

Minutes of the 1264th Meeting of the Manchester  
Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on  
19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

At 7.55 p.m. Dodson advised members that the raffle table was two prizes short - nobody else had noticed this so there was some discussion about the importance of this omission which ended with members being reminded about their obligation to bring a raffle prize to keep the club in funds.

The meeting itself opened at 8.01 p.m. and after the usual opening ceremonies Mivins advised members that he had recently attended a local history meeting which covered the activities of a number of eighteenth-century gentlemen's clubs which were set up and operated in local hostelries in what was the centre of Manchester in those days. Manchester was growing rapidly in those days and many of the businessmen were setting up their companies in the area bounded by Market Street, High Street and Shudehill (where the Arndale Centre now stands), then the outer limit of the town. Lunchtimes became a bit of a bun fight with latecomers losing out, so groups started to form at particular hostelries, notably at the Piccadilly end of Market Street. These Groups established rules of behaviour identical to our club rules, particularly in relation to fines, although they usually involved purchase of drinks for other members of the group or entertaining with a song.

Members then discussed the possibility of a Christmas dinner on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> December and decided on the latter with Jingle and Ben Allen to arrange.

A further Rule 8 followed with Jingle and Pell telling Members about their recent cruise and showing some photos taken on board. Pell said there was nothing more boring than somebody showing photos during a meeting and complained about living out of a suitcase. Jingle advised that he was travelling to Stockton-on-Tees on the following day to meet a lady from the cruise but his lips were sealed when further questions were asked.

Members were then reminded about Grummer going to visit an earlier Alfred Jingle who was hospitalised in the old Salford Royal Hospital on Chapel Street. Having reached the appropriate ward, Jingle was nowhere to be seen but one of the nurses said he might be having treatment but was probably in the Day Room. That visit also proved to be abortive so Grummer decided to cut his losses and go to the Black Horse for a drink and there he found Jingle at the bar in his pyjamas!

Returning to the meeting, it was realised that Dr. Slammer was absent so the P.O.R & I could not go ahead so all members were invited to put £1 in the fines box on the understanding that Slammer would be fined for absence at the next meeting.

On this occasion Jingle had not been able to prepare the meal but instead had ordered fish and chips for all from a local chip shop; these went down a treat.

Returning to business after the meal, members considered whether or not to have a mid-week get-together in the new year but decided to defer a decision until the November meeting.

Because of the time taken to collect, distribute and eat the fish and chips the meeting was becoming extended so the rest of the agenda was rushed through until the only things were the closing items.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Ben Allen who said that the meeting had been particularly boring and that the gavelling was too friendly, obviously since the chairman and the vice chairman had been on a cruise together but he wasn't casting aspersions about that. Mivins seconded the vote of thanks by agreeing with most of Ben's comments but said he didn't think it was as good as Ben had suggested. The high point had been the fish and chips and he thought praise for that item lay with the chip shop and not the chairman — he added that even in that exercise Pickwick had needed assistance!

As usual Good Neet Owd Friends was sung as badly as ever and was followed by an equally unmusical rendition of the National anthem; whether there will be any improvement now we have a King in charge remains to be seen but is most unlikely.

The Raffle raised £3.50 whilst the fines box contained £6.94.