



LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE LANCASTER CITY QUIZ LEAGUE

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**Minutes of the Lancaster City Quiz League AGM held on 3 June 2024, 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); Mal Kitchin – MK; Paul Legon – PL; Ian Nicholson – IN; Callum Pownall – CP

League – Bob Clark – BC; David Hesp – DH

Agenda

1. Apologies:

An apology had come from 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 – PL, Seconded – BC. 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 IG. 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, Paul Legon, Chris Coldwell and Callum Pownall

BC proposed that all 9 people nominated to serve on the committee be elected - seconded by DH. Carried by a show of hands.

The Chair referred to the fact that 2 members were retiring and that if anybody knew of anyone who would be prepared to join the Committee it would be good if they passed the names on. IG noted that the Committee membership had to be 3 officers and between 5 and 9 others. PL said that in his time as Chairman he had found a good way of getting new blood had been to approach individuals to say he felt they would be ideal for Committee membership and asking if they would consider joining.

DH said he would be prepared to join and his offer was readily accepted.

8. Rules of the League:

Proposed rule change to Section B,12(a):

"It is proposed that there should no longer be a requirement for a 50p fee to accompany formal objections to the Committee".

The Chair read out the relevant section of the current rule:

"All objections to questions and answers must be detailed on the back of the score sheet accompanied by a fee of 50 pence per objection which will be returned if the Committee find the objection was justified".

IG suggested that all that was needed was the removal of the words after "score sheet" – thereby deleting any reference to 50p.

The Chair noted that the objection system was hardly used now as disputes were usually solved on the night. He also pointed out that even where the system was used it was often not handled correctly, making the objection invalid despite any merit it might have had

MK said that the 50p charge had originally been brought in to put a stop to facetious objections, but he felt that this was no longer an issue.

CP asked whether there was anything in the rules about how teams should sort out potential objections amongst themselves. The Chair said that this was handled informally and always had been.

BC was concerned that the removal of the 50p charge might encourage frivolous objections about questions that players simply didn't like. MK said that it was a good thing that members could object formally to the Committee because occasionally situations could get fraught.



IG proposed the deletion of the words after “score sheet” in the rule, seconded by CP and carried by a show of hands.

The Chair said that this would be tried for a year and then reviewed. This would cover the concerns expressed by BC.

9. Any Other Business

PL referenced the following section of the Guidelines for Question Setters:

“May we remind you not to set questions that may give offence to other teams”.

He said that there had been a match during the season where a player from one of the teams had refused to answer a question as they had found it offensive. He felt that the wording in the guidelines needed ramping up, giving examples of potential offence. He suggested the following wording:

“May we remind you not to set questions that may give offence to other teams by referring to recent acts of violence, whether caused by controversial international conflicts, acts of a criminal nature, or examples of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, or sexual orientation”.

DH said that the problem was deciding how far to take it when considering what was or was not offensive. The Chair felt that it would come down to a matter of time - i.e. how recently the events referenced in the question had occurred. He suggested that whilst the causing of offence by questions didn't happen often it wouldn't do any harm to beef up the guidelines.

BC proposed that the guidelines should be so amended, seconded by MK and carried by a show of hands

DH pointed out that the rules for the Pairs competition said that the format etc would be set by the Committee. He noted that Custom & Practice determined that the current year's quiz is set by the previous year's winners. He wanted to know if this was to stop the previous winners from playing the following year. The Chair agreed that this was the case, the aim being to increase the range of winning teams.

The Chair noted that TM and MK had decided to stand down from the Committee. He said that TM had joined the league in 1981 and become a member of the Committee in the early 2000s. He held the position of League President – a post which disappeared after he stood down. The Chair was delighted that TM would continue quizzing, and said that he would miss his advice and his ability to see the wood rather than the trees.

The Chair said that MK had joined the league in 1976, playing first for the Horse & Farrier and then a number of teams since. He had become a member of the Committee in the early 1980s, and became Treasurer in 2013, a role he passed on to the Chair who had subsequently passed it back the following year. Again the Chair was delighted that MK would continue to play for the Cricket Club team. The Chair made a presentation to MK.

The Meeting closed at 9:30 pm



Appendix 1

Chair's Report for 2023-2024

Good evening everyone and welcome once more to the AGM of the Lancaster City Quiz League.

Well done to all the winners and runners-up in the League and Cup competitions. Especial congratulations are due to the Boot & Shoe B who, unlike Manchester City (this year at least), have managed to do the treble of League, Cup and Pairs: this is not quite a unique feat, having been achieved in 1998-1999, like Manchester United; but it is very rare. It is pleasing to report that fifteen teams entered the Pairs competition this year – an increase on 2022-2023 - and particularly gratifying to receive entries from all three divisions. It was also good to see several players present who sent the average age of participants plummeting.

The 2023-2024 season saw a heartening increase in the number of teams from 28 to 30. The former (and longstanding) Boot & Shoe A rejoined the League as the Fox & Goose A, and after a hiatus the Railway Club once again entered a team in the league. The 2024-2025 season once again will see three divisions of ten teams each: one team has dropped out - Tite & Locke B, while another has joined - Coffeys (a Morecambe venue, which opened in 2022). The survival of the Quiz League in the face of an ageing population and closing venues remains heart-warmingly impressive. A small number of individuals joined the League in 2023-2024, and the system now in place (along with other more ad hoc approaches) has been reasonably effective in matching individuals with teams, or indeed (as with Coffeys) creating new teams. As ever, if there are any ideas or suggestions as to how we might further improve our approach to would-be quizzers, please do let us know, formally or informally.

Finals Night was again well-attended and it has become clear that combining this event with the presentation of trophies and book tokens is a popular change. The only minor snag is the necessity of returning the cup-winners' trophies immediately after their presentation in order to be engraved! This year, the configuration of the room, whereby the teams and QMs were more centrally located was a great improvement on 2022-2023: there was more light available to assist those asking the questions, and it made it a little easier for the audience to hear questions and answers. One addition which would further improve the audience's experience would be for QMs to repeat the correct answers to questions before moving on the next. This year winners and runners-up were not given the small individual trophies which have for so long accompanied gift tokens. It was discovered, late in the day, that the long-time supplier of trophies and engravings had retired. It was decided that, while we managed to get the engraving done on the large trophies, it was too late to source and have engraved individual trophies. Instead, a further £5 was added to each of the book tokens. This may be regarded as a popular change, which could become permanent. The Committee will be consulting teams on their views during the 2024-2025 season.

Here is a well-worn theme. There is no such thing as the perfect quiz and all opinions are subjective. But, for what it is worth, the Chair's view is that in 2023-2024 there were a fair number of very good quizzes, a majority of perfectly serviceable ones, and a very few which were below par. All those who set quizzes should read and take on board the very useful and comprehensive advice in the Guidelines for Question Setters. Also, setters should be very careful **not** to set questions which could have the capacity to offend. This matter will be discussed later in this evening's meeting.



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My role as Chair is made infinitely less onerous by the help and support I receive from the Committee and in particular from the three officers - John as Secretary, Janice as Treasurer and Ian as Administrator. The Gordian Knot of **how** teams pay their £45 entry fee has been well and truly sliced apart, and the Treasurer will no doubt say more about this later. John's increasing involvement with the IT side of things is a great relief, since it is assisting Ian with some of his many tasks and duties. In addition, my thanks to John for his formidable ability, as minute-taker, to follow and condense my ramblings during Committee meetings. Finally, Ian remains the beating heart of the LCQL to whom we all owe a considerable debt of gratitude. My thanks to him.

Richard Hitchings

Chair LCQL

2.vi.2024



Appendix 2

Secretary's Report for 2023-2024

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 2023 - 2024

The season started on 25th September 2023, it was played over a 22-week League season plus 5 Pool Weeks, Quarterfinals, Semi-finals and Finals. 30 teams were involved, split into 3 divisions comprising 10 teams each.

The playing season ended on 20th May 2024 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: Gregson A

Division 2 - Winners: Skerton Liberal Club; Runners-up: Golden Lion B

Division 3 - Winners: Fox & Goose A; Runners-up: Gregson B

Dennis Wigham – Winners: Boot & Shoe B; Runners-up: George & Dragon

Tony Clare - Winners: Old Hall Heysham; Runners-up: Golden Lion A

Nominations for 2024 - 25:

Chair: Richard Hitchings

Secretary: John Pollard

Treasurer: Janice Crossfield

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

One Rule Change/Motion was submitted.

Proposed rule change to Section B, 12(a):

"It is proposed that there should no longer be a requirement for a 50p fee to accompany formal objections to the Committee".

29 existing teams have re-registered for the 2024-25 Season. Tite & Locke B have not re-registered.

We also welcome a new team for next season. Coffeys, 145 Lancaster Road, Morecambe will play in Division 3. Except for its captain, none of the players have any quiz league experience.



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, which they have been for some considerable time.

John R Pollard
Secretary



Appendix 3

Treasurer's Report

At the end of the 2023-24 season, I am pleased to report a profit of £234.33 over the year.

Our opening balance was £1,608.54 and our closing balance is £1,842.87 (Lloyds Bank = £1,759.35 + Treasurer's float = £83.52).

Our total income for the season was £1,338.06, of which £1,260.00 came from league fees for season 2023-24 and £45.00 for league fees paid in advance for 2024-25 season by a new team).

Our expenditure this season totalled £1,103.73.

Our largest items of expenditure were vouchers for prize winners in our League, Cup and Pairs competitions (£915.00), stationery (£66.88), our annual website fees (£57.46) and trophy engraving (£22.50).

Photocopying costs reimbursed to question setters totalled £41.89. This works out at £5.99 for each quiz charged for. We thank those teams and individuals who made no charge.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that, as promised at last year's AGM, we have now moved from the Skipton Building Society and have opened an account with Lloyds Bank. This new account offers the facility of collecting annual membership subscriptions by bank transfer, which is proving more convenient both for the committee and for our teams. 18 of our 29 teams chose to pay by this method this season and all subs were received by the October deadline.

I should like to thank all the committee for their help again this year, especially for their assistance in setting up the new account.

Janice Crossfield (Treasurer)
LCQL