

MANCHESTER PICKWICK CLUB

Minutes of the 542nd Meeting held at Headquarters
on Thursday, 11th May, 1944

Mr. Pickwick duly opened the meeting held at the Mitre Hotel at 7 p.m. having given half-an-hour's grace for late comers.

Many fines were imposed by the Chairman on members smoking before permission had been given; Wardle paid, but only under a strong protest.

A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary, apologising for his absence in which he suggested Trundle should act as Deputy and Mr. Pickwick adopted the suggestion. Trundle, only in the interests of the Club mark you, suggested that another member might undertake this onerous duty but was severely reprimanded by the Chairman and suitably fined.

The Minutes of the 541st meeting were read and on the proposition of Fogg, seconded by Alfred Jingle, duly passed.

George Nupkins raised the question of passing the Minutes and then discussing them, saying it was a bottom-upwards way of doing things, though truly Pickwickian. Much discussion and hilarity followed this remark and Fogg and Lowton strongly supported the Chairman's ruling on this point and for daring to assist the Chair were duly fined.

Stiggins was termed the Rev. in the Minutes and Geo. Nupkins stated his title was Mister and read passages from "The Pickwick Papers" in support of his contentions eventually the Minutes were duly amended.

There was no other correspondence to read but verbal apologies for non-attendance were made by deputies for Solomon Pell, Ben Allen, Tracy Tupman, Mr. Stiggins, Job Trotter and Dr. Slammer.

The members were perturbed to hear of the serious state that Dr. Slammer had been in, but were thankful to learn from Geo. Nupkins that he is progressing as well as can be expected; a request was made by Mr. Pickwick that Mr. Fogg should ask the Hon. Secretary to write him expressing the feelings of the members on his behalf and trusting he would have a speedy recovery.

A complaint was lodged by the Hon. Senl. Slumkey stating he had not received a P.C. regarding the meetings and that he had only received two cards since becoming a member.

As other members have from time to time had the same experience it was generally felt and voiced by the members that the Hon. Secretary be asked to personally supervise the sending out of Notices for meetings, so that any short-comings in this respect in the future can be duly brought up against him and no possibility of his taking shelter behind his private secretary will be accepted.

The meeting was a "Closed Meeting" and I can assure those members who did not apart from those who could not attend, that they missed an enjoyable evening.

Discussions regarding the past and the present meetings of the Club were freely entered into and many interesting facts were mentioned and suggestions for the future were outlined by members for considerations.

Bowton gave a vivid description of his first visit to the Pickwick Club at the invitations of Alfred Jingle and the late Mr. Stiggins. He said that upon his arrival at the meetings he found both these gentlemen very very drunk and only a few minutes after being introduced to the meeting his sponsors were forcibly ejected and he naturally went also and so for many months after he was at a loss to understand the objects of the Club he had visited.

The nine o'clock toast followed by that to Charles Dickens and both were duly honoured.

P.O.R. & I. gave a reading, picked haphazardly from the book by Wardle; though a short reading it was highly interesting and provoked a number of questions to members by Geo. Nupkins. Trundle of course was fined; truly his ignorance is colossal; for being unable to reply to various queries and also many others fell a victim to P.O.R. & I.

Many questions were asked of Geo. Nupkins, but his intimate knowledge of his subject generally found him in a position to answer fully, convincingly and entertainingly the majority of the queries.

A suggestion by Lowton that the holding of a Ladies Night might be considered met with approval and he agreed to raise the matter again at the Annual General Meeting.

Lowton also suggested that a printed syllabus of the dates and events of the year should be compiled and he offered to defray the cash of printing that would arise.

It was decided that the O.M.B. should be instructed in his duties of attending upon Mr. Pickwick at the appropriate moment with the Mace Rampart.

Time was passing along and Fogg was invited to contribute the first musical item of the evening, he gave a spirited rendering of "Glorious Devon" and "The Tavern Song" both numbers being greatly enjoyed.

The harmony was now interrupted by the Chairman who, as a late after-thought moved a vote of thanks to the P.O.R. & I. for his reading and functions, the motion was seconded by Fogg and duly accorded by all present.

Alfred Jingle rendered "The Sad Sea Waves" a good item, which was greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Pickwick requested Jingle to sing "Good Night O'wd Friends" and on the suggestion of Wardle it was decided that at all meetings the chorus of this song should be sung by all once only at the verse end, except the last verse when the chorus should be sung by the soloist and repeated by all.

Mr. Pickwick now called upon Mr. Fogg to sing "The King" after which the meeting was declared closed.

So ended a very enjoyable meeting, those present being -

Mr. Pickwick,	Podder
Lowton	Mr. Fogg
Alf. Jingle	Geo. Nupkins
Mr. Wardle	Hon. Sml. Slumpkey
Mr. Trundle	Podder