

Minutes of the eighth Annual General Meeting of The Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held at 20.00 on Wednesday 15th June at The Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the committee comprising:

John Hartley – Chair
Steve Scott – Treasurer
Sarah Gladstone - Secretary
Emma Stewart
Duncan Franklin
Warren Kennedy
Sue Clayton Smith
Scott Cooke
93 other members of Quinssa

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

Apologies for Absence:

Beaumont Debbie, Beaumont Paul, Branch Ruth, Butcher Pat, Hartley Sam, Hartley Vicki, Hayes Ted, Hermolle Norma, Hermolle Paul, Houghton Marlene, Lawrence Phil, Liddiard Jane, Richardson Barbara, Sampson Debbie, Sampson Kevin, Springall Keith, Tweedale Paul, Tweedale Pauline, Walford Richenda

1. Minutes of last Meeting.

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

Proposer: Andrew Lawton

Seconded: Jane Thornton

2. Chair's report

Membership

- Back in June 2010 at the start of this, our 8th year, we were pleased to welcome more new members to the committee, bringing us up to 8 in total. This has helped spread the load and increase our activity levels for an ever growing membership.
- As we end the year, we are pleased to report that the membership has seen a net increase of 50 since last year, making a total of 787. We are hoping that our planned improved publicity next season will bring a further increase in membership numbers. It is always a challenge to hold on to members, although our membership “churn” averaging about 6% per annum, is not too bad.
- We believe that our growth is 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.

Sponsorship

- Our main supporting sponsors this year have been Greene King, Etihad & LondonRemembers.
- We are also grateful to the Club for their support in all our activities at the Stoop.

Events

We have run quite a few events in the 2010/11 year, including:

- Summer party for nearly 150 at the Stoop with activities for adults and children alike and catering from Jolly Hog. We are grateful to Jolly Hog for donating sausages to raise money for HopeHIV
- Meet the players (August)
- Meet the referee with Wayne Barnes (November)
- Meet the management (February)
- Meet the academy & the coaches (March)
- We have organised a Summer Dinner Dance, to be held on 8 July as there was no Quinssa 6N dinner this year (due to the team's success in all competitions meaning there was no player availability – which can only be a good thing really).
- Thanks to the Club's support, we were able to organise special reduced price tables for Quinssa members at the Players' Awards Dinner.

Charities

- Shooting Star – the Christmas Toy appeal generated sack loads of toys as well as cash for the children at the Shooting Star Children's Hospice, so thanks to everyone for their generosity.
- HopeHIV - last years' summer party raised £520.86, including £140.86 "sausage" donations from Jolly Hog.
- We helped "Stubs", the charity for servicemen, with a bucket collection at the Stoop.

Coaches & overseas matches

- We ran coaches & bought "block booking" tickets to nearly all the away matches, where practical. Although our coaches ran at an overall loss for the year, we feel it is a key activity for Quinssa and hope that the recent success on the field will increase the number of supporters travelling to away matches. With a fan base distributed far and wide from the Stoop, it is always a challenge to fill the coaches.
- We organised a reception meal for the visiting Prato supporters at the Cabbage Patch with about 120 Italians present, as well as many Quinssa members.
- Foreign travel included a cold Friday evening in Galway, a very wet weekend in Bayonne and a fantastic weekend in Prato, where their supporters laid on a great reception for us – they also gave us a framed shirt which is gracing the Quinssa area in the Etihad Stand. There was little interest, however, in the trip to Abu Dhabi!

Communication

- The Quinssa page in the programme provides useful and interesting commentary for everyone.

- The weekly mailer to Quinssa members provides up to date commentary, advice and information on all things Quinssa and is, I know, much appreciated by Quinssa members. As far as we know, it is the only publication of its kind in the Premiership.
- We have finally got a permanent presence in the Etihad stand with a Quinssa wall poster and our Prato shirt. We are hoping to receive delivery of some new up-stands which will enable us to have a permanent presence in the Debenture and Members' Bars and you should watch out for Quinssa presence in the notice boards around the ground next season.
- Communication with the club has resulted in some grievances being aired and attended to – we think pigeon outputs will be a thing of the past next season!

The academy fund

- Once again we raised significant sums for the Academy and presented Tony Diprose with a cheque for £3,028.78 at the last home match of the season. This goes towards helping the Quins' Academy boys in their training and experience towards achieving full squad status.

Thanks

- 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 don't like to single out individual committee members normally but I think special mention must go to Scott Cooke & Warren Kennedy who wrestled with the "organisational" abilities of Irish, French and Italian clubs to get the tickets for the overseas matches.
- I'd also like to thank Andrew Lawton for his work on the coaches, David Holland who has audited our accounts again this year and Simon Coleman for all the sterling work he does in the background managing the Quinssa membership database.

Thank you all for your support

3. Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report on the financial year to 30th April 2011.

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

You should have had a day or two to study the accounts and may have some questions for me shortly.

I took over as Treasurer a year ago and have been trusted to keep the bank accounts in order. With a membership approaching 800 persons and the many events and charity fund-raising efforts we run over the course of a year it has required a close control of the finances. Although I'm not an accountant I do understand best business practice and have tried to introduce some improvements to the financial processes. Hopefully these will make the role of treasurer an easier one in the future.

The funds available to the committee to run the association are healthy and the finances in good order. The 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 more than £3000 to the Academy at the last home game of the season.

The association has continued to provide coaches to away games where feasible and it is unfortunate that these required a subsidy to operate.

I am offering myself for re-election as treasurer for another year and I am keen to see through the changes and improvements to the role. I hope you are happy to allow me to continue.

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

Del Green asked about interest on the Quinssa account. Next season the treasurer will be looking into moving the account to obtain the best interest rate for the association.

Andrew Lawton asked what the 'Carry Around' referred to, it was explained that they are the beer carriers with the Quinssa logo.

The accounts were approved by a show of hands and without dissent

Proposer: Mike Butcher

Seconded: Wayne MacDonald

QUINSSA ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2011

Audited by David Holland

Dated 1st June 2011

For Members Only

Quinssa

Income and Expenditure Account as at 30th April 2011

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Opening Current Balance		5,646.57
Membership	3,921.56	5.00
Sponsorship	1,200.00	0.00
CarryAround	521.50	467.60
Charity	863.38	1,005.36
Coaches	3,017.75	4,572.00
Connacht	1,106.22	1,106.22
Events	787.00	2,461.86

Expenses	0.00	25.04
Leaving Gift	0.00	125.00
Printing	0.00	174.78
Administration	0.00	88.50
Asset	0.00	544.73
Prato	5,805.00	5,805.00
Bayonne	2,730.00	2,730.00
Academy	1,923.28	0.00
Closing Current Balance		8,411.17
Total	£ 27,522.26	£ 27,522.26

Deposit

Opening Deposit Balance	6,872.21
Transfer In	0.00
Transfer Out	0.00
Interest Received	3.42
Closing Deposit Balance	£ 6,875.63

Academy

Opening Academy Balance	1,499.22
Transfer In	1,923.28
Transfer Out	0.00
Interest Received	
Closing Academy Balance	£ 3,422.50

30th April 2011

SUMMARY

Current Bank balance	£8,411
Deposit Bank Balance	£6,876
Total bank balance	£15,287
Coach Float	£750
Admin	£300
Printing	£500
Events	£2,500
Unallocated	£500
Net Total	£4,550
Bank less allocated	£10,737
Future years income	£1,917
Net bank less future years	£8,820
Academy fund	£3,423
Accruals	£0
Net Availability	£5,398

5. Appointment of Auditors for the coming year.

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

6. Changes to the constitution

Del Green asked if the change meant that the chair can only stand for one year. No the chair can stand for more than one year as the vice chair does not automatically become Chair.

Resolution 1.

Resolution 1 has been drafted in order to allow the post of Vice-Chair to be created as a natural (but not automatic) successor to the Chair.

Resolution 1

That paragraphs 4 (a) and 4 (d) be amended as shown and that a new paragraph 4 (f) be inserted (all changes being highlighted in yellow):

4 (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Officers and Committee. The Officers of the Association shall be the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The members of the Committee shall be the Officers and at least 3 but not more than 6 other members. The Vice-Chair role may be held by the Secretary or the Treasurer but, in this event, shall not have a separate vote or count separately towards a quorum.

4 (d) In the event that one of the Officers shall resign or otherwise become permanently unavailable to continue, the Committee shall elect one of their members to perform the role. However, with the exception of the role of Vice-Chair, no Officer may hold more than one Official role at any one time.

4 (f) The position of Vice-Chair is intended to act as a conduit for replacement of the Chair after a maximum two year term. This is not prescriptive, merely a statement of intent.

This resolution was approved by a show of hands.

Proposed: Doug Johnson

Seconded: Del Green

Resolution2.

Resolution 2 has been drafted in order to avoid duplicating with Para 4(a) the reference to the actual number of people on the committee.

Resolution 2

That paragraph 5 (a) be amended to read as follows (changes highlighted in yellow):

5 (a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held after the end of the Club season and before 31 July each year. At least twenty-one clear days' notice shall be given to all members of the Association of the date, time and place of such meeting. The purpose of the meeting shall be to transact the business of the Association including the approval of the Accounts for the year then past and to elect up to seven Members and Officers of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 4(a) including the Officers and to appoint Auditors.

This resolution was approved by a show of hands.

Proposed: Alex Franklin

Seconded: Mark Clayton Smith

7&8. Election of Officers & Committee Members

There were nominations as follows:

John Hartley 0132 (Chair)

Proposed by - David Coldrey 0046

Seconded by – Chrissi Coldrey 1507

Steve Scott 0144 (Treasurer/Vice Chair)

Proposed by - John Hartley 0132

Seconded by - Richenda Walford 0712

Sarah Gladstone 0769 (Secretary)

Proposed by - Warren Kennedy 0628

Seconded by – David Coldrey 0046

Sue Clayton Smith 0716 (Committee Member)

Proposed by - Duncan Franklin 0024

Seconded by - Steve Wade 0031

Scott Cooke 0776 (Committee Member)

Proposed by - Sarah Gladstone 0769

Seconded by – John Hartley 0132

Duncan Franklin 0024 (Committee Member)

Proposed by - Louise Hopkins 0073

Seconded by - Sarah Gladstone 0769

Warren Kennedy 0628 (Committee Member)

Proposed by - Sarah Gladstone 0769

Seconded by - David Coldrey 0046

Emma Stewart 0102 (Committee Member)

Proposed by - Sarah Gladstone 0769

Seconded by – John Hartley 0132

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

Proposer: Steve Ward

Seconded: Anne Stevens

9. Any other business

Doug Johnson asked that note of thanks be recorded, particularly to John Hartley in his continued role as Chair & all his hard work on behalf of Quinssa, also thanking other committee members.

Close of Meeting

John Hartley thanked everyone for attending.