

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Updated Tuesday 27 September 2016

Held on Thursday 22 September 2016 at HMRUFC

Teams represented: Alexandra, HMRUFC, Little Horse & Farrier, Printers, Railway, Tiviot, Sun and Castle. Traveller's Call. Railway Fliers, Star,

Apologies: Fingerpost, Tame Valley, Horse & Farrier, Hatters Arms, Smart Italics,

1. 2015 AGM Minutes

The [minutes of the 2015 AGM](#) were approved.

2. Election of Committee

The [committee](#) was re-elected for the 2016–17 season.

3. Financial matters

- a) The [accounts for 2015–2016](#) were approved. A £50 charity donation from last season that remained unallocated will be given to Saint Ann's Hospice.
- b) It was agreed to keep the subscription fee at £35 for 2016–17. Any teams yet to pay their subs should do so as soon as possible.

4. Changes of venue

The team formerly known as the Bulls Head has a new home for 2016–2017 and will now be known as the [Hatters Arms](#).

The Little Jack Horner will become the second team based at the Horse & Farrier in Gatley and will be known as the [Little Horse & Farrier](#).

5. 2015–16 Season

- a) The 2015–16 [final league placings](#) and [Cup and Plate results](#) were confirmed.
- b) The Printers and Railway Fliers are relegated to the B Division for 2016–17 and will be replaced in the A Division by the Bulls Head and Tame Valley.

6. 'Non-domestic' competitions

- a) Stockport's representatives in the 2016–2017 WIST Champions Cup will be: Travellers Call, Smart Italics, Railway (a.k.a. Lokomotiv Stöckpört) and Alexandra. The first round will take place on **Wednesday** 9 November 2016.
- b) Stockport's representatives in the 2016–2017 A-Trophy will be: Tiviot, HMRUFC, Printers and Railway Fliers. The first round will take place on **Wednesday** 9 November 2016.
- c) We will need to provide questions for these additional competitions. Rather than the usual handful of volunteers it would be nice to get others involved, ideally teams

taking part in these competitions and especially those that have had something of a 'free ride' over the last few years when it comes to question setting.

7. Number of teams/format for 2016–2017 season

- a) Since the meeting it has come to light that HMCC have decided to drop out of the league, so the format for 2016–2017 will be an eight-team A Division and seven-team B Division and there will also be two knockout qualifying groups of eight and seven teams. Unfortunately the fixtures for the seven-team groups contain a significant number of byes; this is unavoidable but less-than-ideal, so a re-think is probably needed on the format for the 2017–2018 season. As a result of the above some teams will be required to set more than one set of league questions. Teams should check the [question-setting rota](#) carefully.

8. Other items

a) Fixtures

Many teams have found previous seasons a bit 'stop-start' when the knockout qualifying fixtures are interspersed regularly amongst league matches. Therefore in 2016–2017 the fixtures will be 'grouped' to allow more runs of consecutive league or knockout matches.

b) Question format

A proposal from Tame Valley was considered:

Tame Valley would like to propose that the format of questions be changed to a system that does not involve pairing. We think that the advantages of pairing, if there are any, are far outweighed by the disadvantages. Writing paired questions is much harder to do: you often find a good question and can't find an appropriate pair. Paired questions cut the number of topics covered by half and if a team knows one answer they are likely to know the pair. Teams answering second often have a period of time to second-guess the pairing and come up with alternative answers. The rest of the format, i.e. two written rounds with an optional theme in the first of these, is fine.

Following discussion the proposal was rejected (an 8-3 vote), although there was sympathy with the points raised by Tame Valley. It was also agreed to remind question setters to follow the guidelines carefully and not 'telegraph' the answer to the second question by picking an obvious pair. Teams are also encouraged to pair questions more loosely; for example a *Coronation Street* question could be paired with a question on any other TV programme rather than another *Corrie* question. Similarly a question on football could be paired with a question on rugby or tennis under the broader category of sport.

9. Dates for 2016–2017 season

The following dates were agreed for the 2016–2017 season:

- First matches: Thursday 6 October 2016
- Christmas Quiz: Thursday 22 December 2016
- Re-start after Christmas: Thursday 5 January 2017
- Presentation night: Thursday 18 May 2017

10. Any other business

- a) An alternative venue to the Sun & Castle will be sought for the knockout finals night on Thursday 11 May 2017.
- b) A vote of thanks was made in recognition of the committee's work to administer the league.