



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 5 June 2023, 8.00pm at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club

Present:

Committee – Richard Hitchings – RH (Chair); John Pollard – JP (Secretary); Ian Gibson – IG (Administrator); Janice Crossfield – JC (Treasurer); Jo Hardman – JH; Mal Kitchin – MK; Paul Legon – PL; Ian Nicholson – IN; Chris Coldwell – CC; Callum Pownall – CP

League – Bob Clark; David Wray; Barry Maguire; Betty Maudsley; David Hesp; Jim Pyper; Maggie Harrison; Bob Harrison

Agenda

1. Apologies:

No apologies had been received.

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

3. Matters Arising:

The Chair noted that there were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

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

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

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

MK 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:

The following valid nominations had been received:

Chair	Richard Hitchings
Secretary	John Pollard
Treasurer	Janice Crossfield
Committee	Mal Kitchin, Tony Myall, Jo Hardman, Ian Nicholson, Ian Gibson, Paul Legon, Chris Coldwell and Callum Pownall

Bob Clark proposed that all 11 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected - seconded by David Wray. Carried by a show of hands.

8. Rules of the League:

Proposed rule change by D M Wray on behalf of Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club, as seconded by Jailor's Barrel:

"All events associated with Lancaster City Quiz League should be staged at venues who are members of the League."

The Chair noted that David Wray had expressed concern about the change of venue for the Finals Night from the Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club to the Railway Club and had hence proposed the rule change.

David Wray said that his proposal had nothing to do with any loss that might have been incurred by the Cricket Club. He just felt that venues should only be selected if they are members of LCQL.

CC pointed out that his team, Tite & Lock, had sometimes had to change venue due to rail strikes and the like and he wondered whether the wording of any rule change should just refer to specific events – e.g. Finals Night.

David Hesp felt that the overriding consideration when selecting a venue should be whether or not it is suitable for the event,

JH suggested that the inclusion of the word "Normally" at the start of the rule change would cover David Hesp's point.

PL said that what was needed was a venue where acoustics were adequate, there was plenty of space and the surroundings were pleasant. He questioned why the decision to change venue had been made.

The Chair said that a lot of league members had turned up for the 2022 Finals Night and the acoustics and PA system had been problematic. Furthermore, the L-shaped configuration of the space exacerbated this difficulty. He emphasised that these comments were in no way a criticism of the Cricket Club.

David Wray said that it would have been preferable if there had been a discussion with the Cricket Club about these issues and the Chair restated his regret that this had not happened.

JH proposed the amendment to the wording of the rule change i.e. putting the word "Normally" at the beginning. PL proposed. JH seconded. Carried by a show of hands.



Bob C proposed the substantive motion. JH seconded. Carried by a show of hands – a majority of one.

IG asked where in the rules the change needed to go. He said that Section A referred to League Organisation and suggested that the change became Paragraph 16 of Section A.

JH proposed that IG's suggestion be carried. Bob Clark seconded. Carried by a show of hands.

9. Any Other Business

Barry Maguire pointed out that during the 2022/23 season some teams had had problems with changes to opening times at their venues. The Dog & Partridge had had to play a number of home matches at away venues. The Chair noted that this had only been an issue for a couple of venues, and he asked Barry what start time would solve his team's issue. Barry said 8.15 would be OK. IG pointed out that the league rules allowed for a 15 minute change to the standard start time and that this meant quizzes could start any time between 8.15 and 8.45, which solved the problem.

The Meeting closed at 8:40 pm



Appendix 1

Chair's Report for 2022-2023

Welcome to the 2022-2023 LCQL AGM, and thank you for coming.

As ever on these occasions I offer my congratulations to all the winners and runners-up in the League and Cup competitions. Congratulations also to David Hesp and Matt Booth, who won the Pairs competition just before Christmas. It is pleasing to report that twelve pairs entered the competition this year – double the 2021-2022 entry. I should like to emphasise that the annual Pairs quiz is intended as a competition for **all** divisions, with trophies awarded to the winners in each of these divisions.

The 2022-2023 season saw a return to completely normal service after the Covid-related trials and tribulations of the previous 2½ years. 28 teams registered, there were considerably fewer blank dates, and it is particularly pleasing to report that a further two teams have signed up for the 2023-2024 season. Given the fears some had that Covid posed an existential threat to the continuation of the LCQL, these small signs of resilience and recovery are very welcome: the 2023-2024 season will involve 30 teams – in three divisions of ten teams each – just three fewer than in 2019-2020.

While a handful of new players have joined teams during the course of this season, and they are, of course, welcomed with open arms, it remains the case that we struggle to attract more (and younger) would-be quizzers. The Committee has evolved a general approach to identifying and encouraging potential recruits, and contact has been made with a small number of individuals. May I make a plea that if an LCQL member becomes aware of any interest here that they inform a member of the Committee, even if it is only to announce that the newcomer is simply joining their own team. Evidently, if the Committee is unaware of such interest it can do nothing to help and encourage it. Finally, if LCQL members have any thoughts on how we might assist this process, please let us know. I doubt there is a quiz league in the country which is not suffering this generational shrinkage, and creating a structure which appeals to all ages is frustratingly tricky. But we will continue to try.

Despite my assertion in the 2021-2022 Chair's Report, there was again no separate Presentation Night this year. Instead, as in 2021-2022, trophies were presented after the two quizzes on Finals' Night. The reasons for this U-turn were that the significantly greater number of people in attendance made for a far livelier atmosphere; also, there was a positive response to the joint format (i.e. Finals' Night **and** Presentation Night) from LCQL members who had attended the 2021-2022 event; and finally there was Committee members' overwhelming conviction that the traditional LCQL Presentation Night - a longstanding fixture in the LCQL's calendar – had passed its sell-by date. The fact that the 2022-2023 event saw all prize-winning teams and runners-up, with just one exception, in attendance to collect their trophies suggests that this change has proved popular. One alteration, though, which has caused some controversy was the change of venue for this event from the Cricket Club in 2021-2022 to the Railway Club in 2022-2023. I am afraid that the Chair's rather ill-informed and inept handling of this matter is mainly to blame, for which I apologise. The issue will be discussed later in this evening's meeting.

Quizzes this season were perhaps even a little better overall than in 2021-2022. It was noted that a couple of teams whose quiz-setting track record has been less than perfect produced noticeably better efforts in 2022-2023. Thanks to them for that. It seems that advice to read, understand and apply the guidelines has borne some fruit here. Once again, I recommend a careful perusal of this document to all teams who set quizzes, which these days is most if not all of us.



The LCQL could not function without the dedicated support I receive from Committee members and officers. IT Administrator Ian Gibson's emergency hospitalisation at the beginning of the season underlined for us all his irreplaceability. Secretary John Pollard's willingness to gain the necessary IT skills will, hopefully, take some of the pressure and workload from Ian's shoulders. Treasurer Janice Crossfield continues to wrestle with the unfeasibly labyrinthine problems posed by banks and building societies, who seem unable to manage effectively the analogue/digital divide. She and the Committee will continue to try to find a system which suits **all** LCQL members.

On a final, sombre note I would like to pay tribute to Crawford Mitchell who sadly passed away last month at the age of 72. Crawford was a longstanding player and Committee member, and for some years an innovative Chairman of the LCQL. RIP.

Richard Hitchings
Chair LCQL



Appendix 2

Secretary's Report for 2022-2023

Once again I have spent the year with the limited role of League Secretary whilst Ian Gibson, as League Administrator, has continued to handle all administrative matters, including running the web site, managing the control of weekly quiz sheet packs and recording results. During the past season it has been forcibly brought home to the Committee just how heavily the league is reliant on Ian's efforts and I can report that I have been working with him to ensure that there is at least a basic backup provision in the event of his unavailability. My thanks go to Ian for once again doing the lion's share of the work in what has been a challenging year for him, 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

Season 2022 - 2023

The season started on 26th September 2022. It was played over an 18-week League season plus 7 Pool Weeks, Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Finals. 28 teams were involved, split into 2 teams comprising 9 teams and one of 10.

The playing season ended on 15th May 2023 with Finals' Night, which again incorporated the presentation of Trophies and Prizes to the various League winners and runners-up.

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

Division 2 - Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: Jimmy's Tap House

Division 3 - Winners: Lancaster C & SC A; Runners-up: Station Hotel A

Dennis Wigham - Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: Gregson A

Tony Clare - Winners: Heysham Cricket Club; Runners-up: Hest Bank C

Nominations for 2023 - 24:

Chair: Richard Hitchings

Secretary: John Pollard

Treasurer: Janice Crossfield

Committee: Mal Kitchin; Tony Myall; Jo Hardman; Ian Nicholson, Ian Gibson, Paul Legon, Chris Coldwell, Callum Pownall.

One Rule Change/Motion was submitted.

"All events associated with Lancaster City Quiz League should be staged at venues who are members of the League"

All 28 teams have re-registered for the 2023-24 Season. Additionally, 2 former teams have re-joined. Ex Boot & Shoe A will play as Fox & Goose A and Lancaster Railway Club as themselves.



Considering that we have fewer than 200 registered players, the League's website continues to be well used during the playing season. The annual fees remain at £57.46, which they have been for some considerable time.

John R Pollard
Secretary



Appendix 3

Treasurer's Report

At the end of the 2022-23 season, I am pleased to report a profit of £99.85 over the year.

Our opening balance was £1,508.69 and our closing balance is £1,608.54 (Skipton Building Society = £1,534.13 + Treasurer's float = £74.41).

Our total income for the season was £1,383.67 (of which £1,350.00 came from league fees, including two upfront payments for season 2023-24).

Our expenditure this season totalled £1,283.82.

Our largest items of expenditure were vouchers for prize winners in our League, Cup and Pairs competitions (£810.00) and trophies and engraving (£280.00).

Photocopying costs reimbursed to question setters totalled £53.00. This works out at £6.62 for each quiz charged for. We thank those teams and individuals who made no charge.

As I explained at last year's AGM, we believe that we do now need to provide a means for people to pay their league fees by bank transfer and I have, therefore, investigated the possibilities open to us, as this facility is not available at the building society where our account is held. We intend to open a bank account, which will cater better for our needs, and I shall be liaising with other members of the committee to ensure that we have this in place for the start of the 2023-24 season.

Finally, I should like to thank all the Committee for their help again this year, especially with the current building society situation and for bailing me out during the rail strike.

Janice Crossfield (Treasurer)
LCQL