

Birmingham Post
September 2009

Midven to benefit with investment appointment



**Midven's new chairman Brian Blakemore (left) welcomed
by chief executive Tony Stott**

Birmingham-based venture capital specialist Midven has appointed experience investment man Brian Blakemore as its non-executive chairman.

Mr Blakemore retired from Barclays Private Equity in September 2008 and is currently engaged in consulting projects and training.

He joined Barclays in 1989 to open the Birmingham office. He became a director in 1998 and was a member of the UK 'Executive Committee.

Before taking over at the private equity role, he was at Barclays Bank, where he was a senior corporate lending manager.

After leading the Barclays Private Equity Midlands team for more than ten years, he was appointed investor relation director in December 2000. He was a key part of the team which successfully raised the firm's first three funds - the £1.25 billion Barclays Private Equity European Fund in 2002, the £1.65 billion Barclays Private Equity European Fund II in 2005 and the £2.45 billion Barclays Private Equity European Fund III in 2007.

After taking the Midven role, he said: "I am delighted to be joining Midven as chairman. Equity investing in start-up and small companies has a crucial role to play in encouraging a strong entrepreneurial culture across the UK.

"Under the leadership of its chief executive Tony Stott, Midven has an impressive track record in what is recognised as a difficult investment area.

"I am very much looking forward to working with the Midven team to continue to develop their strategy in the venture capital space."

Mr Stott said: "We are delighted to have someone of Brian Blakemore's extensive investment acumen on board. There are very few people with his depth of experience in this field, so we consider ourselves privileged that he has decided to join us, which says much about the enviable reputation that Midven has built-up.

"We are extremely busy at present, having made 20 investments in the first six months of 2009 and Brian's appointment is part of our drive for more success in the future."

The move comes hot on the heels of Midven's appointment of Julie Newman as a non-executive director. She has 19 years experience in early stage venture capital investment and will provide fundraising and strategic advice to Midven and sit on the Advantage Growth Fund Investment Committee.