

The Pickwick Magazine

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

Founded in 1870



Samuel Pickwick Out & About



On a bike
at Benson



At the May
Luncheon



Winning at Golf



At Harrogate



Well.....first edition under my belt, albeit with a few errors, particularly the Letter's page as a loose insert, so not overly satisfied with the result. The most important error was the wrong date for the December Garden Party, this should of course be Thursday, December 4th.

Anyway I hope you all enjoyed the March issue?

The extremely bad weather in the south from December through to mid-end March, caused a lot of anxiety and heartache for many people forced out of their homes, and also prevented early season cycling for those of us still inclined towards activities on a bike.

However onwards and upward; so what is there to read about in this issue?

Lots of activities actually, since our President has been very keen to get members participating together in as many events as possible during his tenure and he has certainly 'done his bit at the front of the peleton'. It all started well with an excellent evening in March at the Revolution Track Series at the Velodrome - see the report and pictures later in this issue. You can catch up on the rest of the action as you scroll through this issue, which covers the Golf Day, the unveiling of the Club plaque, the Tour de France in Harrogate and Mr Pickwick goes to France amongst others.

Of course there was also the President's Luncheon in May where I met my son Nathaniel. Not a bad turnout but many members still only attend the December Garden Party, - you don't know what you're missing. Plus there were still club members and guests not seated when the President & guests arrived in spite of various warnings - which is really rather bad mannered and disruptive for those that have bothered to be seated on time.

There is more about that within these pages.

In the meantime, whilst not riding in the club colours, Joseph Smiggers Esq and Winkle Snr battled against the ravages of Hurricane Bertha in the Prudential Ride London/ Surrey (Short) 100 mile charity bike ride on August 10th, when the worst rain/wind of the summer fell upon us. Wet but not daunted, we both completed the course, disappointed of course that the organisers took out the two steepest climbs, but we raised significant amounts for our respective Alzheimers and Help the Hospices charities.

EnjoyMr Winkle Snr

A message from your President.....

I write this message having just returned from the Club's Annual Tour de France trip. Since the last magazine we have enjoyed an evening in an East End pub and the culmination of the Revolution cycling series at the Olympic Velodrome, the President's Luncheon, the Annual Golf Day/Cycle Ride at Harpenden, the commemorative plaque unveiling on The Downs Hotel in Hackney Downs, days following the Tour de France in Harrogate, Cassel and Orchies, not forgetting the Benson Veteran Cycle Rally (which I was able to complete on a loaned 1928 Sunbeam Road Racer from Mr Brooks!). Reports on the above are contained within the magazine.

It has been good to see some new faces at these events - however out of a membership of 191 and 21 retired members, it is often the same people who come along. Their presence is always welcome and much appreciated, but it still leaves a large proportion of the Club unrepresented.

I set myself a lofty objective at the start of my year as President to encourage members of the Club to meet others with whom they were not already acquainted to spread Pickwickian fellowship wider.



I have met my goal - have you?

I urge those members amongst you who have not attended events away from the two main luncheons to try something different and book a place. I can guarantee you will not be disappointed! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our remaining events this year.

With Pickwickian Greetings

SAMUEL PICKWICK

A Secretarial Report from Sgt Buzfuz



Greetings. Is the summer over? I hope not.

I am sorry that I missed the Tour and understand that the day was enjoyed by all. I am looking forward to seeing a good many of you at the Hampton Court ride details of which have been sent to you and mentioned elsewhere in this edition.

Several e-mails have been sent out recently and copies by post to those that don't have or don't want to receive notices in that manner. If you are happy and have not received e mails please let me know your address and I will amend my records. One or two are bounced back either because they are wrong or there is a block on incoming bulk circulars. There is one I think from Ireland that is returned by "Postmaster" marked "unread". Please alter your filters to allow incoming. The sender will be sdownham@hughesellard.com

Several members will have received letters about attendance at the two luncheons. I would remind everyone that the aims of the club are fellowship and this is best achieved by regular attendance at events. The members at last years AGM agreed that attendance of at least one in three luncheons is a pre-requisite and members who fail to achieve this minimum number will be deemed to have resigned. Those who have been notified and others who may be close to that requirement take note.

The Garden party is on the 4th December and ticket application forms will be sent out at the end of September. Tickets will be £70 each and members will be restricted to 6 only. There will be no concessions. Due to cramping in the room the committee have decided to reduce the maximum number and therefore tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis. There will be a propriety date up to which it is hoped that all applications will be accepted. There will then be a closing date, after which there will be no more tickets unless we have not sold out.

Despite requests, members and guest were still late in sitting down to lunch in May. Lunch starts at 1.00 and gentlemen are expected to be seated before that time to enable a prompt start for your President and Principle speaker. It is very bad manners to keep them standing outside the entry doors waiting for large numbers of members and guests to sit down.

Wine ordering will be strictly monitored. If you want to order wine you will need to do it early. For those attending the AGM the tables will be open from 10.30. The Connaught Rooms have strict instructions to close the order points and the bars at 12.50. The club officers will be on hand to enforce this; if you have not ordered by that time you will either have to order from your seat or the bar will be open again from 13.15. Arrive early, order early.

We had several complaints about member's behaviour when told the bars and wine ordering was closed. You have been warned, such behaviour is unacceptable in our club.

Enough now from me. I look forward to seeing many of you in the near future and enjoy the rest of the summer.

August 4th

Sergeant Buzfuz
Hon Sec.

Remember - The 144th Annual Garden Party will be on:

Thursday December 4th 2014



Our Captain's Observations....

I believe our Captain was on holiday when the copy was due, but I'm sure you will know what he would be saying if his words were here.

Some other bits & pieces

Life of Brian.....you may recall the humorous discourse in the March magazine about "What have cyclists done", which was attributed to Handmade Films - well it wasn't! This turned out to be a special version of the original written by no lesser person than Club member Mr Grundy (aka Carlton Reid). He wrote it to promote a bicycle/automobile history book - "Roads were not built for Cars" of which he is the author.

The book, which was due for publication during the Summer makes several references to the Pickwick Bicycle Club. So 'Thank You Mr Grundy' for this interesting insight, and I'm sure he can advise on where to obtain a copy of the said book.

Samuel Pickwick has advised me that Chris Saltrick, along with colleague Andrew Donald completed an 'Old Cranks Ride' of mammoth proportions in May, when they rode the Land's End to John o'Groats route in just under 12 days. This may not sound so special, except that they were riding Penny Farthings of circa 1880 origin! Amazing.

Congratulations to both on this achievement and raising over £13000 for their Cancer Research UK Charity, which included a donation from the Pickwick Bicycle Club.



A Revolution Hits Stratford.....

An excellent evening was enjoyed by various club members & two lady guests at this Olympic Velodrome event. Those members who had tickets from Samuel Pickwick were joined by the editor and his wife Janet (who already had tickets!) at the Birkbeck Tavern in Leyton for a pre-event early supper. And what a place it turned out to be - found by our President after trawling a number of venues (or was that just a pub crawl?) to find a suitable establishment as befits members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club.

It was a proper pub', with proper food, and proper customers, not one of those gastro pubs.....with an eclectic mix of clientele watching the Cheltenham Gold Cup on the TV in one bar, some regulars playing darts in another, and none of the least concerned about a bunch of odd characters in Boaters and other Club regalia, tucking into a three course meal amongst them. Lots of discussions about how many sausages we tucked into and the portions of roly-jam pudding and whether we would be allowed so much if we were at home. Then it was off to the Velodrome by taxi if you were lucky enough that the driver knew where to go, otherwise it was a bit hit and miss before resorting to walking.

A packed Velodrome - very different since the Olympics, saw some eventful racing with the British girls showing great determination to win everything, especially "Trotty" (Laura Trott) as our illustrious member Jonas Mudge in the commentary box frequently called her. The men weren't quite on form, with Jason Kenny mis-judging the final of the Keirin -French star Francois Pervis winning the race: and Ed Clancy & Andy Tennant losing out in the marathon 200 lap Madison after being in contention from early on in the race.



Making a clean sweep of the Omnium events, the final event of the evening was won by 'Trotty', but Dani King & Katie Archibald unfortunately touched wheel as they crossed the line behind her and crashed to the boards. Everyone held their breath, but both riders finally got up, a little worse for wear, amid rousing cheers from the packed crowd.

Once it was all over, it was a lengthy step back to Stratford Station accompanied by a biting cold wind. An event we will remember, so many thanks to our President and can we do it again next year please? Even if it is only back to the Birkbeck Tavern!!

The President's Luncheon.....

The President's Luncheon was a much quieter affair than the December Garden Party, but with the revised table layout, it did give everyone a bit more breathing space and made the service a lot quicker. Samuel Pickwick arrived with chief guest Alan Tait, heralded in by the trumpeters of the Blues & Royals, and all of the usual rituals commenced. As always the Captain proceeded with renowned diplomacy to cajole those present to silence on command, although regrettably not always with complete success.



Instead of the Original Member, Mr Watty duly arrived on his Ordinary, and proceeded to ride the length of the room before turning with style and stopping at the President's table. Pleasantries exchanged, he was then presented with the Measured Time Trophy award for the longest distance travelled. Except that it was only 30metres! The food that followed was seemingly much better than on some occasions recently although not every table got their just desserts, by missing out on the sweetmeats.

The King of the Goblins welcomed a variety of guests amongst them, yet to be appointed new member, Mr Bottom of Aldgate (aka John MacMillan), former 6-day track rider of some repute, and current president of the Pedal Club. Other guests included: Peter Ruffhead and Matt Holmes (current London CycloCross Champion) guests of Smithie; Phil Taylor guest of The Chaplain, and Dave Clibborn guest of the Red Nosed Mr Stiggins.

New members were duly sworn in by Sgt Buzfuz, and commanded to wear the appropriate Club attire at all functions, to respond to their soubriquets henceforth and behave in the correct Pickwickian manner.

The Punch Bowl ceremony was attended as always by two visitors from the Royal Hospital Chelsea who arrived at the President's table with assistance from Mr Dumkins and to a loud rendition of 'Boys of the Old Brigade'. I must be getting old, as they seemed to be of a similar age to me!



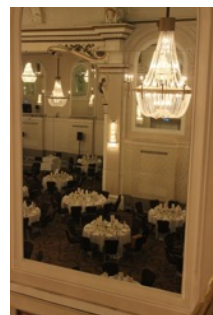


Chief guest Alan Tait -Fellow of the PGA, BBC Radio Scotland presenter and current golf Pro' at the Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, then regaled us with tales of his climb from the amateur ranks to pro-golfing exploits, but leaving us uncertain as to whether it had really been a success or not. He then raised the toast to the Club.

Samuel Pickwick responded for the Club, thanking Alan for his 'few kind words' and then reminding all Club members present that his game plan during his year as President, was to get more new faces at Club activities other than just one dinner a year, instead of the events always being supported by the usual regulars (He has done his part -Ed). With a full diary of events still to come there were plenty of opportunities for everyone to get more involved in Club activities.



Proceedings concluded with 'Auld lang Syne'



Mr Watty was then seen outside the Grand Connaught Rooms demonstrating to some eager guests how to mount a Penny Farthing.

HACKNEY CITIZEN



Tale of two-wheelers: historic Pickwick Bicycle Club honoured with new plaque. 144th Birthday of oldest Dickensian society in the world marked with commemorative plaque at former Downs Hotel. (Ella Jessel Wednesday 25 June 2014)



Members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club stand in front of the new commemorative Plaque.
Left to right, Sergeant Buzfuz, Samuel Pickwick, Alfred Jingle, Jack Martin,
Mr Dumkins, Mr Pott, Bullman, and Mr Brooks. (Photograph: Hackney Citizen)

Wearing jaunty straw boaters and impeccable striped blazers the gentlemen of the Pickwick Bicycle Club met at Downs Road last Sunday, to unveil a plaque in their honour, reminding the borough of it's rich cycling history.

The Pickwick Bicycle Club was founded in Hackney Downs in 1870 - back in the "dark ages of cycling". The Club was christened after Charles Dickens' first novel the Pickwick Papers and is both the oldest cycling club and Dickensian society still running, in the world. All the members of the Club are known by sobriquets and are named after the male characters in the Pickwick Papers such as Alfred Jingle, Sergeant Buzfuz and Mr Dumkins. The Club President is always known by the name of the main protagonist, Samuel Pickwick.

Current Club President Mr Pickwick otherwise known as Peter Legg said that the former Downs Hotel was the true home of the Club and the history of the Club is "all around Hackney". He said: "The founding members were pioneers of the bicycle."

They had also held a few excursions and wanted to associate themselves more closely by forming a club at which meetings could be held, as they put it in their quaint way, for 'social intercourse'. Extracts from the club's history described how in the nineteenth century, Hackney's streets were perilous. Riding together gave the Pickwick Club's members safety in numbers, helping them to avoid 'hooligans' who frequently attacked the cyclists. A commemorative plaque marking the home of the club was fixed to the former Downs Hotel building in 1996 but when the building was turned into flats years later, it was stored 'so carefully that no one could find it' explains Mr Pickwick.

Club Secretary Sergeant Buzfuz crossing Downs Road with the Bone-shaker Bicycle.



(Photograph: Hackney Citizen)

Before the unveiling of the new plaque, which was witnessed by recently appointed Speaker of Hackney Council, Cllr Sharon Patrick, the members gave a demonstration of their vintage bicycles. A crowd of Hackney Downs park-goers looked on as Bullman and Mr Dumkins road their vintage bicycles on Downs Road. The aptly named Bone-shaker bicycle from 1807 has wooden wheels with iron tyres and its sixty-pound frame was manoeuvred skilfully by Club Secretary Sergeant Buzfuz. Bullman rode a handsome bottle-green 1907 Dursley Pederson with a distinctive hammock-style seat.

Hackney Speaker Cllr Sharon Patrick said: " I was very pleased and honoured to be asked to unveil the new plaque for the Pickwick Bicycle Club and to learn about its history as the oldest recorded bicycling club in the world. Hackney Council has an excellent reputation for supporting cyclists and I was delighted to meet the members and see their historic bikes. Hackney is a biking borough and it's good to know that our residents enjoyed cycling in the past as much as they do today".

She added, " I would also like to thank the residents of the former Downs Hotel, where the Club was formed, for their hospitality in offering the club members, me and my consort, cordial to drink on what was a very hot day".



Left, Bullman on a 1907 Dursley Pederson and Right, Club Secretary Sergeant Buzfuz on an 1870 Bone-shaker. (Photograph: Hackney Citizen)

Editor's note:

The above article is reproduced from the report that appeared in the Hackney Citizen following the unveiling of the new Club plaque. President Samuel Pickwick gave a short address to the gathering of Club members, Cllr Sharon Patrick and the current owners of The Downs, Stephen & Peter Walsh. He also paid tribute to Past President Jack Martin for his efforts to source a replacement plaque aided and abetted by the inimitable Mr Brooks. A small brochure for the day was excellently provided by Peter Magnus recounting the early history of the Club

SAMUEL PICKWICK AMAZES FELLOW PLAYERS.....

The annual Pickwick Bicycle Club Golf Day took place on 12th June in glorious weather at Harpenden Common Golf Club, where we were once again made most welcome. A later start time of 11.00am produced a greater number of golfers than last year with a total of twenty two players, nine of whom were members. There were four cyclists and seven who attended just to dine, so that thirty three people sat down to a late lunch of soup, smoked haddock gratin, steak and mushroom pie, lemon tart and coffee, at 4.30pm. Chef Martin and his staff looked after us very well as usual.

The standard of golf was variable but there were some very creditable performances and Samuel Pickwick stunned everyone by chipping in on the par four 15th for a gross three and a huge five stableford points. Unfortunately he couldn't resist drawing attention to this magnificent effort by offering to take wine at luncheon, with anybody else who had achieved this on the day.

Hon Sec decided not to award him Jinkin's Balls (given for something remarkable) on the grounds of smugness. Baillie Mac Something was confident in retaining his firm grip on the aforesaid Balls, he was the holder for the last three years, but these were wrested away from him by The Hon Mr Crushton who submitted a truly remarkable low stableford score of eight, perhaps one of the worst scores ever achieved. In mitigation it was only his third game of golf and his Pickwickian spirit was much admired in that he took it all in good humour. His fellow Pickwickians look forward to seeing him next year.

Samuel Pickwick suggested that any winner or the stableford trophies should have their handicaps reduced by three shots to be slowly re-accrued by a shot a year if the said winner failed to win again in that period. This was put to the members, who agreed.



The cyclists had a convivial day, ably lead by Mr Justice Stareleigh. I understand local hostelries were once again involved. The Blink Bowl for cycling was awarded to Alfred Jingle for an outstanding performance in turning up and cycling the full distance. There was also a special presentation to Mr Justice Stareleigh for some reason still to be explained!



The competition for the golf trophies was close at the upper ends with the exception of the Winkle Cup (nearest the pin) which was won, most convincingly by Mr Wicks who was 1 and 3/8 Pickwickian paces from the pin. Until Mr Wicks played his marvellous shot it was looking like the result would be decided by who was nearest the green!

The Crandyke Cup (for guests) was fiercely contested with the top four players separated by only two points. The eventual winner, and son of our president, was Ed Legg (guest of Samuel Pickwick) with thirty six points.. In joint second place were Rob Basden (guest of Smithers) and Trevor Willis (guest of Baillie MacSomething) with thirty five points and in third place Sunauter Datta (guest of Mr Wicks) thirty four points.



The magnificent Namby Cup was equally fiercely contested, with again only two points separating the top three members. In third place with thirty four points was Sergeant Buzfuz. Second place was gained by last year's winner, George the Father with thirty five points but the winner, I am pleased to announce, was Smithers with thirty six points. Under the new rules next year Hon Golfing Sec will play off an eleven handicap.

I do recommend this day to you whether to golf, cycle or just dine, the company and fellowship are most agreeable. Finally a huge 'thank you' to Peter Magnus for producing the top class menus. Truly works of art.



Smithers.....Hon Golf Sec

Mr Pickwick's Harrogate Spectacular.

I was only too pleased to accept Mr Pickwick's invitation to meet in Harrogate on 5th July to witness the end of the first stage (Grand Depart) of the Tour de France. This promised to be a memorable occasion so I was determined to enjoy every moment. My early morning train ride to Harrogate from Knaresborough set the scene. Knaresborough was ready to greet the riders on the second stage the following day, including a red polka dot pub, yellow bikes everywhere, and miles of multi-coloured bunting. The train ride was true Yorkshire fun with some Australian humour, and our own very friendly police officers. A welcoming party awaited us at Harrogate station and pointed us all in the right direction.

First stop, the finish line. French television crews were setting up with cables strewn along the pavements, and many spectators had already claimed their spot for the day. Then, a leisurely coffee before setting off to meet Mr Pickwick and our hostess for the day, Judy, on the Ripon Road just over one kilometre from the finish. This was already promising to be the perfect day with balmy warmth and a gentle breeze.

I think only Mr Pickwick could have persuaded Judy to cut the height of her hedge down so that Pickwickians could see over the top and down onto the road. She even had railway sleepers placed for us to stand on Judy's family and friends were on hand all day to ensure that we each enjoyed a thoroughly civilised social occasion, and making sure that we were well-watered and fed throughout the day, starting with coffee, tea and cakes.



For us Pickwickians this was a wonderful opportunity to chat in a way that is never possible at our normal meetings. And our guests melted into the ambience. A wonderful lunch of fish, meat and salads, and plenty of time to enjoy this beautifully presented tasty selection. After lunch we had time to step outside to mingle with the good-humoured crowds. We were even approached by a professional for a photo.

Then there was a Mexican wave of cheering as a bride and her entourage was obliged to walk because the roads around the church had been closed for the day. Meanwhile, Judy had the television on in the house so that we could keep up to date with the race. Then the arrival of the police motorbikes sounding their horns, followed by the French Gendarmerie on their motorbikes, and then the steady cavalcade of the caravan of promotional vehicles.



Eventually the racers arrived and as they went past us they all looked tired and jostling for position on the steady climb into town. Then complete shock as news of Mark Cavendish's crash went through the crowd like wildfire. Quickly to the television, but pictures were not too clear at that point. Excitement over, we then settled into

enjoying Judy's delicious puddings and reflecting on a wonderful day with our illustrious President, Samuel Pickwick Esq.



There was a genuine reluctance to say goodbye, but eventually I left Judy's lovely home and headed back to the station. How different from this morning's casual stroll. The streets were full of people in party mood, and I became increasingly tempted to stay and enjoy this wonderful atmosphere but As I approached the station I could not believe my eyes as thousands of people were queuing and the walk to the end of the queue convinced me that it would be quicker to walk to Knaresborough. Later I discovered that after the Grand Depart in Leeds thousands of people caught the trains to Harrogate to see the finish. I was lucky to spot a bus heading to Knaresborough but it was full beyond capacity. Then I spotted another also full beyond capacity but the driver allowed me to squeeze in. The following day I cycled to York to spend the morning walking the town route amongst massive crowds to see the start before completing my own 100-mile ride.

Wow! It doesn't get much better than that. Thank you Mr Pickwick for yet another memorable Pickwick Bicycle Club adventure.

Joseph Smiggers P.V.P.M.P.C.

The Lanes of Oxfordshire

with the Benson Veteran Bicycle Rally



Some of the Starters

With the continuing good summer holding out, a plethora of vintage cycles and cyclists descended on Benson in Oxfordshire on Sunday 3rd July. What a weekend this was for cycling in England, with the Grand Depart of the TdF in Yorkshire the day before, and the crowds lining the roads. Not quite so many spectators for this event, but our President had come straight from the festivities in Harrogate, fit and ready to participate on a 1928 Sunbeam Road Racer ** courtesy of Mr Brooks once he appeared.

Also present (as seen right) were: Alfred Jingle, Mr Dumkins, Baillie Mac Something and Bullman. Due to a war wound the latter was unable to ride. Support teams were in place including Mrs Baillie Mac, Joe the Fat Boy and Hilary, plus your editor (on a 1954 road bike) and Janet.



Pit Stop



Mr Brooks at speed



**Samuel Pickwick
consulting with
Mr Dumkins**

The 14 mile route around the Oxfordshire lanes passing through the villages of Roke, Berrick Salome, Chalgrove and Ewelme was very enjoyable for most in warm sunshine. The hills were a bit more spread out this year but still some difficulty for certain machines both ascending and descending. Mr Dumkins found the hills a tad too much on his Ordinary, but made it to lunch with Bullman. Yours truly rode around the course to observe the action.

Several stops allowed a degree of imbibing and at The Lamb lunch stop, a musical accompaniment was supplied. After a suitable rest & some food, it was back to Benson for the prize giving, recovery drinks and a gentle warm down on the rollers..

**Mr Brooks & Baillie Mac
Something at rest**



A good day was had by all and the Club members gave a good account of themselves.....The (Cycling) Editor

**** See the Committee notice within the magazine about acquiring a suitable bicycle for use in this event, and others in the future.**

Member's Letters and Comments

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

Write to:
Roger Warwick
12 Kearton Close
Kenley
Surrey CR8 5EN

email: pickwick2610@hotmail.com

My Dear Mr Winkle Snr,

Wow, what an achievement by our past President, Baillie Mac Something! For many years he has been running a charity bike ride in the name of his Wembley Road Club and I understand that this year he raised >£3000 for a playground for children with disabilities. And that is the sort of figure that has regularly benefitted hospices, air ambulances etc through his efforts.

John Morris (his real name of course) has also worked hard for the PBC through his annual excursions across the channel, otherwise known as 'Mr Pickwick goes to France'. His meticulous planning with emphasis on timing, venue, food and event attraction is exceptional; this year's group numbers >17 persons heading for a stage of the Tour de France. The same attention given to location he applied to our TdF celebrations on its previous visit to the UK, and again for the Olympic Road Race & Time Trial.

All this, and Baillie Mac Something still finds time in his retirement for regular bike rides in the Chilterns and local games of golf. He even won the coveted "Jinkins Balls' at our Golf Day. He never misses a club event.

Joe The Fat Boy

Vacant Space for letters

from **YOU!**

Mr Pickwick Goes to France.....

by Baillie-Mac Something

A party of 17 assembled at Folkestone Tunnel for the 7.50am Shuttle. Due to the delays from Monday's mechanical problems in the Tunnel, only two cars caught the 1st Shuttle, but after texts and calls from our base at Mount Cassel in a bar terrace overlooking the cobbled Grand Place, everybody was seated enjoying sausage baguettes, frites, mayonnaise, beer and even the odd Pernod, whilst the fantastic pre-race caravan convoy entertained us.



The clatter of seven helicopters drew us onto the cobbles to watch the peloton chasing the two leaders off to Lille. We watched the race on TV in the bar and then went back to Calais to the Holiday Inn - our base for two nights. A private room at the Sole Menieure laid out a 30Euro feast. After good food, service & wine, then back to the Holiday Inn for football on the TV and last drinks.

We had an early start on Wednesday to Orchies for a day in rain over the cobbles watching the race. Our base was the Pave Gourmand for breakfast and then a 4-course lunch, then into the square to a bar with TV, sheltering from the rain until the race roared by -split by over twenty minutes. We had already seen Chris Froome abandon due to two bone crushing crashes.



Race leader Vincenzo Nibalali finished 3rd on the stage, and Ritchie Porte held on to his 2nd place overall. We watched the race on TV again, and then it was onto Ypres for the "100 years on" ceremony at the Menin Gate.

The route to Ypres across the border was a fight with only half the party making it. At least 2000 people huddled in the Menin Gate at 8pm for a very moving ceremony. Every day at 8pm, the Last Post is sounded, along with the laying of wreaths, and 15minutes for thoughts and memories. After the ceremony we drove back to Calais for moules, frites, plates of fish, last drinks, World Cup on TV and bed.



Thursday morning we assembled for breakfast after which, Samuel Pickwick departed for Paris and The Justice Stareleigh to the Vosges. The rest of us spent the morning shopping, or in the Bar du Vin in the Square which is run by an old motor-pacer from the 60's. Having filled our car boots with super priced French wine at the Supermarket, it was then back for a final menu lunch at Le Chanel in the old Port.

A super 5 course meal for 42 Euros was enjoyed by all. Monique & Albert are still in residence after 25 years offering classic French cuisine and service. Three hours later, those still left, caught the first available Shuttle, and fought the M25 to home. The King of the Goblins dropped Baillie Mac Something off and still made Chester le Street by 1130pm. Mr Brooks along with John & Ben Mist cut across country via Guildford to Winchester and Southampton.

Members in attendance:

The President/ plus 4 past Presidents - Mr. Brooks, Jack Martin, Baillie Mac Something, and The Justice Stareleigh. Plus The King of the Goblins, Whelps, Jackson, Bullman, & The Shepherd plus wives & partners. (not all The Shepherd's of course!)

Another good trip, good food & wine, and good racing, shame about the weather on the Wednesday. Next year - who knows where Mr Pickwick will go? The Grand depart is in Holland, so we await news of the route.

Baillie Mac Something



This Is An Official Notice From Your Committee

To Buy(cycle) or not.....

At a recent club management meeting a proposal by our President was approved by the Committee, to acquire perhaps even several vintage bicycles. An expenditure budget was also agreed. The idea behind this project is to obtain appropriate machines that the President, Club Officers or members, could use to participate in events such as the Benson Veteran Cycle ride, and our own Hampton Court ride.

The search is therefore on for one or two machines, ideally pre-1929 manufacture, probably having pneumatic tyres, brakes and possibly some form of gearing. It is acknowledged that machines of this era may be quite expensive, so the specification isn't carved in stone.

Sgt Buzfuz has a contact at Transport Collector Auctions who have advised that they may be able to help, with an early sighting of the catalogue for the upcoming auction on October 11th, thus enabling the club to source said machines at that event. Mr Dumkins can accommodate storage and maintenance of the machine(s) if space is a problem.

If any club member has knowledge of suitable machine(s), or owns a velocipede of the relevant era that they are prepared to offer or donate to the club, then please contact our President or the Hon Secretary.

Thank you on behalf of the Committee

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 this information by return.

Boffer – an expelled stockbroker:

" 'I see there's a notice up this morning about Boffer,' observed Mr. Simmery. 'Poor devil, he's expelled the house!' 'I'll bet you ten guineas to five, he cuts his throat,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Done,' replied Mr. Simmery. 'Stop! I bar,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire, thoughtfully. 'Perhaps he may hang himself.' 'Very good,' rejoined Mr. Simmery, pulling out the gold pencil-case again. 'I've no objection to take you that way. Say, makes away with himself.' 'Kills himself, in fact,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Just so,' replied Mr. Simmery, putting it down. "'Flasher-- ten guineas to five, Boffer kills himself.'" Within what time shall we say?' 'A fortnight?' suggested Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Con-found it, no,' rejoined Mr. Simmery, stopping for an instant to smash a fly with the ruler. 'Say a week.' 'Split the difference,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Make it ten days.' 'Well; ten days,' rejoined Mr. Simmery. So it was entered down on the little books that Boffer was to kill himself within ten days, or Wilkins Flasher, Esquire, was to hand over to Frank Simmery, Esquire, the sum of ten guineas; and that if Boffer did kill himself within that time, Frank Simmery, Esquire, would pay to Wilkins Flasher, Esquire, five guineas, instead."

A E Bennett 1912 to 1915

J Mackenzie 1923 to 1934 Committee (1927)

N G Tyson 1937 to 1939

C R Jordan 1946 to 1980 President (1964)

Charles O Messenger 1981 to present

Brown of Muggleton - a shoemaker:

'There's a vooden leg in number six; there's a pair of Hessians in thirteen; there's two pair of halves in the commercial; there's these here painted tops in the snuggerly inside the bar; and five more tops in the coffee-room.' 'Nothing more?' said the little man. 'Stop a bit,' replied Sam, suddenly recollecting himself. 'Yes; there's a pair of Vellingtons a good deal worn, and a pair o' lady's shoes, in number five.' 'What sort of shoes?' hastily inquired Wardle, who, together with Mr. Pickwick, had been lost in bewilderment at the singular catalogue of visitors. 'Country make,' replied Sam. 'Any maker's name?' 'Brown.' 'Where of?' 'Muggleton. 'It is them,' exclaimed Wardle. 'By heavens, we've found them.

'Hush!' said Sam. 'The Vellingtons has gone to Doctors' Commons.'

Joseph Bane 1942 to 1944 (in the cycling game for over 50 years)

Paul T Traxton 1990 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,



Charles Jarrott 1914 to 1921

Josiah Bayley 1924 to 1936

F W Smith CBE 1938 to 1962

L C Hart 1962 to 1986

Mike F Traxton 1987 to 1999

Brian D Vandervilt 2001 to present

Thomas Burton - convert to temperance

'Thomas Burton is purveyor of cat's meat to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and several members of the Common Council (the announcement of this gentleman's name was received with breathless interest). Has a wooden leg; finds a wooden leg expensive, going over the stones; used to wear second-hand wooden legs, and drink a glass of hot gin-and-water regularly every night--sometimes two (deep sighs). Found the second-hand wooden legs split and rot very quickly; is firmly persuaded that their constitution was undermined by the gin-and-water (prolonged cheering). Buys new wooden legs now, and drinks nothing but water and weak tea. The new legs last twice as long as the others used to do, and he attributes this solely to his temperate habits (triumphant cheers).'

T E B Swallow 1905 to 1936

Vic Mole 1939 to 1942

W Woodhead 1944 to 1945

Maurice Farnbank 1948 to 1967

B A Aldis 1967 to 1971

L Webster 1974 to 1977

Dennis J Hensby 1981 to 2005 Raleigh Home Sales Director

Michael Bennett 2008 to 2012

Jim Straw 2013 to present

Can you help?.....Mr Brooks is searching for an Ale House!

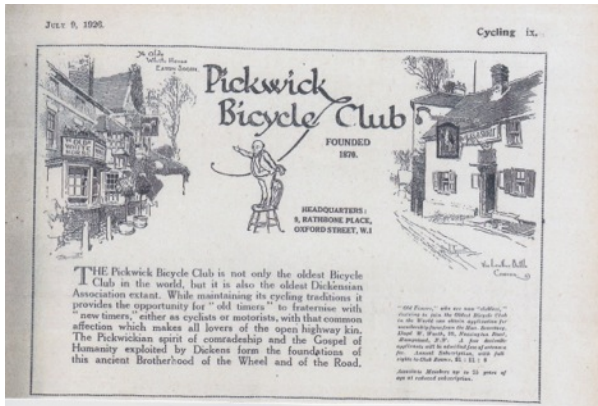
Our inimitable historian is a constant source of old meuses about the Club, and I will try to include something from him in each issue, since they are surely of interest to many members particularly those newly appointed who may not be aware of the depth of history behind our merry band. Here he relays our link with Cycling magazine and Frank Patterson, and asks for help in tracing a historical connection.

My Dear Mr Winkle,

For many years there was a very friendly relationship between the magazine Cycling and the club. I suspect that the last link was Don Lyford who was not only an excellent journalist but I believe was also involved on the advertising side of the magazine. It was through that connection that he got to know George Gibbs who became a President of the club and was secretary for many years. In the minutes of the General Meeting which took place on the 5th July 1926 at the then Clubroom in 9 Rathbone Place, Oxford Street there was a paragraph headed "Advert in Cycling".

It was unanimously resolved that a hearty vote of thanks should be given to R D F Paul Esq. (Nathaniel Winkle) for his kindness in obtaining from the proprietors of Cycling, a very fine half page advertisement for the club, in the current number of Cycling, free of cost to the club. The then Hon. Secretary, Small Check (Lloyd Worth) was instructed to convey the general meetings thanks to Nathaniel Winkle that his kindness was appreciated by all present.

A copy of the advert is attached. (see opposite) The drawings of the two pubs are by Frank Patterson. The one on the left is at Eton Socon near St Neots in Cambridgeshire but I do not know whether it still exists. I wonder if any member knows? The Leather Bottle at Cobham near Rochester is, I understand still very much in business. I have also been told that there are pictures relating to the Pickwick Bicycle on display in the pub. Here again I wonder if any member lives near Cobham and can check up for us?



The same meeting also passed another interesting resolution as follows: Shortage of Soubriquets. The Secretary stated that the time had come when it was difficult to find soubriquets for New Members from the list of male names, from the Pickwick Papers. It was proposed by Samuel Pickwick Esq. (George Palmer) seconded by Jack Keetch (F. Bamberger) that any member may take a female name, if he so desires it, from the Pickwick Papers. This was carried unanimously. No doubt the regulation was changed some years later.

Yours sincerely

Mr Brooks

Don't forget the Club Events still to come.....

October 2nd - Hampton Court Bike Ride (contact Pruffle)

November 7th - Visit to Chelsea Hospital (contact Samuel Pickwick)

December 4th - 144th Annual Garden Party (contact Sgt Buzfuz)

Paper Helmets & Woodpeckers make it safer for Cyclists....really?

For one man, having a potentially serious bike accident got him thinking about a new style helmet design. "I was riding downhill when this guy opened his car door," says Anirudha Surabhi. "I hit the door, did a couple of somersaults and fell straight on my head. My helmet was cracked and completely unusable." Luckily he walked away with minimal damage apart from mild concussion. As a design student he investigated alternative options to the standard polystyrene construction.

The UK Transport Research Laboratory researchers say that 'when falling off your bike, your head suffers a dramatic speed change in a fraction of a second. When your head hits the ground your skull stops, decelerating rapidly, but your brain being of soft tissue tends to keep going. Try dropping a blancmange on a plate - the top compresses downwards. The same happens with your brain.

Cycle helmets are really only a mini-crumple zone - helping to absorb some of the energy to give your skull/brain more time to slow down - and usually makes the difference between brain damage and concussion, like Anirudha. Since they are only made of polystyrene, Anirudha looked into the natural world for inspiration and found it in the woodpecker! These birds peck at ten times per second and sustain a similar amount of force of us crashing at 50mph. However this is the only bird where the skull and beak are disjointed, with soft cartilage in the middle to absorb the impact. (And stops it getting a headache!)

So Anirudha, used paper to make a double layer honeycomb that could then be constructed into a helmet. "You end up with multiple tiny airbags throughout," he says. "Then when you crash, these pockets go pop, pop, pop, all the way through, without the helmet cracking, and this is what absorbs the energy."

The design has now been tested to EU Standards (Oh dear -editor) with impressive results. A 15mph crash with a standard helmet subjects your head to >220G (G-force), whereas Anirudha's design absorbs much more impact reducing this to >70G. ISO safety standards recognise that to avoid serious brain damage a person should not be exposed to an impact above >300G. Therefore whilst your standard helmet offers good protection, the paper helmet gives your head more time to slow down.

Pretty impressive eh? No, multiple paper bags will not provide the same effect.



What happens to our Charity Collections?

Each year at our luncheons, members 'fines' are sent to different charities of the President's choice. From this year's May luncheon, **We Are Macmillan Cancer Support** were the main recipient, and here is Samuel Pickwick handing over the cheque. Below is an appreciative letter from their support manager in Macclesfield.



Mr P Legg
Moss Farm Barn
Moss Lane
Siddington
Cheshire
SK11 9DA

East Cheshire 
NHS Trust

Janet Parkinson
Macmillan Support and Information Manager
Macmillan Cancer Resource Centre
Macclesfield District General Hospital
Victoria Road
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK10 3BL

Tel: 01625 863129

Email: Janet.parkinson3@nhs.net
www.eastcheshire.nhs.uk

15.8.14

Dear Mr Pickwick,

Please accept this letter as a thank you for the most generous donation of £1500, which we have recently received from the Pickwick Bicycle Club. It was absolutely fantastic to hear about the history of the Club and some of the things the club get up to! Eccentric, amusing and so wonderfully British! We all really like the very smart attire too – especially the hat!

This very kind donation from the Pickwick Bicycle Club will be used to help the work of everyone supporting cancer patients on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support, both in the Macmillan Centre and in the wider local community around Macclesfield.

The charity itself I am sure will acknowledge this generous donation in due course, once the cheque has been collected by them from our centre.

On behalf of everyone working with Macmillan at East Cheshire and especially to all those who know Janet, please do pass on our most grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this donation – by paying fines or otherwise!

The Club's kindness in thinking of Macmillan is greatly appreciated.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Janet Parkinson
Macmillan Support and Information Manager

Safe, effective and efficient specialist acute healthcare

Chairman: Lynn McGill
Chief Executive: John Wilbraham



September 2014 Caption Competition



How many Pickwickians does it take to amuse people at the Benson Veteran Cycle Rally?

Entries to the editor by end December

Photograph courtesy: Joe the Fat Boy

March 2014 Caption Competition Winner



Once again hardly any entries, maybe everyone thought they would be thrown out of the Club, but the winner was **Nathanial Winkle** with -

“Take that member's name”

Well done 'my son' -a small prize will be sent to your residence in due course.

FOR SALE

Past President Jonas Mudge has a Club Blazer for sale. Apparently having lost some weight, the said blazer - size 44" Long - is now too big. Anybody acquiring this garment can claim it to have been worn by not just a Club President but also an Olympic Gold Medallist.

The original cost was £200, however an offer of circa £120 will complete the purchase of this hardly worn item of Club attire.

Contact Jonas Mudge on: porters589@btopenworld.com

Where Did You Get that Hat?

Club member Gino Goddard has passed on the following valuable sources for Straw Boaters at the reasonable price of circa £29. He warns that parking isn't easy plus it's advisable to check availability of size etc is in stock.

Harrow School Outfitters

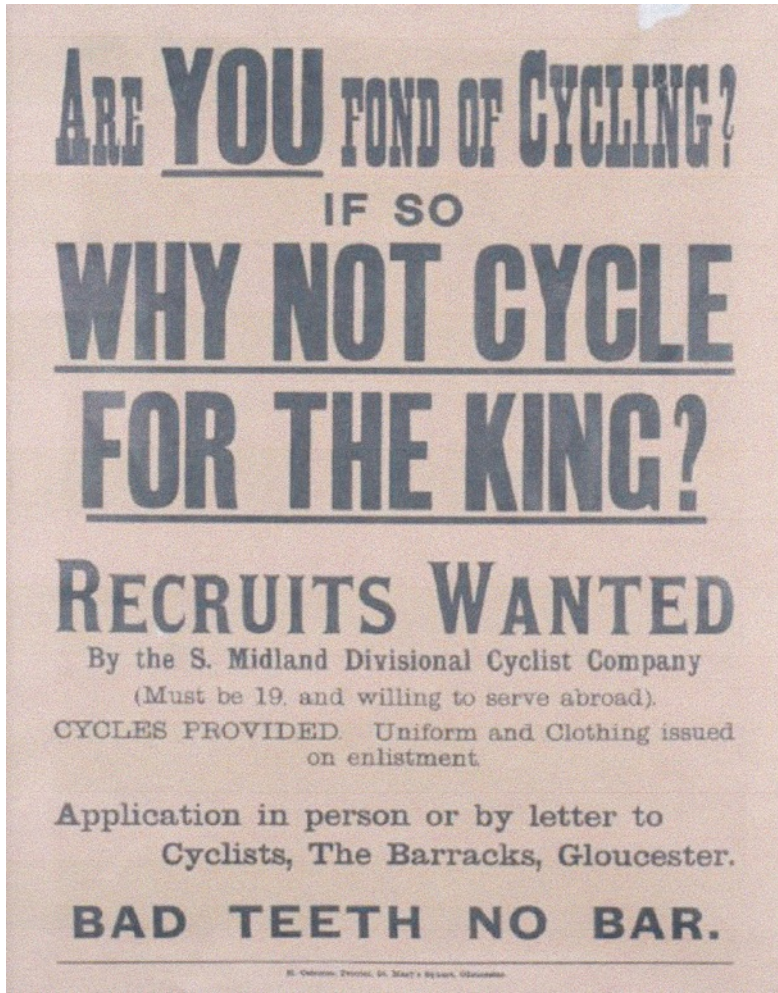
32 High Street Harrow on the Hill, Middx HA1 1LH

Tel: 0208 422 1045

Billings & Edmonds

47 High Street Harrow on the Hill, Middx HA1 3JA

Tel: 0208 422 1701



I suppose the answer to the question is 'Yes, I am fond of cycling'.

Do I want to cycle for the King -probably. But what in this world is the relevance of the bad teeth? Does that mean I will only be given gels and electrolyte recovery drinks and no protein bars that require chewing?

A surprising recruitment poster from World War 1