GSE looked at the possibility of taking over a number of Premier League clubs, including Manchester City, before settling on the Rams.

Pearson, who will retain a seven per cent shareholding and position as chairman of football operations, said they were using Aston Villa - now owned by American tycoon Randy Lerner - as the model rather than Liverpool where Tom Hicks and George Gillett have just taken on £350million debts.

Pearson said: "You have a situation at Aston Villa and you have a situation at Liverpool. One has been remarkably successful in revolutionising the club, the other is going down a different route.

"When you are injecting debt into an institution that is Liverpool football club you are going to have problems. This is a completely contrary route to that.

"This is a cash deal injected into the football club, some will be spent on the team and some on the club."