

**Minutes of the 1263rd Meeting of the
Manchester Pickwick Club
held at the Moorside Social Club
on 21st September, 2022**

The 1263rd meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club was opened at 7.58 p.m. to a top table which contained Alfred Jingle, Ben Allen and a small spider. The initial thought was that the spider was hoping to become a member knowing that we were short of members at the moment. However, after a short consideration it was decided that the spider wasn't suitable and it was brushed off the table by Jingle in his role as Pickwick.

The meeting then reopened at 8.02 p.m. with all members taking part in a toast to the late Daniel Grummer, one of the longest serving members, who had died in the last month.

The meeting then reopened once more at 8.05 p.m. with the assurance from Pickwick that this opening was for real. He was then reminded that there was a new member due to join the club with the allocated name Job Trotter. The appropriate procedures were followed and Bruce became Job Trotter and thus liable to fines, having first of all been approached by Dodson who demanded his subscription; the only thing Job got out of all this was a free tie!

Whilst all these matters were being dealt with, Dodson had been undermining Pickwick with numerous questions and suggesting Pickwick's integrity was not to be trusted. This resulted in a treble fine for Dodson who suggested that was an example of his suggestion that Pickwick's integrity was questionable.

The meeting continued with Pell pointing out that all the references in our documents to the Queen should be altered to refer to the King — this will be dealt with at the next re-print of the agendas and songs.

Pickwick then requested that all members outline their characters for the benefit of the new member and this was done surprisingly well. Dodson produced a book prepared some years ago by a member which listed all the characters from the book and the chapters in which they appeared. Tom Roker agreed to copy the characters for distribution to the appropriate member.

The P.O.R. & I was about to start when Dr. Slammer took a phone call which required him to go home so the item didn't take place and instead each member put £1 in the Fines Box — they would have been putting money in the Fines Box anyway, this just made them lose their money quicker.

Members dined at 9.15 p.m. to the excellent food prepared by Jingle, with Pell commenting that it was no more than average; he was shortly to embark on a Mediterranean cruise with Jingle so might be lost overboard — watch this space.

The vote of thanks to Pickwick and the Vice Chairman was proposed by Rev. Stiggins who said that despite all the efforts of the Chairman and his Vice to spoil everything,

the meeting had been very good. Because Jingle had been Pickwick before he should have been better and the Vice Chairman was probably the worst ever even after allowances because of his newness in the post. The sooner the club can replace Pickwick the better but woe betide us if Pell is the next to take the chair.

Seconding the vote of thanks, Dodson said he was pleased Job Trotter had joined and hoped he had enjoyed the meeting. We do need to bring in more members and it was up to the younger members to introduce their friends — most of the older members haven't got any friends, they've all fallen off the perch. Anyway, we had all enjoyed the meeting and the officers weren't as bad as painted.

Good Neet Owd Friends was sung as badly as ever and was followed by an equally unmusical rendition of the National Anthem.

The Raffle raised £4.00 whilst the fines box contained £11.42.