



# HSM Newsletter

Founded 1947

Issue April

## Welcome

OK... So it's better late than never! I would like to apologise to everyone for this issue being so far behind. (I managed to mislay my notes from Brian's talk!)

The May issue will be on its way to you in the next couple of days, too, so keep a look out!

## MONTH meeting – 16 Mar 2009

### Brian Knowles "This is my life"

#### **2455166 Knowles BL**

Brian was born in 1931 in Harrogate. His interest in magic started some 8 years later in 1939 when he saw his first magic show featuring Les Levant.

In 1944, due to the war and people not being able to get away on holiday, Harrogate held 'Holidays at home' on the Stray where there were many forms of entertainment, including a magician called Professor Hollas.

Moving forward and in 1946 Brian and his brother produced a magic act called... The Knowles Brothers.

In 1949 Brian joined the RAF medic core and was originally based at Morton-in-Marsh before being deployed to RAF Wunstorf (Germany) and then Bad Harzburg where he put on a show in the Officers Mess performing the Chinese Sticks, Wonder Box, and Bending Glass.

In 1951, after serving Queen and Country, Brian started working at The Retreat Mental Hospital, where, when he wasn't chasing people down the corridor or moving patients into padded cells, he would show magic through the cell windows! He then put on a Cabaret show, '**Brian & Betty Le Slie**'.

1952 saw Brian change his career as he started work for Charles Walkers in the front shop. After a short stay, he then moved on to Perrys on Brompton Road.

### Next Month's Theme...

Mike Coyne "This is my life" & Homemade Magic

**Neil Bradley-Smith**  
Editor

In 1954 he then went to Smith's The Rink in Harrogate and was manager for 12 years. During this time he entered the 1958 IBM Competition at Southport, and then the 1961 IBM at Hastings and did very well in both!

Brian's next venture was a 22-week contract at Pontins in Sussex in 1968. After his 22 weeks were up, he also worked for Yorkshire TV.

Brian then went back to Smith's in 1969 and managed for a further 12 years before going Pro in 1980, where he had a regular spot at the Majestic for 3 years before moving on to the Old Swan for a further year.

In 2000 Brian's son Paul set up Pro Magic, which is still going as strong as ever.

And finally 2007 – Brian was here to celebrate 60 years of the HSM and I believe at the same time was given Honorary Life Membership.

As I'm sure everyone who was at the meeting for Brian's talk will agree, this short article can do no justice to a man who has done so much, including founding our fantastic Society.

Thank you Brian for your fantastic talk.

## Where to find magic

Following on from Jim's "*Where to find Magic*" section on the website.

**Event:** Shawn Farquhar ('The Bread and Butter Tour')

**Venue:** Darlington Magic Circle

**Date:** Friday 15 May

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Price:** £5 charge to non-members

**President Bob McBratney MMC**

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