

Minutes of the 1241st meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 15th March, 2017

Although Pickwick was ready to start the meeting exactly at 8.03 p.m., his introductory comments were interrupted by a telephone call from Alfred Jingle in Lanzarote; this offence was to be added to previous offences to be taken into consideration including the placing of 3 Dirhams in the Fines Box, talking about club business outside the club and being absent from the meeting without consent (consent is only granted when the member is actually deceased!).

The usual problem of introductions to guests when there were no guests present was overcome at this meeting by the introduction of a new member, Bob Grice, who was given the Pickwickian name Solomon Pell. The introductions then went ahead in the capable hands of Daniel Grummer.

Grummer then reported on the health problems being experienced by Peter Magnus and Rev. Stiggins who was present at the meeting but who had also had problems was welcomed. Grummer then advised members that Smangle was moving back to the area from Cornwall and would hopefully be returning to the club.

Stiggins then told members about his stroke which he blamed on Grummer; he said that the services of Salford Royal Hospital were first class as were the arrangements following his discharge. As indicated, Pickwick welcomed him to the meeting and wished him a speedy recovery.

Dr Slammer said he was suffering with knee problems and would not be able to kneel down to give the kiss of life if Stiggins keeled over during the meeting; Stiggins replied that he would rather die than be given the kiss of life from Slammer so under the circumstances the knee problems were a life saver!

After the minutes had been read Dodson, who had previously been fined for interrupting Grummer's introduction of members, reported that the minutes had reported the number of Dirhams in the fines box as 2 but another one was found later so the actual total was 3. Tupman said there were 5 Dirhams to the pound so the offender had actually paid the correct fine but Slammer said the member had cheated the fines box and should be required to exchange the foreign currency for the correct sterling amount. A further fine might also be appropriate!

The P.O.R & I was performed by Dr. Slammer and was taken from Chapter 2 of the book; as usual this augmented the fines box because everybody had to pay.

Tracy Tupman reported that the summer outing would be at Breightmet Golf Club on 23rd June and that he would be celebrating his 80th birthday at the same venue on 15th July to which all Pickwickians were welcome. He was having car problems and

had been advised that the repairs would cost £2500 so decided to purchase a replacement. In the meantime, he decided to hire a vehicle but had to hand it back because he hadn't got a credit card. In the meantime, the car hire company had taken the hire charge and the insurance premium so not having the use of a vehicle had cost him £180. He had subsequently bought a Mercedes but after only 2 months the brake pipes were leaking. He had been advised that there had only been one previous owner, but that owner said he had sold it to a dealer 2 years previously so it had been moving from dealer to dealer for 2 years!

The vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman was proposed by Dodson who said that he personally had made a number of genuine and honest comments during the meeting only to be fined. He was interrupted by Grummer who was fined and claimed that Grummer was the cause of Pickwick's failure to control the meeting by giving bad advice. He reminded members that Stiggins had already warned Pickwick that Grummer had his own agenda and that Pickwick should be careful about following that advice and that Pickwick's failure to do so had led to the mediocre meeting members had experienced. He admitted there were two bright spots in the evening, the introduction of Solomon Pell and the hot pot which was, of course, provided by Mrs Pickwick rather than the Chairman. The year was almost at an end and Pickwick's term of office would finish next month unless he was asked to continue for a further term, which he definitely needs to bring him up to scratch.

Seconding the vote of thanks, Stiggins said it would be unfair to say it had been a good meeting because of Grummer's poor advice but on the whole it had probably been average.

Pickwick said that these comments were, to quote President Trump, false news and he had learned sufficient in recent months to know how to deal with members in future, always assuming he was asked to serve a further term. The Vice-Chairman said he hadn't been able to hear the meeting properly so he didn't really know what was going on but he had enjoyed it and thanked the proposer and seconder for their kind words.

'Good Neet Owd Friends' was sung by all, badly as usual with, once again, the golf club steward complaining about the noise. The National Anthem followed and was just as bad.

The raffle raised £5.00 whilst the Fines Box contained £9.50.