

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Minutes of the 506th Meeting held at the
Chorlton Liberal Club, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
on Wednesday 11 June 1941

This meeting was held by courtesy of the Chorlton Liberal Club who have on previous occasions entertained the Manchester Pickwick Club and where all can always anticipate a thoroughly good time.

The members arrived in small parties and after sampling the beverages so pleasantly dispersed by Tony Weller and Mrs. Deakin Mr. Pickwick decided that it was about time the serious business of the evening commenced and a move was accordingly made downstairs to the room which the Club had placed at the disposal of the Pickwickian's.

It was evident on entering the room that the officers of the Chorlton Club had borne in mind the fact that the Pickwickian's had always appreciated something to stimulate the flow of thought and conversation and after the 'kitty' had been collected Podder and Tony Weller set about supplying the needs of the members.

Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Snodgrass and the Secretary were having a discussion as to whether the Annual General Meeting should be included in the number of meetings held and George Nupkins, who was in festive mood, enquired what the mumbling at the ~~10/-~~ end of the table was all about.

The Secretary bowed to Mr. Snodgrass' superior Pickwickian knowledge and Mr. Pickwick duly opened the 506th meeting of the Club.

There was some delay in the service of drink which called for comment from George Nupkins, whom the Chairman accused of being in a hilarious mood. George Nupkins said it was merely the joy of spring finding an outlet.

The Minutes of the 505th Meeting were duly read and accepted. George Nupkins however was in his critical mood, he thought they had been read in a hurried sloppy fashion - further he objected to the Secretary styling Snodgrass as "Snoddy". The Secretary explained that being a man of few words as compared to George Nupkins he had not yet attained that clear resonant enunciation and tone which came from much public speaking but promised to endeavour to improve at future meetings.

With regard to the term "Snoddy" he thought this was excusable and if he searched could probably find a precedent but George Nupkins was scornful and quoted Poddy and Foggy as absurdities, evidently being afraid he would find himself in the Minutes as "Nuppy". An appeal was made to Snodgrass who said he regarded "Snoddy" as a term of affection and did not see anything very much wrong with it.

Mr. Pickwick fined one or two members for being without badges and as the Poor Box was not available an ornament was substituted. Here Pott, who is nothing if not patriotic, objected on the score that the said ornament appeared to be of enemy origin.

The health of Mr. Pickwick was proposed by Mr. Pott, seconded by Mr. Fogg and duly honoured.

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The Secretary reported that the Nag's Head had been damaged during the recent minor "blitz". He had inspected the box containing the Club property and found it intact but sought permission to remove it to his own house at Sale, where it would be comparatively safe in the air raid cellar. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for his offer and permission was given to remove the box.

Tony Weller enquired why there was no reading. George Nupkins had been appointed P.O.R.I. many months ago but many of the members had had no opportunity of hearing him. Where was the Pickwickian atmosphere? Mr. Nupkins confessed that he had got ready his book but he had been pestered by Dodson, Fogg and Slammer who had called for him and badgered him for tobacco and being so harassed he had unfortunately left his book behind him.

The Secretary pointed out that he had at Mr. Pickwick's command requested P.O.R.I. to select a reading for the night. In his opinion this was ignoring the Chairman's wishes and he thought a substantial fine should be inflicted.

Tony Weller, that true Pickwickian, produced his Pickwick and George Nupkins chose the account of the famous trial featuring Mrs. Bardell.

This was greatly enjoyed by the members present and Mr. Pickwick congratulated him on an excellent reading.

Sgt. Snubbin, however, complained that the reading had been spoilt for him by reason of Nupkins' protruding stomach obstructing his view. Nupkins entered a loud protest at the mention of what he described as a "physical infirmity".

Mr. Pickwick was still harbouring doubts as to the sobriety of Nupkins and accused him of loitering on the way to the Club. This was indignantly denied and Mr. Fogg described the remark of the Chairman as a reflection on three other respectable members of the Club who had accompanied Nupkins to the meeting.

The toast to Charles Dickens was honoured and shortly afterwards Bob Sawyer was fined for interruption and Jack Hopkin fined for referring to George Nupkins as Mons.

The toast to absent members was proposed and drunk and thereafter George Nupkins entertained the members with a vivid account of his experience as a retailer of cigarettes.

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 9 July 1941 at the Carlton Club who had kindly invited the Pickwickian's for the evening, the arrangements to be in the capable hands of Mr. Pott.

A discussion which might be entitled "Pubs we have known" commenced and terminated with a few remarks on the appetite of Tony Weller which apparently is of the "Fat Boy" capacity.

Mr. Pickwick now proposed that the meeting be closed and the members join our hosts. This was agreed and after the Secretary had been instructed to write to thank the Chorlton Club for their hospitality the toast of The King was called by Mr. Pickwick and the Pickwickian's proceeded to the Billiard Room for snooker and further liquid refreshment. It was noticeable

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that the majority of the Pickwickian's were more proficient with the glass than with the billiard cue but all spent a very happy evening and finally departed for home after giving thanks and blessings to their hosts.

PRESENT: Mr. Pickwick, Sergeant Snubbins, Jack Hopkins, George Nupkins, Mr. Fogg, Dr. Slammer, Tony Weller, Pott, Bob Sawyer, Sgt. Buzfuz, Podder, Mr. Snodgrass and ~~Red~~ Dodson.

Apologies for absence from Nat Henkle the ~~brother~~

Pickwick
(Ben Taylor)