

The Pickwick Magazine

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



Founded in 1870



'Sam looked at The Fat Boy with great astonishment, but without saying a word'



Well, how was your Summer? It seems that Autumn has arrived with indecent haste, and here we are heading towards Christmas. In the last issue I said that this year was unlikely to be as exciting as 2014, and to some extent that's been true. Chris Froome won the Tour de France for the second time, making it three times in four years for a British rider (is Froome British?). And Sir Bradley Wiggins broke the hour record - congratulations to both.

What about Pickwickian activities.....Mr Watty successfully riding Paris to Avignon on a Velocipede to celebrate 150years since the birth of cycle touring. Those that attended the Spring Luncheon will have seen his machine, and now you can read about it here in the magazine. The usual events took place with a splendid day for the Golf/Cycling event, organised with his usual aplomb by Smithers. There was Baillie Mac's Charity Ride, and his usual club adventure as Mr Pickwick went to France. In amongst this, a number of club members participated in the Benson Veteran Cycle ride. My thanks to Mr Dumkins for his report & pics.

Moving onto other things.....what do we think about the vigilante cyclists riding around with helmet cam-corders filming inconsiderate/dangerous road users? I am not against reporting such incidents when they affect you directly, or if you are a clear witness to an accident, but the behaviour of some of these so called caring cyclists is not good for the cause of the rest of us. Anybody out there got some thoughts on this -then please write to me?

Finally it is with some regret to mention yet again that members and guests continue to arrive late for the start of our luncheons. There is no excuse for such tardiness. Please, for the sake of the majority, make sure it doesn't happen at the December Garden Party. Nonetheless enjoy the day.....Mr Winkle Snr/Editor

Please note that your editor has moved - all correspondence should now be sent to:

'Taverners' Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex, RH13 6NY
Tel: 01403 891789

Closing Date for the next issue - January 31st 2016

President's Page.....

AS you are aware, I have been singing the praises of one of my charities which is the Deaf Team GB Swimming Team. This year, they -including my god-son, went to Texas for the World Championships. Below is a report on their success both individually & collectively.

Kieran Holdbrook - 4th Deaf World Swimming Championships, Texas 2015.

London Borough of Redbridge swimmer Kieran Holdbrook was part of the GBR team that competed in the 4th World Deaf Swimming Championships, held in Texas U.S.A. in Aug 2015. Kieran had a great competition swimming 3 personal best times in the 400FC, 400IM and the 200Fly; also setting a new Age Group Record for 16 year olds in the 200 fly, a great achievement. He also made the final of the 1500 FC and landed himself 8th overall. He said the final was tough going as the temperature soared to 40 degrees, sapping his energy. (Kieran is on the extreme left of the picture)



The GBR team came 4th in the 4 x 200 Freestyle team relay, where Kieran again made a small PB in his leg of the race. Team GB returned from the searing heat of Texas in a creditable 7th position in the medals table accumulating 1 Individual Gold, 1 Individual Silver and 3 Individual Bronze as well as a Bronze in the Mixed Freestyle. The team secured 31 individual swims in finals over the 6 days and set an amazing 52 personal best times.

Thank you to the Pickwick Bicycle Club for your kind donations, that helped Kieran to achieve so much at the championships. It was greatly appreciated.

Samuel Pickwick

A Secretarial Report from Sgt Buzfuz

email: sdownham@hughesellard.com



Another summer over but still cycle rides to enjoy. Details of the Hampton Court ride have been circulated and I hope that as many of you as possible will attend. Even if you don't ride, come just for the lunch and the club fellowship. I am sorry that I cannot be present as I will be overseas.

My trip means that The Garden Party applications will be out by the end of September with a deadline for priority tickets being 29th October. Applications will have to be by post as I will not have access to my e mail. After that date, tickets will be issued on a first come basis until we have reached the maximum number of 550. Your executive committee have reduced attendance to this number to ease the sometimes crush in the room. Tickets will be limited to 5 per member including the Member so that as many Members as possible can attend. Please remember as previously advised, that due to problems with the Connaught Rooms **this year's function is on the 10th December** and not the first Thursday as usual. A wine order list will be sent out with the tickets. Members are encouraged to pre-arrange their order as it eases problems on the day. A wine ordering table will be available on the day immediately before the AGM and from noon. Wine ordering and bars will close at 12.50 to ensure that Members and guests are seated by one o'clock as required. Your Committee remains astonished by the number of members who regularly drift into lunch late causing embarrassment to the President with the speaker and delaying matters generally. Late appearances will be noted. this year.

On the matter of attendance all members are reminded of the requirement without good reason to be present at least at one main luncheon in every three. Each year one or two members are deemed to have resigned due to none appearance. The dates are booked for the next few years so please avoid if possible holidays etc on the **second Thursday in May** and the **First Thursday in December**.

Members are also reminded subscriptions will go up this year as agreed at the last AGM. The treasurer will advise separately. If you do not pay by standing order please consider doing so and ask for a form.

The Club have purchased a cycle available to club members to ride at Benson, Hampton Court or elsewhere It is a circa 1920 Singer Grande with 3 speed gear. It is available to be borrowed through Mr Dumkins. The President has first call. The club is looking for a second similar aged machine.

Finally, notice is given of the AGM which will be held at 11.00a.m. on Thursday 10th December 2015 at the Grand Connaught Rooms Great Queen Street London.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM and afterwards for luncheon.

Buzfuz

Our Captain's Message.....

The Captain is looking forward to all members & guests having an enjoyable lunch in December, and hopefully observing our ancient traditions.



The President's Spring Luncheon.....

And yet another rainy day dawned for the Annual Spring Lunch, and poor Mr Watty on his Velocipede struggled across Waterloo Bridge in the inclement weather. Prior to lunch there was a lot of interest in his Velocipede, and his planned 150th anniversary enactment of the Paris-Avignon 500 mile ride, originally done by the Olivier Brothers in 1865. By the time you read this I'm sure Mr Watty will have successfully completed yet another of his epic rides during fourteen days of August - albeit his gait may appear somewhat suspect!



With the usual call to arms by the members of the Household Cavalry, we all assembled in the great room to await the arrival of our President and Principal Guest.. Our Captain in the meantime performed his "Gareth Malone" impression in rehearsing the gathering with the various ditties and a 'few kind words'. Following grace, Mr Watty once more astride his machine made his way to the top table to take wine with the President.



The Connaught Rooms culinary ability seems to be continuing on an upward trend with much improved fare and certainly better service. Hopefully everybody was served without delay. Just need more staff in the bar before lunch! Brother Mordlin - he of the red & yellow blazer - was summoned by our President to receive the Measured Time trophy for the longest distance travelled. This year it was for his Land's End to John o' Groats ride - unlikely to be surpassed in the near future.

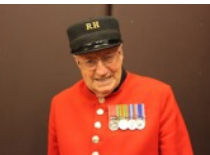


Dr Payne of the 43rd then welcomed the guests commencing with Captain Bob Evans RLC (more about him later in this issue) and Staff Sgt Kevin Wright QGM both Army Bomb Disposal Officers and known to the Club through the Felix Fund Charity. Also present were Paul Volley- English Rugby international, Mickey Stewart- former Surrey & England cricketer (and father of legendry Alec Stewart), ex Raleigh Pro-rider, David Miller, and Peter Ruffhead current President of the Pedal Club.

In addition we had an Antipodean visitor in Brian McKeever, guest of Mr Phunky who chose to travel all the way from Down Under to join us for lunch - we hope you think it was worth it! The final mention went to a guest of Mr Brooks, Ian Compton. As you are aware the Captain has on the top table a bugle horn from days of old, with which to keep members & guest in order, and Ian's company Keats Hunting Horns manufacture said bugles but not for controlling cyclists anymore. Dr Payne felt this should be drawn to the attention of the assembled diners, since "Ian is very modest and doesn't like to blow his own trumpet". Mmm.... the entertainment usually comes later!

Following on from the special opening of the membership list, seven new members were sworn in by Sgt Buzfuz, and required to uphold the traditions of the Club. (Their names will appear later in this issue).

To the disjointed rendering of the 'Old Brigade', Mr Dumkins led in the Boys in Red from the Chelsea Hospital, with the Joseph Atto Punchbowl. They duly gave their details and were toasted by the President, before one of them gave us an impromptu poetic tale to much applause from everyone. The singing for their exit was much stronger.



The principal guest was then introduced - Paul Boardman, allegedly the worst goalkeeper at Plymouth Argyll signed by the then manager, legendary goalkeeper Peter Shilton. Cries of "You cannot be serious" were heard, but whatever he was like as a goalie - he was an excellent speaker and regaled us with an assortment of stories, both fact & fiction, before proposing the toast on behalf of the guests, to the "Immortal Memory of....." Thanks Paul, you did us proud.





Our President then made a special introduction of the two members of the HM Armed Forces already introduced by Dr. Payne, and spoke about their Charity. The Felix Fund Charity supports the Bomb Disposal Officers & their families and is one of the current recipients of donations from our Club.

Then as always the time came to sup the last dregs of wine, say cheerio and sing Auld Lang Syne again. Another good outing of the Pickwick Bicycle Club.



New Members elected at the Luncheon.....

David Keen - Jonas Mudge

Alan Steinle - Mr Lowton

Paul Upton - Tom Cummins

Peter Nisbet - Jack Bamber

Keith Millward - Shiny Villiam

Guy Rowland - Bill Stumps

Nathan Beale - The Secretary

We welcome them to the Pickwick Bicycle Club and hope that they will participate in as many of the club activities as possible, in true Pickwickian style.

The Felix Fund Charity says Thank You.....

Via the secretarial channels of the Club I received the following letter from Capt. Robert Evans, which deserved more than appearing on the letters page. And a hand written letter no less, which unfortunately I have had to replicate since the original would not have reproduced well in print.

*From: Captain Robert Evans (RLC)
Quartermaster/Echelon Commander
821 EOD&S Syn
33 Engineer Regiment (RE)
Curwen Barracks
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 2YA*

7th July 2015

Dear Fred,

Firstly I would like to offer my sincere thanks for your kind invitation to attend your Club's illustrious dinner. I had a fantastic day and was made to feel extremely welcome from start to finish. I particularly enjoyed the quirky ceremonial aspects; including the soubriquets, the Fanfares, songs and most of all the traditional ride of the Penny Farthing through the beautiful Connaught Rooms.

Secondly I give a heartfelt thank you for the Pickwick Bicycle Club's generosity in handing over a substantial cheque for £1200, towards the Felix Fund Charity. As I'm sure you're aware, this Bomb Disposal Charity is run on behalf of all those who have conducted, assisted in or been associated with Explosive Ordnance Disposal duties and their families. Those funds raised help with the provision of Normalisation Breaks to help families cope with returning to normal life after stressful and often dangerous tours. It also helps with the provision of welfare facilities and is instrumental in the on-going provision of a hardship fund to aid those in need.

Your generous contribution will go a long way to help with these worthwhile endeavours and you have our complete gratitude as a result

*Your Sincerely
Captain Robert J. Evans*

Serjeant Buzfuz Does The Buziness

The Annual Golf and Cycle Ride was held at Harpenden Common Golf Club, a charming course set in the Hertfordshire countryside, on Thursday 11th June 2015. The Pickwick Bicycle Club was, once again, welcomed with kind hospitality by all the staff which contributed greatly to a most enjoyable day. The weather was splendid, so that members and their guests could not but be in good spirits for the day whatever tribulations it may have brought.



I am delighted to say that the attendance by members for the golf was better this year although an increase in numbers next year would be welcomed. In all there were eight golfing members and fourteen golfing guests, which ensured good competition for our prestigious trophies. Four members cycled together with three guests and a further seven members attended solely to dine. I am grateful for the support of all members especially the diners.

The cycling was admirably, as always, organised by Mr. Justice Stareleigh and an enjoyable ride took place through the Hertfordshire lanes with suitable refreshment stops. I am pleased to tell you that the Blink Bowl for cycling was awarded to Mr. Winkle Senior "for valour". (See the cyclists report at the end)

The golfing trophies were keenly contested for but the overall winner of the magnificent Namby Cup with 38 Stableford points was Sergeant Buzfuz, a creditable second was Tom Martin with 36 points. The nearest the pin for the Winkle Cup, although technically this should be 'nearest the green' as no member has actually been on the green in the last 2 years, was again won by Mr. Wicks who was within a hairsbreadth at 14 Pickwickian paces away. Baillie Mac Something regained his firm grip on Jinkin's Balls (awarded for 'something different') by endeavouring to miss, not one but two, eight inch putts—remarkable. The Crandyke Cup awarded to the guest with the best Stableford score was won by Nigel Bass, guest of Baillie Mac Something.



Mr Wicks

Baillie Mac

Nigel Bass

Mr Winkle Snr

After the rigors of the day, members and their guests sat down to dine in the magnificent new clubhouse which overlooks the 18th green. The large French windows were all open so that our late luncheon was taken in a light airy atmosphere. Chef Martin and his team prepared an excellent repast of pate, minestrone soup, beef, ale and mushroom pie followed by lemon tart and coffee. Our President Mr. Samuel Pickwick said Grace but I regret to announce that whilst dining Mr. Pickwick noted that some members were improperly dressed. The ensuing fines, to which the guests also contributed, raised £230.30 for Mr. Pickwick's chosen charity which will help fund a profoundly deaf swimmer attend the world swimming championships for the deaf in the USA. Once all members and guests were replete and luncheon completed farewells were said and agreement made to reconvene next year for more titanic struggles on course and road.



Smithers /Hon Golf Sec

The cycling contingent comprised of two groups, with Mr Smithie & electrically propelled guest Doug Cannings plus Alfred Jingle taking the leisurely route to the coffee stop. Mr Justice Stareleigh, with regular guests John Groves & Michael Dobson (of the GS Lanterne Rouge Club) and Mr Winkle Snr went for the long haul. Somewhere along the road, the latter was under a mis-guided idea that the last time he rode in Hertfordshire it was flat. After a pleasant first session and the coffee stop, the return ride to lunch took on a mountain stage of epic proportions!



Well OK it was uphill, with the last real climb being past the sewage works just to add to the enjoyment when you're breathing heavily. Your editor was very grateful for the Madison slings from Michael on the never ending, "only two more hills, really", but.....it was a great day to be out on the bike in such company. Thanks to Mr Justice Stareleigh for organising it..... Mr Winkle Snr



Benson Veteran Cycle Rally 2015.....



Having attended the BVCC rallies with my father, Mr Dumkins (yes he had my sobriquet before me) for many years from the time I could first ride a bicycle it was with fond memories of both him and the event that I returned in 2014 on my ordinary. It was however my fitness that let me down on that occasion as I struggled with the hills but made it around (of sorts); so with my health improved but not really up to the event my wife Sue and I decided to attend this year's event to give moral

support.

The day started by meeting on the village green at Benson in Oxfordshire and was attended this year by Bullman, Mr Brooks, Sergeant Buzfuz, Alfred Jingle and Joseph Smiggers. It was the perfect day for the rally, sunny and warm with a slight breeze as the riders' set off at intervals into the rolling Oxfordshire countryside.



The first stop was at a very kind local residents house where he had set up free refreshments in his beautiful garden (including 2 barrels of a very fine locally brewed ale) and then continued on to The Lamb in Chalgrove for a very fine luncheon accompanied by a brass band! The cyclists then mounted up and cycled the return leg back to Benson to collect their commemorative medals before heading home.



In all, a thoroughly enjoyable day and highly recommended to all members, cycling or not. By the time of next years event we will, as a club, have 2 or 3 club bicycles and will be looking for riders to come and exercise them around the course!

Mr Dumkins

Ryder or Rider?

I received a letter from Stiggins enclosing a photo of him clutching a cup - so I'm thinking what event have I missed off the Club calendar.....but read on.....



The Red Nosed Mr Stiggins achieved a sensational 'moment of a lifetime' recently at the end of season, Captain's Charity Golf day at his club. He was invited to join his Captain, Club Champion, and Sandy Jones (Chief Exec of the PGA) in a four-ball at the Beau Desert Golf Club. Not only was he 'in' the prizes, but as event MC, he got to introduce, courtesy of Sandy, the "Ryder Cup".

Stiggins reports that Sandy had never played at this club, although he was a member of another local one, and was impressed with the course - his game was pretty good too. The day raised £££'s for Teenage Cancer and left 'old' Stiggins with a memory to treasure for ever. But then he had to give it back!

Maybe our illustrious member should be encouraged to participate in next years Pickwick Golf Day, and then he might be lucky again, and get to hold 'Jinkins Balls' - that's if Baillie Mac Something will let go of them.



Baillie Mac Something reports on the Charity Cycle Ride held on 21st June



I'm pleased to say that the Pickwick BC retained the Wembley RC Shield with £1800 raised for the South Bucks Hospice at High Wycombe. Baillie Mac Something won the Mary Smithson Cup for the most monies raised by an individual -£1200. Last year's winner George the Embarrassed Gentleman(David Phizacklea) was away working in Europe so unable to defend his title.

The ride raised a total in excess of £3500, with Mr Brooks, Sergeant Snubbins, Mr Smithie and Mr Mallard riding for the Pickwick BC. Joe the Fat Boy signed the riders on, and manned the finish at "The Plough" in Winchmore Hill, with able assistance from Hilary at his side.



There followed a BBQ afterwards at Wildhatch, courtesy of Mrs Baillie Mac Something, and a good day was had by all.

Letters to The Editor



Your chance to have your say

Write to the Editor: Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain,
West Sussex RH13 6NY or email: pickwick2610@hotmail.com

I received various letters etc for this issue for which I thank you, and these can be seen elsewhere in the magazine, however this letter from Mr Dumkins is a request for help to all members, so please help him if you can.

My Fellow Pickwickian Cyclists, I am compiling a photographic and cinematic library of The Pickwick Bicycle Club and need **your** help.

Do you have pictures of club events and luncheons going back over many years? If so I need **your** help. My aim is to digitally store a comprehensive library of articles, events, members & luncheons going back as far as we can. I can handle photographs in any format, printed to digital, colour and black&white, and can retouch/correct any damaged ones. I can receive them either electronically or by post on disc, USB stick or as actual photographs that I can scan and return. Any media sent to me, will be returned via a secure courier service.

If you are able to help me with this project, it will be appreciated, and please provide as much information as you can, for example dates, places and names. You can do this by attaching a separate sheet of paper or document with the details identifying the relevant photos. Please do not worry if you cannot be precise about the details, I still want your pictures! As multiple files can be quite large (I do not recommend sending them by email if the attachment is over 10MB), I have a file transfer service that you can use very easily, and if you contact me, I will forward you a link and instructions.

Thank you & Kind regards

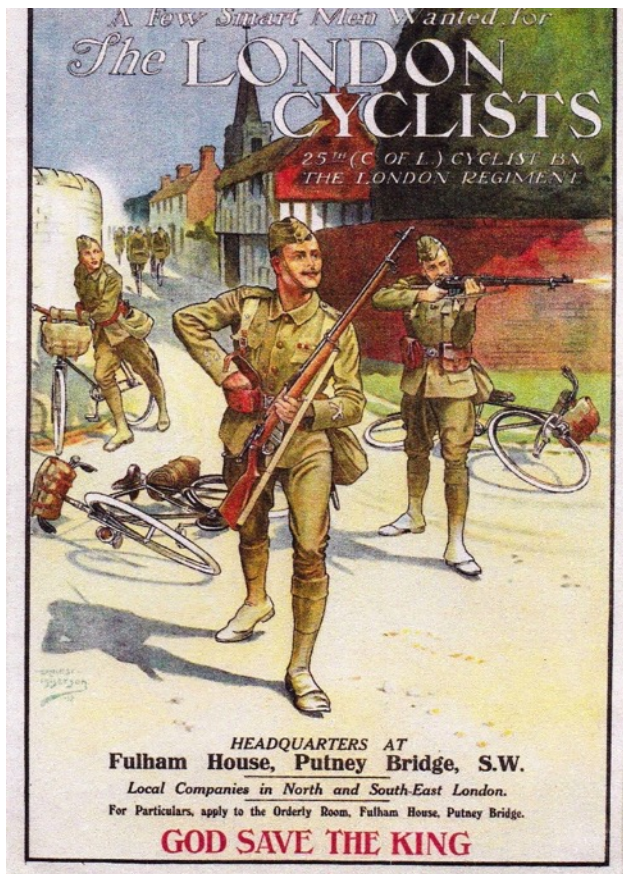
Mr Dumkins

Patrick(Paddy) Green - 13 Lautrec Way, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8SG

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Email: dumkins@pickwickbc.co.uk

The 25th City of London Cyclist Battalion



We think they were intended for reconnaissence work but would have had limited use in the French mud with the extension of the field telephone. Probably the majority of them were re-trained. Their equipment was interesting - with taut rifle slings the 303s must have been attached to the bikes. The chap in the middle has a marksman badge on his left sleeve, with three 'pips' on the other. Perhaps he was a Captain? The pouches probably carried 40 rounds in all, while the 'bods (a polite term for Squad members or erks, muckers, sort etc)' probably had capes, food, small repair items and spare kit. The bike in the middle has a pump, carbide lamp, and a rolled blanket. The 'Captain' has a bayonet, and the medals are probably from the Boer War.

Following on with the theme of cyclists during the Great War, I received a letter about the above courtesy of Mr Smithie & Friends.

Mr Dumkins comments on being part of the Club

The Pickwick Bicycle Club is not just about the lunch.....this year I have made a concerted effort to attend not just the luncheons but some of the many additional events that the club organises and / or attends.

PBC Golf Day

The first event was the Golf Day at Harpenden - a quite magnificent setting and a really enjoyable day even for a non golfer like me! I play (well turn up with a bag of sticks and a barrow load of balls!) at a couple of society events a year so cannot be considered a golfer, but it is great fun, great company and thoroughly recommended.

Benson Bicycle Rally

This annual event around the Oxfordshire countryside is a delightful day out as either a cyclist of spectator. I attended this with my partner Sue and had a fantastic day, we as a club should be getting many more members than the half dozen that attended this year. Do come and support this event on the first Sunday in July and if you are really enthusiastic we will have some club bicycles in time for the event next year!

Mr Pickwick goes to France

Sue and I were not sure how this one was going to pan out, neither of us had been to a cycle race before let alone the Tour de France! But we set off to Dinan in northern France and met up with a dozen or so PBC members and their partners. What an event! We had an amazing time in great company, copious amounts of food and a constant stream of quality wines!

Oh, and there was some cycling going on as well!

The Tour really is a must see, Sue was really unsure about attending the race and had planned on shopping instead but once the first team had gone past in the time trials she was hooked. A really great weekend, over all too soon!

My fellow members, who, like me have probably only attended the luncheons for many years, I urge you to join your fellow members in the spirit of clubs name and join us at some of the events outside of the luncheons by either partaking or spectating, I promise you that you will not be disappointed! We will publish the dates and enclose application forms at the beginning of the year to allow you to plan in advance, even if you make the effort to attend just one of these events you will be increasing the profile of your club. I would like to thank all the members who have organised the events, I appreciate that a lot of effort goes into making them happen, and having joined in this year, I'm afraid you are stuck with me now as I have thoroughly enjoyed it! Roll on the next event!

Mr Dumkins



Who Were Your Early Namesakes? Researching Your Ancestors

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

Doctor Faustus – did not exist: a play about the tragical history of the life and death of Doctor Faustus

"'Person's a-waitin',' said Sam, epigrammatically. 'Does the person want me, Sam?' inquired Mr. Pickwick. 'He wants you partickler; and no one else 'll do, as the devil's private secretary said ven he fetched away Doctor Faustus,' replied Mr. Weller."

A Eric Gibbons

1974 to 2015

President 1996

Blink – name called at Serjeant's Inn

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

P J Groom

pre 1904 to 1918

Committee 1904

S W Hoskins

1923 to 1940

W T Williams

1942 to 1971

Derek J Pendry

1973 to present

Richard Upwitch - greengrocer and juryman

"The judge had no sooner taken his seat, than the officer on the floor of the court called out 'Silence!' in a commanding tone, upon which another officer in the gallery cried 'Silence!' in an angry manner, whereupon three or four more ushers shouted 'Silence!' in a voice of indignant remonstrance. This being done, a gentleman in black, who sat below the judge, proceeded to call over the names of the jury; and after a great deal of bawling, it was discovered that only ten special jurymen were present. Upon this, Mr. Serjeant Buzfuz prayed a TALES; the gentleman in black then proceeded to press into the special jury, two of the common jurymen; and a greengrocer and a chemist were caught directly. 'Answer to your names, gentlemen, that you may be sworn,' said the gentleman in black. 'Richard Upwitch.'"

J Horn	1878 to 1906	
Eric E Anderson	1926 to 1934	
R L Jones	1938 to 1951	
John Grey	1953 to 1958	
Eric Charles Tyler	1958 to 2003	President 1973
Matthew Bullen	2006 to 2011	
Charles Tyler	2012 to present	

The Secretary - the Club Secretary

"A casual observer, adds the secretary, to whose notes we are indebted for the following account--a casual observer might possibly have remarked nothing extraordinary in the bald head, and circular spectacles, which were intently turned towards his (the secretary's) face, during the reading of the above resolutions: to those who knew that the gigantic brain of Pickwick was working beneath that forehead, and that the beaming eyes of Pickwick were twinkling behind those glasses, the sight was indeed an interesting one. There sat the man who had traced to their source the mighty ponds of Hampstead, and agitated the scientific world with his Theory of Tittlebats, as calm and unmoved as the deep waters of the one on a frosty day, or as a solitary specimen of the other in the inmost recesses of an earthen jar."

Harry Foxton	1993 to 2009
Nathan Beale	2015 to present

Pimkin - Pimkin & Thomas

"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?'"

Peter R Purves	1924 to 1963	President 1939/40; Life Member
J F Cross	1964 to 1978	
John Peasnell	1995 to 1996	
Karl Ennis	1997 to present	

Stiles - fictitious name used by Serjeant Buzfuz

"I say systematic villainy, gentlemen,' said Serjeant Buzfuz, looking through Mr. Pickwick, and talking AT him; 'and when I say systematic villainy, let me tell the defendant Pickwick, if he be in court, as I am informed he is, that it would have been more decent in him, more becoming, in better judgment, and in better taste, if he had stopped away. Let me tell him, gentlemen, that any gestures of dissent or disapprobation in which he may indulge in this court will not go down with you; that you will know how to value and how to appreciate them; and let me tell him further, as my Lord will tell you, gentlemen, that a counsel, in the discharge of his duty to his client, is neither to be intimidated nor bullied, nor put down; and that any attempt to do either the one or the other, or the first, or the last, will recoil on the head of the attempter, be he plaintiff or be he defendant, be his name Pickwick, or Noakes, or Stoakes, or Stiles, or Brown, or Thompson.'"

F J Hobday	1925 to 1937	Committee 1927
Jim H Brandon	1942 to 1997	President 1966; Life Member
Graham Register	1998 to present	

Another polite request from your Editor - Smiggers does an amazing job with the soubriquet histories, and it would be good to put faces to them; so if any new members can send me their mug shot, I will include it with their history when it's published.

Mr Pickwick goes to France 2015.....



A select group of 14 members & guests made the trip to Brittany based in Dinan, with the Ibis hotel our temporary home. The start of another gastronomic frolic with two stages of the Tour de France to add spice to our days. The trip down, due to problems at "Le Tunnel" was hard work, but with mobile phones and good will, we all met up on Friday evening at 8pm in the Bar Duclos for pre-dinner drinks of beer/wine /cidre. A short 50yard walk to our chosen fish restaurant and a hard fought battle for tables with a party of English golfers, we all sat down to enjoy the Menu de Jour in a typical French restaurant beneath the Ibis hotel.

Then off to bed before up early, buffet breakfast, and off to the Mur de Bretagne for the race stage finish. Peter Radford phoned Michael (Brooks) with the news that we would be unable to leave the finish until 8pm - so we tried to meet at the pretty village of Neullial, 15km from the finish. Road closures en route split the convoy. Baillie Mac & the Jacksons party found a super bar/restaurant on the roadside, and enjoyed another Menu du Jour, beers/wine and a TV in the bar to view the finish, after Le Tour and all it's caravan had passed us by. The other group based their day on the 4th Cat mountain climb, in a bar with TV and fritures! All returned safely to Dinan for 8pm at the Bar Duclos and another splendid pre-dinner tipple, then back to 'our' restaurant. Keep it simple! Another super menu - how do they do it -good food and choice for Prix Fixé?



Sunday re-union after buffet breakfast at the Ibis, and off en convoy to the finish of the Team Time Trial at Ploubenec. We all arrived together, and got free parking at the top of the town, and walked down to the square and found our base. A bar/restaurant, pre-lunch drinks, and watched all the teams sign on and prepare for a warm up ride to the race Depart in Vannes 28km away. Sir Dave Brailsford at the wheel of the Sky Jaguar parked in front of our table -

and he looked a busy, worried man. We enjoyed the Menu du Tour @ 16Euros - including wine, with a 3-course meal as normal!

Dumkins then set forth to do a recce on the finish area and phoned in with instructions to get to a good viewpoint $\frac{1}{2}$ km from the finish on the steep hill up to the finish line. 22 teams set off at 5min intervals and Team Sky came second to BMC by .60sec, but held onto Froome's yellow jersey and put time into most other rivals.



Some Cyclists!

Slogged back uphill to retrieve our cars and back in a somewhat disjointed way to Hotel Ibis. Le Bar Duclos was closed! So we moved to another super bar some 50yds away for our final dinner, with yet again an excellent Menu du Jour and super wines.

We walked back to our hotel for the night before our departure in separate ways on the Monday morning. Home via Le Tunnel was slow again but we all arrived back at base safely.



Mr Dumkins & Baillie Mac

Baillie Mac Something





Good to see so many club members out and about on two wheels. I received the above from our German friend and member Frank Simmery (Helmut Stibal) clearly 'putting in the miles'.

Well done Frank!

More Tales from France as Mr Watty rides 860km on a Velocipede!



Members may remember that I introduced an Original Member, my 1868 Velocipede to them at the Presidents Luncheon by trying to ride into the Connaught Rooms, but failed and crashed twice! I announced that I was the only English rider in a group of 7 who were planning to follow

the route taken by the Olivier brothers in 1865 when they rode 860km from Paris to Avignon on Velocipedes - the first ever long distance bike ride and the start of cycling as we know it today. You all laughed, which spurred me on to achieve this historical ride 150 years after the original event.

So, on 8th August, with a starting gun fired by Brigitte Olivier, the 7 Velocipedists set off from Paris on a journey of discovery. We were all nervous as we were all riding original Velocipedes weighing up to 40kgs, had an average age of 60ish, and were unsure which would break first - body or bike? We quickly learnt that cobbled roads were painful, hills were a challenge and downhills were exciting! It was a real adventure in true Pickwickian style!



And along the way we met some wonderful people who were so interested in what these crazy old men were trying to do! Cycle clubs rode with us and organised picnics, Mayors greeted, fed and watered us, and crowds welcomed us at the end of each day and marvelled at our wonderful machines, which we proudly displayed despite the pains of the day, particularly in certain contact points!

We did climb hills including the Col du Pilon at 727metres, cruised on the flat at 15kmph, and descended at 25kmph hanging on tight! The weather was kind with a following wind and we only got wet twice. I wore my Pickwick Bicycle cycling jersey with pride on every day, and washed it every night! I now have my name on a plaque on the Velocipede roundabout in Avignon, and I am still alive!



There is a short film of our first few days at http://youtu.be/WK9gh2PCO_8 or search 'Paris Avignon le clip' on the Internet.

Many members kindly supported my efforts with donations to Cancer Research UK and together we have raised £7000+ - thank you so much! Should you wish to donate please visit www.justgiving.com/Stuart-Mason-Elliott5



One of the many rewarding experiences was to show so many people where cycling started, as we were riding some of the very first bicycles in the World. The bike has come a long way since 1865 but it remains probably the best invention of human powered transportation.

Vive le velo! Watty

On behalf of the Club -**Congratulations on a fantastic achievement** - Winkle Snr

Upcoming Dates.....

Hampton Court Ride - probably already happened by the time you receive this issue, but it's on October 8th - contact Pruffle/Aiden Hegarty on 07850 102365 or jaheg@sky.com

Annual Garden Party - 10th December at the New Connaught Rooms, after the AGM. Ticket applications via Sgt Buzfuz

Note - there is a possibility of a further attempt to organise a visit the Royal Hospital at Chelsea in November. Details will be circulated once known.

A Blast from the Past.....who is this man?



SIGN of the times is this picture, taken during the 1959 Milk Race. There must be many who will already have recognized two well-known faces, and those who can't should take a second look. If you're still baffled, we'll tell you the man on the right with the microphone is none other than Jimmy Savile, then known as Oscar. And the rider is a youthful Johnnie Morris, who, as a 24-year-old, was riding for the London team as an independent. This year Johnnie will manage the American team. And cast your eye to the left of the picture, where the Daily Herald seller is advertising reports by Sid Saltmarsh, now assistant editor of CYCLING. No prizes for those who remark how fast the time goes!

Turning out old Cycling magazines recently when who should I find ready to ride as always, but our own Baillie Mac Something.

(I apologise in advance for one person mentioned in this report, but this is an historical picture..... Editor)

Past Presidents Lunch.....

Past President Samkin, recently informed me of an illustrious gathering held in London at the Lamb & Flag, on the 29th July. There were no less than 14 past Presidents, our current President and his deputy attending this luncheon

The hostelry is another London pub with Dickens connections since it was one of his regular watering holes. It has been on the site since 1772, and was renowned in the 19th century for bare knuckle fighting, and earned its nickname of 'The Bucket of Blood'. Samkin advises that it was an excellent Pickwickian style lunch, and "little blood was spilt" on this occasion as they discussed the well being of the Club.



Those present included: President Samuel Pickwick Tom Martin, Sergeant Buzfuz, Augustus Snodgrass, Samkin, Jack Martin, Baillie Mac Something, Mr Staple, Dismal Jemmy, Mr Brooks, Mr Ayresleigh, Thomas Groffin, Peter Magnus, Joseph Smiggers Esq PVPMP, Blink, and Deputy President Bullman.

It did occur to your Editor that such an august gathering in one place was a high risk situation for the Club - even Royalty divide their duties to avoid such a situation. However Samkin assured me that they all survived and arrived home safely.

Passing of time.....and friends



It is with regret that we once more mourn the loss of a club member. **Alan Eric Gibbons - Dr Faustus**

Buzfuz informed me that Eric passed away in July at the grand old age of 91. He had been a member of the Club since 1974, enjoying the bonhomie of the club and encouraged his sons to join as well.

A number of Pickwick members were present at the funeral and Ben Allen said it was one of the best he has attended.



Ruminations...is it really new technology?

Our recent house move required an inordinate amount of turning out - according to Mrs Winkle and sorting through old cycling magazines, I came across an April 1975 copy of "The Centurion", newsletter of the Century Road Club of America. A particularly interesting item was about the Oval Chain Ring - the latest technology which we saw Sir Bradley Wiggins using in his triumphant 2012 exploits.

This 'new' technology actually dates back to 1892 - when the earliest recorded event of a bicycle with an elliptical ring (to give it its proper name) was clocked at 1m 56s for the measured mile behind a pacer. The 'oval' have continued to appear at regular intervals ever since, with the "Linley & Biggs" of England version in 1894, to the "Elan" French version marketed by the Cyclo Gear Co. in the 1930s in both England & the USA. Also at this time was the Belgian "Thetic" used by 6-day stars Albert Buysse & Albert Billiet using a 1" pitch version to win the 1936 Brussels Six Day.

The editor of The Centurion (Dick Swann) recalls 'many of the kids had at least a try with the oval ring. Once you got used to the different pedalling style it felt quite normal, until you changed back to the orthodox ring, when your pedalling became very jerky until you got used to it again.'

Technology moves forward, but some things really are like the wheel -what goes around comes around. Editor.

October 2015 Caption Competition



Your chance to win a prize for the best caption, entered by a Club member. Entries (max two per member) in writing or by email to the editor by end of January 2016

March 2015 Caption Competition

No entries were received for this Competition, so no winner either.



Was it Mr Brooks thoughtful pose or did you all forget to enter? The picture appears again as a reminder of the opportunity you missed to pass comment & win a prize. Maybe we'll try this one again sometime.

Some unusual facts recorded in a 1934 cycling programme

"Public Spirited" people first advocated a bicycle tax 30 years ago.

At the Stanley Show of 1883, 289 Tricycles were exhibited against 233 bicycles.

In 1886 the CTC (Cyclist Touring Club) petitioned Parliament advocating front lights on motor transport. Since 1914 they successfully fought against rear lights for bicycles.

In July 1933 F.W. Southall & S.M. Butler set a new competition record of 4h. 1m.3s. in the Oak Tandem 100 mile time trial.

In October 1933, the same F.W.Southall joined the Hercules Cycle Co. as a professional following four years as the top amateur cyclist in the country.

In September 1933, following a collision with a motor vehicle, the distinguished figure of cycling for two generations, F.T.Bidlake was tragically killed in Barnet.

In November 1933 over a thousand cyclists- and pedestrians passed a resolution in London, calling upon the Government to protect all users of the public highway.

Cycling magazine is 43 years old; the bicycle is 93; The CTC & NCU are 56; the pneumatic tyre is 46; and **The Pickwick Bicycle Club, the oldest bicycling club in the world is 64.**

(Reproduced from the 1934 Cycling All Rounder Concert at the Albert Hall)

How many of our club members remember these events? Or maybe saw them back in the halcyon days of cycling. Why don't you write to this magazine and tell us what you remember - see other memories in later pages of this issue. Editor

More ruminations from The Centurion

Another interesting item in the above was the Editorial page in the 1975 April issue.

"Bicycling, like all other forms of life in the known Universe, must adapt to changing conditions, or die. When the derailleur gear came into prominence in the 1930s, the ruling body for bike racing in Victoria Australia banned their use in races under their jurisdiction, as being 'unfair mechanical assistance'. They lost the fight.

When the New York Velodrome burned down in suspicious circumstances in the 1930s, and the Newark Velodrome was sold in similar murky circumstances, BikeSport fought back. The Mayor of Nutley built the Nutley Velodrome. When the Hitler War 'killed' Nutley, Cycle-Sport went onto the road, with track bikes being raced on small flat circuits.

Now, in the 1970s, real road-racing is enjoying a comeback. When a club folds up, you bet your life a new club is being born somewhere else. If a certain 'fast man ' leaves a club, you bet your life a faster man will be joining that club. Midget & Intermediate class riders (American categories) will tell you that Life is just another word for change.

The reason for this editorial diatribe is that we have had our fill of listening to the 'Jonah's' moan about losing the 'Good Old Days'.....which mean, variously the 20s, the 30s, the 40s, the 50s, the 60s, right up to the 70s! What a load of old cobblers! Good fellowship, the thrill of winning a race, the quiet of the countryside at an early morning Time Trial, and the good natured horseplay of a week end away with the boys.....all these things are as good as they ever were 1890 or 1975. So enjoy TODAY. (And tomorrow).

And isn't that the case with the Pickwick Bicycle Club, which has retained it's historical connections but continued to move with the times and celebrate the 'Old Days' .. Editor.

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President's Magazine Report

As my year in office rapidly approaches its conclusion I suppose this article should be a period of reflection of my past year. I am afraid to say that work, that demon of the drinking classes has interfered considerably with my plans. I did manage to attend the Golf day, albeit I didn't play and walked the course with Dumkins. The weather was kind and it was a most enjoyable day. I am sure there will be comments with regard to this somewhere in this publication.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea Tour, which my predecessor Samkin, valiantly tried without success to arrange, has now been arranged for the 18th November 2015. We are limited to 20 attendees and at the time of writing we have 19 booked can I thank you all for your support.

Those of you who attended the President's Luncheon will recall that I stated that whilst my main charitable support would be directed to the Felix Fund and Prostrate Cancer, I had a slight diversion in asking for your support for my godson Kieran Holdbrook who was competing in the World Deaf Swimming Championships, which were held in Texas during August. With the club's assistance he reached his target of £1500 and so was able to travel and compete (They do not receive any funding other than charitable donations). Kieran managed. Team GB returned from the searing heat of Texas in a creditable 7th position in the medals table accumulating 1 Individual Gold, 1 Individual Silver and 3 Individual Bronze as well as a Bronze in the Mixed Freestyle. Kieran himself achieved a credible 8th position in the 1500 Freestyle final.

I was also pleased to receive a lovely warm letter of thanks from Capt. Bob Evans for your donation of £1200 to the Felix Fund that I think Winkle Snr has reproduced elsewhere in this publication.

Finally may I thank you all for your continued support and look forward to meeting you all at the Garden Party in December.

Samuel Pickwick