

Colin Bishop – Election Statement for STAR



I have been a supporter of Reading Football Club since the late 1950's. I first visited Elm Park with my father and uncle in 1958 when I was eight years old, the match was against Norwich. I was instantly hooked, both my parents were Reading fans and attended most home games. I started following the team away from home regularly in the 1970's, after a couple of years travelling away I got actively involved with Reading Football Supporters Club, the official supporters organisation. In 1975 I was asked by Mick Foster if I would like to join Reading Football Supporters Club Committee. For the first few years I worked in the club shops at Elm Park and stewarded the away coaches. Along with other members of the supporter's club committee I helped to rebuild the Tilehurst End Club Shop after it was destroyed by a fire in 1983 which also coincided with the attempted merger of Reading & Oxford United by Robert Maxwell & Frank Waller. For thirteen years I was responsible for the Supporters Club Quiz team that went on to become National Champions for five consecutive years. For the last ten years of the Supporters Club I held the position of secretary. I have represented Reading Supporters at National level attending annual conferences and regular southern division meetings. I

am also a member of the Reading Collectors and Historians Society, I am an avid collector of Reading memorabilia and own an extensive programme collection going back pre WW2. In 2002 STAR became the successor to Reading Football Supporters Club and I continued to be involved, I joined the board originally as a co-opted member for the first year, I then went on to serve on the board for a total of twelve years, when as per the rules I had to stand down.

I took over responsibility for the organisation and management of the away travel coaches from Denny Fullbrook in 1999-2000, this involves liaising with the Coach Company, police, motorway service centres, and officials of the team we are to visit. On match days and Tuesday evening's I can be found in The STAR H. Q. where we sell away coach travel tickets and memberships. At present I am involved with the refurbishment of the STAR H. Q. Over the last forty years I have gained a wealth of experience and I feel that I can use it to good effect not only to promote and support my club but also to develop better opportunities and conditions for my fellow supporters.

Proposer: Melanie Bishop

Secunder: Jenny Stocks