



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

## Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 8.00pm at Lancaster Cricket & Social Club

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

### Agenda

1. **Apologies:** - Di Brooksbank.

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 - R. Hitchings; Seconded - T. Myall. Carried by a show of hands.

3. **Matters Arising:** - None

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 and up to date accounts were made available for inspection.

D. Wray proposed the Treasurer's report be accepted; Seconded by D. Hesp. 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: Barry Young  
Betty Maudsley  
Di Brooksbank  
Fred Parrett  
Ian Nicholson  
John Pollard  
Richard Hitchings  
Tony Myall

B. Clark proposed that the 3 officers of the Committee (i.e. Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) be elected as nominated; Seconded by J. Goodhew. Carried by a show of hands.

The Secretary proposed that all 8 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected. Seconded by the Treasurer. Carried by a show of hands. The next Committee meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015.

8. **Rules of the League:** - As mentioned on the League's website, the Committee were seeking to amend one rule, add a new rule and seek clarification of another. Furthermore two motions had been put forward, which if successful would also require changes to the rules. The Chair asked the Secretary to present the various motions to the meeting and invited attendees to voice their own opinions and views on these matters.



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**(Motion 1)** - The Secretary proposed that the current wording of Section B - Match Rules: Paragraph 15 be amended. This would enable him to contact the parties to a late result, as soon as it became apparent that a result was indeed late. Currently, 8 days must pass before contact can be made. This would enable all scores, at least, to be reflected in the weekly update of the website. The winning team would still be given a further 7 days to produce the result (i.e. the score sheet).

He proposed the wording "within 8 days" be replaced by the wording "by the time prescribed": - *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~~ by the time prescribed 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).*

Secretary proposed acceptance of the amendment; Seconded by J. Goodhew - Carried by show of hands. Rule change required.

**(Motion 2)** - The Committee considered that a new rule under Section A - League Organisation should be added, as follows:- *The Committee is empowered to make changes to the Question Setting Guidelines as and when considered appropriate.*

Problems had been experienced by the Committee this season, which arose when a Committee member proposed an amendment to the Question Setting Guidelines, both Chair and Secretary had made reference to this in their reports.

There then followed a discussion during which various views were put forward. This resulted in an amended form of words being proposed for adoption by D. Wray; Seconded by M. Bannon. It was carried by a show of hands (2 abstentions). Rule change required.

The new rule reads: - *The Committee is empowered to make changes to the Question Setting Guidelines as and when considered appropriate, which will be subject to confirmation at the next AGM.*

**(Motion 3)** - Section A - League Organisation: Paragraph 4 reads "*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*"

Several differences of opinion arose in Committee as to the meaning of the wording underlined above and the Committee felt the views of members attending the AGM should be sought for clarification. It was clear when the discussions had been underway for a short time that there were as many different views as those expressed when the matter had been considered in Committee.

The general feeling was that the Committee had been elected to run the League and the membership must trust it to undertake those duties to the best of its ability. Should the membership feel that this was not the case, then there existed the option to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Consequently the Treasurer proposed that Rule 4 should remain unchanged, seconded by B. Clark - Carried by show of hands. No rule change required.

**(Motion 4)** - "*That First Division teams are not allowed to set questions in the last six weeks of the season. Thus preventing quizzes being set with the intention of keeping averages down. Some weeks of this last season has felt like we've gone back 20 years! Alternatively - separate questions set by Divs 1 & 2 and Divs 3 & 4.*" This motion was submitted by Ring O' Bells (formerly Three Mariners A), no one from the team attended to put forward their proposal.



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The Secretary explained that under Section B - Match Rules: Para 16, the Committee has full discretion to choose any team to set at anytime throughout the season. Teams are required to question set as a condition of entry into the League.

He had checked the question setting records for the season and only one Division 1 team, Slyne Lodge, had set in the last 6 weeks of the season. In fact, only 2 Division 1 teams had set quizzes (excl. Cup Competitions) in the 2nd half of the season.

Over the past few seasons 4 teams have been available to set each week, one from each division. Setters were selected to ensure that all divisions were represented proportionately. The selection process next season will be more restricted as Blue Anchor B/S D have left the League - it is likely that one division will comprise only 8 teams - thus no teams from that division will be available to set for League games, some will be available to set for the Cup Competitions.

The matter was then discussed and the feeling was that the motion be rejected. Proposed - T. Myall; Seconded - B. Clark; Carried by show of hands. No rule change required.

**(Motion 5)** - F. Parrett put forward his proposal: -

*In view of the revised arrangements for selecting teams for the two cup competitions (i.e. based solely on divisional status rather than total points scored) it is no longer necessary for teams to be awarded an average score for 'bye' weeks. Can the AGM consider which of the following options the League should pursue.*

*a) No longer award teams not playing in a particular week the average score for their division.*

*b) Continue to award the average score as at present.*

*c) Irrespective of whether the status quo is maintained whether points difference in a match (i.e. similar to football's goal difference) is a more relevant figure to use rather than total points.*

During the discussions, it was clear that there was no support for Item (c), a team could achieve a huge points difference if it was awarded a "walkover", results could be skewed where opponents could only field 3 players and also, unlike in football, a team has no power to restrict their opponents from scoring.

There was a little support for Item (a); but it was felt by the majority that Item (b) was fairest because by giving an average score to the bye-week team, it would not be advantaged/disadvantaged by missing a low/high scoring quiz. R. Hitchings proposed that Item B continued to be adopted; Seconded by T. Myall - Carried by a show of hands. No rule change required.

**9. Any Other Business:** - At the Committee meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014, a motion was passed to amend the Question Setting Guidelines, this was on the understanding that the amendment would be ratified at the next AGM. The text "*Care should be taken to ensure that taking the quiz as a whole there is no overt bias to favour players of a particular age, race or gender.*" was added to the first bullet point of Paragraph 2: Breadth.

The text was not ratified and is to be replaced by the following - "*Consideration should be given to the aims of the League to attract a broad range of participants*". This text was suggested by M. Bannon and was supported by the majority of attendees. The guidelines will be amended accordingly.

The clarity and consistency in the presentation of quizzes was also brought up for discussion. Different rounds in different fonts/font sizes in the same quiz, required answers in individual rounds not conforming with the rubric shown at the start of the quiz, poor definition images and insufficient copies in picture



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rounds, example questions in the same format as actual questions, questions printed on both sides of sheets, etc. - all adding up to problems for QM's and players. The Secretary suggested he would look into creating a quiz template.

Meeting finished: 21:20

Attendance: 19 (including Committee)



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## Chairman's Report for 2014/2015

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

Another season of fixtures has been successfully completed and as last year, the revised format for the cup completions worked well. As ever, I must congratulate the winners and runners-up in all our competitions. Most of the quizzes set this year were well received but there were criticisms of some set in the second half of the season where regrettably the guidelines were not adhered to sufficiently closely. This is a perennial problem and all that the committee can do is keep reminding teams setting questions to refer to the Guidelines on the website.

The smooth operation of the committee was upset in the autumn when a committee member wished to see a change in the Guidelines for Question Setters. Regrettably, he was angered by some points made in the discussion and left the meeting after his immediate resignation. As Chairman, I considered that his proposal had some merit and at the next meeting proposed a two-part motion which was carried by a substantial majority of the committee. But there was a difference of opinion among the officers of the committee about the question of the degree of power delegated to the committee under the League Rule 4 of Section A and this issue must be resolved at this AGM. As a consequence of this incident, the committee was reduced in numbers to the absolute minimum and I appreciated the offers of help that came from various members of the league. However, the committee remained quorate for the remainder of the season. Therefore I am very pleased that there are some additional nominations for the committee for the new season which if approved will strengthen it considerably.

So with even more emphasis than usual, I must thank the members of the committee for their hard work, particularly in turning up at the Golden Lion on Saturday lunchtimes when quizzes are enveloped. I must also thank all teams who have set questions for the reliability in turning up on time to put their questions on the envelopes and in most cases for replying to my emails about question setting. This makes my task in reminding question-setting teams much easier.

The Secretary Ian Gibson and the Treasurer Mal Kitchen have as ever performed their duties with supreme efficiency and are indispensable to the League. It would be in some difficulty, particularly as regards the website, were they to stand down.

This leads me to the perennial problem of the age profile of the league members. It seems to increase each year and some teams have had difficulty in raising full teams for matches because of illness and other commitments. While I am pleased that at the time of writing all bar one team has registered for next season, the committee intends to keep a list of players currently without teams who would be open to offers from teams that are short of numbers. As ever, an



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increase in younger players would be welcome and there will be reference to this at the AGM in the discussion on Rules of the League.

The committee was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Ian Crook and was represented by the Secretary at his funeral for which unfortunately I was away. Another sad death was that of Sue Maguire who played for the Dog and Partridge. Betty Maudsley (Committee member and team member) attended her funeral.

Finals Night returned to the Bowling Green this year now that this pub is back on a more stable footing. The evening went well and it is hoped to hold this event there in future years. The end of season social will again be at the Boot and Shoe and since there is no World Cup football this year, the committee hopes for an increased attendance.

I also hope for a greater attendance at the AGM. As I have indicated above, the committee has had some difficulties this year and the question of how much power it has between AGMs may be a boring one but it is of fundamental importance to the successful operation of the league. I therefore ask that all teams give serious consideration to attendance on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Paul Legon

Chairman

14 May 2015



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## Secretary's Report for 2014/2015

I should like to begin by thanking Jon and the staff at the Golden Lion for their efforts on our behalf. Particularly to Becks, whose actions this season avoided one week's quiz becoming totally compromised. She noticed that an un-enveloped quiz had been left on a chair in the pub, one Saturday lunchtime, and she removed it before anyone had a chance to see it. So please could teams be extra careful to ensure that they do not leave anything behind after enveloping quizzes.

The various tasks which I have to undertake to ensure the timely weekly amendment of the League's website, is made significantly easier if there are no late results. In the main, last season, the return of score sheets was excellent however one team was the exception. Whilst I appreciate that there may be perfectly acceptable reasons for the late returns, in this day of instant electronic communications, it should be possible to inform me of the score at least. I shall be seeking a change to the League rule referring to late results and this will be open for discussion under Item 8 - Rules of the League.

In his report, the Chairman mentioned the division arising in Committee over a motion to alter the Question Setting Guidelines, hopefully the changes and clarification sought by the Committee in Item 8 - Rules of the League will ensure such an unfortunate situation never occurs again.

I can report that 41 teams from last season have registered for next season. Sadly, Blue Anchor B/S D (formerly Red Rose RLI Social Club), one of the founding members of the League, have decided not to continue. 22 teams took advantage of the online facility to register. No new teams have registered.

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.

The Committee, in accordance with the rules, have reduced the Total Number of Points scored by Railway Club B, due to fielding an ineligible player. This means that Railway Club B now occupies one of the 2 relegation places in Division 2.

I have been notified that Three Mariners A have moved to the Ring O' Bells, Lancaster.

There was a small increase in the cost of our web package this season, which was due to changes in the VAT rules, the increase however was insignificant. The website continues to be well used; there have been 10440+ hits since the start of the season. This compares with 9672 at this stage last year. The daily cost is now 15.75p per day (up 1/4p on last year).

Teams are now getting the hang of sending me electronic copies of their quizzes and all of last season's quizzes are now available on our website.

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

**Ian Gibson**  
**Secretary**  
08/06/2015



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**Treasurer's Report**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Once again I am pleased to report a working profit for the 2014/2015 season.

Our opening balance was £702.00 and our closing balance is £874.09. Therefore the working profit for the season is £172.09.

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.

The cost of coloured picture rounds was raised in committee. Such rounds can substantially increase the cost of photocopying a quiz. Whilst the committee accept receipts up to £10.00 it was felt that costs above this level are excessive and need to be addressed. Any comments from members would be welcomed by the committee.

Once again the committee achieved its 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.  
8/06/2015.