

**Minutes of the 1282nd meeting of the Manchester
Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on
28th July 2026**

Present: Ben Allen, Jingle, Jem Wardle, Job Trotter, Captain Boldwig, Fogg, Tom Roker, Dodson

Apologies: Mr Pott, Dr Slammer, Solomon Pell, Rev Stiggins

Fogg, as the new treasurer, endeared himself to the group with “it’s a free night” declared. Mr Pickwick mustn’t have heard the joyous news, as he still offered Fogg £5. He was quick to put it in his pocket when this was pointed out to him. A free night also includes drinks it seems, according to Jem Wardle, “not tonight it doesn’t” retorted Fogg.

The meeting had been put back a week to allow Jingle to celebrate his birthday in Poland.

The meeting was opened at 8.01 (late, but Mr Pickwick can do no wrong), with Ben Allen back on the gavel this month. Will he be as prompt as Captain Boldwig was last month?. Mr Pickwick gave an update on Slammer and Mr Pott. Slammer is still struggling to climb stairs, whilst Mr Pickwick is hopeful on the return of Mr Pott, especially if the boat trip goes ahead (more on that in AOB)

Ben Allen praised Fogg for his raffle tickets being made ready so early in the evening. Dodson uncharacteristically accused him of “fiddling the tickets”. A dispute between lawyers, it could get costly!

Mr Pickwick thanked everyone for changing the date of the meeting. He explained his trip to Poland, and was very critical of the new EES system at the Krakow airport. It took him 4 hours to enter Poland. “A complete shambles”, but he enjoyed the trip.

The toast to Mr Pickwick was actually done on time this evening.

The minutes were read by Tom Roker. They were broadly accepted as accurate, with Captain Boldwig basking in the praise, delighted his gavel-wielding abilities had been recognised.

There were no matters arising from the minutes. “Perfect” said Mr Pickwick declaring rule 8.

Rule 8

We broke for chip butties and a drink.

Correspondence. Jem Wardle as new secretary announced that we had a new piece of correspondence, it was spam!!

Reading and Inquisition. Jem Wardle said that he hoped for better tonight with a reading from Chapter XX (20 for the philistines), which detailed Mr Pickwick’s journey into Dodson and Fogg’s chambers. Before he had finished the reading Fogg had got the purple purse out. “Anyone need change?” he called. Job Trotter already panicking, had his hand on a couple of coins. Mr Pickwick wrong, and tried to pass a 20p coin instead of 50p. When this was pointed out he claimed he had no knowledge of this increase. We reminded him that it was decided at the AGM when he was elevated to Mr Pickwick. Have we made the right choice? Time will tell. For the rest of us results were as follows:

Fogg - correct (easiest question all night) Fined anyway
Ben Allen - wrong, fine

Dodson - wrong, fine

Captain Boldwig - wrong, fine

Job Trotter -wrong, fine (he was expecting this)

Roker- correct (well he thought so) Pomatum is an old word for Pomade, a greasy hair product. He was fined for either getting it wrong (I never did) or of being a smart arse (OK I'll accept that)

Pickwick waited until Ben Allen was checking his phone before a quick bang of the gavel designed to catch him out. Failed. Ben has shown himself tonight to be a gavel-meister.

Any other business

Once again Job Trotter was improperly dressed. He had put his tie on, and almost fastened it, missing out the final knot. "Would you go to a wedding like this?" asked Mr Pickwick. After much debate it was decided a fine was appropriate. A second point was brought up by Ben Allen that Job was also wearing shorts, as was Roker. Despite having no evidence of this being an infringement in the club rules, once again the majority view was sought, and Job and Roker coughed up again.

Mr Mivins' son had given Dodson a silver tie clip to bring to the club. According to Pickwick the wearing of this removed the need to wear a tie. Job Trotter immediately suggested that he be given it. Ben Allen thought it should be passed to whoever writes the minutes, as Mivins was our minute writer for many years. The minute writer is currently Roker, who accepted this. It will be passed on to the next minute writer. It was also agreed that this did not preclude the wearing of a tie, or the wearing of shorts. A photo was taken of Pickwick handing Roker the tie pin.

The narrow boat was discussed. Most of the August slots have been taken already. After much checking of diaries, we identified 15th September as a good fit for everyone. Roker to contact and book this, ideally from 10.00am to 6.00pm. Fogg in a worrying first (for Dodson anyway) suggested that people going should only pay £10, and that the club would pick up the rest. What a wonderful treasurer he is. We will offer places to Slammer, Pott, Solomon Pell first, before widening to include potential new members.

The raffle

This was the first raffle with a booby prize. Oddly, Ben Allen (not a wine drinker) said that the empty bottle of Salford rum was the best prize there.

First out of the hat was Dodson. This cost Job and Fogg another 50p, suggesting someone called "Bill" had the ticket. Then in order Wardle, Fogg, Ben, Roker, Jingle, Captain Boldwig, and lastly Job Trotter.

Ben went home with the booby prize, and said next months would definitely be a booby.

The vote of thanks

Dodson said he had no complaints, having won the raffle, and that despite his misgivings re the summer meeting, he had settled in. He thought Mr Pickwick too lenient, and that fines should be policed more vigorously. He also thought Fogg also a bit lenient, but recognised we are a non-profit organisation. His final comment "Not bad really"

Good neet owd friends was sung fairly well for a change, despite the agenda still listing point 17 as “The Queen” we decided to settle on “The King”, and also did a pretty good job of it. Fogg to produce a new agenda with “The King” on it and send to Ben Allen for printing.

Raffle raised £8.00

Fines £9.50

Another good night for all.

A reminder that the new website is now live. It's to be found at **manchesterpickwickclub.uk**