

Minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Wednesday 24th June 2015 at the Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the Committee comprising

Steve Scott: Chairman
Warren Kennedy: Treasurer
Scott Cooke: Vice Chair and Membership Secretary
Lyn Gadd: Secretary
Simon Bolton Member
Duncan Franklin: Member
Lou Hopkins: Member
Chris Munton: Member
Adrian Jobling: Member

73 other Quinssa members

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

Apologies for Absence:

Emma Stewart (Committee Member), Mike Benson, Gaynor Davies, Alice Holder, Brian Holder, Paul Tweedale, Pauline Tweedale, Mike McConvey, Tim Caffyn, Sarah Gladstone, Ted Hayes, Mike Benson, Richard Crowe, Paul Hudson, Udo Eppinger, Jane Thornton

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

Proposer: Mark Clayton-Smith
Seconder Rhona McDonald

2. Chair's Report

A warm welcome to everyone for this our 12th AGM

This is my final report as Chair of Quinssa. It has been 3 years since I took over the role from John Hartley and I've been very privileged to serve the organisation and lead it through a period of growth. I am a firm believer that one should not outstay one's welcome and that fresh ideas and leadership are good for organisations. Whilst I'm happy to stay around and help the committee for the next year or so I'll also be happy to hand over the responsibility tonight.

Next year sees the club celebrating 150 years of existence and I've enjoyed playing a small part in the preparations for the events and activities that will mark this anniversary. It's going to be a great time to be involved as a supporter and Quinssa will be there for the benefit of all.

In just over a year's time Quinssa will be staging the first official event in the 150th season with a dinner in the revamped King's Bar. Conor has promised me that all the players will be there and we are now deciding if it will be a Friday or Saturday night. I hope to see many of you at this year's Quinssa dinner this Friday night

Membership

Membership of Quinssa has continued to grow but the momentum has slowed. We now have 2200 members but the "churn" is greater than ever. Whilst the number of new members joining has increased the numbers who don't renew are high and we must discover why. The new committee will be tasked with finding out more about what members want.

Committee

The committee have worked hard to deliver the benefits you all see and it must be said that the last year has been tough as some planned events had to be shelved when we could not persuade guest speakers to commit. I must thank Conor and David Ellis for their support though and Conor for being here tonight.

Please join me in thanking my fellow committee members: Scott Cooke, Lou Hopkins, Warren Kennedy, Emma Stewart, Adrian Jobling, Simon Bolton, Lyn Gadd, Duncan Franklin and Chris Munton.

They have all offered to continue and I hope you will endorse them shortly. We have one new nomination to join the committee this year and it will be good to welcome Robert Steers on board subject to your vote of course.

Under the rules of the Quinssa Constitution a Vice-Chair will be elected when the Chair is 12 months from leaving, with the intention that this person becomes Chair at the next AGM. Scott Cooke was elected as Vice-Chair a year ago and now stands to take over this role from me. I believe that he will make an excellent leader. He will no doubt be pleased that he won't be mistaken for me anymore.

Activities

Please join me in thanking Warren and Lou for organising and running the coaches and for successfully getting many to Dublin and back.

This season we donated £4000 to the Quins Academy. Although much lower than recent years it still means that we have raised over £40,000 for the Academy in our short time. This money is raised from raffles, overseas ticket sales and the sale of Lyn's jewellery and other merchandise. You may remember that we donated £2000 last year to help Harlequins Ladies buy a shed for their ground. Unfortunately they hit some snags with finishing off the ground works and getting it sorted so we have offered them some more money to get it finished this summer.

As I promised last year I secured a place in the 2015 London Marathon for both Conor and Ed Spokes but they both were unable to compete.

I'm not going to waffle on much more as this is just the formal part of tonight's business and we have Conor to listen to soon. Suffice to say that the committee work hard on

your behalf and we hope we contribute to your enjoyment of being a Harlequins supporter.

Club Liaison

We have continued to enjoy good support from the club but we've been critical of them too at times. We need to work more co-operatively and the committee will be tasked to build on the relationships and improve the benefits.

Conclusion

I've survived a few dramas in my time as Chair, Munstergate being one, and I've stood my ground a few times too with some supporters who didn't agree with what we said and did, but overall I've enjoyed your support and I hope you have been happy with my leadership.

The new generation takes over from now.

Thank you

Steve Scott
Chair – Quinssa

3. Treasurer's Report

Accounts were presented by Warren Kennedy, Treasurer.

Opening balances were:

Current Account: £8469.63

Savings Account: £16,893.69

Closing balances were:

Current Account: £10,100.43

Savings Account: £16,902.13

Income and expenditure included usual financing of activities such as the AGM, Quinssa Preseason dinner, evening events, coaches, administration etc.

At end of the season Quinssa made a donation of £4000 to Quins Academy based on income from raffles, merchandise & sales of European tickets.

Whilst no firm plan is currently in place, Quinssa will utilise some of the savings in the 150th celebrations in 2016.

Andrew Lawton commented that it would be helpful to receive the accounts before the AGM. This was noted for next year.

Warren Kennedy
Treasurer

4. Accounts

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review

Proposed: Steve Scott

Seconded: Michael Butcher

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. Election of Officers

.Steve Scott confirmed that he will not be standing for re-election as chair. Scott Cooke was elected as Vice Chair at the 2013-14 AGM

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

Scott Cooke proposed for Chair

Proposed: Peter Attwater

Seconded: Pat Wood

Warren Kennedy proposed for Treasurer

Proposed: Sally Kefford

Seconded: Mark Clayton-Smith

Lyn Gadd proposed for Secretary

Proposed: Gaynor Davies

Seconded: Ann Stevens

7. Election of Committee Members

The Committee Member nominations were as follows:

Steve Scott

Proposed Pat Scott

Seconded Chris Munton

Chris Munton

Proposed: Ann Stevens

Seconded: Chris Twiss

Lou Hopkins

Proposed: David Holland
Seconded: John Mapletoft

Duncan Franklin

Proposed: Alex Franklin
Seconded: Terry Pierce

Simon Bolton

Proposed: Robert Steers
Seconded: Colin Penton

Emma Stewart

Proposed: Sarah Gladstone
Seconded: Louise Stephens

Adrian Jobling

Proposed: Simon Bolton
Seconded: Sue Jobling

Robert Steers

Proposed Lyndon Harper
Seconded Paul Andrews

The number of nominations for the Officers and Committee members exceeded the Quinssa constitution by 1. It was proposed that the committee had 11 members for the coming year. Andrew Scrutton raised an objection as it did not comply with the current constitution. Steve Scott proposed that he withdraw his nomination and stated that he was available to be co-opted if required by the committee. This was accepted as a positive way forward with a review of the constitution being undertaken in the coming year.

A block vote was taken via a show of hands regarding the appointment of the 3 officers and 7 committee members. There were no objections

8. Any Other Business

The new Quinssa blazer badges were circulated for review and received a positive response.

9. Close of Meeting

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending.