

Minutes of the 1237th meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 19th October, 2016

In recent meetings the fact that Pickwick insisted on commencing the meeting on time has been recorded in the minutes; the 1237th meeting of the Manchester Pickwick club reverted to the usual late start due to the late arrival of Mr Pickwick although it was only 5 minutes after the correct start time.

Pickwick then proceeded to speed through the agenda as though he had a later meeting to attend so that members were confused about what item on the agenda was actually under discussion at the time; the problem wasn't helped by the fact that there were only two agenda papers available.

There being no guests present, there was the customary discussion about whether there should be an introduction of members to guests with the equally customary lack of any decision, and by default, an introduction of sorts followed; Pickwick briefly described his character and was almost correct and this was followed by new member Ben Allen who gave an excellent description of his character which, again, was only marginally flawed. Grummer then corrected both members by elaborating on their characters whilst Tupman congratulated Grummer but pointed out he had placed Ben at the wrong address.

Alfred Jingle had volunteered to act as P.O.C. and was making a list of drinks required when Rev. Stiggins offered to pay for the first round of drinks. He reported that at the recent race meeting organised by Jingle and Ben Allen, he had won £100 on the horses and wished to share his good fortune with the members. When the drinks arrived, a toast to Stiggins followed.

There had been a number of interruptions of the meeting by an unknown female member of the Moorside Club who wished to pass through the room to visit the ladies toilet. Normally this problem does not arise as interruptions are minimal but the frequency of this lady's interruptions was becoming bothersome so a short discussion about meeting elsewhere in the club or on an alternative date followed. Stiggins reported he had spoken to the steward and that the club could use the meeting room on Tuesdays but not Thursdays. There was also the possibility of moving back to the upstairs room, the problem with that being the need to go up and down stairs to collect drinks. The general feeling was to keep the status quo in the hope that the interruptions were a 'one off'.

Due to the sickness absence of Mivins at the last meeting, the minutes had been prepared by Magnus and were excellent as was to be expected from a wordsmith of Magnus' calibre. The minutes were read by Mivins, proposed as a correct record by Jingle and seconded by Hopkins.

Because the meeting was progressing so quickly Pickwick decided to invoke rule 8 whereby a member is asked to entertain the others by recounting some past incident which might be of interest. Mivins was invited to speak and told members about an

acquaintance who lectured in building sciences at Manchester University and was prepared to perform 'foreigners' in his spare time, most of which was spent in his second home in Normandy. He was asked to carry out a job in the Manchester area and on completion was told the owner was unable to pay for the work. However, the owner possessed a JCB excavator which he was prepared to offer instead of cash. The machine appeared to be in good condition so the offer was accepted. The lecturer then decided that the JCB would be more valuable to him in Normandy than the UK so he put his suitcase etc. in the bucket of the JCB and set off to drive to France where, after crossing the channel the machine was now earning its keep doing private building jobs for ex-pats in Normandy!

Jingle asked whether there was to be any change in the drinks order, then announced that he had recently retired from the police force and would pay for this round of drinks to celebrate his retirement. Dodson would be thrilled to avoid paying for two rounds of drinks.

After the meal which had been provided by Pickwick, the Secretary reported that he had received an e-mail from Smangle who now lives in Cornwall to bring members up to date with his activities and expressing the hope that before long he would be able to attend a meeting once again.

The Secretary then carried out the P.O.R & I which was taken from Chapter XL — the story of Pickwick's introduction to the Fleet prison; all were fined, even those who answered their questions correctly and the P.O.R & I himself made a donation to the fines box.

Jingle said the racing event had been well received although poorly attended and suggested that a bowling afternoon or evening would be good although he accepted that it was getting late in the season and might be difficult to arrange. Members were in favour and it was left to Jingle to try and make arrangements.

The vote of thanks to Pickwick and the vice-chairman was proposed by Tupman who said the meeting had been so chaotic that it would be unfair to ask anybody to carry out that task. Pickwick had arrived just in time and his job had constantly been usurped by the vice-chairman. Too few fines had been levied and the first member to be fined had been Stiggins who had paid for the first round of drinks! The problem seemed to be that the chairman and his vice were apparently running two separate meetings. The Secretary, who was hard of hearing, was actually cringing due to the constant noise of the two meetings. There would be no seconder of the vote of thanks.

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

The raffle raised £4.50 whilst the Fines Box contained £5.86 most of which came from the P.O.R & I.