

JOHNNY HUNT

Proposed by: Sarah Turner

Seconded by: Matthew Batten

I would like to re-apply for a position on the board of Supporters Trust At Reading.

I am a lifelong Reading fan currently living in Ireland for past 13 years and want to continue to offer views and opinions of a supporter living outside the United Kingdom in what has been a testing time as a fan and board member dealing with the ongoing turmoil at the club.

I believe that I offer a passionate and honest view as fan on the board and whilst respectful of others I am not afraid to speak up about issues that are important to me and so many others as fans. A good example of this is my views on the sad and avoidable near demise of our once proud Reading Fc women's team.

When I joined the board of STAR 6 years ago I recognised that we needed to change what we did and how we approached things. However I also recognised that this was not going to happen overnight. People have different views and experiences and I have learnt so much from board members past and present and have the utmost respect for everyone.

We needed to move forward and we are moving in the right direction.

I am proud to be part of what STAR has achieved in recent times we are a powerful voice who supports the Reading FC fan base and working with the Sell Before We Dai campaign to highlight the plight of what has been happening to our club. I think we have helped unite the all the different fan groups that care passionately about the future of our club.

We are now entering a new era with new owners where I feel STAR has a massive role to play in the future of our club and I want to continue to be part of this. We need to work with the owners to ensure that the mistakes made by previous owners does not happen again, this is an exciting challenge that I can bring a lot of knowledge to.

With the bigger picture in football changing with regard to the governance of the game, this is an exciting opportunity to make a difference and be the voice of our fan base. I want to continue to be part of that.

Mental Health Awareness will always be a part of what I do and I am so proud of the Talking Royals Initiative that I set up in October 2023 with the backing of the board of STAR which I am so grateful for. It is still developing but I think it helps so many fans that feel isolated but also worried about the plight of our club. It is an online regular catch up where people can discuss mental health, football in a safe supportive place with like minded people.

We have also had ex royals Graeme Murty and Dave Kitson share their experiences which has really helped others. Alongside this the support of Reading Samaritans Outreach team and No 5 young people's charity has been invaluable. I am also in the process of setting up a podcast covering these subjects that people can use as a support when needed.

One of the next things will be to provide free mental health first aid training for 16 fans and Reading Fc staff in the autumn of 2024. In the long term this will open up the opportunity to have mental health first aiders available on match days. Please get in touch if you want to be part of this.

We also have a supportive What's App group but are also looking to engage with other clubs to develop the Talking Platform that Bournemouth and Luton are part of.

I believe building links with other clubs is so important for STAR as the game is all about the football community as a whole and protecting the long term future of all clubs in the football pyramid.

I am also still involved with the running of STAR Exiles and STAR Ireland. These groups provide ongoing support for each other with regards to catch up at games or online and we are planning more trips to games for next season if you want to get involved. We are still looking at how we can offer more for STAR members who live away from the area.

It is all about making positive connections and helping others. This is something I am so proud to do whenever I can. I may not be a big voice in the royals community but I am as genuine as you can be and will continue to make a positive difference,

STAR needs to have the voices of ordinary fans like me as I represent you.

This is my hometown, our club, our community lets continue to make a difference together as one voice.

Thanks

Johnny Hunt

