

MATTHEW BATTEN



Proposed by: Sarah Turner

Seconded by: Maisie Turner

Thank you for the opportunity to seek re-election to the STAR Board. Over the past three years, culminating in my role as Deputy Chair during 2024/25, I have immersed myself in the governance of our Trust, deepened my understanding of supporter representation, club accountability, and representing Reading FC interests across Parliament, local Government, media and key football organisations.

My most visible contribution to membership has been through my involvement in the **Sell Before We Dai** campaign, from its inception through to closure upon the sale of the club to Rob Couhig. In the campaign I worked across several roles from project managing across all strands of our campaign and shaping the strategic direction, identifying volunteers, supporting on media and holding our core lines, research into the owner and ownership structures including obtaining information from overseas jurisdictions and identifying individuals to help us further investigate, liaising with football authorities including the FSA and EFL, working with parliamentarians and liaising with other clubs that were suffering ownership problems. Alongside continuing to maintain business as usual activity with Supporters' Trust at Reading.

Working on the campaign has proven my ability to work with our Chair and bring other organisations with us to galvanise the fanbase, working through technical details and concerns with powerful stakeholders, and delivering meaningful results through moving the owner to a position where the club went from being not up for sale, to for sale, to sold - alongside supporting activity leading to Dai Yongge's suspension.

Outside of my role on the board I bring 22 years of experience working in the Civil Service, with wide ranging experiences including project management, diplomacy, analysis and strategy. I'm an accredited and adaptable project manager, skilled in negotiation and conflict resolution, with a meticulous eye for detail. Having worked in high-pressure crisis response roles, I'm used to solving complex problems swiftly and resourcefully.

My guiding principles are collaboration, openness, and member focus. If re-elected, I intend to:

- Act as a "critical friend" to new ownership, advocating for fan-led improvements in matchday experience, transparency, and community engagement.

- Continue to elevate member feedback and voice, ensuring STAR remains a clear voice to the club.
- Share lessons from Sell Before We Dai nationally, strengthening Trusts across English football and supporting others with issues building off our experience.
- Provide approachable, visible leadership, supporting our Chair in delivering high-quality service.

My three years on the Board, proven leadership within the Sell Before We Dai campaign, and 22-year professional track record equip me to serve STAR with strategic vision, operational excellence, and relentless advocacy for our members. I am grateful for your support to continue this work.