

Minutes of the 1201st meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 17th March, 2010

Like the previous meeting, the 1201st meeting of the Club was opened promptly at 8.00 p.m. with Mr Pickwick obviously trying to create some kind of record for promptness ignored by his predecessors. He was criticised by Grummer for failing to stand when addressing the members but claimed this was a precedent which had been established some 2 years previously and that Grummer should fined for not remembering that; he then stood to acknowledge the toast to Mr Pickwick!

Dodson volunteered to act as POC, ably assisted by Smangle, and the order for drinks was taken; there was some delay whilst the availability or otherwise of 'Toby light' was discussed. Tupman suddenly realised that the previous meeting had been number 1200 and felt that Dodson had been remiss in not acknowledging that milestone by awarding a free evening. This suggestion being ignored, he then went on to advise that the only dates available for the summer outing were 25 June, 9 July or 30 July; members discussed these dates and eventually decided that 9 July was the most suitable. One of the members who attended another meal at the same venue earlier in the month complained about the meal on that occasion which he claimed was undercooked and which had made him ill for a couple of days afterwards. Dodson, who had attended the same meal agreed that the beef on that occasion had been very rare and Tupman said that our meal would be buffet style rather than cooked so the problem shouldn't arise.

Sarcastic comments about Weller's appearance had been made by various members and Weller was forced to explain that it wasn't a result of Mrs Weller's left hook. He had gone to put something in the bin and the lid had fallen, hitting him on the nose and resulting in a nosebleed which lasted over an hour. Not to miss the opportunity to take the mickey, Tupman suggested that Weller's Pickwick name should be to 'O Sam A Bin Laden' to much amusement.

At this point it was realised that Mivins wasn't wearing a club tie or badge and he was promptly fined for the offence. Although he immediately produced his badge from his pocket and applied it to his jacket the fine was not waived and, in fact was doubled it being considered that to have the badge available and not to wear it was a deliberate affront to the club.

Jingle complained that when Tupman was performing the introduction of members, common courtesy demanded they stand when introduced and suggested a fine for any member failing to stand should be automatic. Dodson said that whilst this might be appropriate in most cases, where his character was concerned, there was so much innuendo that he felt it unwise to acknowledge the correctness of such comments by standing.

The 9.00 p.m. toast was taken at 9.30p.m. due to the absence of drinks before a number of the members; the POC said this due to delays caused by Jingle introducing too many Points of Order which was making the meeting later and later.

The Secretary reported that he had received a communication from Rick Bravo setting out details of their first meeting of 2010. He referred to recent discussions in this club about the cost of new club ties and added that ties at the Philadelphia Pickwick Club cost \$30 each.

Ben Allen, our medical man, produced a document indicating that 'Meow', a slang name for the drug Methadone, could cause death and the authorities were considering whether or not to ban it.

Jingle claimed that Mrs Jingle was 'all a tingle' when members brought her tins of Miow from Spain so he was hoping that commodity wouldn't be banned at the same time.

The meeting was running so late that it was decided that the POR& I couldn't take place and instead members were fined double (40p) so the fines box didn't suffer.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Rev. Stiggins who said he hadn't been a member very long but the conduct of the meeting was always due to the actions of the chairperson. It had been assumed that persons occupying the chair would develop during their period of office but after 2 years in office the current chairperson had made no progress whatsoever and we were still 2 years behind the times. Stiggins himself should have gone to his daughters to celebrate her birthday but had chosen to attend Pickwick instead; he acknowledged this was a grave error. The meeting had been pretty bad but when he thought about it, not as bad as the last meeting.

Seconding the vote of thanks, Weller done an excellent job during his whole extended period of office and would have been even better if he hadn't had a parrot on his shoulder telling him what to say, usually incorrectly. After the AGM, Pickwick would be welcomed back below the nick in his role as Snodgrass and he was sure his experience and expertise would be reflected in the performance of his deputy who would then become the new Mr Pickwick.

Pickwick thanked both members for their kind comments and said he was looking forward to the new session starting in September. It had been a long 2 years and he was intending to ensure his successor got as much stick as he had.

Good Neet Owd Friends was sung by all and followed by the National Anthem.

The fines box contained £8.24 whilst the raffle raised £7.50.