

Minutes of the second Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters' Association (Quinssa)
held on 08 June 2005 at 19:45 at the Stoop Memorial Ground

Present: Members of the committee comprising:

Will Warner – Chairman
Simon Coleman – Treasurer
Emma Stewart
Alan Kurtz
John Hartley
Duncan Franklin (part)

65 members of Quinssa

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

Item	Subject	Action
1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from committee members Emma-Jane Kurtz (secretary) and from Duncan Franklin who arrived late due to previous commitment. Apologies were received from the following members: Debbie Beaumont Paul Beaumont Andrew Bull Andy Brown Lynn Gadd Beverley Gallop Michael Gallop Sharon Gosling Suzi Gurney Ted Hayes David Holland Mike James Andrew Lawton Keith Logan Barbara Moore Tony Moore Chris Munton Steve Scott	
2	Minutes of last meeting	
2.1	It was pointed out that the annexes mentioned in the minutes were not available on the web site. SC stated that a printed version was available to view at today's meeting.	
2.2	The minutes were accepted by a show of hands (no dissenters). Proposer: Bev Wills Seconder: Stuart Brooks	
3	Changes to the constitution	
3.1	After a short debate concerning the meaning of the rule changes, they were accepted by a show of hands (no dissenters). Proposer: Alan Kurtz Seconder: Rob Sheward	

4 Chairman's report

- 4.1 Will Warner gave the Chairman's report.
- 4.2 There are a number of achievements this year, notably:
- The award of 4 bursaries to young players being developed by the club
 - The attendance of many Quinssa members at the West stand planning meeting
 - Running a successful evening (over 150 attending) in conjunction with Harlequin Old Players' Association
 - Providing good quality information to all members, regularly throughout the season
 - Having an increasing membership
- 4.3 He then went on to identify areas where the performance of the committee could improve, notably:
- Converting ideas into actions / events
 - Getting the balance right in the way Quinssa funds are distributed between charity and club related items
 - Updating the web site
- 4.4 Will appealed to the Quinssa membership to help in the following areas:
- Volunteering to help out with Quinssa activities on Match days
 - Helping to turn the Stoop into a fortress – a place where visiting teams feel intimidated
 - He pointed out that we have a challenging year ahead and that we could all work to help the team rise to this challenge
- 4.5 Will asked Quinssa members to provide feedback on Quinssa activities and stated that such feedback is always welcome (even if it doesn't always get an immediate response).
He thanked all members for their support throughout the year and a special thank you to all those who have helped run Quinssa activities.
- 4.6 There were no questions or comments on the chairman's report.

5 Treasurer's report

- 5.1 Simon Coleman opened his talk by stating that copies of the Quinssa committee meetings for the last year were available to view at today's meeting
- 5.2 Membership currently stands at 514 fully paid up for the current year, with 300 guaranteed and paid up for next season. Those who have not yet committed for next year will be asked (again) to renew.
- 5.3 Simon presented the accounts, highlighting salient points, notably:
- Of the closing balance (£ 5,229.73), £ 1,315 is for future years' subscriptions
 - The costs of membership administration is lower this year than last, despite the level of activity being higher, primarily due to the generous donation of printing Quinssa flyers by one of the members, David Barnes
 - Coach receipts are high this year, largely due to the fact that the Parker Pen coaches (7 and all full) are included in this year's accounts. Simon pointed out that it is not Quinssa's intention to make money overall on coaches but to break even over the season. Full coaches are a bonus.
 - 4 academy players have received grants totalling £ 1,350 this year.
- 5.4 Simon then went on to say that Quinssa would like help from the club in identifying worthwhile, identifiable, projects on which Quinssa could spend its money by way of supporting the club.
- 5.5 There were no questions on the accounts. They were accepted by a show of hands (no dissenters).
Proposer: Graham Johnson
Seconder: Melvin Baldock

6 Election of officers

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

Chairman Will Warner

- Proposed by: John Hartley
- Seconded by: Duncan Franklin

Treasurer Simon Coleman

- Proposed by: Emma-Jane Kurtz
- Seconded by: John Hartley

Secretary John Hartley

- Proposed by: Simon Coleman
- Seconded by: Will Warner

There being no other nominations, all three were elected.

7 Election of four committee members

7.1 There were five nominations for the four available places on the committee, as follows:

Duncan Franklin

- Proposed by: John Hartley
- Seconded by: Emma-Jane Kurtz

Cliff Funnell

- Proposed by: Duncan Franklin
- Seconded by: John Hartley

Barbara Richardson

- Proposed by: David Holland
- Seconded by: Emma Stewart

Emma Stewart

- Proposed by: Simon Coleman
- Seconded by: John Hartley

Rob White

- Proposed by: John Hartley
- Seconded by: Duncan Franklin

Each nominee was given the opportunity to say a few words about their nomination and those present did so (John Hartley read out a statement by Duncan Franklin and said a few words on behalf of Rob White).

7.2 During the candidates' speeches, there was a short discussion on the principle of co-opting members onto the committee as the constitution does not allow this. It was stated that the committee is always keen to have volunteers to help with the organisation of specific projects and these people could attend committee meetings to discuss such activities, even though they are not on the committee, although they would not have a vote. Thus it was felt that co-opting is not currently required.

8 Any other business

8.1 Bev Wills asked what the real long term aspirations of Quinssa are. For instance

- Would we aim to have a large membership (say 10,000)?
- If so, what would take us there?

Will Warner replied that:

- We are already well established after only two years. Some people thought that Quinssa would not survive that long
- We have not as yet set any targets for membership but must encourage fans to become members by offering things in which they are interested

Simon Coleman stated that:

- We have a policy that all Quinssa events are open to everyone (although there is usually a small price variation in favour of members)
- In professional rugby, supporters' clubs have a difficult role finding outlets for funds they raise but can do so, as Quinssa has demonstrated, by providing "add-ons" to club activities, such as the academy bursaries made this year.
- We have had and will continue to have a dialogue with the club to identify ways in which we can provide appropriate help and support. In particular this year, with the club having ND1 status, the opportunities for Quinssa to play a bigger role should be more apparent.

Bev than stated that:

- In ND1, we should try to secure and enhance the "Quinssa family", perhaps by organising special popular events that will attract large numbers of people into Quinssa
- We should consider offering life membership (say 20 years) to raise initial funds which could benefit Quinssa and make it possible to run more ambitious projects.

Will agreed that these suggestions will be discussed by the committee.

Committee

8.2 Peter Russell asked whether, especially in the light of the distance of some of the ND1 grounds from the Stoop, we could promote some form of car sharing scheme.

Will Warner said that we had tried this in the past but that it did not get off the ground due to lack of interest / geographic harmony. However, we will look at it again.

Committee

8.3 Andy Scrutton asked whether we should allow "remote" voting at the AGM as many people could not attend, due to distance / other commitments. It was pointed out that this would need a change to the constitution and could be very difficult to manage in practice. However, it was agreed that the committee will consider this.

Committee

8.4 Del Green asked what Quinssa's relationship is with the Quins board. Do we have regular meetings and a genuine dialogue or does the support and help always travel one way (from Quinssa to the club)?

Simon Coleman pointed out that the dialogue is regular but informal and there is "two way traffic" when it is asked for. However, it is the job of the committee to ensure that the interests of Quinssa members are taken into account at all times.

- 8.5 Will Warner thanks Emma-Jane Kurtz and Alan Kurtz for their work on the Quinssa committee over the last year.

9 Temporary pause in AGM business

In order to allow time to count the votes for committee membership, the AGM was temporarily suspended at 20:40 and reconvened at 21:45.

10 Results of committee elections

The following people were elected to the committee:

- Duncan Franklin
- Cliff Funnell
- Emma Stewart
- Rob White.

11 Competition winners

- 11.1 Ros Dabell was presented with the winning prize for the balloon race, with her balloon card being returned from Germany. A total of £ 270.95 was raised for the BPA. Will Warner thanked Barbara Richardson for organising and running the event.
Other prize winners were Jane Alvey, James Haward, Andrew Langton and Simon Coleman.

12 Any other business (part 2)

- 12.1 John Hughes asked whether those players who have received some form of bursary or other financial help from Quinssa should be asked to repay some or all of it if they leave the club.
Will Warner said that this was a difficult issue but that, in the real world, players do move around and there is little one can do about it.
- 12.2 John Hughes asked whether the amount each player received should be publicised in future.
Simon Coleman replied that, due to confidentiality issues it had been decided not to do this as each player did not receive the same amount (this being partly so that precedents / expectations are not set and also because of Quinssa funding available at the time. For the sake of transparency, the total amount is shown in the accounts as a separate item.

13 Close of meeting

- 13.1 Will Warner thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 21:50.

Secretary's note on the elections (not a part of the AGM minutes)

Due to an administrative slip up, nomination forms (and therefore the details of the proposer and seconder) for each of the officers and committee places were not available at the meeting but are now available for inspection. Should any member wish to do so, please contact the new secretary, John Hartley.