

Minutes of the 1259th meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 20th October, 2021

For a variety of reasons there were a number of absences from the 1259th meeting of the club which necessitated several members being reassigned to posts they thought they had vacated. For example, Dr Slammer was advised he would have to serve as Pickwick for the evening only to be then told that position should be occupied by Jingle and that Slammer should then perform the duties of President. When everything was sorted, Jingle was in the chair with Slammer as President and Solomon Pell as Vice-Chairman.

Pickwick then tried to open the meeting but was interrupted by Dodson who was having a conversation with Grummer. This led to a fine for Dodson and almost before the fine had been paid Dodson incurred a further fine for showing Grummer a photo whilst Pickwick was talking.

The meeting eventually opened on time and it was then that further problems started to arise; item 2 on the agenda was announced but Pell seemed oblivious to the fact the toast to Pickwick was in his hands and at that point announced that he had forgotten his spectacles and was unable to read the agenda! Dodson immediately offered the loan of his glasses but Pell claimed they made things even worse and it was only after borrowing Pickwick's spectacles that the meeting was able to proceed.

Despite being fined twice, Dodson announced that the meeting was to be a free evening and suggested that he had been discussing this with Grummer when first fined, however, there was no refund of the fine with Rev. Stiggins suggesting that Dodson was being economical with the truth to try and get his money back.

Grummer told members that Slammer had recently obtained a new Yamaha accordion with which he could entertain at meetings; Pell said he had heard that this particular machine in the hands of Slammer could empty a room twice as fast as his previous one.

Pickwick then drew members attention to Pell's shirt which he claimed to have ironed personally; Pell said he would have ironed it himself but Pickwick had just bought a new iron and was reluctant to allow anybody to use it.

Discussion then turned to the possible dates for the Christmas dinner. Pickwick said he had visited Curleys and was offered three possible dates, one of which was already unacceptable. The remaining two were possibilities but he was reluctant to choose either in the absence of so many members, so it was wise to wait until the next meeting to seek preferences. If necessary, we might have to wait until January before a suitable date occurred.

Dr. Slammer was asked to perform the P.O.R and I after claiming he had prepared it and was ready to oblige. He then forgot which chapter he had prepared and had to start afresh. Deciding to read from chapter 8 the meeting proceeded with all being

fined for either failing to answer correctly or providing the correct answer and thus being fined for knowing too much.

It was whilst these fines were being paid that Stiggins, for some reason, opened the fines box and discovered Pickwick's badge of office. This led to requests from the members that Pickwick make a donation for failing to wear the badge during the meeting. Pickwick agreed that a donation was appropriate but then fined all members for failing to notice he was not wearing the badge.

At the request of members, Pickwick agreed to arrange for a bouquet of flowers to be sent to Mrs Pott who, it was believed, was in hospital undergoing an operation.

The vote of thanks is normally allocated by the D.C. but on this occasion Pickwick himself decided that the proposal should be made by Grummer who said that he had never experienced anything like the meeting which he described as 'the pits'. He had attended many pickwick meetings over the years but none where the vice chairman was unable to read the agenda and had to be prompted all the time whilst the chairman himself failed to wear his badge of office then fined the members as though it was their fault. It was hoped that when the real officers were back there would be an improvement because this meeting had been a disaster.

Seconding the vote of thanks, Mivins said he had some sympathy with those in charge of the meeting because they had been dropped in the deep end and both had problems with eyesight, Pell because he had forgotten his glasses and Pickwick because Pell was using Pickwick's — a case of the blind leading the blind. On the whole the meeting had been a success and the fact that it was a free evening made it even better.

Good neet owd friends was sung as badly as ever by all and was followed by an equally unmusical rendition of the National Anthem.

The Raffle raised £3.50 whilst the fines box contained £4.83.