



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 26 July 2021, 8.00pm at Lancaster Cricket & Social Club

Present:

Committee – Richard Hitchings – RH (Chair); Mal Kitchin – MK (Treasurer); John Pollard – JP (Secretary); Ian Gibson – IG (Administrator)

League – Paul Legon, David Hesp, Barry Maguire, Betty Maudsley, Eric Wildsmith

Agenda

1. Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Janice Crossfield and Tony Myall.

2. Presentation of Trophies:

The Chair made presentations re the 2019-2020 season to representatives of:

Dog and Partridge
Gregson A
Boot & Shoe B

See Appendix 2 for details of all the prize winners.

IG said he would arrange to distribute prizes to those winning teams who hadn't been able to attend the AGM.

3. 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 – Paul Legon. Carried by a show of hands.

4. Matters Arising:

Item 9:

The Chair noted that there had been some discussion re the Presentation Night, the AGM, and the possibility of a beginning of season event. These had been discussed at various committee meetings but the issues were still unresolved. They will therefore appear on the agenda of the next Committee Meeting.

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

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



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

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

The Treasurer abstained.

8. Election of Committee and Officials:

The following valid nominations had been received:

Chair	Richard Hitchings
Secretary	John Pollard
Treasurer	Janice Crossfield
Committee	Mal Kitchin, Ian Nicholson, Tony Myall, Ian Gibson and Jo Hardman.

Paul Legon proposed that all 8 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected - seconded by Barry Maguire. Carried by a show of hands.

The Chair noted that 4 committee members had resigned since the last AGM:

Cherry Canovan
Diane Howe
Graham Lewis
Fred Parrett

He expressed his thanks for their service to the league and commented that any new blood would be gratefully received.

8. Rules of the League:

See Appendix 4 for the proposed changes to the rules.

The Chair noted that these changes could be divided into 2 categories.

(i) Amendment to Section 4

This was a substantive and important proposed change which derives directly from the abrupt and unprecedented cessation of the 2019-2020 league season as a result of the Covid pandemic.

The Chair pointed out that he had found himself making decisions at the start of the Covid crisis that per the current rules he wasn't entitled to make. He didn't want to be in that position again. Hence the change proposed.

(ii) Various other minor amendments throughout the document.

The Chair said that he had also tidied up some other areas of the rules (indicated in blue in Appendix 4).

The Chair asked for comments from the floor.

Paul Legon noted that the position of IT administrator was new. The Chair acknowledged this.



David Hesp asked whether the intention was to continue with Committee meetings by Zoom if a lockdown was re-imposed. The Chair confirmed that this would be the case.

The Rule changes were proposed by MK, seconded by IG and carried by a show of hands.

9. Any Other Business:

David Hesp said that he had found the LCQL Facebook page useful as a way of helping to keep the league alive during the Covid crisis, particularly with the on-line quizzes that had been run during the early part of the lockdown.

The Meeting closed at 8:40 pm



Appendix 1

Chair's Report for 2019-2020

Welcome to this most extraordinary of annual general meetings and thank you for coming.

First, my belated congratulations to the division winners and runners-up. I am sorry that we have not been able to recognise your achievements with the customary Presentation Evening.

The 2019-2020 fixture list came to a grinding halt over the long weekend which began on Friday 13 March (and never was a Friday 13 more ill-starred) and concluded on the evening of Monday 16 March 2020. The prime minister's statement, on Monday 16, announcing, at around 3 pm, a national lockdown effectively finished the season. The practical difficulties caused by this sudden volte-face led to some difficulty for the Committee and the Chair in managing the immediate situation, and communicating decisions to the league membership, particularly regarding that evening's fixtures. I would like to thank Committee members for their help and support during this distinctly tricky period. I shall return to this theme later on in tonight's meeting.

I should add that one of the complicating factors during this four-day period was the reliance placed on Facebook, by a sizeable minority of LCQL members, to receive and disseminate (often inaccurate) information about what was going on. I should like to make clear that the excellent LCQL website ought to be the first port of call for comment on and information about LCQL matters. The fevered nature of the Facebook traffic was not helpful. That some of this material found its way to me via the medium of Chinese whispers underlines its unsatisfactory nature. I would also point out that neither the LCQL nor its Chair has a Facebook account, and neither has any plans to get one.

The season was formally ended when, at my behest and after Committee members had been consulted, IG posted a message to this effect on the LCQL Website (19 March).

A further message was posted on 19 April detailing how the various winners and runners-up would be decided. In addition, it was announced that the cup competitions had been scrapped and both Presentation Evening and the AGM cancelled. No date was fixed for the award of trophies/book tokens.

Included in this 19 April post were proposed plans for an informal on-line quiz using Zoom software. 13 out of 33 teams signed up for the first tranche of quizzing, which ran from 12 July until 12 October.

The second tranche of Zoom quizzing commenced on 7 December and concluded on 1 March 2021. This time 11 teams took part. These quizzes were very much enjoyed by those who participated and, during a difficult time, provided a great deal of fun, light relief and occasional hilarity when the technology (or, more often, those using it) failed to work properly.



Finally, and echoing Paul Legon's comments in his Chair's report in 2019, I should like to acknowledge the very great debt of gratitude we owe to the Administrator, Ian Gibson, for the enormous amount of time and effort he expended during this period. In the first place, he kept the League informed of what was happening in the immediate aftermath of March 16 via the LCQL website. Then he single-handedly set up the Zoom quizzing operation: putting the IT in place, canvassing support, creating a fixture list and question-setting rota, explaining and, in many cases, personally showing how to use the technology, acting as QM, conducting surveys and generally troubleshooting. Without Ian's skills and hard work it is difficult to imagine how the LCQL could function at all.

Richard Hitchings
Chair LCQL



Appendix 2

Secretary's Report for 2019-2021

Obviously this report is not as would normally be expected, following what has obviously been an unusual couple of years to say the least. We can all just hope for better things for the 2021-2022 season when it eventually starts.

What I can report, thanks to Ian Gibson for monitoring the situation, is that we currently have 28 registrations for next season. This is 5 down on the 2019-2020 season, which considering the upheavals caused by Covid 19 is a pretty reasonable result.

As we know the Coronavirus pandemic brought the usual operations of the League to a grinding halt in March 2020.

Season 2019 - 2020

The Committee decided, in view of the cancellation of the 2019-2020 Season, that the League tables after the Week 17 results would be used to determine the Divisional winners and runners-up: -

Division 1 - Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: Gregson A

Division 2 - Winners: Three Mariners B; Runners-up: Golden Lion B

Division 3 - Winners: Boot & Shoe A; Runners-up: Wagon & Horses/Dog & Partridge*

(* Joint Runners-up were declared, for prize purposes, because it would have been possible for the 3rd placed team, which had a game in hand and a better average, to overtake the team in 2nd place.)

Dennis Wigham – Not contested

Tony Clare - Not contested

Season 2020 - 2021

The whole season was void.

Zoom Quizzing

In an attempt to provide some form of quizzing for the membership during the restrictions, the League set up a friendly set of quizzes using Zoom. Initially, 14 teams showed an interest, but this reduced to 13 at the start of the 1st tranche of fixtures. The number of teams reduced to 11 for the start of the 2nd tranche. The 1st set of fixtures started on 13th July 2020 and ended on 12th October 2020; the 2nd set began 7th December 2020 and ended 1st March 2021.

The League set all the participating teams up with email accounts to facilitate contact with one another, without the need to use personal email addresses. This will be extended to all teams when normal service (hopefully) resumes for the 2021-2022 Season.



My thanks are due, as always, to Ian Gibson who has continued to carry the lion's share of the administrative burdens since the last AGM, to say nothing of his heroic efforts in coordinating the successful Zoom competitions referred to above. And speaking of lions it would seem churlish not to offer up the usual thanks to the Golden Lion for accommodating the league up to the point of lockdown.

John R Pollard
Secretary
LCQL



Appendix 3

Treasurer's Report

As a result of the of the curtailment of the 2019-2020 season and the cancelation of the 2020-2021 season due to the Covid pandemic I can report an excess of income over expenditure of £488.21.

Our opening balance was £1,037.00 and our closing balance is £1,525.21. (Skipton B S = £1,452.70 + Treasurer's float = £72.51).

The cost of prizes for the winners and runners-up was reduced due to the abandonment of the team knock-out competitions. The cancellation of the social/prize giving evening resulted in there being no catering costs.

The only significant cost for the 2020-2021 season was the cost of our web site (£57.46) which is unchanged.

As this is my last season as your Treasurer, may I thank my colleagues on the Committee for their full and wholehearted co-operation and support throughout my term of office.

Thank you.

Mal Kitchin (Treasurer).
Lancaster City Quiz League.

26/07/2021.



Appendix 4

LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE – RULES

Section A League Organisation

- 1 The League shall be known as The Lancaster City Quiz League and shall provide friendly association and competition without any political or profit-making purposes.
- 2 The *R*ules of the League shall be binding on all registered players.
- 3 A *C*ommittee shall be appointed at the *end of season Annual General Meeting (AGM)*, by show of hands or by ballot, comprising *Chair*, Secretary, Treasurer and not *fewer* than five nor more than nine other members.
- *4 (a) The Committee shall have the power to settle and arrange all matters relating to the League and not covered by these Rules.
(b) In response to an unforeseen and/or unprecedented crisis, and where Committee decision making is impracticable, the Committee shall empower the Chair to act alone for a temporary period on the Committee's behalf.*
(c) The Committee shall have the power to choose a headquarters prior to the start of the season.
- 5 The Committee shall meet as many times as deemed necessary and shall call General *M*eetings as and when required*,* the time and place to be decided by the Committee. At each *M*eeting the Treasurer *shall* present a vouched statement of accounts.
- 6 *(a)* The Committee may elect from among their number deputies for *Chair*, Secretary and Treasurer to act in the absence of those officers. *In addition, the Committee* may at any time *fill vacancies* occurring *among* the officers and members of the Committee.
*(b) The Committee shall elect an IT Administrator annually at the first Committee meeting of the new League season.
(c)* Members of the Committee who fail to attend three consecutive meetings *shall* be deemed to have resigned, unless the Committee decides otherwise. Any member of the Committee deemed to have left the Committee because of repeated non-attendance without explanation *shall be* ineligible for election to the Committee for a period of three years.
- 7 There shall be a quorum at Committee meetings of 50% of the members **including** *Chair*, Secretary and Treasurer, **or** their deputies.
- 8 The *Chair* does not vote on motions, but has a casting vote *if* necessary.
- 9 Any additional *R*ules or amendments to *R*ules shall be dealt with at the AGM *where* copies of the *R*ules will be available and at which 'Rules of the League' shall be a separate item on the agenda.
Notices of the motions and nominations to the Committee *must* be given in writing to the *S*ecretary at least 21 days prior to the *M*eeting.
- 10 Any registered player may vote at the AGM.
- 11 'Any Other Business' shall be an item on the agenda of the AGM* in order to allow any further matters for discussion. But these discussions **must not** result in any* contravention of Rule 9.



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- 12 An Extraordinary **General** Meeting **(EGM)** **must** be convened by the Committee **following a** request **by at least** five **teams** **to do so**. Only **one vote per team** **shall be** allowed at an EGM.
- 13 **Information given to the press** concerning the League, teams and individuals ***must*** **not** contain any statement or comment capable of causing offence.
- 14 All team players and **participating** officials **must** be aged 16 **or** over.
- 15 The Committee is empowered to make changes to the Question Setting Guidelines as and when considered appropriate*. **Such changes** will be subject to confirmation at the following AGM.