Jonathan Hall STAR Election Statement

I have been following Reading since early 2000 after moving to the Reading area for work purposes, and I have been a season ticket holder since 2001/02, seeing more good times than bad over the years and have followed Reading in one of their more successful periods (this season excluded). In addition to supporting the Men's team, and the U23's I am a fan and supporter of everything Reading FC. I am also a keen supporter, sponsor and regular volunteer for Reading Women FC, becoming interested in watching Reading Women after seeing my first Women's football match in 2012, England v Brazil at the London Olympics.

I am one of several accountants on the board and since joining the board as a co-opted member in January, I have assisted the other board members with various tasks including the current structure and ownership of Reading Football Club, the annual fan's player of the season award and STAR's Reading FC Hall of Fame. I also wrote the STAR programme notes for the Brentford game in January 2018 mainly in relation to Reading Women FC. The aim of this was to encourage further support and increased attendances at Reading Women FC home games. I feel that the Reading Women FC matches should be promoted more by the club and advertised at the home matches. We would all like Reading Women FC matches to move from their current home at Adams Park, Wycombe to the MadStad which is a possibility but not until 2020.

I am also keen to develop and improve the support at the MadStad too, and I have recently been part of the Club 1871 initiative and standing in the south stand, singing and supporting the team for the entire match. We saw the interest and support of this scheme grow, with full backing by the club with an increase from 40 fans in the South stand for the first game against Preston to over 200 fans against Ipswich at the last home game of the season. I do believe that this did lead to a better atmosphere at the matches, and with some of the players commented that they appreciated the support, it was an initiative that was a success and we should look at continuing this next season too. I do believe that moving forward STAR should develop more links with Club 1871, working together for the fans and to improve the matchday atmosphere at the Madejski.

Moving forward, I have already agreed to assist STAR in various projects, these include the development of the STAR webite and assisting existing board members with online booking of coach travel. Specifically, I have already agreed to be a part of the group to develop and improve the current STAR website, including the redesign, the ongoing maintenance and updating the content with news, upcoming coach bookings and including links to various social media. In addition, I do feel that STAR should be using more social media, especially on matchdays, tweeting before and after the game and regular posts on Facebook. I have also agreed to assist other board members with the continued development of online travel bookings which was first introduced during the 2017-18 season to provide an alternative way to book coach travel for the away games. This was available to a limited number of members initially and although this is still very much in its trial stage it is now available for all STAR members and I have personally found this to be a simple and convenient way to book coach travel especially beneficial if you cannot make the STAR base before matches or on a Tuesday evening.

Having become a co-opted member of the STAR board, through my connections with Reading Women FC, in January 2018 and attending the board meetings from October 2017 I have decided, although I am happy to remain a co-opted board member, the time is right to become a fully elected board member of STAR. I believe the assistance and support I have given the board over the past 6 months and what I have agreed to become involved with in the future has proved that I am can be a benefit to the board.

Thank you for reading.

Proposed by: Paula Martin Seconded by: Ian Maynard