

MINUTES OF THE 1001ST MEETING OF THE MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER 1977

The meeting opened at 8.35 p.m. Nupkins took Mr Pickwick 's chair in the absence of Ben Allen.

Amidst some confusion Winkle, officiating as Vice Chairman, sought guidance from the Chair as to whether or not he should proceed. This he was instructed to do.

Several fines were exacted from certain members for the offences of smoking and failing to wear badges.

Winkle proposed the usual toast to Mr Pickwick and this pleasurable duty was discharged.

The minutes of meeting No. 1000 were presented by Anthony Humm and duly passed as a proper record. Pickwick felt moved to heap praise upon the minute writer for the standard of the minutes. Pickwick went so far as to say they were almost as good as when he himself wrote the minutes some years ago.

This remarkable accolade was gratefully received by Humm.

Some small lack of order followed terminated by Pickwick remarking on the quietness of Winkle, Snubbin and Pott. Several fines were extracted for breaches of order and Pott caused some consternation by making a voluntary 2p contribution to the fine box.

Grummer called on Pickwick to censure Snubbin for his critical remarks concerning Pickwick's ability. Snubbin was unrepentant and claimed that he himself was the best Pickwick ever. Pickwick recalled that Snubbin had been a very poor Pickwick to which Snubbin stressed that during his incumbency a significant increase in attendance at meetings was noticed. Snubbin offered all his money to Pickwick following a great provocation but Pickwick didn't accept. The possible legal implications of this offer were pointed out to Snubbin but he did not require the matter to be struck from the minutes.

Following the toast to absent members Sam Weller begged Pickwick's leave to depart early. Leave was granted and the meeting was adjourned.

After Pickwick re-opened the meeting, Winkle in critical fashion demanded to know who was responsible for preparing the agenda. Grummer, somewhat nonplussed, asked for the reason for this question. Winkle pointed out several omissions in the document and registered his displeasure. In animated fashion he pointed out certain difficulties experienced by his good self in the short time immediately prior to the meeting which seemed to implicate Dodson in the failure to properly prepare the meeting. As that cunning member was not present to be taxed the matter was shelved.

During a discourse by Pickwick, Winkle pointed out that even so elevated a personage as Pickwick should stand whilst addressing the meeting. Criticism of Pickwick mounted with Snubbin accusing Pickwick of talking nonsense. Pickwick proposed that Snubbin take up conducting and suggested that he should sit down. Snubbin meekly complied.

A minor dispute arose over the duties of the POR & I. Pickwick again censured Snubbin and praised Pott for his conduct.

Snubbin, unabashed, demanded to have the guests introduced to him.

Before breaking for supper this duty was performed.

Victuals were served and enjoyed by all.

Winkle most ably introduced members to guests. Grummer conducted the reading and inquisition most admirably but the performance of members in the inquisition left a lot to be desired.

Apologies were given for various absent members: -

Ben Allen
Dodson
Wardle
Buzz Fuzz
Stiggins
Pell
Blotton
Dowler.

Grummer pointed out that the entertainment committee are dealing with the Christmas do.

Snubbin asked to be excused on Domestic grounds and expressed his delight at seeing Nupkins back.

Grummer called members to their feet to drink to Pickwick and Vice.

Pickwick replied and Winkle in his reply stated his pleasure at seeing Pickwick on his feet.

The meeting then closed.

The raffle realized £1, there were 46p in fines and there was 71p left in the kitty.