

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Minutes of the 511th Meeting held at
Headquarters on Tuesday 4 Nov. 1941

A rather sparsely attended meeting was the 511th, with fire-watching and 'flu the muster in the bar only amounted to five until Sgt. Snubbin blew in late but nevertheless a welcome visitor.

He was duly elected to the Chair and in his customary style declared the 511th meeting opened and called on Podder to collect the 'kitty' and serve the drinks.

This being done, and it having been noted that Pott for reasons best known to himself was drinking grape fruit, the health of Mr. Pickwick was duly toasted.

The minutes of the 510th meeting were read and after some compliment from the Chair were passed on the motion of Sgt. Buzfuz, seconded by Podder.

Arising from the minutes Pott referred to the Xmas dinner and said he did not wish to undertake the arrangements this year. He had been unable for some years to have his Xmas dinner in peace and comfort and he thought this year he was entitled to sit back and watch other people work.

The Secretary suggested that as we had an Executive Committee it be left in their hands - what were they for anyhow - and it was left at that.

Pott thought the arrangements for the Pickwick meeting following the dinner were not too good last year and suggested we went back to the old arrangement of long tables and long pipes. It gave a more Pickwickian atmosphere. The Secretary promised to bear this in mind.

Correspondence:

The Secretary read a letter from Perker who has now attained the elevated rank of Captain; conveying his good wishes to the Club and giving a brief sketch of his movements since joining the Army. Congratulations Perker - we were all glad to hear of your promotion and of your welfare.

Next a letter from Dawler was read enclosing his subscription and conveying his regards to the members.

A letter from George Nupkins was the next item, George being laid up or down with bronchitis but nevertheless sending a word that he would remember us at 9 o'clock toast.

Snodgrass told us he had recently seen Bantam who was looking very frail.

Sgt. Snubbins now produced the minutes of the 380th meeting held on 23 February 1932. He couldn't say how he had got them but there they were and it was a surprise night and Mr. Snodgrass was asked to question members on their characters. The answers were good if not exactly according to the Book and the event providing an amusing evening.

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The Secretary mentioned that Mr. Pickwick (Bro. Tadger) could not attend the next meeting and had enquired if the date could be altered but it was decided that in view of the Xmas dinner the next meeting be held on 2 December 1941.

Alf. Jingle and Mr. Fogg arrived considerably late and were promptly fined 1d. each.

The Toasts of Charles Dickens and to absent members were duly called and drunk.

Snodgrass was fined 1d. for calling Jingle "Ding" It is very seldom we catch Snodgrass on the hop.

Alf. Jingle told a great tale of his first experience as a member of the firewatching post, the discomforts being many and varied. Sgt. Buzfuz remarked on the willingness of firewatchers to do Sabbath duty - the answer being double time.

Mr. Pickwick now called on Alf. Jingle for a turn and Alfred gave "Three blind mice" after Kipling in Mandalay, following up with "The fully licensed man" both items being greatly enjoyed.

Owing to the absence of George Nupkins there was no reading and after desultory conversation and tales the King was toasted and the meeting closed.

Present: Sgt. Snubbin, Snodgrass, Pett, Podder, Sgt. Buzfuz, Alf. Jingle, Fogg and Dodson.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr. Pickwick, Tony Weller, Sam Weller, Jack Hopkins, Geo. Nupkins and Bob Sawyer.