

## JACK SIMPSON

Proposed by: Matthew Batten.

Seconded by: Andrew Wearing.

I first supported Reading when I was seven years old, I remember it was a game in the 2005/06 season when we beat Crewe at the Madejski Stadium. As everyone connected with Reading Football Club knows that was such a glorious season finishing with 106 points and promotion to the Premier League.

Now fast forward 18 years later, nothing could be further from those fantastic times.

Transfer ban after transfer ban points deduction after points deduction and consequent relegation from the Championship. Reading Football Club is now at a crossroads with its future now uncertain.

It is for these reasons that I am standing for election to become part of the STAR board at Reading FC.

Under Dai's leadership our beloved club has gone backwards, we have undoubtedly become the worst-run club in the EFL. We can't pay players on time and we can't pay HMRC on time. It's fantastic that STAR and other fan groups have come together to get Mr Dai and Mr Pang out of RG2 and more of that needs to continue.

If I am successful at getting elected, I will do my utmost to continue to plan and liaise with supporters' groups in terms of holding the board to account.

I feel like I have the opportunity to help Reading fans get their frustrations heard by the club. There are plenty of opportunities to improve things for other Reading fans – it is a very open group.

The fans forum at Blue Collar was fantastic and that is something I am keen to get myself involved in should I be elected onto the board.

If I am elected then I would like to help organise events that STAR's name out there. It's important that as a supporter's group, fans understand what it is that we do and be a voice in the local community.

I want more people to step forward; there is so much more we could do as a group. It is now more important than ever that we step up.

The club's future is on the line and we simply cannot watch the club die in front of us whilst the owner can't perform his duties. Reading Football Club is and always belongs to the fans and Mr Dai has shown the complete opposite of this.

Sir Winston Churchill once said: "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

As members of STAR and people on the board, we have the opportunity to push for change.

This isn't about me, it's about what state the club is in, once I am six feet under the ground.

Reading Football Club has existed for over 150 years, serving our proud community. Now we must fight, so that our children and grandchildren can have a club in which they can be proud of.

This is an opportunity that I am relishing and I can't wait to get going if I am elected.

Jack Simpson

