

Manchester Pickwick Club

Meeting No. 1003

19th January 1978

Headquarters – Egerton Arms, Salford

Three new members joined this confraternity of hearty good fellows — Dr. Slammer, Mivins, and Mr. Jinks. All were initiated and welcomed by the members.

Opening of the meeting.

Item 1 - Mr. Pickwick, alias Nat Winkle, opened the meeting in the absence of Ben Alan and Sgt. Snubbin acted as Mr. Vice. Mr. Pickwick was rebuked for having no tie or badge displayed - valid comments - and fines by Mr. Pickwick (he is above the law).

Mr Snodgrass detailed to read the Inquisition, seconded by Mr. Blotton.

Item 2 - Toast to Mr. Pickwick; all were fined owing to the fact that the meeting started late.
Grummer detailed as minute writer.

Item 3 – Introduction of Visitors. The standard of visitors was once again high: it was mentioned at this point by Mr. Pickwick (directed at members) that they should at all times remind their guests that smutty jokes and bad language are not acceptable.

Item 4 - Introduction of Members to Visitors. Mr. Pickwick (Nat Winkle) once more stepped into the breach to introduce each and every member to the guests; even though Dr. Slammer, Mivins and Mr. Jinks had only just joined the Club he was well aware of their characters.

Item 5 – Toast to Visitors

Item 6 – Minutes of last meeting

Item 7 – Matters arising out of the last meeting – Apologies sent by Justice Stareleigh, Angelo Cyrus Bantam and Stiggins, but no apologies from Jem Wardle, Mr. Dowler. Sgt. Buzz Fuzz interjected and asked Mr. Pickwick if members could be fined for not standing when addressing Mr. Pickwick.

Item 8 – Correspondence - Dodson read a letter from the Salvation Army written by Harold Andrews of the Pendlebury Corps. thanking the Pickwick Club for the £21.43 which was given to the Salvation

Army as a token of our thanks for their Christmas Carols played at the Bee Hive Hotel. Mr. Perker sent his best regards. Lt. Tappleton thanked Mr. Dodson for sending him a programme of the 1,000th meeting; he is now 87 years old and he related how the times have changed since he was in the 14/18 War in the 17th/ 21st Lancers. After 23 years he attained the rank of Squadron Sgt. Major; his letter was very interesting. Tracy Tupman's wife's illness made it impossible for him to attend the Christmas dinner. Joe the Fat Boy ^t's letter was read with loud acclaim, but due to its length the Secretary did not read it in its entirety.

Item 9 – Reading of the Inquisition - Augustus Snodgrass acted PORI in the absence of Jem Wardle and read the Inquisition — some of the answers were suitably vague — fines were extracted. At the end of the reading Mr. Vice was on his feet complaining the meeting had gone into utter chaos and Sam Weller, Dodson and Snodgrass were all fined by Pickwick for having a meeting of their own. At this point Anthony Humm and guest (with apologies) had to leave the meeting but not before Sgt. Snubbins insisted they buy a raffle ticket.

Item 10 – Any Other Business - Augustus Snodgrass enquired about badges — we shall have to get him a badge to quieten him. At this point it was decided to discuss badges at the Annual General Meeting. The Pickwick ties would seem to have been very popular. During this debate the Christmas dinner and summer outing were mentioned but, again, it was decided that these matters should be discussed at the AGM.

Will members refrain from paying fines with Irish coins (not that we have anything against the Irish), Dr. Slammer related Mr. Pott ^t's visit to the U.S.A. and just how much flying medicine Mr. Pott consumes before getting into the aircraft, and how he stays in a somewhat inebriated condition until the aircraft has landed. Nat Winkle confirmed this and remembers a time he picked Mr. Pott up at the Airport after a holiday in Benidorm. Nat Winkle ran Mr. Pott to a hostelry where they drank the whisky that Mr. Pott had purchased in Finigans, meaning to take it home to comfort him in his cold bed (he only has a teddy bear) (shame!)

Item 11 – Toast to Charles Dickens

Item 12 – Toast to absent members

Item 13 – Raffle - Mr. Pickwick reminded members to try and remember to bring a token gift along as this does help towards the Club funds.

Item 14 – Reply by Visitors – The Visitors replied in the expected 'disillusioned manner'.

Item 15 – Vote of thanks - Mivins praised Mr. Pickwick and condemned Mr. Vice for interrupting Tommy Bardell confirmed this and said it had been a worthy display of eloquent narration by Mr. Pickwick, but as far as Mr. Vice was concerned Bardell considered it was the worst meeting he had had the misfortune to attend. Mr. Vice was on his feet blowing his trumpet as usual and saying what a great Club this is. This part of the meeting was somewhat rowdy.

Item 16 – Good neet owd friends. This was rendered by Mr. Pott. Whilst he did a fine job we feel he will never quite make the Luton Girls' Choir.

Item 17 - The Queen

Fines £1.00

Raffle £2.70

Kitty £1.33

£5.03

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