

**Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the Twickenham Stoop**

**Present:**      **Members of the Committee comprising**

Scott Cooke	Chair
Warren Kennedy:	Treasurer
Phil Gibson	Vice Chair
Abby Barletta	Member
Kay Capon	Member
Duncan Franklin	Member
John Heigham	Member
Pat Scott	Member
Steve Scott	Member
Geoff Sykes	Member

46 other Quinssa members

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

**Apologies for Absence:**

Committee Members:	Lyn Gadd, Chris Munton, Emma Stewart
Quinssa Members:	Andrew Capon, Richard Crow, John Gonoud, Alan Longmuir, Iris Manning, John Sweeney, Jane Thornton

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

No issues were raised and therefore the minutes were approved.

Proposed:	John Hartley
Seconded	Penny Bushell

**2. Chair's Report**

**Introduction**

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to you all for this, our 18<sup>th</sup> AGM.

For those of you who don't know the 3 of us here, I'm Scott Cooke, Chair; Warren Kennedy, Treasurer and Phil Gibson, Vice Chair.

Well, what a year it's been! Hand on hearts, who saw that coming!! We have had a few requests to change the club motto to "Never in Doubt", maybe something we as Quinssa can adopt! So if you see "Numquam in Dubio" anywhere on our media, you'll know what it means!

We really appreciate you joining us tonight, this is our first event here in so long, it's a special place and so good to be back. Thanks to all of you for your continued support, even when we weren't able to offer much. It means an awful lot to us and the club. Not

that we ever doubted it, but it enforces that we have the best supporters, so thank you again.

Your committee has worked extremely hard over the course of the season and I'm looking forward to sharing details with you shortly. Rest assured, we'll get through it as quickly as possible so you can hear from the architect of last season's sensational achievement, Billy Millard.

## **Chair's Report**

### **Membership**

I'm really pleased to report that our membership is significantly on the rise (22%) since last year, and whilst we're fully aware that our success is on the back of the club's success, the real story here is the support you, our members, have shown us when we've been able to offer little in return.

However, with a great membership behind us, when we able to offer you something on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 which was snapped up in seconds, we knew we were back and we've been working hard ever since to keep the momentum going and I'll cover that in a moment.

The changes to our renewal process are working well and we will continue to work to make it as easy as possible for everyone as well as ourselves.

Thanks to Pat for driving this initiative, which is not only reducing admin time, it's also reducing our costs and speeds up the issue of our digital membership cards.

### **Committee**

The committee has been working hard and meeting regularly via Zoom during lockdown with lots of ideas being discussed, including making our own internal processes better as well as events. Until this summer it's been really frustrating for us not to be able to offer you anything as we normally would, but we feel we're making up for it now.

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 Muntton
- Emma Stewart
- Steve Scott
- Pat Scott
- Geoff Sykes
- John Heigham
- Kay Capon
- Abby Barletta

- Phil Gibson

Everyone has offered to stand again and we have a new nomination for 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, with a special mention to Adrian Wells, James Swanson, Cassie Taylor and Uri Howe.

### **Activities**

We had a great farewell event with Robbo late last year via Zoom, and even with the Zoom fatigue people were feeling we still had a fabulous turnout.

We then entered another enforced quiet spell but behind the scenes, changes were afoot at the club which has led to where we are now. On the back of an incredible start to the year and qualifying for the play-offs with a game to spare, we knew there was an even bigger demand to get back to watching live rugby.

Once the Bristol semi-final was confirmed I was in touch with their ticket office asking about an away allocation. This was the first away allocation since the original lockdown, but after the first 29 minutes I was wondering if it was worth it! However, in the true "Numquam in Dubio" spirit, those who were lucky enough to get one of the 500 tickets and the thousands watching at home, we watched one of the greatest Premiership games ever. And in true Quins style, the final wasn't a bad game either!

The noise and atmosphere created at both those games was incredible and we wanted to take that forward into the new season.

To do that, over the summer we agreed to take on away tickets and do our best to get an allocation to all away games. Everything is going well so far with allocations available to all games up to and including Gloucester on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, although Gloucester details have yet to be shared.

As for Europe, we only have 17 tickets left for Castres, so another great response.

We've also decided to run coaches again and the first one will be our away game against Leicester on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Whilst we've been working hard to get people to games, we've also been working hard to put events on for those unable to travel and this is proving equally successful.

Having held events at the Cabbage Patch to watch occasional games in the past, we approached Stuart to see if we could get a space for the Newcastle game. This sold out so we decided to do it again for Sale, another sell out.

The atmosphere at both games was fantastic and clearly something popular so we're delighted to confirm we have the Cabbage Patch booked for the Wasps, Leicester, Castres and Gloucester away games.

In conversations with Stuart, I mentioned having somewhere we can call our home away from home. He took this away and after speaking to all the other Fullers Pubs in the area we now have a fabulous “Home away from Home” deal for our members.

I’m also aware of some exciting plans for the New Year, but you’ll have to wait for details, watch this space!

Please can you join me in thanking Stuart for all his hard work and support of Quinssa over many years. We’re also pleased to announce the Cabbage Patch as our main sponsor which has been reflected on our website and mailer.

We’re looking into a potential Christmas event after the Cardiff game, details will be shared as and when we have them.

We decided to temporarily relocate our stand to the South West corner to alleviate overcrowding in the Robshaw Bar. This has been a great success and we will continue to revue as the year progresses and the weather changes.

We now have a card reader which we’ve been trialling over the past few weeks and is working really well. Our aim is to be fully cashless in line with the rest of the stadium. Thanks to Warren for all the effort taken to get this up and running.

Lastly, thanks to the committee members who keep you updated via our media channels. Thanks to Duncan for sending out the mailer, Phil for looking after Twitter, Abby for Instagram and a lot of teamwork on Facebook.

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.

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

## **Conclusion**

This bit has been a copy and paste over the past few years but worthy of a rewrite tonight.

Normally I’d say that being a Quins supporter has always been a rollercoaster ride but it’s an amazing club to support and be involved with.

It needs changing to “I feel like we’ve been to a theme park, got free priority tickets and the best seats on every ride”. Dear Quins, please let this feeling continue.

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, Come On You Quins!

**Scott Cooke**  
**Chair – Quinssa**

### **3. Treasurer's Report for season 2020/21**

As of 31st July 2021 the closing balances of Quinssa accounts were:

Current Account:	£1007.84
Call Account:	£12455.80
Subscriptions account	£3521.22
PayPal account:	£3902.35

Note: The Paypal amount was an oversight in the accounts. Historically we transfer income from PayPal, which is all related to membership subscriptions, into the Current account throughout the membership year and hold a zero balance for 31st July.

Due to relative inactivity over 20/21 season, additional cash wasn't required, and therefore the Paypal money wasn't transferred. We will ensure this doesn't happen again in future.

On the back of a push for members to setup a standing order direct into the Subscriptions account, we are looking at decommissioning PayPal

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

Membership subscriptions were quite flat, but a combination of the Premiership Win and supporters returning to Stoop has resulted in an increase in renewals and new memberships for 21/22 season

Other sources of income were derived from donations, raffle takings at online member events & sales from James Mellor "Road to Final" prints.

The surplus from JM prints formed part of the payment made to Academy in Aug 2021

Expenses were made up in the main of internet & mailer hosting charges, along with postage, printing, Insurance & raffle prize costs.

We donated a small amount to help with the creation of Harlequins Heritage digital archive and bidding on memorabilia at auction

£3000 was disbursed in education bursaries for 20/21 to support 6 players from Women's team.

Funds raised at the Chris Robshaw evening were paid to 3 nominated Charities

The Premiership Rugby Cup ticket refund from Sale was for the cancelled fixture in the previous season. Refunds were made to members who purchased tickets.

David Holland audited the 2020/21 accounts and signed them off without any qualifications. David has agreed to stand as auditor for 2021/22 season. Our thanks go to him for his ongoing support.

We are slowly moving toward going as cashless as possible. We prefer to take membership subscription payments directly into our Bank account and have setup a contactless payment account to take card payments on the stand at matchday, on coaches or member events going forward.

**Warren Kennedy**  
**Treasurer - Quinssa**

**4. Accounts**

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review. No issues were raised by members and therefore the accounts were approved.

Proposed: Alex Franklin

Seconded: Chris Twiss

**5. Appointment of Auditor for the coming year**

David Holland has agreed to act as auditor again for the coming year. No issues were raised and therefore the appointment of the auditor for 2021/22 was approved.

Proposed: Steve Scott

Seconded: Jane Gibson

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

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

<b>Committee Officers</b>				
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
Chair	Scott Cooke	776	Julian Donnelly(2723)	Ross Leek(1511)
Vice Chair	Phil Gibson	3659	Richard Ferguson(4799)	John Sweeney(1619)
Treasurer	Warren Kennedy	628	John Sweeney(1619)	John Hartley(132)
Secretary	Lyn Gadd	540	Ann Stevens(65)	Gay Davies(907)

<b>Committee Mambers</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Role interested in</b>
Abby Barletta	3453	Henry Mitchell(988)	Graeme J Simpson(4854)	Instagram
Kay Capon	3772	Chris Twiss(906)	Gay Davies(907)	MDS
Duncan Franklin	24	John Hartley(132)	Melvin Baldock(4947)	Mailer & Website
John Heigham	233	Brian Pulman(234)	Hugh Vosper(231)	MDS
Will Humphries	4934	David Holland(2)	Alex Williams(4925)	Committee Member
Chris Muntun	500	Gay Davies(907)	Chris Twiss(906)	MDS
Pat Scott	695	Sabine Holding(894)	Tony Holding(893)	Membership Secretary
Steve Scott	44	Sabine Holding(894)	Tony Holding(893)	Committee Member

Emma Stewart	102	Jilly Griffin(4318)	Jason Whyte((1118)	Committee Member
Geoff Sykes	2228	John Clement(3263)	Angela Clement(3264)	Events

No issues were raised and therefore the officers and members of the Committee for 2021/22 were approved. Will Humphries was welcomed to the Committee.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Phil Gibson informed members of the Quinssa donations made last year and how they were used.

### **.Academy Donation**

Chim Gale informed Quinssa that the money donated last year was used to provide transport for a number of players when it was not appropriate for them to use public transport during the height of the Covid Pandemic. Some of those players are now in the full time Academy and will hopefully be playing for England U20s in the near future.

### **Women's Bursaries**

6 Education Bursaries were given last year. Two of the women, Lucy Packer and Emily Robinson have been named for the Red Roses Squad.

## **8. Quinssa Awards**

Geoff Sykes announced the winners of the Quinssa Awards:

Men's Forward:	Joe Marler
Women's Forward	Shaunagh Brown
Men's Back:	Danny Care
Women's Back	Jess Breach
Overall Player:	Marcus Smith
Improved Player:	Jack Kenningham
Young Player:	Louis Lynagh
Unsung Hero:	Matt Symonds
Champagne Moment:	Louis Lynagh's second try in the final
Quinssa Committee's Special Award:	Quins Media Team

## **9. Close of Meeting**

Michael Yetman thanked the Committee for their work during the difficult year.

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending and handed over to Billy Millard.