

Minutes of the 1260th Meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 17th November, 2021

The covid crisis and the demise of several members has meant that numbers are falling rapidly and the club desperately needs some new blood. This is not a new situation because on a number of times in the past, membership could be counted on one hand only for recovery to follow. However, the current situation left the 1260th meeting of the club rather short, there being only 7 members present and consequently these minutes will have to follow that trend.

With Roker being asked to occupy the vice chairman's seat, the meeting was opened by Pickwick at 8.08 p.m. with Roker and Dodson, who were still talking at the bar being fined for causing Pickwick to delay the opening. Roker accepted his punishment but Dodson objected on the grounds that they were discussing Pickwickian business. He claimed that this was the third time he had incurred an unjustified fine at recent meetings and suggested this might be a 'get Dodson' vendetta. He went on to claim that it was becoming noticeable that he was invariably the first one to be fined at each meeting.

Due to the few members, Pickwick was rattling through the agenda at a high rate of knots so Rule 8 was invoked to try and slow things down. Grummer told a story about trying to obtain a trademarked glass from the Circus Tavern, having previously received permission from the landlord. He tried to persuade Dodson to put one of the glasses in his pocket without disclosing that he had already obtained permission and as a former senior police officer, Dodson was very loath to do this thinking it was stealing.

Dodson then countered this story by telling members about an occasion when he was travelling from Euston but got stuck in a lift which resulted in him missing the train. On his release, the staff at Euston escorted him to the first-class lounge to await the next train where he was wine and dined and subsequently obtained a glass bearing the Pendolino logo. Dodson always seems to land on his feet!

The meeting then returned to the agenda and after Dodson had advised that the licence for the club's website had been renewed, discussed suggestions for the Christmas dinner; with all the existing problems concerning covid lunches putting a damper on the discussions. It was eventually decided that the dinner should be delayed until January and that Jingle would visit Curleys with a view to securing a choice of dates.

There being no other business, the Vote of Thanks to the Chairman and his deputy was left in the hands of the earlier miscreants. Dodson took the opportunity to once again complain about the number of fines he had incurred during the meeting and claimed that most of the contents of the fines box had come from his pocket and expressed surprise that Pickwick had found it difficult to control such a small meeting. He said that the vice-chairman was obviously interested in the club and would make a good D.C. after his time in the chair. Roker agreed with Dodson's comments about Pickwick but felt that his performance as vice-chairman had been exemplary. He

added that Jingle should be congratulated once again for preparation of the refreshments.

Good neet owd friends was sung as badly as ever by all and was followed by an equally unmusical rendition of the National Anthem but fortunately the reduced numbers meant it was not as noisy as usual.

The Raffle raised £3.50 whilst the fines box contained £2.87.