

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Minutes of the 508th Meeting held at Headquarters  
on Wednesday 13 August 1941

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A fine muster of Pickwickians and friends attended the meeting and after greetings downstairs assembled in the club room where after a little preliminary shuffling of tables and chairs Mr. Pickwick declared the 508th meeting open.

He welcomed the visitors in a few well chosen words, explaining that owing to conditions it was not possible to hold the meeting with the old ceremony and regalia, nevertheless he trusted they would enjoy the meeting and called on Pott to attend to the drinks. Before Pott could exclaim "me - why me?" George Nupkins called on the Vice Chairman to fine Mr. Pickwick for not calling on P.O.C who was present. Mr. Pickwick replied this was merely a tribute to Potts long years of service in that capacity, but hard up.

The Health of Mr. Pickwick was duly drunk.

The Minutes were read and on the proposal of Sgt. Buzfuz, seconded by Jack Hopkins, accepted.

Jack Hopkins voiced his opinion that Mr. Pott might have been referred to in a more emphatic manner but the general feeling appeared to be that as Pott had practically monopolised one meeting the less said about him at the next the better.

Mr. Pickwick thought that for the benefit of unborn Pickwickians the Secretary could have given some definition of the word "climacteric". The Secretary protested that this was hardly his function as a writer of minutes. George Nupkin kindly upheld his right hand by explaining that the Prime Minister used the word in a totally different sense to that employed by Charles Dickens.

Pott referred to the safe custody of the Club Archives but asked if a similar precaution had been taken with the pots or mugs.

Alf. Jingle gave a short survey of the history of the mugs and it was pointed out that some of the older members owned their particular mugs or pots.

A discussion arose as to whether each member should be responsible for the custody of his own mug or whether they should be left in the custody of the landlord and a list made out. Sgt. Buzfuz explained the position regarding any, or rather absence of any legal responsibility of the landlord. Podder was particularly anxious to take his mug home, which caused George Nupkins to remark that Podder was probably incited by the notice in pubs regarding the shortage of glasses and was obviously safeguarding his own thirst. It was decided that any member who owned a mug could take it home and that a list be made of the remainder.

Pott brought up the matter of the production of the poor box but the Secretary thought it rather unreasonable to expect him to lug it round Manchester. Sgt. Buzfuz thought it was a matter of indifference as there was no key and was fined by the Chairman for frivolous comment.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Chorlton Liberal Club inviting the club to hold their next meeting at that club and stating that Mr. Stretch had suggested Wednesday 10 September as a suitable date. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the Secretary had mentioned Jack Hopkins as Mr. Stretch and thought he should be fined, but was ruled out of order as the Secretary was merely quoting from a letter.

Wednesday

Wednesday, however, appeared to be inconvenient and Tuesday 9 August was fixed as the date.

Mr. Pickwick now left the room and on return was sternly taken to task for leaving the Chair unoccupied. Mr Pickwick vehemently protested saying he had mentioned the matter to Peter Magnus. Peter Magnus strongly denied this, he had not heard even a whisper from Mr. Pickwick. Tony Weller stated he was disgusted at this state of affairs but George Nupkins laid the whole of the blame on the Vice Chairman for not attending to the matter using had words such as "inefficiency".

The Secretary stated that Jack Hopkins had been good enough to have some extremely neat syllabuses printed and thought the thanks of the meeting were due to Jack. This raised a storm of protest George Nupkins being of opinion that he had only done his duty. Sgt. Buzfuz thought the printer should be thanked instead. Mr. Pickwick quelled the strife and dissension by promptly fining J. Hopkins and Alf. Jingle for interrupting and Mr. Whittaker ( a visitor) volunteered to pay a handsome fine for the privilege of telling Tony Weller exactly what he thought of him. It was decided that the printer be thanked when the Secretary was in possession of his name and address.

Nat Winkle now arrived with a friend from Ireland and whilst they were settling down and Nat Winkle was paying his fine Sgt. Buzfuz protested that every man was served with a drink but him. This was remedied.

The Chairman now called on Alf. Jingle for some entertainment and he started off with "The Balance Sheet." Unfortunately his memory lapsed and he switched over to "McBrides System". This was a very fine effort and drew unstinted praise from Mr. Pickwick who said Alfred had acquitted himself with credit and had never been heard in finer voice.

The toasts of Charles Dickens and Absent Members were drunk and thereafter Mr. Pickwick called on Alfred Jingle for a further effort and in happy vein he gave in Evan's Dog Hospital.

Jack Hopkins has evidently a roving eye - he astounded the meeting by declaring that the Chairman had wilfully damaged club property and on being asked for an explanation pointed to the minutes of the last meeting which Mr. Pickwick had singed.

Sgt. Buzfuz and the Vice Chairman expressed their horror and on the motion of the latter the Chairman was duly fined.

P.O.R.I. was requested to give a reading and as a compliment to the new Sam Weller who was unfortunately unable to be present he gave "Sam Weller at the Inn" prior to Mr. Pickwick's discovery of that remarkable servant. A very good reading greatly enjoyed by all. George has certainly got the manner and it was observed that if possible he improved with practice.

The Chairman now called on Alf. Jingle for a final item but Alf. was thirsty and his mug stood empty. G. Nupkins implored Podder to supply his needs and was promptly fined by the Chairman for interruption. Podder did his duty.

Alfred set off very bravely with Sharabeer Old Shubren but whether it was George Nupkins interruption or whether the ale was not satisfactory, or perhaps the thought of all that whisky in these hard times was too much for him, the fact remains that his

memory

memory once again failed, so just to shew what he could do he went through Elongated Ejaculation without a stumble and to the acclaim of the members.

Mr. Pickwick stated that owing to black-out he must now close the meeting so "God Save the King" was sung, the King's health was drunk and a very happy meeting ended.

PRESENT: Mr. Pickwick, Peter Magnus, George Nupkins,  
Dr. Slammer, Podder, Pott, Tony Weller,  
Sgt. Buzfuz, Jack Hopkins, Alf. Jingle,  
Nat Winkle, Dodson.

VISITORS: Mr. C. Whittaker, Mr. R. Bates, Mr. H. Davies,  
Mr. B. Froggatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Sgt. Snubbin,  
Fogg, Snodgrass, Sam Weller and Bob Sawyer.

*Jay Weller*  
*P. P. Bhassan*