

MELANIE BISHOP

Proposed by Colin Bishop
Seconded by Sarah Turner

My name is Melanie Bishop and I am seeking re-election to the STAR Board. I have been married to Colin Bishop for forty five years and I have supported Reading since 1976. I have three children who are all fervent supporters of RFC (they wouldn't dare be anything else), the youngest is the Assistant 1st Team Kit Man. I am a retired and former Learning Support Assistant of twenty five years at the Willink School in Burghfield Common. In addition I was also a serving Governor of the school for twelve years during which time I held the post of Safeguarding Governor. This is a role that I am currently serving within STAR as Safeguarding Officer as it is important to me to recognise the responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of young people and vulnerable people taking part in STAR activities or using STAR Travel to attend away games.

I held the post of STAR Membership Secretary for ten years and I served on the Committee of STAR's predecessor - Reading Football Supporters Club, I have participated in many of RFSC's and STAR's activities over the years. I have always supported Colin in his role with RFSC and as a Board Member of STAR - not forgetting the STAR Shop and organisation of away coach travel. I can always be found in the STAR base in the afternoons or evenings of home matches.

Supporting Reading has had its highs and lows but it has certainly never been boring. I have witnessed enormous changes in terms of the club's development, growth and location. I have watched heart stopping games and ones that have exasperated me, but I am a great believer in supporting your home town team and, although I was not born in Reading, for the last forty five years it has been my home town. One of the most important things to me is to make sure that as many young fans as possible can get safely to away games and at a price that is affordable. This is a particular role that I take very seriously.

I have made many good and long lasting friendships through football. It became very clear to me early on that I not only married a man but a football club and all it entails, and I am content but purposeful in that I want to do all that I can to encourage the next generation of young Reading people to support their home town club. They are the future of Reading Football Club.