

Manchester Pickwick Club

Meeting #1000 – 15th September 1977

Meeting opened at 8.35 p.m.

Some confusion reigned immediately and considerable hubbub was heard for several minutes. Finally, the chair apologised to Winkle who then proposed a toast to Pickwick.

Remarkable and unprecedented scenes followed as various members enjoined in much disagreement over certain matters, not least of which was the order in which additional items should be inserted into the agenda. Pickwick proposed having a history of the club given after the Queen. Winkle protested about the affront this appeared to give to Her Majesty, Winkle's view prevailed.

More confusion followed.

Dodson then read apologies from:

Rev. Stiggins
Cyrus Bantam
Tracy Tupman
Tony Weller

Grummer brought and showed relics from visit to Doughty Street. Pickwick distributed napkins kindly brought from Doughty Street by Grummer. Dodson relates that Stiggins spent some time in and around Rochester where he collected several Pickwickian mementos including a set of splendid pictures of Pickwickian activity. A copy of Pickwick Papers from 1892 was also presented to the club by the Reverend.

Dowler attempted to pass a vote of thanks but was overruled. A toast to absent members was drunk.

Some confusion arose before Snubbin conveyed apologies from Joe the Fat Boy. He couldn't attend due to a malady.

Dowler attempted to speak but Pott interrupted most rudely and was adjudged out of order and duly fined. Dowler again attempts to speak but was then interrupted by Snubbin who was also fined.

He explained how the Pickwick block came to hand to enable the souvenir programme to be properly printed.

A further bout of argument occurred about certain errors in the programme. It was recorded that Antony Humm was in no wise Numm and indeed that respected member was in fact in the person of Mr B Howarth and not as alleged Howard.

Hubbub continued for several minutes and no real solution was found to the question of who was to blame.

Pickwick finally got control by announcing that refreshments were ready.

Winkle presented his usual high quality introduction of members to guests followed by a potted history of the Manchester Pickwick Club.

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The oldest record of the club which was from September 10th 1908 when the club was called The Broughton Pickwick Club. Winkle recalled that a few friends met together and decided to form the club.

A minute book from early times was passed around.

Next followed a toast to Charles Dickens.

POR & I read an extract.

Some confusion preceded the raffle which was efficiently conducted by Dodson.

Vote of thanks to Mr Fred Trechette and wife, our erstwhile hosts, accepted on their behalf by the new hosts, Stan and Jean.

Snubbin proposed the members buy our hosts a drink. Pott proposed Snubbin buy the drinks, Snubbin vowed that he would buy the drinks with pleasure if the Pickwickians as a whole were too stingy.

Pott rose to state that funds were looking healthy and claimed this was due to a good treasurer.

Reply by visitors.

Pott protested that he didn't want to spoil the evening but called for subscriptions.

Winkle called members attention to corresponding members duty to record details of their travels. He recalled his visit to a member, Samuel Slumkey, living in Spain and circulated some photographs.

Pickwick said he wrote to Tappleton and Winkle also stated that he had spoken to him and he appeared to be in good health.

Snubbin said how pleased he was to see Job Trotter and called on him to propose a vote of thanks and Blotton to second.

These duties were most admirably carried out.

Blotton announced Christmas dinner at The Bee Hive Hotel, Clifton on 16th December and advised the meeting that club ties would soon be available. Winkle called for a toast to members and visitors from Pickwick and himself.

Pickwick called for Goodneet from Snubbin.

Fines totalling 62 ½ p were imposed and the raffle realised £2.10.