

Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Thursday 14th July 2016 at the Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the Committee comprising

Scott Cooke:	Chairman
Warren Kennedy:	Treasurer
Lyn Gadd:	Secretary
Lou Hopkins:	Member
Chris Munton:	Member
Emma Stewart	Member
Steve Scott	Member Co-opted

37 other Quinssa members

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

Apologies for Absence:

Simon Bolton, Duncan Franklin, Adrian Jobling, Robert Steers (Committee Members), Mike Benson, Mike Butcher, Pat Butcher, Paul Gilbert, Sue Jobling, Paul Leonard, Christopher Leonard, Pat Scott, Carole Steers, Paul Tweedale, Pauline Tweedale, Alan West

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

Proposer:	John Hartley
Seconder	Andrew Scrutten

2. Chair's Report

A warm welcome to everyone for this our 13th AGM

This is my first report as Chair of Quinssa and I'd like to start by thanking Steve Scott for his chairmanship for the 3 previous years and his support during my time as Vice-Chair and this first year of being chair.

This year sees the club celebrating 150 years of existence and we are honoured to host the opening event of this special year with our Quinssa Pre Season dinner in The King's Bar on Friday 29th July.

With this and all the other events are planned, it's going to be a great time to be involved as a supporter and Quinssa will be there for the benefit of all.

Membership

Membership of Quinssa has slowed with numbers currently at 2000. The number of members joining or renewing via Harlequins has seen a significant drop this year, we have only received 325 compared to over 700 the previous two seasons. We must

discover why this is happening and the new committee will be tasked with finding out more about what members want.

Committee

The committee have worked hard to deliver the benefits you all see and it must be said that the last year has been tough as some planned events had to be shelved when we could not persuade guest speakers to commit and other events didn't get passed the planning stage for various reasons. We have a number events planned for the coming season, so please keep an eye on the mailer and our social media for details.

Although not present tonight, I'd like to thank Conor for his support and time he's given to Quinssa and thank the two David's for giving up their time tonight.

Please join me in thanking my fellow committee members for all their hard work over the season:

Many thanks to Si Bolton, Duncan Franklin, Lyn Gadd, Lou Hopkins, Adrian Jobling, Warren Kennedy, Chris Munton, Rob Steers, Emma Stewart and Steve Scott who was co-opted this season.

With the exception of Si Bolton, everyone has offered to continue and I hope you will endorse them shortly. We have one new nomination to join the committee this year and it will be good to welcome Geoff Sykes on board subject to your vote.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Si on behalf of the committee and our members for his contribution during his time on the committee.

Activities

Another thank you to Warren and Lou for organising and running the coaches, and to Si and Adrian for their efforts in arranging events and local travel for our European adventures.

This season we have again donated £4000 to the Quins Academy, taking the total raised to over £44,000 since Quinssa was formed in 2003. This money is raised from raffles, overseas ticket sales and the sale of Lyn's jewellery and other merchandise. Due to timing clash we were unable to present the cheque at the last game of the season so will do so at our dinner in a couple of weeks.

Referring back to my previous comment about finding out what our members want from their membership and what we can do to improve, we will be sending out a short survey later this year. I know we get inundated with surveys as part of our daily life, but your feedback is important to help us run the committee for the maximum benefit for our members. It will only be a few questions, unlike the 30 or 40 from previous surveys, so if you could spare a few moments to fill it in it would be much appreciated.

I'm not going to waffle on much more as this is just the formal part of tonight's business and we have David and David to listen to soon. Suffice to say that the committee work hard on your behalf and we hope we contribute to your enjoyment of being a Harlequins supporter.

Conclusion

I've enjoyed my first year as chair as well as the new challenges and opportunities that it has presented.

I hope you have been happy with my leadership and I thank you for your support for us as a committee for the season past, and advance for the season ahead.

Here's to a successful season, both on and off the pitch and I hope to see as many of you as possible at our dinner on 29th July.

Thank you

Scott Cooke
Chair – Quinssa

3. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts were presented by Warren Kennedy, Treasurer.

Opening balances were:

Current Account: £10100.43

Savings Account: £16902.13

Closing balances were:

Current Account: £14319.30

Savings Account: £16910.62

Income and expenditure included usual financing of activities such as the AGM, Quinssa Preseason dinner, evening events, coaches, administration etc.

At the pre-season dinner Quinssa will make a donation of £4000 to Quins Academy based on income from raffles, merchandise & sales of European tickets.

Simon Coleman expressed his disappointment that the funds in the savings account have not been used. Scott Cooke responded that the original plans to use them as part of the 150 celebrations have fallen through and the Committee will be looking into the use of the funds and seeking members views.

Warren Kennedy
Treasurer

4. Accounts

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review. He commented that he would like to receive the accounts earlier next year. This was noted. The accounts were accepted with a show of hands

Proposed: Sarah Gladstone

Seconded: John Hartley

5. Appointment of Auditor for the coming year

David Holland has agreed to act as auditor again for the coming year. This was accepted with a show of hands without contest.

Proposed: Steve Roberts
Seconded: Simon Coleman

6. New Constitution

Lyn Gadd stated that there had been three suggested changes to the New Constitution.

These were:

- 1) In light of the potential increased numbers of Committee members, the quorate number at a Committee meeting should be increased to 2 Officers and at least 50% of other Committee Members
- 2) Finance – The wording regarding the accounting for all funds should be changed to Quinssa events to obviate the necessity for e.g. “Guess the Score” held on coach trips to be entered in the accounts.
- 3) Audit – the question was raised as to whether a small organisation such as Quinssa needs a qualified Auditor or whether independent examination suffices.

These changes were discussed by the sub-group and accepted. The New Constitution with the changes will be circulated via a mailer.

In addition, the change of accounting year (to tie in with the membership year) was highlighted which will result in a 15 month year in 2016-17 and a later AGM.

The new Constitution was accepted with a show of hands

Proposer : John Hartley

Seconder : Simon Coleman

7. Election of Officers

Simon Bolton has confirmed that he will not be standing for re-election but has kindly offered to continue to organise events at European games. Simon was thanked for the work he has undertaken this year and for his offer to continue to organise European events.

Geoff Sykes has submitted a Committee member nomination.

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

Scott Cooke proposed for Chair

Proposed: Pat Wood
Seconded: John Hartley

Warren Kennedy proposed for Treasurer

Proposed: Sally Kefford

Seconded: Sally Swait

Lyn Gadd proposed for Secretary

Proposed: Ann Stevens

Seconded: Gaynor Davis

8. Election of Committee Members

The Committee Member nominations were as follows:

Duncan Franklin

Proposed: Alex Franklin

Seconded: Terry Pierce

Lou Hopkins

Proposed: Rhona McDonald

Seconded: Wayne McDonald

Adrian Jobling

Proposed: Sue Jobling

Seconded: Sandra Dale

Chris Munton

Proposed: Gaynor Davis

Seconded: Ann Stevens

Steve Scott

Proposed: Scott Cooke

Seconded: Simon Bolton

Robert Steers

Proposed: Lyndon Harper

Seconded: Les Nicholson

Emma Stewart

Proposed: Steve Roberts

Seconded: Chris Twiss

Geoff Sykes

Proposed: Louise Hopkins

Seconded: Angela Clement

A block vote was taken via a show of hands regarding the appointment of the 3 officers and 8 committee members. There were no objections

9. Any Other Business

No other business was raised

10. Close of Meeting

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending.