



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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**Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 10 June 2019, 8.00pm at Lancaster Cricket & Social Club**

### **Present:**

**Committee** - Paul Legon (Chairman) - PL; Mal Kitchin - MK; John Pollard (Secretary) - JP; Ian Gibson (Administrator) - IG; Richard Hitchings (Treasurer) - RH; Graham Lewis; Janice Crossfield; Jo Hardman;

**League** - Brenda Mitchell; Crawford Mitchell; Diane Howe; David Hesp; Jim Pyper; Bob Clark; Alec Sharrock

## **Agenda**

### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies had been received from Fred Parrett and Tony Myall.

### **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 – IG, Seconded – Bob Clark. Carried by a show of hands.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

There were no Matters Arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

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

The Chairman noted that he was very pleased with the attendance at the Social Evening on the previous Friday.

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

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

JP proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted - Seconded by JH. Carried by a show of hands.

The Treasurer abstained.



## 7. Election of Committee and Officials:

IG reported that the following valid nominations had been received:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Chair     | Richard Hitchings  |
| Secretary | John Pollard   |
| Treasurer | Mal Kitchin  |
| Committee | Fred Parrett, Ian Nicholson, Tony Myall, Ian Gibson, Graham Lewis, Jo Hardman, Cherry Canovan, Janice Crossfield and Diane Howe. |

Bob Clark proposed that all 12 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected - seconded by Crawford Mitchell. Carried by a show of hands. The next Committee meeting will be on 17 July 2019.

At this point RH took over as Chairman.

## 8. Rules of the League:

The following changes to the league rules had been proposed by David Hesp of Boot & Shoe B:

### Section C - Competition Rules. Amendment to section 6(d):

6(d) "The format of the competition etc to be decided by the Committee at the start of the season, and before the commencement of the competitions should be clearly detailed on the website and/or in writing to each team. These details should include the format for any pool stages and of the draw for subsequent knockout rounds."

David pointed out that the current rule finishes at "start of the season". This year no-one was sure how the draw was going to be made – it was unclear. He felt that if teams were entering competitions it was only reasonable that they be aware of the format.

MK said that he would vote against the change. His opinion was that, whilst David was correct, a rule change would be a "sledgehammer to crack a nut", given that this season's situation re notice of format was very much an exception. He assured the meeting that he would make sure that what David is requesting would happen in the 2019/20 season and apologised for this year's omission.

David wanted to know why the format hadn't been advertised this year and GL pointed out that if the rule change was carried that would make it compulsory going forward, thereby avoiding the issue cropping up in the future.

MK pointed out that even if the rules were changed that wouldn't preclude mistakes being made.

Jim Pyper proposed that the proposal be accepted – seconded by GL. 8 voted in favour, 4 against and there were 2 abstentions. The rule change was therefore passed.

## 9. Any Other Business:

Motions proposed by the LCQL Sub-Committee:

### A Cup Competitions

“We propose that the Cup Competition be moved to the end of the season rather than have them after the Christmas break in January/February. Further that the competitions be opened to all comers to try and encourage new teams to compete. At present there is a feeling that some interested parties are put off entering a team into the league as the commitment of a full season is too great. By their nature the cup competitions are shorter and less of a commitment, however once a player has experienced the ‘thrust’ of competition it might encourage them to enter a team into the full league.”

JH, in making the case for the motion, said that the opportunity for new teams to join the league was very limited. Also, committing for a year is not always an easy decision for potential teams to make. This proposal would give an opportunity for potential teams/players to give quizzing a try. Moving the competitions to the end of season would enable new teams to play and hopefully then join the league, and it wouldn't change the length of the season by more than a couple of weeks. The suggestion was for a trial for one season to see how it goes.

David Hesp questioned whether there had been any indication of teams wanting to join the league. GL said there hadn't been. David wondered whether there was any point in changing the status quo in the unlikely event that new teams might join.

Bob Clark was concerned as to how seeding would work. JH suggested that new teams would join at the bottom, and if they ended up winning then good for them.

Crawford Mitchell wanted to know whether the motion was asking for 2 separate things (moving the cup and opening to none members) or a job lot. The Chairman said that it would have to be the job lot; otherwise there would be no point in making a change.

IG wondered how the Committee would be able to handle the rule change (Point 8 above) if it wasn't known which teams would be in the competitions.

Jim Pyper questioned when the cut-off would be, and David Hesp warned of the danger that teams might just enter the cup and potentially win, whilst having no intention of joining the league.

GL questioned why the cups are timed as they are. IG and the Chair pointed out that this was purely a matter of tradition.

JH proposed that the motion be accepted – seconded by GL. 6 voted for, 6 against, and the Chair exercised his casting vote against. The motion was therefore rejected.

### B Cup Competitions Quarter Final

“At present when the quarter finals are reached spare copies of the quiz are not available for other teams to hold a ‘fun quiz’. We propose that extra copies of the quiz be made available to enable this.”



The Chair wondered if there was any reason why this had not happened previously. Crawford Mitchell pointed out that this had been because of a particular league officer's worries about security.

GL proposed that the motion be accepted – seconded by JH. Carried by a show of hands.

#### C Registration of New Teams

“Teams that wish to play in the LCQL have to register before the AGM. This could preclude newly formed teams that are new to the LCQL joining as they may make a late decision to enter a team or not be conversant with the league rules.

Whilst we appreciate that the date for registration is given so that time is allowed to enable the fixtures to be arranged we propose that an exception be made for new teams. We suggest that a new rule be introduced that gives the committee a right and flexibility to make an exception to the registration rule for new teams, so they may join at a later date

Failing the introduction of the above we suggest with the first fixtures normally played towards the end of September a later date such as the 1st August be allowed for new teams to apply for membership.”

IG felt that 1st August was a reasonable date for the registration of new teams.

Bob Clark proposed that the motion be accepted – seconded by PL. Carried by a show of hands with 2 abstentions.

Motion proposed by Jim Pyper on behalf of Boot and Shoe B:

“The proposal is to hold Finals Night and the presentation element of the End of Season Social on the same night. The presentation of prizes at the End of Season Social currently takes less than 10 minutes and this could easily be added on to Finals Night.”

Crawford Mitchell wondered if this was a precursor to trying to get rid of the Social Evening. Jim Pyper said no, but mooted the possibility of holding the Social Evening at the start of the season.

David Hesp felt that the current approach was tantamount to wanting the Finals Night to be as low key as possible. It was the only competition he was aware of where the cups were not presented on the night. He felt that they could be presented on the night and then handed back for engraving.

JP suggested that they could be presented on Finals Night, handed back for engraving, and then represented at the Social Evening.

MK wanted to know whether it was being suggested that food should be available on Finals Night. Jim Pyper said this wouldn't be necessary.

Bob Clark felt that the committee should be allowed to consider this motion and discuss the pros and cons. He also wondered if there was any way of bringing the Presentation Evening closer to Finals night.

PL felt that the Presentation Evening was very much an end of season event.



JH suggested that everyone agreed that making more of the Finals Night was a good idea but that the Presentation Night was also important. The Committee should discuss the options. He also felt that a start of season curtain raiser might be a good idea.

The Chair said he would like to move the discussion to the next Committee meeting as an agenda item, and also to put it out to the membership for consideration, but with the Committee making the final decision.

The Meeting was in favour of this approach.

Guidance re photocopying costs:

The Chair pointed out that overall photocopying costs are not an issue. However there had been problems with teams making large claims, which, due to the wording of the guidelines, were valid.

The league needs to have clearer and simpler guidelines, and an essential issue is the cost of colour printing.

The Chair set out 4 options:

- Leave as is;
- Insist on Black & White printing only;
- Inform teams that they can print in colour but they will have to cover the cost differential; and
- Picture rounds are prohibited.

The Chair called a straw poll, results as follows

- Get rid of picture rounds – 4
- Allow Black & White only – 0
- Status Quo – 9

There was a clear feeling that the Committee should work with the status quo but make sure that guidelines are clarified.

Prior to closing the meeting the Chair presented gifts to MK and PL as token of the quiz league's appreciation for their service as Treasurer and Chairman.

The Meeting closed at 9:15 pm



## Appendix 1

### Chairman's Report for 2018/2019

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

As ever, I must start by congratulating the winners and runners-up in all our competitions. And again I must state that while most quizzes were well received, there were as usual examples of quizzes where the guidelines had not been followed. Getting some teams to read them is a perennial problem, but others put a lot of time and effort into setting interesting and balanced quizzes which are much appreciated. A slight problem arose towards the end of the season about printing/photocopying costs, which should be discussed at the AGM.

I am most grateful to the new members of the committee who joined us last autumn. Their input has been unfailingly positive and the committee has been substantially strengthened as a result.

Two of our new members, Graham Lewis and Cherry Canovan have, together with Diane Howe, embarked on a series of measures to publicise our League in the hope of attracting new players and teams. A sub-committee chaired by Graham has been set up to consider how best to do this. Cherry has initiated a series of articles in the Lancaster Guardian which have been very well received. Graham and Diane talked about the League on the local Beyond Radio station. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, there was a two hour broadcast on BBC Radio Lancashire on which many committee members took part. I am most grateful to Garry Scott of the BBC for the engaging way in which he managed this event and also to Lancaster Cricket and Social Club for hosting it. A few days later, Graham, Diane and I had a very small slot on Radio Lancashire's breakfast programme.

The sub-committee has ideas for other initiatives and I hope that at least some of them will come to pass. The local profile of the League has been substantially raised in recent months and we wait to see whether we achieve our objective of attracting more players to it.

It is also appropriate for me to thank all team captains who have arrived on time at the Golden Lion each Saturday and to the committee members who have been present. By the time of the AGM, we will have had our Presentation/Social evening at the Railway Club, which has also hosted the Pairs Quiz just before Christmas.

In this my final report as Chairman, I wish to thank all committee members past and present for their support of the League over the last seven years. It may seem invidious to single out any one individual, but I feel compelled to do so. The contribution that Ian Gibson has made week after week is indispensable to the very existence of the League. From arranging the fixtures with Mal Kitchin to the preparation and collection of the quiz envelopes to the compilation of results and league tables as well as the operation of our superb website, Ian has been indefatigable. Inevitably, the time will come when Ian will stand down from his post as Administrator. My final request to the committee is that they start to make preparations for Ian's departure so that the League can continue to operate as effectively as Ian ensures it does at present.

I have, with rare exceptions, enjoyed chairing the League but as I said at last year's AGM, I feel that now is the time for a younger Chairman. Needless to say, I hope to continue to support the League for many more years.

Paul Legon  
Chairman  
14 May 2019





## Appendix 2

### Secretary's Report for 2018/2019

Once again I have spent the year acting as league secretary whilst Ian Gibson, as deputy secretary, 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.

The season started on Monday, 10 September 2018.

Two teams did not re-register for the 2018-19 Season; these being The Railway Club B and The Sun. The Sun and George & Dragon merged and became George & Dragon A. 1725 changed venue and became George & Dragon B.

There was a slight problem before the start of the season, after the fixtures had been published, when we learned of the 1725 move, which resulted in 2 teams playing at George & Dragon. This caused some difficulties as it meant that on some weeks both teams would be playing at home on the same nights. Fortunately, it was relatively easily rectified by transposing the Railway Club' fixtures for the new George & Dragon B fixtures.

The Palatine Hotel had to change venue towards the end of the season and became the Lord Nelson.

There were high spots:

- **Division 1** - Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: Gregson A
- **Division 2** - Winners: Brown Cow; Runners-up: Golden Ball (Snatchems)
- **Division 3** - Winners: White Cross; Runners-up: Lord Nelson
- **Dennis Wigham** - Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: Three Mariners B
- **Tony Clare** - Winners: Gregson B; Runners-up: Boot & Shoe A



**Website Statistics:**

| Month                | Hits          | Files         | Page Views   |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| May 2019             | 28176         | 19046         | 4752         |
| April 2019           | 38920         | 28768         | 7846         |
| March 2019           | 42362         | 33026         | 8916         |
| February 2019        | 36653         | 27266         | 6764         |
| January 2019         | 34355         | 26145         | 5751         |
| December 2018        | 31765         | 24326         | 6164         |
| November 2018        | 38538         | 30740         | 7986         |
| October 2018         | 37712         | 30036         | 7814         |
| September 2018       | 32076         | 24423         | 5880         |
| August 2018          | 18249         | 13104         | 2796         |
| July 2018            | 19333         | 13446         | 2843         |
| June 2018            | 19776         | 13851         | 3181         |
| <b>Totals</b>        | <b>377915</b> | <b>284177</b> | <b>70693</b> |
| <b>Average</b>       | <b>31492</b>  | <b>23681</b>  | <b>5891</b>  |
| <b>2017-18</b>       | <b>361188</b> | <b>261323</b> | <b>69137</b> |
| <b>Average 17/18</b> | <b>40132</b>  | <b>29036</b>  | <b>7682</b>  |

Hits - refers to all components comprising a web page (page + 20 images on page = 21 hits)

Files - are elements on our website (pictures, docs, pdf files etc)

Page Views - exact numbers of views for entire pages

Compared to last season the statistics are showing a dip in usage. The data shown in the table is for a whole Quiz Year (AGM to AGM) whereas last year the data was from Season start to AGM.

The data available per country is not as specific as last year.

The percentages of usage for the year were:

- US Commercial 37% - was 30%
- Unresolved 33%
- Network 21%
- UK 4% - was 38%
- Germany 1% - was 2%
- EU 1%
- Remainder 3%

I am unable to determine the definitions of the terms "Unresolved" and "Network". Some of the figures attributed to these items must include traffic from UK (which is 34% down on last year).

Bearing this in mind, I still feel the Strato annual hosting costs of £57.46, at just over £1 per week, represents good value for money.





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## **Player Registrations 2018-19:**

Total – 245

Largest Squads – 11 (2 teams)

Smallest Squad – 4 (1 team)

5 teams – 9, 7 teams – 8, 10 teams – 7, 4 teams – 6, 5 teams – 5

It is estimated that just less than 30 players turned out only once.

## **Walkovers:**

6 Walkovers in the league. 1 - Division 1; 4 – Division 2; 1 – Division 3

Although there was a little consternation, the league is happy to announce that all 34 teams from last season have re-registered for 2019/20.

John R Pollard  
Secretary  
9/6/19



## Appendix 3

### Treasurer's Report for 2018/2019

#### Financial Summary:

- Opening balance: £1,073.74
- Income: £1,541.57 (of which 1530.00 from entrance fees)
- General Expenditure: £287.91 (of which £82.21 from photocopying expenses)
- Presentation/Social Evening: £1,290.40
- Skipton BS a/c: £1,000.67
- Treasurer's Float (Petty Cash): £36.33
- Balance: £1,037.00
- Loss on the Season: £(36.74)

Other relevant figures are the £90.00 entrance fees deficit compared to 2017-2018 because of the loss of two teams and the 'one-off' cost of 120 roundels (£75.00). To set against that there is the much better position on photocopying costs compared to 2017-2018 (£82.21 as against £206.96). This works out at £2.65 per quiz over the season (31 in all); £6.85 for each of the 12 quizzes charged for.

Richard Hitchings  
Treasurer  
June 2019