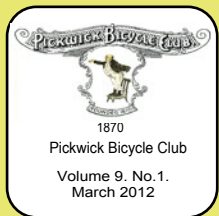


PICKWICK BICYCLE CLUB.

THE WORLD'S OLDEST CYCLING CLUB
AND OLDEST DICKENSIAN SOCIETY EXTANT

Established 1870



EDITOR: JOE THE FAT BOY

MAGAZINE AND NEWSLETTER



Mr. Brooks and Joseph Smiggers Esq.
enjoying a pint, or two



Mr Watty and companion

Inside:
Dickens 200th Celebrations : President's Report
Secretary's Report : : Sobriquet Histories
From the Archives

Also:
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Mr Pickwick Goes to France
Lots of photos : And so much more



Mr Watty and companions in Portsmouth



Samuel Pickwick Esq.
At Charles Dickens' birthplace.

Editorial

There has been a glorious start to what is destined to be a momentous year!

Our club was honoured with our President meeting the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace on behalf of the club; two members at Westminster Abbey and the Mansion House; and others in Portsmouth, all for C.D's Bi-Centenary celebrations.

Then G.B's women setting new World Records at the Olympic Velodrome, the track designed by our own *Mr Griggs*. Hotel booking on Box Hill by *Baillie Mac Something* for the Olympic Road Race. Proposed 'Camp Pickwick' for the Olympic Time Trials and so much more to look forward to.

A special celebratory Dickens event later for us and our partners and, of course, the regular events, Golf Day and bike ride, Benson Rally, Hampton Court Ride, the President's Lunch, the Garden Party – Wow! what a prospect!

Great days ahead, make the most of them, forget your troubles and enjoy while you can!

New woven hat badges, a lapel badge and a pair of magnificent cufflinks were sent to all members, the latter arriving on the very anniversary day. 14th Feb.

Your President's word:

I am extremely grateful to the club for electing me as their President for this historic year marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. If the year is anything like the first few months it will truly be something that I will always remember.



I have written a short report of the Portsmouth celebration of 7th February when several members joined the Mayor and other dignitaries and guests. The cyclists were in period dress and riding appropriate machines. This accompanies the photographs on later pages

I am looking forward to meeting the Queen and Prince Philip at

Buckingham Palace on 14th February.

The Captain's Orders:

This year we celebrate of the birth of a brilliant writer
Whose stories help make our existence,
brighter

A talent whose memory we hold very dear
Making this a historic Olympic year

His words captured the Victorian era
Creating characters of a social stigma
The world over, his stories are spread
And in many languages his words read

Our very existence is drawn from his writing
Characters all from Pickwick Papers uniting
Having sobriquets by which we are known
Ensures our traditions are given a fine hone



The Captain
(Dismal Jemmy).

Each time you dine or venture forth on the road
Member ensure you adopt the correct dress code
Let us show to the world of manners most striking
Standards to further the interest of eating and cycling

We should seek to reassure by preserving tradition
A crucial action in this changing world of competition
By the application of our customs and the way we are dressed
Like guests, maybe Charles Dickens would have been impressed

CHARLES DICKENS: THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

The Celebrations we have been awaiting have started in a spectacular way with ceremonies at the place of his birth, Portsmouth, and with a service at the place of his grave, Westminster Abbey, then followed by a banquet in The Mansion House, in the City of London. More celebrations are to follow, but for this issue, the events on the anniversary of his birth follow :

From your President:

On Tuesday 7th February, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dickens, I met with Ian Dickens (Boz) an honorary club member, at the birth place of Dickens in Portsmouth. With a group of Pickwickian cyclist and others from the local veteran bicycle and tricycle club we rode to Dicken's birthplace to see the Portsmouth Lord Mayor lay a wreath on the door and to hear our honorary member talk about

the family connections with the City. Simon Callow was also present.

Following the wreath laying at the house the Civic Dignitaries and guests (myself included) all

adjourned to the St Mary's Church Portsmouth for a service thanksgiving with readings from Callow, Sheila Hancock and Ian Dickens as well as extracts from Oliver sung by the Charles Dickens Primary School pupils here in Portsmouth.

Having ridden my hobbyhorse in the morning in appropriate period costume I spent the whole day in costume and as such was invited to not only sit in the front row of the church alongside the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the leader of the Council but also to join in the reception in the Guildhall and afterwards at the Theatre Royal with the unveiling



of a model of the statue commissioned by Portsmouth City and The Dickens Fellowship to be erected in Portsmouth Guildhall Square later in the year. The Club Cyclists have already been invited to attend at that ceremony which hopefully will be in late September.

I will of course keep you further advised of events and am now looking forward to my visit on the 14th February to the Palace to meet the Queen & Prince Philip.

I remain Samuel Pickwick

President



Photos submitted by Mr Watty and featuring our representatives Mr. Brooks, Mr. Watty, Joseph Smiggers, and the President, Samuel Pickwick, Esq.

Continued

**Mr Pickwick goes to Portsmouth to celebrate
The joyous occasion of the 200th anniversary of
the birth of Charles Dickens**

7th February 2012

The Event as Seen by Mr.Watty

At the appointed hour Mr Pickwick and friends Joseph Smiggers, Bullman, Old Nobbs, Mr Brooks and Mr Watty gathered with other friends from the Solent Veteran Bicycle and Tricycle Club. The event was to celebrate and pay respects to that great man, Charles Dickens who, 200 years earlier, has taken his first breath in Portsmouth and began a wondrous life of recording all that he saw around him.

He would have been proud to see Mr Pickwick resplendent astride his Hobby Horse leading ahead of a boneshaker, 4 Ordinaries, 4 vintage Tricycles and a solid tired safety, all on their way to the birthplace celebrations.

As the entourage approached a rustle of excitement passed through the crowd for many had never seen such wonderful Victorian machines before, with riders clothed in period costume to match! Their presence wound back the timepiece to a bygone age when the renowned Pickwick Club began their adventures.



After warm words by the Mayor and a Mr Simon Callow, a wreath was laid on the front door of the first home of Charles Dickens and the gathering moved on to further celebrations. The riders carefully negotiated their machines through the roads and pedestrian areas to the Guildhall Square where, serenaded by the film of 'The Pickwick



Papers' on a large screen, they rode their machines and shared pleasure with the amused passersby.

The riders then provided a Guard of Honour for the Lady Mayor and her guests, including Mr Pickwick, as they made their way to the New Royal Theatre for a Dickensian talk by Mr Simon Callow. Immediately forthwith,

they retired to the 'Isambard Kingdom Brunel' for a well earned glass of ale and further camaraderie!

It was a joyous occasion and enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Three cheers for Charles Dickens –

Hip! Hip! Hooray! Hip! Hip! Hooray! Hip! Hip! Hooray!

Westminster Abbey Report by Mr Justice Stareleigh

Some people have yearly birthdays, some have leap year birthdays, some (including my grandmother) have hundredths, but this was the first 200th birthday I had celebrated!

Jack Martin (complete with crutches - snapped tendon and auditioning for Tiny Tim in the next Christmas Carol) and I, attended Westminster Abbey to represent the club, accompanied by our better halves and along with a congregation of between 500 and 600 people to celebrate the birth of Charles Dickens.

We sat, shivered and waited on what was probably the coldest day of the year, giving more of a "Dickensian atmosphere" to the proceedings. The service started twenty minutes late due to Charles and Camilla visiting the Dickens museum in Doughty St. beforehand.

Claire Tomalin, the Dickens biographer, read a letter from Charles to his sister Fanny dated 1st March 1844.

Mark Charles Dickens, Great Great Grandson and Head of the Dickens family, read an extract from The Life of Our Lord, which was written to his children and only published in the 1950's. Next came the Rev Micheal Dickens Whinney, another Great Great Grandson, who gave a reading from St. Luke 14, 7-14.

The Address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This was followed by a fantastic reading from Bleak House, "Jo's Will" by Ralph Fiennes. The Dean of Westminster read the report of Dickens' burial at the Abbey on 15th June 1870 and Prince Charles laid the wreath. More prayers followed and the main guests departed.

Many of The Pickwick clubs were represented, including The City, Rochester, Dickens Pickwick, Somerset, Philadelphia (USA) and The Dickens Fellowship. The Dickens family were well represented with over 180 members present.

We were then left to fend for ourselves.

After a light lunch at the National Portrait Gallery with Jack Martin (fantastic restaurant, top floor, glorious views) we ("J.S" and better half) decided to visit "The Middlesex Dumpling" who had chosen to have his appendix removed and was feeling rather sorry for himself. He had taken up residence at The University College Hospital. When we arrived I think he thought that the drugs were playing up! Anyhow, after half an hour with Wendy (Mother Superior) we then disappeared and he thought it was just a bad dream!



Mansion House.

This was the evening do, posh frocks etc, 350 people sat down to a grand dinner organised by The Dickens Museum. This was hosted by the Lord Mayor who is Chairman of the trustees of the Charles Dickens Museum. Music before and during the evening was sung by "The West End Kids" who sang various songs from "Oliver" and other Dickensian melodies.

There were various speeches; a rendition of "A Christmas Carol" by Sir Patrick Stewart (which was fantastic); a speech by the Lord Mayor; the immortal memory toast was proposed by Mark Dickens and a short speech by Matthew Dent, the designer of the new £2 Charles Dickens Coin (which was launched on the night, and everyone was given one). The evening was rounded off by a charity auction for the first minted £2 coin. This was won by our Philadelphian friend who bid £2,800!



Well, what a day, I'm not sure anyone would remember my 200th birthday but I'm glad we remembered his.

Justice Starleigh.

This photo and previous page by Wendy Gray



Images of the Menu cover and the £2 coin brochure from Jack Martin



Pickwick visits the Palace.

My invitation to the Palace was unexpected but received with great pleasure. The event was a reception hosted by Her Majesty to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. Apparently she had spent the afternoon with the Prince Philip attending a performance of famous scenes from the work of Charles and then hosted an evening event starting in the Palace at 6 o'clock.

The invitation included a pass to either drive into the Palace or by taxi be dropped inside the Palace grounds. On arriving at the Palace the queues were such that it was far simpler to be dropped immediately outside and to walk through the hallowed gates across the forecourt into the inner quadrangle and then into the main building itself. There was a large crowd of onlookers at the gates, obviously recognising that something was happening and would have been pleased to see several stars of stage and screen passing through the portals into the reception.

Having deposited coats, phones, cameras, etc in the cloakroom we were ushered up steep, deep piled carpets into the Throne Room where champagne and canapés were served. We mingled with the great and the good, several members of the Dickens family and including our own honorary member, Bos (Ian Dickens).

Some minutes later we were called into line and passed through into a large mirrored reception room where we were formally introduced individually to Her Majesty and Prince Philip. On hearing "The Pickwick Bicycle Club" Prince Philip enquired whether I rode a Penny Farthing to which of course I replied in the affirmative.

Having met the Royal Couple we were ushered through the Blue Room, where the celebrities and the Dickens family were waiting to meet the Royal Couple privately, into the Picture Gallery. More canapés and glasses of champagne were available there. In this Picture Gallery, from the Royal Archives, were laid out various books and memorabilia representing the history of Charles Dickens and his work in the theatre, Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens including several letters from Charles to Her Majesty. Details of Queen Victoria's visits to the theatre and various Dickensian performances, were there and also of Dickensian London and Bos.

Together with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and the Princess Alexandra were also present. Then all members of the Royal Family mingled with the guests within the Picture Gallery. Also present were a number of stars of stage and screen including Griff Rhys Jones, Simon Callow, Patsy Kensit, Rowan Atkinson, John Nettles and Donald Sinden and others. I was delighted to meet with Ron Moody and discuss matters generally with him and his wife. He expressed with fondness his memories of attending the Pickwick Bicycle Club on his two occasions.

I was delighted again to meet Gerald Dickens, the actor who was for a time a member of The Club as Bos, prior to Ian taking over.

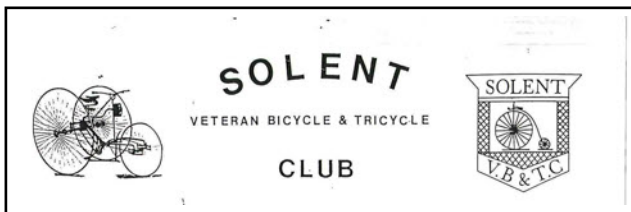
In all it was a thoroughly entertaining evening, much enjoyed, and I fully appreciated the honour of representing The Club at this historic gathering.

Samuel Pickwick.

An invitation.

In addition to being President of our illustrious Club this year I am also President of the National Association of Veteran Cycle Clubs and Captain of the Solent Veteran Bicycle and Tricycle Club. There are 10 veteran cycle clubs in the country and each year one club hosts a national rally.

This year my own club are hosting the event at Fishbourne near Chichester on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of September. The rally ride is on the Sunday but there are events on the Saturday with a cycle jumble, an auction with several complete veteran cycles as well as restoration projects etc.



Entries for the auction are being taken now. Commission is only 5% of the hammer price and there is no buyers premium. There is a barn dance on the Saturday night. On site camping is available or local accommodation can be booked through the Chichester Tourist office.

Members might like to visit the event, where on the Sunday there will hopefully be between 150 and 200 cyclists, all riding, in costume, cycles and tricycles built before 1935.

To enter the rally it is necessary to belong to one of the association's clubs. I can arrange membership of my own club at a cost of only £2.50. If you would like to enter please let me know and I will arrange for an application form and an entry form to be sent.

All cycles participating must have been built before 1935.

Pickwick



Did you spot Mrs.Bardell?

Of course, she is the one on the right, suitably displaying her Red nose.

They work hard to entertain the children in the Rainbow Centre in The Hampshire town of Fareham. (See the result of the collection made at the Garden Party on page 14)

Mr Pickwick Goes to France - Again

Yes, It's that time again – he's been going to France every year, more-or-less, since 1888, one would expect he would be getting a touch too old for it, but no, he is off again. This time, because the Tour de France is within striking distance for our elderly but very fit members, he has arranged an interesting, and exciting weekend.



Leaving these shores by car or via Eurostar to Paris on Friday night, 20th July, and then on down to the cathedral city of Chartres on Saturday – about 100 miles from Paris.

Based at a roadside Cafe/TV in Chartres to view the final Time Trial near the finish. Then return to Paris for a night out in the romantic city.

Sunday morning is reserved for the tourist interest leading to lunch at Sermette Marbeuf, just off the Champs Elysee, on the TdF finishing circuit.

After lunch we shall watch the Tour on Le Champs Elysee at the roadside, or in an adjacent bar, then, after seeing the Presentations and Lap of Honour, returning to Blighty, or another night in Paris, if desired.

In organiser Baillie Mac Something's words, "Good old basic weekend with lots of good food and wine, and Cycling." Very stimulating, to be sure.

So, make a note in your diaries to contact Baillie Mac and tell him you will join the party – but do that as soon as you can. Address and telephone numbers are :

John Morris (*aka Baillie Mac Something*)

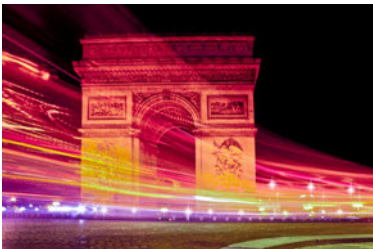
"Wild Hatch",
Coleshill Lane,
Winchmore Hill,
Amersham,
Bucks. HP7 0NT.

Tel: 01494 722611.

e-mail: <di.john.wildhatch@btinternet.com>



This ancient event is of great importance and deserves full support from our club members. Please advise Baillie Mac Something asap of your intentions.





Your Secretary's Report



11

SECRETARY'S REPORT

(As presented to the AGM in December)

I am pleased to report on another successful season for the Pickwick Bicycle club in its 141st year.

Yet again the Club is indebted to Joe the Fat Boy for the excellent coverage of Club Events in the Newsletters, but my only disappointment is that there are so few correspondents to the newsletter, either criticising, if they feel necessary, some of the activities and involvements of the Club or passing comment on Club activities that members have found particularly enjoyable.

There were fewer riders this year on the cycle day with the golf at Harpenden, but the day was, as always, enjoyable.

There were very good numbers for the ride through Hampton Court with a number of veteran and vintage cycles joining the "lycra" brigade, all returning to the Metropolitan Police Club for an excellent lunch when we were addressed by the Treasurer of the Solent Veteran Bicycle and Tricycle Club, Alan Webber, on the history of cycling.

The Club lunches have been well attended and in fact last December following the AGM over 600 members and guests sat down to lunch. A similar number will sit down today and what is pleasing, rather more than the numbers attending, is the number of members who will be present. I believe we shall have circa 155 members in the room, together with 2 retired members, out of a total active membership of 186.

The President's Garden Party in May attracted 356 members and guests, which included some 73 members.

A special mention must be made of Quanko Samba (Fred Parr) who brought with him a total of 30 guests. It is a pity that more members do not support the May function.

On the membership front we have introduced 6 new members to the Club, full details of which will be given later, and a further 3 members will be introduced during the lunch to follow.

During the last 12 months we have unfortunately lost 2 members who have died. Basil Rushton (Mr Price) and our Honorary member, Bob Chicken Snr (Angelo Cyrus Bantam). Two members, The Cobbler (Keith Audas) and the Mayor of Eatanswill (Vincent Soleil) has transferred to Retired membership status and 7 members have resigned.

Continued

It is disappointing that of those resignations, 4 were deemed to have resigned on the basis that they failed to attend the requisite number of luncheons which were set at Annual General meeting some years ago as a minimum of 1 attendance every 4 lunches without good excuse. Hopefully the dates for future lunches will now become more settled with the President's Luncheon being held on the second Thursday in May and the Garden Party being held on the first Thursday in December from next year.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking, on your behalf, the other Officers of the Club and the Committee for their assistance together with a number of Past Presidents, all of whom still undertake important roles within the Club.

Special thanks again are given to Mrs Bardell for her invaluable assistance throughout the year and not least of which is with the seating plans for the various luncheons. Having had to undertake the seating plan for the President's Lunch in May with Mrs Bardell away, I can assure you that her efforts are tremendous.

I would also like to give thanks to my own office staff and colleagues for their support of the Pickwick Bicycle Club and in particular for my secretary, Jane.

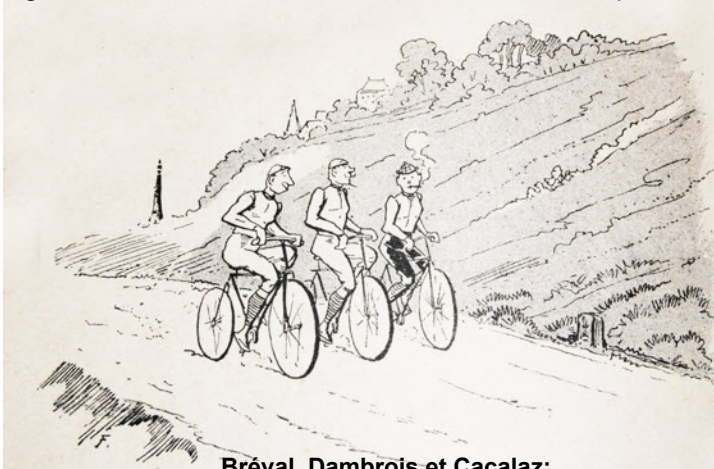
A hearty welcome is extended to the following three New Members, elected with great ceremony and tumultuous applause at the Garden Party in December:

They were, of course:

John Young, henceforth to be known as ***The Infant Lambert***.

Paul Devine, will forsake his long-used name for that of ***Mr. Leo Hunter***.

John Smith, in turn, will discard those hard-to-find names in Census returns, electoral registers and other databases, in favour of his sobriquette: ***Whiffen***.



Bréval, Dambrois et Cacalaz:
trois amis que la passion de la réunis en cette journée.

141st Annual Garden Party. Thursday, 8th December 2011

The Garden Party started on a rather sad note for we were without our President, Samuel Pickwick, Esq. He had been unwell for some time and was genuinely missed. We collectively wished him well, and this was especially noted at the AGM earlier in the day. However, all was not lost, for the Secretary and Captain had the proceedings well under control and the lunch proceeded without undue delay.

Members and guests were greeted as usual with a fanfare from the trumpeters of the Life Guards resplendent in their magnificent uniforms. Sgt. Buzfuz, later to be elected President, entered together with the principle guest. Grace was said and we sat down, first to welcome the Original Member – who seemed to me to be quite unlike the Original Member of the May function.

The four course lunch followed and there were, once again, mixed feelings about the quality. The Duck and Orange parfait was excellent, worthy of perhaps the early contestants in Master Chef. Then the Lobster Bisque was excellently flavoured – but oh, just luke warm.

The Pampiette of Norfolk Turkey somehow seems to have made a rather arduous lengthy journey from Istanbul – barely edible! Baby chipolatas wrapped in bacon were cold and still-born. Roast spuds, baby sprouts and roast parsnips, usually a good combination, may

have been excellent when emerging from the ovens but somehow lost something on the journey from deep down in the building.

Plum puddings – 'huff said!!

Coffee was fine, but there were no mince pies at our end of the table.

Then the punch – served long before the Chelsea Pensioners wheeled in the magnificent Joseph Atto Punch Bowl. And a minute sip of the coloured liquid was sufficient.

The special toasts were made followed by the introduction of the newly elected members. (Don't they look handsome?). Speeches followed. 'Our Guests' were welcomed by *Sniggle* in the finest Pickwickian style.

Principle among those and in no particular order, were



Ryan Smith, 1991 and 1994 British Pro-Road Race Winner and now Eurosport Cycling Commentator and Phil Lee, the New Performance Director of Cycling Ireland, guests of Baillie Mac Something; Mr.Griggs brought with him P J Lane, 2012 Olympic Track Designer; John Herety, Manager, Rapha Condor Sharp Professional Cycling Team was the guest of Mr Green and Mr.Smithie's guest was Peter Ruffhead, Director of Artic Aircon, sponsor of the Artic Road Team.

We also welcomed a bevy of former [Olympic winners, Competitors, National Champions and Pro-riders, including: Tommy Godwin, Ron Keeble, Colin Lewis, Dean Dowling, Fred Carol, Daniel Lloyd and Chris Lillywhite.



Principle guest was the comedian (and magician) Tony Roscoe, who captured the attention of us all – a great achievement. A brilliant performance, especially when he encouraged a guest to hold a revolver, point it and then drop it into an evidence



bag!

Peter Magnus presented “The Measured Time Trophy” to Mr.Mallard, seated comfortably at the top table, who received a tumultuous round of applause for his incredible achievement from which he has now recovered and in training for another attempt .



The 616 members and guests dug deep into their pockets and purses to raise £2500 which was divided equally between two very worthy causes, namely, The Rainbow Centre Childrens Society (see Mrs.Bardell's photo) and Save The Children Fund.



The final two items arrived: Sgt Buzfuz was invested with the

Presidents insignia and will, for the next twelve months, be known as Samuel Pickwick Esq., the operation having been actioned by the Captain, and then the last sing-along



There was the usual hearty singing of choruses of “Thank You For Those Few Kind Words”, “Why Was He Born So Beautiful”, “The Old Brigade” (for the Chelsea men in Red and, finally, “Auld Lang Syne. Then some of us, just a few, made our weary but happy way home.

A few more Garden Party and AGM photos



Members' Letters and Comments

This is the place where members may express their views and comments on matters concerning the club and its activities. All letters are welcome and your input is confidently awaited!

Write to:
Stan Rose
'Mere'
Chartridge
Bucks. HP5 2TF

Editor's Note: Pickwickians - I can't find your letters:  please write - I am lonely!

Or e-mail stan@stanrosefamily.com

Thanks from Cancer Research UK

I just wanted to write and thank the Pickwick Bicycle Club for their fantastic fundraising efforts at the Hampton Court Ride this year.

As you know, I am raising money for Cancer Research UK, and have chosen to do so by running the Virgin London Marathon in April 2012. The money that you have raised on my behalf is so generous and I will think of your support as I run my 26.2 miles.

As a Cancer Research UK employee, I can speak first hand of the immense value of your donation to the charity. More than 1 in 3 of us will get cancer at some point in our lives and it is only with the support of the public that we can continue to fund over 4 thousand doctors, nurses and scientists in the UK who work tirelessly to discover new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

It is particularly fantastic that such a well-esteemed bicycle club has helped me in my fundraising efforts. Cancer Research UK is a keen activist in encouraging people to lead a healthy and active lifestyle in the quest to reduce the risk of cancer, and I can't think of a better way of keeping fit than a good bike ride!

Once again, please pass on my sincere thanks to everyone at the Pickwick Bicycle Club for their generosity and I hope that I will do you all proud on 22nd April 2012.

Best wishes,

Katie Hegarty

Sports Team Executive

Cancer Research UK

The Angel Building, 407 St. John Street,
London EC1V 4AD
T:020 3469 5115
F:020 3469 8861

The Measured Time Trophy

Small suggestion would it be a good idea to include the winners age Mr Mallard is no young chicken to complete 1230ks (768miles)

Peter Magnus

Dear Peter Magnus.

I completed the 1230km Paris Brest Paris 2011 event in 88 hours 24 minutes.

The trophy is with a local engraver at present and should be ready next week.

I'm expecting a photo, taken by Peter Ruffhead of me with The Trophy, taken at the Garden Party, to be published in the Audax magazine Arriva.

Joe the fat boy is also to publish a picture of me on my bike in the event in the PBC magazine. I have never known such fame.

This is all due to you presenting this trophy to the PBC in the first place.

Many Thanks

Ray Kelly
(Mr Mallard)



Photo by Tim Wainwright

Letters continued.

Letters continued.

The challenge presented to Joseph Smiggers by the red-nosed Mr Stiggins.

I will now attempt to resolve the issue that has been concerning the red-nosed Mr Stiggins (Trevor Bevan) for some time now. Is he a man of the cloth – or not!

All Pickwick Bicycle Club sobriquets relate to that character's first mention in the "Pickwick Papers", so let us start with the first mention of Mr. Stiggins in Chapter 27:

"I suppose he's drivin' up to-day?" said Sam. 'He may be, or he may not,' replied Mrs. Weller, buttering the round of toast which the red-nosed man had just finished. 'I don't know, and, what's more, I don't care.--Ask a blessin', Mr. Stiggins.' The red-nosed man did as he was desired, and instantly commenced on the toast with fierce voracity. The appearance of the red-nosed man had induced Sam, at first sight, to more than half suspect that he was the deputy-shepherd of whom his estimable parent had spoken. The moment he saw him eat, all doubt on the subject was removed, and he perceived at once that if he purposed to take up his temporary quarters where he was, he must make his footing good without delay."

In total, Stiggins is mentioned 105 times, and in the majority of cases (79 times) he is referred to as "Mr. Stiggins". In 14 instances he is referred to simply as "Stiggins". However, he is also referred to as "Reverend" (10 times) and "Brother" (twice).

The "History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club" records that in 1874 *"The result of the race was as follows: - The Rev. Mr. Stiggins (J. Lawson) proved himself a very easy winner, the Second place falling to Joe, the Fat Boy, and the Third to Master Bardell; but as there are no records of the times made, we cannot supply any further particulars."*

I think that we can, therefore, safely assume that, in some way, Mr. Stiggins was a man of the cloth, and so now Trevor needs to consider whether a Bible should be part of his Club uniform – which could lead to an increase in fines if he is seen without it!!

My Dear Joe, the Fat Boy,

Those Club members who attended the AGM prior to the Garden Party will have heard about the progress being made with the Club website www.pickwickbc.org.uk. The positive feedback from members, following the AGM, has been much appreciated by Anthony Humm and myself.

We would now actively encourage members to give us more feedback and, most importantly, help to create more content. The following prompts might help:

- 1: Obituaries of past members.
- 2: Cycling achievements of current and past members.
- 3: Cycling clubs that our members belong to.

It is our intent that the website should generate and maintain the interest of our members, and be a good reference point for cycling history.

Please Bookmark www.pickwickbc.org.uk and visit it regularly. Be critical; be supportive; provide content from your files; enjoy!

With Pickwickian Greetings

Joseph Smiggers PVPMP
steve@stephenbullen.com

Letters continued.

Letters continued.

Letter from Mr.Phunky

I came across this item in a mid-January copy of The Guardian newspaper and felt that it is so relevant to this years events that I should draw your attention to it.

Mr.Phunky.

Dickens in Rome

Last Sunday, just a few days after BBC2 had broadcast the newly completed version of Dickens's Edwin Drood (TV review, 11 January), Carlo Fruttero, an Italian author most famous as the literary partner of Franco Lucentini, died at his home, aged 86. I was struck by a curious coincidence - and I quote from Philip Willan's obituary of Fruttero's partner Franco Lucentini, in the Guardian, 9 August 2002: "In 1989, the intrepid pair embarked on the completion of Charles Dickens' unfinished novel The Mystery Of Edwin Drood. The result was The D Case Or The Truth About The Mystery Of Edwin Drood, a hilarious pastiche in which detectives gather in a Rome hotel to attempt to solve the mystery." I believe no English translation of this book was ever produced. My suggestion is that such an effort would be a valuable present to English readers on Dickens's 200th birthday and a well-deserved tribute to the memory of two brilliant Italian writers.

Alfonso Frigerio
Turin, Italy

Forwarded from Peter Magnus: An exchange with Shelagh Dennis, wife of Tom Cummins

Dear Keith,

Forgive our ignorance but what should one do with a 'bullion badge'? Do you fix it on the hat, does it stick on or what? I am intrigued as what to do with it, or is it just a souvenir (a very nice one I have to say!) .

Love Shelagh

This was my reply

- > Good Morning Shelagh
- >
- > The Bullion Badge is to go on the Boater see my photo.
- > I can understand your wonderment.
- > Its so bloody Stiff (Just as you like it) Shakespeare's Play
- > I had mine made some years ago by the person mentioned in the letter,
- > On Felt and sewed it on
- > These have I believe have been made in China
- > How you get a needle through the material
- > A sail maker would tell you
- >
- > Suggestion as an engineer
- > Get two large G clamps
- > Spread super glue on back of badge
- > G clamp in in position on hat
- > Leave for 24 hour to properly set
- > BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET Super GLUE ON G LAMPS
- >
- > Suggestion from sewer
- > Get Carpenter to drill two small holes each side of Badge to
- > And sew it with cat cut to hat
- > Like sewing on a button
- >
- > Or as Brenda suggested stick on top of the hat
- > It won't fall off

As part of the Charles Dickens Celebrations the club commissioned a set of cufflinks for each and every member of the club. With immaculate timing they arrived in the post

on the morning of 7th February, the very day of the great man's birth anniversary.

As everyone will know, they are in the club colours and badge design. The text includes the date.



Other commemorative items have included a 'woven' metallic gilt and black fabric hat badge and also a new lapel badge, the latter inscribed with similar text to the cufflinks.



Other celebratory events are being planned and details of these will become available at a later date.





Would you believe it?

This heavily armed machine was filmed recently in Tucson, Arizona.

It is said to be a 'Hunter's Machine', but why the gas mask?

Replaces the Cavalry's horses ?!



October Caption Competition

There are prizes for the best caption entered by a member.

Entries are limited to two alternative captions per member and should be submitted in writing to the Editor (address in Handbook), or by e-mail (preferred) to: <stan@stanrosefamily.com>

Entries close at the end of June

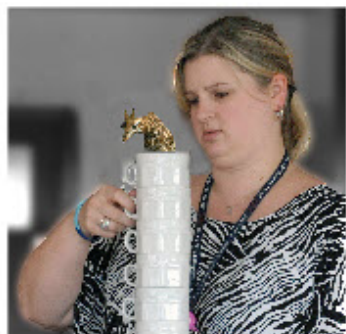


Photo from Hampton Court Ride Luncheon.

July Caption Competition

The Winner is:

Old Porkenham
with the following Caption:

"Just checking that the handles line up."

**RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTORS,
OR, WHO WERE YOUR EARLY NAMESAKES?**

This series is compiled and produced by
Past President Joseph Smiggers, Esq. P.V.P.M.P.C., (Steve Bullen).



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 club, please contact Joseph Smiggers at steve@stephenbullen.com and you will have this information by return.

The late Mr. Bardell – deceased custom-house officer:

“His landlady, Mrs. Bardell-- the relict and sole executrix of a deceased custom-house officer--was a comely woman of bustling manners and agreeable appearance, with a natural genius for cooking, improved by study and long practice, into an exquisite talent. There were no children, no servants, no fowls.”



Robin (Alan) Mepham	1970 to 2002	Died 2009 aged 86
William Farrow	2003 to present	

The late Mr. Clarke – first husband of Mrs. Weller. Late Marquis of Granby, Dorking:

“The Marquis of Granby, in Mrs. Weller's time, was quite a model of a roadside public-house of the better class--just large enough to be convenient, and small enough to be snug. On the opposite side of the road was a large sign-board on a high post, representing the head and shoulders of a gentleman with an apoplectic countenance, in a red coat with deep blue facings, and a touch of the same blue over his three-cornered hat, for a sky. Over that again were a pair of flags; beneath the last button of his coat were a couple of cannon; and the whole formed an expressive and undoubted likeness of the Marquis of Granby of glorious memory.”

T F Watson	1942 to 1958	
J Neary	1966 to 1974	
Ernest G Juer	1974 to 1993	President (1982)
Jules Renaud	2005 to present	



*We wanted a portrait,
not a full body shot!*

Mr. Dibdin – deceased songwriter:

“Anthony Humm now moved that the assembly do regale itself with a song. With a view to their rational and moral enjoyment, Brother Mordlin had adapted the beautiful words of ‘Who hasn't heard of a Jolly Young Waterman?’ to the tune of the Old Hundredth, which he would request them to join him in singing (great applause). He might take that opportunity of expressing his firm persuasion that the late Mr. Dibdin, seeing the errors of his former life, had written that song to show the advantages of abstinence. It was a temperance song (whirlwinds of cheers). The neatness of the young man's attire, the dexterity of his feathering, the enviable state of mind which enabled him in the beautiful words of the poet, to ‘Row along, thinking of nothing at all,’ all combined to prove that he must have been a water-drinker (cheers). Oh, what a state of virtuous jollity! (rapturous cheering).”

Continued

Continued

G A Hill	pre 1881
Arthur Sydenham	1924 to 1939
A G Reynolds	1944 to 1949
John W Wood	1953 to 1968
A Lythgoe	1971 to 1990
R Campbell	1986 to 1988
Stephen Prentice	1994 to present

Assistant Secretary 1927



We couldn't use his portrait

Horatio Fizkin – Buff candidate for Eatanswill:

“Mr. Pickwick, with his usual foresight and sagacity, had chosen a peculiarly desirable moment for his visit to the borough. Never was such a contest known. The Honourable Samuel Slumkey, of Slumkey Hall, was the Blue candidate; and Horatio Fizkin, Esq., of Fizkin Lodge, near Eatanswill, had been prevailed upon by his friends to stand forward on the Buff interest.”

W Nisbet	pre 1878
G J Faithorne	1878
A J Smith	1879 to 1914
Sir William Letts KBE	1932 to 1957
T E Atkinson	1968 to 1969
John W H Pepper	1972 to present

President; Host of Leather Bottle, Cobham;
Comm.1917; Life Member .240 miles in 24 hours
(special Gold Medal)
Vice-President(1957).
Hon.Member. Died 1957

**George, the father – the Old Man's Tale about the Queer Client:**

“She had fainted one evening in her husband's arms, and he had borne her to the open window, to revive her with the air, when the light of the moon falling full upon her face, showed him a change upon her features, which made him stagger beneath her weight, like a helpless infant. “Set me down, George,” she said faintly. He did so, and seating himself beside her, covered his face with his hands, and burst into tears. “It is very hard to leave you, George,” she said; “but it is God's will, and you must bear it for my sake. Oh! how I thank Him for having taken our boy! He is happy, and in heaven now. What would he have done here, without his mother!””

V M Boyce	1942 to 1956
J C Street	1967 to 1969
A J Payne	1974 to 1983
Chris Wreghitt	1993 to present



Continued

Peter Magnus – a red-haired traveller to Ipswich:

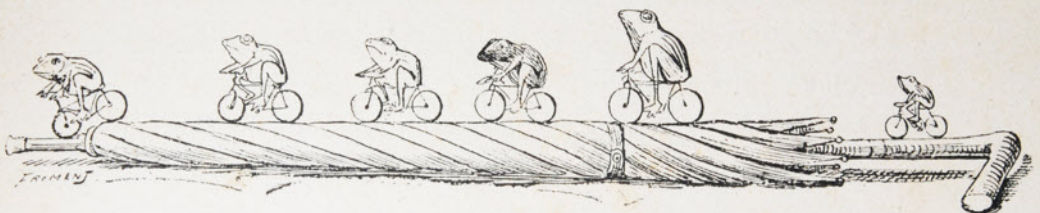
“Ah,’ said the red-haired man, placing the card in his pocket- book, ‘Pickwick; very good. I like to know a man’s name, it saves so much trouble. That’s my card, sir. Magnus, you will perceive, sir--Magnus is my name. It’s rather a good name, I think, sir.’ ‘A very good name, indeed,’ said Mr. Pickwick, wholly unable to repress a smile. ‘Yes, I think it is,’ resumed Mr. Magnus. ‘There’s a good name before it, too, you will observe. Permit me, sir--if you hold the card a little slanting, this way, you catch the light upon the up-stroke. There--Peter Magnus--sounds well, I think, sir.’ ‘Very,’ said Mr. Pickwick.”

C H Larrette	1875 to 1902	
Major Litchfield Moseley	1909 to 1914	
Kenneth M Rickett	1924 to 1922	
W Rimmington	1937 to 1939	
D S Heather	1940 to 1944	
J T H Comber	1948 to 1957	
F A E Cole	1964 to 1980	
Keith G Robins	1980 to present	President (2010)



Attempting off road riding during the Hampton Court Ride of 2011.

This charming photo taken by Frank Simmery (aka Helmut Stibal).



Promenade impréne á Vélopolis

Late Entry: Invitation

The Club is invited to take a small party to join with the Dickens Pickwick Club in their extraordinary frolic to mark the 175th anniversary of the completion of the publication of the monthly parts of Pickwick Papers.

The event will be held at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, London, on Saturday 17th November 2012. There invitation is to Members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club with (it is hoped) a lady who are invited to make up this small party. The likely cost is to be between £70 and £75 a head and money will be collected during the summer. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me.

Samuel Pickwick

Pickwick Bicycle Club
FOUNDED 1870.

HEADQUARTERS:
9, RATHBONE PLACE,
OXFORD STREET, W.1

1926

"Old Timers," who are now "clubless," desiring to join the Oldest Bicycle Club in the World can obtain application for membership form from the Gen. Secretary, Lloyd W. Worth, 39, Newington Road, Hampstead, N.W. A few desirable applicants will be admitted free of entrance fee. Annual Subscription, with full rights to Club Rooms, £1 : 11 : 8. Associate Members up to 25 years of age at reduced subscription.

THIS advertisement was found in a 1926 issue of Cycling and begs the question, is the Pickwick Bicycle Club still in existence? Drawing the illustrations must have given Pat great pleasure as he was a life long admirer of the work of Charles Dickens and used many quotes from his books as captions for his drawings. Although Dickens died in 1870, a year before Patterson was born, he always felt an affinity with the writer, both being born in Portsea, Portsmouth. The other illustration is a photograph of a Pat wood carving showing Mr. Pickwick in an almost identical pose

FOR SALE

SILK TIES

A beautifully made all silk tie in the Club colours is now available.

Priced at £15.00 each, to include VAT and postage and packing, they may be ordered from the Secretary.

Also available, in the same club colours and material are bow ties,

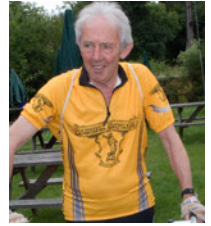
CLUB JERSEYS

Have you ordered your club jersey? There are still some of these excellent yellow garments available.

They are really good value at

£37 each plus £2.50 Post where appropriate.

Most sizes stocked



The jersey for sale not the contents - on second thoughts though!!

To order: Contact the Secretary.

SAMUEL PICKWICK:

BRASS STATUETTE

Based on an original Dickensian picture - probably by Phiz - originally cast by (the late) Mr. Jinks - Ed. Taylor. Now reproduced from the original moulds by Taylors Foundries Ltd.



The magnificent Solid Brass doorstops, cast from a mould of Samuel Pickwick. Measuring 36 cm high. and weighing 3.75 Kg., they are still available to purchase.

To buy one of these desirable items, which are very decorative even if you don't have any doors to prop open, please contact

Taylors Foundry Ltd
Hollands Road
Haverhill
Suffolk
CB9 8PU

Tel: 01440 702870

We still have a limited supply of these very collectable shot glasses which bear the club badge on one side and the 2008 President's name on the other side. They are in boxes of six glasses and are priced at £10 per box, including P+P. To order, please send cheque, made out to :

The Pickwick Bicycle Club, c/o Stan Rose, 'Mere', Chartridge, Bucks. HP5 2TF.

These are very suitable for holding individual sauces to accompany modern starter dishes.



FOR SALE continued

☒☒☒ ☒☒☒ continued

Coasters

The club has a few spare coasters which are available for purchase. Four of the previously issued designs may be obtained in sets of four. These are as shown below, namely:

Samuel Pickwick Esq.,
 Joe, The Fat Boy,
 Dismal Jemmy
 Mr.Dumkins.

Priced at £1 each plus 50p post for up to 4 coasters.

Enquiries to: Samuel Pickwick, Esq. At:

Stephen Downham <SDownham@hughesellard.com>





The PERFECT BICYCLE.

*A Legend without
a Moral*

Came a stranger to our village many, many years ago,
One who travelled for a cycle firm at Stratford-atte-
Bow,
And he vowed that all the merits that the world had
ever seen
Were combined upon his bicycle, the Permanent
Machine.

For its tyres never punctured, and it never needed oil,
And its owner did his riding with a minimum of toil,
While its running was so easy in a hilly region that
You mistook the Rocky Mountains for a bit of Wan-
stead Flat.

Now among his many hearers there was Mr. Peter
Jones,
And a touch of disbelieving was apparent in his tones,
As he stated that a cycle wasn't judged by words but
acts,
And he hinted that the traveller was frivolling with
facts.

So the stranger made a challenge:—Dare he under-
take to ride
Every day from dawn to sunset through our English
country side,
Never pausing (save for dinner, and, perhaps, a
trifling smoke)
Till some portion of the cycle he was utilizing broke.

Provided that his cycle never chanced to misbehave
He must ride it, never resting, till the day he reached
the grave,
And he mustn't, though of riding it he grew exceeding
sick,
Ever hit it with a hammer or assault it with a brick.

If he'd undertake to do so (thus the stranger made it
known),
He'd provide him on the morrow with a cycle of his
own,
And to seal a sporting bargain (he additionally vowed)
He would stand a round of inexpensive liquor to the
crowd.

Now, however good a cycle, it is tolerably clear
It will hardly 'scape a puncture, ridden daily for a
year,
And the keenness of a rider who is reasonably keen
Will outlast the wearing qualities of any good
machine.



"One who travelled for
a cycle firm"

The
DEPARTURE
OF PETER



So we shouted to the stranger, "It's a sportsman that you are,"
 Ordered Peter to accept him and our liquor at the bar,
 And Peter packed a collar and some lotion for his locks,
 And a photograph of mother, and a pair of father's socks.

So he started on the morrow on a Permanent Machine,
 One combining all the merits that the world has ever seen,
 With a duly signed agreement that he'd ride it here and there
 Till some portion of the jigger was in need of a repair.

It is many, many years since first he started out to roam,
 But he's just as far as ever from returning to his home,
 For that traveller (the like of him was surely never seen)
 Had really told the truth about that Permanent Machine.

At first Jones found it pleasant to go pedalling along
 With the open air a-making him exceptionally strong,
 But after seven years he thought that bicycling was best
 When the rider is allowed to have one weekly day of rest.

To get a tiny puncture was the height of his desires,
 He neglected all attentions that a bicycle requires,
 But he found that there was nothing that could ever do the trick,
 Save assaulting with a hammer or assailing with a brick.

So, if upon your rides you see a fellow with a beard,
 Whose pleasure in his pastime has entirely disappeared,
 And whose brow is fiercely scowling while his countenance is pale,
 Don't imagine he has merely run comparatively stale.

It is Peter, who can never see a prospect of release
 From his bargain, till the dawning of the day of his decease,
 Which the health produced by bicycling (whereon he used to dote)
 Makes, unhappily for him, appear exceedingly remote.

No! we've never seen our Peter, and we've never seen
 The stranger who was dealing in the Permanent Machine.
 He may have been a human, but we noticed in the room,
 When he'd gone, a strong suspicion of a sulphurous perfume.
 T.H.



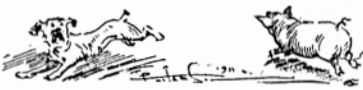
"For that Traveller.....
had really told the Truth."



"a fellow with a beard."



"a strong suspicion of a sulphurous perfume."



A report on the 2011 Hampton Court (Revival) Ride appeared in the last issue.

On the following two pages we reproduce an account of the "Meet" of 1878.

Submitted by Joseph Smiggers, Esq. P.V.P.M.P.C

Hampton Court Meet

"Bicycling News" May 17, 1878

TO-TOMORROW

TO-MORROW the great Annual Bicycle Show will take place on the pretty plains about Hampton Court, Fulwell and Teddington. It is expected that thousands of riders will take part in the procession, and if the day be fine, even spectators uninterested in bicycling will witness a sight to warm their hearts. The head of the column of clubs is to be stationed a short distance on the Kingston side of the Lion Gates, and the different bodies of men will, prior to the start, occupy positions between that point and the Teddington end of Sandy Lane. Unattached riders – or, as they are called, non-clubmen – will be berthed on Hampton Court Green until the procession has passed, when it is intended they shall follow in the wake of clubmen.

The route is, we believe, as follows:- From Hampton Court past the Green to Hampton leaving the church on the left, along the road towards New Hampton, leaving the old route, turning off to the left and riding nearly to the village of Hanworth. Then to the right, along the Twickenham Road, and to the right again, joining the old route near Fulwell station; thence to the "Clarence" at Teddington, and back to Hampton Court through the avenue. A painstaking committee has done everything that could be done to insure success, and the police authorities have promised that an adequate force shall be upon the ground both within and without the park. There is to be a volunteer review in the park during the afternoon, but we understand the opinion of the authorities is that the cavalry and infantry will not clash. Still it must be admitted that the combination of events is unfortunate, particularly as the chestnuts are just now extremely attractive. The Committee have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that they have deserved to succeed, and although it is not in them to command success, we sincerely trust they may obtain it.

HAMPTON COURT MEET

The marshals appointed for this day, and from whom information may be obtained are Messrs. F. Honeywell, Surrey BC; L C Baerman and JW Benningfield, Pickwick BC; H Coppin, West Kent BC; M D Rucker, London BC; J R Airey, Stanley BC; O J Fox, North Surrey BC; W Denny, Wanderers BC; Thompson, Civil Service BC; H E Kearley, Royal District BC; H Short, Rovers BC; C W Pagan, Temple BC; A VW Lacy, Kent BC; Clew, West Kent BC; K M Yeoman, C H Lurette, S Fussell and C T Scivener Pickwick BC; A Wright, Kingston BC; Stafford, Belgrave BC; and Yorke, J Zingari.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAINS

1. The clubs to be massed in the road extending: from about 250 yards from the Lion gates towards Kingston Bridge, in blocks numbered and arranged in order of precedence.
2. No bicyclists will be allowed to pass through Bushy Park on taking up positions at the rendezvous. Clubs arriving by way of Teddington must proceed to their blocks *via* Sandy Lane. Those arriving via Hampton must pass down the road from the Lion gates to Kingston Bridge.
3. On the arrival of your club you will conduct it to the block the number of which will be forwarded to you in the course of a day or two, when you will dismount and pile machines in pairs facing Hampton.
4. *Tour club must be on the ground not later than 4.30pm*

Continued..

- 5 The *start* will be at five o'clock sharp. *Assembly* – on the sounding of the *assembly* at 4.45pm, you must fall in sharp and close up to the club in your immediate front, when you will at once prepare your parade state attached hereto for the marshal, who will *ride past* to collect the name. *Attention* – *Attention*, or prepare to mount, will be on the occasion one G, when you must hand the parade state to the marshal appointed, and your men be prepared to mount in pairs. *Advance* – Advance will be sounded at 5pm sharp, when the first two men of the leading club will mount together, those in the rear will gradually advance on foot so as not to lose distance and mount in succession of pairs, keeping three yards distance between each pair of riders, and not more than twenty yards between each club.
- 6 The route will be past the Lion gates and Hampton Green through Hampton (Church Street), to the left (just before reaching Pantile Bridge) towards Hanworth, sharp to the right, passing Glebe Farm, to the right, crossing main road to Hampton, through South Road, to the right, through Main Road, Teddington, past the “Clarence Arms”, through Park Road into Bushy Park and along Chestnut Avenue; the clubs, after circling the Diana Fountain, and passing through Bushy Park gates, will file off to right or left according to their destinations. In order to prevent obstruction and confusion, no club can dismount at the Bushy Park gates, but must proceed either past Hampton Green towards Hampton, or towards Kingston, to points (about half-a-mile from the Lion gates) marked by red flags.
- 7 Certain buglers will be appointed for the day who will be stationed at different parts of the line. All orders given at the Lion gates to be repeated by them once only. No other bugling will be allowed under any circumstances whatever.
- 8 Members of clubs *out of uniform* must fall in with the non-club men, if riding in procession, as *no rider* will be allowed to ride with any club unless in uniform. You are requested to see this order strictly carried out.
- 9 Captains will be required to wear their club colours on the left arm, just above the elbow.
- 10 With a view of preventing accidents or obstructions, all riders are particularly requested to ride machines that can be easily mounted and dismounted, and on no account to ride about after having once fallen in.
- 11 The marshals appointed for the day will be advertised in bicycling papers, and will take their instructions from Mr H Coppin.

NOTICE TO UNATTACHED RIDERS

Non-clubmen are cordially invited to attend the monster meet at Hampton Court on Saturday, May 18, and in order that they may have a good view of the procession, arrangements have been made for the use of Hampton Green, kindly placed at the disposal of the committee by Mr Ive, and on which the riders not in club uniform and non-clubmen will form up in columns, under H E Sherington, assisted by other marshals. They will then join in at the rear of the procession of clubs, and go over the route with the clubs.

On the return journey all riders are urgently requested to ride up to the points marked by red flags, one on the road to Hampton, and the other towards Kingston, both points to be about half a mile from the Lion gates. They are also requested to muster on the Green as early as possible, and to note particularly that after 4.30 no riders can go up the ranks to the Green, but must fall in the rear of the clubs, and thus lose the view. No riders will be allowed to ride from the Green to Kingston until after the procession is off the ground. It is to be definitely understood that riders cannot pass through Bushey Park on taking up positions, and those arriving by way of Teddington must pass through Sandy Lane.

Recipes *from the past....*



Remembering our recent experience of the Punch, served at the December Garden Party prompts one to draw attention to the recipe recommended by our late and sadly missed colleague, *The First Country Member*, Cedric Dickens.

Here is the recipe, with his comments and quotation :

“ There is nothing like hot punch.”

A drink usually of wine or spirit mixed with hot water or milk, and sugar, lemons and Spice.

And of course, medicinally magnificent: *“If ever hot punch did fail to act as a preventative, it was merely because the patient fell into the vulgar error of not taking enough of it.”*

A GEORGE AND VULTURE RECIPE FOR PUNCH.

*Juice of 8 sweet oranges
1 Bottle of Whisky
1 Pint of Sherry
1 Quatern of Brandy
1½ pints of china tea
Nutmeg to cover a 1/-
Loaf sugar to sweeten
Rind of a lemon
Cinnamon if desired*

This old recipe might have been tasted by Mr.Pickwick and Sam Weller when they were “suspended” at the George and Vulture.

It should be made hot in earthenware.



From the Archives Written by the our lamented Past President "The Shepherd." July 2004

**EXTRACT OF A PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED REVISION OF PART OF
CHAPTER X11 OF THE PICKWICK PAPERS**

Mr Pickwick had been attempting to tell Mrs Bardell that he intended to engage Sam Weller as his manservant, but he had expressed himself badly, and she had interpreted his words as a proposal of marriage.

"Oh you kind, good, playful dear" said Mrs Bardell, and without more ado, she rose from her chair, flung her arms around Mr.Pickwick's neck, with a cataract of tears, and a chorus of sobs.

"Bless my soul!" cried the astonished Mr.Pickwick "Mrs Bardell, my good woman-dear me, what a situation -prey consider - Mrs Bardell, don't - if anybody should come -" "Oh, let them come" exclaimed Mrs Bardell frantically, "I'll never leave you - dear, good, kind soul", and, with these words, Mrs Bardell clung the tighter.

"Mercy upon me" said Mr Pickwick, struggling violently, "Don't, don't, there's a good creature, don't!". But entreaty and remonstrance were alike unavailing for Mrs Bardell had fainted in Mr Pickwick's arms.

(In the original version, Mr Pickwick's friends now enter. There follows here the revision.)

Mr Pickwick was dumbfounded. He had led a sheltered life. His experiences of women had been few, and those of fainting women, none. He knew not what to do. His first thought was to lay her down somewhere, and, seeing that the door to his bedchamber was open, he half-carried, half-dragged her there, and laid her gently on his bed. He noticed that, as he had been doing this, her slippers had come off, and her toes were twitching, as if in anticipation.

He pulled himself together, and resolved he must be a man of action. He removed his jacket and cravat, put his gold watch on the bedside table, and turned his attention to the stricken lady. He noticed that her bosom was heaving, and thought she must be short of air. He undid the top button of her bodice, and as he did so, her shoulders jerked back. Her figure was buxom, and, as she moved the remainder of the buttons flew open, exposing to Mr Pickwick's fascinated gaze, a sight he had never before seen.

Mr Pickwick was at a loss, with wild and uncontrollable feeling rising within him. At his public school, his games master had advised him that, when these arose, a country run or a cold shower would effect a cure, but, in the circumstances in which he was placed, neither of these were possible.

Mrs Bardell groaned and fluttered her eyelids. She grasped his arm, and cried out. "Oh, Samuel, Samuel I am yours! Be gentle with me!" He was torn between his feelings as a man, and his duty as a gentleman to be true to his principles as the Chairman of the Club. The two forces struggled within him, and his appetites as a man won. He recalled that he had ordered steak and kidney pudding for his supper, and, if the lady was delayed in dalliance, this, and the vegetable that went with them, might be overcooked.

So he made his excuses, collected his watch and his jacket, and left. Mrs Bardell remained on the bed, consoled herself, and plotted her revenge. Her friend Mrs Cluppins cleaned the offices of a firm of Solicitors, Dobson and Fogg. She would talk to her about it, and Mr Pickwick would live to regret spurning the treasure he had been offered.