



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 12 June 2017, 8.00pm at Lancaster Cricket & Social Club

Present:

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

League – Barry McGuire; John Haywood; David Hesp; Jim Pyper; Crawford Mitchell; Brenda Mitchell

Agenda

1. Apologies:

Fred Parrett

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 – Mal Kitchin. Carried by a show of hands.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

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

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 Tony Myall. Carried by a show of hands.

The Treasurer abstained.

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 Richard Hitchings. Carried by a show of hands.

Mal Kitchin proposed that all 6 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected - Seconded by Brenda Mitchell. Carried by a show of hands. The next Committee meeting will be on 19 July 2017.

8. Rules of the League:

The following suggestion had been put forward by Railway Club B, which if successful would require a change to the rules:

Amendment to Rule 13:

It is proposed that two scoresheets be provided and that both teams score each quiz, comparing and agreeing scores at the end of each round to ensure transparency.

As no-one from the Railway Club B attended the meeting to present the motion it was not debated.

9. Any Other Business:

John Haywood of 3 Mariners B pointed out that his team always attend the presentation night, whether or not they have won anything, in order to applaud trophy winners. On attending the 2017 presentation evening he and his team were not happy that a number of the winning teams hadn't turned up to collect their awards. He suggested that, given the cost of the awards, if teams don't turn up to the presentation evening then they shouldn't get their prizes.

There was some discussion about the poor attendance at the presentation evening, particularly around the timing of the event (the day of the week it is held and the time of year). Potential changes to the event format that were considered included:

- A joint Presentation Evening/AGM, potentially with teams having to turn up to register for the next season; and
- Having the presentation night on the same night as finals night.

The Chairman pointed out that any changes to the presentation evening would need to be put to committee. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting on 19 July 2017.

There was also a discussion about the quality of quizzes in the light of comments that had been received during the current season. The Chairman referred to an email from Barry McGuire of the Dog & Partridge (in attendance at the AGM) earlier in the season. Barry had commented about the quality of quizzes. He had suggested 3 possible solutions:

- Buying in questions (expensive);
- Appointment of Quiz editors (not considered practical); or
- Having set subjects per round.

Ian Gibson distributed research on fried eggs averages over the previous 7 seasons. This analysis didn't suggest that the quality of quizzes in the 2016/17 season were any worse than for earlier years.



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

Di Brooksbank wondered whether a prize could be offered for the best quizzes set during a season. Richard Hitchings pointed out that the most popular quizzes tended to be the easiest ones, but that these were not necessarily the best. He also wondered whether there was any merit in asking the better quiz setting teams to set two quizzes per season.

David Hesp pointed out that the London quiz league buys quizzes from Quiz 365. These are very consistent quizzes, based on balanced pairs, but there is obviously a cost involved. The quizzes are available on the London league web site. The Chairman noted that it would be well worth investigating these quizzes.

The meeting wondered whether teams would be prepared to pay an increased subscription to cover the cost of buying in quizzes. There was also concern expressed about how questions would be distributed on quiz night.

The Chairman commented that the league hasn't lost any teams this year, which might imply that they were happy with the standard of quizzes set.

The Chairman said he would attach the setting guidelines in 2017/18 when he sends the usual email to question setting captains.

The points raised by the meeting will be considered at the next committee meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9:15pm



Appendix 1

Chairman's Report for 2016/2017

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

I am pleased to report that this season's matches were not interrupted by floods, power cuts or any other problems and that the season has been a mostly uneventful one.

As ever, I must congratulate the winners and runners-up in all our competitions. My thanks also to the many teams that have set questions: most quizzes have been good but there were a couple where too many rounds were set on a particular area such as music or films. The best quizzes cover a variety of subject areas as pointed out in the Guidelines which do need to be followed. It is also not good practice to resurrect rounds from quizzes set in previous years (and which are on the website) unless they are from the distant past. I very much wish that all captains would coordinate the questions contributed by team members so that unnecessary duplication is avoided and the Guidelines are followed more closely.

At least twice this season, it has been suggested that the League "buy in" commercially produced quizzes in an attempt to improve their consistency. Cost is the major inhibiting factor. Other ideas have been proposed to improve our quizzes and I will disclose them under Any Other Business at the AGM.

One question caused some of the Committee endless problems when an objection to the answer was made. It concerns county towns. As the towns designated "county towns" have in many cases changed over the years, in some cases in quite recent years, it is better to use the term "administrative centre" rather than "county town". Then no such problems will arise.

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 (but not quite all) team captains.

The Committee has spent some time this year considering the issue of a Facebook entry. It was felt that if the League had a presence on Facebook, it would bring its activities to the notice of younger people compared with the average age of League team members. The Committee and I, many of whom have little knowledge of or interest in Facebook, are very grateful to Di Brooksbank of the Committee and Jo Hardman and Cherry Canovan on Merchants A who have got the Facebook entry up and running and who will administer it. It will be complementary to the League's website and we will be hoping to attract some new teams as a result of it.

The Committee were sad to hear of the recent death of Alan Camm, captain of Merchants C. Unfortunately none of the Committee were able to attend his funeral.

There have been several cases this year of teams forced to change venues because of the closure of pubs or a change of management causing them to be asked to leave. As I mentioned last year, an emerging problem is the declining number of pubs and clubs that wish to host our teams and provide a comparatively quiet atmosphere in which matches can be played without disturbance. There is no obvious solution to this. We have however managed to base the Finals Night and our Committee meetings at Lancaster Cricket and Social Club and Presentation/Social Evening at the Railway Club and I am grateful to the management of these two clubs. The Presentation/Social Evening on 9th June will this year include the popular Pairs Quiz.



I am very grateful to all the committee members for their hard work and in particular the Secretary, Administrator and Treasurer for ensuring that the League continues to operate smoothly.

A good attendance at the AGM on 12th June would be appreciated. The agenda will be posted on the website shortly and there will be at least one motion to be debated. As stated above, there will also be a discussion on suggestions to improve the format of our quizzes.

Paul Legon

Chairman

18 May 2017

Appendix 2

Secretary's Report for 2016/2017

This has been the second season where I have acted 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 once again doing 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. It is pleasing to be able to report that the landlord of the Golden Lion has confirmed that we are still welcome to use the pub as our HQ during the forthcoming season.

I am also pleased to be able to confirm that all 38 teams from last season have re-registered for next year.

The priority task for the new Committee, following election, will be to compile the fixtures for the forthcoming season.

There has been no increase in the cost of our web package this year and the website continues to be well used, with over 11,500 hits on the home page since the start of the season.

John R Pollard
Secretary
6 June 2017

Appendix 3

Treasurer's Report for 2016/2017

Once again I am pleased to report on another financially successful season.

Our opening balance was £917.51 and our closing balance is £1,054.28. This means we had an operating profit on the season of £136.86.

Whilst the committee do not set out to accumulate massive reserves of money never the less it is good to know that we are prepared for any financial ill winds that may come our way.



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

This greater than usual surplus was mainly due the reduction of the League structure from four to three divisions. This meant savings in the cost of gift cards and trophies. On the down side the league lost income from two teams who did not re-register and we also had a 2% drop in our gift card discount to 3%.

The cost of Photocopying quizzes was maintained at last season's levels whilst admin photocopying increased due to the need to replenish our supply of score sheets. Once again, on behalf of the League, I would like to thank those teams who generously supplied quizzes free of charge or at a reduced cost.

I would also like to thank Lancaster Cricket & Social Club for allowing the use of their facilities for League committee meetings, Finals night and the AGM. Also the Railway club for staging our Presentation night/social evening, all at no cost

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

Thank you.

Mal Kitchin (Treasurer).
Lancaster City Quiz League.
12/06/2017.