



# LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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**Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 8 June 2026, 8.00pm at  
Lancaster Railway Club**

### **Present:**

**Committee** – Richard Hitchings – RH (Chair); John Pollard – JRP (Secretary); Ian Gibson – IG (Administrator); Janice Crossfield – JC (Treasurer); Callum Pownall – CP; Jo Hardman – JH; Paul Legon – PL

**League** – Jim Pyper – JP; Nigel Neil – NN

## **Agenda**

### **1. Apologies:**

There was an apology from David Wray.

### **2. Previous Minutes:**

The Chair asked for a proposal that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed – IG, Seconded – CP. Carried by a show of hands.

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

The Chair asked if there were any matters arising from the previous AGM.

IG raised the subject of the sub-committee that was set up to consider another source of questions for the 2026/27 season. NN, who was a member of the sub-committee, said that he was disappointed that the outcome was that the status quo had been retained. The Chair felt that the sub-committee had done a good job. The only problem was that there had been no consensus. When it came to reviewing the outcomes there wasn't a general agreement.

NN was also disappointed that it hadn't proved possible for the sub-committee to meet face to face. He also noted that none of the sub-committee members had had the opportunity to present their opinions to the general committee. He felt that the sub-committee had wanted to try out ways of updating the way quizzes are run with a view to attracting a new and younger league membership.

JH was supportive of modernisation, but he noted that whenever this problem was discussed it always came down to the quality of question setting and the adherence or otherwise to the setting guidelines.

The Chair and PL said that the guidelines had been revamped several years ago. JH observed that however and how often the guidelines were updated they still had to be adhered to if they were to have any effect.



NN wondered about the possibility of having some kind of validator/referee to adjudicate on matters relating to adherence to setting guidelines. He noted that this would have to be a non-playing league member.

JH wondered whether there was any mileage in revisiting the guidelines to see whether any useful changes could be made.

PL asked if a statement could be added to the registration documentation that team captains could sign to confirm that they had read the setting guidelines and would adhere to them.

CP thought it would be a good idea to email the guidelines to teams prior to them setting a quiz.

There was a general discussion about which metrics could be used to measure the quality of quizzes, including the number of full houses, comments on the back of score sheets, and the number of fried eggs per quiz.

PL asked if there were still comments about quiz quality being posted on the LCQL Facebook page but JH said that nobody goes on the site now.

The following three proposals were put to the AGM:

- Add a statement to the registration documentation (or email separately) asking for signed confirmation that the setting guidelines have been read by team captains and will be adhered to;
- Email a copy of the setting guidelines to teams prior to them setting quizzes; and
- The committee reviews the setting guidelines with a view to reporting back any suggested changes to the July committee meeting.

JRP proposed all three suggestions and JH seconded. Carried by a show of hands.

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

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

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

IG 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	Jo Hardman, Ian Nicholson, Ian Gibson, Chris Coldwell and Callum Pownall

The Chair noted that as PL was stepping down the committee was now “down to the wire” as regards quoracy. An important item for the next committee meeting would be how to get some more league members onto the committee.

The Chair asked for a vote to accept the nominations and this was carried by a show of hands.

## 8. Rules of the League:

No rule changes had been proposed.

## 9. Motions

Proposed by the Committee:

*“Setting teams should pay for the printing of their own quiz, rather than expecting a refund from the league, in acknowledgement of which league fees will be frozen at 25/26 levels for the 26/27 season ”.*

PL noted that he had suggested this proposal and he felt that as most teams don't make any charge for quiz setting that this was a reasonable approach.

CP proposed and JC seconded. The proposal was carried by a show of hands.

JRP suggested that the change should be included in the document asking captains to read and adhere to the setting guidelines.

## 10. Any Other Business

Raised by Hest Bank C:

*“next year, when the registration forms are sent out, could they include a question about any mobility issues team members may have, so in the future the committee can take that into consideration when deciding venues for cup semi-finals?”.*

IG felt that this suggestion should be considered at the July committee meeting. He also noted that if the Hest Bank C had contacted him prior to the semi-final he could have made other arrangements.

It was agreed that the suggestion go to next committee meeting for consideration.



The Chair noted that PL was stepping down from the committee after many years of service. He had become Chair in 2012 and had left the committee and been replaced as Chair by RH in 2019. He had then rejoined the committee in 2022. The Chair expressed his appreciation to PL and presented him with a small gift.

In response PL said that if any team needed a QM or an occasional player he may well be available.

The Meeting closed at 9:15 pm



## Appendix 1

### Chair's Report for 2025-2026

Good evening everyone and welcome to the AGM of the LCQL's 2025-26 season. The first thing I need to say is that my grasp on this season's events is far more tenuous than any in preceding years. This is because, though I have continued as Chair, I had decided at the end of the 2024-25 season that my quizzing days were over. As a result, and inevitably, I have not been so well-informed about the 2025-26 season as has been the case hitherto. My apologies for this.

Congratulations to the divisional winners and runners-up (Boot and Shoe B/Silverdale Hotel in division 1, George & Dragon B/Fox & Goose A in division 2 and Tite & Locke/Heysham CC A in division 3). Though managing to get through the league season with a 100% clean sheet (16 straight wins), the Boot B managed to lose two fixtures in the Dennis Wigham Cup – one at the pool stage, the other more damagingly in the semi-final. The Gregson A inflicted this defeat, and went on to claim the trophy with a narrow win over the Silverdale Hotel. The Station B achieved victory in the Tony Clare final, with the Tite & Locke runners-up. Well done to all of these teams.

Following a motion at last year's 2024-25 AGM regarding the rather variable quality of the questions set during that season, a sub-committee was convened to discuss how or if this situation could be improved. I am very grateful that a small group was willing to give consideration (and time) to this rather complex problem. The sub-committee's often intelligent and insightful written responses appeared as an agenda item at the committee meeting of Thursday April 9. Rational and thoughtful debate ensued, but unfortunately, though perhaps predictably, it became evident that there was very little that we could feasibly do to improve matters. In the end, one thing which was agreed is that question setters should pay close attention to the excellent Guidelines for Question Setters, revised and published by Ian Gibson in 2024. This document is found on the LCQL Website in a sub-section of the main headline titled Question Setters Area. If you have not done so yet, please do have a look at this very helpful and rational advice.

On December 3 2025 the committee gathered at our hitherto habitual venue for our meetings – the Lancaster Cricket Club. It was a bitterly cold night and, depressingly, the venue was locked shut, as we tried to work our way through the agenda, standing in the car park trying not to freeze solid. I should also add that, contrary to usual practice, the Cricket Club staff had not warned us in advance of this closure. This chilly experience led to a change of venue – and here we are, at the Railway Club. We owe a debt of gratitude to Steve Procter and his team for being so accommodating. In fairness, too, the Cricket Club had been very generous in opening their premises for us over very many years. However that may be, the Railway Club is now home.

Finally, two longstanding stalwarts of the LCQL. First, Tony Myall. Tony was a long-serving member of the LCQL over several decades, whose quiz knowledge and dry wit made him a highly regarded and popular member of the League. Tony's small liberalism and natural sense of fair play made him an admired senior magistrate, a position which he held for no fewer than 23 years. The second member of the LCQL is, thankfully, still with us. Diane Howe too has put in many years as an excellent quizzier, though in recent times she has reached a level few of us can aspire to. That Diane has been recently crowned BBC TV's Mastermind after slugging it out with some of the nation's other top quizzers is a wonderful accolade, and is thoroughly deserved, not least for her outstanding memory and sheer grit and determination. A round of applause would not come amiss! Thank you very much.

Richard Hitchings

Chair LCQL 2026



## Appendix 2

### **Secretary's Report for 2025-2026**

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. My thanks go to Ian for once again doing the lion's share of the work, and for providing the substantial amount of 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 2025 - 2026**

The season started on 29 September 2025. It was played over an 18-week League season plus 6 Pool Weeks, Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Finals.

Initially 27 teams registered, split into 3 divisions comprising 9 teams each. However, just before the start of the season, there was 1 withdrawal (Fox & Goose B). This led to Division 3 playing the season with 4 bye weeks.

We continued the earlier experiment of starting the Pool weeks at the beginning of February, rather than January, to give setters more notice.

The playing season ended on 27 April 2026 with Finals Night, which again incorporated the presentation of Trophies and Prizes to the various League/Cup winners and Runners-up.

**Division 1** - Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: Silverdale Hotel

**Division 2** - Winners: George & Dragon B; Runners-up: Fox & Goose A

**Division 3** - Winners: Tite & Lock; Runners-up: Heysham CC A

**Dennis Wigham** – Winners: Gregson A; Runners-up: Silverdale Hotel

**Tony Clare** - Winners: Station Hotel B; Runners-up: Tite & Locke

### **Nominations for 2025 - 26:**

Chair: Richard Hitchings

Secretary: John Pollard

Treasurer: Janice Crossfield

Committee: Jo Hardman; Ian Nicholson, Ian Gibson, Chris Coldwell and Callum Pownall. Paul Legon was nominated but is standing down as his team have left the League.

### **Rule Changes:**

None submitted for consideration



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## **Motions:**

One motion was submitted by the Committee:

*Setting teams should pay for the printing of their own quiz, rather than expecting a refund from the league, in acknowledgement of which league fees will be frozen at 25/26 levels for the 26/27 season.*

## **Other Information:**

24 existing teams have registered for the 2026-27 season. Hest Bank B and Dog & Partridge have not registered.

Considering that we have less than 200 registered players, the League's website continues to be well used during the playing season. The annual fees remain at £57.46.

John R Pollard  
Secretary

Ian Gibson  
Administrator/Deputy Secretary



## Appendix 3

### Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of the 2025-2026 season, our opening balance stood at £1,549.88 (Lloyds Bank = £1,493.69 + Treasurer's float = £56.19) and our closing balance is £1,449.05 (Lloyds Bank = £1,412.63) + Treasurer's float = £36.42).

Our total income for the season was £1,215.00, all of which came from league fees. This includes one set of fees paid in advance for season 2026-2027.

Our expenditure this season totalled £1,315.83.

This represents a deficit for the season of £100.83. This is explained by 1 fewer team playing in the league (therefore, a £45 reduction in subs income), a full year of monthly bank fees as opposed to only 4 months last season (Lloyds Bank introduced the fees part way through our season) and the need to replenish more stationery this season. We now have enough stationery supplies to last us through the 2026-2027 season.

Our largest items of expenditure were, therefore, book tokens as prizes for our pairs, league and cup competitions (£1,060.00), stationery (£94.99), our annual website fees (£57.46) and our monthly banking fees (totalling £54.68).

I currently have an expenses claim for engraving of trophies and parking fees totalling £46.70. This payment and the refund to IG will be carried into the accounts for season 2026-7.

Photocopying costs reimbursed to question setters this season totalled £48.70. This works out at £14.78 for each quiz charged for (only 6). However, of these, one was a rather large bill for £20.00 (reflecting the higher costs of the photocopying options that still exist in the area). Taking this sum out of the equation, the average charge from the remaining 5 teams would be a more reasonable £5.60 each. Depending on decisions later in this AGM, this may not be an issue from next season onwards.

As for the payment of league fees, the vast majority of our teams (21) are now choosing to pay by bank transfer. 3 teams paid by cheque and 1 in cash.

I can confirm that the Lancaster City Quiz League accounts are in a healthy state as we look forward to the 2026-7 season.

Janice Crossfield (Treasurer)  
LCQL