

Minutes of the 1274th Meeting of the Manchester
Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club
on 18th September, 2024

Although numbers were only small, the 1274th meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club commenced at 8.02 p.m. probably so that the new Mr Pickwick could impose his authority by fining anybody who arrived late. Unfortunately nobody did, so Pickwick was left to find other ways of raising cash. Dodson immediately provided the opportunity by reporting Mivins for discussing Pickwick business outside the club.

The Vice-chairman being absent due to work commitments, Fogg was asked to occupy the chair below the nick and then it was suggested that Pickwick himself should introduce the members characters for the benefit of newer members; unfortunately, this resulted in an argument about who was involved in the duel which was to be fought, some members thinking that one of the participants was a Lieutenant Tappleton but Mivins pointed out that Tappleton was a second and not an actual participant. Eventually the argument was settled for the time being.

The next problem was raised by Dodson who reported that the Fines Box at the last meeting had contained a 20p coin from Jersey and that Jingle regularly visited that island to see relatives. Jingle refuted the idea that he was guilty, pointing out that Ben Allen also had interests in that island and that there was a member who was well known as a collector of coins, pointing at Mivins. Annoyed that he should be accused of such an offence, Mivins promptly pointed at Dodson himself as a fellow coin collector. Dodson then suggested that the person who emptied the Fines Box at the last meeting should have noticed that there was a duff coin included and the inquest could have been settled there and then; as it was, the delay meant that the trail had gone cold so the appropriate fine should be levied at the fines officer from the previous meeting. Unfortunately that person was now occupying the post of Mr Pickwick so couldn't be fined and suggestions that a donation could be made were ignored.

Mivins was once again accused of serious misconduct by discussing Pickwick matters outside the club whilst on holiday in Germany, the accuser being Pickwick himself who was equally involved because it was Mrs Pickwick who initiated the conversation whilst in drink. She was trying to tell other members of the party about Mr Pickwick's involvement in the club but couldn't remember his proper Pickwickian name and asked Mivins who, of course, refused to tell her. She got more and more frustrated as time went on, much to the amusement of the other members in the group, particularly Pickwick and Mivins. She knew and could remember the names of other members of the club who were known to the group but couldn't remember Pickwick's name; she even remembered he was the gaoler at the Fleet prison but the actual name remained a mystery. In fact, her knowledge of who was who in the club merited consideration for her appointment as DC at the next AGM!

Having taken the 9.00 p.m. toast at 9.55 p.m. it was time for the raffle which was bent, as usual. On this occasion Dodson, who complained he was confused, was assisted by Mr Fogg who, in turn, was obviously being coached by Dodson in the art of bent raffles, but hadn't quite got the hang of it. For example, Mivins discovered he had been given two tickets, one stuck to the back of the other. Mr Fogg should be

reminded that damp tickets do tend to stick together. Mr Fogg's failure as an apprentice was clear when Dodson's ticket was the last one chosen.

Once again, the subject of the Summer Outing was raised and Jingle said he had been ill, hence the delay, but was working towards an afternoon get together, probably at a pub in Manchester in late October or early November. The cost of hiring a canal boat had proved to be prohibitive so that suggestion was no longer under consideration.

Jingle was then asked to propose the vote of thanks to the chairman and his vice and commenced by suggesting that there had been no structure to the meeting despite the grounding both should have received whilst he had occupied the chair. They had obviously learned nothing, and whilst the vice-chairman was a relatively new member, his association with Dodson didn't bode well for the future. Seconding the motion, Ben Allen said that both members had done a good job considering their relative inexperience, the gavelling had been much improved, and despite the vice chairman's problems with the raffle, there was little could be said against their first experience in office. He felt that the highlight of the evening had, once again, been the refreshments provided by Jingle.

The rendering of Good Neet Owd Friends had once again deteriorated and even the National anthem was, to put it politely, a bit off key.

The raffle raised £3.00 whilst the fines box contained £8.80.