

QuidditchUK Annual General Meeting 2022

Agenda

- 2021/22 Overview (20 minutes)
- Financial Report (20 minutes)
- Transfer Policy (30 minutes)
- New Changes to General Forums (10 minutes)
- IQA Name Change (10 minutes)
- Post Agenda Recap / Questions (30 minutes)

Time - 6:05 - 7:45 PM

Location - Google Hangouts

Attendees

QUK EMT

- Josh Fogg (President)
- Chloe Durkin (Clubs Director)
- Tania Aggarwal (Secretary)

Club Leaders

- Nadine Matough (Oxford Mammoths)
- Samantha Simmons (Durham)
- Mariana Parroquin (Olympians)
- Lucy Nicholls (Vipers)
- Gio Forino (LQC)
- Antonia Simpson (Manchester)
- Scott Suri (Warwick)
- Callum Humphreys (Werewolves of London)
- Niamh O'Keeffe (Southampton)
- Rebecca Jeffs (Southsea)
- Rix Dishington (Kelpies)
- Fiona Sawyer (MUQC - Manchester Universities Quidditch Club)
- Louise Earnshaw (Birmingham Badgers)
- Mya Tibbs (Bangor Broken Broomsticks)
- Alex Griffith (West Country Rebels)
- William Brilliant (Radcliffe Chimeras)
- Charlie Smith (Manchester Minotaurs)
- Morgan Hayward (Leicester Quidditch)

- Rhys Jenkins (Swansea Swans)

2021/22 Overview

- This was our first season post covid and the first season where we have the split between community and university leagues
- It has been largely successful with a few caveats. Some key points / updates are as follows -
 - We had received feedback both internally and externally that there needs to be a larger break between BQC and the community season. This will be taken into consideration for future seasons
 - Though some clubs faced hardship during covid, we have had new clubs forming especially in the south
 - The UK teams delivered a great performance internationally. This was the first time all countries were represented in the UK in the form of 3 national teams. We got medals in both EQC divisions
 - There have been quite a few changes within the QUK leadership team starting with the president and vice president. We also have a new secretary and are currently recruiting for volunteers, operations and events directors
 - A brand new technology department has been created. This was previously a team within the media department
 - We have a quidditch scheduler for planning and managing our events. We also have a dashboard which would help with the management of players in the future
 - We have managed to have a surplus in our finances despite the 3 events we had to cancel due to covid
 - Quidditch name change has been a big focus for us in the last 6 months

Financial Report

- There was a £234.04 surplus despite the rocky period we experienced due to covid. The fund raising drive from the community was really helpful
- We are bouncing back but it was still difficult given the cost increases for events and the lockdowns that occurred during covid
- Department income / expenditure was as follows -
 - Communications -£1798.10
 - Events £853.82
 - Operations £518.20
 - Presidential £660.12
- A lot of the costs were unavoidable in the communications department due to the rising costs of the services that we use
- Our surplus in the events department was a bit lower than expected because of BQC being an expensive event and a lot of cancellations through the season
- The membership fee was increased this year over last year and we were able to cutback on a lot of operational spending such as the solicitor fees to stay afloat

- The only spending in the presidential department was on the gameplay exploration - the prototype quaffles that were sent out for testing with some clubs
- We know that there has been a delay in the referee payments due to the financial stress we are experiencing. We hope to get these out by the end of this year
- The president's salary is also outstanding but we have decided that it will be paid out only after the referee payments have gone out

Transfer Policy

- The new policy is available here - [📄 QuidditchUK New Transfer Policy Draft](#)
- Changes to the transfer policy are still in draft mode as Quidditch Europe has had a busy summer and we haven't time yet to discuss the changes with them and get approval
- Transfer windows
 - They have been confusing for people in the past despite the communication. The current transfer system works as expected because we see less cases of transfers between teams. People generally stick with a team for quite a while. Also the transfers give us useful information to track.
 - Going forward, we will leave the transfer window open for the entirety of the community league with the rule that one person can transfer only once during this window. One cannot move between the teams during the fixtures once they have played for a team because of Quidditch Europe's policy - a person can qualify with only one team for EQC
 - We will also have a second transfer window (10th Dec - 20th Jan) for switching from university to community league. This again needs to be approved by Quidditch Europe as it is currently not allowed to have more than one transfer window.
- There are some aspects of the Transfer Policy that are not technically allowed due to Quidditch Europe's policy but we are hoping to talk to them and get it approved, as it's currently understood that their transfer policy is due to be updated. An example of this is people wanting to move to a newly formed club mid season.
- EQC transfers
 - Players that transfer into an EQC qualifying team can only compete at EQC if they did not compete in the QUK community or university league and didn't compete at an international EQC qualifying tournament
- There are no changes to sections 4 (transfer between club teams) and 5 (international transfers)

New Changes to General Forums

- As our season is now split into 2 leagues - community and university, we feel that it is necessary to have separate forums for both leagues so that people can voice their concerns in a relevant environment. We are still deciding on which category the national teams would fall in but they would most probably be invited to the community general forum
- We would like to schedule one forum for each league before the end of this year

- All attendees were happy with this change to the format of general forums

IQA Name Change

- We still need to sort out the official process for the name change
- We are still busy with the community league but are looking to work on this over the next few months
- Some community teams have already started to use quadball instead of quidditch
- We won't be penalising any club for using the name quidditch but we advise not to. Clubs are welcome to use the name quidditch for publicity purposes (if that helps) as long as there is no monetary gain
- The changes to the ball names will be decided at international level. We will keep all clubs notified when they happen

Post Agenda Recap / Questions

- **Callum (Werewolves of London):** Would it be possible to have documents like the new transfer policy circulated in advance, so that clubs can read it before the meeting and can come to it with more specific Qs?

***Josh:** We weren't able to share them before as they were still being worked upon prior to AGM. We will try to share them early if possible in the future*

- **Gio (LQC):** Why are we closing the second transfer window in Jan? As most of the teams don't train in Dec and Jan, could we close it in Feb or March to have potential players and transfers before BQC?

***Chloe:** We could change the window to start from when QUK reopens post Christmas break and extend it till Feb end*

- **Gio (LQC):** How will QUK allow transfers for players who would want to move a new club that is closer to them etc.? Are there other parameters that will be considered?

***Chloe:** We will definitely take the geographic distance into account but this sort of emergency transfer is fresh and we still need to flesh it out with Quidditch Europe before deciding on what other parameters we will consider apart from distance*

- **Gio (LQC):** What are the main limitations for intra club team transfer as described in section 4 of the transfer policy?

***Chloe:** The only limitation we currently have is outlined in the development cup team policy. We have a rule that national team players cannot attend the development cup tournament. This policy needs to be updated though as we need to consider scenarios where certain clubs have many national team players like Wales which has only 2 clubs and it is very likely their players are part of the national team. There are also currently no limitations about a club using an A and B team to qualify for a better BQC / EQC seat and then changing the roster and performing worse than before*

which would hurt QUK's reputation at EQC. Chloe will discuss this further later with Gio

- **Rhys (Swansea):** Is the rest of the community going to follow USQ's example of the changes to ball names or move in a different direction?

Josh: It still needs to be decided. USQ had to push forward with the name change as they had sponsorship deals etc. pending at their end

- **Lucy (Vipers):** Why was the name change not discussed with the clubs?

Josh: We did discuss this with the clubs over christmas including asking what names they would prefer. But even if people didn't agree, we cannot keep a name that is a registered trademark of someone else. We risk the possibility of getting sued so it has to be changed

- **Callum (Werewolves of London):** Can we get rid of brooms now that the name is changing?

Josh: There has been no discussion on this

- **Callum (Werewolves of London):** When you say QUK will be Quadball UK in the next month, do you mean the organisation name will change legally, or do you mean all of the social media handles will be changing soon also? (Just as they're still currently quidditch)

Josh: Both. The website and documents will also need to be updated

- **Mariana (Olympians):** Do we know when the new logo might come out? I am thinking about the kit and when it would be best to make a big order

Josh: Communication regarding this will be coming out soon from the media department. If its urgent, we can let you know if you reach out separately

- **Fiona (MUQC):** People are concerned that experienced people would come and play in regional merc teams which would put university players at a disadvantage

Josh: Only university teams can come together and form a regional merc team in case they don't have enough players on their roster to play on their own. Also, these teams will not be eligible for EQC (Josh will double check and confirm this)

- **Callum (Werewolves of London):** A few of our players applied for QUK roles months ago and haven't received any response back about their application - who can these people reach out to to receive an update on their application?

Josh: Please ask them to drop an email to volunteers@quiddichuk.org and we will follow up

- **Callum (Werewolves of London):** Are there plans to have a bigger QUK social media presence this next year? There wasn't really any celebration on QUK social media for Team England winning EG or Werewolves winning BQC and EQC which some members of the club found disheartening (though I realise volunteer capacity plays a big role in this)

***Josh:** Having more capacity to do regular social media updates is something we want to do but we have very few volunteers in the media department at the moment. We have had a few applications recently for the media department so we hope to resolve this soon*

***Chloe:** We did make social media posts for Team England winning EG and about BQC wins too but agree that socials have been a bit slow this summer*

- **Mariana (Olympians):** Is there any plan to bring back head ref field testing of some sort to ensure quality/help new refs get the experience?

***Josh:** Head ref field testing has been already going on. It took place at the second fixture*

- **Mariana (Olympians):** Would a payment system for refs be considered? Somewhere where maybe player fees are a bit higher but some of it it's destined to pay refs - you could get money it back if you volunteered (maybe for community teams as we don't really want to make finances harder for uni teams) Josh - This is something we are definitely looking at for the next season

- **Alex (West Country Rebels):** With the new name, can we get into BBC sport?

***Chloe:** The general vibe in British media is not very positive about us so we tend to shy away from it. Most of the requests we received didn't seem like they would be beneficial for the sport*

- **Rhys (Swansea):** Do you have any plans regarding developing quidditch in Wales?

***Chloe:** We have regular meetings on this. It has been a big focus point in the clubs department and I am working closely with the welsh expansion manager. We have several outreach events scheduled for making the sport more popular in Wales*

- **Scott (Warwick):** Would the advice regarding not taking finances on products with Quidditch in the name extend to university society memberships?

***Josh:** It's a grey area so our advice would be to officially change the club name to quadball. This is not urgent to do but something to start planning out sooner rather than later*

- **Gio (LQC):** Regarding the new rule changes the IQA have announced this week, when will QUK be implementing them?

Josh: *This will be done post the current community season. It will be implemented from the start of the university season*

- **Callum (Werewolves of London):** Something to consider regarding alleviating the volunteering burden at tournaments, what if uni players were allowed to compete for community league teams, and therefore also helped out with the volunteering? Obviously EQC is the sticking point as Quidditch Europe wouldn't allow it, but EQT could maybe be reintroduced as the sole EQC qualifying tournament to help with that (with both university and community league teams competing against each other for EQC spots). This might also incentivise university players to keep playing after graduation and bring back stuff they learn from the community league to their university teams

Josh: *We have considered this before and it's all dependent on the discussion we will have with Quidditch Europe. We did think about having a merc university team play in the community league this season but didn't have the capacity to implement it in time*