

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Meeting No. 1002 — 17/11/77

Headquarters: Egerton Arms

Item 1 - The meeting was brought to order by Nat Winkle acting as Mr. Pickwick, with Mr. Pott acting as Vice. Before admitting guests to the meeting, a new member was initiated into this confraternity of hearty good fellows; Mr. Justice Stareleigh is his name, and he was welcomed in the usual Pickwickian manner.

Guests were admitted and the meeting adopted the normal highly-organized procedure.

Mr. Pickwick stamped his authority on the meeting very early in the proceedings by having a heyday with the fines; the offences varied from smoking without permission to not displaying badges or being late for the meeting. Grummer protested as always. "What we have not got we cannot wear", but to no avail — Pickwick was adamant. Dodson was fined for interrupting Mr. Pickwick, and indignantly reminded Mr. Pickwick of his prerogative, as Secretary, to advise Mr. Pickwick, but, alas, Mr. Pickwick would have none of this.

Item 2 - Toast to Mr. Pickwick. Mr Pickwick reminded members to ensure that both themselves and their guests, when entering the meeting, have a charged glass, as one or two glasses were empty for the initial toast.

Mr. Blotton was late, and fined; he was then requested to take over as Mr. Vice. Mr. Pott was thanked by Mr. Pickwick for deputising.

Item 3 - Introduction of Guests.

Item 4 - Introduction of members to guests.

On this occasion members were asked to introduce themselves, as Nat Winkle — acting Pickwick — was unable to give this service. Mr. Pott protested that his copy of Pickwick Papers had been borrowed by a fellow-member six months previously and he was not really sure who, or what, he was. This proved to be untrue — he gave a splendid description of his character. Also to be congratulated — Mr. Justice Stareleigh; at such short notice he did very well.

Dodson did his best to convince the guests (those who had not been to a meeting before) that he was a splendid fellow, but this did not really

carry any weight with the members or guests who had attended on previous occasions.

Item 5 - Toast to Visitors

Mr. Blotton remarked on the quality of the visitors.

Item 6 - Toast to absent members.

A recess was called for personal needs, and Sgt. Buzz Fuzz - once more assisted by Mr. Pott - replenished the drinks. They carried out this exercise with the utmost efficiency and should be congratulated for their diligence.

The meeting was resumed. Mr. Pickwick rebuked Mr. Blotton for not paying attention by omitting to reciprocate with his gavel.

Item 7 - Minutes of the last Meeting

Item 8 - Matters arising from the minutes.

Dodson complained about the contents of the minutes, Grummer confirmed these were correct - both were fined, and Angelo Cyrus Bantam congratulated the minute-writer of meeting 1001.

Mr. Dodson asked for recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell for the beautiful shield presented to the Pickwick Club.

Blotton, Bardell, and others indulged in a private meeting whereupon a remark was passed that they resembled the Muppets.

Item 9 - Toast to Charles Dickens

Item 10 - Correspondence

Sgt. Snubbins apologises for being absent owing to the flu. Mr. Pickwick replied "good" but very quickly pointed out he meant the fact that Snubbins had bothered to make contact, and wished him a speedy recovery.

A very witty letter from Bob Sawyer who had been working in Saudi Arabia. He had heard of Potts' vacation to the U.S.A. and questioned the integrity of the Treasurer. This, as we all know is pure banter - even though Mr. Pott is going to Spain shortly.

A cheque was received from Sawyer for £5, and duly handed to Pott.

At this point Dodson produced two figurines which were received with loud acclaim by Pickwick. He expressed thanks for the efforts of members in endeavouring to replace the Club's stolen regalia. (Grummer's contribution to these figurines was very nominal (he provided the plinths)). Nevertheless, Mr. Pickwick's congratulations were given.

Item 11 - Reading of the inquisition

After the reading, Angelo Cyrus Bantam congratulated himself on a fine performance. However, his self-praise was justified in that he gave a very admirable rendering. Fines were duly extracted for dubious replies.

Item 12 - Raffle

Item 13 - Any other business

Augustus Snodgrass enquired was it possible to obtain the Pickwick badges. However, Pickwick's opinion was that it would not be a practical proposition, as the originals were silver and quite costly. An alternative was suggested by Mr. Blotton, i.e. Club ties, He is endeavouring to obtain these, the cost of which will be in the region of £2-£3.

The Christmas dinner will be on 16th December at the Bee Hive Hotel, Clifton. Mr. Ron Sherratt, who was present at this meeting, was congratulated for his splendid efforts last year. It was decided to discuss the cost at a later date, but members were asked to submit particulars of guests to be invited, as already indicated in a previous letter from Mr. Dodson.

Item 14 - Reply by visitors

It is reassuring to be congratulated on the standards of the Club by visiting guests.

Mr. Vice - whilst not fully asleep - was in a very somnolent state, until his tranquillity was shattered by Pickwick with a second bang of his gavel.

Mr Pickwick praised his Vice for doing a splendid job, and Mr Vice agreed (saying that there is no substitute for class!). Mr Pott interrupted and informed them that self-praise is no recommendation.

Item 16 - Toast to members and visitors

Mr Vice was requested to sing Good Neet Owd Friends but as he was 'in voice' that night asked that all join in. All concurred.

Item 17 - The Queen

Fine box	£1.14
Kitty	£0.23
Raffle	£2.00

	£3.37
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