

The Broughton Pickwick Club

14 Jan 1918

The 176th Meeting of the Club was held at Headquarters The Broughton Hotel, Gt. Cheetham St. East, on Monday January 14th, Mr Lowton occupying the Chair - he was supported by Mr Pickwick, Bob Sawyer, Magnus, Bantam, Jingle, Sam Weller, Joe the fat boy, Winkle, Perker, Smiggers, Trundle, Mr Pott and last but by no means least the Club's favourite "Job Trotter" who made his first appearance in the Club Room since joining the Colours, he was accorded a rousing welcome, and looked exceptionally fit and well in the "Kilts" of the Seaforth Highlanders.

The evening being an open night for Members and Friends, Mr Lowton opened the meeting by extending a hearty welcome to the visitors: Messrs O'Connor, Dawson, Platt, Riley, Higgins, Councillor Whittle, Leeming, Pte Dixon and Mr Morley.

Mr Winkle opened the Musical Programme with a pianoforte selection of popular melodies, followed by the King of Songsters "Perker" who gave "When you come home" in his usual pleasing manner. Sam Weller "Tha' mun 'ear all", Job Trotter Pianeforte selection, "Raymond" Jingle "Friend O' Mine and Absent", Mr Morley (a visitor) "Dance for your Uncle Joe" and "Ha Ha Ha" both items being deservedly applauded.

Mr Platt, also a visitor, sang "Roll on thou dark and deep blue ocean" which was exceedingly well rendered - Mr Platt possesses a fine voice, and had there been time, all would have liked to have heard more of his harmony.

The absent members toast, the Army & Navy, was hereabouts taken to the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". Bob Sawyer delighted everybody with his favourite "Jolly Good Company". Khaki was next to the fore in the persons of Messrs O'Connor and Dawson who proved to be the star turn of the evening, their rendering of the duet "Watchman of the Night" followed by "Let the Great Big World Keep Turning" as an encore, was a thing to be remembered.

Mr Dawson also gave "On with the Motley" and "My old Shako" and Mr O'Connor "Chorus Gentleman" and "Molly Brannigan" both meriting the applause which followed their efforts. Nathaniel Winkle excelled himself in "The Admiral's

Broom" accompanied by his brother and fellow member Job Trotter, both being accorded a rousing ovation. They concluded the musical programme.

Mr Bantam proposed the Toast of the Visitors, and coupled with it the Artistes who had so ably entertained the company - he extended on behalf of the Club a hearty invitation to one and all on any future open night.

Mr O'Connor in responding to the toast related a few humorous stories of his experiences in France, and thanked the Chairman and Members for their hospitality.

Councillor J. Whittle in seconding Mr O'Connor's remarks made a very able speech in which he expressed his high appreciation of the spirit of good fellowship by which the Members were actuated and which was reflected in the array of talent they had provided for their guests - this was his first appearance in the Broughton Pickwick Club and he felt sure he voiced the feelings of the whole of the visitors when he said "they all hoped to come again". Alfred Jingle proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman which was ably seconded by Bob Sawyer. The Chairman suitably responding.

With the singing of "God Save The King" the 176th meeting was brought to a close.

RHH (Jingle)