

## Minutes of the 1256<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Due to a very serious road accident in the area, few members were present at the normal starting time for the 1256<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club so it was agreed to delay the start in the hope that more members might turn up.

Unfortunately, several of the members phoned up to say they were stuck in traffic due to necessary road closures and wouldn't be able to attend; Mr Pickwick was amongst these as was the President.

Eventually the meeting commenced at 8.10 p.m. with Mr Pott in the chair and Dodson, taking advantage of the reduced numbers, announced that it would be a free evening.

The first major argument of the evening took place immediately after the formal opening of the meeting when the Vice-Chairman was castigated for gavelling too quietly; he immediately complained that he couldn't do anything right according to the members because at the last meeting there had been a complaint that he gavelled too loudly!

Within minutes, the Vice-Chairman was again in trouble for failing to announce the toast to Mr Pickwick but was exonerated when it was pointed out that the only person with an agenda was Pickwick himself.

Dodson then asked about the health of Mrs Pott and was advised that she was still in pain after her operation but had been told that further intervention was not possible; members asked that their best wishes be given to Mrs Pott in the hope that her problems would soon be solved.

There was some discussion about the Pickwick Christmas Dinner which would have to be delayed due to the non-availability of the originally selected dates and the new dates 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were proposed for investigation by the Entertainments Officers.

Dodson then complained once again about the suggestion that Mivins had used the club's raffle tickets for his own activities and followed this complaint by a suggestion that the Fines Box at the last meeting contained a 20 Euro cents coin and the only member known to have visited Europe in the recent past had been Mivins. Mivins denied having placed a foreign coin in the Fines Box and claimed he was obviously being framed for the offence. However, as an act of good faith he replaced the offending coin with an appropriate British coin and agreed to supply Dodson with a new book of raffle tickets. Dodson accepted the new coin but said the so-called good faith masked an admission of guilt.

The P.O.R & I was read by Dr. Slammer and was taken from Chapter 33; there were the usual complaints that Slammer was mumbling or that noise from the club was making his interpretation difficult to understand, but the Fines Box benefitted when

everybody except one failed to answer their question correctly. The one exception to the rule was Tom Roker who answered correctly but was so embarrassed that he decided to make a donation to the fines box instead.

The non-availability of the Christmas Dinner dates meant that a meeting in December would take place, probably for the first time in Pickwick history. The date of the December meeting will be 18<sup>th</sup> December and assuming one of the suggested dates for the Christmas Dinner is acceptable, the January meeting will be as usual, 15<sup>th</sup> January.

The vote of thanks to Mr Pickwick and the Vice-Chairman was proposed by Grummer who said he thought Mr Pott had held the position of Pickwick in the past but he had obviously learned nothing from that experience because the only thing he had done right this evening had been to bring the excellent food prepared by Mrs Pott. The Vice-Chairman had done an excellent job controlling the members below the nick but it was a pity Pickwick hadn't been able to do the same amongst members at the top.

Seconding the vote of thanks Roker said he had been looking forward to discussing chapter 35 as arranged at the last meeting but obviously the reduced numbers made that impossible and he had been happy to hear the reading from Chapter 33 instead. Despite the problems created by the accident he had enjoyed the meeting although he didn't feel able to comment about the Vice-Chairman who had spent the whole evening talking to Grummer rather than performing his duties and using the absence of an agenda to justify his failure.

Good neet owd friends was sung by all and clearly showed that few members know the tune — it was suggested that Slammer, our musical genius, should write the tune so everybody could learn it. The National anthem was then sung and clearly showed that knowing the tune didn't really help.

The raffle raised £4.50 whilst the fines box contained £5.80.

N.B. Meeting 1257 was held on 18<sup>th</sup> December when 6 members and 1 guest (Bruce Evans) were present. In view of the small numbers present, Dodson announced a free evening; Rule 8 was invoked and a general discussion took place. It was noted that the Christmas Dinner was to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 so there would be no January meeting.