



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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**Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 6 June 2016, 8.00pm at
Lancaster Cricket & Social Club**

Present:

Committee - Paul Legon (Chairman); Mal Kitchin (Treasurer); John Pollard (Secretary); Ian Gibson (Administrator); Ian Nicholson; Fred Parrett; Richard Hitchings; Tony Myall; Di Brooksbank.

League – 16 members in attendance

Agenda

1. Apologies:

Crawford and Brenda Mitchell.

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 – J Pollard; Seconded - R. Hitchings. Carried by a show of hands.

3. Matters Arising:

Motion1 –

Ian Gibson reported that quizzes had generally been handed in in a timely manner during the 2015-16 season.

Clarity and consistency of quizzes –

Fred Parrett has produced a quiz template which is now available on the website and has been used successfully by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report: - See Appendix 1.

The Chairman also verbally recorded his sadness over the deaths of two longstanding league members, Chris Leadbetter and Eileen Helme, during the 2015/16 season.

5. Secretary's Report: - See Appendix 2.

6. Treasurer's Report: - See Appendix 3.

Ian Gibson proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted - Seconded by David Talbot. Carried by a show of hands.

The Treasurer abstained.



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7. Election of Committee and Officials:

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

Chair: Paul Legon

Secretary: John Pollard

Treasurer: Mal Kitchin

Committee: Fred Parrett, Di Brooksbank, Ian Nicholson, Richard Hitchings, Ian Gibson and Tony Myall.

Di Brooksbank proposed that the 3 officers of the Committee (i.e. Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) be elected as nominated - Seconded by Bob Clare. Carried by a show of hands.

David Wray proposed that all 6 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected - Seconded by Denise Parrett. Carried by a show of hands. The next Committee meeting will be on 13 July 2016.

8. Rules of the League:

As mentioned on the League's website, the Committee were seeking to amend two rules. Furthermore one suggestion had been put forward, which if successful would also require a change to the rules (see AOB). The Chair invited attendees to voice their own opinions and views on these matters.

Addition to Rule 6:

It is proposed that any member of the committee deemed to have left the committee because of repeated non-attendance without explanation be ineligible for election to the committee for a period of three years.

Richard Hitchings proposed acceptance of this amendment - Seconded by Fred Parrett. Carried by show of hands.

Addition to Rule 8:

If an answer to a question that requires only a correct surname be given, an incorrect first name is also given, the answer shall be deemed incorrect.

There were several comments from the floor on both sides of the argument. The Chairman put the matter to the vote.

Proposed by the Chairman - Seconded by Richard Hitchings.

The proposed amendment was defeated by a show of hands.



9. Any Other Business:

Suggestion: - *Consideration of whether or not the historically accepted boundaries of the League be extended.*

This had arisen because the George Washington A team, whose members live in Silverdale, had requested that they be allowed to move their venue to the Silverdale Hotel for the 2016/17 season. The request had been discussed at a committee meeting and the decision had been taken to refer the matter to the AGM.

David Talbot of the George Washington A was invited to make his case for the proposed move. His main points were:

- The team had been in the league for 28 years, initially as The Nib and subsequently the George Washington A.
- The team members all live in Silverdale.
- The Silverdale Hotel has new hosts who provide very good food and are keen to be involved in the Quiz League.
- There is a fairly good chance of getting 2 Silverdale Hotel teams registered in future seasons if the move is sanctioned.
- It only takes an extra 6 minutes from Warton to Silverdale and teams are only being asked to make this journey once per season.
- Silverdale falls within the City of Lancaster.

The Chairman passed on the comments of Crawford Mitchell (former League Chairman) that for a long established team (as distinct from a new team to the League) the move to Silverdale was reasonable in his opinion.

The requested move was put to the floor for comments, of which there were several, most of which were in favour.

Agreement to allow the move was proposed by Tony Myall and carried by show of hands.

Fred Parrett asked whether a decision should be taken to also welcome new teams from within the District of Lancaster boundaries at a similar and greater distance to Silverdale. The Treasurer pointed out that the precedent was for this to be a committee decision.

There was a general discussion about the age profile of the league and its potential contribution to the reduction of teams in the league. In particular there was a suggestion from Jo Hardman of the Merchants that consideration be given to the use of Social Media as this is increasingly the communication tool of preference for potential younger members. Di Brooksbank (who works in Social Media) suggested that if league results were posted on Facebook weekly, and got "liked", that this would raise the league's profile. The Chairman said that he would put Social Media on the agenda of the next Committee Meeting. He also asked Di Brooksbank to provide a summary of Social Media for use by the Committee.

The Meeting closed at 9:00pm



Chairman's Report for 2015/2016

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

The main event this year was the postponement of all matches on Monday 7 December because of the power cuts caused by the severe flooding. So far as I am aware, this was an unprecedented event. The matches were played on 13 April but the consequence was the knock-out rounds of the cup competitions took place later than on the dates scheduled. Only one of the finals could be played as in the other, only one team was able to attend. It is to be hoped that the League will be spared any repetition of this upheaval in future seasons.

As ever, I must congratulate the winners and runners-up in all our competitions. And again I must state that while most quizzes were well received, there were again examples of quizzes where the guidelines had not been followed and as a consequence there were complaints.

I am pleased to report that the committee has enjoyed a much more peaceful year than last year. I am very grateful to all the committee members for their hard work and to the new members for their impressive contributions to our meetings which have proceeded very smoothly.

There have been no problems with the enveloping of quizzes at the Golden Lion at noon each Saturday and I am very grateful not only to the committee members for turning up but also to all teams that have set questions for their reliability in arriving on time. I also appreciate the speedy response to my emails that I receive from most team captains.

Last autumn Ian Gibson relinquished his role as Secretary but as Deputy Secretary and Administrator has continued his invaluable maintenance of the website and the preparation, collection and collation of envelopes and scoresheets. I am very grateful to John Pollard for agreeing so readily to undertake the post of Secretary and for fulfilling admirably the responsibilities of that post as amended by the revised allocation of tasks. Mal Kitchen has continued to undertake the post of Treasurer with his usual efficiency.

One problem that has arisen this year has been the closure of some quiz venues, especially the Bowling Green. Some teams have had to find new venues, either temporarily as a result of pubs closing due to flood damage, or permanently. The Bowling Green has hosted Finals Night in the recent past and I am grateful to the Cricket Club for agreeing to host it this year. This is also the venue for most committee meetings as the White Cross was too noisy. I hope that the Presentation/Social Evening at our new venue the Railway Club goes well.

The League lost one team a couple of weeks into the season and the committee expects that at least one more will not be renewing its registration. I think we have to accept that the number of teams in the League will decrease, though hopefully slowly. We still have many more teams in our League than in most others around the country. As the average age of our quiz team members continues to rise, it is inevitable that some teams will have difficulty in maintaining a full squad of players. The committee now keeps a list of players whose teams have folded but who wish to continue playing so that they can be approached by other teams.

While the motions put forward for discussion at the AGM do not have the same importance as those of last year because of the thankfully less eventful year which the committee has enjoyed, they are nevertheless of interest to all teams and I hope that there will be a fruitful discussion of them. Perhaps of rather more significance is a matter to be discussed under Any Other Business. This is about the distance between the centre of Lancaster and acceptable venues for teams. I have a completely open mind on this matter and it will be for members at the AGM to decide on it, taking into consideration not only distance in miles but also ease of access by road and ideally by public transport, though sadly the recent cuts to bus services in the evening mean that there are



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now several venues that are accessible only by car or taxi. I hope that there will be a good attendance to consider this important matter.

Paul Legon
Chairman
17 May 2016



Secretary's Report for 2015/2016

This has been the first season where the secretarial role has been reviewed and altered. I took on a much reduced role as league secretary whilst Ian Gibson has continued to handle administrative matters, including running the web site, managing the control of weekly quiz sheet packs and recording results. My thanks go to Ian for continuing to do the lion's share of the work and for providing a substantial amount of the data enclosed within this report.

Thanks are due as usual to the management and staff of the Golden Lion for their efforts each week on behalf of the league.

Late results have been almost non-existent this season, and when they did occur, last year's rule change allowed team captains to be contacted immediately to ensure that the website could be updated more quickly with results and tables. Teams have also been sending in the electronic copies of their quizzes much more speedily than previously, and all of last season's quizzes are now available on the website.

Many thanks to all teams in this regard, as it makes updating the web site and records much more straightforward.

The Collegian Club dropped out of the League just prior to the start of the 2015/16 season, and the Hest Bank A followed a few weeks into the season. Regrettably this resulted in Division 2 and 4 teams having more bye weeks than was initially anticipated.

I can report that 38 teams have registered for next season. Sadly, George Washington B have decided not to re-register. 25 teams took advantage of the online registration facility. 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.

There has been no increase in the cost of our web package this season and the website continues to be well used.

John R Pollard
Secretary
3/6/16



Treasurer's Report for 2015/2016

The decline in League membership of two teams resulted in a drop in income of £90.00. Despite this loss the League was still able to make a small working profit on the season of **£43.42**.

Our opening balance was **£874.09** and our closing balance is **£917.51**.

Having a full season's supply of score sheets resulted in the lowering of our total photocopying costs for the season. 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 Committee approved the purchase of a replacement shredder@ **£32.76**. This was to replace Ian Gibson's old machine which had expired whilst valiantly shredding quiz league documents which included personal information and signatures etc.

The largest increase in expenditure came with our "End of Season Social". The decline of suitable and free venues meant the League had to pay for the hire of the venue (**£40.00**), as well as outside catering (**£300.00**). This is a £90.00 increase on last season's costs.

Despite the above mentioned increases in expenditure the Committee achieved its goals of a working profit on the season and maintaining the League's healthy financial position.

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

Thank you.

Mal Kitchin (Treasurer).
Lancaster City Quiz League.