

## **Minutes of the 118th AGM of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

**Present:** Ben Allen, Dodson, Job Trotter, Captain Boldwig, Jingle, Fogg, Tom Roker (aka Mr Pickwick)

**Apologies:** Jem Wardle, Mr Pott, Dr Slammer, Solomon Pell, Rev Stiggins

The meeting opened at 8.00 on the dot again. Mr Pickwick claimed credit for this once more (as he should), and banged the gavel several times. It was pointed out that it was actually 12 seconds after 8.00, honestly what pedants!!.

Fogg was fined for missing the last meeting, and also for forgetting to bring a bottle of wine to this one. He paid up willingly. Is he really a partner of Dodson? Fines were also levied against Job Trotter for slandering Mr Pickwick, and Ben Allen for calling Dodson "Bill".

The meeting reflected on Mr Mivins. He said his "last goodbye" in March, and all the club attended his funeral. The numbers there were enormous. There was standing room only within the chapel, and a number of people had to remain outside. He was a man with many interests and friends. During the service we learned much that we didn't know about him. He had an MBE, 2 degrees and an extensive clock repairing collection. At the wake (held at Alberts) his harem of U3A ladies were present, as were many family, friends, anglers and church members from 60 years ago. He will be much missed by many, and we trust he has now found many "old friends gathered round".

Jingle, as president then opened the formal meeting (as it is the AGM).

The minutes of the February meeting were read by Tom Roker, and accepted by the meeting. Dodson's comments were that "they were an improvement on the last lot you did". Praise indeed.

**Secretary's report.** There was nothing to report, says Ben Allen. We therefore move on.

**Treasurers report.** Dodson handed round a balance sheet for us to look at.

We have a balance of £1,761 in the bank. We are a not-for-profit organisation, and Dodson was happy that the £10/year membership fee and £5/ meeting should continue. The meeting fee covers food and some drink usually. The AGM is generally considered a free night (except for the fact that we pay the £10 membership fee on the night of the AGM!!).

We pay a website fee of £43 for 2 years. Many thanks to Jem Wardle for sorting this. Our only income is from fines, the raffle and the £5 meeting fee (minus food and drink costs).

Dodson mentioned that he has been in the post of treasurer for 45 years, and is hoping to pass it on tonight.

The report was accepted. Fogg proposed, Ben Allen seconded.

**Rule amendments** were discussed by the whole group. Several proposed changes were included:

- A) Job Trotter proposed raising the fines to 50p/infringement. They have been at 20p for many years. Some of the group suggested that there should be an upper limit of 5 fines/evening,

but Job was of the opinion that there should be no upper limit. As he is probably the most fined individual we accepted his act of generosity!!.

- B) A proposal to change the annual pattern of meetings was discussed. Many felt that the break over summer, and the commencement of meetings in winter was causing problems for members who have mobility problems, ie the dark nights and icy conditions are not conducive to safety. The consensus was that we should meet from March through to October on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, stopping in November, December, January and February. We will trial this for a year and review at the next AGM. Mr Dodson had some reservations, but agreed to the trial.
- C) Job Trotter asked if we should move on with the dress code. He felt the tie was something of an anachronism, and perhaps we should consider polo shirts with a Pickwick logo. Jingle felt that the ties are part of the tradition. Most agreed. Captain Boldwig thought it a “small price to pay, “especially as I always wear a tie!!” The tie stays it seems.
- D) In order to generate more income it was proposed that we raise the raffle to £1. This was agreed.

### **Election of Mr Pickwick**

After the heavy burden of office (and doing the minutes) Tom Roker felt it time for Mr Pickwick to move on. Ben Allen said that it was tradition for the vice to move on up. Job Trotter as the vice squirmed a little, and made it clear that he was not yet ready for this honour. After some discussion (and a number of folk keeping their heads down) Ben Allen suggested Jingle, Fogg quickly seconded this. Jingle said that he was up for it, the meeting looked relieved, and so Jingle it is.

### **Election of officers**

After much discussion we have a new group of officers. On closer inspection it seems we have all moved around the table! The new arrangements are;

President	Tom Roker
Vice	Ben Allen
Secretary	Jem Wardle
Treasurer	Fogg
Assistant Treasurer	Jem Wardle
Minutes	Tom Roker
POR and I	Jem Wardle
Fines	Job Trotter
Entertainment	Jingle and Ben Allen
POC	Captain Boldwig
Raffle	Dodson

Mr Pickwick thanked everyone especially Dodson who has been with the club for 50 years, and 45 years as treasurer. It seems that instead of Dodson and Fogg, we now have Fogg and Dodson with their hands on the money. Thank the lord they are reputable solicitors!!.

## **New Members**

Fogg mentioned that he thought a member of the U3A walking group would be a good fit to the club. He will mention it. Job Trotter and Tom Roker think 2 of the District Scout leaders might be interested. Job will try to get contact details for them.

## **Fines**

The new fines fuhrer Job Trotter reported that there was only £3.30 in the box (with no foreign coins), and looked forward to the next meeting when they are raised to 50p.

## **Raffle**

£7.00

The first ticket to be drawn was Fogg's. He very generously returned the bottle to the table as he had forgotten to bring one earlier. Is he really a partner to Dodson?. He then explained that the 19 Crimes bottle of red wine was far too sweet and contained too much sugar. Is Fogg a connoisseur, or does he just not like criminals?

The AGM was closed by the new Mr Pickwick. A good night again. We look forward to meeting over the summer months.

**Note:** Mr Pickwick was later challenged by Job Trotter for attempting to run off with the badge of office as we were leaving the club. He claimed it was an oversight. A worrying start to his reign.

It's also to be hoped Mr Pickwick will not do his Long John Silver impersonation for too long following his knee replacement surgery this Friday. We wish him well.

A reminder that the new website is now live. It's to be found at **[manchesterpickwickclub.uk](http://manchesterpickwickclub.uk)**