

Minutes of the 503rd Meeting of the Pickwick Club
held at Headquarters, The Nags Head Hotel, M/cr.
on Tuesday, 11th March 1941.

The Pickwickians arrived in odds and bits and Mr. Pickwick postponed the journey to the upper regions so that any straggler could greet his fellow members over a drop of the needful. In due course nine members had assembled and Mr. Pickwick led the way to the Clubroom and duly opened the 503rd meeting.

The minutes of the 502nd meeting were ~~read~~ read and approved, the Secretary having apologised for their brevity on the score that though an interesting evening not much had occurred from a 'minute' point of view.

Mr. ~~Dedson~~ ^{Fogg} seemed inclined to dispute this fact but after an exchange of views between himself and his partner, the latter challenged Mr. Dedson to enumerate any incident or point of interest not recorded. In any case the minutes had been approved and were not open to criticism. The partners bowed gracefully to each other and the Chairman declared the matter closed.

The remarks in the minutes regarding the Manchester Blitz enticed Alf. Jingle into reminiscences of Old Manchester. He spoke of the flower of top market and the ancient history of many houses in the Shambles which the Blitz had destroyed.

This was very interesting especially to members who did not properly know their Manchester and lead to a series of reminiscences.

Sgt. Buzfus spoke feelingly of life in Paris. Mr. Pickwick spoke of Pickwick House in Upper Brook Street and Podder gave us a very humorous account of endeavouring to find The Nags Head to attend a hot-pot supper in 1932 to which he had been invited by Geo. Nupkins.

All this was greatly appreciated by the members present and Mr. Fogg remarked on the enjoyment that could be obtained from a ~~free~~ ^{free} debate between two members, this he thought should be encouraged and the Chairman should allow members an uninterrupted hearing on a cross-table discussion or argument.

The question of summer meetings was again discussed and approved and the following were suggested as likely meeting places:-
(a) The Old Trafford Hotel; (b) the Carlton Club; (c) the Liberal Club, Chorlton; (d) the Nags Head Hotel, Bowdon; (e) the Jolly Sailor, Stockport. *the Victoria Road*

The Annual General Meeting was fixed for Tuesday the 22nd April at the Nags Head Hotel at 6-30 p.m.

The toasts to Charles Dickens, to Mr. Pickwick and to Absent Members were duly honoured.

Mr. Pickwick referred to the fact that though George Nupkins had been appointed 'reader' at the Annual General Meeting, circumstances had been such as to prevent him carrying out this duty. He enquired if George could entertain.

George promptly responded with the account of the meeting of the Birch Lane Branch of the United Grand Junction Ebenezer Temperance Association attended by Tony Weller and his son Sam and did full justice to his theme.

The Chairman congratulated George on his reading and Snoddy seconded. George certainly does his 'stuff' in great style.

During the meeting continuous sounds of gunfire had been heard but this had in no wise deterred the Pickwickians from carrying on with their meeting. The King was called for and the members walked downstairs to find a minor Blitz in process. So having stayed to have one or two to help them on their way, the members set out for home and without doubt there will be some 'unusual' experiences to relate at the next meeting.

PRESENT: Mr. Pickwick, Snodgrass, Nupkins, Fogg, Dr. Stanner, Podder, Pott, Sgt. Buzfuz, Alf. Jingle and Dodson.

Apologies for absence from Tony Weller and Bantan.

Pickwick
(/S/ Taster)