

The Pickwick Magazine

*The World's Oldest Cycling Club
and Oldest Dickensian Society Extant
Founded in 1870*



Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 17 No.1 March 2020

Editorial perambulations.....

I usually use this space to ramble on a bit, but this time I write with considerable sadness following the passing of Joe the Fat Boy - aka Stan Rose in early January. As many of you will know, Stan was the editor of the Club newsletter for over 10 years - until 2014 when I took over. He was extremely helpful and patient during the transition of the magazine into a new pair of hands. I was very grateful for his help especially when we both realised he was using a Microsoft system and I was using AppleMac. Several trips to his home near Chesham - and I found that with Hilary's help he had managed the magazine in his own style with great success. It was simply a newsletter -double sided A4 sheets of mainly text - in the beginning but with his capabilities on the PC he transformed it into the magazine style we have today. He had a wealth of informative nuggets about cycling and Club archive material that he could call upon to fill the many odd blank spaces, as he was always in need of copy. Stan, we will miss you, and we thank you for your many years of producing the magazine. There is more about Stan later in the magazine from his close friend of some 50years, Justice Stareleigh.



After that sad news, I would just like to remind everyone, as if that's necessary, that 2020 is the 150th Anniversary of our existence. The exact date the Club was formed is allegedly three weeks after the death of Charles Dickens in June 1870, but like so much of our early years history it is not easy to be so specific about the detail. We do however have some information from the descendants of several of the "Original Six Members", but even that cannot be completely relied on as being beyond questioning. More about that later in the magazine.

The 2020 working party hope to see the remainder of their plans come to fruition during the year, but the success of the celebrations are very much dependent on the members to support all or as much as possible the planned events. Part of the plan is to have an extra magazine sometime in July, so I really need your help with any historical information you may have about the Club.

Enjoy this memorable year in the Club's history..... Editor

Closing Date for the July issue -30th May.

All contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, by email to: pickwick2610@hotmail.com or to:

Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex RH13 6NY



A Secretarial Report for Spring 2020 from Sgt Buzfuz

email:sdownham@vailwilliams.com

A great year for the club and this publication contains everything that you need to know regarding arrangements, dates and costs. I hope to see as many of you as possible at all events. A great deal of time and effort has been spent by committee members and others and your support is encouraged.

We will endeavour to introduce as many new members into the club during the year, but this is on the proviso that there are available soubriquets. The old chestnut of attendance will be monitored, and members are reminded that attendance on at least one of the regular luncheon dates is expected out of three without good excuse. The dates are now well known being the second Thursday in May and the first Thursday in December.

Members are reminded of the Retired membership arrangements. If you have reached the age of 70 and have been a member for 15 years you can apply for Retired membership. Those who have 20-year membership and have not reached the age of 70 can apply to the Executive committee for retired membership. A retired member pays no subscription, but still receives the magazine, can attend all functions with guests (only one guest in December) and attend and vote at the AGM. There are no attendance requirements. If this might be of interest to you, please contact me.

We have changed the bank account and members will be advised of the new details. Please amend any existing standing orders to the new account before the year end and those members who do not pay by standing order may wish to arrange to do so and pay their current £30 due by 1st December for the following years.

I remain your Hon Sec.

Sergeant Buzfuz

Dear fellow Pickwickians - greetings in this our 150th Anniversary year

This is a most important year for our Club, so I ask all members to support your club as we celebrate its 150th birthday. You will be aware of the many events taking place, especially the Black Tie Dinner at Skinners Hall on Friday 26th June, so please make every effort to attend this special event. This really will be a special night for our Club with fantastic speaker, Ian Irving booked and both Ian and Gerald Dickens entertaining us. Members will, for the first time in many a year, be able to smoke shag in their clay pipes after dinner.



Also please support the President's lunch on Thursday 14th May where ladies will be allowed to join us on our first special occasion of the year. Remember- you are responsible for your guests and they must be properly attired wearing a jacket and tie and seated by 1pm prompt. It is unacceptable for members and their guests to arrive late, thus delaying the start of lunch. Please bring lots of guests, as again in our 150th year this will be no ordinary luncheon.

I look forward to meeting many of you in this special year for our Club let's make it one to remember that will go down in the annals of our Club history

Your Club Captain - Dr Payne of the 43rd

Past President's Thoughts.....

Having handed over the chain of office to Mr Watty, I can now revert to the day job of compiling the magazine. My year of office was quite eventful as I was party to all of the planning for the Anniversary year, and what a lot of work was involved - Messrs Samkin and Dr Payne, and Mr Dumkins plus your newly elected President, put in exceptional shifts to make sure everything that was planned so far, happened. And it did, so a big thank you to them.

As reported in the October magazine, we had a successful visit to the Dickens Museum in London, and certainly something I would recommend for those who haven't done it before. We have created a new contact/link with the Director Cindy Sughrue, and their curator, which will enable us to examine some of the Club archive material that they hold there, in more detail. It will be interesting to see what it reveals about our history.

It has also been a humbling experience to see how much was raised for my chosen charity, the details of which can be found on the next page. I feel very honoured to have been your President during the past year, there being many other members who have just as much claim to that position, but here's to a great 150th Anniversary. *Winkle Snr*



Past President's Charity Update

As mentioned in the Garden Party report, the Club have amassed over £7000 in charitable donations (fines & arm twisting etc) for the Rockinghorse Charity. In the October issue you will have seen my mugshot handing over the cheque for the first two bilirubin jaundice detection monitors, to the Sussex Community mid-wives, with amazing results.. With further monies collected at the Golf Day (thank you Smithers) and Hampton Court Ride (thank you Pruffle), plus the December Garden Party, we have been able to fund a further four monitors which will be a huge benefit all involved. This has been greatly appreciated by the mid-wives as well as Rockinghorse and I subsequently received the following thank yous from both, which are published below:

'Dear Roger,

Please see below the latest update from Kelly Parker the Midwifery Matron about the incredible impact of the bilirubinometers. Thank you so much for choosing Rockinghorse. Hollie'

'Hi Hollie, This is so fabulous to hear! The positive impact these meters have had is ongoing! I will provide you with some more figures of just how many babies have been assessed using these meters but the impact is beyond measure in other ways. Just the difference this has made to families in terms of their time and energy not being used up sitting in A&E or Bolney Ward waiting for this really quick test whilst the busy staff attend to more pressing matters and unwell patients. The difficult conversations that midwives had been having to have in the home when they discuss with the family why they need to go and trek to hospital with their brand new babies just a day or two after they've been discharged from hospital. All of the stress and hassle has been removed from our working lives in that respect which is priceless. In terms of number of babies we have seen and tested in the community with our existing bilirubinometers funded via the Rockinghorse Charity, the additional four monitors will only increase this further which is just brilliant:

For the whole of BSUH (PRH and RSCH) for the months Oct/Nov and Dec we tested 158 babies and of these babies 13 of them were referred into hospital for further tests. Of the 13, only 8 of the babies were re-admitted for treatment such as blood tests, UV light therapy or IV fluids.

So this means these meters are helping to keep the work flow through A&E to just essential work by allowing us to screen these babies in community settings and then only refer in those babies with high levels of bilirubin for further review whilst the rest remain under the care of the community midwives. Also we knew last year that lots of families would decline or delay taking their babies in to the hospital for various reasons but often to do with distance, transport, other children etc so there was always the concern that an unwell baby would not get the treatment they needed which could lead to devastating consequences. So those 8 babies that have been admitted and treated have potentially been kept safe by the provision of this screening test in the community.

Thank you again to the Pickwick Bicycle Club and Rockinghorse Charity for donating to BSUH maternity and helping us to keep these precious babies safe. Kind regards, Kelly Parker- Community Midwifery Matron'

I can say no more than a **BIG THANK YOU** to everybody that made a donation during my Presidential year; the difference it has made to so many families is something for everyone to be proud of. Winkle Snr

The day dawned bright and sunny once again for the annual Hampton Court Ride.....

Hunt reports on the 2019 Hampton Court Bike Ride

This year saw more members than ever dusting off their much loved machines, loading them on backs of cars and heading for Imbercourt at Esher, for what turned out to be the biggest cycling event number wise the Club has had in years. In sunny conditions, 27 members and their guests set off a bit late - in spite of Pruffle shouting his usual "3 minutes riders", but this time it was a mechanical delay as five members and three guests, tried in vain, and failing miserably to fit a replacement B17 Brooks saddle to 'Mr Luffey's' bike, that had given up the ghost last year, but still made it to the start line this time around, for another uncomfortable ride.



Gathering at Imbercourt
awaiting the off from
Pruffle



We headed off on our 10 mile ride, (with Mr Luffey on his half-leather half-metal frame saddle) along the Thames towpath from Hampton Court to Kingston, where after a short pause, on to Bushy Park. Making our way through the park, we saw the usual stags strutting their stuff to impress the female members of the species. We then stopped at the Star pub in Hampton Hill our regular watering hole (before lunch!), for a well earned pint or so, and a fresh sandwich platter. This year, courtesy of Georgia's Kitchen in the High St.



Do we know where we are going? At least we have bread to keep us going until the next food stop

We also had our annual breakdown; this time saw one of the Pennys heading into my cycle shop opposite, for a minor adjustment to the crank - with a club hammer! (that's the pedal crank not the rider!) All very effective and so back to the pub to join the rest of the riders.



Food glorious food - oh wrong Dickens story!



An eclectic line up of oldies.
The machines that is!

Refreshed and repairs completed, we were once again heading into the Royal Park for the return trip, and then via Hampton Court Palace for the now compulsory photo shot. With Mr Watty's expertise and the fleet of foot Mr Gunter, the latter managed to appear at both ends of the group shot. (Have a close look) One of the guides took quite an interest in our presence this time, unlike on a previous occasion when we were asked to 'move on'.



Re-crossing Hampton Court Bridge with the usual dexterity of bringing the traffic to a halt we headed back to Imbercourt. A quick change, pack up our machines and it was off to the Casa Mia restaurant back in Hampton Hill for the traditional Pickwickian lunch along with the lycra louts from the Surrey roads, and other dining guests who joined us, swelling our number to over 40.

After a splendid 3-course meal with wine, and coffee to finish, some cross-toasting from Pruffle and myself, the prizes were then handed out for the various achievements and under-achievements on the day. My prize deservedly going to the owner of the half B17 saddle Mr Luffey. It was then time for farewells and we headed home about 4.30pm. *Hunt*

So ended another very pleasant day with thanks going once again to Pruffle & Hunt

Hunt continues.....

The main topic of conversation over lunch was of course 2020 and the preparations for the 150th celebrations. For my part I will again be arranging the Hampton Court ride along with Pruffle, on the 8th October 2020 (date is now confirmed), and hopefully we will get an even bigger gathering of riders than this year's event, for such a momentous year in our history.

I am also involved in two other Pickwick events in 2020, and so the dates for your diary are:

Sunday 10th May - The Pickwick Bicycle Club have been invited to join the grand parade at Chestnut Sunday in Bushy Park, wearing our boaters of course, to celebrate the connection between the Club and Hampton Court. (More details to follow, but our President has advised that we will have our own stand with a display of vintage bicycles).

I have also offered my services to our President - Samuel Pickwick, who is arranging an attempt for the Club to become the Guinness World Record holders for a "Penny Stack". This will be held in Knutsford, Cheshire during the weekend of 12/13th September. So if you have such a machine, or know of one you can borrow for the weekend, please let us know. Please support as many events as possible in 2020, - as a member this will be the biggest year you will experience as part of our great Club.....Thank you.

FOOTNOTE: at the December Garden Party, Mr Luffey, he of the half-saddle confirmed that the donated replacement was now securely in place on his machine and he looks forward to many more comfortable rides in the future.

Front Cover

Charles Dickens 1812 - 1870



As we all know, the basis of our existence is forever linked with one of the most revered Victorian writers of all time. Born in Portsmouth before moving to London in 1814, Charles and the family moved frequently as his father John sought to find regular employment to support his family. In 1817 they moved to Chatham where, it is claimed the next five years were the happiest of his life. By 1822 the family had moved back to Camden Town, and Charles was sent to work at blacking manufacturer near Hungerford Bridge. It was a hard life for the young Charles Dickens and his experiences of degradation, despair and child exploitation left an indelible mark on him, and of course were often relived in some of his novels such as David Copperfield and Oliver Twist. For us the Pickwick Bicycle Club was born from the serialisation of Pickwick Papers, which he wrote whilst living in Doughty St London.

The Real Original Members.....some early details.

It seems in keeping with the above overview to mention the founders of the Club here. Like all historical information there is always an element of risk in the accuracy, but where primary sources lend themselves to support it then it is reasonable to proceed. Informations searches appear to show that of two founder members, the Yeoman brothers, 23yo Lamartine (Buzfuz) & 22yo Kossuth (Lt Tappleton); the latter appears to have been the main activist in the set up of our Club. He was still very much involved in the Club for the next 30years and assisted Walter Blake (The Hon Mr Crushton) when he compiled the History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club in 1905. Kossuth got married to Hannah Aberly in 1877 and moved to Essex, however he appears to have died in or near Weymouth in 1908 but is reported to be buried in Chingford Mount cemetery in Waltham Forest.

Lamartine married Jane Scarlett in 1877, but was clearly a traveller, and in 1880 we find him living in Jamaica, although it's unclear whether it was pleasure or business. Jane died in 1892 but Lamartine stayed on with his son Eric. Through the genealogy trace we have found a living relative in California, and she has provided some detail. He remarried, made several trips to New Orleans, before finally entering the USA in 1901, where his occupation is shown as 'a clerk'. In 1924 Lamartine died in San Francisco, having lived in the UK, Jamaica & USA and was married and widowed twice.

Hopefully our research will enable us to publish more in the next issue of the magazine.

Mr Watty Rides to Rouen

After months of training of both bodies and machines, the 19 velocipede riders met at 06h30 on Saturday 9th November at the Place de l'Etoile by the Arc de Triomphe, as our predecessors had done 150 years before. Ahead of lay 173kms to Rouen in 3 days along the route taken by those pioneers of cycling back in 1869.



Early dawn in Paris with a daunting ride ahead

I was quickly reminded why the British renamed my machine a 'boneshaker' as the first kilometres were on cobbled roads that shook me awake, as did the cold and rain! There were lost pedals and lamps as we approached the tranquillity of the Bois de Boulogne and then the busy suburbs of Paris. Those on their way to work were startled by our strange machines, but often smiled and waived as we passed by. Publicity of the event had brought crowds along the route which we honoured with regular stops to satisfy their curiosity. Many had come to meet Gérard Holtz, the well-known Tour de France commentator, who was proudly riding his velocipede on this voyage of discovery.

After 56kms and 10 hours of riding we arrived in Mantes la Jolie at the end of day 1 and after a few minor repairs with oil, grease, glue and a heavy hammer we were ready for supper and a good nights' sleep! On Sunday we set off at 07h00 on our ride of 61kms to Les Andelys in heavy rain, but this couldn't dampen our spirits! We were soon passing through villages with flag waving crowds and Mayors keen for us to stop and recount of our progress. In Giverny we visited the beautiful house and gardens of Claude Monet, who probably watched the original race go by as he would have been 26 years old in 1869.

We finally arrived in Les Andelys in the dark, and hour and a half late, but to a welcome from 5-600 enthusiastic crowd keen to ask questions, take photos and introduce their next generation to our strange machines. The Mayor invited us to a reception with other guests in splendid Victorian costumes and with champagne and canapés, we soon felt human again.

Our final day to Rouen was 52kms, and again rain and wind were our main adversaries, and spoiled what could have been a picturesque ride alongside the Seine. To raise our spirits we had a 'race' into Pont de l'Arche, won by Miss America, our one lady rider who arrived with huge cheers from the waiting crowd of supporters.

Now only 18kms to go to the finish, but a serious 8% climb was a long walk! But the descent was exciting...! My Velocipede weighs 45kgs and with me aboard there was a strong gravitational pull as I reached speeds of 35kms/h! Tally HO - I was the downhill king! Again there were hundreds of supporters waiting for us in Amfreville la Mivoie as we sprinted to a 'race' finish won by your very own Mr Watty.



Another British victory, as in 1869, following in the foot steps of James Moore!



The biggest reception awaited us at the finish of our historic ride in Rouen. The feeling of exhaustion was soon lost to elation and exhilaration at what we had achieved on these mythical machines from a bygone era. In 1869 it was the first distance bicycle race, and from where all bicycle races and indeed bicycles have come.

Vive le velocipede !

Vive le velo !



The Household Cavalry round up the drinkers from the Hercules Pillars

The 149th Annual Garden Party.....

Having chaired the AGM and ensured it finished on time, I was unable to enjoy the build up of expectation within the surroundings of the Grand Hall, since I had

my Presidential role to fulfil of welcoming key guests, the Household Cavalry and others in an ante-room. It was then time to follow instructions from Buzfuz and with the principle guest, make our way to the top table. Captain Payne had the assembled gathering in order having practiced the familiar refrains, and then called upon me to say grace. Once again I had been given a 'schedule' highlighting that whenever I chose to speak, I should keep it short. No fun being President.



The scene is set

Welcoming everyone to the luncheon I drew attention to this being the beginning of our celebratory 150th Anniversary year, and that I felt it was important to remember the six founder members who had gathered at Hackney Downs back in 1870, and provided us with a raison d'etre for our presence today. The usual chorus followed, and then hardly were we seated, when the one of the catering staff managed to knock over Justice Stareleigh's (only) bottle of red wine and as it spread across the table towards said member and guest, she asked "What shall I do?" Very politely it was suggested that another one should be

brought with due haste, along with some napkins to absorb the red lake. With that slight hiatus just resolved, the sound of the Post Horn by one of the Household Cavalry trumpeters announced the arrival of the Original Member with his Ordinary. He, Charles Fitz-Marshall (Andrew Donald) duly approached the top table and we took wine. Such is the role of President that taking wine is to be repeated throughout lunch for various reasons, with the cross toasting of all committee members and Past Presidents, and those who have recently ridden a bike. In addition this year I made special mention of three members whose cycling feats deserved extra comment.



Arrival of The Original Member

Your soubriquet historian - Joseph Smiggers had set himself a target and achieved it, of cycling 10000 miles in 2019. A growing legend of the club, riding ancient, wooden machines over ridiculously long distances-most recently Paris to Rouen - our next (now current) President, Mr Watty. Finally an old legend but still a legend - Tom Roker, who in his time of the 60's & 70's defied everyone including the RTTC to go faster & faster and finally break the 30mph barrier in a 25mile time trial in 1978. All three are heroes of the Club.



Sgt Buzfuz was next on his feet to introduce the elected new members - see list on pp17 - and the ensemble raised their glasses to said new members. Apart from some time delays the Connaught Rooms food was well on the mark once again, with Ardennes pate, salmon and chive ravalonis, and traditional roast Turkey, followed by Christmas pudding and custard. Amidst all of this the trumpeters heralded the toast to the Queen followed by the National Anthem. Pleased to see all hats were removed.

Resuming our meal, Daniel Grummer stood to welcome our special guests including our principle guest Roger Dakin - (see pp17 for guest list).

There followed a murmuring of concern - where were the Boys in Scarlet? It remains unknown as to why they were missing, since they're usually ready to fight each other to attend; however with slick organisation Mr Dumkins, the four members of the Household Cavalry stepped up to the plate and marched in with the Joseph Atto Punchbowl, to the refrain of 'The Boys of the Old Brigade'.



Hardly fitting, but nonetheless effective as the four of them, including one lady, fulfilled their imposed task with great aplomb, giving the usual name, rank and number, but excused from stating their age this time.



The Joseph Atto Punchbowl Ceremony

Christmas pudding circulated the room held high on a platter by two members of the Connaught Room staff - but once again, no live sparklers or singing of *Good King Wenceslas*.



This was followed by the Captain remonstrating with Club members for their incomplete dress code which required a financial penalty to be collected by the designated member on each table. It didn't quite work like that but hatfulls of money were duly passed to Mr Dumkins and his helpers in the counting house.

An enjoyable task then followed when I was able to award the Peter Magnus Measured Time Trophy to Master Tommy Bardell for his excellent ride around the Yorkshire National Championship course on his Trike. An exceptional ride as he broke the record completing the ride in 7h.51m.42s. for the 145 mile course.



It was then time for our principle guest Roger Dakin to entertain us. He had a wide repertoire of entertaining tales and reminisces of his sporting history, having played hockey for England in the 70's; he was self-effacing about big defeats when as goal-keeper he clearly wasn't a "stopper" in the proper meaning of the word. He also happily claimed to have coached the team prior to them being successful!





Referencing his own 'slightly overweight' appearance, he still participates in golf and cricket at a moderate level, which provides him with ample anecdotal material with which to entertain his post lunch audiences. He certainly kept us amused and the audience quiet - before inviting the guests to raise their glasses with the toast to "The Immortal Memory and The Pickwick Bicycle Club".

That meant it was then my turnand more than a brief word; thanking Roger for his entertainment, then the Club for the privilege of being President for the past year and made easy by the work the committee members put in behind the scenes. I referenced the great support of my chosen charity - The Rockinghorse Charity. It somewhat took my breath away at the generosity of everyone on the day with a total in excess of £5000; so a huge thank you to everyone was in order. Wished everyone a safe journey home and a happy and healthy festive period, there remained only one more action of my Presidential year and that was to pass on the badge of office to Mr Watty, your President for 2020.



Handing over to the New President



As always the Garden Party then concluded with a hearty rendering of Auld Lang Syne, followed by much amusement in the ante room at the antics of members & guests alike climbing aboard the Club Ordinary for official & otherwise photos.

(Pictures courtesy Mike Thomas our resident photographer)

Daniel Grummer introduces the Honoured Guests

Gentlemen..... Good Afternoon, may I on behalf of the club extend a warm welcome to all of our Guests, to the 149th Annual Garden Party. I trust our members have treated you to a fine festive fare, and you are enjoying our proceedings thus far. I now have the pleasure of introducing guests whom have been drawn to my attention, by members dining at their table,

On **Table N** - guest of Gabriel Grubb we have Stewart Smith he Cycling Time Trials National Secretary. **Table D** - guest of Joseph Smiggers is Chalky White, the Honorary Secretary of the Pedal Club. On **Table F** - guests of The Honourable Mr Crushton is Dom Langham, who is CEO of Madison Cycles. With Dom is Sean van Waes; Sean has just flown in today from Japan and is Head Helmeteer at Laser Helmets and accompanying them Sean Igoe; Editor of Cycling Weekly. -

On **Table P** - guest of Smangle is Malcolm Elliott who won 2 gold medals in the 1982 Commonwealth Games, 3 stage wins in Vuelta Espana, Finished the Tour de France in 1987 and 1989, as well as competing in the Olympic Games in 1980 and 1996. On **Table G** - guests of Mr Watty are Neil Laughton, Secretary of the Penny Farthing Club, who also tutors in the art of riding these wonderful machines. In November Neil broke three Guinness World Records by riding no handed a Penny Farthing, greatest distance in an hour- 26km; fastest 10k in 23m.23s.; and fastest 100m sprint at 29.6kph. He also climbed Mount Everest with Bear Grylls in 1998, on his Penny! Also there is David Herlihy, a renowned cycling historian, who is involved in researching our Club for an article to be published next year in America. And finally Martin Chaldecott, who in 2018, cycled the coastline 4000+miles of the UK unsupported, and raising £3000 in aid of the Matt Hampson Foundation.

On **Table W** - guests of George the Father include Dr Richard Usher, chief medical officer of Team Ineos and formally of Team Sky, and Liam Killeen 5 times British Mountain Bike Cross Champion, who in 2006 won a Gold Medal in the Commonwealth Games.

On the **Top Table** -Mr Phunky's guest is Guillaume Hoareau, who has travelled all the way from Reunion Island - on his bike. And also on the Top Table is our guest speaker, Roger Dakin. Roger played hockey for England in the 1970's as well as coaching the team. Cricket and golf are still on his active agenda, where he's a renowned non-turning off-spinner and a self-proclaimed bandit at golf. He's has gained vast experience of speaking at many different functions for over 25 years.

Members of the PBC, please be upstanding and raise the toast to "Our Guests".

New Members introduced were

David Alexander

Ralph Archer

Robin Moore

Mike Catlin

Daniel Fisher

Tim West

Wilkins the Gardener

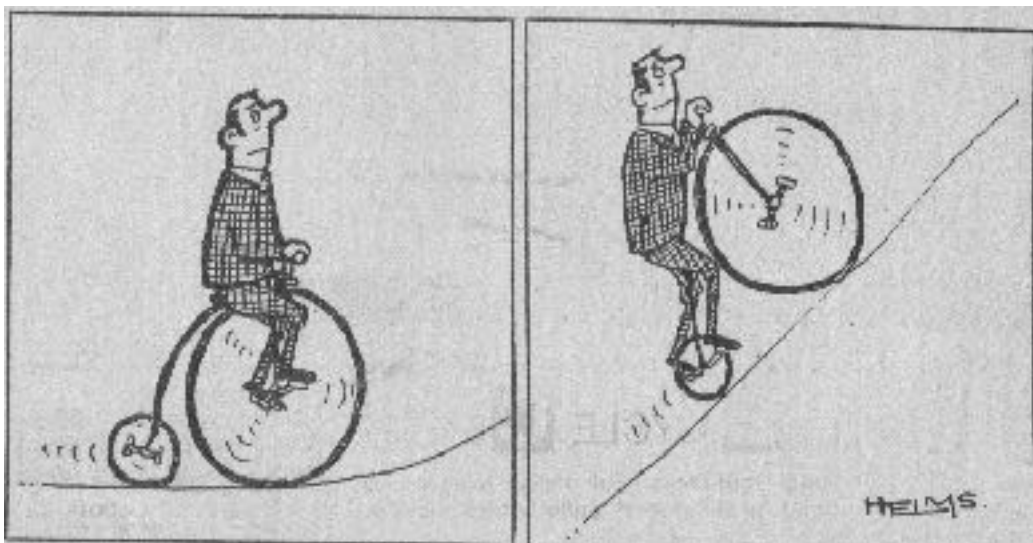
Soloman Lucas

John Smauker

Nathaniel Pipkin

Mr Percival

Mr Trundle



Now we know how our Penny Riding members climb hills!

(courtesy of Helms from Cycling Magazine)

Events for 2020

Once again the list of known events at the time of going to press, is shown below. There may be some additional activities, which will be notified by email in due course. Events are open to members & friends to enjoy, whether participating or just supporting. Whilst this may seem boring, and repetitive, please remember that the Club doesn't just exist for the two luncheons. Organising the events takes a lot of effort and should be rewarded with support from as many Club members as possible. *Plus remember the Club ruling about attending the requisite number of luncheons to retain your membership.*

- 10th May** - Chestnut Sunday Grand Parade - The Club will have a stand at the event in Bushy Park. All members attending are requested to wear their boaters. Details from Hunt @ roger.hitchman@sky.com
- 14th May** - The President's Spring Luncheon - You will of course all be aware that this is not the usual luncheon format, and that as per our 100th anniversary luncheon, ladies can be invited - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz.
- 4th June** - Annual Golf & Cycle Ride at Harpenden - see pp25 for details and entry form - apply to Smithers.
- 15th June** - BaillieMac Something Charity Ride-see pp23.
- 26th June** - 150th Black Tie Dinner @ Skinners Hall -the ticket application is included in the magazine on pp19 in case you missed the email from your President.
- 5th July** - Benson Veteran Cycle Ride - details from Mr Pickwick as below stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk
- July** Sadly due to the logistics of the Tour de France being in the South of France this year, Mr Pickwick goes to France - courtesy of BaillieMac Something, has had to be cancelled. It is hoped that it can be reinstated in 2021.
- 8th October** - Hampton Court Bike Ride - the usual collection of pre-1929 bikes and their much younger riders, plus an eclectic assortment of "other machines " riding the roads of Surrey and Royal Parks. Starting at Imber Court promptly at 1000hrs. Everyone is welcome including ladies to join the rides, or just come along for lunch, - apply Pruffle or Hunt for details.
- 3rd December** - 150th Annual Garden Party - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz



Assistant Secretary

Stuart Mason-Elliott (*Mr Pickwick*)

Telephone: 07713 267 200

Email: stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk

**Ticket application
for
The Club 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
to be held on
Friday 26th June 2020
at
Skinners' Hall, 8 Dowgate Hill, London, EC4R 2SP
at
18h00 (6.00pm)**

Name:

Soubriquet:

Ticket cost £125

Paid in full by bank transfer (BACS)

to Pickwick Bicycle Club

Account: 94035534

Sort Code: 40-42-18

Paid in full by cheque

Deposit of £50 paid by bank transfer (BACS)

balance of £75 due 1st June 2020

Deposit of £50 paid by cheque

Special dietary requirements:

Please complete and return this form ASAP by email to: stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk

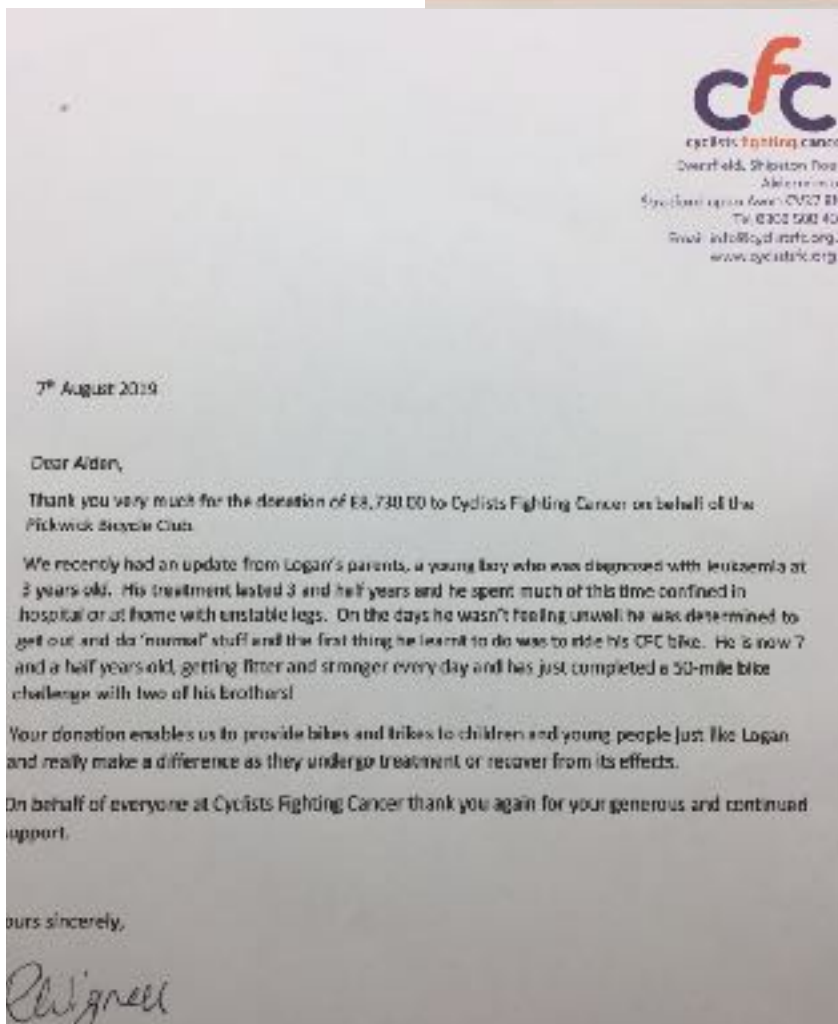
or by post to:

Mr Pickwick
c/o Elliotts
Millbank Wharf
Millbank St
Northam
Southampton
SO14 5AG

Pruffle says thank you.....

Past President Pruffle sent through this information about his chosen charity, but unfortunately it missed the closing date for the October issue.

His message says it all - "Despite the suggestion that we are a male only club, we do not distinguish between male and female where our worthy causes are disbursed."





Who Were Your Early Namesakes?

Researching Your Ancestors

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

steve@stephenbullen.com and you will receive the information by return.

Whiffers - Footman at "Swarry" in orange plush

"Gentlemen, our friend Mr. Whiffers (everybody looked at the individual in orange), our friend Mr. Whiffers has resigned.' Universal astonishment fell upon the hearers. Each gentleman looked in his neighbour's face, and then transferred his glance to the upstanding coachman. 'You may well be sapparised, gentlemen,' said the coachman.

'I will not wenchure to state the reasons of this irreparabel loss to the service, but I will beg Mr. Whiffers to state them himself, for the improvement and imitation of his admiring friends.' The suggestion being loudly approved of, Mr. Whiffers explained. He said he certainly could have wished to have continued to hold the appointment he had just resigned. The uniform was extremely rich and expensive, the females of the family was most agreeable, and the duties of the situation was not, he was bound to say, too heavy; the principal service that was required of him, being, that he should look out of the hall window as much as possible, in company with another gentleman, who had also resigned. He could have wished to have spared that company the painful and disgusting detail on which he was about to enter, but as the explanation had been demanded of him, he had no alternative but to state, boldly and distinctly, that he had been required to eat cold meat."

T P Wright	pre 1881
G L Edwards	1886 to 1906 Hon. Member
R W Morton	1925 to 1936
Major H L Hodgson IA	1938 to 1941
H G Turner	1943 to 1970
W W Wood	1970 to 1986
Bill E Tonkin	1987 to 2018
Richard Jack	2018 to present

The Bagman - "Your health, Sir" said the bagman with the lonely eye

"Your health, Sir,' said the bagman with the lonely eye, bestowing an approving nod on Mr. Snodgrass. Mr. Snodgrass acknowledged the compliment."

Tony Parsons	1981 to 1998
Simon Fellman	2002 to present

Bullman – the legal case “Bullman & Ramsey”

'Ah, Ramsey--a precious seedy-looking customer. "Well, sir," says old Fogg, looking at him very fierce--you know his way-- "well, Sir, have you come to settle?" "Yes, I have, sir," said Ramsey, putting his hand in his pocket, and bringing out the money, "the debt's two pound ten, and the costs three pound five, and here it is, Sir;" and he sighed like bricks, as he lugged out the money, done up in a bit of blotting-paper. Old Fogg looked first at the money, and then at him, and then he coughed in his rum way, so that I knew something was coming. "You don't know there's a declaration filed, which increases the costs materially, I suppose," said Fogg. "You don't say that, sir," said Ramsey, starting back; "the time was only out last night, Sir." "I do say it, though," said Fogg, "my clerk's just gone to file it. Hasn't Mr. Jackson gone to file that declaration in Bullman and Ramsey, Mr. Wicks?" Of course I said yes, and then Fogg coughed again, and looked at Ramsey. "My God!" said Ramsey; "and here have I nearly driven myself mad, scraping this money together, and all to no purpose." "None at all," said Fogg coolly; "so you had better go back and scrape some more together, and bring it here in time."

Charles Jarrott	1914 to 1919
Josiah Bayley	1924 to 1935
F W Smith CBE	1938 to 1962
L C Hart	1962 to 1986
Mike F Traxton	1987 to 1999
Brian Vandervilt	2001 to present

Fogg – Mrs Bardell's attorney

"There was something so impressive in the mute astonishment with which each man regarded his neighbour, and every man regarded Mr. Pickwick, that all seemed afraid to speak. The silence was at length broken by Mr. Tupman. 'Dodson and Fogg,' he repeated mechanically. 'Bardell and Pickwick,' said Mr. Snodgrass, musing. 'Peace of mind and happiness of confiding females,' murmured Mr. Winkle, with an air of abstraction. 'It's a conspiracy,' said Mr. Pickwick, at length recovering the power of speech; 'a base conspiracy between these two grasping attorneys, Dodson and Fogg. Mrs. Bardell would never do it; she hasn't the heart to do it;--she hasn't the case to do it. Ridiculous--ridiculous.' 'Of her heart,' said Wardle, with a smile, 'you should certainly be the best judge. I don't wish to discourage you, but I should certainly say that, of her case, Dodson and Fogg are far better judges than any of us can be.' 'It's a vile attempt to extort money,' said Mr. Pickwick."

A.Hauxwell	1874 to 1879
T.Shaw	1880 to 1892
William R. Clarke	1909 to 1925
A S Stewart	1937 to 1939
F L Cyprien	1941 to 1957
M F Brandon	1962 to 1970
F Bliss	1971 to 1973
Brian J Chapman	1973 to 2009
Jim Gillan	2010 to present



The **International Veteran Cycle Association** is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the bicycle, bicycling and the enjoyment of the bicycle as a machine. On 26th May 1986 in Lincoln, England, the International Veteran Cycle Association was formed by veteran cycle clubs, museums and collectors from around the world.

Each year the IVCA hold a Rally to bring together members to celebrate their passion for all matters cycling related, and as the Pickwick Bicycle Club is a member of the IVCA, all our members can attend.

This year the IVCA Rally will be held in Oostende, Belgium Wednesday 20th May - Sunday 24th May 2020. Full details are on the website at www.oreretrofietsen.be. The entry fee of 210€ includes 4 lunches, 4 dinners, plenty of Belgian beer and the camaraderie of cycling enthusiasts from around the World.

Mr Pickwick will be attending and is happy to answer any questions from PBC Members.

2020 Baillie Mac Hits The Road Again

Sunday 17th June – Charity Cycle Ride 32nd Anniversary

The recipe for the 32nd Anniversary remains unchanged with a 30mile ride through the Chilterns commencing at The Plough, Winchmore Hill, with lunch at Huntswood Golf Club, before returning to The Plough. The competitive nature of the event will be targeting the Wembley Shield. The event this year is in aid of Headway South Bucks at Bourne End and it is hoped that the monies raised will be another record for this special occasion. There will be the usual BBQ at 'Wildhatch' afterwards. Baillie Mac Something has raised incredible amounts of money for this annual event, so come along and support those Pickwickians taking part, or bring your bike and ride.

Passing of Friends.....

As mentioned in the editorial, the Club lost a stalwart member very recently with the passing of former magazine editor Joe the Fat Boy - or Stan Rose as we all knew him. Mr Justice Stareleigh has kindly remembered him both as a fellow Pickwickian and a friend.

Joe the Fat Boy

I knew Stan (Joe the Fat Boy) for nearly fifty years; I first met him whilst serving on various cycling committees in North London as a very keen and well respected official, judge and commissaire. He was the manager for the English cycling team for the Maccabi games. A member of the Harrow and Rickmansworth cycling club for many years.

He founded Alisian products a sports promotional firm which specialised in cycling and running equipment. His most famous products were his cycle racing crash helmets which were used by the majority of English professional riders. He formed a professional cycle racing team which travelled all over the country.

He organised the London to York cycle race. Helped form the G S Lanterne Rouge a cycling club for "senior" racers and officials, we thought it might last for five or maybe ten years, but has now just celebrated its thirty-eighth year!

Stan joined the Pedal Club in 1971 and was made a life member for services to the club. He joined the Pickwick Bicycle club in 1976, and was made President in 2004.

He was editor of the Pickwick club magazine for at least ten or twelve years, and brought it into the twenty-first century.

A great personal friend and club-mate, we will all miss him.
Ron, Mr Justice Stareleigh.



We should also remember 25year old Josephine Gilbert, the UK and International racing cyclist. so tragically killed in January. when hit by a lorry whilst out training in Derbyshire.



It's time for the Annual Golf Day, Cycle Ride & Luncheon Again - on June 4th



Smithers is hoping that 2020 will see a record numbers signing up to enjoy this glorious day out as part of our 150th celebrations.

For the golfers, there's always a wide selection of Club cups & trophies to compete for, much to the chagrin of Pruffle. The Harpenden course is very picturesque, so even if you are not a handicapped player you can always enjoy the scenery if your golf isn't up to par. (That was certainly the case for your editor last year when during my Presidential term, my golf was not up to anything and I didn't see much of the scenery either except when searching for my ball!)

Justice Stareleigh will again organise the cycle ride but he does need sufficient riders. as there were only four riders last year, which doesn't really justify the event taking place. It's a **0930hrs** departure, giving plenty of time for a comfortable ride during the morning and be back in time for the usual excellent lunch with the golfers. With more riders there can be the choice of a leisurely ride to coffee & back, or the hard man's hilly terrain of Hertfordshire, whichever your choice, it will be an enjoyable day out.

REMEMBER-if there are insufficient riders for the cycle ride Justice Stareleigh knows where you live!

The Golf format will be the same as in past years, with a 1045hrs T-off at Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts, - an entry form is included as a loose insert this year, so you don't have to destroy your copy of the magazine - and this should be sent to Smithers or you can email it to him at:

davinc2000@aol.com

It all began in 1972.....

I was uncertain whether my memories of 48 years as a member of the PBC were of interest to anybody other than myself, but I was 'commanded' by your President to print them. Allegedly I am currently the 'Father of the Club' although I would acknowledge that a certain Hugh Porter MBE - Jonas Mudge (Retired) may lay claim to 50 years. However I will proceed.

I was introduced to the Pickwick Bicycle Club by a close cycling friend – Peter Knottley, aka The Clerk. Through our connections in the CTC (Cyclist's Touring Club) we had done a number of cycling holidays together in the 60's. Peter was also a feature writer for the weekly 'Cycling' magazine, under the pseudonym of Randonneur and he suggested that I might be interested in joining the PBC and subsequently invited me to the President's Spring luncheon in May 1972 at the Grand Connaught Rooms. Totally unaware of the fact that he had already proposed me, I was very surprised when the then Hon Sec – Wilkins Flasher announced me as a new member. I was much maligned over my sartorial attire – floral pink shirt and matching tie – and it was suggested that my choice of apparel would improve now I was a member. I was to be Mr Winkle Snr – who appears in Ch 50.

In those days there was clearly no formal procedure for membership, as long as you had an obvious and active connection with the cycling world. Unlike today, where there is a Club procedure of vetting and a lengthy waiting time; back then it was it seems, proposed, thumbs up, you're in. Probably why I was accepted! Sometime after I joined there was a period in the late 70's & 80's when it seemed that the cycling connection was somewhat overlooked, and a number of new members were simply friends of members and enjoyed the camaraderie of the Club and so were proposed for membership. Currently it has reverted to the original criteria.

I recall Tracy Tupman (Don Lyford) was Treasurer and the Captain was Mr Trundle (the late Barry Brandon). Wilkins Flasher and Mr Trundle were fearsome characters in their own right - not just playing the part. When silence was demanded – that's what they got. I don't recall the presence of any military personnel to supply the appropriate heralding in the early days but maybe that's just my memory failing me. The arrival of the 'Original Member' was a well-oiled part of the event, as for many years it was often a Pearly King from one of the London Boroughs, or an actor suitably attired.

At the 1972 May luncheon, Hugh Palin (Sir Thomas Blazo) was President, who I seem to recall, had a quiet but well-spoken voice, and he had taken over the previous December from Reg Harris (Gabriel Grubb), the famous world champion and professional sprinter of the 50's / 60's. I don't remember the main speaker being anybody of any consequence Members didn't 'mix' readily outside of their immediate friends, nor was there the same amount of hilarity (if that's the right word), apart from the singing of the usual choruses. The highlight though was always the command "Gentlemen, you must smoke", and everybody carefully loaded their (long) church warden clay pipes with 'shag' tobacco, and amid coughing and spluttering the grand hall disappeared in a cloak of smoke. Unfortunately, with the ban on smoking that has disappeared from our lunches. There was always the Joseph Atto Punchbowl Ceremony –, now performed by the Chelsea Pensioners.

Over the years we did have many excellent speakers and some very poor ones, but the ones to recall were Graham Hill (racing driver), Brian Johnson (hilarious cricket commentator), Jackie Blanchflower (pro' footballer) and of course Ron Moody (actor of repute), who from his role as Fagin in Oliver Twist, regaled us with singing the like of which was never heard before (or since) on both occasions he was invited. Such was his ability to hold the room in 2003 that I seem to remember he kept us going until 5pm then, and on the next occasion as well.

The years rolled by and a newsletter appeared around the early 90's edited by the late Stuart Benstead (Mr Warren) as a single A4 sheet. The military trumpeters began to frequent the lunches, and the Chelsea Pensioners became ever present. The late Stan Rose (Joe the Fat Boy) took over the Newsletter around 2000 and took it from the A4 sheet to the current A5 magazine format appearing three times a year. Guest speakers began to be less well known than those from a sporting background, more, professional after dinner speakers, although we do still have some 'names' attending.

There was very little Club cycling activity during my early years, and this, along with our male only membership was highlighted in Cycling magazine on many occasions. Many of the members were however keen cyclists across the spectrum in their own racing /touring clubs, plus world champions (Hugh Porter, gold medallist pursuiter), TdF riders, 6-day riders etc , etc., and of course there were those who owned or acquired vintage bikes and participated in Veteran bicycling events.

Baillie Mac Something introduced his Summer Charity Ride in 1988, open to all members & friends, and now in its 32nd year and raising thousands of pounds for local children's organisations. BMS also introduced the Mr Pickwick goes to France trip, primarily to see the TdF, eat&drink well, and with limited cycling activity. Collective Club cycling activities began to increase particularly with the re-introduction of the Hampton Court Bike Ride in 2007, which originated in 1874. There was already the annual Club Golf day, with the choice of playing golf or a bike ride, then all join together for lunch. At the 2005 event, Pruffle (Aiden Hegarty) was 'peeved' that there were so many Club trophies for.....playing golf. So he proposed to the Club committee that a cycle event around Hampton Court should be started to re-enact the original event in the 1870's. And in 2007 this took place with just a few riders, but Hunt (Roger Hitchman) suggested that there should be a separate ride for those with vintage bikes. The result has been that since that first ride, every October the Hampton Court Ride is held for those 'modern day' cyclists to romp around Surrey, whilst those on the vintage machines can gently ride the Thames towpath via Hampton Court Palace and the Diana Fountain in Bushy Park (as seen in the 1877 drawing).

Not escaping comment and one common denominator throughout my 48 years as a member, has been the Grand (sometimes not) Connaught Rooms. The Grand Hall has always lived up to its name, creating a great ambience for the Club functions. Notwithstanding the memorable occasion when they provided a Christmas Tree for the December Garden Party. It appeared to be barely 2m high, probably artificial and was somehow secured high up on the far wall and looked much like a dead branch! The food has also proven to be a roller coaster of quality, but is certainly much improved nowadays.

*Looking back over my many years in the Club though, it has been an unique experience - mixing with members from all walks of cycling (that doesn't sound right?) - enjoying each other's company and making many new friends. The Club is certainly more vibrant than in '72 especially with the increase of cycling activity. Let's hope that members who have joined in the past few years can sustain the Club as it moves onwards to another 50 memorable years. **Winkle Snr***



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