

Manchester Pickwick Club

Meeting no. 1005 – March 1978

Egerton Arms, Salford

1. Opening of meeting. In the absence of Ben Allen, Nat Winkle acted Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Blotton acted Vice, and in the absence of Mr. Dodson, Daniel Grummer acted Secretary/ Minute writer.
2. Toast to Mr Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick accepted the toast with loud acclaim, and then fined the entire membership because the meeting commenced late.
3. Introduction of visitors. Mr. Mivins was rebuked for addressing a member as 'Norman'. Mr. Pickwick quickly pointed out that we have no member by that name — Mivins was fined.
4. Introduction of members to visitors. This task was placed firmly by Mr. Pickwick on the shoulders of each new member to introduce themselves. Pickwick expressed pleasure in the fact that all members knew their characters.
5. Toast to visitors. Proposed by Mr Blotton.
6. Minutes of last meeting. Sgt. Snubbins who had arrived late was fined accordingly. After a lot of abuse, which he hurled in all directions, he reluctantly paid the fine and then, without breaking step, proceeded to disagree with the minutes. He was immediately attacked verbally by Snodgrass and Bantam. The minutes were proposed and seconded by these two members. Sgt. Snubbins condemned Mr. Pickwick on the question of procedure and was even more incensed when Pickwick decided that the ventilator far above him was not working as it should, and proceeded, in the middle of Snubbins' verbosity, to correct the offending fan. Angelo Cyrus Bantam congratulated Mr Pickwick on his expertise with the fan.
7. Matters arising from minutes. At this point Mr Pott wished to reassure members that the fine box had never contained human remains.
8. Correspondence. Grummer, acting Secretary, apologised on Dodson's behalf for his absence and explained that Mrs Dodson had been in hospital (a rather worrying time). A spontaneous chorus from members wished Mrs Dodson a speedy recovery. Dr Slamme, Solomon Pell and Ben Allen sent apologies for absence.
9. Reading of inquisition. Jem Wardle was very selective in his choice of paragraphs. Facts and figures in abundance and a confused membership paid up reluctantly.
10. Any other business. It was decided to discuss all matters of relevant importance at the A.G.M. At this point Pickwick intervened and, quoting Rule 8, enquired if any of the Pickwickians had any recent experiences to relate in relation to their travels which may be of interest to members.

Augustus Snodgrass related his account of a recent experience on a trip to Spain; it began with a bomb scare at Heathrow causing a delay of three hours, and instead of going to Spain he arrived in Palma. After making contact with an American he consequently had a conducted tour of an American aircraft carrier. Undoubtedly, he would have looked very dashing stood on the poop deck in his Bermuda shorts.

The executive meeting will be held on April 6th.

11. Toast to Pickwick

12. Toast to absent members

13. Raffle

14. Reply by visitors. Mr Blotton remarked that it sounded like the Palace of Varieties.

15. Vote of thanks. Angelo Cyrus Bantam's eloquence was only exceeded by his confident manner. He began "As we approach the bewitching hour" and there was utter silence as he proceeded to shower Pickwick with verbal riches. Mr. Jinks seconded and attacked Mr. Vice and Pickwick for a very mediocre performance. Mr. Vice thanked Bantam and Jinks for their charm and wit, and also their criticism but stated that he and Pickwick had a lot to put up with.

Pickwick praised himself and his Vice and was quick to point out that the proceeds from the kitty amounted to nothing — whereas at the last meeting we acquired £3.60. He then proceeded to thank the P.O.C.s, Tommy Bardell and Angelo Cyrus Bantam for a splendid effort; congratulations to Mr and Mrs Mitchell for the marvellous meal, and Mr Vice for backing him in every way; not forgetting the remainder of the members participating.

16. Good neet owd friends

17. The Queen. Mr Pott is slowly getting the words.

Raffle	£2.50
Kitty	£1.33
Fine box	£0.70

£4.53