

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

MEETING NO. 1068, 17.03.1988

Black Horse, Crescent

Attendance: 14

1. MEETING OPENED

The meeting was opened by Mr. Pickwick at 8.08pm, which was early by Pickwickian standards.

Nat Winkle remonstrated with Pickwick regarding what Winkle considered was an inadequate opening address. He said that Pickwick should provide a proper introduction — not merely say that the 'meeting is open'. Pickwick duly obliged with a more formal introduction with a welcome to all members.

2. TOAST to MR PICKWICK

The Vice Chairman duly proposed a toast to Mr. Pickwick.

Lowton arrived and apologised to Mr. Pickwick for being late. Dodson wished to know why Lowton hadn't been fined for being late. Before Pickwick could reply, the meeting quickly degenerated into total disarray with several members on their feet simultaneously. Pickwick's leadership was questioned. Dodson suggested that Pickwick should fine himself for the late start. Pickwick agreed to this but added that he intended being harsh in his control of the meeting. Dubbley was appointed Fines Master, Mivens and Grummer were both fined for being on their feet together and Pell for smoking without permission. Dodson suggested that Lowton be fined because his guest was smoking, Pickwick declined the suggestion.

Pickwick then tried to impose a minimum 5p payment for fines. Dodson said that fines should be 2p with a 10p fine imposed for inability to correctly answer the Inquisition. The raffle contribution was 20p.

3. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Lowton introduced his guest and remarked that he was the only member to have invited one. The fact was emphasised by the P. O.C. dropping a tray of drinks.

4. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS TO VISITOR

Dodson suggested that on this occasion the members should each introduce their own character. Mivens said there was a danger they might paint too good a picture of themselves.

The members then introduced themselves to the guest whilst drinks were served. Alfred Jingle offered to pay a fine rather than introduce himself, but eventually agreed. Pell thought he should pay a fine for perjury.

12. TOAST TO ABSENT MEMBERS

The toast to absent members was duly taken — twice, because the first time Nat Winkle complained that Pickwick should not have remained seated.

5. TOAST TO VISITOR

The Vice Chairman proposed a toast to the sole visitor.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Lowton was about to read the minutes when Dodson suggested the item be deferred until after the meal break. Pickwick disagreed and invited Lowton to continue. Several attempts were made - each one being foiled by

Dodson's constant interruptions until eventually the item was deferred.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary announced that there hadn't been any incoming correspondence with nothing useful to report. There was a lull in the proceedings with everybody apparently waiting for the meal break. Total confusion reigned with Winkle wondering whether the meeting was in recess. Pickwick invoked Rule 8 on himself, but Dodson thought he should delay it.

The meeting again became disorganised for several minutes until eventually it was adjourned at 9.30pm for the meal.

At 9.55pm the meeting resumed with Dodson suggesting that he should commence selling the raffle tickets. The minutes of the previous meeting were given. Grummer proposed, seconded by Dubbley that they be accepted. All agreed except Winkle who voted against and refused to offer any reason. Pickwick accused him of cussedness.

7. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

Anthony Humm said that it was his intention to invite the great great grandson of Charles Dickens to the next Dingley Dell. It was agreed that the Secretary should put the invitation in writing using the official stationery.

9. READING AND INQUISITION

Mr. Mivens read a passage from the Pickwick Papers which drew a round of applause.

The Inquisition followed in which each member was asked a question.

Pickwick thanked Mivens for his efforts.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Prompted by Dodson the Executive Meeting was fixed for 8.00pm on 13.4.88. Winkle insisted that it should be restricted to Executive Members only.

The date for Dingley Dell was fixed for Friday June 3rd 1988. All agreed.

11. TOAST TO THE MEMORY OF CHARLES DICKENS AND THE FOUNDERS OF THE MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

The toast was taken twice because Winkle objected to the item being incorrectly announced.

13. RAFFLE

The raffle was notable for the fact that the sole guest didn't win a prize,

14. REPLY BY VISITOR

The visitor said that he almost felt like saying thank you but remained confused by the whole proceedings.

15. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Daniel Grummer invited Nat Winkle to propose the toast followed by Anthony Humm.

Nat Winkle said that he would firstly like to apologise to the visitor for the shambles of a meeting. He hadn't been at the last Annual General Meeting and was therefore mystified as to how the current Pickwick had managed to get elected.

The members had been very unruly and he hoped the Vice Chairman would give a better performance next year. Anthony Humm said that it gave him great pleasure to speak but, regrettably, this hadn't been one of the better meetings. It was a pity the guest hadn't received a prize, whereupon Hopkins invited the guest to choose one from three he appeared to have in his possession. Dodson thought it a nice gesture.

Humm finished by endorsing Nat Winkle's comments and thought that with any luck the Vice would be equally incompetent next year.

16. GOOD NEET OWD FRIENDS

Solomon Pell was surprised at the lack of support for Pickwick who, in his view, had been one of the finest Pickwicks. Grummer said that self-praise was no recommendation.

The Secretary, Nat Winkle and Alfred Jingle were invited to sing the first and last verse.

17. QUEEN

Due respect was paid to the Queen and the meeting closed at 11.33pm.

Fines: £4.36p

Raffle: £2.80p