

Minutes of the 148th meet of the BPC held at Headquarters March 9th 1915.

Mr Snodgrass in the chair surrounded by following members Sam Weller, Stiggins, Lowton, Bantam, Bob Sawyer, Pott, Stubbins, Job Trotter, Dodson, Ben Allen, Sjt Snubbin and Alfred Jingle.

The meet was opened at 8.35 and the minutes of the 147th meet were read and passed.

Apologies were received from Mr Pickwick and Tony Weller regretting their inability to attend. A letter was also read from Mr Walters, Editor of the Manchester City News" expressing his thanks to the club for the kind hospitality extended to him at the Previous meet.

Job Trotter asked Mr Snodgrass to accept on behalf of the members a framed copy of the Manchester City news report of the 147th meet a gift of the sec. Mr Snodgrass in accepting the same expressed his and the members pleasure and promised it a prominent position in the Pickwick room. Jingle dolefully responded and announced that Mr Pott had also a presentation to make to each member, this consisted of a specially struck off copy of the said report. A vote of thanks was proposed, seconded and supported to both members for their gifts.

A rather long discussion took place re a deputation visiting the "Dickens fellowship" but after several members had explained their previous experiences re fees the matter was dropped.

Bob Sawyer proposed, and Dodson seconded that the club have the annual picnic, the date fixed being Saturday August 21st, this was put to the meet and carried. The following members signified their intentions of attending same, Messer Sam Weller, Stiggins, Lowten, Bantam, Bob Sawyer, Pott, Stubbins, Job Trotter, Dodson, Ben Allen, Sjt Snubbin and Alfred Jingle.

The selection of the picnic committee was left over until May 4th and also place.

Mr Pott sought information from some of the older members of the club as to what their ideas were when it was first founded. Bob Sawyer replied that it was formed with the idea of creating a bond of friendship between a body who were all or nearly all Broughtonians — to read and study Pickwick papers & which were to be read at the meetings & each member to know & when called upon to give a resume of his own character - but in his (Bob Sawyer's) opinion the club had gradually drifted into simply harmonious gatherings; he mentioned an episode which occurred in the early days of the club when a ramble was organised and an argument took place at a village pub, these experiences were related at the following meet & the members concerned were put upon their trail. Bob Sawyers' explanations was followed by a medley of suggestions & it was evidently decided to commence all future meets at 8 o'clock prompt and half the meet to be devoted to the Pickwick papers and half the meet to harmony.

Mr Lowton proposed, Stiggins seconded, that Mr Pott (official reader) gives a chapter out of the Pickwick Papers at each meet. This was carried unanimously. Mr Pott signifying his willingness to get through his task to the best of his ability in the time (20 minutes) allocated to him.

The toast to absent members was heartily drunk, Mr Pott gave the reading of "Mr Pickwick's visit to Bob Sawyer" in his usually professional style. Mr Snodgrass suggesting that the usual meet be held on St Patricks day March 17th. Jingle proposed, Ben Allen seconded, and Trotter supported that the meet be held - this was carried, and the Sec was instructed to advise all members of same & also extend invitations to friends and advise as special Irish night.

The following members contributed to the harmony of the evening:

Pianoforte selection "still smiling" Job Trotter

Duet "Watchman watch of the night" Trotter and Jingle

Recitation "now a soldier" - original, Mr Snodgrass

Sam Weller "Roll of the drum"-"follow the drum" song.

Bob Sawyer was called upon to assist with the evening harmony — but Bob knowing the depleted state of the club exchequer, exercised his charity by swelling the coffer to the extent of 3.

Job Trotter proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman & Dodson very ably seconded, Mr Snodgrass briefly replied & again reminding the members of the Irish nigh. The Choir rendered The King & thus closed the 148th meet.

During the evening the following fines were imposed:

Bob Sawyer 3, Stiggins 2, Bantam 1, Sjt Stubbins 1; total 7

Alfred Jingle, Snodgrass 17/3/15