

Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Tuesday 24th October 2017 at the Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the Committee comprising

Steve Scott	Member
Warren Kennedy:	Treasurer
Lyn Gadd:	Secretary
Geoff Sykes	Member
Chris Munton:	Member

34 other Quinssa members

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

Apologies for Absence:

Scott Cooke (Chair)

Duncan Franklin, Lou Hopkins, Adrian Jobling, Emma Stewart (Committee Members)

Mike Benson, Mike Ching, Richard Crowe, Claire Davidson, Paul Davidson, Gay Davis, Colin Epathite, Udo Eppinger, Trevor Gould, John Hartley, Alison Lawrence, Phil Lawrence, Thomas McConvey, Caro Powers, Nigel Rice, Sarah Roberts, Steve Roberts, Emma Smythe, Tony Stockhausen, Paul Tweedale, Pauline Tweedale, Alan West, Jo Wheeler

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

Proposed:	Andrew Lawton
Seconded	Nigel Bond ?

2. Chair's Report

A warm welcome to everyone for this our 14th AGM and thank you for joining us this evening.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for not being here this evening and being able to deliver this in person. Sincere thanks to Steve for delivering this in my absence.

This year's AGM is later than usual due the alignment of our financial year with our membership year. In accordance with the constitution the AGM had to be held no later than 3 months after the end of our membership year, and with August being the holiday season and our Eddie Jones event in September, we ended up where we are today. Going forward, our AGM will be planned for September every year.

It's fair to say that the 150th season didn't live up to expectations on the pitch, but with that nail biting last match of the season against Northampton we managed to get a crucial Champions Cup place this season.

Whilst the team didn't achieve what we'd all hoped on the pitch, I'd like to think that Quinssa did off it. Particular highlights were our Pre-Season dinner which marked the start of the 150th season, our away trip to Timisoara and our Eddie Jones event last month. I'll mention these in a bit more detail in a moment.

I write this ahead of the Champions Cup match against Wasps, where a win is crucial for both teams. We have already received a huge demand for the pre match event in Belfast and for La Rochelle tickets. The European away trips are definitely something special and we're glad to provide the services we do regarding tickets and meet ups. It's quite clear that this is very popular with our members.

Membership

I'm pleased to report that after a year on year drop in membership since 2013, our current membership is currently 15% higher than at this point last year at just under 1400 members.

Committee

The committee have worked hard to deliver the benefits you all see, and it must be said that, once again, we're frustrated that we couldn't persuade guest speakers to commit and other events didn't get passed the planning stage for various reasons.

We have a number events planned for the coming season, so please keep an eye on the mailer and our social media for details.

Please join me in thanking my fellow committee members for all their hard work over the season:

Many thanks to Duncan Franklin, Lyn Gadd, Lou Hopkins, Adrian Jobling, Warren Kennedy, Chris Munton, Rob Steers, Emma Stewart, Steve Scott and Geoff Sykes.

With the exception of Adrian Jobling and Rob Steers (who left the committee in December for personal reasons), everyone has offered to continue, and I hope you will endorse them shortly. We do have new nominations to join the committee this year and it will be good to welcome them subject to your vote.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Adrian & Rob on behalf of the committee and our members for their contribution during their time on the committee.

In addition to the committee, I'd like to express a huge thank you to all those at Quins who provide a huge amount of support to us on a regular basis. A special mention is needed for Levi Harris. Levi is regularly nominated for the "unsung hero" award at our Pre-Season dinner and deservedly so. Please join me in thanking Levi and all those at the club whose help we rely on to provide the best service to our members.

Activities

For clarity, I'm covering activities and events between the last AGM and now, rather than season specific.

Thank you to Warren and Lou for organising and running the coaches again, your efforts are very much appreciated.

We donated a further £6000 to the Quins Academy, taking the total raised to £50,000 since Quinssa was formed in 2003. This money is raised from raffles, overseas ticket sales and the sale of Lyn's jewellery and other merchandise. A cheque was presented to Tony Diprose and the Academy at the last home game of the season.

We were honoured to host the opening event of the club's 150th season with our pre-season dinner which was attended by the whole playing squad plus over 210 of our members and guests. Will Skinner & Mark Lambert once again hosted a fabulous night, I'm sure those of you who attended will agree.

We held our 2nd Christmas event at Blues Smokehouse (sadly in the process of changing hands now) which was again a huge success. Sadly, without a Saturday fixture before Christmas in December there will be no such event this year.

In December we arranged tickets and pre/post-match meet ups for our trip to unknown Timisoara in Romania. The welcome and hospitality was second to none and we have done as much as possible to help benefit them and rugby in Romania. There was no charge for tickets, so a collection was done amongst our travelling fans at the post match event in Timisoara. This was followed up the week after at The Stoop where the opportunity was given for those had that leftover Romanian Lei to hand in at the Quinssa stand. We raised £2000 via these two channels which was followed up with a further £1460 from a fundraiser that member Toby Bonney started after the significant fine Timisoara received for their pitch being 'unplayable' against Stade Francais. We have had contact from Timisoara over the year on how the funds have been used to develop rugby in Romania, we aim to share the details with you soon.

Karl Dickson spared us his time to discuss the transition from player to referee. A very informative and enjoyable evening.

Our 2017 Pre-Season dinner was another great night. Understandably not the same numbers as the 150th launch, but a great squad turnout and interaction between players and guests for the games set by our hosts Dave Ward & James Horwill.

Lastly, we had the Eddie Jones event. We were very pleased and honoured that Eddie agreed to join us, and he spoke openly, honestly and frankly in front of our biggest ever attendance of 350 members and guests. Credit also has to be given to Joe Yates-Round from Quins who hosted the Q&A superbly and helped make it the success it was.

I hope you can see how hard the committee work hard on your behalf and we hope we contribute to your enjoyment of being a Harlequins supporter.

Conclusion

Being a Quins supporter has always been a rollercoaster ride, but it's an amazing club to support and be involved with, that's why we're all here.

I hope you have been happy with my leadership and I thank you for your support for us as a committee for the season past, and the one in progress.

Here's to a successful season, both on and off the pitch.

Scott Cooke
Chair – Quinssa
Presented by Steve Scott

3. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts were presented by Warren Kennedy, Treasurer.

The opening balances were:

Current Account: £14319.30

Savings Account: £16910.62

The closing balances were:

Current Account: 12867.61

Savings Account: 25923.47

Income and expenditure included the usual financing of activities such as the AGM, Quinssa Preseason dinner, evening events, coaches, administration etc. There is an outstanding invoice of approximately £5,000 to be paid to Quins for the Pre-season dinner. This will be paid once an accurate invoice is received.

Quinssa made a donation of £6000 to the Quins Academy based on income from raffles, merchandise & sales of European tickets.

Warren Kennedy advised that the committee were working with the club to utilise £10,000 - £12,000 of Quinssa funds for rugby-related project(s). Current thoughts are:

- Internationals players and/or coaches to run specific sessions for the Academy and Ladies.
- Bursaries for young people to enable them to study and train.

Further meetings will be held to refine these thoughts.

Warren Kennedy
Treasurer

4. Accounts

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review. The committee thanked David for his work. David commented that he needed to receive the accounts earlier next year. This was noted. The accounts were accepted with a show of hands.

Proposed: Simon Bolton

Seconded: Frances Allingham

5. Appointment of Auditor for the coming year

David Holland has agreed to act as auditor again for the coming year. This was accepted with a show of hands without contest.

Proposed: Simon Coleman

Seconded: Andy Booth

6. Minor changes to the Constitution

Lyn Gadd thanks David Janes for identifying a minor typing error in the emailed document.

Lyn Gadd summarise the proposed changes to the Constitution.

These are:

- 1) In order to be quorate a Committee meeting should consist of at least 50% of Committee Members including 2 Officers.
- 2) The position of Vice Chair should be a permanent Officer position.

These changes were accepted with a show of hands.

The Updated Constitution with the changes will be circulated on the mailer.

Proposed: Chris Twiss

Seconded: Paul Gibson

7. Election of Committee Officers and Members

Adrian Jobling(Jobs) has confirmed that he will not be standing for re-election. Jobs was thanked for the work he has undertaken during his time as a committee member. Kay Capon, John Heigham and Pat Scott have submitted Committee member nominations.

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

Officers				
Position	Name	No	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Scott Cooke	766	Pete Attwater	Pat Wood
Vice Chair	Steve Scott	144	Lyn Gadd	Chris Munton
Treasurer	Warren Kennedy	628	Sally Kefford	Sally Swait
Secretary	Lyn Gadd	540	Gay Davis	Andy Capon

Continuing Members			
Name	No	Proposer	Seconder
Duncan Franklin	24	Alex Franklin	Terry Pierce
Lou Hopkins	73	Paul Beaumont	D Beaumont
Chris Munton	500	Ann Stevens	Chris Twiss
Emma Stewart	102	Fiona Bond	Gay Davis
Geoff Sykes	2228	John Clement	Angela Clement

New Members

Name	No	Proposer	Seconder
Kay Capon	3772	Steve Scott	Chris Twiss
John Heigham	233	Brian Pullman	High Vosper
Pat Scott	695	Chris Munton	Lyn Gadd

A block vote was taken via a show of hands regarding the appointment of the 4 officers and 8 committee members. There were no objections

8. Any Other Business

Coaches

The issue of cancelled coaches to away matches was raised. Warren Kennedy informed the meeting that actual loss on coaches this year was £485.20. It was agreed that the committee would publicise the minimum number to run a coach and discuss ways of increasing coach take up with the club. The following suggestions were discussed:

- Quins to advertise Quinssa coaches to all Quins members in the weekly mailout.
- The Quinssa coaches to be advertised on the screens at halftime.

It was agreed that Quinssa members would accept a larger loss on coaches if this meant that there was more away support.

Thanks

Simon Coleman thanked the Committee for their work,

9. Close of Meeting

Steve Scott thanked everyone for attending.