

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Minutes of the 509th Meeting held at the Chorlton  
Liberal Club on Tuesday 9 September 1941

This is the last meeting of the Summer Session was held  
by the courtesy of our friends the members of the Chorlton Club.

The late arrival of the Secretary somewhat delayed the  
start of the meeting and called upon for some explanation he  
promptly put the blame on his partner and Dr. Slammer, the latter  
for being still busy feeding his face when called for and Mr. Fogg  
for taking a wrong turning in the Borough of Chorlton-cum-Hardy.  
After some discussion it was agreed that although the excuse was  
rather lame it be accepted without fine.

Tony Weller took the Chair and after explaining that  
Mr. Pickwick had 'phoned him that he would be unable to attend  
the meeting he nominated Sam Weller as vice chairman and declared  
the 509th meeting to be open and the 'kitty' to be three shillings  
and asked Podder to get busy. He then extended a welcome to  
Mr. Crane (a visitor).

Podder didn't really seem to have his heart in his job but  
eventually got round. Pott was lucky he got a glass full of  
froth and a bottle of stout and he called loudly for an ice cream  
spoon to assist him. Sam Weller suggested he should have  
produced a coupon for one collar.

The toast to Mr. Pickwick was called by the Vice Chairman.

The minutes were read and the Secretary received  
compliments from the Chair. On the motion of Alf Jingle seconded by  
Pott, they were accepted but Pott pointed out the Secretary had  
given the date of the present meeting as the 9th August and we were  
in September. The Secretary apologised for a typing error and was  
let off with a caution.

The coming Winter Session was discussed and it was agreed  
that no set programme could be put forward but that the next  
meeting should be held at Headquarters on Tuesday 7 October at  
6.30 p.m. thereafter each meeting to fix the date and time of the  
succeeding meeting.

Mr. Pickwick now requested Alf Jingle to give some  
entertainment and he obliged with "The reward of honest industry"  
He was again in very fine form and was loudly applauded.

The Chairman now went searching for talent and called on  
Sam Weller to relate any interesting experiences.

Sam Weller said he would have liked to have his old  
minutes for reference but related how a Mr. Harris had held an  
audience spellbound with "My travels in Alaska" and had then given  
the show away as a "leg pull".

Next Alf Jingle related how in the old days after a  
meeting at the Mitre the landlord had celebrated his birthday in  
whisky which they drew from a keg and after they had consumed  
about four bottles they drove home in a taxi but it requires an  
Alf Jingle to do the tale justice.

Snodgrass revived old memories of Sam Weller recalling  
the sparse meetings of those days. One - a meeting attended by  
only himself and the old Bob Sawyer was duly opened and ended in  
a Pub crawl.

Pott recalled a very cold meeting when Slunkey, who had  
travelled from Leeds to attend the meeting, attempted the

"standing

on the watch" trick, but whether it was the cold or the whisky something went wrong and Slunkey's gold watch was ruined. "Strange" said Slunkey "it's never done that before."

Bob Sawyer recalled his first meeting with the Pickwickians at a Picnic at Houghton, evidently some picnic.

Alf Jingle now rendered "The Ballad of the lost Sole" and was warmly complimented by the Chairman.

Sam Weller next recalled memories of an old Sam Weller known to the old Pickwickians present, a very honourable man and a credit to the Pickwick Club.

The toast of our visitor was drunk and Mr. Crane spoke in appreciative terms of the meeting and related how he had not been able to eat ham sandwiches since he assisted at the dismemberment of a corpse when on an anatomy course. It was suggested that Tony Weller should take a similar course with a similar object.

Mr. Pickwick now invited Pott to fill the glasses and was duly fined - this habit of Chairmen appears to be catching.

The toast of absent members was drunk and then the Chairman called on Mr. Fogg for an effort.

Mr. Fogg gave a dissertation on taties and their markets talking knowingly of 'chats' and such like. He had attended several markets at Appleton and Thorne and found them very interesting also the meals afterwards provided. This added to the fact that the pubs were open all day on market day prompted Tony Weller to propose that the first picnic held should be at Appleton or Thorne, a proposal that was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Pickwick now invited Snodgrass to ask round the Book but Snodgrass demurred as he was not prepared. Sgt. Buzfuz pointed out the frequency with which Pickwick was at present quoted in the Miscellany column of the Guardian.

The Chairman now fined Bob Sawyer the sum of three pence for rude ejaculation and then promptly invited him to give an item but Bob refused, saying he dare not utter a word in case of another heavy fine but Dr. Slammer came to the rescue with an exciting account of a yachting expedition in Merecambe Bay in which he and Geo. Nupkins were concerned, it being almost a case of swimming for it.

The toast to Charles Dickens was called and drunk and the Chairman apologised for the fact that there had been no reading. George Nupkins had hoped to be present during the meeting but had evidently been prevented. He then referred to Perker who had told him he always had thought of the Pickwick club on Tuesday evenings.

Mr. Pickwick said he now proposed to close the meeting to enable members to join the members of the Chorlton Club.

A vote of thanks to the Chorlton Club for their hospitable entertainment was unanimously passed.

Sgt. Buzfuz proposed and Mr. Pott seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for their admirable conduct of the meeting it being remarked that it was unique that father and son should occupy those positions.

The Chairman duly called the meeting closed and the

members

members went to the club room for billiards and gossip with the members of the Chorlton Club which was greatly enjoyed by all. It was observed that Alf Jingle gave some much appreciated items to his company. A very fine meeting to end the Summer Session.

PRESENT: Tony Weller, Snodgrass, Pott, Fogg,  
Dr. Slammer, Sam Weller, Podder, Bob Sawyer,  
Sgt. Buzfuz, Alf Jingle and Dodson.

VISITOR: Mr. Crane

Apologies for absence were received from - Mr. Pickwick  
Jack Hopkin and George Nupkins.

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*Pickwick*  
*(No Transfer)*