

Minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Quins Supporters Association (Quinssa) held on Wednesday 18th October 2023 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
Chris Munton	Member
Pat Scott	Member
Steve Scott	Member
Thabo Stuck	Member
Geoff Sykes	Member

33 other Quinssa members

Copies: Quinssa Committee, Quinssa members, Quinssa website

Apologies for Absence:

Committee Members: Kate Cole, Duncan Franklin, John Heigham, Will Humphreys, Chris Pritchard, Emma Stewart,
Quinssa Members: Mike McConvey, Richard Crowe, Gay Davies, Alan West, Alex Franklin, JP Franklin, Jilly Griffin, Nigel Moore, Tim Caffyn, Trevor Grant, Nick Hartfree, John Stockdill, Robert Jones, Malcolm Hill, Andy Hitchcock, Jon Townley

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

No issues were raised and therefore the minutes were approved with a proposer and seconder and a show of hands from attendees.

Proposed: John Hartley
Seconded Andrew Capon

2. Chair's Report

Membership

I'm really pleased to report that our membership is still significantly on the rise, and we may well end the season with our highest membership if it continues the same way.

It's pleasing to see membership increase even though the teams weren't as successful on the pitch as hoped, it means all our hard work to support you, our members is paying off and well received. Thank you, as always for your loyal and continued support.

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. The hard work has resulted in numerous successful events that we arranged last season 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
- Christopher Pritchard
- Kate Cole
- Thabo Stuck

Christopher, Emma & Duncan are stepping down this year. Emma and Duncan were founder members of Quinssa and built the foundations for what we have today. A huge thank you to all of you for your contributions to Quinssa.

Everyone else has offered to stand again and we have some changes in officers, which we 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 season:

- Joe Marler and Chloe Edwards joined us as guest speakers after our last AGM, sharing honest and open views and stories on winning the Premiership and how to wind up the opposition to name a couple!
- Home away from Home at The Cabbage Patch. This continues to be a huge success and we filled the entire pub for the Stormers away game.

- 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:
 - Tickets arranged for two small groups travelling to South Africa with events
 - 600 tickets sold for London Irish and the complete takeover of One over the Ait again.
 - 3000 tickets sold for Saracens

- Hospitality for our members at Big Game 14 was a huge success and we will be launching this year's event later this week.

- Surrey Sports Park tour and watch the team train. 40 members travelled to Guildford to see what goes on behind the scenes. We plan to run another one this season.

- We've continued to work with James Mellor and he's still producing fabulous cartoons for us. Thanks to James for all your creativity and support of Quinssa.

- The cross-Premiership Supporters Club forum is still going strong 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!

- 20th Anniversary Party. In July we hosted our 20th Anniversary Party at The Cabbage Patch. We had the whole of the pub to ourselves and our 200 members & guests were joined by 50 players across the men and women's teams. It was a fabulous event, and we will look to do something similar again this season.

- Due to the rearrangement of BG14 we didn't have time to run hospitality for BSKO, but we are planning to do so this season.

- After the success of the inaugural Stomp to The Stoop last season we're glad to be hosting again in conjunction with the club and The Cabbage Patch. What a way to get our home Premiership campaign underway.

- Merchandise. Our 20th Anniversary polo shirts proved extremely popular as did our Quins laces. We will have some 20th anniversary mugs on sale in time for Christmas, they'll make great stocking fillers!

- 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.

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.

One more thing before handing over to Warren. A huge thank you to the committee who have supported me in my 8 years as Chair and you, our members for supporting Quinssa. We're proud to support and be part of our club, but we wouldn't be here without you, so keep up the good work.

I leave you in the very capable hands of Phil who will be steering the good ship Quinssa into the 2023/24 season and beyond.

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.

Thank you

Scott Cooke
Chair – Quinssa

3. Treasurer's Report for season 2022/23

Quinssa Treasurers Report for the 2022/23 season as presented by Warren Kennedy at the AGM on Wednesday 18th October 2023

The closing balances as of the 31st July 2023 were:

Current Account: £8156.84 (a decrease of £1500 on previous years closing balance)

Subscriptions account: £6300.00 (a decrease of £1500 on previous years closing balance). Based on subs income for following membership years:

23/24 – 1012 members
24/25 – 222 members
25/26 – 23 members
26/27 - 3 members

Call Account: £12053.88 (a small increase, circa £50 on previous years balance, due to interest accrued)

Key expenditure was attributable to:

Academy/Future Stars donation: £4000
Women's Bursaries: £1500
Sponsorship of 20th Anniversary Party: £3500
Big Game 14 event: £450

For the most part expenses remained flat compared to previous year, and covered Web Hosting, Mailer hosting, Insurance and Event hosting expenses.

Administration fees were up by £2000 on previous year, but can be attributed to costs associated with Signage for New Quinssa 'clubhouse' in South Village and Members 20th Anniversary badges.

Key income was attributable to:

- Away ticket sales (small surpluses allocated to Academy fund)
- Event tickets
- Merchandise sales (Polos, Towels, Beer holders, Buttons & Badges etc)
- Poppy Badges (Surplus on badge sales - £450 – was paid to RBL in the form of a donation)
- Raffles (incl. £3200 raised at 20th Summer party paid to Academy in early Aug 23)

Warren Kennedy
Treasurer - Quinssa

4. Accounts

David Holland has audited the accounts and found no issues during his review. No questions or issues were raised prior to, or by members at the AGM and therefore the accounts were accepted with a Proposer & Seconder and a show of hands from AGM attendees.

Proposed: John Heigham
Seconded: Andrew Capon

4. 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 2022/23 was approved with a Proposer & Seconder and a show of hands from attendees.

Proposed: Simon Coleman
Seconded: Thabo Stuck

5. Election of Committee Officers and Members

The Officer and Committee member nominations were as follows:

Quinssa Committee Nominations for 2023/24

Committee Officers				
Position	Name	No	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Phil Gibson	3659	John Sweeney(1619)	Richard Ferguson(4799)
Vice Chair	Geoff Sykes	2228	Wayne McDonald(34)	Angela Clement(3264)
Treasurer	Warren Kennedy	628	Louise Hopkins(5057)	Sue Clayton-Smith(717)

Secretary	Lyn Gadd	540	Ann Stevens(65)	Mike McConvey(2417)
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Committee Members				
Name	No	Proposer	Seconder	Role interested in
Abigail Barletta	3453	Henry Mitchell(988)	Maggie Morrell(5136)	Instagram
Kay Capon	3772	Billy Bushell(1709)	Penny Bushell(1710)	MDS
Kate Cole	5478	Conor Corrigan(5565)	Kieran Smith(5756)	Committee Member
Scott Cooke	776	Julian Donnelly(2723)	Ross Leek(1511)	Away Tickets
John Heigham	233	Brian Pulman(234)	Hugh Vosper(331)	MDS
Will Humphreys	4934	William Harrison(4988)	Reece Smith(5128)	Facebook. Instagram
Chris Munton	500	Mike McConvey(2417)	Ann Stevens(65)	MDS
Pat Scott	695	Robert Jones(3574)	Michael Yetman(2133)	Membership Secretary
Steve Scott	144	Robert Jones(3574)	Michael Yetman(2133)	Committee Member
Thabo Stuck	5173	Sally Kennedy(1669)	William Harrison(4988)	Committee Member

No issues were raised and therefore the Nominations for Committee Officers and Members were approved

Proposed: Andrew Capon

Seconded: Chris Twiss

6. Any Other Business

Lyn Gadd informed members of the Quinssa donated £4,000 to the Future Stars last year and read out the email from Chim Gale as to how they were used.

.Future Stars Donation

Chim Gale informed Quinssa that the money donated last year was used to help cover the costs of camps and transport for players who couldn't afford it. They have also been able to buy boots and essential rugby wear for players who can't afford things. He could not stress enough how much difference this makes. It is allowing players that would have left the game due to funding issues to continue to access the game. Some of the players will definitely wear the quarters for the first team in the future and it is certain that two of them will make premierships debuts in the 23/24 season.

Women's Bursaries

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

7. Questions and Hand over to new Chair

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

Ann Stevens asked if there were plans to run coaches to away matches this season. Warren Kenedy replied that this had not been viable last year due to many Friday evening matches and lack of demand. We will ascertain if there is sufficient demand for suitable matches this year.

John Hartley asked the room for a vote of thanks to Scott Cooke for his excellent work during his 8 years as Chair.

Thabo Stuck asked Scott Cooke for his favourite moment as chair.

Scott answered:

The first European away trip I organised to Prato in Italy.

I'd recently joined the committee and didn't know many people. Having arranged tickets for over 300 members and guests, it was a great way to get to know everyone and understand the vast differences between organising work events and events such as these! With the added chaos of Italian organisation, lots of lessons were learnt we now have a much slicker process!

Scott Cooke thanked everyone for attending and handed over to the new chair, Phil Gibson. Phil addressed the meeting.

8. New Chair Welcome

Good evening all,

Thank you for the vote of confidence in me. I've enjoyed my last 4 years on the Committee and am really looking forward to the work ahead in the knowledge that I have a great team around me, all with a common interest.

We know that supporting Rugby is our Hobby and Pastime – it's not always fun, – but it is our choice – as Quinssa volunteers we will always do what we can to improve the experience of supporters home and away – that's our aim – we have consistently delivered on that, and there is no reason why we won't continue to do so and improve where we can.

We have diversified considerably with our offerings over the last couple of seasons and so one area that we will be asking for help with going forward, and starting this evening, is a bigger involvement of our Members.

We will be starting a Quinssa Matchday and Event Support team made up of Volunteers from our Membership. we would like occasional help selling Raffle Tickets, Poppies, doing a stint on our Match Day stand etc etc.

We are consistently offered help which we usually politely decline BUT - no more! from now on we will embrace the Clubs Philosophy of Involvement and inclusivity and prevail on your generosity of spirit, so please expect a Yes and Thank you from now on.

We hope to get a couple of dozen helpers and that should mean we only need to call on you once or twice a season

We want to increase active Membership and Kay Capon has agreed to maintain the list. Please talk to me afterwards or respond to the request in The Mailer.

Moving on

After a bright idea from our Membership Secretary, Pat Scott, we have decided to introduce a 20th Anniversary Prize Draw– one a Month for 9 months starting today, a little belatedly, for September. All paid up Quinssa members will have their Membership Number entered in the Random Number Generator.

The prize for September is a £75 Voucher for the Quins Shop

The winner for September is Natasha Woods

Last call for Raffle Tickets.

As stated earlier, we donated £4,000 last year and £4,000 this year to Quins Academy to be used as described earlier for Quins Future Stars who would otherwise struggle to afford kit and training etc. In order to raise the profile of these donations we will be presenting a large £8000 cheque to Chim Gale at Half Time in the upcoming Falcons Game.

Thanks to John Hartley and Steve and Pat Scott for additional raffle prizes.

9. Close of Meeting

Phil asked Laurie to present Scott with an engraved Tankard as a thanks from Quinssa for his excellent work as Chair.

The AGM was closed and handed over to Laurie for his presentation and Q and A.