

# 777 Partners co-founders resign

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Josh Wander and Steven Pasko, co-founders of 777 Partners, have stepped down as managing partners due to growing financial concerns over the investment firm following a failed attempt to take over Everton Football Club.

B Riley Advisory Services, which specialises in bankruptcy litigation, has been hired to restructure the company. Ian Ratner and Ron Glass of B. Riley have been appointed as managers of 777 Partners and its sibling company 600 Partners, respectively.

Don Dransfield, formerly of City Group, is overseeing 777's football operations, reports Josimar.

In the first week of May, Canadian carrier Flair Airlines said an affiliate of its largest senior lender was acquiring a portion of the shares owned by 777 Partners and providing new non-binding debt funding.

777 Partners previously owned a 25% stake in Flair.

The decision followed sister airline Bonza's suspension of [operations](#) at the end of April. Hall Chadwick was appointed as a voluntary administrator after funding from the A-Cap group of insurers was scaled back to the Australian carrier.

US regular concern about A-Cap's exposure to 777 Partners and the downgrade of its 777 Re reinsurer [prompted investors to take control of the Boeing 737 Max orderbook previously allocated to the Miami-based firm.](#)

In February, AM Best [downgraded](#) 777 Re, reflecting the insurer's "very weak balance sheet due to a significant exposure to less liquid affiliated investments." Bermuda-based 777 Re's financial strength rating was lowered to 'C- weak' from 'B fair' and the long-term issuer credit rating to 'CCC- weak' from 'BB fair'.

[Lessor Phoenix Aviation Capital became the owner of 777 Partners' 30 737 Max 8 orders](#) and 30 purchase rights on 29 February after being established by an undisclosed US insurer with \$11 billion in assets under management.

*Airfinance Journal* understands that the A-Cap group of insurers is the shareholder behind Phoenix Aviation Capital. The group includes Sentinel Security Life, Haymarket Insurance, and Jazz Reinsurance, based in Utah, and Atlantic Coast Life Insurance and Southern Atlantic Re in South Carolina.

AIP Capital will exclusively manage Phoenix and its Max units, which will deliver from 2024 through 2027.

Phoenix's insurance owner also has a 49% stake in AIP Capital after the asset manager severed shareholding ties with 777 Partners on 6 December.

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