

Minutes of the 1248th meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 19th September, 2018

After the poor attendances at recent meetings, it was a pleasure to see the meeting room fairly full and even two guests present. The guests in question were Martin Maynard and Colin Seymour, the former being Mivins guest whilst the latter was claimed by both Jingle and Winkle who, no doubt, found it cheaper to share a guest; Colin was an excellent guest who deserved better. Martin had expressed a wish to join the club as did Colin but in Colin's case he explained that he was obliged to work shifts and couldn't guarantee attendance at every meeting.

The meeting actually commenced at 8.03p.m. and Grummer explained to members that Tupman had been diagnosed with a serious illness although that wasn't the reason for his absence which was due to holidays. Members expressed their sympathy and hoped to see Tupman at the next meeting.

It was noted that Mivins was holding the cash and questions were asked about the absence of Dodson who, it was explained, had been obliged to attend a football match at Manchester City; several Manchester United supporters expressed sympathy with Dodson for having to attend the match but claimed this did not exonerate him from a fine at the next meeting for non-attendance. It was then suggested to Mivins that as the cash holder he ought to authorise a free evening but being aware of Dodson's meanness Mivins declined.

Grummer then explained for the benefit of newer members that the club had once owned a number of items classed as club regalia and after one meeting they were placed in the boot of a member's car, the member in question being the Crimes Prevention Officer at Manchester Police. It had never been recovered so Grummer decided to find some new regalia for the club. The badge of office for Pickwick was a brass plaque which should have borne the likeness of Mr Pickwick but the engraver got the wrong end of the stick and the face on the badge is Charles Dickens; it doesn't really matter as the badge is usually so dull that it doesn't show but it occasionally gets polished and members have to avert their eyes when Pickwick wears it. The other item which has become part of the regalia was formerly a couple of legs off a table from the boardroom at a certain garage in Manchester which Grummer sawed off; I wonder how the board felt when their next meeting took place on a wobbly table!

Members referred to the canal boat trip during the summer and indicated that it should become an annual event; special mention was made of Winkle who was the boat driver and also of Mrs Pott who met the travellers along the way and provided refreshments for the journey.

On the subject of Mrs Pott, Jingle said he didn't think Mrs Pott's dumplings were as outstanding as usual although he admitted that the jar of pickled cabbage was excellent. Grummer objected to Jingle's complaint and said he thought Mrs Pott's dumplings were well up to their usual quality although there might have been more

than the standard issue on this occasion. He subsequently discovered that he had been set up and that the complaint had been agreed between Jingle and Pickwick.

As deputy to Tupman, the presentation of members to guests was performed by Grummer who did a splendid job and was followed by the P.O.R. & I led by Slammer which resulted in the usual additions to the fines box by members who couldn't answer their question and equally by those answering correctly for being too clever.

Mention was then made of the comments by Angelo Cyrus Bantam at the summer outing and several of the older members advised the newer members about his presence at earlier meetings and particularly his regular comments about his brother who invariably attended as his guest. Amongst the more memorable were his description of his brother's striped blazer as made from deck chair material and also his brother's lack of sporting ability, whilst he claimed that his Jewish father had been arrested by the Germans and when members expressed sympathy, explained this event had only happened recently when his father had been caught shoplifting.

The vote of thanks to Pickwick and the Vice-chairman was proposed by Pell who said the meeting had been shocking with absolutely no control whatsoever with Grummer allowed to carry on his own meeting without any suppression by Pickwick. There seemed to be two separate meetings in progress at the same time and he had thought that the job of the vice chairman was to assist Pickwick not to join Grummer in interfering with progress of the main meeting. Seconding the vote of thanks, Winkle said he was very impressed with the control exercised by Pickwick and he would be proud if he was able to perform as well if he ever occupied the chair.

Pickwick thanked them both for their kind words which clearly indicated how well they had enjoyed the meeting. He then expressed his great appreciation for the help and advice given by the President although it must be admitted that on occasion the President didn't appear to know which item on the agenda was being considered!

The singing of 'Good neet owd friends' was worse than usual and Pickwick commented that a little practise might be necessary; if Colin Seymour became a member this might improve because he was a musician.

The Raffle raised £5.50 whilst the fines box contained £7.40 plus a token which purported to be worth 20p in a eurocoin slot machine.