

## Andrew Wearing

Proposed by: Jack Simpson

Seconded by: Sue Simpson



As a Reading fan since the age of three, having been ‘indoctrinated’ by my Father and my Uncle who both endured long away trips during their childhood and adulthood, the blue and white is very much in my blood.

As a member of the board, I would like to continue the fantastic work STAR have done since it was set up in March 2002.

As per the aims and objectives I would like to be part of an organisation with ever closer ties to the football club, in particular since the Thai consortium takeover where club transparency has been heightened significantly.

If I was to be successfully nominated, I would love to oversee a website update, a more user friendly interface with regular match reports (Or links to third party websites) to not necessarily compete with Reading’s official website but to be an additional source of information regarding the clubs season. As part of this new website I would like to create an opportunity where STAR, once a month can have their say on what they have been doing behind the scenes as an organisation to give the supporters a feel regarding the great work they have been up to. Within this further, there would be a dedicated list of events STAR is putting on in the coming months along with STAR travel arrangements to away games.

With relevance to away travel, some fans can potentially forget about some away games, thus I would like to introduce an email based subscription service where once an away travel bus(es) have been arranged a generic email is set to ‘all’ members of STAR so they are aware there is an opportunity to travel on the coaches. The away travel arrangements should also be updated, the ability to pay for away travel through online payment services such as Paypal eliminating the need

for all potential users to travel to the STAR base (Which could be a problem for some due to unforeseen circumstances or work commitments)

Moreover, I would like to 're-introduce' a Young Royals element to STAR. Young Royals was a scheme offered by Reading whilst I was growing up, receiving 'freebies' such as scarfs. As a youngster who grew up around fans supporting the links of Chelsea and Arsenal, this particularly attracted me to the football club, it makes you feel welcome, a sense of a family. As a traditionally family orientated club, I feel this 'reintroduction' will help bring through a new breed of Reading fans to 'enjoy' the highs and lows of supporting this family club.

I would also like to oversee a membership update regarding Reading exiles and their role within STAR. As a University student up in Northern England, I have encountered numerous Reading fans by coincidence who are currently residing in the North as part of a University/College study. The vast majority were not aware of STAR's exile groups where there is an opportunity engage with fans outside of Reading, whether that is London, Yorkshire or abroad. Therefore as part of the membership application/renewal I would like to introduce a new tier entitled, 'term address' to enable Reading fans who have a temporary location in a different part of the country due to University or indeed work commitments to meet other Reading fans for social gatherings to talk Reading or indeed to watch a game if it's on the television.

Relating to STAR exiles, as a young adult who has grown up alongside the internet, I am aware of the benefits of social media and the available research to various members of the globe. Thus I would like to use social media to bring together STAR exiles through a more frequently used Facebook and Twitter and other platforms, specifically targeting exiles whether they are across the globe.

Furthermore, linking back to the aims and objectives within STAR, I would like to introduce a drive where fans (Whether the season is at the beginning or drawing to its conclusion) have the ability to get in contact with STAR whether that's through email or through a forum based messaging service to express their concerns regarding anything to do with the club, which can then be fed back to the relevant authorities. This will create a situation where the relevant individuals at Reading are aware of any fan issues, enabling more transparently and helps further the 'family' feel within the football club because it could potentially eradicate any fans grievances which they encounter whilst at the Madejski Stadium or further afield.