

# The Pickwick Magazine

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

Founded in 1870



"Who are you, you rascal?" said the Captain, administering several pokes to Mr Pickwick's body with the thick stick. "What's your name?"



## Thoughts from the Editor...

A belated welcome to 2017, lets hope for further success in the world of cycling. As we saw at the Rio Olympics, and in attendance at the December Garden Party, there are a lot of great youngsters making their presence felt on the world stage. Sir Bradley duly ended his dazzling career with a sentimental victory finale at

the Ghent 6-Day alongside teammate Mark Cavendish, but it seems sad that some of the glitz was lost with the on-going debate over legal use of medication. However will Sir Bradley be as successful on skis as he was on wheels?-(unfortunately, as we went to press, we heard that he had fractured his leg.)

I guess there's hope for all of us regardless of age, if you heard about Robert Marchand. The 105-year-old Frenchman who broke the one-hour distance record of some 14 miles at the beginning of the year. The strangest thing about this achievement was that he broke the record 'in the 105 plus age category'. I've heard of Vet Standards, but this pushes the barrier beyond most expectations.

The Club activities have once again been well supported. Last year's President, Bullman introduced some additional events with rugby & cricket on the menu by way of a change, and of course there was the get together at the Leather Bottle in Cobham. See the pictures on page30. Our new President, Alfred Jingle is aiming to continue with these extra activities. And so the mantle of Captain has transferred to Dr Payne of the 43<sup>rd</sup> (Tim Stevens) and we wish him well. However we should remember the magnificent effort put into the job by retiree Dismal Jemmy (Bob Upton). A sterling effort for many years and often in the face of unnecessary adversity with people not having the courtesy to be silent when requested. Best wishes for a healthy recovery Bob, and thanks for the memories.

Rather than the usual mug shot of your Editor, I thought a bit of nostalgia might be in order. Do we miss the aroma of old shag, as clouds of smoke drifted from those pipes across the lunching diners? Yes, we do. In the meantime this issue has a quiz instead of the Caption Competition, and we will find a different prize for the winner.

Have a great Summer.....

Winkle Snr

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Closing Date for the October issue - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

## A Secretarial Report From Sgt Buzfuz

[email:sdownham@hughesellard.com](mailto:sdownham@hughesellard.com)



**Welcome** to the 147th year of our illustrious Club. Not quite the true anniversary that occurs in June, but your committee and officers are already looking forward to 2020 when we celebrate our 150th year. The club is in good heart with a healthy waiting list with many very good candidates in the wings. At the **AGM**, the decision was taken to keep the waiting list closed for at least another year as, although there are available soubriquets there are more than enough nominations to take up those names. We will try to bring new members in as soon as possible with perhaps 5 or 6 being introduced in May with a further number in December. Also **Alfred Jingle** (Ron Beale) was elected President and **Pruffle** (Aiden Hegarty) was elected his deputy. **Dismal Jemmy** resigned his post as Club Captain after many years of sterling work for which we thank him and wish him well. Following an election Doctor Payne (Tim Stevens) was appointed as his replacement. No replacement of Dr. Payne (Deputy Captain) was made and this post will be considered by the committee and a probable election will take place at the next **AGM**; **Slum** (Andy Ash) was elected to fill a committee vacancy.

I apologise to members that the room was crowded at the garden Party. We sold too many tickets! Despite the advance notice of closing dates, at that time we had not sold enough. Several members had asked for more than their allocation of 5 and because there were spares this was allowed. Several members then applied late and, not wanting to disappoint them and their guests, more tickets were sold. This proved to be a poor decision. For future Garden Parties no tickets above the allocation will be allowed until the closing date stated on the application forms. Members may ask to go on a waiting list and after the closing date they will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. Any members applying after the closing date will also be dealt with on a first come first served basis and tickets will be allocated if space is available. We will only sell 550 tickets. This time we had over 580 in the room. There is no limit for The President's Luncheon in May when we will have mainly round tables. The speaker in May will be Josh Daniels a comedian who comes well recommended.



It is disappointing that the only time I get to hear of member's change of address, e-mail or telephone numbers are when a mail shot, e-mail or attempt to phone fails. The executive members and officers are not mind readers; our data base is the only record we have to keep in touch with members, so please let me know every time there is a change of any contact details. I would again ask if any member has an e-mail address and would wish to receive club info via that link to let me know. It speeds up getting information to you and saves the club money. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the President's Lunch, and other club functions dates - details of which are to be found on page 20 in this newsletter. Your new President will be arranging other events so watch out for updates.

Dates for 2017 are the usual second **Thursday in May (11th)** and first **Thursday in December (7th)**, so please put these in your diary and remember that regular attendance is a requirement of membership.

Buzfuz

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## Your President Speaks.....

I still can't believe that I have been given the honour & privilege of being President of this fantastic & prestigious Club. Like the brilliant Past Presidents, I am hoping to meet as many of you as possible during my year of office.

We had a really lovely day and excellent lunch at The Leather Bottle, Cobham last year - courtesy of Bullman, with friends and partners, and so I am hoping to repeat this event in late Spring this year. Another really enjoyable afternoon/evening event in the past, courtesy of Samkin, was the tour of the Dickensian Pubs in London. We had a wonderful guide and finished with a Dickensian dinner of sausage & mash -great! So we will try to repeat that event as well. I also quite like the idea of a Club river trip - so watch for updates.

In the meantime, "Cheers to all Pickwickians"

Ron Beale/Samuel Pickwick (Alfred Jingle)



## Hampton Court Action on October 13th 2017

As ever the sun shone on the righteous - Pruffle & Hunt!

**Pruffle**, assisted by an equally stern lady commissar, laid down the law during the briefing, with strict guidance on our behaviour-no wheelies for Mr Watty otherwise he'd be thrown out of the event. Very harsh I thought. Reporting in a different format this year, **Hunt** - who was 'hors de combat' (allegedly) withdrew from the oldies (sorry - veterans) Thames footpath ride but has offered the following view from the club-house as an introduction to the event.

*"As I did not put pen to paper this year about the Hampton Court ride, I decided as an aside to the ride, a bit of background on Hampton Hill (and myself) might be of interest to the members. Many of the participants who've ridden with the veteran side of the Hampton Court ride over the years will know, the mid-morning refreshment stop is in Hampton Hill, which is my home village. This year The Star kindly hosted the riders on their return journey. As you will also know, the first recorded bike race started and finished in Bushy Park in the 1870's; the Park borders the High St, which in 1946 my father, William Hitchman took over a cycle shop "Burts Cycles". The shop itself started life as a blacksmiths in the 1880's, and according to a gent I met back in the '60's, who was the Saturday boy for Burt the Blacksmith, it was where Penny Farthing cycles were repaired, sold and possibly even built on the site. So, when my father was looking for an emblem for the shop, the Penny Farthing was a perfect fit. About four years ago, I decided to build a row of cottages on the grounds at the rear of the shop, and with all the local history of cycling, it was quite an easy decision that I should name the road 'Penny Farthing Mews'." Hunt /Roger Hitchman*



The Lycra Louts Prepare



The Vets are Ready

Mr Brooks takes on air



Some 18 riders set off from Imber Court ably led by Andy Skinner in Hunt's absence, and the initial part of the ride took a while for everyone to catch up, due to traffic light road works, but safely managed we pushed on through Hampton Hill to Hampton Court Bridge. This took a bit of negotiating amongst busy traffic, with some riders opting for the pavement and the pedestrian x-ings. Once on to the towpath it was plain sailing-well cycling - for the 3 miles to Kingston Bridge. Heading to Bushy Park, we temporarily lost both our President & Treasurer, but they were soon rounded up and wheels were rolling once again.

I've not done the veteran's ride before, so maybe it's me, but the stags & deer frequently mentioned in previous years seem to pose for the passing Pickwickians. Very splendid beings they are too - the wildlife that is. Road junctions traversed carefully and on to the Diane Fountain where the two



Ordinary's caused much excitement amongst the queuing motorists as they circled the fountain several times before overtaking them and heading for the gate.

As we made our way through Hampton Court Palace gardens we found ourselves amongst several school parties of young children who looked somewhat bemused at both our bicycles and attire. A teacher suitably explained that we were "old people on old bikes".....!! Thanks!



Assembling in front of the Palace for the formal picture taken by Mr Watty with some modern technology, we were then besieged by tourists with funny accents and wanting pictures -even selfies, with these equally funny cyclists.

Such was the adoration of the crowd that our departure was somewhat spread out. Clearly bike riders have a magnetic attraction or was it some of the attractive tourists?

Finally only the two Ordinaries and yours truly remained, but there was sustenance ahead, so off we rode, quickly catching up Mr Brooks who had decided to walk back over Hampton Court Bridge until safely alighting his steed for the short distance to The Star in Hampton Hill. Hunt had arranged for mine host to prepare another extensive buffet of sandwiches and other tasty morsels that were just our appetisers for lunch. One of our number who can remain nameless, went to the bakery for a bun before realising there was free food. And so we made our way back to Imber Court, some avoiding the earlier road works by using the footpath, and all in time to avoid any criticism from Pruffle for late arrival.

The usual eclectic mix of machines included: A Golden Sunbeam (see b/cover of the October magazine), a Dursley Pederson; 3 Penny-farthings, (2 large, and Mr Watty with a small one(!) that had an acetylene swinging hub lamp); 1927BSA ridden by Andy Skinner; Mr Brooks on a fixed wheel Swift Safety with pedals that converted to a prop stand; and in contrast to the size of the Pennys...a well restored 1963 Moulton de Luxe (4-speed gears no less).



Watty's Hub Lamp



Big brother- little brother

It remains uncertain as to quite where the lycra louts caused havoc in the Surrey countryside, however we do thank David Betts & James Gallagher for bringing back all those who left Imber Court earlier in the day, without any apparent issues - although Justice Stareleigh seemed to be breathing rather heavily.

The Imber Court staff turned out their usual excellent fare for all to enjoy. Poached salmon, followed by Italian Chicken & veg followed by an apple crumble. Wonderful. Peter Magnus produced his usual glorious table menu, filled with a variety of cartoons showing machinery driven by a bicycle principle of a chain-ring and pedals. And he gave us all the usual commemorative poster. We were then treated to a short speech by Alan Rushton - Past President of the PBC and former organiser of the Tour of Britain, and the nationwide Kellogg's City Centre races, all of which was extremely interesting.



So it was then over to MC Pruffle to announce the awards. First recipient was towpath ride leader Andy Skinner, who was awarded the Burt's Pedals trophy by Hunt. The Highgate Bowl went to Sean Bannister, and the Dr Payne Trophy to Niall Hegarty - although Pruffle denied any element of nepotism in this announcement. The Peter Magnus Trophy was won by Steve Legg, and a new trophy, the President's Cup was surprisingly given to your Editor- not sure why. Brother Maudlin (Chris Saltrick) and Andrew Donald shared the Penny-farthing Trophy.

Once again, everyone had an enjoyable day of convivial Pickwickian friendship accompanied by good food. Many thanks are due to Pruffle for his organisation skills, and to Hunt for his kind contribution to the vets. To close therefore I thought we ought to remind everyone, that Pruffle does actually ride a bike, not just tell everyone else how to do it.

**Winkle Snr.**



## What do you know about Pashley Bicycles?

Another iconic British name has just celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016. Whilst maybe not on a par with the Golden Sunbeams, Humbers, & Swift Safetys above, it is still a national treasure in the world of bicycles, and one of only three (allegedly) remaining bike manufacturers in this country. The company was founded in Birmingham in 1926 by one William Rathbone who was a former apprentice at the Austin Motor Co, and then a 1<sup>st</sup> World War military dispatch rider. He had the idea to make more comfortable bicycles, trikes and tandems. He also designed carrier bikes for small businesses - the like of which unfortunately we no longer see. It was a worthwhile job a butcher or baker's boy to earn a few bob. They also made the "stop me and buy one" ice-cream trikes. During WW2 Pashleys produced ambulances and Browning machine gun mounts. Plus from the 1970's, built thousands of bikes for the Royal Mail. Their bikes have been used in many TV period programmes-such as Miss Marple.

Nowadays Pashley still use lugs rather than brazed joints, offer Sturmey Archer multi-gear options and over 30 different colours amongst their 10000 bikes manufactured each year. Apparently many of the staff of 40plus have worked for the company for more than 10 years. They hold an annual picnic near Stratford on Avon using a variety of bikes along with 1930s accessories, such as bells, wicker baskets and leather saddlebags.

(article extracts courtesy of Mrs Winkle's Country Living magazine)



## The 146th Annual Garden Party

Our December event was compromised this year by the Southern Rail dispute, making travel from the South a testing & risky affair. Fortunately the weather was fair to us all and the Grand Connaught Rooms was a hive of preparatory activity as members arrived for the 11am AGM start. Important business this year, for with some sadness Dismal Jemmy (Bob Upton) had decided to retire and we were required to elect a new Captain. There were four candidates, who each gave an account of themselves, but by a clear sprint Vice Captain, Dr Payne (of the 43<sup>rd</sup>)/(Tim Stevens) was elected to the role. He duly thanked us for placing this burden upon him, and then rushed away to ensure all was ready in the Grand Hall for our 1 o'clock gathering. Treasurer Jack Martin again re-assured us of the continuing financial status of the Club. One additional action of the committee was to make Peter Magnus (Keith Robins) an Honorary Member for his extraordinary activities on behalf of the Club.



Adjourning to the hubbub in the anteroom it wasn't long before our friends from the Household Cavalry once again summoned us to table. Our new Captain made his voice and intentions clear that we should do instructed when he spoke. So we had our choral practice - albeit different words to those prescribed on the menu. So life continued much the same as ever. Most guests were in place for the arrival of our President and his principle guest.

The gathering then welcomed the original member (this year it was Brother Maudlin) to the President's table, as lunch commenced. The food continues to be excellent at this luncheon, with this year's selection of Smoked Salmon Roulade, Mozzarella with Parma Ham, the now always twice cooked (?) Turkey, and concluding with Plum Pudding, Mince Pies & coffee. The seating plan was slightly different to normal, to accommodate the late ticket applicants, and so space was in short supply for both guests and catering staff, which impacted on the service at times.



Past President, Samkin then welcomed the seemingly increasing list of notable guests- see page 12 for the full details. Our new Captain, Dr Payne was in full control and brought the necessary order to proceedings for the arrival of the Boys of the Old Brigade accompanied by Mr Dumkins bringing the Joseph Atto punch bowl to the President's table. Both old comrades (really?-they continue to look younger than many Pickwick members) gave their rank & numbers with gusto, not the least inhibited with the thought of "Don't tell them Pike."



Time moved on and Sergeant Buzfuz was called upon to announce five (5) new members to the Club and provide them with their soubriquets. These were: Tom Dollow (grandson of Joe the Fat Boy) - to be known as Slummintowkens; Carlton Kirby - Mr Ayresleigh; Dan Lloyd - Number 20; Michael Couzens - Martin the Long Gamekeeper; and finally long time friend of the Club - Maurice Burton - Namby. We welcome them all to the Club and trust they will help to maintain its traditions and continuity.



Maurice Burton "Namby"

The arrival of the Plum Pudding was a quiet affair this year, with no dimming of lights or "Good King Wenceslas" refrain, but it certainly tasted pretty good.



Dominic Holland

Our guest for the day was the diminutive Dominic Holland, comedian, author and broadcaster. Dominic worked closely with & for Eddie Izzard early in his career, and he kept us delightfully entertained with his insight into everyday life, including his own domestic failings. He concluded by asking the guest to charge their glasses to the "Immortal Memory..."

President Samuel Pickwick/Bullman then responded on behalf of the Club and commenting on how much he had enjoyed his year, and hoped that the extra events he had organised had been enjoyed by all the participants. His final duty of his presidential year was to hand over the responsibility of Club President to one Alfred Jingle Esq (Ron Beale) until the next Annual Garden party in December 2017.



We then had an eventful interval, whilst Dr.Slammer took on the role of Auctioneer to sell to the highest bidder an autographed Sky Team Maillot Jaune from the 2016 Tour de France, very kindly donated by Dr Richard Usher, the Sky Team doctor, and guest of George the Father. An amazing £1150 was raised.

Community singing of Auld Lang Syne, brought proceedings to a close for another year, although there were plenty of opportunities for the now regular photo-shots with both the Household Cavalry Officers & the Chelsea Pensioners.



## Samkin's Luncheon Guest List.....

Gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all to our  
146<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Party.

For those of you who have attended before, welcome back, and to those who are here for the first time, we hope you are enjoying our traditions and Dickensian hospitality. We have with us today a number of guests worthy of special mention, although it must be said that the members of The Pickwick Bicycle Club are delighted to see each and every one of you here, old and new.

On Table **D** we have Owain Doull, Olympic Gold Medal Winner in the Team Pursuit at the Rio games. Riding with Ed Clancy, Steven Burke and Sir Bradley Wiggins, they broke the world record time twice but more importantly, beat Australia in the final for gold! A golden Olympic games for our cyclists. Alongside them is Jon Dibben, who was crowned World Champion this year in the points race, winning rainbow stripes for the first time in his career. He was unlucky not to have gone to Rio this year but no doubt is heading for Tokyo in 2020. We look forward to your returning to our 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Party with a gold medal.

Also on Table **D** we have another Olympic medallist. Henry Reynolds won silver in the 1956 Men's Road Race in Melbourne. He also rode in the 1960 Tour de France.

We have a number of other notable cycling guests: On Table **K**, is David Le Gryns, English Track cyclist, 25 World Masters and coach. On Table **L** is Roger Hammond, British Road Champion, who on retirement became Team Manager for Madison-Genesis and then Sports Director for Dimension Data. On Table **H** is Mike Bennett, Race Director of the Tour of Britain

On Table **D** we have Luigi Daccarrdi, Son of the founder Giuseppe who have specialized in building top quality frames for 79 years in the heart of Tuscany, close to Florence. Members will be aware of the high standard of behaviour required within the Club, so I am pleased to advise you that we have the long hand of the law present on Table **B** is the retired Chief Constable of West Mercia Police, David Shaw, who was awarded the Queen's Police Medal this year.



On Table **H** we have His Honour, Judge Jeffrey Blackett, a former Royal Navy Commodore. He is Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces and was the Chief Disciplinary Officer at the Rugby Football Union for many years. He was recently appointed the Chairman of the Professional Game Board, which looks after the relationship between the RFU and Premiership Rugby. So there you have it - the ability to apprehend and dispense justice as well all in one place here at the Grand Connaught Rooms.

I would now like to introduce our principal Guest - Dominic Holland.

A comedian, author and broadcaster; he won the 1993 Perrier Best Newcomer Award in Edinburgh and his BBC Radio4 series "The Small World of Dominic Holland" won a Comic Heritage award. It may be a Pickwickian moment as "The Small World" refers to his 5ft 6ins height. The chair is available for you to stand on Sir, as Mr Pickwick would have chosen. His credits include: Have I Got News for You; They Think It's All Over; The Royal Variety Performance; Loose Ends; Never Mind the Buzzcocks; The News Quiz; and The Wright Stuff. Described in the Sunday Times as the UK's master of observational comedy - YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

Members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club, please be upstanding.

The toast is "**Our Guests**"

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## Pickwickian Sartorial Elegance

Past President Samkin has requested I inform members that your committee will be placing a new order for Club Blazers & Waistcoats very shortly. If you wish to join the increasing numbers wearing the Club attire, then please place your order as quickly as possible. Contact Samkin in the first instance on [peter@legg.co](mailto:peter@legg.co)

Blazers cost the princely sum of £235 each, and Waistcoats £100 each

## The Story of The Amateur Bicycle Club Part 2

*We continue the story of the ABC by author Nick Clayton about an historic bicycle Club that appears to have been formed prior to the existence of our own Pickwick Bicycle Club.*

### The Machines They Rode

There were many references to the machines being ridden in the early days, when Custance and King began as boneshaker riders, and Custance kept his 40" rubber tyred Parfrey until 1876 when he changed to a 54" Keen Eclipse. Tudor-Frere rode a 38" Beck boneshaker with fat rubber tyres until 1876. A club run in 1872 saw 5 x Becks, 3 x Keen Bros, and 1 x Ariel. The Beck Bros ceased production sometime in 1875. John Keen became the chosen bicycle provider, initially at Surbiton Hill, and in Clapham by 1875; although it's reported that his machines were 'as unreliable as most, and the repair service distinctly leisurely'. November 1878 there was an occurrence where "At Streatham Hill the wire thread of the front tyre parted and poked its nose through its rubber sheath...transfixing the fleshy part of its owner's right thigh."

The Ordinary gave way to the Safety, and in May 1885 Mr May is noted on his new Kangaroo, and Mr Innes is still riding one in 1888. Herbert Canning (Captain from 1890-96) had a stable of machines including a geared Facile, a brand new Whippet, and a Humber pneumatic. Apart from supplying machines Keen was also as we saw, the main character in the Challenge Medal debacle, and many of his letters – said to be in a 'neat, literate and respectful style' are pasted into the minute books.

### The Amateur Question & The Hampton Court Meets

The amateur question was high on the agenda in the early days of the sport and the ABC had a special interest. In 1875 they resolved that the 'Club promote the organisation of an Association to recognise a certain class of clubs'. In fact as this developed, the ABC moved further away from associating with anyone. The Dark Blue Bicycle Club Hon Sec. proposed that 'the two clubs should act together to represent the conservative element of bicycling. And since you (Custance) & Frere are Oxford men, I would be glad to propose you as honorary members'. By 1878 however, the ABC committee were unanimous in stating that the constitution of a Bicycle Union was neither desirable nor needed. Similar animosity showed over the annual Hampton Court monster meets, and in 1874 along with several other clubs - 38 machines in all – as the others formed a procession, the ABC elected to look on.

Custance sourly noted this in the minutes as "The meet was attended by twelve clubs of which only four could honestly be denominated as being composed exclusively of Gentleman Amateurs; many of the remaining members being far below par and of no great improvement on the noisy radicals mechanics and other republican rascals who put their noses where least wanted".

## The Annual Dinner

Although club meets received poor support, the AGM and Dinner was a popular occasion drawing about 30 members & guests. The Hon Sec read out reports of the club meets, which drew much amusement and hilarity to the meeting. The favourite venue for the dinner was the Egyptian Saloon at Café Monico at Piccadilly Circus, where they would usually enjoy a ten-course dinner with a printed menu followed by a programme of recitation and songs.

## Club Meets

The club meets were well documented in the minute books, including who turned up, the state of the roads, where they rode to and of the pub stops which appeared to be little and often. Whilst repetitive, these reports help us to learn about Custance & his friends. "In 1872 a member running down a moderately steep hill met a respectable looking farmer to whom he said 'Good Morning'. The bucolic replied 'Good Morning Sir, lor when I seed you a coming over the hill I took you for a donkey, Hah Hah. To which the ABC member replied, 'Indeed, then I wonder you did not begin to bray'".

Within the minuted reports it intimates that ABC members could if they wanted to, outride all others they met on the road, and yet the best amateur riders such as Whiting, Causton and Keith-Falconer chose to join other clubs. The ABC stalwarts however continued their minimally attended club meets and maybe it was just this exclusivity that produced the happy nostalgia that is so apparent in the last period of the club's existence. One early 1901 report advises that 'Soon after dismounting at home, the Hon Sec had an attack of vertigo which caused a fall onto the kerbstone and damage to his head and left ear. His doctor ordered immediate rest, no more riding until further order, and at least three months cessation of all work'. Another simply stated, "meet at White Hart Roehampton. Present Henry N. Custance Esq. – alone". The final entry in November 1901 – " Meet at Ealing Station 2pm. Present Henry N. Custance, Hon Sec – alone. Having waited the usual 15 minutes the Club ran home again via Shepherd's Bush and the electric lines. The day was very fine and he supposes the early meet prevented his being supported by other members."

The last Club Captain from 1897 was Algernon H. M. Praed, who wrote to the CTC (Cyclist's Touring Club) in 1926 offering the aforementioned hoard containing the Minute books, medals and some cash, that he had received from Custance before his death. Any monies raised from these items should be donated to the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund of which Henry N. Custance was Secretary for many years.

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Some more rarely seen cycling organisation plaques that used to adorn our countryside in 50's & 60's. Have you seen one recently?



## Mr Watty & His Dream Machine.....

Our indubitable Mr Watty is embarking on another epic ride to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Draisine. Here he takes up the story;

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the forerunner of the bicycle, which was invented in Karlsruhe, Germany. To celebrate this significant occasion the International Veteran Cycling Association (IVCA) is holding its annual rally in Karlsruhe 24th - 28th May 2017. To mark the start of the IVCA Rally, 12 riders from around the World will ride their Draisines 230 km from Nancy to Karlsruhe 20th - 24th May 2017. Members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club will be represented by Mr. Watty, fresh from riding his Velocipede 850 km from Paris - Avignon in 2015! His machine has been build for him by a wheelwright in Thiers, France and all he needs is plenty of training and the right costume!



Mr Watty in Training

And now for the history lesson. On the 12th July 1817, a German Baron Carl Drais von Sauerbronn achieved the first ride by man on a machine with 2 wheels. He rode from Mannheim to Schwetzingen and back covering 28 km. His invention in 1817 was actually a running machine, or Laufmaschine, and although it had no pedals it was the forerunner of the bicycle, as we know it today. In 1817 the only means of transport on land was riding a horse or being drawn by a horse on a carriage or cart. This new invention had a wooden frame, two wheels in line and a seat between, and the rider propelled his steed like a skater. With most of the riders weight being on the seat, all the force from the legs could be directed into forward motion. The main advantage over riding a horse is that a wooden horse doesn't need feeding or grooming!





The Baron Carl Drais von Sauerbronn

(who looks remarkably like Mr Watty,  
or is it the other way around?)

His invention, although short lived, soon took his name in Germany as a draisine, in France as a draisine, and in England it was given the name Hobby Horse or Dandy Horse as most of the riders were dapper young men with more money than sense! In 1819 the British coach-builder Denis Johnson produced an improved version, although it was soon banned from the streets due to accidents with pedestrians.

It wasn't until 1864 that Pierre Michaux added cranks and pedals to the front wheel and together with the Olivier brothers they developed the Michauline or Velocipede in France, which was fondly known as the Boneshaker in England, and the bicycle craze was well under way.

Today it is well recognised that the best way to teach children to cycle is to start them on a hobby horse or glide bike - so the invention of 1817 likes on!

Should members wish to support Mr.Watty in raising funds for Cancer Research UK, please visit his Just Giving website at: [www.justgiving.com/stuart-mason-elliott7](http://www.justgiving.com/stuart-mason-elliott7)

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Did you know.....?

Buster Keaton rode a Dandy Horse in the 1923 film "Our Hospitality"

The modern 'balance bike' available to help young children learn to ride, is based on the Dandy Horse.

## Letters to The Editor



This is your chance have your say.

Write to: The Editor, 'Taverners' Warninglid Lane,  
Plummers Plain, West Sussex, RH13 6NY

Email: [pickwick2610@hotmail.com](mailto:pickwick2610@hotmail.com) or Tel: 01403 891789

You will have noticed on page 9 that at the AGM, a great stalwart of the Club, Peter Magnus was made an Honorary Member. Below is a response from him:

*Dear Winkle Snr*

*It came as a great surprise when the Honourable Secretary stated that the last item on the AGM agenda was, "That the Executive Committee have awarded Peter Magnus Honorary Membership of the Pickwick Bicycle Club for the contribution of supplying special menus and items he had produced for the Golf day, Hampton Court ride and other PBC events".*

*I, Peter Magnus, am grateful for that honour and thank the committee profusely. I do get some satisfaction when I produce an unusual menu and then 20 years later, visit a fellow club member and see the menu framed and hanging on the wall. Also when members ask for second copies.*

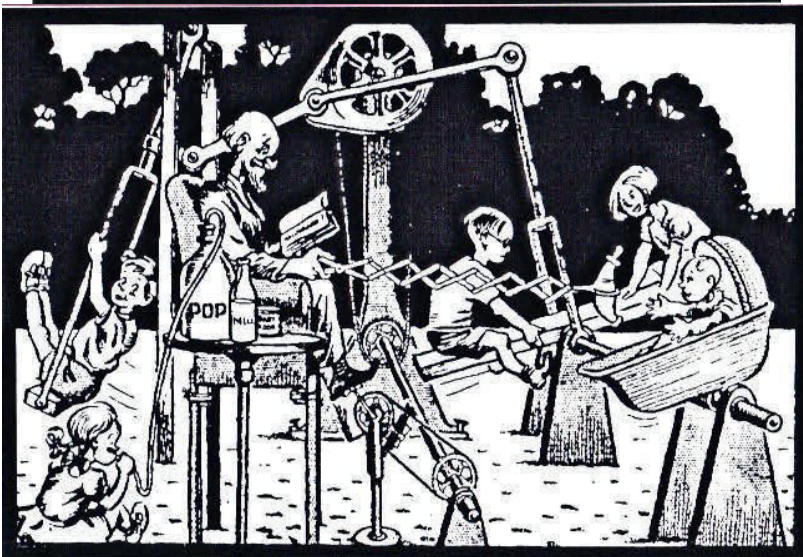
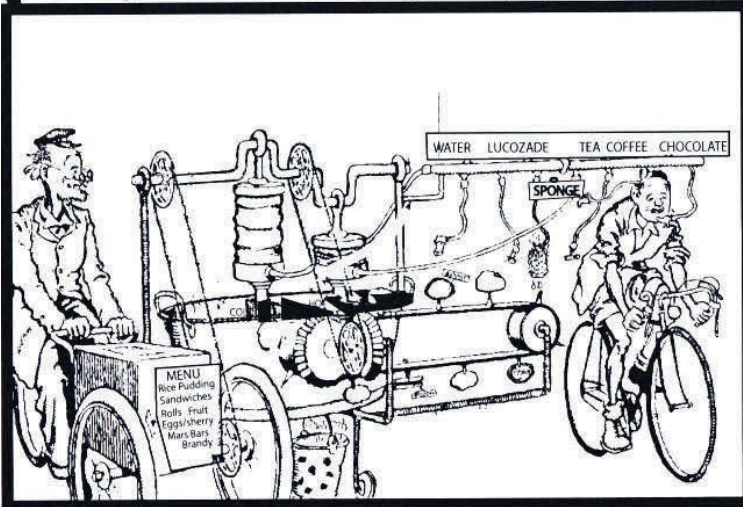
*I did announce at the meeting that the late Harold Scott had amassed a collection of over 1,800 Medals and Badges. Some of the medals were donated by some very distinguished cyclists and clubs, or purchased from various sources. Harold appointed three Trustees to safeguard the collection from dispersal. These medals are displayed at Brookland's race-track Museum and well worth a visit. I was one of the appointed trustees.*

*With my advancing age the thoughts of safeguarding that trust worried me, so I asked our secretary if the Pickwick Bicycle Club could take on the duties of trustees. This I am pleased to say, has been accomplished and three members of the BPC are now trustees. Thank you to The Executive Committee of the PBC for making one member very happy, and solving one's problem,*

*Peter Magnus/Past President (Aka Keith Robins)*

Following on from Peter's letter, I thought it would be pertinent to include some pictures from the recent Hampton Court Ride menu. There were a number of cycle cartoon drawings by the Edward Williams Company displayed in the menu, but I have selected just two for your enjoyment.

The "Self Feeding Innovation" a machine to make it possible for feeding crew members to carry on helping in their old age.



The Grandchildren's "Child Minder" will cope with all ages

## 2017 Events List

As with past listings the following dates are those carved in stone at the time of going to press, so please make a note of them if you wish to participate, to avoid disappointment. Your President will be arranging other events and these will be notified by email once known - so make sure your email address is known to the Hon Secretary-Buzfuz. All events are open to members & friends to enjoy, whether participating or just supporting. Remember that these events take a lot of effort from the organisers, and should be rewarded with support from as many Club members as possible, if you want them to continue.

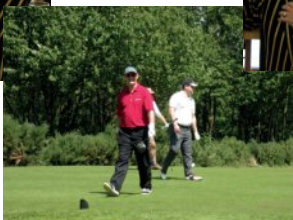
- 11<sup>th</sup> May** - The President's Spring Luncheon - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz
- 15<sup>th</sup> June** - Annual Golf & Cycle Ride at Harpenden - see pages 20/21 for details & entry form - apply to Smithers
- 25<sup>th</sup> June** - BaillieMac Something Charity Ride-see pp 26
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - Benson Veteran Cycle Ride-details from Mr Brooks
- 20<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> July** - Mr Pickwick goes to France - BaillieMac Something has organised another exciting trip to watch the Tour de France and enjoy the usual hospitality associated with this event-see pp26
- 12<sup>th</sup> October** - Hampton Court Bike Ride - the usual collection of 1929 bikes & riders, plus carbon fibre frames and lycra clad wannabees livening up the roads of Surrey and Royal Parks. Starting at Imber Court and returning for lunch - apply Pruffle or Hunt for details.
- 7<sup>th</sup> December** - 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Party - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz

Mentioned above is the fact that all of these events require your support, not just the two luncheons, and remember that it is necessary for Club members to attend the requisite number of luncheons to maintain your membership. If you are uncertain of these rules, then no doubt Sgt Buzfuz can update you.



## 15th June.....will be the Annual Golf Day, Cycle Ride & Luncheon again

Following his personal success of last year, Smithers will once again organise his now unmissable sporting day for everyone to enjoy. Whatever the weather, and whether you want to play golf, ride your bike, or simply come to lunch, you can be sure of a typical convivial Pickwickian affair. Those of you lucky enough to have friends, then bring them along. Not sure if Smithers will let them win of course!



For the golfers, there is an array of historic Club cups & trophies (still coveted by Pruffle) to compete for. The course is well known to the regulars, and even to those attending for the first time there are plenty of hidden treasures and quiet leafy copses to lose their balls on this excellent course.

Justice Stareleigh will be in charge of the cycling - whether it be the leisurely ride to coffee, or the hard man's hilly terrain it will be an enjoyable day out, and back in time for the usual excellent lunch with the golfers

The format will be the same as last year; a ready supply of coffee & bacon rolls on arrival, with a 1045hrs T-off at Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts, - an entry form can be found over the page in the magazine, and this should be sent to Smithers address or you can contact him at: [davlinc2000@aol.com](mailto:davlinc2000@aol.com)

# The 2017 Annual Golf & Cycle Ride Day of the Pickwick Bicycle Club

will be held on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>

Tee off 10.45am @ Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts

## Entry Form:

- Please reserve ..... places for golf & luncheon @ £63 each
- ..... places for cycle ride & luncheon @ £34 each
- ..... places for luncheon only @ £28 each

I enclose my cheque for £..... (Payable to the Pickwick Bicycle Club)

I would like ..... Vegetarian/vegan/gluten free meals (Please indicate which)

Member's Name ..... Golf H/Cap.....

Soubriquet .....

Email/tel number .....

Guest Name(s) ..... Golf H/Cap .....

.....

.....

Entries should be sent by email to Smithers Esq - [davlinc2000@aol.com](mailto:davlinc2000@aol.com) or by post to:

Smithers Esq at Keepers Cottage, Church Rd, Sutton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2NB  
or tel: 01767 835800



## Who Were Your Early Namesakes? Researching Your Ancestors

The Pickwick Bicycle Club has been in continuous existence since its formation in 1870, and the soubriquets of its members have been faithfully passed down from generation to generation. If you would like to receive the available history of your soubriquet, please contact Joseph Smiggers at: [steve@stephenbullen.com](mailto:steve@stephenbullen.com) and you will have the information by return.

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**Mr. Ayresleigh** - a debtor detained at Namby's house, the haggard man in the coffee-room.

"The third tenant of the apartment was a middle-aged man in a very old suit of black, who looked pale and haggard, and paced up and down the room incessantly; stopping, now and then, to look with great anxiety out of the window as if he expected somebody, and then resuming his walk. 'You'd better have the loan of my razor this morning, Mr. Ayresleigh,' said the man who was stirring the fire, tipping the wink to his friend the boy. 'Thank you, no, I shan't want it; I expect I shall be out, in the course of an hour or so,' replied the other in a hurried manner. Then, walking again up to the window, and once more returning disappointed, he sighed deeply, and left the room; upon which the other two burst into a loud laugh."

Bernard Henry	1925 to 1938	
H L Shephard	1941 to 1969	
S F Crump	1969 to 1972	
David Duffield	1972 to 2016	President (1994)
Carlton Kirby	2016 to present	

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**Mr. Green** - did 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?'"

J W Tyler	pre 1878 to 1914
C William Smith	1942 to 1948
A C Smith	1954 to 1983
Peter D Benmax	1985 to 2000
Monty Young	2001 to 2015
Grant Young	2016 to present

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### Namby - Sheriff's deputy

"Giving Mr. Pickwick a friendly tap on the shoulder, the sheriff's officer (for such he was) threw his card on the counterpane, and pulled a gold toothpick from his waistcoat pocket. 'Namby's the name,' said the sheriff's deputy, as Mr. Pickwick took his spectacles from under the pillow, and put them on, to read the card. 'Namby, Bell Alley, Coleman Street.' At this point, Sam Weller, who had had his eyes fixed hitherto on Mr. Namby's shining beaver, interfered. 'Are you a Quaker?' said Sam. 'I'll let you know I am, before I've done with you,' replied the indignant officer. 'I'll teach you manners, my fine fellow, one of these fine mornings.' 'Thank'ee,' said Sam. 'I'll do the same to you. Take your hat off.' With this, Mr. Weller, in the most dexterous manner, knocked Mr. Namby's hat to the other side of the room, with such violence, that he had very nearly caused him to swallow the gold toothpick into the bargain."

J E Roberts	pre 1881 to 1899
J W Steer	1904 to 1915
Samuel C S Hickson	1923 to 1934 President (1929), Committee (1927)
A E Wildey	1937 to 1949
W D Cross	1956 to 1960
S G Barnet	1961 to 1977
Terry P Cronin	1976 to 1996
Timothy J Moore	1997 to 2011
Maurice Burton	2016 to present

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### Number Twenty - a prisoner (Sam's story to Mr. Pickwick)

"I should like to see it for a minit, Bill," he says. "Wery probable," says the turnkey, smoking his pipe wery fierce, and making believe he warn't up to wot the little man wanted. "Bill," says the little man, more abrupt than afore, "I've got the fancy in my head. Let me see the public streets once more afore I die; and if I ain't struck with apoplexy,



I'll be back in five minits by the clock." "And wot 'ud become o' me if you WOS struck with apoplexy?" said the turnkey. "Wy," says the little creetur, "whoever found me, 'ud bring me home, for I've got my card in my pocket, Bill," he says, "No. 20, Coffee-room Flight": and that was true, sure enough, for wen he wanted to make the acquaintance of any new-comer, he used to pull out a little limp card with them words on it and nothin' else; in consideration of vich, he vos always called Number Tventy. The turnkey takes a fixed look at him, and at last he says in a solemn manner, "Tventy," he says, "I'll trust you; you won't get your old friend into trouble." "No, my boy; I hope I've somethin' better behind here," says the little man; and as he said it he hit his little vesket wery hard, and then a tear started out o' each eye, which was wery extraordinary, for it wos supposed as water never touched his face. He shook the turnkey by the hand; out he vent--'"

A T Hunter	1878 to 1914
J H Holloway	1921 to 1936
S R Fidgin	1942 to 1961
Charles Chapman	1966 to 1971
Kenneth F Lingard	1972 to 1988
Martin Nelhams	2005 to 2014
Dan Loyd	2016 to present

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## **Passing of friends.....It is always with regret that we have to report the loss of Club members.**

In October 2016, Gerhard Noske /Mr Prosee passed away. He had been a member of the Pickwick since 2005 and had just resigned from the Club prior to this news. Buzfuz wrote to the family to offer condolences on behalf of the Club.

## **Baillie Mac Events in 2017 for your Jollification.....**

Once again Baillie Mac Something has excelled himself with his now infamous annual outings for Club members and friends. The usual recipe still applies with a Charity event involving cycling & eating. The other, travel, some eating & drinking and only watching cycling. Remember though, he needs your support for both events.

### **Sunday 25th June – Charity Cycle Ride**

This will be the now familiar 30mile ride through the Chilterns commencing from The Plough at Winchmore Hill. Lunch will be held at Huntswood Golf Club, whose members are our main adversaries for the Wembley Shield. Then it's back to The Plough, followed by the now infamous Bar-B-Q at Woodhatch. The event this year is in aid of The Thames Valley Playground, and it is hoped that it will beat the 2016 total of £4350. The Pickwickians raised the most monies by an individual, but we want that shield back. So come along and support those Pickwickians taking part, or bring your bike and ride! (Flyer and entry forms enclosed with magazine.)

### **Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> -24th July – Mr Pickwick Goes to France**

Another variation on a successful theme travelling on day one by Eurostar to Marseille. The following day will be free for sightseeing before the "piece de resistance" on the Saturday watching the last Time Trial of the 2017 Tour de France in Marseille city centre. Just need to watch out for those French matelots in Marseille! Sunday morning will be train back to Paris arriving in time to see the final stage finish of the Tour on the Champs Elysee. And then it's home to London by Eurostar. Should be a fantastic trip and of course there will be the much envied selection of 5\* star restaurants along the way.

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If you want to participate in either event, just let Baillie Mac Something know as soon as possible so he can organise the food etc for the Charity Ride, and hotels etc for the trip to France. Get in touch NOW and stake your place(s). **Contact him on 01494 722611**

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## The Story Behind the Front Cover illustration

### Chapter XIX (condensed extract) Pickwick Papers

**Mr. Pickwick** was drinking punch with Tracy Tupman, Mr. Wardle and Sam Weller and took a number of glasses from the stone bottle to see whether there was any orange-peel in it. Having established there was none, he continued to consume more, and drink the health of absent friends. This constant succession of glasses had a considerable effect on Mr. Pickwick. Yielding by degree to the influence of the exciting liquid, rendered more so by the heat he desired to recollect a song, which he recalled from his infancy. This proved abortive so he drank some more to stimulate his memory. He began to forget how to articulate any words at all. After rising to his legs to address the company he shared, he fell into a wheelbarrow and fast asleep simultaneously. His colleagues decided to leave him in the barrow and collect him on their return. So away they went leaving Mr. Pickwick snoring most comfortably in the shade of the oak tree.



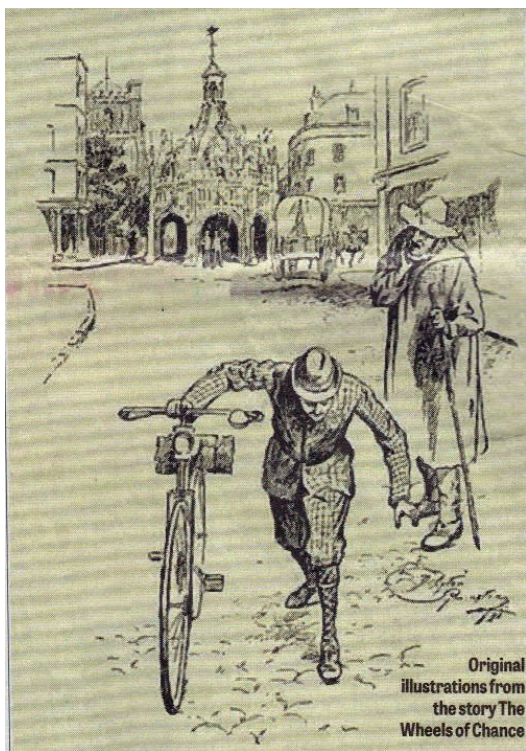
Captain Boldwig was a little fierce man in a stiff black neckerchief and blue surtout, who, when he did condescend to walk about his property, did it in company with a black rattan stick with a brass ferrule, Hunt the gardener, and Wilkins a sub-gardener with meek faces. Giving instructions about maintaining the area as they walked, they had reached the oak tree when Wilkins interrupted Captain Boldwig's thoughts - "What is it Wilkins?" " I beg your pardon, sir - but I think there have been trespassers here today." "They have been dining here, I think, sir." "Why confound their audacity, so they have," said Captain Boldwig, seeing the crumbs and other fragments on the ground. " I wish I had the vagabonds here!" said the Captain, clenching his thick stick. "Beg your pardon," said Wilkins, "but ....." "But what?" roared the Captain as his eyes encountered the wheelbarrow and Mr. Pickwick. "Who are you, you rascal?" said the Captain, administering several pokes to Mr. Pickwick's body with the thick stick. "What's your name?" "Cold punch," murmured Mr. Pickwick, as he sunk into sleep again.

## HGWells & Things to Come - Bicycles!

Our local paper recently ran an article about the legendary author, and drew attention to one of his short stories, 'A Perfect Gentleman on Wheels' written in 1897. I naturally assumed he had seen the Pickwickians on the road somewhere, but alas not so. It was the story of one, Cecil Crampton who cycled from London to Brighton, following the route taken by the first London-Brighton group ride in 1888. He became the first solo rider to do the journey. Perhaps some of our older members remember him? Joking of course! However there is a mystery about this feat, since it has been rumoured that Cecil took the train from Three Bridges (near Gatwick Airport -not there in those days of course). Surely Not!

Another of his early stories was *The Wheels of Chance* (1896) - he must have known about the Pickwickians! This story was a humorous adventure about a draper's apprentice Mr Hoopdriver who, like Wells, rode all around Sussex during his 10 days holiday, enjoying many an adventure.

Wells hailed from West Sussex, and was an avid cyclist riding all around the southern counties before motorcars existed. With his second wife, Wells wandered about Sussex on a specially designed Humber tandem. Quite a character, he helped draft the Declaration of Human Rights in 1943, predicted aerial warfare before planes had been designed, tanks before they came about, and all of this in addition to being a science fiction pioneer, womaniser, domestic realist and supporter of the New Woman. Sounds as if he would have been a perfect member of the PBC.



Original illustrations from the story *The Wheels of Chance*





Picture courtesy of Peter Magnus

# Bullman's Presidential Year in pictures.....



*At The  
Golf Day*



*On A Bike at the  
Hampton Court  
Ride*



*Lunching with friends at  
The Leather Bottle*



## October 2016 Caption Competition Winner!



After the chase up by Buzfuz, I received many entries so thank you for your efforts. It was then a case of selection, but finally with the aid of Mrs Winkle, Peter Magnus was declared the winner.

**"I see you have got rid of your boater, so can I have your jacket, as it looks my size?"**

(a small prize will be sent to your residence in due course)

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## So, now for something different...

What do you know about your Club & Tales from Pickwick Papers?

Here are 8 questions about the Club and Pickwick Papers -

- 1) What was Joseph Atto's Soubriquet?
- 2) Joseph Smiggers has the letters P.V.P.M.P.C after his name. What do they mean?
- 3) The Club was formed in 1870 at the Downs Hotel. Where was the Hotel?
- 4) Where was the cricket match in Ch.VII held?
- 5) With which famous author has the Club always been associated?
- 6) What legendary activity always took place at Club luncheons?
- 7) In Ch.XXXIV, who was Mr Pickwick up against in the trial?
- 8) Who organises Mr Pickwick goes to France each year?

Answers on a postcard or email to the Editor, by the closing date for the October issue, and we will see if we can find a suitable prize for the winner.



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