

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Minutes of the 507th Meeting held at the
Carlton Club on Wednesday 9 July 1941

This, the third meeting of the Summer Session was held at the Carlton Club at the kind invitation of the President and members.

A welcoming Committee of Pickwickians comprising Mr. Pott, Sgt. Buzfuz and Jack Hopkins had assembled on the steps and the arriving members were escorted to the bar to receive a very warm welcome from the Secretary, Mr. Grocock.

It was apparent that Pott in making the arrangements had ministered to his inner man for it was hard for anyone else to get a word in edge-wise.

The Pickwickians eventually mustered in the room so kindly prepared for their use and a discussion immediately arose as to the amount of kitty, the argument being that the bowling green was at our disposal and we should hardly have time to drink 3/- worth. It was, however, pointed out that the balance would go to the club's "kitty" and the usual was agreed.

Mr. Pickwick said he proposed to formally admit Mr. Grocock to the membership of the Club and the question of a name arose.

In response to question the Secretary stated that he had written to the present Mr. Sam Weller asking if he proposed to attend future meetings of the club but up to date had not had a reply. It was agreed therefore that Mr. Grocock take up his old title of Sam Weller.

Mr. Pickwick now declared the 507th meeting of the Club to be opened and after inviting Jack Hopkins to be Vice-Chairman for the evening immediately fined Sgt. Buzfuz, Jack Hopkins and Mr. Fogg for being without their badges. He said he proposed to bring Mr. Grocock into the meeting at once so that he could be present when the minutes were read and sent Pott to find him. We rather suspected he picked on Pott so that we could have a few minutes comparative silence.

Pott was away an undue length of time and the members debated whether he was in the bar or on the green until Mr. Pickwick asked Podder to see if there were any signs of either Pott or Mr. Grocock.

Eventually the three of them turned up and Mr. Pickwick welcomed Mr. Grocock to the Club, saying what a pleasure it gave him to see so well esteemed and ancient a Pickwickian back in the Club and told him it had been decided to give him his old name of Sam Weller.

In the absence of the D.C. Mr. George Nupkins introduced him to the members with a characteristic comment on each member.

Sam Weller expressed his pleasure at rejoining the Club and meeting many old and new friends.

During these proceedings the dispenser of drinks had been doing his duty to such an extent that there was a shortage of pint pots in the bar, but that matter was soon rectified.

The health of Mr. Pickwick was proposed and drunk and immediately thereafter Sam Weller was toasted.

The Minutes of the 506th Meeting were read and the motion of

Mr.

Mr. Snodgrass seconded by Mr. Pott was accepted.

Pott who was extremely loquacious all evening was fined threepence by Mr. Pickwick to compensate for past and future interruptions.

The Secretary referred to the remark of Mr. Geo. Nupkins in the Minutes as to the use of the term "Snoddy" and quoted precedent. In his (the Secretary's) opinion the complaint of Mr. Nupkins was frivolous and wasting the time of the members and he thought he should be fined.

The Secretary reported that the Club Property Box had been removed to his house at Sale.

The Secretary referred to the Notice of Meetings and said only Sgt. Buzfuz had replied to notify him of his intention to attend. Mr. Fogg got up in great indignation and stated he had verbally assured the Secretary of his intentions but Mr. Pickwick decided this could not be taken as an excuse.

Geo. Nupkins said he had replied to one Dodson at Holly Bank, Sale, but the Secretary stated he had not received it and it had probably received the same treatment as a peculiarly addressed communication which has been handed back to the postman.

Pott, thinking he had still a little of his threepence left, started to again regard the meeting as a Pott solo until Mr. Pickwick threatened to fine him again.

The Chairman called for a reading from the P.O.R.I. who explained that he thought that as it was a beautiful summer evening and the call of the wild would arise from the bowling green a reading would not be welcomed, but Mr. Pickwick would not accept this excuse and fined Mr. Nupkins who stated he paid under protest which caused Sam Weller to say he had never known George pay except under protest.

The toast of Charles Dickens was drunk and a discussion arose on the Centenary of Charles Dickens which roused memories on the part of Sam Weller regarding Mr. Harold Blackley, Dennis of the Northern Window.

The toast of absent members was drunk with particular reference to Bantam. Sgt. Buzfuz mentioned the possibility of the call up of Bob Sawyer in the near future.

Sam Weller went off into interesting reminiscences of Jones, Hall and Scott, three heavyweights of a trifling matter of 20 stones each and promised to produce photos at the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at H.Q., the actual date to be left to the Secretary.

Mr. Pickwick referred to the next meeting and commanded P.O.R.I. to bring his Pickwick book. Jack Hopkins said he had a strong suspicion that the book had been left at the Dog and Partridge.

Mr. Pickwick said he now proposed to close the meeting and so allow members to have a game on the bowling green. Pott who had been busy all evening one way and another counted

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the "kitty" and declared it to be 9²d. He was thanked by the Chairman in impolite terms.

Sgt. Buzfuz proposed a vote of thanks to the Carlton Club for a most enjoyable evening and this was warmly agreed.

Sgt. Buzfuz now baffled all members by saying he had noticed Mr. Churchill had used the word "climacteric" in one of his recent speeches and asked where it occurred in Pickwick Papers.

Even Snodgrass & Nupkins were dumb before this profound query and Sgt. Buzfuz pointed out that when the Pickwickians visited the Assembly Rooms at Bath the groups were classified and drivers unmarried ladies are described as past their grand climacteric.

Jack Hopkins proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Pickwick which was seconded by George Nupkins who said Mr. Pickwick had not had much to do but had done it very well.

The toast of The King was duly honoured and after draining their pint pots the Pickwickians wandered down to the bowling green where they were soon busy trying to get a wood somewhere near a jack - not always with ~~any~~ success.

After bowls a visit was paid to the billiard room where we were made very welcome by the members of the Carlton Club.

Just before leaving a very pleasing episode occurred when the President of the Carlton Club expressed the pleasure it had given the members to entertain the Pickwickians. He particularly mentioned one bowler who had bowled large and wide.

In the absence of Mr. Pickwick who had had to leave early to get his bus, George Nupkins replied in his best manner. He told the members of the club what a delightful evening the Pickwickians had spent and expressed the thanks of Mr. Pickwick and the members. He expressed regret that the member who had bowled so wide should also be a member of the Carlton Club and he could not therefore accept full responsibility for his short-comings.

The Pickwickians now called for their conveyances and after many expressions of goodwill between the members of the two clubs departed homewards - truly a memorable evening.

PRESENT: Mr. Pickwick, Alf Jingle, Mr. Pott, Sgt. Buzfuz, Podder, Snodgrass, Jack Hopkins, George Nupkins, Dr. Slammer, Mr. Fogg, Sam Weller, Mr. Dodson.

Apologies for absence:- Tony Weller, Bob Sawyer.

*Proper
Ch*

*W.D.
B.W. Taylor
Pickwick*