

The Pickwick Magazine

*The World's Oldest Cycling Club
and Oldest Dickensian Society Extant*

Founded in 1870



Samuel Pickwick & Friends visit the RAF Museum at Hendon

154 years old and still going strong



Ramblings about 2024....

So, how was the summer for you? I can't remember which day it was, but it certainly wasn't the best on these shores! What was good though, was the exciting summer of competitive cycling.

Starting with 'Cav' or Sir Mark Cavendish, to give him his correct title, winning the Stage 5 sprint at the TdF to take the record from the great Eddie Merckx, the day before the Club contingent arrived in Beaune. Then there was the success of British competitors at the Paris Olympics. The track cycling was very exciting, even if the medal haul wasn't quite up to expectations. Tom Pidcock put in a great performance in the Mountain bike event, to claim a gold medal, and Dame Sarah Storey showed once again, that she is simply a gold medal machine of exceptional calibre. Well done to all of the UK competitors that won medals.

Back home, we lost three more Club members to the great velodrome in the sky, -see more about them on pp32/33. We will also see Club Captain, Dr Payne relinquishing his role at the December Garden Party, having given some 29 years of official service to the Club. Thank you Tim.

Club activities 'on the road' have continued to be well supported and the 2025 calendar is very encouraging, with a number of Ordinary events now regular occurrences, along with the annual Hampton Court ride and a well supported Mr Pickwick goes to France (see pp18). Plans for the 2025 trip are already being investigated. This is great news for our Club, because, and it's been said many times before - we are primarily a Cycling Club, not just a luncheon Club. Participation or support at the events is very important, given the amount of time & effort the organisers put into them. So come along and join the fun.

Hope to see many of you at the December Garden Party- but remember to abide by the Captain's instructions! Enjoy your cycling.....**Editor**

Closing Date for the March 2025 issue will be 31st January 2025

All contributions are most welcome, the more you send, the less I have to do(!), and they should be sent to the Editor by email: pickwick2610@hotmail.com or to: Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex RH13 6NY

Secretarial Comments.....

[email: stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk](mailto:stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk)

I must start with a 'thank you' to those 128 members who responded together by bringing 266 guests to our President's Luncheon in May, and subject to confirmation by our Honourable Treasurer, I believe we made a small surplus! Historically our May event has had to be subsidised by the club, and you may have noticed that this time there was no gift for those attending, which helped keep the costs down.

We opened the waiting list in the month of January 2024 and received nominations for 51 new members, indicating a strong membership going forward. Three of these joined as members at the President's luncheon, together with the last three from the 2019 waiting list. We have 22 sobriquets available, so plan to bring another 6 into membership at our future luncheons. We currently have 221 members which includes 26 retired members.

One challenge currently is to find an internet-based event/membership system to help with the administration required to successfully manage our club in the future. I currently do this using Excel spreadsheets, but it is very time consuming and could be done more efficiently with software available from third parties. I have committed to getting this operating before I pass on the Secretarial role in December 2026.

I would like to give you advanced warning of dates for our future luncheons. Historically we have been the second Thursday of May, which sometimes clashes with a bank holiday week, and the first Thursday of December which sometimes is too early for a Christmas luncheon. So, the dates to record will be as follows:

President's Luncheon Thursday 15th May 2025

Garden Party Thursday 11th December 2025

President's Luncheon Thursday 14th May 2026

Garden Party Thursday 10th December 2026

I welcome all feedback from you as members, either positive/negative or suggestions for the future for our Club and the events we run, so please don't hold back! *Mr. Watty*



The President Sends His Apologies.....



Samuel Pickwick Esq wishes to apologise that he has been unable to attend as many Club events as he would have wished to, during his Presidential year, but this has been due to the ill health of his wife.

That said, he was present at last year's Penny Farthing races at Hillingdon prior to becoming President, he was at the President's Spring luncheon in May, and also at the Dickens Museum for the Founder's Day Ride in June.

By the time you read this, you will see that he visited the RAF Museum, Hendon with fellow Pickwickians & guests in September, which was clearly a popular event. This was something different of course, as our President is very passionate about all aeronautical matters, with a long and varied background in all types of aircraft.

He still hopes to be at Hampton Court and the December Garden Party, but in the meantime, would like to place on record that he feels very honoured to have been your Club President for the past year.

We in response, send all best wishes and a speedy recovery to his wife.....Anon



The Captain Bids Us Farewell.....

Dear Fellow Pickwickians.....

I hope I find you all well after the summer we have had?

As this is my final Captain's words, I hope you will excuse me reminiscing a bit.

I have been a member of the Club for 38 years, during which time I have had the pleasure of serving on your committee for 22 years, first as an ordinary member, then Vice-Captain, and Club Captain for the last 8 years, as well as being the second youngest President of our Club in 2006-2007.

I was also Golf & Cycle ride organiser from 1991-1998, 7 years; I have therefore dedicated 29 of my 38 years, serving this great Club, something that has been a pleasure and a privilege to do so. I would like to thank the Members and Officers of the Club for your fantastic support during this time, it has been greatly appreciated.

Being your Club Captain is no easy task, and I would like to thank my predecessor, Robert Upton, for all his encouragement and advice while I was his Vice Captain, and for being there when I became Club Captain. I had the honour and privilege to have served through the Club's 150th Anniversary year and the Covid horrid years.

The pandemic stopped us, like many others, of celebrating in the normal and accustomed ways, and the Club's anniversary celebration was cancelled and instead we had a not so normal dinner held over Zoom. Despite the dread of what could happen, it was a privilege to take the club through the evening and what a great Dinner that was!

However, it was a pleasure to be one of the few, who were able to turn up at the Downs Hotel, now flats, on the actual day of the Club's 150th Anniversary, to celebrate our Club's beginnings, to where we are today.

It was also a privilege to have been at the 150th Gala Dinner at the Saddler's Hall. Again, a fabulous evening, and thanks must go to all those who worked so hard to make the evening possible. Yet another 150th celebration was the Luncheon in May 2022, when our Ladies were invited to our normal venue and "home", at The Grand Connaught Rooms. All these events were special in their own unique way and prove what a thriving, great Club we have.

It has been fantastic to work with the Trumpeters and the Chelsea Pensioners over the last 8 years; they are both amazing and bring so much to our Club lunches. I also thank the brilliant speakers the Club has had over those years.

But.... all good things must come to an end! So, after 8 years, as your Club Captain, it is now time to move on. Going forward, it has been agreed that a Club Captain may only serve a 4-year term; this allows a greater opportunity for this important role to be opened up to all members. I have the pleasure in welcoming our incoming new Captain, Mr Dumkins (Paddy Green) and wish him the very best of Pickwickian luck. Now all we need is a new Vice Captain, so please put your name forward -

Your Club needs You!

Finally, can I remind all members to get your applications in early for the December luncheon, as this is always a popular event. May I also remind you all to make sure you and your guests are seated, wearing Jacket and Tie for lunch, by 1pm sharp. Wine orders need to be put in by email in advance of the luncheon, which makes a huge difference to the scheduled timings.

Lastly, after 29 years' service, thank you to you all. It has been a privilege to serve such a wonderful Club and its members, I am looking forward to just being able to turn up to things as a member.

Tim Stevens / Club Captain Dr Payne of the 43rd



Chapeau to Captain Tim!

The President's Spring Luncheon May 2024

As members gathered at the Grand Connaught Rooms, the excitement and noise levels started to build, as old friendships were re-kindled and new ones made - all helped with amber liquid served from the bar!

The room looked splendid, with round tables for the 394 members and guests attending, as the Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry brought the last few in from The Hercules Pillars across the road. Mr Samuel Pickwick and his guests were welcomed to the dining hall and all took their seats after a splendid rendition of 'Grace' created by Slum, our Deputy President.

Our Captain took over proceedings for the penultimate time, and soon called for the Marquis of Filletoville to present the Original Member to our President. Old Porkenham then strolled around the room introducing our special guests which included:

Philip Taylor from the founders of the Comrade Cycle Co.

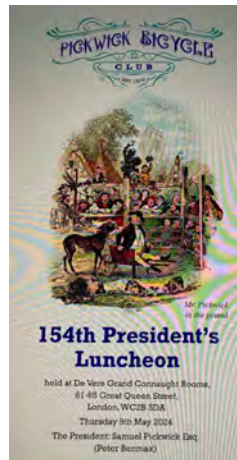
Graham Bristow, member of the Norwood Paragon and organiser of many Herne Hill open track meetings and others.

Jonathon Harrison, Director of the Association of Cycle Traders

Phil O'Connor, renowned cycle photographer

Bob Damper, Vice-President of the Veteran Cycle Club

Simon Howes, National Time Trial champion and Director Sportif of DS Handsling women's professional cycling team.



Meanwhile the Connaught Room staff had served the soup entrée, the hot smoked salmon starter and we were soon to be tucking in to the Algerian chicken breast main course.

It was then the moment, when six new members were to be welcomed into the Club, and Mr Watty introduced each, with a brief background, before announcing their Club sobriquets:

David Carroll follows his father as a member and will be known as **Martin the Late Gamekeeper**; **John Oakes** was a National Time Trial champion in the 1980's, and has spent his lifetime working in the cycle industry, will be known as **Richard Upwitch**; **Robert Basden**, son-in-law of Smithers and regular Peleton rider will be known as **Mr Cluppins**; **John Ford**, retired Met Police detective and expert on London's Dickensian pubs, will be known as **Tom Smart**; **Mathew Trott**, founding Director of the Ordinary Bicycle Company and organiser of the Beachy Head World Penny Farthing Championship will be known as **Captain Boldwig**; and **Bruce Sandell**, son of Old Lobbs and owner of Rouleur magazine and now Wahoo Fitness, will take over his father's sobriquet which has been in the family for 83 years, and in future at Club meetings will be known as **Old Lobbs**. Led by our Club Pianist, Phiz - the room welcomed them, with a loud rendition of 'Why were they born so beautiful'!

This was followed by The President awarding Mr Brooks with his 50 years membership badge. Since joining in 1974 he has held the positions of Secretary and President and has always contributed fully to the correct management of our Club - we salute you Mr Brooks!



It was then wonderful to be joined by the two Chelsea Pensioners, IP Gerry Corns and IP Oswell Telford, who were hosted by Dumkins and then led to the top table for the Joseph Atto Punch Bowl Ceremony, which was enjoyed by all.

The President led the toast to 'The King' and after a generous collection from all, for the President's charity, we settled in to enjoy the address from our guest speaker, Mr Alistair Barrie. A regular performer at the London Comedy Club, he is an actor and writer and has performed across the world. He entertained us well and ultimately led us all to raise a glass to 'Charles Dickens and the immortal memory of the Pickwick Bicycle Club'.



Dumkins & helpers counting the charity collection



Alistair Barrie



The President's Luncheon was closed with a hearty rendition of 'Old Lang Syne' and members and guests retired to the Balmoral Room for more amber liquid, and the opportunity to purchase signed copies of The Maurice Burton Way book, or Club cycle jerseys from Bullman.

.....Mr Watty

The Sun Shines on Smithers Golf Day.....



The sun shone on the PBC golfers for the annual Golf Day at Harpenden Common Golf Club. Once again, we were warmly welcomed by the golf club and I am very grateful to the Club for being so accommodating with some late changes.

Sadly, there were only four Club members playing—George the Father; Mr Warren, The Infant Lambert, and myself. Fortunately our numbers were boosted by our guests and I thank The Infant Lambert, for bringing no less than seven guests. The reduced number of Pickwickians however meant there was a good chance for a member to win one of our magnificent trophies!

The Mottled Faced Man had very kindly taken on the role of organising the bicycle ride but, despite his very best efforts, there was insufficient support and the ride had to be cancelled once again. In true Pickwickian style he has gamely said he will try again next year.

The golf course was as ever in excellent condition, the greens being particularly fast. The quirkiness of the course, there is a full sized cricket pitch complete with pavilion on the 3rd fairway, lends itself well to our Society. The scores (Stableford) covered a wide range from 35 to 9 points, but the consensus was that everybody enjoyed the course and indeed the day.

After golf we dined very well in the clubhouse. As usual for Pickwickians, we had a four-course meal consisting of homemade tomato soup, chicken terrine, steak and kidney pie (a proper pie, not casserole with a puff pastry lid!) with vegetables, mash and gravy, and finishing with a berry cheesecake. The quality of the food was first class as evidenced by all the empty plates after each course. I would remind members that you do not have to play golf or ride to dine but can just join us for a late lunch.

And so to the results -

The Namby Cup (best member Stableford score) -Mr Warren with 31pts

The Winkle Cup (member nearest the pin)- Smithers (I need to qualify this by saying it was really awarded for being nearest the green!)

The Crandyke Cup (best guest Stableford score)-Tony Carne, guest of The Infant Lambert with 35pts

The Boz Cup- (guest nearest the pin) Ray Hoyte, guest of The Infant Lambert.



The Trophy Winners



Finally, **The Jinkin's Balls**. Herein lies a tale. The Jinkins Balls are awarded for the worst score, or for doing something that Charles Dickens may have reported in The Pickwick Papers. Two years ago, George The Father was awarded the Jinkins Balls but managed to misplace them, so that they were unavailable for presentation last year. He was therefore awarded the Jinkin's Balls again in their absence for losing them. He purchased a very suitable trophy as a replacement, and had it engraved so that it could be awarded this year. However, on inspection of the trophy at the luncheon, it became evident he had submitted the wrong name to the engraver and that Jinkin's Balls had become Jenkin's Balls. In light of this error, George The Father was re-awarded The Jinkin's Balls for a third consecutive year with instructions to have them re-engraved. This event caused much hilarity when recounted to members and their guests.

I do hope to see more members, either golfing, cycling or just dining, at this most enjoyable day next year.**Smithers**

The Great White Horse Hotel - Ipswich

Some time back, Mr Phunky (Ivan Dodd) sent me a newspaper article about the above hostelry, which highlighted its sad state, and that it had been put on English Heritages' at Risk register.

Why mention it you might ask?

The hotel was one of Charles Dickens favourite resting places, and he described it as a labyrinthine tavern, and was so captivated by it, that he was inspired to write Pickwick Papers. Other notable guests included George II, Admiral Nelson and..... the Beatles. It originated as a Tavern as far back as 1515, but was rebuilt in its current style in 1815. After Pickwick Papers was published, it became one of the best known taverns in the country. Its darkest days came in 1967 when an attempt was made to demolish it and build shops. It struggled to maintain itself as a hotel over the following years until it closed in 2008, and as you can (just) see, the To Let sign in the window in 2012.

By leaving this item until now, I can advise that in April of this year, it has received a £100,000 grant from the National Lottery to develop it into a community hub, and therefore secure the future of this landmark building.....Editor



Thomas Stevens' Day

April 22nd 2024 marked the 140th Anniversary of the start of Thomas Stevens' circumnavigation of the globe on a bicycle. After two years and 6 months, having cycled 13,500 miles, Thomas arrived back at his starting point in San Francisco in January 1887 becoming the first person to ride around the world on a bicycle.



To celebrate this momentous endeavour, members of the V-CC Highwheel Group, The Pickwick Bicycle Club, and The Wheelmen came together on Sunday 21st April at Thomas' graveside, in St Marylebone Cemetery, East Finchley, under the umbrella of The Friends of Thomas Stevens. In recent years the grave has been neglected and on a previous visit in March, Philip Saunders, Robert Torto and I, had spent some time cleaning the gravestone and replenishing the gravel bed. Further work will be required for which funds will need to be raised.

At 11 o'clock on this chilly Sunday morning, Stuart Mason-Elliot of The PBC gave a short introduction, welcoming us to the first meeting of the Friends of Thomas Stevens and outlined plans for an annual event to commemorate his achievements. Micheal Grützner then gave a talk on Thomas's journey and his 1887 book, 'Around The World on a Bicycle', and gave some background to the group's objectives. Thomas, who was born in Berkhamsted in 1854 and emigrated to the US in 1871, not only cycled around the world, but also undertook expeditions to East Africa in search of Henry Morton Stanley and rode across Russia on a horse. He returned to England in 1895, married, and became manager of the Garrick Theatre in London's West End. He passed in 1935 of bladder cancer. A toast was then raised to Thomas after the talk and flowers laid upon the grave. Many thanks to Phil Saunders for supplying the bubbly.



After taking several photographs for the local press, and a parade of riders passing the graveside, we reconvened in the nearby Five Bells on East End Road, where more glasses were raised to Thomas over lunch.

Following lunch, the group set off on a short ride through the back streets of Finchley and Muswell Hill to Alexandra Palace. Robert Torto had planned a fantastic route which avoided steep gradients in this rather hilly patch of North London. The area is not ideal terrain for riding these machines with limited braking ability and no gears!

The spectacular view from the terrace at Alexandra Palace, looks south across central London, and into the park below; the pathways still outline the cycle track that existed in the 1880's and saw many of the earliest pioneers of bicycle racing, compete on high wheeled bicycles.



Group photos were taken, and a return journey was made to the Five Bells, where farewells were said, and the group dispersed. Plans are already underway for next year's event, and with the consent of Thomas' descendants we hope to raise funds to restore the grave and add a memorial celebrating his achievement. Details of our crowd funding will be made once a full assessment of the work required has been completed.



In a wider context, awareness of Thomas' achievement and his unique place in the history of cycling needs to be made. We hope that Thomas Stevens' Day is a small step towards this goal.....*Captain Boldwig*

Founders Day June 2024 - a pictorial journey

As befits the purpose of this ride, the participants gathered at the Hackney Downs Hotel site, with an eclectic collection of bicycles and attire. Heading off to the Olympic Park along the Lea Valley pathway on a bright Sunday morning, and making a brief photo stop. Continuing on to the Dickens Museum in Doughty Street, where they were welcomed once again, by Director, Dr Cindy Sughrue, and Club President, Mr Samuel Pickwick. The Charles Dickens Primary school was another photo stop at the junction of Pickwick St EC1. With various refreshment stops along the route, they finally made their way back to Hackney Downs, before heading home.





Who Were Your Early Namesakes?

Researching Your Ancestors.

The Pickwick Bicycle Club has been in continuous existence since its formation in 1870, and the soubriquets of its members have been faithfully passed down from generation to generation. If you would like to receive the available history of your soubriquet, please contact Joseph Smiggers at:

steve@stephenbullen.com and you will have this information by return.

The Philosopher - "Sound philosopher" said Mr Pott:

"This is Mr. Snodgrass, a friend of Mr. Pickwick's, and a poet.' 'Stop,' exclaimed the count, bringing out the tablets once more. 'Head, potry--chapter, literary friends--name, Snowgrass; ver good. Introduced to Snowgrass--great poet, friend of Peek Weeks--by Mrs. Hunt, which wrote other sweet poem--what is that name?--Fog--Perspiring Fog--ver good--ver good indeed.' And the count put up his tablets, and with sundry bows and acknowledgments walked away, thoroughly satisfied that he had made the most important and valuable additions to his stock of information. 'Wonderful man, Count Smorltork,' said Mrs. Leo Hunter. 'Sound philosopher,' said Mr. Pott. 'Clear-headed, strong-minded person,' added Mr. Snodgrass. A chorus of bystanders took up the shout of Count Smorltork's praise, shook their heads sagely, and unanimously cried, 'Very!'"

Casimer Calipe	1927 to 1935	Committee 1935
Magnus Goodfellow	1937 to 1939	
Capt. PE Walton	1940 to 1944	Life Member

Jack - this is Jackson, senior clerk at Dodson & Fogg:

"At this humorous notion, all the clerks laughed in concert. 'There was such a game with Fogg here, this mornin',' said the man in the brown coat, 'while Jack was upstairs sorting the papers, and you two were gone to the stamp-office. Fogg was down here, opening the letters when that chap as we issued the writ against at Camberwell, you know, came in--what's his name again?' 'Ramsey,' said the clerk who had spoken to Mr. Pickwick."

E A Radnall	1942 to 1958
G A Matthews	1966 to 1969
P Knottley	1969 to 1976
J H Goode	1979 to 1982
R W Mills	1984 to 1994
Jack Creasey	1996 to 2017
Christopher Mockford	2021 to present

Thomas Burton - convert to temperance:

"Thomas Burton is purveyor of cat's meat to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and several members of the Common Council (the announcement of this gentleman's name was received with breathless interest). Has a wooden leg; finds a wooden leg expensive, going over the stones; used to wear second-hand wooden legs, and drink a glass of hot gin-and-water regularly every night--sometimes two (deep sighs). Found the second-hand wooden legs split and rot very quickly; is firmly persuaded that their constitution was undermined by the gin-and-water (prolonged cheering). Buys new wooden legs now, and drinks nothing but water and weak tea. The new legs last twice as long as the others used to do, and he attributes this solely to his temperate habits (triumphant cheers).

T E B Swallow	1905 to 1930	
Vic Mole	1939 to 1942	
W Woodhead	1944 to 1946	
Maurice Farnbank	1948 to 1967	
B A Aldis	1967 to 1971	
L Webster	1974 to 1977	
Dennis J Hensby	1981 to 2006	
Michael Bennett	2008 to 2011	Race Director, Tour of Britain
Jim Straw	2013 to 2020	
James Harman	2021 to present	

Nockemorf - Bristol apothecary to whose broken-down business in Bristol,

-Bob Sawyer succeeds:

"I wonder you didn't see the name,' said Bob Sawyer, calling his friend's attention to the outer door, on which, in the same white paint, were traced the words 'Sawyer, late Nockemorf.' 'It never caught my eye,' returned Mr. Winkle. 'Lord, if I had known who you were, I should have rushed out, and caught you in my arms,' said Bob Sawyer; 'but upon my life, I thought you were the King's-taxes.' 'No!' said Mr. Winkle. 'I did, indeed,' responded Bob Sawyer, 'and I was just going to say that I wasn't at home, but if you'd leave a message I'd be sure to give it to myself; for he don't know me; no more does the Lighting and Paving. I think the Church-rates guesses who I am, and I know the Water-works does, because I drew a tooth of his when I first came down here. But come in, come in!' Chattering in this way, Mr. Bob Sawyer pushed Mr. Winkle into the back room, where, amusing himself by boring little circular caverns in the chimney-piece with a red-hot poker, sat no less a person than Mr. Benjamin Allen."

H L Clarke	1883 to 1890	Life Member; Secretary 1886; Comm. 1886-88
F J C Ingram	1936 to 1947	
G W Stratton	1954 to 1968	
R H Rowland	1969 to 1976	
Trevor J Paine	1976 to 2011	
Gary Mather	2009 to 2014	

Soubriquets Continued.....

Boots - hotel valet:

"Seven o'clock had hardly ceased striking on the following morning, when Mr. Pickwick's comprehensive mind was aroused from the state of unconsciousness, in which slumber had plunged it, by a loud knocking at his chamber door. 'Who's there?' said Mr. Pickwick, starting up in bed. 'Boots, sir.' 'What do you want?' 'Please, sir, can you tell me which gentleman of your party wears a bright blue dress-coat, with a gilt button with "P. C." on it?' 'It's been given out to brush,' thought Mr. Pickwick, 'and the man has forgotten whom it belongs to.' 'Mr. Winkle,' he called out, 'next room but two, on the right hand.' 'Thank'ee, sir,' said the Boots, and away he went."

James Morgan

1992 to present

Mr Pickwick Goes to France 2024.....

The King of the Goblins (Robin Simpson) once again masterminded the above event, and it was quite **poignant** since shortly after our return, we would hear the sad news of Baillie Mac's passing. Baillie Mac had run the trip to France for so many years. We travelled from various compass points over several days to rendezvous in Beaune, to enjoy a few days at the Tour de France, as well as good food, good wine and great company. And we did! Plus watching some racing, including seeing the Maillot Jaune!

This report therefore, hopefully reflects the event, as it consists of three contributors, all with a differing perspective of our time in France.



Part one...The King of the Goblins

The crowds of spectators for the 2024 Tour de France were swelled by our own club's contingent of eight members, including Mr Watty, Hunt, Winkle Snr., Slum, Joseph Smiggers, Samkin, George the



At Brasserie Le Carnot

Embarrassed Gentleman, and King of the Goblins, all of whom were

accompanied by their partners. Travelling by road, everyone took the opportunity to extend their trip around the scheduled three night get-together in Beaune, Burgundy, so all had independent travel arrangements. Regardless, on Wednesday 3rd July, with six couples in a city centre hotel and two in their motorhomes at a convenient campsite, we all found each other in time for drinks at the Pickwick Bar followed by dinner at Brasserie Le Carnot both in the 'old town'.

July 4th was the day for Le Tour stage 6, Macon to Dijon and the route passed through Meursault, south of Beaune. Earlier investigation had discovered a restaurant, Au Fil Du Clos, accessed from a roundabout on the course and Mr Watty had booked us in for lunch there and gained permission for us to have early access ahead of road closures. The hotel group travelled by car to the restaurant but not so the campers; they chose to ride the 10 kilometres, Watty on his high wheeler, partner JK on a vintage machine, and both George TEG and his partner Lesley on a pair of limited gear folders. Coffee and congratulations welcomed their safe arrival.



Pickwickians at the Bar



The Campers Arrive

Fine Dining at
Au Fils Du Clos



Coffee for the rest



A Toast to Cavendish

Later the crowds started to build in anticipation of the caravan's arrival and the goodies that would be thrown out. Watty took to his high wheeler again at the request of the chef patron's wife, riding many times around the roundabout for photographs to be taken. After the caravan passed, we took our swag and went in for lunch, a splendid four course offering interrupted temporarily by the arrival of the race. Lunch was a truly Pickwickian event concluding with "a few kind words" and a toast to absent friends, particularly those who had to cancel their attendance due to personal issues.

Back in Beaune, nothing was organised for the evening as the formal lunch didn't leave much interest in dinner, however, good fellowship can't be ignored and our company drifted together over time, to indulge in snacks, drinks, and laughter.

July 5th was the stage 6 time-trial from Nuits-Saint-Georges to Gevrey-Chambertin. Our usual approach to a time trial is to find a bar-restaurant with tables on the side of the course and locate ourselves there for the duration, but following the course on Streetview, failed to find any such facility. So, after a morning at leisure we drove the 17 Kilometres to Nuits-Saint-Georges, parked up and walked towards the start of the course hoping to absorb some of the excitement there. Some had more success than others, but it was still an experience. Things improved in the evening when the group agreed to dine together again back in Beaune. Without a booking we trusted to luck and were fortunate to find a place that would put tables together for us. Another splendid evening that continued after dinner with more wine and good cheer.

July 6th saw farewells over breakfast, before everyone went their separate ways. Roll on next year!**KotG**

Part Two...George the Embarrassed Gentleman

It was another beautiful day, but we were not in paradise yet - merely Old Portsmouth. The van was (mainly) packed, and we were nervous and excited at the same time - we were going on "Mr Pickwick Goes to France"! The drive to Dover started early, the ferry was smooth, the sun was shining, the traffic on the A3 and the M25 was 'normal' (awfull!). Calais onward was a blur of toll booths and concentrating on driving on the right. We had an overnight in the Aire de La Vesle, just south of Riems on the A4 on the route to Beaune.

Dinner was a feast provided by the 'BBQ deli-meat counter' at Carrefour.

Our arrival in Beaune on Tuesday evening at the Camping Cent Vignes, saw us back-to-back with the elegant transport which had conveyed Mr Watty and JK to France - at least we realised it must be them, as there was an '1872 Ordinary' (don't know how many times I heard the age of that bike!) padlocked to a tree!

The fun began early on Wednesday evening, and the first proper meeting with the 'crew' was at the Pickwick Pub in Beaune. A rather unsure landlord provided some wonderful ales, wine, water, and peanuts, savouries, and other small treats. We stocked up before moving to the Brasserie Le Monge. It was a great venue. Lovely food, great atmosphere, super service, and lovely wine!



The next day was off to Meursault and the Au Fil du Clos restaurant. Lesley and I joined JK and Stuart Mason-Elliott (Mr Watty) and rode our Halfords folding bikes a respectable distance behind the (in)famous 1872 Ordinary. As instructed, I took on



the occasional sprint during our six-mile journey to get the "correct aspects" of the classic bicycle and its esteemed pilot. The cries of "get ahead and get pictures in profile - we need profile shots!", and "make sure you get some decent pictures for me!" rang out across the countryside. Considering we had bought our two Apollo Folders the week we set off to France, and they had been wasting on a boat somewhere in France until they came up on "Facebook Marketplace", I think we did well to just blow up the tyres and ride! For me, the Au Fil du Clos was hugely expensive,

but the food was delicious, and lunch lasted most of the afternoon. We watched the TdF 'Caravanne' pass and caught as much as we could as they threw confectionary, clothing, hats, and various other freebies into the crowd. The entourage in this 'Caravanne' was passing us for many minutes - about ten-fold the time it took all the race officials and the riders to get through ("Woosh" and they were gone!). The restaurant was a perfect location for us to have a clear view of the race, and the videos and photos we all have, will no doubt be shared as people wish. Cav' was absolute last as the riders passed our vantage point and we were told later, that he had been ill, but made up his places to be only 50 seconds behind the yellow jersey by the end of the stage.



Cav' & Team Car

The evening was a surprise - as we were "too many" for the "F&B" restaurant in the main square in Beaune. So, we 'touted around' and managed to squeeze into Le Parisien. A fine eatery, we got a decent meal and stuck two fingers up at the people across the way, who never seemed to fill all their covers that night (a right old F&B if you ask me!).

The next day we used the cars to get to Nuits St George for the time trial. This was a different affair from the open race as the crowds were enormous, and vantage points were much more difficult for our "Hobbit-Sized" frames. We watched many riders go through, but resumed the stiff-upper-lip style and retired to the bar as the day wore on. That evening was spent in the most "acceptable" manner - in a bar where we could see the football from the street outside but took no part in the cheering and jeering.



Time Trial Course

All-in-all a most wonderful and eye-opening first "Mr Pickwick Goes to France" for the Phizzers. We had great fellowship and fun, some good-mannered urine-extraction (much deserved in some places!), fantastic food and drink and a warm feeling of satisfaction as we moved forward on our next big adventure. A huge thank you to Robin Simpson (King of the Goblins) and Celia (for putting up with him!) for the organisation and time that has been put into us just turning up and drinking the wine and beer and eating the wonderful food! Those little Halfords Apollo Folders were to get some harsh outings in the next five weeks too - as my legs can still testify! We managed to walk around 84 miles in the Alps and the Dolomites on top of our cycling, swimming, and driving. I'll be writing up the holiday on my blog, but it may take a while for me to get through the pictures and places. Anyone who wants to know more should contact me and I will (hopefully) have a blog together about the whole thing.



The Phizzers

Part 3.....Slum 'There are lots of Mr Pickwicks'

When I first started working in the City, in London in 1981, there was a tie that was revered by everyone and that was the Youngs & Co brewery tie. This tie was only owned by those who had enjoyed a beer in every Young's pub' in London. I think at that stage there were about 135 Young's pubs. There were also fellow revellers in the City who laid claim to having had a pint in every pub' in London called The Red Lion. This was a lesser achievement and now there are only 26 Red Lions, and even back in the day there were less than 40.

You are forgiven for wondering what this has to do with the Pickwick Bicycle Club. In July, a number of equally intrepid PBC adventurers set forth to France, under the sage guidance of Winkle Snr, and leadership of the King of the Goblins, and the social imperialism of Hunt, to watch Le Tour de France. Happenstance determined that the wine region of Beaune (in the heart of Burgundy) and Meursault in particular, would proffer excellent viewing points. This was my first overseas PBC engagement and I cannot recommend more highly the enjoyment and camaraderie that these outings present. Many different backgrounds and outlooks, untied by a love of cycling and good company.



The Truffle Hunter

Within hours of arriving in the stunningly quaint surroundings of Beaune, Mr Watty, like an ale driven truffle hunter, had amazingly uncovered a delightful backstreet hostelry called...Pickwick's Pub. Serendipity surprisingly makes one very thirsty.



With Hunt in the Pickwick Pub

It also made me wonder how many pubs & bars in the UK and Europe furnish themselves with the Pickwick brand and how the great man himself would have appreciated the ambience and fare in each of them. Dickens would no doubt have been beguiled by the complexity of characters and the thrust and counter-thrust of barbed social interaction and that makes up a Tripadvisor customer feedback report.

The Pickwick Inn in Padstow dominates the search engines, even though its website uses the Butlinesque strapline of "Don't be shy, say Hi". Another Pickwick Inn, down the road in Kingsbridge, near Salcombe, has great food reviews. 'OMG, best pub in the South Hams, excellent atmosphere, excellent food, real fire, a laid-back landlord and dog friendly, just a few minutes away from 'Bigbury Bay'. For those in the North, the Pickwick Bar in the wonderful town of Helmsley, looks good with a 4.3* rating (complimented for its steak & ale pie). However, The Pickwick Inn in Scarborough looks out on its feet. The Pickwick in Woolwich is also a sad sight now (maybe a cheap sign to purchase though?) -see right!



There is a challenge to be had. Pickwick Inns, Pickwick Halls and Pickwick Pubs stretch around the world, but be careful. What would Samuel have to say about the Mr Pickwick Bar in Lucerne? I expect it would not bear reading. 'Spanning two floors, the pub has 3 giant screens and 34 televisions, allowing you to enjoy your favourite sporting events. A great ventilation system, provides clear and cool air through the warmer months and comfortable heating during winter. The Office Bar is notorious for hosting live music as well as karaoke, quizzes and themed nights with some of the best local DJs'.

The New Connaught Rooms look safe for the time being!..... [Slum](#)

Just prior to going to press, it was reported that an American lady, Lael Wilcox had set a new world record for the fastest woman to circumnavigate the world on a bicycle. She achieved it in 108days, 12hrs 12mins for the 18125 miles, beating the old record by 16days. Considerably faster than Thomas Stevens in 1887. She started & finished in Chicago, the same as the first lady, Annie Cohen Kopchovsky in 1894, to ride around the world, who took 15 months. More about her in the next issue...Ed

[Reminder - the Garden Party is on Thursday 5th December](#)

Miscellaneous Dickens Related Memorabilia

Several Dickens items of interest, appeared on the market during the year and fetched particularly high prices. Items that have a specific connection to the great man, are clearly attracting interest. (Both Watch & Desk Set went outside the UK.)

1837 Silver Gilt Snuff Box -

A silver gilt snuff box with a decorated lid depicting 'Mr Pickwick addressing The Pickwick Club' was sold at auction in Salisbury. The 5oz box was crafted by London silversmith John Linnit in 1837, the year in which Dickens' Pickwick Papers was first published in book form. Catalogue price suggested £800-1200, but it sold for £7500.



1836 Open Faced Fob Watch -



A pocket watch once owned by Charles Dickens has sold for £11,500 at auction. The open faced key-wind, dated from 1836 and was a gift to Dickens on the first anniversary of his editorship of the Bentleys Miscellany Magazine. The William IV watch is engraved with the initials CD and the words 'Dearest Boz- editor Bentleys Miscellany Dec 1836.

1859 Desk Set -

The brass bound walnut, ebonized desk set, sold at auction for £3400, was a gift by Dickens to his daughter in 1859, and is engraved 'Happy Birthday Little Lucifer Box', with a plaque to Catherine, believed to have been for her 20th birthday.



Once again we continue this series, looking at the history of chosen members, and this time it's Mr Ayersleigh/Carlton Kirby, who many of you will have heard on TV, and maybe not associated with the face. A very different story this time.....enjoy!

The Voice.....

So, Carlton, when did you first become interested in cycling?

I was always an enthusiast growing up as I did, on the outskirts of Sheffield and the Derbyshire borders. My paper-round was just 7 papers long... but they were all hill farms. It took a toll on my Hercules Jeep and then my Carlton Corsa in bright violet. The money the newsagent paid me didn't cover bike repairs, but it certainly got me fit. As far as watching cycling races was concerned, I had the gift of the National Hill Climb nearby at Winnats Pass near Castleton. This was a regular highlight. We would set up our picnic blanket about 300m from the line at the steepest part. It runs average gradient of 11.4% over 1.8km with our pitch reaching just over 20%... magnificent day out time and time again.



When did you get your first bike, what was it; and do you still have one? I think that Hunt might know the answer to this one...Ed

First bike came from a catalogue. It was bought by my grandmother. I can't remember much about it as I had it taken off me about three days later. Granny had spent the "Christmas Fund" she was "managing" for those who lived on her street in Liverpool. When the time came to pay everyone their savings she was in trouble. My dad Bill had to bail his mum out! So, my bike went back to a Mrs Botterill I recall. Hope her son loved it. I currently have a selection of bikes. A Diamond Back Topanga... or "old faithful" as I call it. Seen in Bushy Park's mild off-road tracks. I also have a spectacular rebuilt classic 1973 Ti Carlton team bike which belonged to Trevor Bull back in the day. The frame was gifted to me by the late David Duffield, the previous Mr Ayresleigh, after I brought back a fake Rolex for him from The Tour of Langkawi... I think I got the best deal! It was built up by Keith Penfold of the Pedal Club and Steve Wright, who did an amazing job of fettling it to near exhibition standard. I also have a Giant Bowery '72 fixie and a rather chi-chi Sean Kelly Vitus. Oh... and not forgetting my commuter special: A Brompton courtesy of Burts Bikes... no sponsorship deal... and its good patron "Hunt"

Did you ever get involved with local cycling Clubs, competitive or otherwise?

My involvement mainly centres on prize giving evenings. I also do stand-up theatre nights which are well attended by clubs all over the country. I do a mighty good Sean Kelly impersonation. During the cycling season I am usually busy at weekends so I can't commit to the rides.

We know you are a journalist & broadcaster, and that the late David Duffield (the former Mr Ayersleigh) was your mentor. But how did that come about?

Bizarrely I always wanted to be a broadcaster. I even had the temerity to write to a selection of radio stations in Florida... where else... asking for work. When I was 15 I might add. One producer wrote back and said: "Right now in the United States there are probably 25,000 people broadcasting in one way or another... there is no reason why one day this should not be you". So, when I left home, I joined the Lancaster University Campus Radio Club. From there I got local radio work and then equally bizarrely, a UN posting to a remote tropical island nation Tuvalu. It seems they were impressed by some week-end work I had done at BBC Radio Norfolk. After I returned, I got some freelance work on the sports desk at TVam... they liked my "exotic" CV... and my flowery shirt... There I worked with Jeff Stelling who was offered a gig with a new satellite company Eurosport. Well Jeff had an interview with SKY TV for a new football show with people looking at screens telling the audience what was happening... sounded awful. Anyway, I took the Eurosport gig... and Jeff became a millionaire!

So, you are 'The Voice' on Eurosport(?) for the three main monument events, the Giro, The Tour de France & The Vuelta, but do you actually get to go to these events, or are you stuck in a studio somewhere else?

Covid came and covid went... and so did most of our on-site commentary work. Once the virus had subsided a little cycling was one of the first sports to get busy again. Journalists were prevented from going on site and TV companies basically saved a fortune. One commentary position on the Tour de France costs many thousands of pounds. The bosses said they did not notice too much difference in our broadcast quality. I guess we had an awful lot of reflected knowledge from the years spent on the road in each other's pockets. So, the form stuck. Now I have to "play away" to go on-site. Which is why I go missing from the airwaves occasionally.

If you are in a studio, are you with the likes of Sean Kelly, Robbie McEwan, Rob Hatch etc, and how do you manage to focus on the cycling with such characters around you? What are they really like?

Obviously they are all complete arses.... No. We have a lovely team. Sean is quite sage-like. No padding from the man... but lots of gold. I can give him a bum-steer and he is most kind. He will be gentle with me and turn any error into a contemplation and a resolution. He is a gent. Robbie McEwan is like dealing with a wriggling terrier. There is no managing the man. Enthusiasm pours out of him, you just have to let him go. Rob of course is a linguistic genius. This puts us all in the shade. He is defeated by nothing... even Basque!

Apart from the big tours, what other events, cycling or otherwise have you been involved in?

Soooo many. My current favourite cycling event is The Arctic Race of Norway. I have called it twice on site, including this year during the Olympics. It was just amazing. Up above the Arctic Circle with the most spectacular views and not a mosquito anywhere - saltwater fjords you see. Away from cycling, my guilty pleasure is motorsport. I have called the Dakar Rally since 1994... both in Africa and elsewhere.

I still head to Saudi, the current home of the race in January. I also love endurance racing, such as Le Mans 24 hours both cars and bikes. It's a long list. I am very lucky.

What's been the most fascinating/exciting instance you've been involved in during your commentating?

2012 Tour of Turkey. Iljo Keisse crashing at the Flame Rouge with a gap of perhaps 18 seconds. He gets up, remounts, realizes his chain is off, gets back off, fixes the chain, remounts and goes for it. How he made it home is anyone's guess. Kittel was chasing him down, so was Petachi. And the boy made it. "JOY FOR CYCLING FANS GLOBALLY... WHAT AN EFFORT THAT WAS..." I still use the sequence in my stand-up show. Truly thrilling and unforgettable. Many say the best finish to a sporting event of any kind ever. Such drama. That year Iljo was presented with the Sports Personality of the Year award in Belgium. They played out my commentary to the nation... what an honour you may think: An English commentary in Belgium! Well it should have been. Sadly the TV host said just after the clip: "Well ladies and gentlemen, what an amazing finish for our Iljo... made all the more remarkable by the amazing commentary from the one and only.... Phil Liggett...." You can't win!

You became a member of the Pickwick BC in 2016, how did that come about, and had you been attending Club luncheons prior to that?

Long before I was inducted into our wonderful Club I was a regular guest of the lovely David Duffield. He was of course Mr. Ayresleigh. Upon his passing I was forwarded by the wonderful Tony Doyle and seconded by a former Mr Pickwick, Aiden Hegarty. I could not believe it. I understand my eulogy for David upon his passing perhaps had a bearing on my elevation. Many members came along to the celebration of his life. I had them all in stitches recalling some of the great man's exploits. It seems this was the golden ticket. I of course was incredibly honoured to accept the offer of membership and incredibly touched that the committee saw fit to make me the next Mr. Ayresleigh.

What is so special to you about the Pickwick Bicycle Club?

The special thing is of course the membership. What a wonderful group of fellows who share an abiding love of an amazing sport. There is no side to anybody once the boaters go on. It is a great leveller. From humble fettlers to amazing riders and industry chiefs... to dodgy commentators... we are all as one. And the cohort of guests that attend the events so wonderfully hosted, always provide a warm glow. It is a special Club, of historical significance. And long may it thrive.

As you know the Club have more active cycling events now than for a long time, so having been a member for some years now, what would be your message to new members?

Let us never forget the foundation of our Club. Cycling. It is a sport and a pastime that bridges boundaries like no other. When aboard your steed, however humble, you are first and foremost a cyclist. It is an amazing leveller. And the more active you are the better life becomes. You get fit, you make friends, you are good for the planet, you look ridiculous. Ok "some of you" look ridiculous. Look, just get on your bike for goodness' sake. It's wonderful... and so are the events you should be supporting as part of the Pickwick BC.

Thank you Carlton, for your fascinating perspective of cycling.....Editor

The Pickwickians visit the RAF Museum at Hendon...

Courtesy of our President, Mr Pickwick (Peter Benmax), Club members visited the museum on the 4th September. A sunny day, and sociable start time of 10.30am saw 12 members gather at Hangar 2 (directions courtesy of Pickwick flags placed by Hunt). Bicycles were parked in front of the hangar and coffee was served by the WW1 display. Following refreshments, a number of members mounted their machines and proceeded to do circuits of the perimeter road, whilst Dumkins played the part of David Bailey, including a video (which can be seen on Facebook).

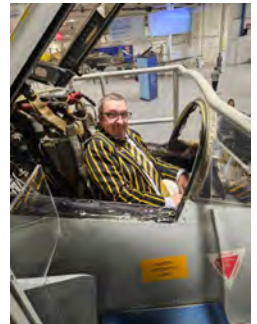


Outside the Hangar



Attentive Audience

Then of course the riders required sustenance, so repaired to the site canteen (kitchen?) and enjoyed luncheon from an excellent choice of freshly cooked meals. It was at that point, Mr Samuel Pickwick announced that he was picking up the tab, and the luncheon was 'on him'. It was a kind gesture and appreciated by all, with thanks. After our pleasant lunch, we gathered outside to meet David Laws, one of the museum guides. David and his colleague took us on an extensive tour of the museum and his detailed knowledge made it a fascinating experience. As we were part of a pre-arranged tour, we were allowed to sit in a couple of the exhibits which was a unique experience! Following this fantastic and comprehensive tour, we collected our bicycles and departed at around 3.30 pm.



Wing Commander
'Biggles' Dumkins

A special thanks goes out to Peter Benmax for organising the event, & treating us to luncheon. Thanks also, to David Laws and the RAF Hendon Team for such a comprehensive and enjoyable tour!

Another great Pickwickian day!.....Dumkins

Attention: Vice Captain Required - Your Club Needs You!

As Mr Dumkins I am your current Vice Captain and in December, I will be honoured to take over the role as Captain, which leaves a vacancy for a new Vice Captain with immediate effect from the December AGM. The Vice Captain's role is one of the busiest roles within the Club (on the day of each event).

Are you interested in the role?

Here is a typical luncheon event timetable:

09.30 - Arrive at Connaught rooms.

09.45 - Ensure the layout of the tables is correct and ensure there is clearance for the Original Member and the Punch Bowl Ceremony and get them moved accordingly.

10.00 - Set out the name places for each person attending, place the gifts, place the menus.

11.00 - Ensure the Punch Bowl is present and undamaged, along with the Club Bell and the Original Member's bike; get them out of the storage boxes and inspect them.

11.15 - Greet the trumpeters and guide them to the changing facilities and go through the running procedures and direct them to the President's lounge for pre-drinks.

11.45 - Meet and greet the Chelsea Pensioner's and guide them to the Presidents Lounge

11.30 - Sort out any table conflicts and circulate to make sure everything is in place.

11.40 - Help the Pianist get set up. 12.15 - Get the trumpeter's ready and accompany them to the Pillars of Hercules Pub and blow a fanfare to announce the luncheon.

12.45 - Get the trumpeters in place to fanfare for luncheon.

12.50 - Close the Bar - This is the hardest one - You will be unpopular as you must close the bar at exactly 12.50 so we can get people seated and expect to get sworn at!

Luncheon:

During the luncheon you get very little time to sit and eat or drink, you are there to support the Captain and you are constantly on your feet doing the following:

- Getting the person bringing the Original Member's bike into the hall.
- Making sure the trumpeters are in place at the right moment for each time they have to perform (several times during the event).
- Dealing with any table issues, non-wine deliveries etc, etc
- Ensure the trumpeters, helpers and photographer are looked after and catered for.
- Make sure the Chelsea Pensioners are looked after and that they sit at your table.
- Help the Chelsea Pensioners with the Punch Bowl Ceremony
- Help the Captain collect the money from the collection.

Once the luncheon is complete, it is your responsibility to get the punchbowl & bell boxed up, plus the original member's bike all put away, meaning you don't really finish until around 5pm.

It has been an honour to be the Vice-Captain over the last few years and I look forward to being Captain from December, so I am looking for a dedicated hard-working Vice-Captain to support me. The role is now for 4 years and after 3 years, we will elect the next Vice-Captain to ghost the position, to learn the ropes as we expect **you** to be the next Captain and hence master of ceremonies after a 4 year period. Please understand this role is NOT just a title, it is heavily involved on the day of each event and if you are a member that has any guests, you will not get to spend much time with them. I have barely had time to eat my food or have a drink with my guests. That said I have enjoyed the role. If you think this could be you, please put your name forward with your proposer and seconder to our Secretary Mr Watty (Stuart Mason-Elliot) via email, by the end of October. In the event of more than one person being proposed, a ballot will take place at the AGM to choose a successor. I look forward to welcoming a new Vice Captain in December!

.....**Mr Dumkins/ Vice Captain**

Passing of friends...

Always the hardest pages for me to draft as editor, because we are missing friends, acquaintances, or just faces at the Club gatherings. We remember them for their contributions to the Club. Our Secretary will have conveyed our condolences to their families.

Son Darren, "Daniel Grummer" remembers father Bob:

Bob Upton "Dismal Jemmy"

Passed peacefully away Sunday 24th March 2024

He was introduced to the Pickwick Bicycle Club in 1984 by George Gibbs (then Secretary), at a time when cycling wasn't as popular as it is today. His qualification into the club? Owner of a Holdsworth Professional, that he rode for a hobby and had an interest in Dickens. He became Club President in 1998. Followed his Presidency by becoming assistant Captain and ascended to Captain a year after. He served the role with the full gusto befitting the Club, serving until 2016 and made many friends within the Club.



This gusto was reflected throughout his life, which enabled him to lead a full and eventful one. He built a kit car at the age of 18; set up a radio-controlled model flying club at around the same time; held the position as Master of the Fletchers Livery for 2 consecutive years; served as a council member of the City Livery club; ran a successful engineering company; was a Justice of the Peace for 17 years; an accomplished horseman and golfer (played the British Amateur Open); travelled the world through his involvement with Masonry; served as a Parish Councillor; and was a member of many yacht & sailing clubs, as sailing was his ultimate passion.

He leaves a family of wife Valerie, daughter Lisa, son Darren, grandson Elliot; sister Barbara and two brothers, Brian and Barry.

'This is a world of action, and not for moping and droning in' -Charles Dickens'

Brian (Henry) Blackler "Young Cripps"

We were informed by his daughter, that he had passed away in April.

He joined the PBC in 1981. A Devonian by birth, but moved to London, and then evacuated to Essex at the start of WW11. Subsequently became a lawyer and ran his own legal practice. A keen interest in history, he obtained an MA in WW11 history. He chaired St Christopher's Fellowship, a children's charity for a number of years. and although a keen cyclist, he said that by the time he would have been able to contribute to the Club, he was too old to do so.

John Morris "Baillie Mac Something"

A long serving member of our Club for 45 years, Baillie Mac Something- John Morris will be sadly missed. He was a cyclist through & through, having raced when he was in the Army, and went on to live and race in Belgium, and all over Europe. As team manager of the British Cyclo-Cross squad, he took them to Europe to race both cross & road. He was course director for two Cyclo-Cross World Championships at Crystal Palace in 1973 & Sutton Park Birmingham in 1983. He also acted as team manager for the USA team at two Milk races, and also stepped in, to manage a USA ladies' team in France. John's reward for these roles was ...simple satisfaction of a job well done.



His soubriquet was rather apt, since Baillie Mac Something was "an excellent host treating his guests to a table, groaning with food, and an abundance of drink." John maintained this style at Wildhatch, the Morris home with BBQs, where he enjoyed welcoming guests eager to chat with him. He was quite active in the PBC, resurrecting the "Mr Pickwick Goes to France" trip some thirty years ago, to see the Tour de France, and of course eat & drink well, whilst enjoying the camaraderie of friends. He was Club President in 2005, of which he was very proud. He also organised his annual June charity ride for many years, raising large amounts of money for very notable local charities on each occasion. There was even an element of competition within these rides between the PBC and the Wembley RC, and he was particularly happy when the Pickwickians won or retained the trophy.

A number of PBC members attended John's funeral, and the King of The Goblins read the eulogy. John will not be forgotten as his annual Mr Pickwick Goes to France trip, will continue, as it did this year.**The Mr P Goes To France 2024 Group**

Henley-on-Thames to Paris, only 230 miles.....

Sounds easy enough, but as Mr Watty and friends found out in June last year doing the journey in reverse, it's not so simple when you're on a Penny Farthing (Ordinary). So what's this all about.....well, in early June this year, there was keen interest locally about two Penny Farthings due to come through the local village. A little investigation revealed that Bill Pollard & Matt Richardson were planning to ride the 230miles from Henley-on-Thames to Paris, in 5 days on said Pennys. They were raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, in memory of Matt's father who had died from cancer, and Matt himself, who was recovering from cancer.



When they arrived in the Warninglid (West Sussex) locale, they were surprised to see a Pickwick Club shirt at several different locations (Ed!) as they climbed the various hills, and a large group of villagers cheering them as they arrived at the Half Moon pub at the top of one such hill. Also there, was Matthew Trott (Captain Boldwig) who was to follow them through Sussex to the coast.

One of the Pennys was a Trott special, and drew considerable attention from the locals. Suitably refreshed - non alcoholic of course, they remounted and having posed for photos, set off.....until they were out of sight, before dismounting to descend a particularly steep and winding downhill run! Bill and Matt made it to Paris on schedule, although the last part of the journey to the Eiffel Tower was subjected to a detour, due to road closures. Matt said afterwards that it had been more demanding than they anticipated, but much more amusing & rewarding than they had expected. Currently they've raised over £20,000.



If you would like a Blazer and/or a Waistcoat then read on!

Gentlemen

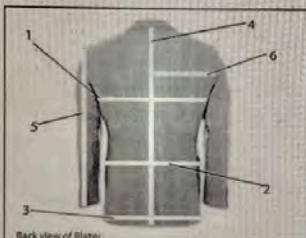
It has taken a while but we can now take orders for Blazers and Waistcoats, please complete this form and return it to me to get your order into production, please note that these are tailored items and it is your responsibility to get the right size. If it doesn't fit and was made to the size you detailed below you will still have to pay for it.

Kind regards

Mr Dumkins

Name	
Sobriquet	
Email	
Telephone	
Address	
Height	

Area to Measure	Measurement
1 - CHEST/BUST Place the tape measure over the protruding point of your shoulders. Bring it up under your armpits and around and over the fullest part of the chest/bust so that the tape meets again at the front of your chest	
2 - WAIST - Place the tape around your waist, please note this is NOT the top of your trousers but must be your true waist at the fullest part of your stomach!	
3 - SEAT & HIPS - This should be taken around the widest part of the hips ensuring that the tape measurement is over the most protruding part of the seat.	
4 - LENGTH - This is taken from the bottom of the collar down the center back of the blazer to the desired length	
5 - SLEEVES - Hold arm out straight, place the tape at the top of the sleeve taking it down the outside of the arm to read off the length of the sleeve	
6 - HALF BACK - Put the tape at the center of the back between the shoulders and take it out to the arm hole	



I wish to order the following items and take responsibility for my own sizing.

- Blazer only @ £250.00
- Wasitcoat only @ £140.00
- Blazer and Wastcoat @ £370.00

Payments to be made by BACS to The Pickwick Bicycle Club Sort code 40-42-18 Account No 94035534 please use your sobriquet and BLZR as the reference.

Mr Dumkins requests that you email the above form to him at: dumkins@pickwickbc.co.uk or post it to: 13 Goosen Green, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9BX

Stop Press - The Past President's Lunch - September 11th

Following on from a Club Officer's Committee meeting, a number of Past Presidents joined said officers for lunch, at the 17th century George Inn on Borough High Street SE1. Fourteen members - including ten Past Presidents and one Vice President, enjoyed an informal lunch with plenty of reminiscing, laughter, as well as serious discussion about the Club and its future.



(The George Inn is the last galleried inn in London, and was visited by Charles Dickens when it was still a coffee shop. It is also mentioned in his novel Little Dorrit.)

Another Reminder to everyone, that Club Cycling Shirts are available...a **must for those of you participating in the many Club events.**

Bulman still has a supply of these attractive Club shirts, ready for you new members to purchase! Ideal for all those Club events you will hopefully participate in next year.

Available in a range of sizes, - M/L/XL/XXL/XXXL, and at a price **YOU** can afford. Just £50 each + postage. You might even be able to purchase one at the December Garden Party.



Contact: Bulman at bdvcorinthians@hotmail.com