

Quinssa Programme Notes 8th January 2011.

Isn't it great to be back at the Twickenham Stoop for an Aviva Premiership game against our old "friends" from the farthest reaches of Buckinghamshire. Fortunes for both teams have been a bit mixed this season and the start of the new year is the right time to make a positive mark. Wins away from home for Quins have lifted spirits and proven that there is still plenty to play for this season. Our visitors will want to avenge the draw that opened the season back in September and we'll need to keep voices raised to drown out their supporters.

What is unusual about today's game is that it is nearly kicking off at 3pm on a Saturday! (real KO 2:45) It seems a long time ago we last played a game on the right day of the week and at the right time. Hopefully there will be many more to savour this season.

Shooting Star Children's Hospice Christmas Party 2010

I had the enormous privilege of representing Quinssa at the party on the 22nd December where I joined a dozen or so of the players in witnessing some very moving moments and some very silly ones too.

To all of you who donated gifts and/or money to our recent appeal on behalf of the children may I convey the considerable gratitude of the team there for your generosity. You helped bring some real joy to these kids. Those of us who don't have to deal with such difficulty in our lives can offer our best wishes and real help only through such gifts.

The highlight of the day was the "Shooting Stars Got Talent" show which featured players, staff, family members and a couple of the resident children performing in front of the masked panel of judges who were of course:

- Simon Cowell - played by Philip Glenister of "Ashes to Ashes" fame
- Amanda Holden - played by one of the staff
- Piers Morgan - convincingly played by Mark Lambert

Between various very moving musical and dance routines the players did their best to provide the silly moments. James Johnston performed a Haka and, despite the appeals of all the women there, refused to remove his shirt! Ugo pretended he couldn't dance and Simon suggested he stick to the day job. Rory Clegg, Jordon Turner-Hall and Chris Robshaw joined Ugo on the dance floor just long enough to prove that they won't be getting a call from "Strictly" for a decade or two. Finally the "rev" Pete Browne sang "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" to great acclaim.

The real talent came from the kids and their families, not forgetting the staff who had a few routines of their own. All in all it was a moving, heart-wrenching, emotional and joyous occasion. I felt I was very lucky to witness it all first hand.

The club, players and supporters are held in great esteem by everyone at the hospice and we can be proud of our small but worthwhile involvement with these precious and deserving children.

Away Coaches open for bookings: warren@quinssa.org.uk

Wycombe Wasps 30th January

Exeter 12th February

Quinssa Events planned for this season:

Meet the Management. An opportunity to quiz the Club management and to hear about plans for on-field and off-field developments. 2nd February in the Debenture Bar.

Supporters' Dinner. Our annual dinner dance held at the Stoop. Date to be confirmed.

See the weekly mailer for more info or consult our website www.quinssa.org.uk where you'll also find information on all Quinssa events.

Steve Scott