

Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting of The Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Wednesday 13th June 2012 at The Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the committee comprising:

John Hartley - Chairman
Steve Scott – Treasurer
Sarah Gladstone – Secretary
Emma Stewart
Duncan Franklin
Sue Clayton Smith
Scott Cooke
96 other members of Quinssa

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members attending Quinssa website.

Apologies for Absence:

Debbie Beaumont, Paul Beaumont, Christopher Bates, Mike Benson, Debs Carey, David Coldrey, Chrissy Coldrey, Simon Coleman, Martin Elliott, Sam Hartley, Vicky Hartley, Norma Hemolle, Paul Hermolle, David Holland, Warren Kennedy, John Liddiard, Jane Liddiard, Iris Manning, Stephen McGuigan, Claire Melvin, Alison Metcalfe, Kevin Sampson, Debbie Sampson, Janette Semmens, Nigel Short, Andy Steele, Paul Tweedale, Pauline Tweedale, Richenda Walford, Alan West, Anika White, Bev Willis.

1.Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were approved by a show of hands & without dissent.

Proposer : Graham Johnson

Seconded: Jane Thornton

2.Chair's Report

Membership

- We are delighted to say that in this our ninth year we now have over 1, 000 members! This is an enormous achievement, and we are particularly pleased with a net increase of nearly 25% on our numbers this time last year.
- We're delighted that **Grant Robbins** is here today to collect his reward for being the 1,000th member
- **Julia Simpson** and **Peter Dennis** also qualify for champagne, being members 998 and 999 and **Garrick Collier** is the existing Quinssa member who qualifies for nominating one of the lucky new members,
- Thanks are due to all the committee members and, in particular, to Scott for managing the membership database so effectively.
- We believe that our growth continues because we continue to offer increasing **membership benefits**, either through our own resources, through our sponsors or with the help of the Club, for which we are grateful.
- We are, as always, grateful to our membership in supporting our various fund raising activities.
- Despite organising (and subsidising) more activities, we have been able to keep our membership fees at the same £5 per year level since Quinssa was formed.

Events

We have run quite a few events in the 2011/12 year, including:

- The "Meet the ... evenings with:

- the ever ambitious Conor;
- the irrepressible Davids Ellis & Morgan;
- the down to earth John Kingston, the coaching team and Ed Spokes
- and finally - with Wayne Barnes and his gorilla!
- We also had our first ever Quinssa Summer Ball. Thanks to Emma for organising it and to the Players for giving up their time to be there.
- Thanks to divine intervention from Gareth Harkin, we were again able to organise special reduced price tables for Quinssa members at the Players' Awards Dinner.
- For the immediate future, we have
 - the Quinssa Summer Party, this year at the Lensbury, in a few days' time - with over 100 people going
 - our second Quinssa Summer Ball coming up on July 20th, again with Players attending
- If you haven't got your tickets yet, now's the time! Both of these events are subsidised for Quinssa members

Fund raising

- We have raised funds at some of our events for the Quins chosen charity, this year, Right to Play, but, as normal, our main fundraising thrust has been for the Quins Academy.
- Once again we raised significant sums for the Academy and presented Tony Diprose with a cheque for £3,370.55 at the Premiership semi-final.
- This really does enable some of the academy players to gain rugby experience outside of the normal Academy structure which they would not otherwise have been able to do. This year, for example, we have sent Sam Stuart to Nick Evans' old club, East Coast Bays, in North Harbour. As well as being a fantastic experience for Sam the opportunity to play a club season in a demanding environment is just what he needs. Having missed so much of the last two seasons it gives him a great opportunity to get back up to form so that he hits the ground running for Quins next season.

Coaches & overseas matches

- We ran coaches & bought "block booking" tickets to nearly all the away matches, where practical. Coaches were better used this year and we managed effectively to wipe out last year's small losses, so the coaches account is more or less in balance.
- Foreign travel included Toulouse, Toulon and our traditional cold wet windy weekend in Galway!

The Survey

- For the first time this year, we decided to run a fairly extensive survey of our members and received a LOT of feedback – about 1/3 of our membership at the time responded. Emma has the details:

Thanks

- I'd like to thank Andrew Lawton for his work on the coaches and David Holland who has audited our accounts again this year – and has volunteered to do it again next year.
- I think we all owe a vote of thanks to all the members of the committee who have worked so hard this year to organise activities and keep the membership benefits alive. I'm not going to single out any one individual because they've all done a great job. Thanks

And finally

- I have decided that, after seven years on the committee, including the last four years as Chair, the time has come for me to step aside and let someone else have a go! It has been very enjoyable and rewarding working with such a great bunch of people and I wish the new committee all the very best for the future
- If they will let me, I hope to remain involved and to help out from time to time but, in the meantime, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all Quinssa members, the committee and the Club for all the help and support I have received over the last few years and to wish that Quinssa goes from strength to strength over the next years
- Thank you.

John A Hartley – Quinssa chair

3.Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report on the financial year to 30th April 2012.

Firstly I would like to thank our member David Holland for once again auditing and approving the accounts. We are very appreciative of his work on our behalf.

I'm sure that all of you have scrutinised the accounts over the last few days and have loads of questions for me later, but hopefully not!

This has been the second year for me as treasurer and the simple changes I introduced in the first year have made it easier to manage the Association's finances. At this time last year membership was approaching 800 and now we are on the brink of having 1000 members which brings its own issues in respect of controlling the income and expenditure. However with the support of my fellow committee members and particularly Scott Cooke, our Membership Secretary, it has been a straightforward and enjoyable task for me.

The funds available to the committee to run the association are healthy and the finances in good order. Most of the club's sponsors continue to be supportive and with your input at our events we are able to make considerable donations to charity and to the Academy. We presented a cheque for £3370.55 to the Academy at the last home game of the season.

The association has continued to provide coaches to away games where feasible and they required a small subsidy to operate over the financial year which does not exactly match the season. I believe we should continue to provide this service and to subsidise to a reasonable extent if necessary.

Summary		
	£	
Current Account balance	12,953.14	
	£	
Deposit Account Balance	6,879.04	
	£	
Total bank balance	19,832.18	
Coach Float	£	750.00
Admin	£	300.00
Printing	£	500.00
Events	£	2,500.00

Unallocated	£	500.00
Allocated Total	£	4,550.00
	£	
Bank less allocated	15,282.18	
Future years income	£	3,281.43
	£	
Net bank less future years	12,000.75	
Academy fund	£	3,370.55
	£	
Accruals	-	
Net Availability	£	8,630.20

Are there any questions about the accounts? May I ask if there are any volunteers to take on the role of auditor for next year? Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the Supporters' Dinner next month. Otherwise please have a great summer and I'll see you next season.

S D Scott

Treasurer

4.Accounts

Proposer: Rhona MacDonald

Seconded: Jason Whyte

5.Appointment of Auditor for the coming year

David Holland has agreed to act as auditor again for the coming year & this was accepted without contest.

6. & 7. Election of Officers & Committee Members

There were nominations as follows:

Steve Scott 0144 (Chair)

Proposed by N.J.T. Cahill (1294)

Seconded by Amanda Cahill (1293)

Warren Kennedy 0628 (Treasurer)

Proposed by John Hartley 0132

Seconded By Mark Clayton Smith 715

Sarah Gladstone 0769 (Secretary)

Proposed by John Hartley 0132

Seconded by Sally Kefford 1669

Duncan Franklin 0024 (Committee Member)

Proposed by T Pierce 0110

Seconded by Stuart Brooks 0068

Emma Stewart 0102 (Committee Member)

Proposed by John Hartley 0132

Seconded by Anthony Wade 0056

Scott Cooke 0776 (Committee Member)
Proposed by Claire McGurk 1380
Seconded by Sarah Gladstone 0769

Adrian Jobling 0664 (Committee Member)
Proposed by John Hartley 0132
Seconded by Peter Dale 1185

Louise Hopkins 0073 (Committee Member)
Proposed by Mark Clayton Smith 0715
Seconded by Steve Scott 0144

Stephen Engel 1128 (Committee Member)
Proposed by John Hartley 132
Seconded by Scott Cooke 0776

There being no other nominations, all officers & committee members were elected by a show of hands and without dissent.

8. Any Other Business

The incoming chair Steve Scott presented John Hartley with a small gift on behalf of the members in recognition of his 4 years service as Chair and 8 years as a committee member.

Emma Stewart summarised the results of the survey undertaken last year, the committee were very please with the response & will be taking on board many of the suggestions. Members who would like a copy of the survey can obtain one be emailing sarah@quinssa.org

Chris Munton asked if Quinssa could help in the co ordination of chants during games to motivate the team. After this seasons success & hearing the very positive feedback from the team regarding the 'Guard of Honor' before the final, it was felt we should capitalise on this & have a more organised approach. Chris offered his help in this, it will be added to the agenda of the next Quinssa committee meeting.

Sue Clayton Smith has also stepped down after two years as a committee member. The Secretary asked the mebers to show their appreciation for Sue's work during this time.

Close of Meeting

Steve Scott thanked everyone for attending.