

## Minutes of the 1243<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

After the miniscule attendance at the September meeting, it was good to see that all the absentees from that meeting had returned to the fold this month and Tupman welcomed them back with a suggestion to Pickwick that they all be invited to make a donation to the fines box; as Pickwick himself was one of the miscreants he agreed with Tupman but then failed to take the suggestion any further.

There was some misunderstanding concerning the toast to Mr Pickwick but eventually all was sorted and the toast was performed in fine fettle.

Dodson referred to Tupman's comment regarding payment of a donation when he failed to attend the meeting on the occasion of football matches and said he had deliberately arranged his annual Spanish charity trip to avoid a clash with the Pickwick meeting but had been thwarted by Monarch Airlines who had 'gone bump' and cancelled all flights.

Also referring to Tupman's comments regarding football taking precedence over Pickwick, Stiggins said that the next time a Manchester United televised match clashed with a pickwick meeting he would watch the match and refuse to pay a fine.

At this point, Dodson produced a bottle of 'Pussers Rum' which had been given so the club could toast the late secretary; glasses were produced by the steward of the Moorside club and all members received a tot. Dodson then announced that a similar bottle had been given to former members of the police, the only difference being that their bottle was 80% proof whereas ours was only 60%. After their meeting one member, Barry Elliott rang Dodson to say he had no recollection of their meeting after drinking the rum and had woken up at 5.00a.m. in a chair at home and then gone to bed.

The minutes had recorded that Jingle had put foreign coins in the fines box and ought to be fined accordingly. Jingle apologised for this problem, explaining that he had forgotten his glasses and was thus unable to distinguish between the various coins in his pocket. He accepted that he may have inadvertently used foreign coins but claimed that the face value of those coins was much greater than the usual fine levied. Amidst much laughter he claimed that the value of each coin was about £10 so Dodson said he could have all three back for a one-off payment of £30!

There followed a discussion about club traditions, especially the singing and it was said that in the early days members had to make their own entertainment and that singing was an accepted part of the meeting with any member being asked by Pickwick to entertain his fellow members, hence the appointment of a 'musical director'.

Tupman announced that the Christmas Dinner would be at the Breightmet golf club on 1<sup>st</sup> December and that names would be collected at the next meeting.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Tupman who commenced by wondering about the guest's sanity for wanting to join the club after attending several meetings; he felt that the meetings should have warned him off.

Turning to the actual vote of thanks, Tupman said the opening of the meeting had gone well but after item 2 chaos had descended. In the absence of Grummer, Pickwick had been fumbling for help without getting any even though Grummer was usually of no help whatsoever. Dodson said this was Tupman's fault because he was sitting next to Pickwick and Pickwick was, naturally, looking to him for advice; any advice he had given was defective. Tupman responded by claiming that the raffle had been rigged by Dodson to ensure that Tupman's ticket was the last one drawn. Likewise, the P.O.R & I was performed by Slammer from a position next to the bar on the grounds that the lighting was better there but because Tupman wasn't wearing a hearing aid he couldn't hear so couldn't answer his question. (The fact that nobody else could hear or answer was irrelevant).

Seconding the vote of thanks, Mivins said the meeting wasn't all bad; the introduction of members to the guest was excellent as was the reading of the P.O.R & I although the I bit left a lot to be desired. After his absences abroad Pickwick was now back in the fold and, hopefully, would start to earn his keep.

Good neet owd friends was sung by all and followed by the National Anthem.

The Fines box contained £6.70 plus 20 Euro cents and a U.S. 25 cent piece; the raffle raised £5.00.