

Minutes of the 1266th Meeting of the Manchester
Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on
15th February, 2023

After the delayed start to the last meeting due to the late arrival of the vice-chairman (which he insisted wasn't his fault), the 1266th meeting of the club was also delayed due to the absence of Pickwick himself when members were advised that Pickwick's lady friend had broken her leg in an accident and needed assistance. Members were also advised that there was no truth in the rumour that she had fallen downstairs whilst assisting the police (i.e. Pickwick himself) with enquiries.

With Ben Allen in the chair members were then advised that Dr Slammer intended to submit his resignation due to the need to look after his sick wife. However the members refused to accept Slammer's resignation and agreed instead to allow Slammer to take a sabbatical pending a possible improvement in her condition; instead it was suggested the club accept the resignation of Slammers accordion.

A Rule 8 followed when Pell told members about a trip to Austria at his nephew's expense when the party of 4 were about to board the aircraft but were then escorted back to the booking desk because of a problem with the boarding pass. Dodson continued this line of thought with a similar tale about his granddaughter reaching the security desk only to find she had taken her sister's passport instead of her own and thus delayed her departure until the following day. He said on a subsequent trip he and Mrs Dodson had found two people occupying their seats when the staff discovered the occupiers were actually on the wrong aircraft!

Mivins said he hadn't had problems of that sort but some years ago when returning from the continent there had been a dock strike with no porters available so all the holidaymakers were forced to carry their luggage about three-quarters of a mile to the customs shed with the more able passengers having to help the less able.

The meeting continued in its usual manner until it was realised that the absence of Pickwick meant the absence of food but the substitute Pickwick's offer to visit the local chip shop was rejected and members agreed to go hungry.

The P.O.R & I was presented by Slammer in his usual way and was taken from Chapter 3 of the book. Naturally all were fined whether their answers were correct or otherwise and Slammer was invited to make a donation because of his poor presentation.

The meeting then discussed the possibility of a summer outing and Ben Allen said he would make enquiries and report back to the next meeting. He was then taken to task by the vice-chairman for failing to gavel and thus confusing the meeting about which item was being discussed.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read with difficulty by Mivins due to the subdued lighting in the room, it being suggested that he should have had the foresight to bring a torch — the appropriate fine was levied.

Due to the absence of food, the meeting was proceeding at a rapid pace with the result that the 9.00 o'clock toast was taken as early as 9.40.

There followed the raffle which all members are aware is invariably a fiddle by Dodson and this raffle was no exception except for the assistance of Slammer to confuse the members; Slammer was subsequently rewarded by being the winner of the first prize, a win which surprised nobody.

The vote of thanks to Pickwick and the vice-chairman was proposed by Dodson who wore his Treasurers hat by suggesting that both this and the last meeting had missed the opportunity to levy far more fines to the detriment of club funds. As well as the poor showing by both Pickwick and his vice-chairman the P.O.R & I had been quite impossible to understand due to Slammers mumbling and Mivin's squinting whilst attempting to read the minutes he had written suggested he had learned nothing during his many hours spent at night school.

Seconding the vote of thanks said he had enjoyed the meeting as he always did. This was a fantastic club and despite Dodson's comments he was pleased that his rendering (and I use that word correctly) of the P.O.R & I had always increased the weight of the fines box. He hadn't expected to be at the meeting having submitted his resignation but enjoyed it immensely and appreciated the members replacement of his resignation with a sabbatical.

Once again the rendering of Good Neet Owd Friends was as bad as ever and was followed by an equally unmusical rendition of the National anthem which must have had our new King wondering whether it was a good idea to accept the job.

The Raffle raised €4.00 whilst the fines box contained €8.60.