



Newsletter

HARROGATE SOCIETY OF MAGICIANS
NUMBER 14 March 2011

AGM Monday 21st March 2011

Sixty third meeting, at the Conservative Club, Harrogate at 8.00p.m.



AGENDA

President's Report : Jim Ward
Handover of Presidency to Clive Cullum
Vote of thanks

Treasurer's Report : David Hird

Election of Officers :

George R Fowler	Secretary
David Hird	Treasurer
Brian Knowles	Committee
Vacant	"

Nomination of President-Elect

Any Other Business

Theme for the evening "Betchas or Puzzles" with a magic flavour



At our last meeting on 21st February, Colin Wheirs a former member of the Society, displayed several collections of Cups & Balls, notably GAZZO's, which he was presenting to the Magic Circle of which he is now a member.

Entertaining dialogue ensued amongst members and it was a delight to be so entertained with such high profile magic.

Proof copy of the Society's History was passed around for approval and orders taken from members. It was decided that soft backs be sold to members for £10 plus postage and hard backs for £20 plus postage, the Society subsidising the balance. Our outgoing President Jim Ward was again complimented on his production and commitment to the task.

Adrian Salamon was complimented on winning the York Society Mentalism competition.

Little time was left for the theme of the evening on Mentalism but the members persisted and the meeting closed late.

George R. Fowler

The meeting was called to order by President James Ward with a nostalgic tear in his eye as this was to be his last meeting as president. He thanked everyone for the last year and commented how the club was a success because of everyone's enthusiasm. Clive will take over as President next month.

Jim also showed a sample copy of the History of the HSoM book which he had been working on. The book was mightily impressive and an order form was circulated and quickly filled with eager members' orders. Brian proposed that the society would subsidise the price of the book to members, which was seconded by David Hird and appreciated by everyone in the room.

We discussed the Blackpool convention and members who had visited told us of great lectures and interesting performances. There was also the story of the show compere who was slow hand-clapped due to his use of inappropriate material. But all in all a good convention. Certain members (kept anonymous in case their partners read this posting!) admitted to reckless spending sprees in the dealers hall! Everyone empathised with their plight.

Then onto some magic; and Colin Whiers gave us a highly enlightening talk on the cups and balls. Colin had studied the subject in-depth and had written a thesis which he had successfully submitted as his application for Magic Circle membership. He showed a variety of old and new cups and balls apparatus, ably assisted by Burko (Keith Meddings). We also discussed the difference between a normal cup and chop cup.

One interesting set was as used by GAZZO, which would find its way into the London Magic Circle museum. Colin also handed out a pamphlet by GAZZO which was filled with tips and advice. Members were particularly beguiled by an exquisite cups and balls set manufactured by Brett Sherwood, (see: <http://www.sherwoodmagic.com/>) which took everyone's breath away. Thanks, Colin for such a great talk.)

The theme of the evening was MENTALISM. Everyone proceeded to read minds and impress people (sorry if I have missed anyone!):

Adrian had a 10p coin signed and then found it inexplicably in a bag full of 10p coins.

Stevie showed some great methods of doing book tests.

Clive demonstrated a lovely slate onto which he could write a word chosen by an audience member at random from one of two books. This effect is called "Book of the Mind" by well-known mentalist Peter Warlock (Elizabeth's father).

Apparently there were only 20 copies produced due to the difficulty in manufacture (the scratching on the surface of the slate.). Clive's second effect used poems and the opportunity to use two force words which was conceived by Stanley Collins and is called "Transcendental Book Mystery". Clive tells me that in a way it is the forerunner of the specially printed books now possible with modern techniques.

Bob entertained everyone by trying to divine an ESP card chosen by an audience member using a surgeon's (miner's?) head lamp.

John showed an effect in which he predicted a card chosen by an audience member accurately... and the card turned out to be the only blue-backed card!

Joe performed his signature effect by holding a full pack above his head and then correctly guessing which card was chosen by a volunteer.

(For an interesting Magic Cafe discussion on approaches to mentalism please see:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=17126&forum=83&15>)

Harrogate Society of Magicians Income and Expenditure for 12 months ending 31st March 2011

Cash at Bank	1546	74	Leeds Magicians Exp	18	85
Cash in Hand	26	36	Frazer Expenses (Coffee)	6	00
Subscriptions	250	00	Website	35	88
Donation (B.Knowles)	20	00	Magic Book (Jim)	74	88
Frazer Theatre Show	140	00	Dr. B's Dinner	460	00
Playing Cards	7	96	Harrogate Conservative Club	10	00
Whixley Show	100	00	Cash at Bank 1.	402	32
Dr. B's Dinner	460	00	Cash at Bank 2	1500	30
			Cash in hand	42	83
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MEMBERS:

G. FOWLER
J. HUNT
D. CURSTON
B. McBRATNEY
M. COYNE

R. STOTT
C. CULLUM
J. WARD
D.M.HIRD
S. BROADBANK

M. HILL
S. BELLERBY
D. HOLLIS
A. SALAMON
N. BRADLEY SMITH
J. WALSH