

<u>Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on</u> <u>10th June 2013, 8.30pm at Lancaster Cricket Club</u>

<u>Present:</u> Paul Legon (Chairman), Mal Kitchin (Treasurer), Ian Gibson (Secretary), Fred Parrett (Deputy Chairman), Betty Maudsley (Deputy Secretary), Ian Nicholson.

<u>Agenda</u>

1. <u>Apologies</u>: - Di Brooksbank, Malcolm Ostermeyer, Barry Young.

2. <u>Minutes</u>: - The Chairman asked for a proposal that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true record of that meeting. Proposed - Treasurer; Seconded - Ian Nicholson. Carried by a show of hands.

3. <u>Matters arising</u>: - There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

- 4. <u>Chairman's Report</u>: See Appendix 1.
- 5. <u>Secretary's Report</u>: See Appendix 2.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: See Appendix 3.

The Treasurer submitted up-to-date accounts; these were circulated to those present. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Richard Hitchings; Seconded - Barry Maguire. Carried by a show of hands. Treasurer abstained.

7. Election of Committee and Officials: -

The Secretary reported that the following nominations had been received: -

Chairman: Paul Legon
Secretary: Ian Gibson
Treasurer: Mal Kitchin
Committee: Ian Nicholson Betty Maudsley Di Brooksbank Barry Young Fred Parrett

Malcolm Ostermeyer The Secretary asked members if they wished to deal with each nominee on an individual basis or to vote for the Committee en-bloc. Bob Clark proposed that the Committee be voted en-bloc. Seconded by John Shaw. Carried by a show of hands.

8. Rules of the League: -

At the last AGM, the Chairman had promised that the Committee would re-visit the League Rules with a view to updating and/or clarifying existing rules where appropriate. Its recommendations had been published on the League's website, in advance of this AGM.



The Secretary had also received a number of motions referring to the Cup Competitions, which would require rule changes; these too had had advanced publication on the website.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to present the changes recommended by the Committee and to add explanations where necessary. This was supplemented by the Treasurer who, from his long association with the League, was able to provide a historical perspective as to why certain rules had come into being.

Following discussion, some minor wording alterations to the submitted recommendations were made. The changes were proposed for adoption by Bob Clark and seconded by Richard Hitchings. Carried by a show of hands.

These alterations are shown in blue at Appendix 4.

The meeting then turned to the consideration of those motions which sought changes to the selection process for the 2 Cup Competitions, which is currently based on a team's average score at the halfway point of the season.

The Chairman invited proposers to submit their motions; he felt that as Mal Kitchin's (Lancaster Sports and Social Club B) motion referred specifically to changing Section C - Competition Rules: Paragraph 4; it should be dealt with first as it was a technical matter. Once resolved, the meeting could then turn its attention to discussing the different selection methods proposed.

The motion sought the removal of the wording within Paragraph 4 that referred to the use of averages on completion of half the league fixtures. It also sought other slight alterations involving sub-paragraph changes.

It was argued that having the selection process written into the rules made it impossible for the Committee to consider the use of any other alternative method. Passing this motion would provide much more flexibility as it would leave the matter of team allocation squarely in the hands of the Committee. It would also mean that all the other proposals would need to be considered under "Any Other Business" and as such could only be treated as advisory to the Committee.

Mal Kitchin moved that his proposed changes be accepted: Seconded by Bob Clark. Carried by a show of hands.

These alterations are shown in green at Appendix 4.

The Chairman felt that even though the alternative proposals should be properly considered matters for "Any Other Business" (following the outcome of the previous vote); they should still be dealt with now and asked for the various proposals to be put forward for discussion. The Secretary said that he had received apologies from Brian Jenkins and Lancaster Sports & Social Club A would be represented by Bob Clark.

There followed a full and frank discussion on the various proposals put forward (the proposals are shown at Appendix 5).

Concern was expressed that the AGM attendance amounted to only a small percentage of the League's membership and any outcome may not be representative of the remainder's views. The Secretary pointed out that the proposals had been available to read on the Lancaster City Quiz League (LCQL) website for several weeks prior to the AGM. He attached significant weight to the points raised in the proposals presented by the attending representatives at this AGM. If the remainder had felt so strongly about the changes proposed, then they had not shown it by attending tonight to express the fact.



The Chairman felt that nothing more was to be gained from continuing with this discussion. However, it was clear to him, both from tonight's meeting and from views expressed to him throughout the season, that maintaining the status quo was not an option - members wanted a change, so a change there will be.

If problems arise then they can be addressed again at the next AGM.

9. Association of British Quiz Leagues:

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received an email from the Chairman of the City of London Quiz League inviting LCQL to join a British Association of Quiz Leagues (BAQL). Initially, there would be a one-off cost of £20. Currently, the League was considered to be an Associate Member. To become a full member was a matter for the AGM.

The Secretary gave a brief précis of its objectives. He had provided a link to the Association's website on the AGM page on our site for people to look for themselves.

The feeling of the meeting was to wait until BAQL became more established and to reconsider membership at a later date.

10. Any Other Business:

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

Crawford Mitchell thanked the Committee for using a quiz prepared by Peter Charlton at Friday's End of Season Social event. Peter had compiled the quiz for last season's event but, due to its late delivery, it had not been used.

Brenda Mitchell gave a vote of thanks for the work undertaken by the Committee in the past year. She also thanked Ian Gibson for his continued work on the web site.

Meeting closed - 21:55

Attendance: 15 (including Committee)



Chairman's Report for 2012/2013

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

The operation of the league fixtures went smoothly this year and the cup competitions were also completed successfully. However, there is a significant degree of concern over the current allocation of teams to the two cup competitions. Much of this AGM is likely to be taken up with discussions of the several motions received on this issue and I expect the outcome to be a different arrangement for next season.

I congratulate all those teams who have won the league and cup competitions and thank all teams who have set questions for this year's quizzes. Most quizzes have been well received and I perceive that more teams have looked closely at the guidelines for question-setters. The guidelines exist for a reason and I hope that all teams that set questions (and all teams are now liable to be asked to do so) will continue to study them carefully and produce quizzes of a good standard.

As a new chairman, I have been very dependent on the work of the members of the committee and I wish to thank them sincerely for the time they have spent on making this season a success. In particular, the new system of committee members attending at Saturday lunchtime when quizzes are packaged for the following Monday has worked very well. Special thanks must go our indefatigable Secretary, Ian Gibson and also to our Treasurer, Mal Kitchen who have continued to do a marvellous job.

One problem this year has been the Lord Ashton, where the Quiz League has been based for many years. Its unreliability about opening hours has posed problems for many of us and one item on the agenda of the first meeting of the new committee will be a discussion about a change of venue as our base for next season. At the time of writing, 39 teams have registered for the new season but the committee is hopeful of at least a couple more before the league structure and new fixtures are finalised.

Sadly, the league has lost three former committee members this year: David Joyce ("Trotsky") who was still a very active quizzer at the time of his death; Bob Douglas and Peter Charlton. I do not think I exaggerate when I say that without Peter's tireless work for many years as Secretary (and also latterly Treasurer), the Quiz League would not exist in its present form. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer represented the League at the locally-held funerals of Bob and Peter.

I am writing this before the End-of-Year Social Event (formerly Presentation Night) but I am confident that it will go well. The change of venue for the Finals Night of the Cup Competitions was well received and so the committee decided to obtain the use of the same venue for our social event.

Much time in our committee meetings this year has been spent on a line-by-line revision of the league rules for submission to this AGM for discussion and approval. This revision has not taken place for many years and it is vitally important that the rules are up-to date. All questions about the operation of quizzes and the procedures that are followed have to be answered by reference to these rules. The AGM will look at the suggested revisions carefully and I hope that all teams will scrutinise the revised rules when they appear on our website.

Paul Legon - Chairman

9 May 2013



Secretary's Report for 2012/2013

Many of the points that I was going to mention have already been covered by the Chairman in his report and given the number of proposed rule changes that have been listed for discussion at this AGM, you will be pleased to learn that I am not going to waste your time by repeating them.

The Chairman has referred to the passing of former players and Committee Members, David Joyce, Peter Charlton and Bobby Douglas.

Another sad loss was Keith Crookall, who also died during the season. He was neither a player nor a Committee Member but he was an integral part of our League. Keith was the regular question master for Lancaster Railway Club. Without people like Keith, who are prepared to turn out to perform the role of QM, it is possible that lots of our teams with small squads would fold and our League would be the poorer for it.

All 42 teams from last season had registered for next season, but unfortunately I learned on Friday that Packet Boat is now unable to raise a team. However, I am pleased inform you that I have received a registration and league fees for a new team. John O' Gaunt, Market Street, Lancaster will be joining us next season. 62% of teams registered using the on-line facility.

You will have noticed from both the hard copy and on-line registration forms that the option previously available to teams not to set quizzes has been removed. Due to the high number of teams opting out, the Committee was finding it more and more difficult to compile the fixtures, whilst at the same time ensuring every week that 2 of the teams with byes on a particular week were available to set.

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

The Chairman has already covered the difficulties arising from the various changes of opening times of the Lord Ashton. However, we have had problems with the pub not opening on-time both for question packing on Saturdays and result collection on Wednesdays. Two score sheets have also been lost there - one addressed to me (sent by Royal Mail) and one hand delivered.

In my past reports, I have listed various statistics. I am not providing them this year as they can all be found on the website.

You will also now find all of last season's quizzes available on the site.

The website continues to be well used - as of tonight, there had been just over 7025 hits since the start of the season by the 42 teams in the League. This compares with 6950 at this stage last year. As the web hosting fees have not been increased, the daily cost is still $15\frac{1}{2}p$ per day.

Finally, I should like to thank all my Committee colleagues for their support throughout the season.

lan Gibson Secretary 09/06/2013



I am pleased to report that the League returned to profitability for the 2012/2013 season.

Our opening balance was £396.44 and our closing balance is £574.70, showing an operating profit of £178.26. We should be aware that this figure includes an increase in League fees of £126.00 as per last year's AGM. The comparable figure against the 2011/2012 season is a profit of £52.26 against a loss of £37.47.

Whilst the commercial cost of photocopying quizzes increased we were able negate the greater part of these increases due to those teams who generously supplied quizzes free of charge or at a reduced cost. On behalf of the League I thank those teams.

In other areas, due to a change in venue catering costs were reduced and administrative costs were also reduced due to stocks of score sheet held over from the previous season and a reduction in the number of hard copies of documents required due to having a website.

Finally may I thank my colleagues on the committee for their support over the season.

Thank you.

Mal Kitchin (Treasurer). Lancaster Sports & Social Club B



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE - RULES.

Section A – League Organisation

- 1. The League shall be known as The Lancaster City Quiz League and shall provide friendly association and competition without any political or profit making purposes.
- 2. The rules of the League shall be binding on all registered players.
- 3. A committee shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting by show of hands or by ballot, comprising Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than five nor more than nine other members.
- 4. The Committee shall have the power to settle and arrange all matters relating to the League and not covered by these rules and to choose a headquarters prior to the start of the season.
- 5. The Committee shall meet as many times as deemed necessary and shall call General meetings as and when required the time and place to be decided by the Committee. At each meeting the Treasurer will present a vouched statement of accounts.
- 6. The Committee may elect from among their number deputies for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to act in the absence of those officers and may at any time fill any vacancies occurring between the officers and members of the Committee. Members of the Committee who fail to attend three consecutive meetings will be deemed to have resigned, unless the Committee decides otherwise.
- 7. There shall be a quorum at Committee meetings of 50% of the members **including** Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer **or** their deputies.
- 8. The Chairman does not vote on motions, but has a casting vote when necessary.
- 9. Any additional rules or amendments to rules shall be dealt with at the AGM at the end of the season at which copies of the rules will be available and at which 'Rules of the League' shall be a separate item on the agenda. Notices of motions and nominations to the Committee must be given in writing to the secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting.
- 10. Any registered player may vote at the AGM.
- 11. 'Any Other Business' shall be an item on the agenda of the AGM as matters for discussion but not to involve any alterations in contravention of Rule 9.
- An Extraordinary Meeting <u>must</u> be convened by the Committee on the request of five <u>teams</u>. Only <u>one vote per team</u> is allowed at an EGM.
- 13. Press reports of matters concerning the League, teams and individuals must <u>not</u> contain any statement or comment capable of causing offence.
- 14. All away team players, and possible officials and supporters must be aged 16 and over.



Section B – Match Rules

- 1. Competing teams shall consist of no more than four or less than three players per side drawn from a pool of registered players. A team starting with only three players will not be permitted to add a fourth player once the first question has been asked. All players must be registered. A player cannot play for more than one team in a season except that requests for special consideration must be received by the Committee before the start of the cup competitions.
- 2. Playing for a team or signing a registration form constitutes registration for that team. For the purposes of Section C Competition Rules, Paragraph 10, a person will be considered to be "registered as a player at the start of the season", if he/she plays in either of the first two games of a team's season. A player who has not previously signed a registration form played in either of those games must, the first time he/she plays for a team, indicate on the back of the score sheet registration for that team annotate the score sheet with "NP" before their name/signature. Player registration is on a season by season basis.
- 3. Any team which plays a player who is registered for another team (unless cleared by the Committee under Rule 1 above) shall forfeit the match to their opponents and shall be deemed to have scored no points. Any player who plays illegally for more than one team will be barred from playing for the rest of the season. The above also applies in the case of a new player failing to sign the reverse side of the score sheet.
- 4. Matches will be played on Monday evenings, starting at 8.30 pm with a time allowance of 15 minutes. Should a match be delayed for any longer than this then the non-offending team will have the right to claim the match (although some tolerance should be exercised).
- 5. Sets of questions will be authorised by the Committee and no others will be used.
- 6. The questions will be issued to the home team in sealed envelopes which will be opened by the question master in the presence of both teams. The captain winning the toss shall have the choice of playing order. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a question master.
- 7. A match shall consist of no fewer than 32 questions to each team and the winner shall be the team scoring the most points.
- 8. (a) All questions must be answered and the answer completed within 60 seconds (except as stated in part (b)). For a correct reply the question master shall award three points. Should a person whose turn it is to answer give an incorrect answer or be unable to give an answer the captain may appoint another player to take the question within the overall time limit. If the answer is correct the question master will award one point. If the side whose question it was be unable to answer or are wrong on completion of their attempts the question will be passed over to the opposition who will have ten seconds to complete an answer and if correct be awarded one point. No conferring is allowed.

(b) In finals of cup competitions the time allowed shall be forty five seconds.

(c) If a team has only three players they shall occupy the first three places in their team and their fourth question in any round shall be treated as a passed question, a correct answer by any player scoring one point.

(d) A question setter may include one or more rounds or an equal number of questions within a round in which part scores of two points or one point may be given for specified part answers.

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- 9. Should any team be found guilty of prompting in any shape or form the question master shall treat answer as incorrect and proceed with the next question.
- 10. Should any member of the audience prompt the player answering the question, the question master shall cancel the question and ask one of the spare questions provided.
- 11. It is the duty of the team captain to ensure that his/her team's supporters do not prompt in any way.
- 12. (a) All objections to questions and answers must be detailed on the back of the score sheet accompanied by a fee of 50 pence per objection which will be returned if the Committee find the objection was justified. In the event of a team raising an objection and the Committee being unable to reach an acceptable decision an independent and mutually acceptable arbitrator may be called in and their decision shall be final and binding.

(b) A team shall formally register an intention to object to a question or answer prior to the next question being asked. In the event of the objection being in the last question of the match, the objection must be raised before the question master signs the score sheet.

(c) Objections can only be raised by playing members of the team.

(d) Playing captains of both teams must sign the objection which must then be signed by the question master. Captains are not signing to decide the validity of the objection but merely to witness that the correct procedure has been carried out.

- 13. At the end of the match, playing captains of both teams must sign the front of the score sheet which must then be signed by the question master. This is to confirm the match score, subject to the outcome of any objections. A submitted score cannot be changed at a later date, except by the Committee following the consideration of objections.
- 14. (a) An annual fee of £45 per team shall be payable by a date set by the Committee.
 - (b) The annual fee may only be amended by an AGM or an EGM.
- 15. The captain of the home team shall take full responsibility for collecting the questions prior to each home game from headquarters. It is the responsibility of the winning captain to return the score sheet no later than **1 pm** on **Wednesday** immediately following. (If a match result has not been returned within 8 days the secretary will contact the home team to ascertain the result and the winning team, who will be given a further 7 days to produce the result. Should the result not be forthcoming the losing team will be awarded the match and given the divisional average for that week).

It is the responsibility of the home team captain to return the score sheet in the event of a drawn game.

- 16. It is a condition of entry to the Lancaster City Quiz League that teams, upon request of the Committee, are liable to set questions and be responsible for the packaging into envelopes.
- 17. Lancaster City Quiz League requires all new team applications to nominate at least 5 team members with its Registration Form, stating any previous experience of playing in the Lancaster City Quiz League. Additionally, a new team must pay its annual fee (currently £45) at the same time as it submits its registration form. The fees are non-refundable.



Section C – Competition Rules

- 1. The League shall be divided into as many sections as the Committee deem necessary.
- 2. Two points shall be awarded to the winning team in a league match. In the event of a draw one point will be awarded to each side. No match shall, for any reason be played for more than two points.
- 3. In the event of a tie for any place in any division at the end of the season, the tie shall be resolved by using the league scores over the whole season of the teams involved in the tie.
- 4. If a team fails to turn up for a match or fails to raise the minimum number of players then that team shall be deemed to have played the match and scored no points and their opponents will be awarded a win and two points.
- 5. When a team has no game due to (a) a blank date in the fixture list or (b) their opponents not providing a team, then that team shall receive an average score based on the scores of the teams who played in that team's division on that Monday evening.
- 6. 4. The League shall run two knockout competitions.

(a) The Dennis Wigham Trophy. will be played for by the teams with the higher averages on completion of half the league fixtures.

(b) The Tony Clare Trophy. will be played for by the teams with the lower averages on completion of half the league fixtures.

(c) For the purpose of these trophies the League will be split as evenly as possible.

(d) The format of the team knockout competitions shall be decided by the Committee at the start of the season.

- 7. In all team knockout competitions if the scores are level at the end of the last round proper, complete tie break rounds are to be played until one side has established a winning lead at the end of a round. If necessary the spare questions (in sequence) may be used as additional tie break rounds. A coin shall be spun to see who takes the first tie break question.
- 8. If, in a knockout competition one or more objections are registered during the match, which might have the effect of producing a tie at the end of the final round, if any are upheld, then all tie break rounds should be played and the scores recorded.
- 9. On evenings when teams have no game because they have been knocked out of the competition, sets of questions will be available upon request to and at the discretion of the committee from the headquarters for teams wishing to play friendlies. (Spare questions will only be available from 8.00 to 8.15 pm on the Monday of cup competitions).
- 10. In order to take part in any cup competition from and including the quarter finals a team member must have played in at least two previous games or registered as a player at the start of the season.



Set out below are motions received by the Secretary from teams and League members for consideration at the AGM.

Proposed by: - Mal Kitchin (Lancaster Sports and Social Club B).

Proposed rule changes for discussion by the Annual general Meeting of Lancaster City Quiz to be held on 10/06/2013.

Section C – Competition rules – Current Rule 4 (a) The words "will be played for by the teams with the higher averages on completion of half the league fixtures" to be deleted.

Section C – Competition rules – Current Rule 4 (b) The words "will be played for by the teams with the lower averages on completion of half the league fixtures" to be deleted.

Section C – Competition rules – Current Rule 4 (b) second sentence to become Rule 4(c) "For the purpose of these trophies the League will be split as evenly as possible."

Section C – Competition rules – Current Rule 4 (c) to become Rule 4(d). "The format of the team knockout competitions shall be decided by the Committee at the start of the season."

Item for discussion under Any Other business.

The use of averages to decide which teams are allocated to the Dennis Wigham Trophy or the Tony Clare Cup.

Date: 07/05/2013.

Proposed by: - David Wray and Brian Jenkins (Lancaster Sports and Social Club A).

The 2 cup competitions should be changed so that the D. Wigham is for 1st and 2nd division teams while the T. Clare is for 3rd and 4th division teams.

Usually the 3rd and especially the 4th division teams in the D. Wigham get wiped out, it's not much fun and it can't really be too satisfying for the opponents. Meanwhile 2nd (and even 1st) division teams can be rewarded for their league failure by having a good chance in the cup at the expense of the 3rd/4th division teams.

It's not as if there are new "super sides" joining the league in division 4 and sweeping all before them any more (as may have happened many years ago).

We (LCC A) have suffered the anomaly of being in the D. Wigham in the same season that we were relegated from Division 3, which seems to make a mockery of our playing 1st division teams in the cup!

This year none of the 4th (or even the 3rd) division teams caused much trouble to the other teams in the D. Wigham. Maybe it's time for a change.

Date: 11/04/2013.



Proposed by: - John Shaw (Halton Social Club).

Qualifying for either cup competion should not be determined by the total amount of points scored at halfway through the season, but should be determined only by the points scored correctly for your own questions only. This will prevent the points being scored being skewed when playing weakened teams. This can particularly happen with Div 4 teams where they play some teams twice before the half way of the season.

Date: 12/03/2013.

Proposed by: - Barry Maguire (Dog & Partridge).

I'd just like to voice my disquiet about the draw for the cup matches.

As a team we've had our best ever season we're at the top of our division and although none of us wants it we're looking at promotion into Div.3.

We've always enjoyed languishing in Div.4 there's no pressure and we are friends with most of the other teams we quiz for a pleasant evening, a few drinks and the opportunity to go visiting. So that's the sort of team we are.

The one thing we would like to do well in is the cup games and in the past we've been semi finalists on a few occasions. But because we've done we'll in the league we're drawn in the Denis Wigham instead of the Tony Clare. Consequently we've been royally stuffed but the opposition is way out of our league. It's as if Lancaster FC had done well in its league and as a consequence was playing all its cup games in the premiership. It just wouldn't be right and that's how we feel about the draw. We've done ok in division 4 this year but that's our own small pool which we have no ambition to leave.

It's much too late for this year to do anything but perhaps when the draw is done next year teams in Divs. 1&2 could be confined to Denis Wigham and teams in Divs.3&4 could play each other in the Tony Clare then a team that was doing ok in the league wouldn't have unfair disadvantage in the cup games.

Date: 12/03/2013.

Proposed by: - Fred Parrett (on behalf of Bowling Green B)

There have been several comments made about the basis on which teams are split for the two cup competitions. This proposal reduces the importance of how the split is made but is mainly suggested for two reasons:-

- a) Teams from the lower divisions get a chance to test their skills against the top teams without losing out on the chance of success in the Tony Clare cup, and
- b) There will be extra matches in the season.



The proposal is that teams are seeded based on their total points performance in the previous season. A number of round robin groups are then drawn with one team from each seed group in each round robin¹. After all matches are played in the round robin phase the top two teams from each play for the Dennis Wigham on a straight knock out basis, the remainder play on a similar basis for the Tony Clare.

The round robin could take place earlier in the season than the current equivalent matches.

The exact format and numbers would depend on the total number of teams in the league.

The example given assumes the current 42 teams.

Example:

The Round Robin is formed of 6 groups of 5 and 2 groups of 6

At the time of the draw for the Round Robin: - Based on the previous season's total points²

The top 8 teams are seeded 1 2^{nd} 8 are seeded 2 3^{rd} 8 are seeded 3 4^{th} 8 are seeded 4 Remaining 10 are seeded 5

8 groups are then drawn with 1 of each seeded group and the 2 remaining teams (seed group 5) are allocated to groups 7 & 8.

Groups 7 and 8 have 6 teams in each, hence there are no byes and teams in these groups cannot set questions for the round robin stage.

The top 2 teams from each group play in Wigham on knock out basis (3 rounds plus final).

The remaining 26 play in Clare on knock out basis. Best 6 (on total points in round robin matches) have bye in first round. There then follows 3 rounds plus final. The 20 teams playing in the 'preliminary' round (10 matches) could play on other than a Monday, although this may be difficult to arrange.

Dated: 28th April 2013.

¹ Subject to total number of teams in league – see example

² Any new teams would be seeded in the final seed group