



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 8.30pm at Lancaster Sports & Social Club

**Present:** Paul Legon (Chairman); Mal Kitchin (Treasurer); Ian Gibson (Secretary); Ian Nicholson; Barry Young.

### Agenda

- 1. Apologies:** - Malcolm Ostermeyer; Fred Parrett; Di Brooksbank; Betty Maudsley (retrospectively).
- 2. Previous Minutes:** - The Chairman asked for a proposal that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true record of that meeting. Proposed - Richard Hitchings; Seconded - Treasurer. Carried by a show of hands.
- 3. Matters Arising:** - At the last AGM, a motion was passed that the Committee would determine the format of the Cup Competitions. On the basis that it was considered that there must be a change from previous seasons, the Committee decided to adopt a split along divisional lines rather than using average scores. Consequently, the Dennis Wigham Trophy was played for by teams in Division 1 and 2; the Tony Clare by teams in Division 3 and 4.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** - See Appendix 1.
- 5. Secretary's Report:** - See Appendix 2.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** - See Appendix 3.

The League's account passbook was circulated for inspection.

David Hesp proposed the Treasurer's report be accepted; Seconded by Richard Hitchings. Carried by a show of hands. Treasurer abstained.

**7. Election of Committee and Officials:** - The Secretary reported that the following valid nominations had been received.

Chair: Paul Legon  
Secretary: Ian Gibson  
Treasurer: Mal Kitchin

Committee: Betty Maudsley  
Di Brooksbank  
Fred Parrett,  
Ian Nicholson  
Barry Young  
Malcolm Ostermeyer

The Chair asked the meeting if it wished the election to proceed on an individual basis or en bloc. John Shaw proposed that the Committee be elected en bloc; Seconded by Barry Young. Carried by a show of hands.

**8. Rules of the League:** - As mentioned in the Secretary's report, the Committee had discussed matters involving prompting and objections over the past year. Amended rules to cover the perceived difficulties had been drawn up by Committee for consideration at the AGM. Handouts with the amended rules were circulated at the meeting and the proposed amendments had also been made available on the website for the past 3 weeks. The team motion to amend the quiz start time was also to be discussed under this heading as it would involve a rule change, if carried.



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

The Chair asked the Secretary to present the amended rules to the meeting and invited attendees to voice their own opinions and views on these matters.

There was an initial discussion as to what was considered to be prompting. Some were very clear cut such as additional information being provided by team-mates (e.g. a player being asked about a Roman Emperor nicknamed "Little Boots" was informed by a team-mate that this referred to Caligula) and comments such as "*You should get this, you were only there a few years ago*" etc.

There were differing views expressed regarding the situation whereby a player provides an answer, which is not the full answer required by the setter, and the Question Master asks "for more". Was this prompting? Some felt it was, others not.

### **Section B - Match Rules (On Prompting):**

*9. It is the responsibility of the playing captain to ensure that his/her players and/or team's supporters do not prompt in any way.*

This is a re-wording of former Rule 11. As with the change to the Objection rules last season "team captain" is amended to "playing captain". Their responsibilities are extended to their players as well as their supporters.

*10. It is the question master's responsibility to determine whether or not prompting has occurred.*

The former rule 9 refers to "Should any team be found guilty of prompting" but is silent as to who makes this decision. The Committee feel that, although question masters are provided by the home team, they are the League's representatives at matches and take the view that they generally apply the rules fairly and without favour. However, should a team feel that this has not been the case, then Rule 11 (c) is introduced to allow them to object - see below. They should object along the lines set out in Section B - Match Rules: 12 (a) to 12 (d).

*11. (a) Should team players prompt in any shape or form the question master shall treat the answer as incorrect and pass the question over to the non-offending team for a ~~spare~~ attempt. If the question has been passed over to the other team and prompting occurs then, the question master shall treat the answer as incorrect and proceed with the next question.*

This rule sets out what should occur if team players prompt. If prompting occurs on the initial asking for 3pts or as a pass for 1pt, the answer should be treated as incorrect and the same question is then passed over to the other team. If prompting occurs then, the answer is incorrect and the QM should continue the round.

It was felt that the word "spare" on line 2 of Rule 11 (a) could cause confusion and is replaced with "passed-over".

*(b) 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.*

This is former rule 10 - unchanged.

*(c) Should any team feel that the question master's decision on prompting be unreasonable, they should submit an objection with full details to the Committee.*

Richard Hitchings proposed that the rules regarding prompting put forward by the Committee, as amended by the AGM, should be accepted. Seconded by David Hesp. Carried by show of hands. These Rules, as amended, are shown at Appendix 4.



**Section B - Match Rules (On Objections):**

12. (d) *Playing captains of both teams must sign the objection which must then be signed by the question master. It is the sole responsibility of the playing captain of the objecting team to obtain the required signatures. Captains are not signing to decide the validity of the objection but merely to witness that the correct procedure has been carried out.*

This change was felt necessary in order to overcome a problem that the Committee had to deal with this season.

Richard Hitchings felt that the captain of the objecting team could request, but could not be expected to insist, that the captain and question master of the non-objecting side put their signatures to the objection form. It could result in unnecessary bad feeling.

He was of the view that, if either or both refused to sign when requested, the objection could still be submitted but should then be automatically considered valid by the Committee.

It was pointed out that the requirement of signatures, when all parties were still present, had been introduced because a team had penned an objection well after a match had finished. The first time the captain of the non-objecting team was aware of the "objection" was when he received the decision.

The Secretary confirmed that the objection requirements are clearly set out at the bottom of the weekly score sheets. These were amended at the beginning of the season to amend references to "team captain" to "playing captain" following the rules changes determined at the 2013 AGM.

The outcome of the discussion was to leave Section B - Match Rules: 12 (d) unaltered and add a paragraph 12 (e) as follows: -

*12 (e) It is the duty of the playing captain of the team not making the objection, and question master if appropriate, to sign the objection if asked to do so. The Committee should be informed immediately if a signature is unobtainable.*

Brenda Mitchell proposed that the change to Rule 12 (d) recommended by the Committee should not be adopted, but the rules be amended by the addition of 12 (e) as considered by the AGM. Seconded by Richard Hitchings. Show of hands 8 for; 1 against. These Rules, as amended, are shown at Appendix 4.

**Motion:**

The Collegian Club, represented by Barry Young, tabled a motion seeking a 20:15 start with the possibility of a 20:30 start. The reason being when playing at Warton or Brookhouse it's a late night. Barry Young was invited to expand on his proposal.

Barry put forward examples in support of his team's motion. However, the Chair pointed out that if existing rules had been enforced, his team could have claimed the matches involved. The Committee have been made aware throughout the season of this creep in start times (20:45 now being the norm rather than the exception). Providing teams are reasonable in their interpretation and application of Section B - Match Rules: - Para 4, they will be supported by the Committee.

A general discussion ensued.

Barry Young proposed that his team's motion be accepted. As no one was prepared to second the motion, it was defeated.



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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

Crawford Mitchell suggested that the qualification criteria for the Cup Competitions should revert to what it was before as it would allow a mix of teams playing each other. The Chair pointed out that it was clear from last year's AGM that members wanted a change. If they wanted to change back, the Committee have not been made aware of it. No adverse comments have been received regarding this year's Cup Competitions.

Brenda Mitchell felt that some of our funds could be used for marketing purposes. She suggested that flyers promoting the End of Season Social could be put into the final week's quiz envelopes.

Richard Hitchings suggested that a booklet with team information could be issued to all teams at the start of the season. This would enable teams to contact other teams on quiz night should problems crop up. This system is used in the Kendal Quiz League.

The League does hold information such as this, but it has been provided on the understanding it will not be passed on to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

Meeting finished: 22:02

Attendance: 10 (including Committee)



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

### Chairman's Report for 2013/2014

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

I am pleased to report that there were very few problems with the operation of the league fixtures this year. The cup competitions also went well and the committee has to assume from the absence of criticism that the revised allocation of teams to the two competitions has been welcomed. It has certainly reduced considerably the work involved in allocating teams to one or the other of them and it has also meant that the pool fixtures can be published much earlier. The committee takes as a compliment for their work the fact that nearly all of the current teams registered very quickly for next season.

As usual, I warmly 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. It is no longer possible for teams to opt out of setting questions and one or two teams that have declined to set in recent years will be allocated a quiz to set next season. This is only fair. The overall standard of quizzes this season has been good and problems have been comparatively few. All teams should continue to consult the guidelines carefully when setting quizzes.

I wish to urge all team captains to look frequently at the website and in particular at the league rules. Changes are made at each AGM and teams must know what the current rules are. A problem arose this season over the procedure for making an objection which would not have occurred had the teams involved been familiar with the relevant rule. The onus is on the team making the objection to ensure that it is made properly.

The Secretary will explain why a change is proposed to the rule about prompting. However, the committee cannot make rules for every eventuality and one problem that will have to be left to the good sense and sportsmanship of team captains is that of question masters/mistresses. The committee is very well aware that a number of teams have to co-opt inexperienced friends to read questions and that occasionally they make mistakes. One QM this season used the example question as question 1a which meant that the round was not played as intended. For this reason, teams setting questions were subsequently asked to use **bold** or a different font for example questions. The committee asks that all team captains advise inexperienced QM's of the current procedure for reading a quiz and if errors are made, they are resolved in an amicable way.

I wish to thank most sincerely the members of the committee for their hard work and in particular for their reliability in attending at the Golden Lion on Saturday lunchtimes when the quizzes are enveloped. I am also grateful for all teams setting questions for their reliability in turning up on time at the Golden Lion and in replying to my emails. The committee has been delighted with the Golden Lion as our new home base.

As ever, a special burden has fallen on our tireless Secretary, Ian Gibson, who maintains the website so superbly amongst his many other duties. To him, and our long-serving and extremely capable Treasurer, Mal Kitchen, I wish to give my special thanks for making my job so much easier.

There was a new venue for Finals Night – Slyne Lodge – which proved satisfactory. It is increasingly difficult to find a suitable venue for this important event - especially in Lancaster - and any suggestions will be welcomed.

There is also a new venue – the Boot and Shoe function room - for the End-of-Year Social Event and I am confident that this event will go well. I have sent a press release to the Lancaster Guardian which has appeared slightly amended on the Social Scene page of today's edition. I also requested the attendance of a photographer at the Boot and Shoe. In conclusion, I hope that the AGM will attract a reasonable attendance though there are few motions this year and I assure all teams and league members that any points raised will be considered carefully by the committee.

**Paul Legon**  
**Chairman**  
15 May 2014





# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## Secretary's Report for 2013/2014

I should like to begin by thanking Jon and his staff for ensuring that our transfer of headquarters to the Golden Lion, after many years at the Lord Ashton, was problem free.

Also many thanks to our teams for (generally) getting results in on time - it really does make things a lot easier and straightforward for me to undertake my various tasks when all the results are available on-time on Wednesday afternoons.

The question of "prompting" was raised and discussed in Committee meetings over the year. It was felt that the current rules were inadequate. In their present form (a) captains are only considered to be responsible for prompting by their supporters, (b) the question cannot be passed over to the other side for a spare attempt and (c) the responsibility for deciding if prompting has occurred is not set out. This will be open for discussion under Item 8 - Rules of the League.

This year, we have had a situation whereby there was a validity problem with an objection and it was essential that it was considered in Committee. Regrettably, the meeting did not take place until after the end of the season. The outcome of our decision could have affected a division title. The Committee want to ensure that this situation never happens again and this will be discussed under Item 8 - Rules of the League.

As mentioned on the website, a team proposal has been received seeking a change of the 20:30 match start time to 20:15. This will also be discussed later in the meeting.

I am happy to report that all 42 teams from last season have registered for next season. I have received no applications from new teams. A third of teams used the online facility to register.

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

I have been notified that George & Dragon B have moved to the Wagon & Horses and the Robert Gillow have moved back to Three Mariners (they will become Three Mariners C).

There has been a significant increase in the use of our website; there have been 9672+ hits since the start of the season. This compares with 7025 at this stage last year. Annual web hosting fees have not been increased since Crawford Mitchell first ordered the League Web Package, the daily cost is still 15½p per day.

The majority of last season's quizzes are now available on our website. To ensure that our website does not infringe copyright restrictions, I felt it prudent to remove any images from the quizzes.

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

**Ian Gibson**  
**Secretary**  
16/06/2014



## LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

### Treasurer's Report      Annual General Meeting      16<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Once again I am pleased to report a working profit for the 2013/2014 season.

Our opening balance was £574.70 and our closing balance is £747.00. The last figure includes one league fee for the 2014/2015 season (£45.00). Therefore the working profit for the season is £127.30.

Photocopying charges increased due to the acquisition of two seasons worth of score sheet at a cost of £50.00. There was a small reduction in the cost of Photocopying quizzes which was once again 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.

There was an increase in the amount spent on the *End-of-Season–Social-Event* due to a change of venue and the increased cost of trophies. However this did not prevent the committee from achieving their goal of a working profit on the season and increasing our cash reserves by a small amount.

Finally may I thank my colleagues on the committee for their co-operation and support throughout the season.

Thank you.

**Mal Kitchin (Treasurer).**  
**Lancaster City Quiz League**  
16/06/2014.





The following are rule changes accepted by the AGM and will apply forthwith:-

**Section B - Match Rules**

9. It is the responsibility of the playing captain to ensure that his/her players and/or team's supporters do not prompt in any way.

10. It is the question master's responsibility to determine whether or not prompting has occurred.

11. (a) Should team players prompt in any shape or form the question master shall treat the answer as incorrect and pass the question over to the non-offending team for a passed-over attempt. If the question has been passed over to the other team and prompting occurs then, the question master shall treat the answer as incorrect and proceed with the next question.

(b) 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

(c) Should any team feel that the question master's decision on prompting be unreasonable, they should submit an objection with full details to the Committee.

12 (e) It is the duty of the playing captain of the team not making the objection, and question master if appropriate, to sign the objection if asked to do so. The Committee should be informed immediately if a signature is unobtainable.