



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 8.30pm at Lancaster Cricket Club

**Present:** Crawford Mitchell (Chairman), Mal Kitchin (Treasurer), Ian Gibson (Secretary), Di Brooksbank (Deputy Treasurer), Barry Young, Paul Legon, Ian Nicholson.

### Agenda

1. **Apologies:** - Fred Parrett.
2. **Minutes:** - The Chairman moved that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by the Treasurer. Carried by show of hands.
3. **Matters arising:** - There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
4. **Chairman's Report:** - See Appendix 1.
5. **Secretary's Report:** - See Appendix 2.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** - See Appendix 3.

The Treasurer submitted up-to-date accounts; these were circulated to those present. Proposed acceptance: Malcolm Ostermeyer - Seconded: Richard Hitchings. Carried by a show of hands - Treasurer abstained.

### 7. **Election of Committee and Officials:** -

Resignation: Crawford Mitchell

Nominations received: -

**Chairman:** Paul Legon - Proposed: Crawford Mitchell - Seconded: Richard Hitchings - Carried.

**Secretary:** Ian Gibson - Proposed: Brenda Mitchell - Seconded: Mal Kitchin - Carried.

**Treasurer:** Mal Kitchin - Proposed: Ian Gibson - Seconded: Paul Legon - Carried.

**Committee:** Ian Nicholson - Proposed Richard Hitchings - Seconded: Barry Young - Carried.  
Malcolm Ostermeyer - Proposed Richard Hitchings - Seconded: Paul Legon - Carried.

The Secretary proposed that all members of the out-going Committee not nominated above, with the exception of Crawford (who had stepped down), should be voted en-bloc onto the new Committee. Seconded: Treasurer - Carried.

### 8. **Rule Changes:** -

The Secretary reported that he had received several proposed rules' changes from Mal Kitchin (Lancaster Cricket Club B) in his role as Treasurer. These changes were required to simply reflect current custom and practice and make accounting procedures more efficient.



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

The proposed rule changes are as follows: -

Section B: Match Rules - Rule 14. The current wording to be deleted and replaced by the following: -

**(a) An annual fee of £45.00 per team shall be payable by a date set by the Committee.**

**(b) The annual fee may only be increased\* by an AGM or an EGM.**

Section B: Match Rules - Current Rule 16. To be deleted.

Section B: Match Rules - Current Rule 18. To be amended as follows - the second sentence to read: -

***Additionally a new team must pay its annual fee (currently £45.00) at the same time as it submits its registration form."***

Section B: Match Rules - Current Rule 17 and Current Rule 18. To be amended to Rule 16 and Rule 17 if current rule 16 is deleted.

Section C: Competition Rules - Rule 7.

The second sentence which reads; "**A fee of £1.00 must be paid on receipt of the questions**" to be deleted.

\* **After discussion, the only alteration to the proposed changes was the alteration of the word "increased" to "amended" in the proposed Rule 14 (b).**

The changes also resulted in an overall annual fee increase from £42 (£2 Registration Fees; £40 League Fees) to the new single fee of £45.

The Secretary moved that the rule changes as discussed and amended be accepted. Seconded: Richard Hitchings. Carried by show of hands.

## **9. Any Other Business:**

The Secretary reported that no other motions had been submitted to the AGM for consideration.

The formal business having been concluded the Chairman opened up the meeting to questions from the floor.

Richard Hitchings raised 2 points of serious concern.

(a) He questioned the decision to change this season's Quarter-Final's quiz, from the one as set, to another compiled by the Committee. Not only was he of the opinion that this was a bad decision, it was also unconstitutional as it was not decided in Committee.

*(For information - The quiz in question had been compiled by a member of the team that had set the Week 22 quiz the week previously. Many teams had added adverse comments to their score sheets. Several of the teams concerned were to play quarter-final matches the following week.)*

It had been intended to discuss this matter at Committee due to the number of comments arising. Unfortunately, on the night, insufficient Committee members had attended to form the required quorum stipulated in League rules. The meeting, therefore, could not go ahead.



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

It was accepted that the decision was taken outside of Committee, but the Committee felt that it could not simply ignore the strength of feeling expressed by League members with regard to the Week 22 quiz and allow the set quiz to go forward.

In future, teams and their team-members will never again be asked to set quizzes on consecutive weeks.

(b) He had understood from the last AGM that a decision had been taken to maintain the "status quo" with regard to the provision of trophies and prizes at the End of Season and Presentation Night. He had been surprised and disappointed that individual runners-up trophies had not been provided this year.

The Secretary accepted that the matter had been discussed at the last AGM but the outcome was not binding on the Committee as it had not been submitted as a motion as required by the League rules. However, it had not been set aside out of hand.

The Committee had considered the matter fully, following submissions by the Treasurer. The Committee had to run the League prudently and within its budget and must be allowed some flexibility as to how that is achieved. Even though individual trophies for runners-up had not been provided, their individual prizes were increased by 50% from £10 to £15.

John Shaw raised the subject of the Cup Competitions and the method of using team averages to decide whether a team would play in the Dennis Wigham or Tony Clare. He also felt that the League rules relating to player registration just didn't make sense.

The Secretary said that a rule change would be required to alter the method of using team averages. He was aware that some teams were unhappy about this rule; he had expected a motion to be made to try to change it but none had been received.

He agreed that the rules regarding player registration required amendment. The Chairman said that he felt that one of the Committee's tasks over the forthcoming season must be to re-visit the rule book and recommend amendments/clarification where appropriate.

Meeting closed - 21:40

Attendance: 12 (including Committee)



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## Chairman's Report for 2011/2012

Welcome and thank you all for attending this year's AGM.

I am pleased to note that the re-organisation of the committee has been successfully completed and that the smooth running of the league & cup matches continues.

My thanks to those who set the quizzes for both League and Cup matches throughout the year. The league matches were set by divisions 1 and 3 and, with a couple of exceptions, were well received. Two quizzes were clear examples of what can happen when the guidelines are ignored. One was heavily criticised for being too narrow, difficult and contained a spare which, if used, would have really caused some problems. The other contained nine errors – and that team managed to make three mistakes in one question. DO READ THE GUIDELINES.

Registrations for next year stand at 42 teams; all teams from last year have renewed their interest. This may not yet be a final number and your Secretary will be letting teams know in due course when the season will start, and giving details of fixtures, league structures etc.

The new Social Evening was well attended, we were well fed by the ladies at the Collegian Club and John Goodhew's table quiz, with music and picture rounds seemed to be very well received.

My thanks also go to your Committee who continue to ensure the smooth running of the League.

Unfortunately I have added to the committee's problems by deciding to stand down as Chairman. I have been on the committee for over 20 years, was deputy chairman for several years and chairman for over 10 years. It is time for a fresh pair of eyes.

Finally, some pebbles for me to drop in your pond.

If your team is asked to set a quiz – then do it. And do it to the best of your ability. Why should you get to play in a quiz every Monday night and then refuse when it's your turn to provide the entertainment?

When you set – don't let arrogance or ignorance stop you reading and following the guidelines – they do work.

Your committee are there to help run the League – they will welcome your support. Maybe even acknowledge criticism – if constructive. They are not however there to receive abuse – and I can tell you they do not like it – would you?

Next year's committee may have some new members – my advice to them is simple – if you agree to do a job – do it. Do not rely on a few broad shouldered individuals to fill in the gaps – even they get fed up doing it. Turn up at all committee meetings – not just when you feel like it. And contribute – become involved.

Serving as your Chairman has been a pleasure; please support my successor. Thank you.

J C Mitchell  
Chairman  
11/06/2012.



## Secretary's Report for 2011/2012

It was with great regret that I learned of Crawford's decision to stand down as Chairman at the end of this season and of his intention not to stand for Committee next season. This ends 20 years of unbroken service on the Committee, 12 of them as the Chairman.

I am sure that he has seen through many changes during his time on Committee, but his greatest achievement to me was his handling of the situation following Peter Charlton's decision to retire part way into the 2010 - 2011 season. Peter Charlton was the 'keystone' of our League, he was Secretary and Treasurer, and his departure could have caused chaos. However, that was not to be. Crawford brought me and Mal Kitchin in to cover Peter's duties and with his guidance, apart from the odd hiccup, the transition was almost seamless.

On a personal note, I would like to thank him for all the support and advice he gave me. I shall miss our regular telephone chats, trying to put the Quiz League to rights.

I am sure you would all like to join with me in thanking Crawford for all of the work that he has undertaken on our behalf.

When the fixtures were compiled for the season, the Committee took into account the views which had been raised concerning the excessive number of bye-weeks in previous seasons. Hopefully, teams were satisfied with the outcome. In the League only 2 teams per week were on byes and one of them would be the week's quiz setters.

The resolution of the bye-week problem did come at a cost, however, in that only the teams in Divisions 1 and 3 could question set for League games. Teams in Divisions 2 and 4 were asked to contribute in the Pool Weeks and the Quarter and Semi-Finals of the Cup Competitions.

Several teams indicated their disappointment at not being selected to set; the Committee will try to come up with a scheme whereby all teams will be available to set, whilst at the same time ensuring minimum bye weeks.

Whilst every attempt will be made to comply with a team's question setting preferences, as indicated on their Registration Form, the Committee reserves the right to require any team to set questions under Section B - Match Rules: 17 of the League Rules, should it become necessary.

The priority task for the new Committee, following election, will be to consider the make-up of the Divisions for the forthcoming season.

I can confirm that I have received 42 team registrations for next season. The same number as last season. There are no new teams.

Nearly ½ of these registrations were made using the online facility. Only 5 teams had to be reminded to register, the vast majority of teams had registered before the end of the season.



I have also received a number of complaints about the quality of some of the quizzes this season. Circumstances required that 2 teams, indicating a preference not to set, had to set. However, can I make it clear that the quizzes, which received the most vociferous complaints, were set by teams who were "happy" to set.

Every year the Committee bang on about the need for all teams to follow the question setting guidelines and every year we have examples of this advice being ignored. The Chairman has even created a stock letter that is sent out to teams prior to setting, which specifically refers them to the question setting guidelines. We are not doing this for the good of our health but for that of the quiz league. If team members stop enjoying quizzing on a Monday night, then they will stop playing and if enough do it the League will eventually fold.

The Committee can only do so much with regard to question setting. Buying quizzes in is expensive and it cannot be guaranteed that they would be any better than the majority of quizzes set by our teams. Vetting is an option, but who would do it? The solution is in the hands of the individual members of the League.

Finally, some statistics:-

Highest Average Fried Egg Weekly Totals:

Week 14 - 75.00 (Ave 18.75); Week 5 - 70.28 (Ave 17.57); Week 22 - 69.08 (Ave 23.02 - only 3 divisions played in Week 22)

Lowest Average Fried Egg Weekly Total: Week 1 - 20.28 (Ave - 5.07)

Perfect Scores: - 15: (Eric Wildsmith (Moorlands) scored 3 of them).

Walkovers/Void: - 10: (Div1 - 3; Div2 - 5+1 Void; Div3 - 1).

Highest Team Scores:

League - Div 1: The Pub - 89.  
Div 2: Lord Ashton A - 80.  
Div 3: Bowerham Hotel; Heysham Cricket Club - 72.  
Div 4: George & Dragon A - 72.

Cup - Dennis Wigham: Blue Anchor B/S B - 87.  
Tony Clare: Black Bull Brookhouse A - 78.

The website continues to be well used - as of tonight, there had been just over 6950 hits since the start of the season by the 42 teams in the League. This compares with 6800 for 2010 - 2011 by the 45 teams for that year. On current costs, the site works out at 15½ p per day, which I think you must agree is good value for money.

This report will be made available online in due course.

**Ian Gibson**  
**Secretary**  
11/06/2012





### Treasurer's Report for 2011/2012

A decline in League membership on the previous season of three teams reduced our income by £126.00, which together with a quiz charged to the league at £28.00 resulted in a working loss of £37.44. Clearly some savings were made but not enough to avoid a deficit on the season. This leaves the League with an opening balance for the new season (2012/2013) of £396.44.

My thanks go to all the teams for their co-operation in paying their league fee's on time.

Our new banking arrangements worked well including a small increase in interest received.

Finally I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for the support they have given to me throughout the season.

Thank you.

Mal Kitchin  
Treasurer  
11/06/2012.