

## **Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting of The Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at The Twickenham Stoop**

### **Present: Members of the committee comprising:**

Steve Scott - Chairman  
Warren Kennedy – Treasurer  
Duncan Franklin  
Scott Cooke – Membership Secretary  
Louise Hopkins  
Adrian Jobling  
72 other members of Quinssa

**Copies:** Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members attending Quinssa website.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Mike Benson, Richard Broad, Gaynor Davies, Robin Gammon, Charles Geldart, Sarah Gladstone, Shawn Imeson, Jane Liddiard, John Liddiard, Iris Manning, Simon Morden, Emma Stewart, Jane Thornton, Chris Trickey, Paul Tweedale, Pauline Twedale, Chris Twiss.

### **1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

Proposer : Alex Franklin

Seconded: Steve Roberts

### **2. Chair's Report**

Quinssa 10<sup>th</sup> AGM - 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

A warm welcome to everyone for this our 10<sup>th</sup> AGM

#### **Membership**

**Quinssa began life in March 2003** and I have looked back through the records to see how membership has grown. It started with 155 members and by the end of the first year that had grown to 240. Membership then ticked up steadily adding 70 or so each year until 2011. The next season saw a rise of more than 200 and we hit the magic 1,000 mark this time last year. The current number is in excess of 1,700.

We must be doing something right if we can increase membership by 70% in one year and 120% in 2 years. The club have helped by implementing our suggestion that membership of Quinssa could be an option for those season ticket holders renewing this year.

#### **Committee**

My first year as chair of Quinssa has been busy and I have brought some business practises into play so as to speed up some things we do and to provide some protection for committee members. I insisted on obtaining insurance to cover us in the event of an accident or other disaster happening during one of our organised events. As committee members we are potentially liable if a claim was to be made. An inexpensive D&O policy was bought and we can sleep at night.

I would like to personally thank Emma Stewart, Sarah Gladstone, Warren Kennedy, Duncan Franklin, Steve Engel, Scott Cooke, Louise Hopkins and Adrian Jobling for their efforts on your behalf. Steve Engel is not standing again for the committee so I'd like to thank him for his work over the last year.

Considering that committee members all held down demanding jobs during the year and some moved house or became parents for the first time it's a sign of their commitment to this organisation that it continued to operate as well as it did.

Your committee have worked hard over the last 12 months organising and running several events and from the feedback I get it seems that you appreciate the work. We held our second Summer Dinner Dance this time last year and it is unfortunate that we were unable to arrange another this summer. Commitments by playing staff meant that it would be difficult to have many attending. We believe in the strong links between players and supporters and we will work with the club to enable interaction to take place.

In fact I have some breaking news on that front, hot off the press today! The club have arranged for Quinssa members to join the players at a BBQ immediately after the pre-season game on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. This will be held in a restricted area of the ground and we are working out the logistics of tickets etc. The Jolly Hog will be providing food. We will advise you as soon as we know the final details.

We ran a few evening events last season, meeting a referee, a judge and the DOR. The training day event at Surrey Sports Park was well attended and enjoyed by members. The coaches to away games are ably run by Warren and Louise and magnificently assisted by Andrew Lawton. The recent Boat Trip on the Thames was organised and run by Lou and Adrian so thanks to them.

The job of maintaining the membership list and updating all records was taken on by Scott when the numbers were less than half our total now. He has sometimes regretted that decision I'm sure but he seems to enjoy the pressure. He also arranged tickets for the overseas games so we could sit together. I'm sure we'll be doing the same for our international games next season.

Whenever we ask members what they value most from their membership the one item that always comes top is the weekly mailer compiled by Duncan. Many say that it is worth the membership alone.

Fund raising for charity has been a major driver for us and you will have seen that we donated £7,250 to the Quins Academy. Much of that came from the profit on coaches Warren organised for the LV Cup Final and the sale of Harlequins jewellery made by Lyn Gadd. We also collected Christmas presents for the 400 children at Shooting Star and Chase Hospice and made substantial donations to Help for Heroes and STUBS.

My thanks to all you for making this possible by buying raffle tickets and supporting our events. The Academy money has already been put to good use as one member of the Academy is about to tour Hong Kong and New Zealand with Wellington College thanks to funds provided by us. He has promised a full report on his return.

## **Sponsors**

Greene King have been wonderful supporters as usual and provided us with many great prizes for our raffles. Etihad have not been able to support us as much as previous years but I'm working on that and hopefully we will see some action soon.

London Remembers has continued its support of Quinssa and it is much appreciated.

### **Club Liaison**

I must thank the current management of the club, particularly David Ellis for raising the game in respect of liaison efforts. I'm sure some of you will want to question David on events of the last season and we will hear from him at the conclusion of the agm. David has been open and frank when meeting with your committee and we have given feedback, both positive and negative, before, during and after each event. He has also involved us in the committee he established to plan the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club in 2016 as well as other initiatives.

Recently we have been accused of becoming too close to the management and I have had to issue a couple of statements setting out our position in respect of management decisions. I remain committed to an independent supporters' organisation that is free to criticise and praise the club for its actions as a mouthpiece for the members. We will pass on the reasoned and structured comment of members and seek to canvas your opinions.

We want to hear from you and we will be running a survey again next season to find out what you want from this organisation. There are limits to what we can do with a volunteer committee and sometimes we have to say no to suggestions, but if it fits then we'll give it a go.

I'm pleased that we have more new applicants to stand for the committee as new blood will keep us fresh. I hope that I might receive your endorsement to continue as chair for another year.

S Scott

Chair-Quinssa

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

#### **Financial Report as at 30 April 2013 (i.e. end of 2012/13 season)**

The accounts reflect that on 30 April the current account had a balance of £2027.83, whilst the deposit account had a balance of £16885.25

We have exposure to future years membership subscriptions of £ 4665.07

In terms of income, we ended up with a small surplus on the running of Quinssa coaches for the season

Surplus funds generated from LV Final coaches to Worcester & ticket sales for Zebre, Connacht & Biarritz HC games, coupled with jewelry sales and raffle takings meant we made a payment of £7272.48 to the Academy this season

In terms of expenditure, membership events including Quinssa Dinner, Summer Party, 'Meet the...' evenings were subsidised by or paid for out of Quinssa funds.

We accrued costs related to running Quinssa, including, postage, printing, licencing for Survey software, Public Indemnity Insurance.

We purchased a number of Quinssa branded pennants to be able to present to opposition supporters clubs when then need arises.

David Holland has audited the 2012/13 accounts & found them to be in order

He has offered his services again for the 2013/14 accounting period

## **Warren Kennedy**

### **Treasurer**

#### **4.Accounts**

Proposer: John Hartley

Seconded: Simon Coleman

#### **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 (Chair)

Warren Kennedy (Treasurer)

Sarah Gladstone (Secretary)

Proposer: Rhona McDonald

Seconded: Barabara Richardson

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

Duncan Franklin (Committee Member)

Emma Stewart (Committee Member)

Scott Cooke (Committee Member)

Adrian Jobling (Committee Member)

Louise Hopkins (Committee Member)

Lyn Gadd (Committee Member)

Chris Munton (Committee Member)

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

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Chris Clements has agreed to be co-opted onto the Quinssa committee for this season.

A question was raised by Andrew Lawton regarding why there was so much money in the Quinssa funds. Steve Scott replied that we were thinking about how best to use it & that it

was thought some of it could be used for a legacy as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was received well by the Quinssa members present.

**Close of Meeting**

Steve Scott thanked everyone for attending.