

## MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

### MEETING NO. 997 – 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1977

- Item 1        In the absence of Mr Pickwick, alias Jingle, Sgt Snubbin acting as Mr Pickwick opened the meeting with Mr Nupkin acting as Vice.
- Item 2
- Item 3        Introduction of guests, interrupted by Mr Blotton and Mr Dodson; Mr Pickwick and Mr Nupkin having an open discussion as to who decided Sgt Snubbin and Mr Nupkin should chair the meeting. Mr Blotton was on form with some very critical remarks and his usual wit, only to find Mr. Nupkin was every bit as sharp and even wittier. This got the meeting off to a somewhat rowdy start. Mr. Vice on his feet asking P.O.C, did the Landlord of this establishment sell beer, as one or two of the members and guests had cracked lips through lack of liquid refreshment.
- Item 4        DC Joe the Fat Boy introduces members to guests. Joe the Fat Boy gives a brief resume of Pickwick characters to guests, to which Mr. Pott took umbrage on one or two points, only to be brought to order by Mr. Vice for criticising Joe the Fat Boy's splendid interpretation. A member helped Nat Winkle to his feet who complained that Mr. Pott, together with Mr. Pickwick, should be fined for (a) not fining Pott and (b) for letting the meeting deteriorate. Nat Winkle was fined twice — once for being late and once for having interrupted the meeting.
- Item 5        Toast to visitors
- Item 6        Toast to absent members
- Item 7        Correspondence  
Mr. Dodson reads correspondence. A letter from Mr. Fogg with apologies, Mr. Sam Weller resigns from Club due to large geographical area to cover, and pressure of work. Will miss all his friends, and sends his best wishes to all. Joe the Fat Boy accepts resignation; Mr. Dodson seconds and says he will write and confirm. Mr. Pickwick, alias Jingle, will be unable to carry out his duties for the remaining nine months due to pressure of work, and Mr. Nupkin will be in the chair for remainder of session.

Mr. Pickwick on his feet quoting Rule 8 in the Pickwick Club and rambles on about Himmler's speech in 1936; some confusion arises as to what it was all about, but evidently Mr. Pickwick was trying to inject some intellectual views on history — all to no avail. Mr. Vice asking if Mr. Pickwick fell asleep, and if he was still awake could the meeting continue.

Item 9 (what happened to items 2 and 7 — sorry!)

Inquisition

Mr. Vice on his feet asking Mr. Pickwick does he know where he is up to, and recommending Mr. Pickwick should be fined. Mr. Pickwick said he could not be fined. Mr. Vice enquired since when, and Mr. Pickwick replied "since 1906". Mr. Dodson concerned about Nat Winkle's pale and somewhat ghostly appearance. Mr. Pott on his feet, as quick as a flash, advising meeting that he does a 24-hour service for situations of this nature. The Inquisition finally got under way extremely well narrated by Jem Wardle. The members must have been mesmerised because everybody, with the exception of Angelo Sirus Bantam M. C., put in the fine box, but alas, even he was fined eventually for wrong answer.

Item 10 Any other business:

Many thanks to the Landlord of the Bee Hive Hotel for the free room and marvellous Christmas dinner, especial thanks to Mr. Dodson and the Entertainments Committee, Mr. Blotton, Mr. Blundell and Mr. Pott for the hard work involved in arrangements.

Item 11 Raffle

Whilst raffle in progress Sgt. Buzz Fuzz as POC aided by Mr. Pott, replenishing ale.

At this point in the proceedings the remains of Item 10 - Any Other Business — comes up again, with Mr. Pickwick suggesting that meetings in future start at 7.30 pm and be put to a vote, but the general reaction was against, because of distance some members have to travel and the nature of their work. Nat Winkle on his feet asking about summer outing; Mr. Blotton - in no uncertain manner - asked Mr. Pickwick who elected Nat Winkle to organize outings etc. without his permission, and that Nat Winkle totally out of order.

Item 12 Toast to Charles Dickens

Item 13 Reply by Visitors

Item 14      The next meeting will be 17th February (No. 998). Mr. Blotton and Mr. Blundell will be providing a meal. Thanks to Rev. Stiggins and Jem Wardle for the meal at this meeting.

Item 15      Vote of thanks to Mr. Pickwick and Mr. Vice. Mr. Blotton has a heyday treading on very thin ice, as he verbally attacked Mr. Pickwick for a very lax meeting and Mr. Vice, who although he had an exceptional amount of work to do due to Mr. Pickwick's failings, would have a very short term of office if he did not keep control in the future. Mr. Pickwick, alias Sgt. Snubbin, reminded Mr. Blotton that Mr. Nupkin was just as dilatory.

Item 16      Good neet owd friends

Item 17      The Queen

Proceeds from raffle	£2.40
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Kitty	£1.69
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Fine box	£0.87
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£4.96

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