

Minutes of the 1275th Meeting of the Manchester  
Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on  
15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

All members being present on time, the meeting opened promptly at 8.03 p.m. It was pointed out that in order to commence promptly it should have started some 3 minutes earlier but Pickwick claimed that the clock in the meeting room was 3 minutes fast and fined those who had failed to realise that fact.

Pickwick then realised that the vice chairman was in a state of undress and rightly fined him for failing to wear a tie.

Further fines followed when members questioned a number of Pickwick's decisions and Dodson was seen to be happy about the weight of the fines box, so much so that when Jem Wardle offered to pay his subscription, he was told that he had already paid at the last meeting.

There was then a long discussion about the club's website, most of which went well over the head of the minute writer, the principal contenders being Pickwick himself, Jem Wardle and Mr Fogg, all of whom can do joined-up writing. It appeared that the original website set up by former member Steve Robinson, some 20 years ago, and maintained by him ever since was now out of date and required some adjustment. Dodson had within recent days paid to have the site renewed for the next 2 years and the invoice for this was given to Jem Wardle a couple of days later in the absence of Mr Pickwick. No doubt the more ignorant members, including the minute writer, will be informed of progress at some future date.

In recent months the refreshments had been provided by Jingle, but on this occasion he was likely to be delayed so suggested that chip butties be obtained from the Chinese Chippy next door and this was approved by all. Minimal cutlery was available but working on the basis that fingers were made before forks, the meal progressed favourably (and may be repeated, who knows). Mivins commented that we were in good company because a chauffeur friend regularly was ordered by the head of the Timpson company to collect chip butties for executive site meetings.

Members then discussed a scandalous document purporting to describe the qualities of individual members, Dodson and Fogg being particularly incensed by their description as 'unscrupulous' even though all members know that to be correct. Other members felt that their characters had been unfairly treated and blamed Pickwick for the document. Pickwick claimed that he had merely repeated descriptions of the characters from other documents and pointed that as Pickwick he could do no wrong so any further discussion was not necessary.

There followed the raffle and once again Dodson's ticket was first out of the bag. He still claims that there is no fiddle although the ticket was chosen by his partner Fogg on this occasion.

There only remained the vote of thanks to Mr Pickwick and the vice chairman which was carried out by Jingle who said that the meeting was disgraceful. It could have

started on time as all members were present but was late despite Pickwick's claim that the clock was wrong. Control throughout the meeting had been absent and input from the vice chairman, apart from gavelling, had been nil. He particularly condemned the document questioning member's integrity and felt that Pickwick should be censored for its issue.

The vote of thanks was seconded by Captain Boldwig who felt the meeting had been excellent and stressed how much he enjoyed membership of the club. Pickwick's performance had been exemplary, his only mistake being to fine the vice chairman for his deshabille when a warning would have sufficed.

Good Neet Owd Friends and the National Anthem were butchered, as usual.

The fines box contained £4.60 whilst the raffle raised £4.50.