

Notes from Quinssa Committee Meeting 14 January 2006

6 committee members were present.

This was the first Quinssa “open” committee meeting where Quinssa members were invited to attend and participate. 11 members took the opportunity to do so and the committee thanks them for their commitment and participation. In addition, 11 other members expressed a desire to attend but were unable to do so due to other commitments.

Copies of relevant documents were distributed to all attending members. These were:

- Web site notes from previous committee meeting
- Accounts
- Final draft of revised Quinssa aims

Item Subject

A Events

A.1 Two more planned events are now scheduled:

- An evening with the academy on 31 January 2006
- Meet the referee with Ashley Rowden in March (date tbc)

Others, planned but not yet booked, are

- A river boat trip in the summer
- An “informal” Tony Diprose / Quinssa event

B Finance

B.1 Bank account is showing a surplus, after known commitments, of £4.8k.

B.2 The targeted fund raising for the academy will be launched at the academy evening.

B.3 In response to a member’s question, it was explained that we do not have an interest earning account due to the difficulties of setting up and managing such an arrangement, for a small association such as ours.

C Merchandising

C.1 Sales of merchandise progress slowly but steadily.

Peter Duncan’s box auction raised £555, which he has asked be presented to the academy.

C.2 In response to a member’s question, it was explained that we did not produce a calendar this year, due to the financial risks involved. We may do a web-based one next year, along similar lines to other Quinssa merchandise. Another member pointed to the success of the Quins ladies’ calendar (all sold out) and asked if we could learn from their marketing techniques.

D Membership

D.1 Over 500 fully paid up members. Although there have been 82 who have not renewed, this compares favourably with, for example, the turnover of Quins season ticket holders.

D.2 Those Quinssa members with email receive regular (at least weekly) email updates during the season. Those not on email get similar updates, about once per month.

E Membership liaison

- E.1 56 responses from “coaches” questionnaire show that, overall, members are happy with the status quo. Of note was the desire, even among coach travellers, that Quinssa should not sponsor coach travel.
- E.2 Catering topic elicited a few responses which had been passed directly to the club. All have been considered and some facilities have been changed / improved as a result. In some cases, after consideration of health & safety and / or cost, the club has decided that no action can be taken.
In response to a member’s question, it was explained that the club says that a hog roast is not possible on health & safety grounds.
- E.3 Next “topic of the day” at the Quinssa stand will be the club shop.

F Liaison with club

- F.1 Quinssa has continued its dialogue with the club and will continue to raise issues on behalf of members.
- F.2 In response to a previous request from a member, it has been agreed with the club and with Nick Duncombe’s parents, that Quinssa shall lay flowers at his memorial on the anniversary of his birthday (January 21st) or the nearest home match to it.
- F.3 In response to a members’ questions, Quinssa agreed to raise the following subjects with the club:
- International match tickets – the organisation and late notification of success or failure in the ballot;
 - Memorabilia in the members’ bar;
 - Lack of bicycle parking, as shown on the Lexus stand redevelopment plans;
 - Other “promised” items from the redevelopment project;

G Liaison with other clubs and supporters

- G.1 The response by Quins fans to the Plymouth Toy Appeal exceeded the Rotary club’s widest dreams and they have thanked Quinssa and all Quins fans for their generosity.
A framed picture of the presentation has been presented to Quinssa.

H Coaches / Travel

- H.1 Coaches have been run to all away matches (except the Sedgely Park Powergen match, due to lack of demand).
- H.2 The coach accounts should just about break even over the season.

I Quinssa aims

- I.1 A new version of the Quinssa aims was agreed and will be posted on the web site.

J Other topics

- J.1 Other topics raised by members for investigation / comment were:
- Quinssa organising an appeal, such as that organised by Plymouth, for a local cause
 - The need to continue to get feedback from fans
 - That the mini rugby experience on Saturdays is extremely good for the club's image (and for the participants)
- J.2 Graeme Roberts (Chairman of HOPA) has indicated that he is preparing a history of Quins (similar to the history of HOPA) and is looking for ideas for inclusion
- J.3 Rory Jenkins (ex Quins player) has expressed a desire to get involved with Quinssa run events

K Next meeting

- K.1 The next meeting is at 19:45 on Wednesday 9 February at the Cabbage Patch. Anne McCarthy and Tony Copsey have been invited.