

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Held on Thursday 20 September 2018 at Heaton Sports Club

Teams represented: Alexandra, Fingerpost, Fiveways, Hatters Arms, HMRUFC, James Watts, Little Horse & Farrier, Railway, Railway Fliers, Smart Alex, Sun & Castle, Tiviot, Travellers Call

Apologies/absent: Horse & Farrier, Tame Valley

1. 2017 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved.

2. Election of Committee

The committee was re-elected for the 2018–2019 season.

Andy Murray has stepped down as Treasurer. The league would like to thank Andy for his many years of service. Dave Badley will act as Treasurer, pending the appointment of a long-term replacement.

3. Finances

(a) The accounts for 2017–2018 were approved.

(b) The team subscription fee for 2018–19 is £35. It will be raised to £40 from the start of the 2019–20 season, see item 5 (a) below.

4. 2018–19 Season

(a) We have been joined by a new team this season: The Fiveways (go south on the A6, at the Rising Sun in Hazel Grove take the right fork (A523) towards Poynton and Macclesfield and it's a few hundred yards on your right). They will take the place of The Printers, who will drop out of the league for 'at least one season'.

As we have the same number of teams we will use the same league and knockout formats as in 2017–18, i.e. eight teams in the A Division and seven in the B Division.

The James Watts are (and The Printers would have been) relegated to the B Division for 2018–2019. HMRUFC and The Hatters Arms are promoted to the A Division. The Printers have effectively been replaced in the B Division by the Fiveways.

(b) The 2017–2018 final league placings and Cup and Plate results were confirmed.

(c) The team formerly known as Smart Italics will have a new name and venue for the 2018-19 season. They will return to their former home at the Alexandra in

Edgeley (ground-sharing with the Alexandra team) and will revert to the name 'Smart Alex'.

- (d) The Hatters Arms is currently 'between landlords' so it is *possible* that the quiz team may have to find a new venue. This will be confirmed by around 4 October, but to avoid any possible complications their first couple of games will be away from home. Likewise the James Watts are looking for a new home (as noise issues make their current venue unsuited to quizzing), so they will be away for the first couple of weeks.
- (e) Stockport's representatives in the 2018–2019 WIST Champions Cup will be the Alexandra, Smart Alex, Travellers Call and the Railway (under their 'euro-pseudonym' of *Lokomotiv Stöckpört*).
- (f) Our teams in the second tier inter-league competition, the Lowly Grail are the Tiviot, James Watts and HMRUFC (as a replacement for Tame Valley, who can't play on Wednesdays). The Printers (the current holders) would have been Stockport's fourth representative; their place has gone to the next best-placed team, Hatters Arms.
- (g) In 2018–19 it is the Stockport League's turn to set questions for the 'European' competitions in (e) and (f). We're looking for volunteers—see item 5 (b)—and whilst we'd really like to see some new setters, offers from our regular 'panel' will still be very gratefully received. John Palmer (Railway Fliers) has very kindly offered to set the questions for the quarter-finals of both European competitions, which will be played on Wednesday 14 November.
- (h) The traditional curtain-raiser to the new season, a friendly against a representative team from our friends in the Withington Quiz League, will be played next Wednesday, 26 September. The Stockport squad that will attempt to retain the WIST Trophy will comprise players from the Railway, Smart Alex, Alexandra and the Railway Fliers. Before we can retain the trophy we first need to find it, as it's gone missing since we won it last September. If it doesn't turn up (soon) a replacement will have to be purchased using league funds.

5. Webmaster's Report

(a) New website

TalkTalk discontinued their website hosting service in August, meaning we had to register a new address for the league website. Whereas the old website was hosted free (as part of my personal ISP package), we now have to pay for the hosting and the name of the new one. We've paid £40 to register the website address for two years and cover the first year's hosting. Next (and every) August we'll have to pay a hosting fee of around £60 and from August 2020 we'll also have to pay an additional £5 p.a.

to keep ownership of the new website address. League funds are healthy enough to cover this year's costs, but from the start of the 2019–20 season we'll have to raise the annual team subscription fee to £40 to cover the additional annual expenditure of around £65. This will be the first subs increase since 2013 and £40 is still cheaper than most UK leagues, e.g. Rochdale £70, London £90 (in 2013), Wrexham £60, Lancaster £45 and Kircaldy £40 plus £10 per month.

(b) **Doing Your Bit**

It may come as a shock to some league members, but there is more to the quiz league than just turning up to answer questions for a couple of hours on a Thursday night. The committee and a handful of others willingly do all the behind-the-scenes stuff to keep the league running, but it would be appreciated if someone other than the usual suspects were to offer to help occasionally. We really need more people/teams to get involved and contribute in several ways, namely:

Question setting

When it comes to question-setting for quizzes such as the inter-league competitions/friendlies, Christmas and Presentation Nights nearly all players have enjoyed a free ride for years, by relying on a very small pool of volunteers to do all the question setting. More than once we've come very close to having no question-setter and therefore no quiz. In not unrelated news, we're looking for question-setters for the 2018–19 inter-league competitions (WIST Champions Cup and Lowly Grail) to be played in November, February and April. At the meeting John Palmer (Railway Fliers) offered to set the questions for the quarter-finals of both competitions, which will be played on Wednesday 14 November. Thanks John. We are still looking for setters for the semi-finals and finals.

Alice Walker and Haydn Thompson (Railway) have kindly volunteered to set and ask the questions for this year's Christmas Quiz. We still need a QM for this season's Presentation Night (23 May).

Attendance at the Christmas Quiz and Presentation Night

A lot of work goes into arranging these events and many of our teams, invariably the same ones, choose not to take part. It was agreed to keep the raffle, but to speed things up on the night the prizes will now be 'grouped' (e.g. first prize six bottles of wine, second prize four bottles etc) and there will be a maximum of four prizes.

AGM/Registration meeting attendance

All teams are **supposed** to attend the AGM/Registration meeting. The AGM is your best chance to influence how the league works and it's disappointing that, historically, many of our teams haven't bothered to attend. Recent reminders seem to have had an effect and this year's meeting was well attended (thirteen of fifteen teams).

To encourage attendance requests for byes and/or question-setting on specific dates

may now only be made in person at the AGM; they will no longer be accepted by email (or via a third party at the AGM).

(c) **Job opportunity**

We have filled a job vacancy that involves responsibility for questions, specifically:

- tidying and checking/correcting questions (for **all** matches) before they are published on the website.
- tracking down questions that the setters fail to submit.

The job comes with our standard hourly rate of pay: UK minimum wage minus £7.83. John Palmer (Railway Fliers) has kindly agreed to take on the role.

Arranging question-setting for all games will remain the responsibility of the webmaster, as (obviously) will publishing of questions on the website.

6. Proposals from teams

(a) **Themes in written rounds (proposed by Smart Alex)**

It was agreed that, with immediate effect, the use of a theme/connection in the second written round will no longer be 'forbidden'. Question-setters may use themes in one, both or neither of the written rounds; our question-setting [guidelines](#) have been updated accordingly.

(b) **Order of pairing (proposed by Smart Alex)**

A proposal to implement 'reverse-pairing' of questions in Rounds 1 and 3 of league matches (i.e. Q1 paired with Q30, Q2 with 29, etc.) was withdrawn. However, all question-setters are reminded of the importance of making sure that questions are paired correctly (so that each team gets one half of a pair) and fairly (so that neither team receives the 'easier' half of most/all pairs – there shouldn't **be** an easier half, if the pairs are balanced correctly). Also, as already stated in our question-setting [guidelines](#), teams should **not** be able to predict the second half of a pair having heard the first half.

7. Dates for the new season

The following dates will be used in the 2018–2019 season:

- Pre-season friendly v Withington: Wednesday 26 September 2018
- First league matches: Thursday 4 October 2018 (questions by the Railway)
- Christmas Quiz: Thursday 20 December 2018
- Re-start after Christmas: Thursday 3 January 2019
- Presentation night: Thursday 23 May 2019
- 'European' nights: 14 November; 27 February; 24 April (**all Wednesdays**)

8. Any other business

The Fingerpost raised the point that whenever we have an odd number of teams there are always fewer teams in the B Division, whose teams 'suffer' with the resulting higher number of byes. In the interests of fairness, it was agreed that if we have an odd number of teams for the 2019–2020 season we will 're-balance' the two divisions, so that the A Division fixtures contain the higher number of byes. This would require the relegation of three teams (and promotion of two) at the end of the 2018-19 season.

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