

**Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Twickenham Stoop**

**Present: Members of the Committee comprising**

Scott Cooke	Chair
Warren Kennedy:	Treasurer
Lyn Gadd:	Secretary
Steve Scott	Vice Chair
Kay Capon	Member
John Heigham	Member
Lou Hopkins	Member
Chris Munton:	Member
Pat Scott	Member
Geoff Sykes	Member

54 other Quinssa members

**Copies:** Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

**Apologies for Absence:**

Duncan Franklin, Emma Stewart (Committee Members)

Gary Bates, Richard Crowe, Udo Germanz, Jane Gibson, Jill Griffin, David Janes, Christopher Leonard, Paul Leonard, Alan Longmuir, Paul Tweeddale, Pauline Tweeddale, Alan West, Leah Whyte, Peter Williams

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

Proposed: John Hartley  
Seconded Graham Davis

**2. Chair's Report**

**Membership**

Membership is slightly down on this time last year, by just under 5%. However, with the season starting 6 weeks later due to the World Cup, I'm confident that those who prefer to renew at our stand will do so over the coming months and we'll be back on track. Added to this, we are working closely with the club to help give us maximum publicity and we now have a presence on the big screen and the new TV systems in the bars around the stadium.

**Committee**

The committee have worked hard, as usual, to deliver the benefits you all see and hopefully enjoy. We are working on the events calendar for the season ahead so please keep an eye on the mailer and our social media for details.

Many thanks to Duncan Franklin, Lyn Gadd, Lou Hopkins, Warren Kennedy, Chris Munton, Emma Stewart, Steve Scott, Pat Scott, Geoff Sykes, John Heigham and Kay Capon for all their hard work over the season.

Lou is standing down from the committee and Membership duties will be taken over by Pat. I'd like to thank Lou for her huge contribution over the years, particularly with running coaches and membership.

Everyone else has offered to continue in their current roles and we have two new nominees, I hope you will endorse them shortly.

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.

## **Activities**

We started the season in October at our AGM, with Billy Millard giving us an informative and very entertaining talk about his new role and the restructuring of the coaching set up at the club.

The following week, off we went to Grenoble, having arranged tickets for 111 members and guests.

In November we held a sell-out event with Nigel Owens in The King's Bar. Nigel was certainly entertaining, sharing stories of his life, both personal and professional, with sincerity, humour, and in true Welsh style, a bit of singing.

December saw over 300 of us travel to Treviso, and aside from the result, what a fabulous weekend it was. Just a shame so few Benetton fans made the return trip so that we could repay the hospitality we received. The few that did make it were suitably looked after by the committee and members.

In January we held "Rugby through the Ages" and arranged tickets for over 100 for the away game in Agen, which saw us reach the Challenge Cup Quarter Finals.

We were lucky enough to have Paul Gustard as our guest speaker for the first time at our event in February, and Nick Evans in April.

We also had two sell out events at the Cabbage Patch for the Challenge Cup Quarter Final and Semi Final. Many thanks to Stuart Green from the Cabbage Patch for supporting us, as always.

We rounded off our season of events with our Annual Dinner which was another huge success. We presented the Academy with a cheque for £6000 to support the players of the future.

We also presented a cheque to Tim Grandage from Future Hope for £5500. This charity was suggested as a potential beneficiary at last year's AGM. This money will cover half the cost of the rugby pitch they are looking to build, and we hope to have an update to share with our members in the not too distant future.

Recently, one of our members, Paul Edwards, went to visit the gravestone of Adrian Stoop. Unfortunately, over time, the wording has become almost unreadable so Paul contacted the committee to see what we could do. We contacted the family in the first instance, and with their consent, we engaged stonemasons to restore Adrian's gravestone back to its former and rightful glory.

Lastly, the Quinssa Mailer, where would we be without it? Many thanks to Duncan for regularly sending out his own thoughts plus the numerous contributions from the rest of the committee to keep you posted on all things Quins and Quinssa.

We start this season's events tonight with Paul Gustard, speaking to us after formalities conclude which we're very much looking forward to.

We follow this with our trip to Clermont having arranged tickets for 250 members and their guests.

We are working on the calendar for the rest of the season and have several irons in the fire. Details will be circulated as and when they are confirmed.

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.

Before I sum up and hand over to Warren, Lyn will be covering our plans to support the Academy, the Women's team and Amateurs in AOB, so if you have any questions relating to this, Lyn will be happy to answer them then.

## **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 continue to be 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**

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

### **General**

As of 31st July 2019 the closing balances of Quinssa accounts were:

Current Account - £3,247.66

Call Account - £15,446.16

Income & Expenditure remained at a similar level to previous years with income derived from membership, raffle takings at member events, and surplus in European ticket sales.

We generated .circa £1,600 in profits from European tickets. This was all attributable to the premium we add to tickets to protect ourselves from currency movements between GBP & EUR. The surplus forms part of the annual payment we make to the Quins Academy.

Expenses were made up in the main of internet & mailer hosting charges, room hire charges at the Stoop for Quinssa events, along with postage, printing, Insurance & raffle prize costs

Quinssa subsidised the annual preseason dinner to cost of .circa £1,200, and the Nigel Owens evening to cost of .circa £1,300.

We made a donation of £6,000 to the Quins Academy.

### **Reducing the large surplus of funds we currently hold.**

As agreed, the provision of bursary funds to the Ladies team of £10,000 over 4 -5 years. £2,000 was disbursed in 18/19 to support 4 ladies players

A donation of £5,500 to Mark Lambert's nominated charity, Future Hope in Kolkota towards purchase of land to build a rugby pitch.

#### **Fraudulent activity on the Account**

A cheque was drawn on our account, though not by Quinssa committee members for £33,540. This was raised with Lloyds Bank, as it was clearly internal malfeasance. The money was quickly refunded to Quinssa.

As a control Quinssa has cancelled the cheque facilities we have on the account, as all our payments are now done electronically. Any cheque books we had have been destroyed.

#### **Audit**

David Holland audited the 2018/19 accounts and signed them off without any qualifications. David has agreed to stand as auditor for 2019/20 season. Our thanks go to him for his ongoing support.

#### **4. Accounts**

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review. The committee thanked David for his work. The accounts were accepted with a show of hands.

Proposed: Mark Clayton-Smith

Seconded: John Heigham

#### **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: Graham Davis

Seconded: Wayne McDonald

#### **6. Election of Committee Officers and Members**

**The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:**

<b>Officers</b>				
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Quinssa No</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
Chair	Scott Cooke	776	Ross Leek	Peter Attwater
Vice Chair	Steve Scott	144	Gaynor Davies	Chris Twiss
Treasurer	Warren Kennedy	628	Sally Kennedy	Scott Cooke
Secretary	Lyn Gadd	540	Andrew Capon	Kay Capon

<b>Members</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Quinssa No</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Abby Barletta	3453	John Barletta	Lyn Gadd
Kay Capon	3772	Paul Tweedale	Pauline Tweedale
Duncan Franklin	24	Alex Franklin	JP Franklin
Phil Gibson	3659	Ross Leek	Louise Hopkins
John Heigham	233	Brian Pullman	Hugh Vosper
Chris Munton	500	Kay Capon	Andrew Capon
Pat Scott	695	Chris Twiss	Gaynor Davies
Emma Stewart	102	Jilly Griffin	Gaynor Davies
Geoff Sykes	2228	Angela Clement	John Clement

A block vote was taken via a show of hands regarding the appointment of the 4 officers and 9 committee members. There were no objections

The committee were delighted to welcome 2 new committee members Abby Barletta and Phil Gibson.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Lyn Gadd informed members of the donations made this year and how they were being used. There is a summary below.

John Hartley thanked Scott Cooke for his work as chair.

## **8. Close of Meeting**

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending and handed over to Paul Gustard.

## **Quinssa donations in 2018/19**

### **Quins Academy**

Quinssa donated £6,000 to the Academy last year.

This will be used to support young players who struggle to pay for travel to training and to attend Residential Rugby Camps which are being introduced by Chim Gale this year.

### **Bursaries for the Ladies**

Quinssa allocated £10,000 for Bursaries for the Ladies. 4 bursaries of £500 were allocated last year.

Atlanta St John has taken over from Tony Diprose

4 x £500 bursaries will be allocated again this year. The proposed recipient names have been received and will be discussed at next meeting.

Atlanta has changed the process this year, The Ladies have had to apply for the bursary and recipients will need to attend 1 Quinssa event and promote Quinssa on social media

## **Future Hope**

Quinssa donated £5,500 to Mark Lambert's nominated charity Future Hope. It will be used to contribute to the creation of a Rugby Pitch

Quinssa have received thanks and are promised an update soon

## **Harlequin Amateurs**

Quinssa will donate £1,400 to Harlequins Amateurs (£700 this year and £700 next year)

This money will be used to pay membership fees for players who are struggling to pay their fees

Quinssa is awaiting details to transfer the money