

## Manchester Pickwick Club

Meeting No. 1004 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 1978

### Egerton Arms, Manchester

A new member joined the Club - his character is Horatio Fiskin. He was a candidate at the election at Eatonswill as a prospective Member of Parliament. Horatio Fiskin's reply to the pledge left no doubt in anyone's mind that he will be an asset to the Club.

Item 1 - Opening of the meeting by Mr. Pickwick. Meeting fell into disarray — Angelo Cyrus Bantam and Mr. Pott detailed POC, Daniel Grummer as minute writer.

Item 2 - Toast to Mr Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick expressed great pleasure at receiving the toast and promptly fined Sam Weller for not having a drink provided for himself or his guest, to toast Mr. Pickwick.

Item 3 - Introduction of visitors. Mr. Pott had tears in his eyes on hearing that Nat Winkle had had two of his guests taken from him by fellow members. Nat Winkle did look a little pale when he first arrived but the colour soon returned when he realised his friend had helped him out of the 'mire'. Mr. Blotton felt that everyone was against him because he brought no guest but he was fined for being late, having no tie or badge.

Item 4 - Introduction of Members to Guests. Nat Winkle was introducing his guests with his usual vigour when at this point an affray occurred and ended by the secretary being fined for detailing Mr. Pott and Angelo Cyrus Bantam to replenish the drinks. Dodson promptly left his seat next to Mr. Pickwick and found himself a seat quite some distance away, muttering to himself as he went. Sgt. Snubbin was on his feet defending the Secretary's motives, but this did not deter Mr. Pickwick, and both were fined.

Item 5 - Toast to Visitors

Item 6 - Minutes of last meeting. Mr. Grummer was taken to task by Mr. Pott when the minute-writer referred to LIEUTENANT Tappleton as Lieutenant. This pronunciation was not intended to upset our Mr. Pott - we all are aware of his brilliant control of words and his eloquence.

Item 7 - Matters arising from minutes. At this point three guests arrived late. Mr. Blotton mumbled about the meeting resembling "a Regional Crime Squad". This remark was accepted as it was intended. The minutes were agreed and seconded by Mr. Dodson and Sam Weller.

Item 8 - Correspondence — None — No apologies.

Item 9 - Inquisition. Angelo Cyrus Bantam read the Inquisition in his usual commanding manner. Sam Weller fined for referring to XIII as 23. Angelo had a free hand with Mr. Pickwick's blessing, and extracted fines in abundance.

Item 10 - Any Other Business. Mr. Vice advised that there is one more meeting before the A.G.M. The Summer outing will be organised by the Executive Committee and Entertainment Officer. Mr. Blotton enquired of Mr. Pickwick "Will you be present at the next meeting?" Pickwick said he would. The

AGM will be 20th April and the Executive meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April. Kilton Arms, Knutsford mentioned. The Hon. Samuel Slunky will not be present at future meetings as he resides in Benidorm. He again offered an open invitation to all Pickwickians to visit him if in his area - all would be welcome. We wish him all he wishes himself.

Item 11 – Toast to Charles Dickens

Item 12 – Toast to absent members

Item 13 – Raffle

Item 14 - Reply by visitors. They were very generous in their praise.

Item 15 - Vote of thanks. Sam. Slunky to delegate and propose. This he considered an honour. Sgt. Snubbin and Mr. Blotton delegated, Sgt. Snubbin says he believes in life above and went on to relate various aspects of his views. He went on about Pickwick and the petrol strike, which was due (in Snubbin's opinion) to incompetence. Mr. Blotton agreed and went further to condemn Pickwick for his handling of the meeting. The Secretary received some complimentary remarks from these two members. Sgt. Snubbin congratulated Mr. Vice for a splendid performance and then a fracas occurred as to who should respond first. Mr. Vice, Pickwick and Snubbin had a free-for-all which resulted in Snubbin being fined. He said he would not pay but, alas, Pickwick had the last say and Snubbin was duly fined.

Mr. Vice praised the Hon. Samuel Slunky — he is the fourth oldest member and has attended every meeting during his three months' stay in the UK and, as Slunky had already said, every member would be made more than welcome should he venture to Spain. Mr. Pickwick thanked Snubbin and Blotton for their kind remarks and the Secretary for resigning over his disagreement, but as Dodson had, during the meeting, slid back to his chair at the side of Pickwick, it was considered he had withdrawn his resignation. Pickwick congratulated his Vice for the splendid support rendered to himself and considered the virtues of all Pickwickians to be very admirable. Pickwick then proceeded to toast all members and visitors for a splendid meeting. He thanked the POC <sup>t</sup>s, minute writer, reader of the Inquisition.

Item 16 - Good neet owd friends

Item 17 - The Queen. Mr. Pott fined for swearing. This was completely out-of-character but, as Pott was under extreme duress, no further action was taken. Mr. Pott sang The Queen.

Raffle    £2.30

Fines     £0.59

Kitty     £3.90

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£6.79

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