

## **ANDREW WEARING**

Proposed by: Jack Simpson

Seconded by: Robert Wearing

### **Dear STAR Members,**

As a long-time and dedicated Reading Football Club fan since 2005, I have had the privilege of previously serving on the STAR board. Regrettably, I had to step down from this position due to university commitments. Since then, I have cultivated a broad range of transferable skills, particularly in the transportation sector, which I am eager to bring to the STAR board to support our shared goals and enhance the Trust's impact.

Over the past few years, I have progressed significantly in my career within the transportation industry, focusing on the bus and coach sector. Currently, I hold the position of Account Manager at one of the UK's leading transportation companies. This role places me within the senior management team, where I am part responsible for a multi-million-pound contract. My responsibilities include daily engagement in critical communication, finance, and negotiation with both internal and external stakeholders. I have honed my skills in negotiating costings within tight budgetary limits and addressing stakeholder concerns, ensuring the seamless operation of rail replacement services.

In my professional life, I prioritise honesty and transparency, even when delivering challenging news. This ethos is essential for maintaining long-lasting relationships and ensuring the sustainability of contracts and partnerships. I believe these values are equally important in the context of STAR, especially as we navigate the complex landscape of football club management and supporter relations.

At this juncture, our club faces significant financial challenges and a troubling lack of clear communication between the club and its supporters. If elected, I am committed to ensuring that STAR exemplifies transparency and open communication, particularly during crucial periods such as potential changes in ownership. It is vital that we, as a supporters' trust, act as a reliable conduit for information, ensuring that fans are kept informed and involved in the club's affairs.

I am also passionate about increasing STAR's visibility and influence by organising events that foster stronger connections with the local community and beyond. It is essential for fans to understand our role and to have a platform where their voices can be heard. By promoting STAR's initiatives and engaging more actively with supporters, we can help to cultivate a more inclusive and supportive fan base.

Reading Football Club holds a special place in my heart, a passion that was instilled in me by my father, who witnessed the exploits of the legendary Robin Friday and experienced the ups and downs of the club in the 70s and 80s. This generational feel for the club has become an integral part of my identity, and I jokingly attribute my fervent support to my father's influence.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am eager to contribute my skills and passion to the STAR board and to work collaboratively with all members to support the future of Reading Football Club.

