

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Tuesday 13th October 2020 via Zoom

Present: Members of the Committee comprising

Scott Cooke	Chair
Warren Kennedy:	Treasurer
Lyn Gadd:	Secretary
Steve Scott	Vice Chair
Abby Barletta	Member
Kay Capon	Member
Duncan Franklin	Member
Phil Gibson	Member
John Heigham	Member
Chris Munton:	Member
Pat Scott	Member
Emma Stewart	Member
Geoff Sykes	Member

10 other Quinssa members

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

Apologies for Absence:

Richard Broad, Paul Tweedale, Pauline Tweedale

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

As this meeting was held using Zoom, members were asked to raise any issues with the secretary prior to the event. No issues were raised and therefore the minutes were approved.

Proposed: John Heigham

Seconded Jane Thornton

2. Chair's Report

Chair's Report

Membership

Due to current Covid circumstances, it's almost impossible to offer a fair comparison of our current membership vs the previous year as I would normally do. With no games during our peak renewal period, our renewal rate at the time the season normally ends was a lot lower than usual. However, we had already anticipated this, and a plan was put into place. With no games for people to renew at, we were reliant on renewals on our website via PayPal. With the fees PayPal charge, plus the cost of stamps and stationery, we lose approximately 20% of each renewal via PayPal. Pat Scott, who took over as membership secretary looked into ways of not only streamlining the process but also reducing our costs.

The end result, as you will have seen, is a new Single or Standing Order payment option directly into a new bank account that we've set up, with digital membership cards being sent. This has reduced our costs to zero and sped up the issuing of new membership cards. We have had a very positive initial response which we will look to build on over the coming months. Thanks to Pat for driving this initiative with assistance from Steve Scott and Warren Kennedy.

Committee

Your committee has worked extremely hard over the course of the season, sadly, we don't have much to show for our efforts in the way of events as we would normally have. We are in regular contact and holding meetings via Zoom and will continually work hard to organise events and arrange benefits for our members as best we can during these times.

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

Many thanks to Duncan Franklin, Lyn Gadd, Warren Kennedy, Chris Munton, Emma Stewart, Steve Scott, Pat Scott, Geoff Sykes, John Heigham, Kay Capon, Abby Barletta and Phil Gibson.

Everyone has offered to stand again, with Phil being nominated for Vice-Chair. I hope you will endorse these nominations shortly.

I'd like to thank Steve Scott for filling the Vice-Chair role a second time for the past few years when it was made a permanent Officer role and for all your help and support.

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 Paul Gustard giving us his thoughts on the season ahead.

In November we travelled en masse to our away European cup game in Clermont, followed by Ulster in December.

We followed with events with guest speakers Laurie Dalrymple in January and Matthew Carley in February.

Unfortunately, the event planned for March with Atlanta St John (Harlequins Women) and Chim Gale (Academy) had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions.

Thanks to Geoff Sykes for all his hard work in putting all these events together.

We also booked 100 tickets for the Premiership Cup Final, but Covid caused this to be behind closed doors.

We had planned a leaving event for Robbo which again we were understandably unable to hold, but glad we've managed to arrange a Zoom event later this month and have had a great take up.

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.

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

I'll now sum up before handing over to Warren.

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 we're about to start.

Here's to a successful season, both on and off the pitch, in whatever form/shape it takes. Keep safe and well and we look forward to a time when we can all meet up at The Stoop once again.

Scott Cooke
Chair – Quinssa

3. Treasurer's Report for season 2019/20

As of 31st July 2020 the closing balances of Quinssa accounts were:

Current Account – £3011.42
Call Account – £15454.02
Subscriptions account - £316.00

Note bien: *As part of streamlining exercise, we have created a stand alone subs account where members can pay for their annual membership directly. More convenient, and more cost effective than Paypal.*

Assumption is that all membership as of 31.07 was for 20/21 season – going forward, breakdown will reflect historical breakdown to include multi year subs.

Income & Expenditure was lower than previous years, due to decreased activities directly attributable to COVID-19.

Income was derived from membership, raffle takings at member events, and a £650 surplus in European ticket sales from ASM Clermont game.

As usual this 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 Stoop for Quinssa events, along with postage, printing, Insurance & raffle prize costs

£2500 disbursed in bursaries for 19/20 to support 5 players from Women's team.

A one off £700 donation to Quins amateur to subsidise subs for some of their players was made

On back of suggestion from a member, we partnered with family of Adrian Stoop to part fund the restoration of his and his wife's graves and headstones in Hartley Wintney.

An amount of £2000 for donation Quins Academy for 19/20 season has been allocated, but was paid in Sept 2020.

The Premiership Rugby Cup ticket refund from Sale was received in Sept 2020, and refunds to members will be reflected in 20/21 accounts

David Holland audited the 2019/20 accounts and signed them off without any qualifications. David has agreed to stand as auditor for 2020/21 season. Our thanks go to him for his ongoing support.

Warren Kennedy
Treasurer - Quinssa

4. Accounts

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review. The committee thanked David for his work. As this meeting was held via Zoom, members were asked to raise any issues with the secretary prior to the event. No issues were raised and therefore the accounts were approved.

Proposed: Jane Thornton

Seconded: John Sweeney

5. Appointment of Auditor for the coming year

David Holland has agreed to act as auditor again for the coming year. As this meeting was held using Zoom, members were asked to raise any issues with the secretary prior to the event. No issues were raised and therefore the appointment of the auditor for 2020/21 was approved.

Proposed: David O'Keefe

Seconded: Andrew Capon

6. Election of Committee Officers and Members

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

Committee Officers				
Position	Name	No	Proposer	Second
Chair	Scott Cooke	776	Lee Cox(1592)	Julian Donnelly(2723)
Vice Chair	Phil Gibson	3659	James Honeywill(4791)	John Sweeney(1619)
Treasurer	Warren Kennedy	628	Sally Kennedy(1669)	Steve Roberts(1721)
Secretary	Lyn Gadd	540	Gay Davies(907)	Ann Stevens(65)

Committee Members				
Name	No	Proposer	Second	Role interested in
Abby Barletta	3453	Lyn Gadd(540)	John Barletta(1692)	Social Media
Kay Capon	3772	Chris Twiss(906)	Gay Davies(907)	MDS
Duncan Franklin	24	Alex Franklin(650)	JP Franklin(1634)	Mailer & Website
John Heigham	233	Brian Pulman(234)	Hugh Vosper(331)	MDS
Chris Muntun	500	Ann Stevens(65)	Chris Twiss(906)	MDS
Pat Scott	695	Chris Muntun (500)	Paul Edwards(30)	Membership Secretary
Steve Scott	44	Paul Edwards(30)	Lyn Gadd(540)	Committee Member
Emma Stewart	102	Phil Gibson(3659)	Kay Capon(3772)	Annual Dinner
Geoff Sykes	2228	John Clement(3263)	Angela Clement(3264)	Events

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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.

Nick Blanchard informed the meeting that the game with reduced attendance at the Stoop was a great success with the entire crowd behaving in a responsible way. The dignitaries and government officers that attended were very impressed.

Richard Broad and Paul and Pauline Tweedale thanked the Committee for their work.

John Hartley thanked Scott Cooke for his work as chair.

The Committee wished Bob Hiller a happy birthday for the following day.

8. Close of Meeting

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending in this very difficult time.

Quinssa donations in 2018/19

Quinssa received the following from Atlanta St John on behalf of the women who received Bursaries:

From Atlanta St John

On behalf of the Women's team and personally, I wanted to express my sincere thanks to QUINSSA for such invaluable support to the Women

The women used the bursaries for a number of different things to assist their education. These ranged from:

- A new laptop
- Travel to and from the University and Quins
- Text books and lab equipment
- Help with University fees

The Academy

Quinssa also received the following from Chim Gale on behalf of the Academy

From Chim Gale

Things are slowly getting back to normal and we are planning on holding some events with our junior academy players as we did last year at Seaford College during half term and the Quinssa money will be going towards making the camp a success as it was last year and supporting those who could not attend without financial support

Chim is currently working with the RFU and Gordons school in Woking to provide a level 3 rugby programme for talented and committed 16-18 year olds with a realistic potential to achieve excellence in their sport. 5 students have started this year and the plan is for 8 students in 2021. As well as academic studies the programme will provide 12 hours of rugby related contact time through the week. Bursaries are available for part of the boarding fees but the Academy would appreciate some help with topping up the boarding fees. The committee will discuss ways in which we can raise funds in this very difficult year.