

PICKWICK BICYCLE CLUB,

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

Established 1870



MAGAZINE AND NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: MR WINKLE SENIOR



Mr Trundle



And so we start a new era of the Pickwick Bicycle Club magazine. Your former editor - Joe the Fat Boy (aka Stan Rose) - took it from a news sheet to the professional status it has today. I know the committee honoured him at the Garden Party in December, but I would like to add my personal thanks to him and his wife Hilary, for their considerable help during this transitional period.

So, who am I you might ask.....well I have been a member of the PBC since May '72 having been proposed by The Clerk (the late Peter Knottley well known as Randonneur in Cycling magazine). I have no great claims to fame, other than having been mainly a Time Triallist for a fair number of years, regular weekly track rider at Herne Hill, and an avid touring cyclist around the UK & Europe (when weren't officially part of it!)

We have a proven format with the magazine and it is my intention to continue, but it is your magazine, so any new ideas or topics that you want to see reported within, then here's your chance. Like so many of the club's activities, it's the same group of names represented in the magazine, and so we really do need contributions from other members.

How about the newly appointed members submitting a short bio of who they are and their connection to the Club?

As you know, our oldest member and several times President, Mr Trundle (aka Barry Brandon) sadly passed away in November. A stalwart of the Club, as much as he was to the British professional cycling fraternity with the famous Bantel Black Cats team. There are several tributes contained in the following pages from Pickwickians who knew him well, and in particular from another past President - Jonas Mudge... (former Olympian and member of the Bantel team - Hugh Porter MBE).

I don't want to start with a moan, but you will have all seen the communication from the sectary Sgt Buzfuz about the poor etiquette of members and guests at the December Garden Party, that delayed the entrance of the President and Guest Speaker, and so I want to add my two pennorth. It really is sad that we are all too busy to be on time, talk when others have the floor, or check emails whilst our guests or officers are talking to us. Yes, we have moved into a faster moving world than our 19th Century predecessors.

However, when I joined in 1972, I was in awe of the how great it was to step out of the every day world we live in, and enjoy good company, good food (well, on most occasions) and wine for a few hours without disturbance. The President's Luncheon is only a few months away, so let's try to replicate those old pleasantries for this year's President.

Moving on.....there are all of the usual activities this year plus some new ones. By the time this edition reaches you the final round of the Revolution Track Series will have taken place at the Olympic Velodrome, so a report will follow in the next issue. Another exciting one off event is the Tour de France visit to Harrogate, so if you haven't booked your place you might already be too late, but check the events pages and see how many opportunities you have to choose from - and join in!

Mr Winkle Snr, Editor

A message from your President:

I was honoured to be appointed at the December Annual Garden Party and look forward to the year ahead, which I hope will be enjoyable, peaceful and healthy for everyone.

The focus is often on our two main events in May and December where we are busy entertaining guests and as a result, we do not always have the opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow members. I have been a Pickwick member for 35 years, but it is only in more recent years that I have gained a wider circle of Pickwickian friends through attending some of the smaller events.

Our Club is unique in the world and I have an objective, in my year of office, to arrange additional smaller functions where members will be able to meet one another and hopefully forge lasting Pickwickian friendships.

The May and December events are still important to the Club so please make sure you are able to attend with as many guests as possible!

Within the magazine you will find details on all our events for the year and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.



Samuel Pickwick Esq

Captain's Observations

Well another great December Garden Party has passed, leaving many pleasant memories and unfortunately quite a few that would not be considered worthy of our club. I am not referring to the poor organizing skills and service given by some of the catering staff, that, we will be taking up, with the management of the venue. It is unfortunately, as it would seem, outside influences existing our modern society today are beginning to creep in to our events in the form of un-gentlemanly behaviour.



I highlight some below but by no means are they the sum total. For instance, those members who devote time and effort, in trying to ensure the smooth running and enjoyment of the luncheon, encounter abuse when attempting to get the co-operation of some individuals. Another example is the bad manners displayed by those who arrived late, (in some cases fortified by drink), who insisted on still having a pre-dinner drink with their friends at the bar despite being requested to take their places for lunch. This also applied to the ordering of wine, aggravated by members not allowing sufficient time for same. Yet another, members who changed their seating arrangements on the day despite, the carefully arranged seating plan prepared by Mrs Bardell.

The last point I wish to make is by far the gravest encountered, it was the concealment of pre-ordered member's wines under the tables by others and the removal of bottles witnessed without sanction. Remember our events are organized by gentlemen for gentlemen and should similar behaviour be encountered in the future, it could have major influence on future arrangements.

This is a very special, elite club with honourable objectives and surely they are worth preserving

How dangerous is cycling asks your editor?

..... there has been a lot of publicity about the pros & cons of cycling recently with the unfortunate deaths of a number of riders in and around London. I found a news bite in a well known broadsheet that related a similar situation in 1898.

"On October 5th 1898, the members of the United Wards' Club of the City of London debated the proposition: "It is the opinion of the members that cycling through the City between the hours of 9 & 6.30 is both dangerous to the cyclists themselves and a great annoyance and danger to the pedestrians and traffic, and that cyclists should be compelled to dismount and walk through the City during the above mentioned hours"

The motion was carried overwhelmingly, there being only three dissensions. One hopes that those three were early members of our august club! Also what wasn't established was whether any cyclists took any notice of the proposition - I hope not!

A Secretarial Report

from Sgt Buzfuz



May I offer all Members a belated Happy New Year. Several members have contacted me concerning the date for the May function. There had always been confusion when the first Thursday fell on the 1st May and also the first Thursday is usually Election Day at least for local elections if not a General Election. For this reason the decision was taken a few years ago to move the May luncheon to the second Thursday and this year it will be on the 8th. The Garden Party has reverted to the first Thursday in December after a couple of years when the venue was not available due to a two/ three-day booking.

On the subject of luncheons you will all have seen my comments about the late sitting of quite a few members. Several Members have responded with various suggestions and these will be discussed by committee. These have included reducing the numbers, starting later, re-arranging the wine ordering, but fundamentally if there is a stated start time which is currently 1.00pm Members and their guests are expected to be in their seats by that time.

At the AGM the issue of attendance at the two main luncheons was raised. Costs have been an issue for some Members but costs are rising. We need to ensure a full house at both luncheons if possible. Attendance by Members is therefore essential. Several years ago the Members agreed at the AGM that an attendance at least once every two years, i.e. 1 in 4, was a pre-requisite of membership and anyone failing to meet this could be deemed to have resigned from the club. Obviously special circumstances are taken into consideration such as illness but dates have now been regularized as above so holidays etc. are not considered special. The Members at this year's AGM agreed that the attendance requirement should be increased to 1 in 3 luncheons. For those members that only attend in either May or December this will mean that if you miss your regular luncheon you will need to attend on the alternative date. If more members and guests attend the May function this will help in keeping costs under control.

Some Members have expressed concern at the rising costs of luncheons. The treasurer explained at the AGM that not only is it the increased costs of the luncheon but also the rising costs of trumpeters, speakers, sound equipment (and we are looking into the concerns raised by members from December when certain areas of the room claimed not to be able to hear) and printing. The costs of these items have to be spread amongst the attendees. The more tickets we can sell the better the spread of these additional costs. Members who qualify may like to consider applying for "retired member" status.

Requirements are set out in the handbook but a retired member can still attend all functions without the need to maintain any minimum attendance. They pay no subs but can attend the AGM. Their soubriquet is marked "retired" and is allocated to a new member from the waiting list. If any Member wishes to discuss moving to "retired status" please let me know.

On the subject of waiting list the members at the AGM agreed to keep the list closed for the coming year and reconsider it next December.

I hope to see as many of you as possible during the year at the various functions. As I write this I am looking forward to the unveiling of the Dickens Statue in the Portsmouth Guildhall on the 7th February, a little disappointed with the lack of attendance from the club.

Sergeant Buzfuz

Hon. Sec.

New Members.....

The new members elected to join the Club at the Annual Garden Party in December 2013 were as follows:

Howard Bradbury - The Honourable Wilmot Snipe

Richard Walker - Thomas Groffin

Ross Lovett - Mr Raddle

We are pleased to welcome them to our illustrious club and look forward to their contribution in maintaining the 'style' we all enjoy, and supporting Club activities beyond the Connaught Hotel. Perhaps our new members would like to write to the editor and tell us a little bit about them, and why they wanted to join.



In memory of our friend Mr Trundle.....

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mr Trundle-Barry Brandon, last November, and in a letter to Mr Brooks, his daughter Lisa, gave an insight into her father's life, which we are pleased to share with his friends here in the magazine.



"Having been born in London, he was sent to school in Somerset during WW2 and then worked on a farm where he learnt to be a cheese maker, riding his bike daily to and from work. He went back to London to work in the family cycle accessory business. He married Jean in 1956, and they had three children, Lisa, Anita, and Jason. He was both a keen ballroom dancer, and supporter of Leyton Orient FC.

The family business relocated to Chingford in the early 60's, and Barry led the company into innovative toy manufacturing, becoming Managing Director and focussing on sales & marketing before the company moved again - to Hawick in Scotland. The connection with Bantel came about at an European toy fair in Nuremburg, where he became involved in sourcing products for Bantel to distribute.

From 1970 -1977 he managed the Bantel Professional Cycling Team, with great success. (more about this in the tribute by Jonas Mudge)

Apparently he was a keen gambler -especially the horses, owning numerous horses for a while, and being particularly successful with 'Bantel Buccaneer'. He also enjoyed playing bowls both in Hawick, and with a club in Spain, where he also lived."

Thank you Lisa for this insight to a great friend of the Pickwick Bicycle Club.

There now follow several tributes to our past President Mr Trundle

When silence fell in the Connaught Rooms at the last Christmas luncheon to respect the passing of Barry Brandon I thought of all the wonderful times we had shared together. Nobody lives for ever, but we all hope we will. In November of last year The Pickwick Bicycle Club lost its longest serving member Barry Brandon alias Mr Trundle, when he passed away aged 83 years, after eighteen months of ill health. Mr Trundle was no ordinary Pickwickian he loved the functions and served the club with the utmost devotion. He is the only man to have been President twice and was Captain for 20 years, a position he cherished and rubber stamped with his own style.

Barry was my friend, a kinder man you would never meet. Our friendship started in 1969 when I decided to change sponsors, which I did, signing for his company, Bantel which manufactured toys. The team launch took place in The Bunny Club, Park Lane during October and so one of the most successful and famous teams of the seventies, was launched-The Bantel Black Cats, as they were known. Barry loved being around the team and he remained my sponsor for the rest of my professional career, where I won 3 World Titles for him and a bronze.



We decided to market the famous red racing frames under the HP brand, that the team

began to use, and these were sold worldwide.

The team won an impressive number of road races where their Super Sprinter Sid Barras notched up over one hundred wins. Included in this tally was a brace of Classic London Holyhead victories and the Tour of Scotland. In 1973 the Yorkshireman gained the Yellow Jersey in The Tour of Switzerland when he won the opening stage and three years later Bantel fielded a full team in The Tour of Switzerland in the famous Black Jerseys, much to the delight of Barry.

Apart from the range of wheeled toys, trikes and scooters Bantel manufactured in Hawick, Roxburghshire, they also made a range of cycle accessories with mudguards probably their best known. My wife Anita and I enjoyed numerous glittering occasions with Barry and his devoted wife Jean- the Sports Writers Dinner and the Fence Club to name but two. He loved to entertain, a fine dinner, good company and he was in his element. He was a highly successful business man who could match any youngster(s) for stamina at trade shows. He would be present all day meeting buyers, tidying up deals and then, after an exhausting day, he would embrace the challenge of any evening function which required his attendance. When I decided to end my professional racing career Barry invited the Press to a luncheon, it took place a decade after where it all began at The Playboy Club, Park Lane. He presented me with a beautiful Edinburgh crystal decanter and a full set of cut glasses engraved with each of my World Titles, I responded with a similar piece of crystal. I cherish that memento which sits in my lounge to this day.



Barry was responsible for me becoming a Pickwickian and so I became Jonas Mudge and eventually President in 1992. I will miss his warm greeting and smile. He was a lovely man whom I will never forget. We laughed, we dined and we competed together. Barry, rest in peace and may his wife Jean, daughters Anita, Lisa and son Jason find the strength as time goes by, to remember all the wonderful times they shared together

Trying to match his impressive 56 years of membership is impossible and I hope his soubriquet is held by the club as an historic token of respect for the only member to have been president twice.

Thanks Barry, Good night.

Hugh Porter. MBE Jonas Mudge Past President

Now another tribute from our former editor....

The passing of our longest serving member, Mr. Trundle (aka Barry Brandon), on 17th November following a long illness, has left a deep gap in the history of the Pickwick Bicycle Club and a personal sadness for me for we had both sat together on the committee for many years. Barry had been living in Spain for some time and it was in correspondence from there that he had told me that ill-health was to prevent his attendance last year at a forthcoming luncheon. Regular attendance was important to him, especially during his lengthy Captaincy of the

club and his two periods as club President. Just one other occasion was a 3-4 weeks holiday in Mauritius in 2006 in celebration of his 50th Wedding Anniversary on 5th May.

I got to know Barry initially when we became colleagues in the PCA (Professional Cycling Association, formally the BPCRA). Barry was Chairman and I the Sponsors' Representative (later Vice Chairman).

Working together provided an insight into the high standards he set for everything associated with professional cycle racing, coupled with fairness and support for all involved, riders, officials and sponsors.

He will be missed by many of our colleagues in the club and the former members of his Bantel Professional Cycle Racing Team.

Rest in Peace Mr.Trundle - Barry Brandon.

Stan Rose -Joe The Fat Boy.

To All Pickwickians

Joe the Fat Boy did a marvellous job with the magazine over the past 10 years, but one of his biggest struggles was getting enough content to fill the pages. Over that period, and because of his close involvement with other sectors of cycling and its history he was able to dig deep into his own personal bicycling archives and publish material to keep us entertained.

Unless you want to see pictures of me on my tri-cycle when I was three years old, or on my track iron at Herne Hill on a Wednesday evening in my late teens (neither of which are a pretty sight!) please send me copy or pictures of cycling interest or memorabilia, and then everyone can share them.

I am the new editor, and I need to build up my own archive of useful cycling content, but that won't happen overnight. So, as I said in my Editorial page, it's your magazine and as the local bobby on the beat once said to "Let's be having you then".

Closing date for next issue end of July 2014

Member's Letters and Comments

This is the place where members may express their views and comments on the club and its activities. All letters are welcome and your input is eagerly awaited. *Please write soon!*

Write to:
 Roger Warwick
 12 Kearton Close
 Kenley
 Surrey CR8 5EN
 email: pickwick2610@hotmail.com

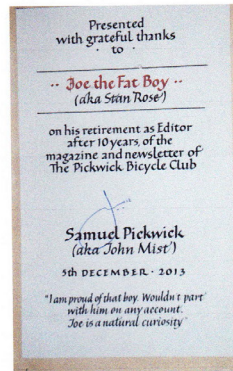
My Dear Editor

Permit me please to take a little space in your 'Letters' column to express my thanks for the presentation to me of the 'History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club' book at the Garden Party in December.

It was a complete surprise to me and a gesture for which I am most grateful and 'touched'. Also, I very much appreciated the expressions of thanks I received at the luncheon and the telephone calls and e-mails.

My ten years as editor has been a most enjoyable and satisfying journey for me. I ask and trust that members will continue to contribute to the magazine which is now in the good hands of the new editor, Mr Winkle Senior.

Joe The Fat Boy.

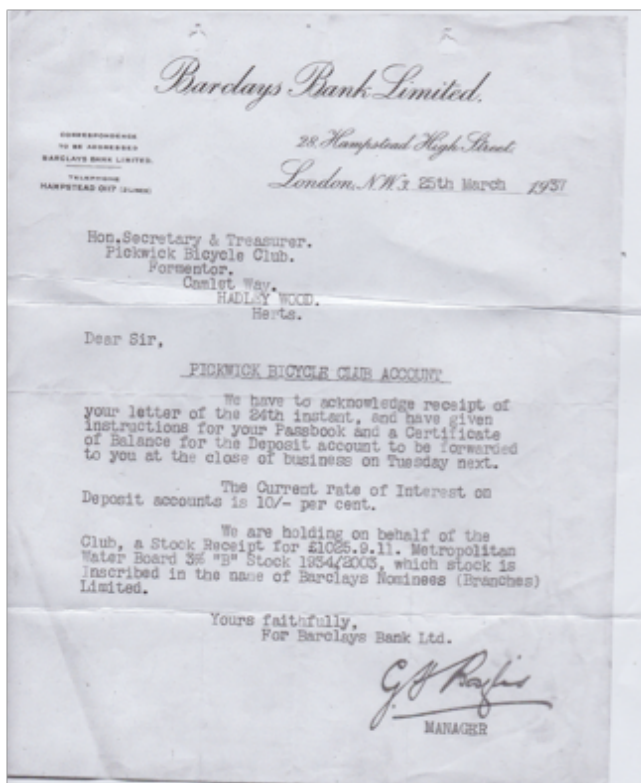


Mr Brooks searching the annals of PBC history....

Amidst a rummaging of our allegedly disorganised (not my words -Ed!) historical documents and memorabilia, our redoubtable Mr Brooks came upon a letter from the manager of Barclays Bank Limited - dating back to 25th March 1937. This relates to the PBC account, wherein it states that the bank was holding a Stock Receipt for the princely sum of £1025.9s.11d of Metropolitan Water Board 3% 'B' Stock 1934/2003.

Apparently these stocks were sold a few years back -presumably when they reached maturity. As Mr Brooks also notes, the interest on the Deposit accounts in 1937, was considerably higher than we could hope for nowadays.

Further investigation revealed that the Secretary/Treasurer at that time was no less a person than Gabriel Grub -HWR Tyson, who only joined the Club in February 1936, yet achieved high office in a very short space of time. He hailed from Hadley Wood, which apparently accounts for a good number of Club members - including a WC Warwick -who I can assure everyone, was not a relative.



Copy of the letter from Barclays Bank

REPORT OF THE HAMPTON COURT RIDE 3RD OCTOBER 2013

For the 7th year running "Pruffle" (aka Aiden Heggaty) and I, ("Hunt") had between us arranged 2 rides based on the historic Hampton Court meets of the 1870s. Pruffle lead the more enthusiastic riders on a 30 mile ride around the Surrey Hills and I lead the veterans around the Thames towpath and into Royal Bushy Park for a 12 mile ride on pre 1970s machines.

Assembly Time



Is that saddle comfortable?



The veterans ranged from "Brooks" on his solid tyre safety, 3 penny farthings including one ridden by "Mr. Watty" (more about him later) a golden Sunbeam, a Raleigh cross frame, 3 Raleigh Superbs, 4 sports cycles from the 70s, and a Claud Butler ridden by "Count Smorktork", who once again made the long trip down from Sunderland with 2 guests. Also worthy of his efforts to attend was "Frank Simmery" who made the trip from Germany once again.

Eighteen riders mounted up in overcast weather and set off from Imber Court Surrey for the 2 mile road section that took us onto the Thames towpath for the 5 mile traffic free ride to the historic town of Kingston.

At Speed.....



Three miles in "Mr. Watty" allegedly had a breakdown, the only one of the day, claiming to lose the rear spring from his Penny! At that precise moment a very attractive blonde lady appeared from nowhere, in a flash he dismounted with the chat up line "Do you have a piece of elastic on your person?" To his dismay she removed a hair-band !!!!

At Rest.....



After attaching it to his brake spring he thanked the maiden and we continued on to the Royal Park. At the 8 mile post the heavens opened but as luck would have it we were in reach of our mid-morning refreshments in Hampton Hill.



We don't worry about the weather, we're Pickwickians

After a well earned drink and some splendid fayre from PJ and Mary at The Star, we headed back through Bushy Park via Henry V111's Palace to Imber Court, now in dry conditions. Having freshened up we enjoyed a traditional Pickwickian lunch of Leek and Potato soup, Braised Steak, and then Apple pie and custard. Wine was very kindly provided.



Oh not again.....

Does it come with batteries?

Toasts and speeches from the organisers and chairman followed, after which we adjourned at 5pm, a splendid day having been had by all.

Hunt (Roger Hitchman)

If any member would be interested in joining either ride for 2014 drop me a note at roger.hitchman@sky.com and I will add you to the growing list for this really great event.

Special Thanks to Frank Simmery for the pictures

The 143rd Annual Garden Party.....

The December Garden Party started as always with the trumpets -this year it was the turn of the Life Guards once more, so the regal sound of two trumpets beckoned everyone to the table. Well most of them, as a number were somewhat reticent, thus delaying the arrival of the President and his chief guest.



Finally we were all ensconced at our allocated table places, the President, Samuel Pickwick Esq heralded by a cacophony of noise -yes some people were still talking, closely accompanied by the Chief Guest - Fergus Slattery - he of Irish rugby fame. Maybe it was his size and presence plus the awareness of how hard rugby players can be, that silenced erupted across the room.



This isn't the microphone.....



That's more like it.....

Hardly were we seated when the Original member arrived, somewhat more sedately this year....yes, he pushed his machine rather than trying to ride it around the tables. He was duly requested to join us for lunch, although I did wonder why he can't just order a ticket like the rest of us; always turning up late too. The Captain then did his usual Gareth Malone impression, testing our ability

with some choruses of the regular songs, imploring us to sing better and the correct words, to ensure harmony at the appropriate times required. It didn't work.... The President then addressed us with a few words of wisdom, and we all sat down to good food, good wine, and good fellowship. We can certainly say that this year as the Connaught Rooms management had clearly got their act together once again, with- as far as I know - all the wine on the table to drink with the excellently presented food, which does make a difference. The menu consisted of cold avocado starter, followed by Lobster Bisque Soup, and then Homemade Roulade of Turkey plus the usual trimmings. Then came the entrance of the Plum Pudding, with lighted sparklers this year rather than the too often bonfire on a tray, which tasted pretty good anyway.

The Pudding Arrives.....



And so the food was almost finished, and glasses were rattling, voices chattering, whence came the robust voice of The Captain requesting 'quiet'. It took the usual increased octaves and threats to quieten everyone so we could hear the trumpeters once more and then applaud the arrival of the punch, wheeled in by those wonderful men from Chelsea Hospital in their red uniforms. Each announcing his age, unit and service number, although I admit to being quite surprised when one of them announced that he was a National Service veteran.



"Shoulder to shoulder" rang out again as the Boys of the Old Brigade made their way back to their seats, and then there was a momentary pause before the "New Members" were announced and duly saluted as they received their soubriquets.

Joe the Fat Boy



A special salutation then followed, with an announcement for Joe the Fat Boy to approach the President. Joe had been the guiding light of the Pickwick magazine for ten years and turned it into a must have, must read collectible. In honour of this achievement he was presented with a History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club book, with a specially inscribed frontispiece on behalf of the Club and signed by Samuel Pickwick. He returned to his seat opposite me (the new Editor-oh what a job) to appreciative applause.

Mr Justice Stareleigh then made mention of notable guests and absentees. He apologised for the absence of Nigella & Charles Saatchi due to a minor domestic, Prime Minister David Cameron and his fag' Boris Johnson, and one or two TV & Radio stars of alleged ill repute who were up before 'the beak'. On a more serious note our guests included former Commonwealth Games Cycling Champion, and local boy -Ron Keeble.

Simon Lillestone, former National Cycling Champion who rode in both World and Olympic events, and was of course head of cycling at the 2012 London Olympics. John McClelland 2013 World Master Cycling Champion. Simon Brotherton the TV & Radio commentator. Ex Professional footballer, Peter Kitchen, who scored over 200 league goals as he clocked up 520 games for Doncaster Rovers, Leyton Orient, Fulham and Cardiff. Malcolm Andrews, professor of Victorian Studies at Kent University and editor of 'The Dickensian' magazine, and other Dickensian books. Charles McCulloch national and international world champion time trial cyclist in age related events. And finally Lee Morris a builder of some repute who rode his bike the length of the South Downs for charity - in less than twelve hours.

Then came the introduction of our Chief Guest - Fergus Slattery an Irish Rugby player of some repute earning 61 caps -18 as captain. He was in the 1971 British & Irish Lions squad tour of New Zealand although did not play in the Test matches, but toured again in 1974 playing in all four Tests. He also played for the Barbarians in the famous game against the All Blacks at Cardiff in 1973. He followed this up with captaining the most successful eve Irish touring team to Australia in 1979, and was a member of the Irish Triple Crown winning team of 1982. Fergus was inducted into the International Rugby hall of Fame in 2007..



Fergus kept us enthralled with the life and times of international touring rugby players with as much about off the field activities as the achievements on the pitch finishing to much applause, and concluding with the toast to the "Immortal Memory.... and the Pickwick Bicycle Club".

As always I guess the ability to hear speeches in the Connaught Rooms depends on where you are seated and whether adjacent guests keep quiet - for my part this year it was pretty good, but then I was sitting almost in front of our Chief Guest. Maybe that's the next thing on the agenda to discuss with the management.

And so almost to the finale of another Garden Party, but not before we had the ceremonial passing of the chain of office from the retiring Samuel Pickwick (Jack Martin) to the incoming President, namely Samkin. Jack Martin returns to his role as Treasurer, while Samuel Pickwick looks forward to another busy calendar until December 2014



So this is my plan.....



To be chained up for a year.....

Proceedings were then brought to a close with everybody on their feet, unless there had been too much wine consumed, to link arms for a rousing rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" before we all went our separate ways until the next time.

Cue Vera Lynn and "We'll Meet Again"

A message from the Secretary Thames Bridges Bike Ride 2014

The Stroke Association are organising another Thames Bridges bike ride on Sunday 11 May 2014, from Southwark Park to Hurst Park. There are three routes and is set to be one of the biggest rides yet. Individuals can choose their distance and join over 2,000 cyclists crossing some of London's most iconic bridges. Riders can choose between 50, 33 or 8 miles and cycle as a team or as individuals.

I believe this is a worthwhile cause and that Pickwickians may like to ride individually but more particularly those members involved in the cycle trade may like to advertise the event to their customers. Further details can be obtained by visiting stroke.org.uk/tbbr or by ringing the event teams on 020 7940 1359. I have a small number of postcard adverts here in my office but more details can no doubt be obtained directly from the event team. I hope that some members will feel they are able to advertise and induce support from their customers.

A New Acquisition for the Archives.....from 1888

Joseph Smiggers presented this 125 year old Club programme at the December AGM, having just purchased it on e-Bay for the princely sum of £6.50.



PROGRAMME.

- PART I -			- PART II -		
PROFERTY SOLD	"Old Van"	Com.	PROFERTY SOLD	"Josh Edwards"	Com.
SONG	Mr. W. WRIGHT	Music	DRIFT	"Eunonia"	Music
SONG	"The Forge"	Music	SONG	Mr. A. J. TURNER & DAUVERGNE BARNARD	Music
SONG	"Send him the News"	G. Verse	SONG	"I suggest Inference"	Music
SONG	Mr. DAUVERGNE BARNARD		SONG	Mr. GOODWIN	
SONG	"The Eternal Glass"	vs	EXCULTIVE	"Wingspreads"	T. Verse
SONG	Mr. A. H. TURNER		SONG	Mr. H. DACKER WHITE	
COMY SONG	"New n"	C	SONG	"Ware of Angels"	Music
SONG	Mr. SAM WRIGHT		COMY SONG	Mr. DUNCAN FINLAY	
SONG	"Where's your will"	Music	SONG	"The Gables in the Churchyard"	Music
SONG	Mr. H. C. HILL		SONG	Mr. F. W. STEPHENS	
RECEPTION	"In the good old times"	Club	SONG	"The Skipper"	Club
SONG	Mr. H. JACOBUS SMITH		SONG	Mr. F. W. BOND-DALE	
SONG	"The Last Word"	Music	SONG	"I wish for that it may come"	Com.
SONG	Mr. RICHARD GOODWIN		SONG	Mr. A. H. TURNER	
SONG	"The Coast Guard"	L. Verse	SONG	"An Old Garden"	Club Verse
SONG	Mr. A. E. EDWARDS		SONG	Mr. DAUVERGNE BARNARD	
SONG	"Halcyon's Greeting"	vs	SONG	"Queen of my Song"	Music
SONG	Mr. BERNARD FINLAY		SONG	Mr. A. C. EDWARDS	
COMY SONG	"Capt and the Blue Box"	Com.	COMY SONG	"Juggles Too"	Music
SONG	Mr. T. W. STEPHENS		SONG	Mr. SAM WRIGHT	

As can be seen, the gathering was held at The Forest Hotel, Chingford on Saturday 24th March 1888, T.J. Boulter was the incumbent Samuel Pickwick. There is no mention of any food -an important point of order for Pickwickian meetings, but they did have an extensive repertoire of songs to enjoy. A further point of note that can be seen on the back cover is committee member, one J Atto - he of the Punch Bowl we see at every Garden Party. This programme will now be held by Joe the Fat Boy within the Club Archives.

RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTORS, OR WHO WERE YOUR EARLY NAMESAKES?



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.

Boz - Charles Dickens:

A verse in Bentley's Miscellany for March 1837 recalled the public's perplexity about this pseudonym: "Who the dickens 'Boz' could be puzzled many a learned elf, till time unveiled the mystery, and 'Boz' appeared as Dickens's self." Dickens took the pseudonym from a nickname he had given his younger brother Augustus, whom he called "Moses" after a character in Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield*. This, "being facetiously pronounced through the nose," became "Boses", which in turn was shortened to "Boz". The name remained coupled with "inimitable" until "Boz" eventually disappeared and Dickens became known as, simply, "The Inimitable".



Charles Dickens 1887 to 1896 Eldest son of Charles Dickens
 Cedric Dickens 1986 to 1998 Great grandson of Charles Dickens
 Gerald Dickens 1998 to 2005 Great great grandson of Charles Dickens
 Ian Dickens 2005 to present. Great great grandson of Charles Dickens

Smangle - a prisoner with Mr Pickwick- room-mate with bushy whiskers
 "It might have been Mr. Pickwick's very unexpected gallantry, or it might have been the complicated manner in which he had got himself out of bed, and fallen all in a mass upon the hornpipe man, that touched his adversaries. Touched they were; for, instead of then and there making an attempt to commit man- slaughter, as Mr. Pickwick implicitly believed they would have done, they paused, stared at each other a short time, and finally laughed outright. 'Well, you're a trump, and I like you all the better for it,' said the Zephyr. 'Now jump into bed again, or you'll catch the rheumatics. No malice, I hope?' said the man, extending a hand the size of the yellow clump of fingers which sometimes swings over a glover's door. 'Certainly not,' said Mr. Pickwick, with great alacrity; for, now that the excitement was over, he began to feel rather cool about the legs. 'Allow me the H-onour,' said the gentleman with the whiskers, presenting his dexter hand, and aspirating the h. 'With much pleasure, sir,' said Mr. Pickwick; and having executed a very long and solemn shake, he got into bed again. 'My name is Smangle, sir,' said the man with the whiskers".

WTWilkinson 1875 to 1879 (Committee)

WG King 1880 to 1890

Edward Hill 1891 to 1914 (Secretary 1893 to 1909)

John Baker 1916 to 1922
 GW Pamment 1926 to 1944 (Auditor)
 Philip A Day 1961 to 2004
 Mark James 2008 to present

We need your
 picture!

Smithers - Smithers & Price - a character does not exist:

"That's all right,' replied Mr. Perker's clerk; and then seeing Mr. Pickwick's eye wandering curiously towards the table, he added, 'will you join us, for half an hour or so? We are capital company here to-night. There's Samkin and Green's managing- clerk, and Smithers and Price's chancery, and Pimkin and Thomas's out o' doors--sings a capital song, he does--and Jack Bamber, and ever so many more. You're come out of the country, I suppose. Would you like to join us?'"

WE Rootes 1924 to 1932
 Alex Fraser 1938 to 1957
 G Grubb 1960 to 1971
 EB Mervyn Grub 1972 to 1989 (President 1983)
 David Lincoln 1999 to present



Snob - Porkin & Snob:

"For example. Leaning against the wall, close beside the seat Mr. Pickwick had taken, was an office-lad of fourteen, with a tenor voice; near him a common-law clerk with a bass one. A clerk hurried in with a bundle of papers, and stared about him. 'Sniggle and Blink,' cried the tenor. 'Porkin and Snob,' growled the bass. 'Stumpy and Deacon,' said the new-comer. Nobody answered; the next man who came in, was bailed by the whole three; and he in his turn shouted for another firm; and then somebody else roared in a loud voice for another; and so forth".

EW Garner 1926 to 1935
 JRH Peace 1942 to 1953
 H F "Pres" Pressdee 1965 to 1988
 Stewart Tibbats 1990 to 2004
 Paul Stewart 2011 to present

We need your
 picture!

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

Future Events

As everybody is aware, the number of members attending events other than the two main luncheons has been disappointing, so please make every effort to support some of these other exciting options during the year, and remember this is a cycling club as well as for social gatherings. Your fellow members put in a lot of hard work to organise the events, so the least we can do is to make that extra effort to turn up- even if only as a spectator

- 14th March** - is (or was) the finale of the Revolution Cycling Event Series at the London Velodrome, organised by Samuel Pickwick. You will have seen the flyer that went out last Autumn, so let's hope you didn't miss that one, you had plenty of warning.
- 8th May** - President's Luncheon @ The Connaught. Contact - Sgt Buzfuz
- 12th June** - Golf Day/Cycle Ride at Harpenden Golf Club.
A varied format for the golf this year
1000hrs arrival - coffee & bacon rolls
1100-1200hrs - Tee off
1700hrs - Dinner & prizes
2030-2100hrs - depart for home.
Contacts - Smithers - Golf
Mr Justice Stareleigh - Cycle Ride
- 29th June** - Baillie Mac Something Charity Bike Ride @ Winchmore Hill.
24 years and still going strong raising money for Charity, and the Pickwick BC usually does well winning the Shield for the most money collected.
Contact - Baillie Mac Something
- 5th July** - ***STAR EVENT*** Mr Pickwick goes to Harrogate for the Tour de France
Contact - Samuel Pickwick
Our President advises me that at the time of preparing this edition there are 10 (ten) places remaining for those who wish to partake of this exciting spectacle, so members, with members' wives, partners, mistresses whomsoever you care to bring don't delay and apply for tickets.
- 6th July** - Benson Veteran Bicycle Rally. Contact - Mr Brooks
Might be some conflict with the TdF visit to Harrogate, but nonetheless A great event and needs more support. You can hire vintage machines from Hunt, unless your bike already qualifies.
- 8th-10th July** - Mr Pickwick goes to France to see the Tour Another great trip organised by Baillie Mac Something to Northern France to watch three days of the Tour and enjoy excellent cuisine. It is also hope to stop off at Ypres en route to visit the World War 1

museum and Menin Gate.
Contact - Baillie Mac Something

2nd October - Hampton Court Bike Ride. Contact - Pruffle
As seen in the report in this issue of the magazine, another great day of camaraderie as the peloton of vintage machines races along the original route, while the rest of the riders meander through the lanes of Surrey.
Lunch will be at the excellent facilities of the Police Sports complex at Imber Court. Suitable entertainment will be provided for your delectation.

8th December - 144th Annual Garden Party at the Connaught.
Contact - Sgt Buzfuz.

In addition to the above, our President is keen to add further events to the agenda, so there will be;

A member's event to be held in the summer to view a bicycle collection, and to use his words "make merry", so watch out for further details.

Plus a Dickens Pub Walk sometime in September -more about this in the July magazine.

STOP PRESS

"Mr Brooks is proposing to watch the Giro d'Italia which starts in Belfast on the 9th May with a time trial. Would any other member who is proposing to go to Belfast please be kind enough to get in touch with him on 01962 774225 in the hope that they can meet up and exchange some Pickwickian greetings".



March 2014 Caption Competition

This time the picture features our Committee at the AGM



Entries to the editor- closing date End of July
but be careful if you want to remain in the Club!!



October 2013 Caption Competition

Dissappointingly we only had one entry and that was from 'Hunt' with "on reflection I should have gone straight ahead".

So a small prize will depart to his abode in due course.

A recently found extract from Monty Python's "Life of Brian" of a conversation between Roman Legionnaires:

REG: Cyclists have bled us white, the bastards. They don't pay road tax, they run red lights. And what have they ever given us in return?

XERXES: Pneumatic tyres.

REG: What?

XERXES: Pneumatic tyres.

REG: Oh. Yeah, yeah. They did give us that. Uh, that's true. Yeah.

COMMANDO #3: And ball bearings.

REG: Yeah. All right! I'll grant you pneumatic tyres and ball bearings are two things that the cyclists have done.

MATTHIAS: And the roads.

REG: Well, yeah. Obviously the roads! I mean, the roads go without saying, don't they? But apart from pneumatic tyres, ball bearings, and the roads...

COMMANDO: Lightweight steel tubing.

XERXES: Chain driven differential gears.

COMMANDO #2: Dust-free highways. Tractors. Automobile advertising.

COMMANDOS: Ohh...

REG: Yeah, yeah. All right. Fair enough.

COMMANDO #1: And Central Government administration of roads.

COMMANDOS: Oh, yes. Yeah...

FRANCIS: Cars and planes.

REG: Cars and planes?

FRANCIS: Yeah, America's first car was built by the Duryea brothers: they were bicycle builders first. And powered flight, Reg. That was developed by the Wright Brothers: they owned a bike shop and built bikes.

REG: All right, but apart from the pneumatic tyres, ball bearings, differential gears, roads, motoring, car ads, and aviation, what have cyclists ever done for us?

(With acknowledgement to Handmade Films)



Two years on and the statue is unveiled.....

Friday 7th February 2014 saw a large gathering in the square in front of Portsmouth Guildhall to witness the unveiling of a statue to Charles Dickens, just two years after the celebrations to commemorate his birth.

Preceding the event a number of Victorian machines of the Club and Southern Vets Bicycle & Tricycle Club, were observed riding merrily around the Square, drawing much interest from the passing public. The presence of the Club was evident from the striped blazers to the boaters, again drawing questions and surprise as to our origins.



With appropriate music from a brass ensemble (no rap music!) the event got underway just after mid-day with an introduction from Prof Tony Pointon, who, on behalf of the Charles Dickens Statue Committee & Dickens Fellowships, handed over the statue to the Lady Mayor of Portsmouth. A Mayor, she accepted the statue on behalf of the City of Portsmouth.



Edward Fox



Charles & Oliver Dickens

Well known celebrity & actor Edward Fox & his wife Joanna David, gave an interesting insight to The Man, with a number of interesting observations. The most significant being Dickens's own request 'not to make me the subject of a monument'. Then, with 9 year old great-great-great grandson Oliver Dickens and Esha Abedin of the local Charles Dickens Primary School the covers were removed for everyone to see the new memorial.

The statue itself is very pleasing on the eye, and Oxfordshire sculptor Martin Jennings seems to have found just the right tone for the purpose. The cost of the statue -some £140000 - was funded by family members, the Dickens Fellowship and many other donations.

Something of a scramble followed as press photographers, and yours truly, tried to get close enough to take as many pictures as possible of both Charles & Oliver. Oliver looked quite overcome with the attention given to him, but presented himself very well. Maybe he will join the Pickwick Bicycle Club sometime in the future and maintain the presence of the name Dickens on our membership list?

The dignitaries, members of the Dickens family and including Samuel Pickwick, Sgt Buzfuz, Dismal Jemmy & Jack Martin, on behalf of the Club then attended a gathering in the Guildhall. Later that evening, our Club officers attended a black tie dinner with those same dignitaries.



Your editor beat a hasty retreat to a local hostelry after the ceremony, before heading home.

(Photos courtesy of Mr Watty & the Editor)

Remember that flyer.....?

Mr Pickwick meets the 2014 Tour de France - in Harrogate

The Club secured this great viewing spot for the first stage - Grand Depart of the 2014 Tour de France in Harrogate on Saturday July 5th.

The race will pass right in front of the house where there will be a marquee/awning in the front garden. The house/garden we will be using, is owned by Judy, the Cordon Bleu cook, who will be catering for us throughout the day.

Those members attending will be able to walk into the vibrant town of Harrogate, which has plenty to see and do before the Race passes before our very eyes. Remember there is an extensive menu for the day, with food/wine costing per person =£62.50 plus any additional costs to be confirmed.

Accommodation allows for 25-30 members & guests on first come first served basis.

Final Arrangements will be confirmed nearer the time, so if not already done so, get in touch your President, Samuel Pickwick (Peter Legg) at peter@legacyconsulting.com to reserve your place

Why not make a weekend of the Tour in Yorkshire as Stage 2 on Sunday will pass through: York-Knaresborough-Silsden-Keighley-Haworth-Hebden Bridge-Elkland-Holmfirth-Sheffield.

Are you too late

In addition to all the other events, don't forget Baillie Mac Something is organising his usual "Mr Pickwick Goes to France" trip departing on 8th July. Another exciting 3-day trip to Northern France to see the Tour, but in addition this year it is hoped that an overnight stop in Ypres will enable everyone to experience the nightly ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Gourmet Food and exquisite wines will be the order of the evening entertainment, and of course the cycling during the day.

Don't miss out, contact Baillie Mac Something on 01494 722611 or Email him on di.john.wildhatch@btinternet.com to make sure of your space on the trip.

A short ditty found by our esteemed Mr Brooks in a magazine believed to be The Wheel World. I hasten to add that you should read it to the end to understand the true meaning.....

"In The Gloaming" or.....'The Wailings of a Disappointed Novice'

In the gloaming, oh! My darling!
 Don't I curse the thoughts of thee!
 Crowding ever like grim phantoms,
 Haunting me unceasingly.
 Oh! My heart is sad with longing,
 What I dreamed will never be: *
 It were best to "chuck you up" dear,
 Best for you and best for me.

In the gloaming, oh! My darling!
 When thy light burns dim and low,
 And the vision of a bobby, **
 Sets my ruby all aglow!
 When with pain my limbs are aching,
 As I "hook it " awful slow,
 Withering condemnations hearty,
 Of thy maker often flow.

In the gloaming, oh! My darling!
 I will mount thee not in vain;
 Take thee to a near relation,
 "Pop thee up the spout" for gain!
 Thus I'll rid me of thy torments,
 Instrument of make insane!
 I have learned by sad experience,
 Cycling ain't an easy game.
 "AB INITIO"

* I dreamed I was the Am. Cham,
 ** Oh! Lor

Recipes or Food Glorious Food.....

Another 19th century recipe, courtesy of our former editor.....makes you wonder if this theme has something to do with his soubriquet!
A slight tryst on spelling but I am sure that Bullman will not object.

Omelet á la Vanderbilt.....

Take two fine, sound, green peppers and plunge them into hot fat for half a minute, then take them up and lay them on a dry cloth; skin them neatly and remove all the seeds from the insides, and when emptied cut them into small slices. Put these into a saucepan on the hot stove with two medium-sized fresh, sound, sliced tomatoes, twelve nicely shelled shrimps, and three tablespoonfuls of Madeira wine sauce.

Then season with half a pinch of salt and a third of a pinch of pepper, and cook slowly for fifteen minutes. Break twelve fresh eggs into a bowl, season them with half a pinch of salt and a third of a pinch of pepper, and beat well for five minutes. Put two ounces of good butter in a frying-pan, place it on the hot stove, and when the butter is melted drop in the eggs, and with a spoon or fork mix briskly for two minutes.

Fold the opposite side up with a skimmer, lift up the thick part of the prepared sauce and place it in the centre of the omelette, fold the other side either with a knife or fork, and let it cook for two minutes longer, then turn it out onto a hot dish; pour the rest of the sauce from the saucepan around the omelette, and send it to the table very hot.

From 'The Table' (Eggs) by Delmonico's Chef -Alessandro Filippini, 1889



FOR SALE

SILK TIES

Beautifully made all silk tie in the Club colours is now available. Also Available now is a Club bow tie.

Priced at £15 each including VAT, packaging & postage they can be ordered from The Secretary

CLUB JERSEYS

Have you ordered your club jersey yet? There are still some of these excellent items available. Most sizes available with or Without contents!



Really good value @ **£37.00**
Plus £2.50 postage costs
Available from
The BULLMAN -see handbook

CUFF LINKS



Would you like another pair of Bicentenary cuff links?

Why not treat yourself to a second pair? A limited number of pairs are still available. Priced at £12.50 pair incl P&P.

To order- send a cheque to the Pickwick Bicycle Club to The Secretary, Serjeant Buzfuz.

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.



These magnificent solid brass Doorstops, cast from a Samuel Pickwick mould, measure 36cm high, and weigh 3.75kg., are still available to purchase.

To buy one of these desirable items, please contact:

Taylors Foundry
Hollands Road
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 8PU
Tel: 01440 702870

A Young Boy on a Trike in St. Louis Missouri



A curly haired young boy with tightly pursed lips poses for his portrait at the carpeted Rino studio in St. Louis, Missouri. The studio was located at 801 Franklin Avenue at the time this photograph was taken. Even though the boy in this image projects a less than desirable expression, this is a wonderful portrait of a turn of the century tricycle. August Rino is listed in "Pioneer Photographers from the Mississippi to the Continental Divide" (2005). Rino was active in Chicago between about 1858 and 1860 and operated in St. Louis between 1860 and 1875.