

Minutes of the third Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters' Association (Quinssa)  
held on 08 June 2006 at 19:30 at the Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the committee comprising:  
Simon Coleman – Treasurer  
John Hartley - Secretary  
Duncan Franklin  
Cliff Funnell (part)  
Emma Stewart

54 other members of Quinssa

Copies: Quinssa committee, Quinssa members attending and Quinssa web site

**Item Subject**

**1 Apologies for absence**

1.1 Apologies were received from committee members:  
• Will Warner (Chairman) due to a family illness  
• Rob White who has moved away from the area.

Apologies were received from 26 other members:

- Marlene Houghton
- Clare Houghton
- Martin Wilson
- Kevin Sampson
- Debbie Sampson
- Andy Steele
- Andy Brown
- Claire Melvin
- Mike Benson
- Paul Tweedale
- Pauline Tweedale
- John Liddiard
- Bev Wills
- Andrew Bull
- Sharon Ellis
- Andy Scrutton
- Barbara Richardson
- Richard Hewitt
- Peter Duncan
- Adrian Jobling
- Emma-Jane Kurtz
- Penny Pinkney
- Duncan Cruttenden
- Neil Goram
- Jean Franklin
- Peter Franklin

**2 Minutes of last meeting**

2.1 It was pointed out that Alan Kurtz's name had been inserted erroneously as a committee member.

With the change noted above, the minutes were accepted.

Proposer: Rob Sheward

Seconder: Sandra Coleman

**3 Chairman's report**

3.1 Due to the chairman's unavoidable absence, his written report was distributed

- Item      Subject**
- 3.2      Simon Coleman, taking the chair for the evening, stated that he would comment on the report and the coming year towards the end of the meeting
- 3.3      There were no questions or comments on the chairman's report.
- 4      Treasurer's report**
- 4.1      Simon Coleman discussed the accounts which had been distributed to all those present before the start of the meeting
- 4.2      Quinssa turned over £23k, compared with £ 17.5k last year, which reflects not only an increased membership (currently 525) but also increased coach travel and fund raising activities.
- 4.3      Simon stated that, although the closing balance of £8.6k may appear excessive, the following points should be noted:
- £1.1k is for future year's subscriptions
  - £1.5k is "ring-fenced" funds raised specifically for the Quins Academy program to be spent on agreed specific projects.
  - £0.9k is "ring-fenced" for the Quins academy 100+ club
  - £1.0k is committed expenditure for the summer boat trip.
- This means, effectively, that the Quinssa operating closing balance is £4.1k.
- 4.4      It is important that Quinssa is able to carry forward funds from one year to the next as these are needed for committee expenses, and, in particular, there is a need for a coach float as we have to commit to coach bookings before having the passengers' committed.
- 4.5      There was a reduction in merchandise costs this year as the committee decided to act as an enabling body to introduce individual members to merchandise purchasing opportunities rather than commit members' funds.
- 4.6      The academy grants comprised:
- £2k for the academy to send two players on the trip to the Natal Sharks Academy
  - £0.5k raised by the generous donation of Peter Duncan's box for auction, with the proceeds specifically allocated to the academy.
- 4.7      As a result of feedback at last year's AGM and elsewhere, the committee decided early in the year that no "membership" funds would be allocated to the academy. Any specific academy fund raising has been (and will continue to be) identified as such in advance.
- 4.8      There were no questions on the accounts. They were accepted without dissent.  
Proposer:      Alan Kurtz  
Secunder:      Jon Forster
- 5      Accounts of Academy 100+club**
- 5.1      When the 100+ club was set up, Quinssa decided that the accounts should be presented at the Quinssa AGM, in the interest of transparency.
- 5.2      £900 has been received, draws took place in March and April. £93.50 has been given as prizes with as corresponding amount banked towards the Academy fund.
- 6      Appointment of auditors for the coming year**
- 6.1      This was deferred, pending the appointment of a new treasurer.
- 7      Election of officers**

**Item Subject**

7.1 There was only one nomination for each of the officer posts, as follows:

- Chairman Simon Coleman
- Proposed by: John Hartley
  - Seconded by: Duncan Franklin
- Treasurer Jon Forster
- Proposed by: John Hartley
  - Seconded by: Duncan Franklin
- Secretary John Hartley
- Proposed by: Rob White
  - Seconded by: Duncan Franklin

There being no other nominations, all three were elected.

**8 Election of four committee members**

8.1 There were three nominations for the four available places on the committee, as follows:

- Duncan Franklin
- Proposed by: Simon Coleman
  - Seconded by: Rob White
- Cliff Funnell
- Proposed by: John Hartley
  - Seconded by: Simon Coleman
- Emma Stewart
- Proposed by: Duncan Franklin
  - Seconded by: Simon Coleman

There being no other nominations, all three were elected.

**9 Any other business**

9.1 The new chairman, Simon Coleman, then addressed the meeting, reviewing last year and looking forward to next year.

He thanked Will Warner, the outgoing Chairman, for his sterling efforts in driving Quinssa through its first three years.

9.1.1 Quinssa's role

- Quinssa's role could have changed considerably when Quins got relegated but, with the relative lack of change at the club, it was very much business as usual.
- There will be further challenges next year, particularly in away travel where fans will need to plan further in advance for away trips as ticket availability will be less easy.

9.1.2 Events

- We are holding a summer event, the end of season boat trip, which has already got 110 people committed. We will review the popularity of this to see if it, or something similar, could be repeated.
- We will continue the very successful mid-week events, such as the "meet the...." evenings.
- We are aware of the desire amongst members for a "lower cost" end of season event and had hoped to organise one this year alongside the Richard Langhorn Trust. It is difficult to organise, both in terms of finding a suitable date and also in committing Quinssa funds.

9.1.3 Membership

- We have continued to increase our membership, which now stands at 525, many of whom have recently renewed for two years.

- | <b>Item</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
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| 9.1.4       | <p>Merchandising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have decided to reduce our commitment to external merchandise costs. We are unlikely to create calendars this year, nor to repeat the “bam-bams” experiment.</li><li>• Our approach will be to act as “enabler” and facilitate introductions to third parties for merchandising opportunities.</li><li>• However, we have agreed, with the club’s blessing, to repeat the very successful autograph books again next season.</li></ul>  |
| 9.1.5       | <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to communicate using weekly emails during the season</li><li>• We will repeat the open committee meeting experiment</li><li>• We will continue to have a Quinssa presence in the East Stand bar at each home match</li><li>• We will keep the web site up to date, including publishing notes from committee meetings.</li></ul>   |
| 9.1.6       | <p>Away travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to organise coaches to as many away matches as is practical and will continue to try &amp; enhance the coach experience for all concerned, whilst ensuring that the “coach accounts” get as near as possible to breaking even.</li></ul>  |
| 9.1.7       | <p>“Ring-fenced fund raising will be considered for causes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quins academy projects</li><li>• the IRBSOS appeal</li><li>• an appeal similar to the Plymouth Toy appeal for a local good cause.</li></ul> <p>On this last item, Simon appealed for ideas to be suggested.</p>   |
| 9.1.8       | <p>Club liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue our close links with the club, who have listened to Quinssa and reacted very positively to suggestions we have made on behalf of our members.</li><li>• We will continue to survey our members to get feedback on points of concern to them and provide an interface with the club.</li></ul> <p>Simon did, however, point out that we are a relatively small organisation when looked at from the perspective of the Quins total fan base.</p>  |
| 9.1.9       | <p>Liaison with the press</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We had quite a lot of requests for comment on Quins matters from the press last year, following relegation, but we have agreed amongst ourselves that we should not, as Quinssa, comment on anything without consulting the committee (and members).</li></ul>  |
| 9.1.10      | <p>QuinsRL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quinssa is clearly and constitutionally linked to the rugby union activities but our membership and our events are open to all (non-members usually pay a small premium for attendance at Quinssa events).</li></ul>   |
| 9.2         | <p>Chris Munton made two points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That some emails he had sent in the past had received no response. Simon apologised for this and guaranteed that all emails sent to himself as Chairman in future will get a response.</li><li>• That there should be more open committee meetings and membership participation at these meetings. In addition, it was not always known when the meetings were to be held. Simon responded that we would try to hold another open meeting and that meeting dates would be publicised in advance.</li></ul> |

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>
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9.3	Jane Liddiard pointed out that Quinssa's representation (of about 700, taking into account families, etc. of members) was, although small in relation to the Quins fan base, still statistically significant.
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<b>10</b>	<b>Close of meeting</b>
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10.1	Simon Coleman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 20:15.
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