

Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Wednesday 19th October 2022 at the Twickenham Stoop

Present: Members of the Committee comprising

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

77 other Quinssa members

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

Apologies for Absence:

Committee Members: Duncan Franklin

Quinssa Members: Mike McConvey, Roger Champion, Chris Savage, Richard Crowe, Craig Hallett, Rivhard Winter, Steve Hanks, Adam Laidlaw, Janet Wraight, Percy Wraight, Gay Davies, Paul Drummond, Nigel Bond, Irene White

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

No issues were raised and therefore the minutes were approved.

Proposed: John Hartley

Seconded Rhona McDonald

2. Chair's Report

Membership

I'm really pleased to report that our membership is significantly on the rise, over 60% increase since last year. Whilst we attributed some of the 20/21 seasons increase to the success of the team, we worked really hard last season to deliver something special to our members and membership has increased significantly because of it. Now to keep the momentum going!

Also worth a mention is our ever-growing membership presence in the USA.

Thanks to Pat for all your hard work in maintaining our ever-growing membership database.

Committee

The committee has been working hard and meeting regularly at The Stoop before matchdays when fixtures allow or via Zoom or at The Cabbage Patch when not. The hard work has resulted numerous successful events that we arranged last year which I'll come on to in a moment.

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
- Phil Gibson
- Will Humphreys

Everyone has offered to stand again and we have new nominations for the Committee which Lyn will cover a bit later.

In addition to the committee, I'd like to express a huge thank you to all those at Quins and The Cabbage Patch who provide a huge amount of support to us on a regular basis, with a special mention to Laurie Dalrymple, Adrian Wells, Henry Cox, Cassie Taylor and Stuart Green.

Activities

We often get asked what we offer for our fiver membership fee, so I'm pleased to share all that we offered last year:

- Billy Millard joined us as our guest speaker after our last AGM, sharing honest and open views on the season past and the challenges for the season ahead.
- Home away from Home at The Cabbage Patch. This was in its infancy at our last AGM with only having watched one game there. This grew into something really special, offering members the chance to watch our televised away games with fellow Quins supporters. With the added bonus of 15% off all food and drinks for our members, this unsurprisingly became a popular regular event. However, not being happy with just offering the above, the back room of The Cabbage Patch is now known as The Quinssa Clubhouse, and a new sign above the door was

installed last weekend to compliment the large Quinssa logo and Quins memorabilia inside. And we're still not done, more bit will be added over time. The 15% off deal is available every day apart from special occasions and Quins home game days in all the local Fuller's pubs. Thanks again to Stuart Green for making this happen.

- We have also arranged 15% off all food and drinks at The Crane Tap and Panas Nepalese Dining.
- Away Tickets
 - We arranged designated or recommended blocks for every away game last season and will continue to do so again this year. Last year's notable highlights as follows:
 - 200 tickets sold for Castres and 400 for Montpellier, both with pre/post match meet ups
 - 1000 tickets sold for London Irish and the complete takeover of One over the Ait. What a day it was! The atmosphere and noise we created was clearly noted and we got mentioned in the national press as well as Rugby World.
- Working with the club we were able to offer our members priority access to the "State of Play" event in March and priority access to the Premiership Semi-Final tickets.
- Hospitality for our members at our Big Summer Kick-Off event in the Union Ale House at Twickenham Stadium
- New Quinssa beach towels which proved to be a great success, new stock arriving soon
- We've continued to work with James Mellor and he's produced a number of fabulous cartoons for us. Thanks to James for all your creativity and support of Quinssa.
- We set up a forum with all the other Premiership Supporters groups giving us a platform to share ideas, matchday information about our home grounds and surrounding areas and European away information such as ticket office contacts, and more importantly, pubs to visit!
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- On to this year. We have our hospitality booked for Big Game 14 and have sold over half the tickets. We expect to be very close to the 650 limit by the time of the game, so if you've yet to book your places, be sure to do so soon. This promises to be a fabulous event.
- Unfortunately, due to numbers we weren't able to hold our annual dinner, but we put Plan B into action and 70 members enjoyed a great night with players and coaches at The Cabbage Patch.

- A joint venture between Quinssa, The Cabbage Patch and Harlequins hosted the first Stomp to the Stoop. We met at the pub, had special surprise guests Laurie Dalrymple, Stephan Lewies and Alex Dombandt to meet and greet and hand out free drinks vouchers. The brass band then arrived to add music to the colours before 300 Quins and Saints supporters stomped through Twickenham Rough to the new North Village for its official opening. This was a huge success and we will look to arrange another one later in the season.
- We are in the process of arranging tickets for away games against The Sharks and Racing 92, details will be shared as and when we have them.
- We will continue to hold our Home away from Home events when away games are televised. Unfortunately we can't show games on PRTV.
- Next year will be our 20th anniversary and we plan to celebrate accordingly!
- Lastly, thanks to the committee members who've worked hard to keep you updated via our media channels. Our following has vastly increased over the past year which is clearly being reflected in our membership numbers.

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

Conclusion

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.

We're proud to support and be part of our club, but we wouldn't be here without you, our members.

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.

I'll finish with a quote from James Mellor which I think is very appropriate:

"Supporters, Team and The Club all have the culture in sync. Passionate and committed but never without entertainment and jokes. There's a jester on the crest after all"

Thank you

Scott Cooke
Chair – Quinssa

3. Treasurer's Report for season 2021/22

Evening all, bear with me, as I'm no Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I'll muddle through and give you a summary of accounts for 2021/22 season... hopefully I'll survive the reshuffle when committee nominations are finalised as the next order of business...

4.

As of 31st July 2022 the closing balances of Quinssa accounts were:

Current Account – £9847.49
Call Account – £12001.22
Subscriptions account - £7471.76
PayPal account - £551.29

Income & Expenditure increased due to build up of activities, post COVID-19 lockdown rules being relaxed

Membership subscriptions have continued to grow, with renewals also improving.

Other sources of income were derived from donations, raffle takings at online member events, our very popular beach towels and final orders from James Mellor "Road to Final" prints.

The surplus from JM prints formed part of 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 ran two coaches over the season with a small subsidy to enable them to run. Unfortunately, the curse of Friday night games limited coaches we could offer, and in many cases the demand was simply just not there.

We also subsidised the very popular Big Summer kick-off event for members as a thank you for their support during covid (£1300).

Our merchandise expenditure looks a little high as we re-ordered a lot of stock like buttons, beer carrier & pens. In addition, flags were ordered in late July, but income from sales will only reflect in 22/23 season.

Income from the Pre-Season dinner we had to unfortunately cancel, has been carried over, with refunds to most members made in August 22, so will reflect in 22/23 accounts (£3904)

No funds were disbursed in bursaries for 21/22. This has been resumed for 22/23 season and Lyn will talk about this a little later

Surplus from Montpelier & Castre tickets as well as raffle income, donations, towel profits and Lyn's jewellery is all allocated to Academy – an amount of .circa £2780.

Taking into account the above, and other known exposure in terms of expenses etc for the year, we are committed to approx. £9k expenditure, which would leave us with cash reserves of circa £20k

In terms of our cash holdings, we have secured a permanent home in the Stoop and we anticipate spending a bit of money on signage & branding and possibly some furniture to be fit for purpose on matchdays.

Its Quinssa's 20th anniversary this season so we anticipate allocating some cash to a new limited edition anniversary members badge and towards a members anniversary event.

David Holland audited the 2021/22 accounts and signed them off without any qualifications. David has agreed to stand as auditor for 2022/23 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. No issues were raised by members and therefore the accounts were approved.

Proposed: John Heigham
 Seconded: Andrew Capon

5. Appointment of Auditor for the coming year

David Holland has kindly 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: Wayne McDonald
 Seconded: John Heigham

6. Election of Committee Officers and Members

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

Quinssa Committee Nominations for 2022/23

Committee Officers				
Position	Name	No	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Scott Cooke	776	Julian Donnelly(2723)	Ross Leek(1511)
Vice Chair	Phil Gibson	3659	John Sweeney(1619)	Richard Ferguson(4799)
Treasurer	Warren Kennedy	628	Sally Kefford(1669)	Steve Roberts(1721)
Secretary	Lyn Gadd	540	Ann Stevens(65)	Mike McConvey(2417)

Committee Members				
Name	No	Proposer	Seconder	Role interested in
Abby Barletta	3453	Henry Mitchell(988)	John Duddigan(5434)	Instagram
Kay Capon	3772	Gay Davies(907)	Chris Twiss)(906)	MDS
Kate Cole	5748	Chris Pritchard(4980)	Conor Corrigan(5565)	Committee Member

Duncan Franklin	24	Wayne McDonald(34)	John Hartley(132)	Mailer & Website
John Heigham	233	Brian Pulman(234)	Hugh Vosper(231)	MDS
Will Humphreys	4934	Reece Smith(5128)	Sam Evans(5050)	Committee Member
Chris Munton	500	Mike McConvey(2417)	Ann Stevens(65)	MDS
Chris Pritchard	4980	Kate Cole(5748)	Conor Corrigan(5565)	Social Media
Pat Scott	695	Gay Davies(907)	Chris Twiss(906)	Membership Secretary
Steve Scott	44	Chris Twiss(906)0	Gay Davies(907)	Committee Member
Emma Stewart	102	Jilly Griffin(4318)	Jason Whyte(1118)	Committee Member
Thabo Stuck	5173	Stuart Green (Honorary Member)	David Holland(2)	Committee Member
Geoff Sykes	2228	John Clement(3263)	Angela Clement(3264)	Events

Lyn Gadd explained that we had 2 more nominations than members and Officers allowed in the Quinssa Constitution. Two members have offered to stand down but will be available to be co-opted.

No other issues were raised and therefore the officers and members of the Committee for 2022/23 were approved. Kate Cole, Chris Pritchard and Thabo Stuck were welcomed to the Committee.

7. Any Other Business

Lyn Gadd 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 and kit for a number of players who were struggling to get to training and games due to the cost of transport, rugby boots and equipment.

Women's Bursaries

2 Education Bursaries were given last year, Freya Auchen and Ella Amory.

There is £1,000 left from the original Quinssa Bursary Allocation.

8. Close of Meeting

Andrew Lawton raised the issue that the items requiring a Proposer and Seconder should be accompanied by a show of hands from the audience to approve. This was actioned in retrospect and will be included in future AGMs,

Jilly Griffin proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their work during the previous year.

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending and handed over to Joe Yates-Round, Joe Marler and Chloe Edwards.