

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

To be held at 8.30 p.m. on Thursday 26 September 2024 at HMRUFC

1. Dave Badley

In tribute to our much missed Chairman, and in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the history of the quiz league, the League winners' trophy will be re-named as the Dave Badley Trophy. Teams are requested to contribute an additional £10 on top of their subs for the purchase of a new trophy in Dave's memory.

2. League Committee

Re-election of the current committee for the 2024–2025 season.

Mike Wagstaffe – Website administrator

Greg Spiller, Alice Walker – Question papers

Barrie Atkinson, John Palmer – Committee members

Election/appointment of:

- New Chairman/Chairwoman
- New Treasurer
- New (fourth) signatory to the Vernon Building Society account

Nominations for the above should be submitted by Monday 16 September. It would seem sensible for the new Treasurer and the new signatory to be the same person.

3. Financial Matters

Subs for the 2024–25 season will remain at a bargain £40 per team.

Once appointed there are some immediate duties for the new Treasurer:

- Provide a financial statement on the Vernon Building Society account.
- Investigate the feasibility of moving our financial transactions on-line rather than the current practice of money being paid in/taken out at a Vernon branch office.
- Reimburse the webmaster £94.78 for payments already made for website hosting (£66 for one year) and domain name registration (£28.78 for two years).

4. Last Season (2023–2024)

The following are confirmed as winners/runners up in 2023–2024:

- League winners – Smart Alex
- League runners-up – Railway
- Cup winners - Railway
- Cup runners up – Wandering Star
- Plate winners – Tiviot
- Plate runners up – Alexandra
- Christmas Quiz – Wandering Star
- Presentation Night Quiz – Wandering Star
- WIST Champions Cup – Prodigals (WithQuiz)
- Lowly Grail – Albert (WithQuiz)
- Pre-season friendly vs WithQuiz – Stockport League

5. 2024–25 Season

(a) Number of teams

It is assumed that we will have the same ten teams as last season: Alexandra, Fingerpost, HMRUFC, Horse & Farrier, Railway, Railway Fliers, Smart Alex, Sun & Castle, Tiviot and Wandering Star. A team's participation in the 2024–25 season **must** be confirmed—either in person or by email—by the close of the AGM. We are unable to accept any late entries.

(b) Venues

Following the closure of the Railway the pub's two resident teams (Railway and Tiviot) are moving to pastures new. Details of their new venues will be shared as soon as they are known. HMRUFC have confirmed that they will be playing at their new home of West Heaton Tennis Club for the entirety of the 2024–25 season.

(c) League programme

Assuming we have ten teams there will be a league programme of 22 weeks, with 18 matches and four byes for each team, i.e. no change from last season.

(d) Knockout competitions

The number of teams (ten) does not lend itself to a 'normal' knockout competition format, with many teams playing only one or two matches. From this season the knockout will comprise two (randomly drawn) qualifying groups of five teams. Each team will play all other teams in its group once. The winner of each group will progress to the Cup final, whilst the group runners-up will contest the Plate final. Under the new format every team will play a minimum of four and a maximum of five knockout matches. As usual KO games will be handicapped, based on average league scores from the 2023–24 season.

(e) WIST Champions Cup

The new season will see a number of changes to the inter-league 'European' competitions against the Withington Quiz League. Due to lack of interest within the Stockport League the second-tier Lowly Grail competition has been scrapped, so only the WIST Champions' Cup will be played, featuring last season's top four from both leagues. The Stockport League will be represented by Smart Alex, Railway, Alexandra and Tiviot. If any of these teams are unable/unwilling to take part please let us know **ASAP** so that we can find a replacement. This season the first round and semi-finals will be played on **Thursdays**, rather than the traditional Wednesdays, which means that the dates of these matches (5 Dec and 6 Feb) will be quiz-free for any teams not taking part. The final will be on **Wednesday** 7 May. In recognition of the fact that the WithQuiz-format rounds can drag on a bit due to the lack of a time limit to answer, QMs will be instructed to be much stricter in hurrying players along if they are taking too long to answer. It is the Stockport League's turn to set the questions this season, so we are looking for volunteers – it would be particularly good if we were to find setters other than the 'usual suspects'. Question setting is *not* restricted to the teams taking part in the competition.

(f) **Trophies**

The league spends a significant amount of its annual income on silverware, be it purchasing individual trophies for winners/runners up, maintenance/replacement of existing team trophies or engraving. In some years this has been as much as 40% of annual revenue. It is proposed that from now on we have trophies only for the winners of the League, Cup and Plate, i.e. we will 'retire' the runners-up trophies for all three competitions. Trophies for the Christmas and Presentation Night quizzes will be retained as they were donated by teams in memory of former team-mates. It is also proposed that we no longer award individual trophies (or gift tokens) for any competition.

(g) **Question setting**

For league matches each team will set questions on two of its four bye weeks. Teams are reminded of their responsibility to deliver a question paper to each venue hosting a match that week. On the two weeks when all teams are in action (i.e. no byes) the questions will be produced by an external setter.

We are looking for volunteers to set and present the Christmas quiz and the end-of-season Presentation Night quiz. Please get in touch if you'd like to help.

Barrie Atkinson has kindly volunteered to set our share of the questions for the pre-season friendly against WithQuiz.

In the knockout competition, for each round of qualifying group games the two teams with a bye that week will set half-a-quiz each. As usual the questions for the Cup final will be set by the two Plate finalists, and *vice versa*.

(h) **Charity donations**

It is proposed that we change how we make contributions to charity. Currently the winners and runners-up of the League, Cup and Plate, and the winners of the Christmas and the Presentation Night quizzes are awarded a sum (typically £50) to donate to a charity of their choice. Whilst any donation to charity is obviously a good thing, to charities of the size of Cancer Research or RNLI (for example) these sums are a drop in the ocean. It is therefore proposed that we pool these individual donations and make one donation to a small, and ideally local, charity where a sum of a few hundred pounds could make a *real* difference. We would choose a charity at the start of each season.

(i) **Pre-season friendly**

The pre-season friendly against our friends from the Withington Quiz League will be played on Thursday 3 October at the [Parrswood Inn](#), starting at 8.30 p.m. The Stockport squad will comprise players from last season's top three: Smart Alex, Railway and Alexandra. Spectators are welcome - and you might even get to play!

(j) **Venues for 2024-25**

A few things to be aware of regarding venues for the new season:

The Tiviot and Flying Horse will now be based at the Sun & Castle.

The former Sun & Castle team will now play home games at the Swan With Two Necks on Princess Street, as will the Railway.

The Horse & Farrier team's new home is The Griffin in Heald Green.

HMRUFC (who returned temporarily to their former home towards the end of last season) will play at West Heaton Tennis Club for the entirety of the 2024-25 season.

6. Dates for the 2024–2025 season

Pre-season friendly v WithQuiz: Thursday 3 October 2024 (Parrswood Inn)

First matches: Thursday 10 October 2024

Christmas Quiz: Thursday 19 December 2024 (QM and venue TBC)

Knockout finals: Thursday 15 May 2025

Presentation Night: Thursday 22 May 2025 (QM and venue TBC)

'European' nights: Thu 5 Dec; Thu 6 Feb; Wed 7 May (free nights for non-participants)

7. Any other business