

# HSM Newsletter

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## Issue 6 - June 2009

President - James Ward MMC  
Online Newsletter - <http://hsmnews.webeden.co.uk/>

### Presidential

Guess who? Neil has prevailed upon me to address you once a month. My predecessor – I forget his name – kept himself to himself, but you know me, I never shut up, and couldn't resist the chance to speak to a captive audience. So here goes.

Did anyone listen to the first instalment of 'Smoke and Mirrors', a ten-part radio series on the history and psychology of magic? (For details, hurry along to 'Where to Find Magic' in the Members Area of the website, and shame on you for not having done so already.) It's been running for several weeks now. Fortunately, you can catch up with previous episodes through so-called 'podcasts'. (No, I don't know what they are, either. You'll need to ask a young person.)

The first episode shattered one of magic's long-held historical 'truths'. Generations of prestidigitators have been brought up to believe that a wall painting in a Beni Hasan tomb, Egypt (circa 2500 BC) shows an early example of cup-and-ball conjuring. (See below.)

Not so, according to Magic Circle librarian, Peter Lane, who disclosed that current research suggests the two men are simply baking bread!

Magic is based on deception, so it seems apt that we have all laboured under one for so long. But that makes it an illusion, of sorts, so perhaps it really is an example of early magic, after all.

The earliest example of live magic I ever saw was at Hamley's Toy Shop, London in the 1960s. A pack of cards changed from all different to all the same, then back to all different again. That was clearly real magic, so I bought a deck and ran home to show both my friends. Imagine my despair on discovering it wasn't magic at all, but a so-called Svengali deck. That was the day I decided to become a lawyer – so I could sue the pants off the next rogue who tried to fob me off with similar rubbish.

It also put me off magic for the next 30 years – but that's another story altogether and will be told in November, when it's my turn to reveal all.

I bet you can't wait... Well, you'll have to.

Till next time!

J



### News

**Annual Show** - At the last meeting Jim mentioned that he had spoken to the Pateley Playhouse to see about having our next show there. We are still waiting for information, and I'm sure Jim will keep us up to date on what's happening.

**Competition Night** - We also had a brief discussion about the competitions and reviving them but in a slightly different format. This will also be discussed later in the year.

### Where to Find Magic

#### **Huddersfield 60th Anniversary Show**

Lawrence Batley Theatre

Saturday, 27 June 2009

For further information and tickets contact the Box Office 01484 430528

(Artists include: John Archer, Amethyst, High Jinx, Brian Sefton - and many others)

#### **Wolverhampton Kidology UK 2009.**

Ali Cardabra will give a talk on Walk Around Magic for Children, Derek Lever on Children's Magic Props through the Ages, Michael Diamond on Halloween Magic and Michael Fitch on Kids' Cabaret (Michael won the International Children's Entertainer award at this year's Blackpool Convention). 15 magic dealers will exhibit their latest products and the day's £35.00 registration includes a buffet lunch. Kidology UK will once again be held at the Civic and Wulfrun Halls in Wolverhampton. Tuesday, 8 September 2009.

For more info visit: [www.practical-magic.com](http://www.practical-magic.com)

### Next Meeting – 15 June 2009

Next month will be a slightly earlier meeting. Please be there for just before 19:30 as we have Paul Freeman and Roy Field coming to Lecture. This means that we will not be conducting the scheduled "This is your life". We will however if time permits be continuing with the theme which is *Routining an Act*.

### **This Is Your Life : David Hird**

David was born in 1931. He left school at 14 and began a career in the Grocery Trade as a flour boy! After working there for some time he became a Driver, delivering customers orders. When he turned 18 he did his 2 years national service before going back into the Grocery Trade.

David married his wife in 1957, and shortly after bought a shop in Wakefield (very brave!)

David's first approach to magic was whilst he was working at his new shop. His first show was at Menston Mental Hospital. (There's a theme emerging here! First Brian and now David!) We were then told us about his dove pan trick, where he produced a pile of sweets, which provoked a frenzied attack on his dove pan as the patients shot forward to get the sweets!

David sold his shop when supermarkets started to take off and greengrocers started to struggle, and began work for fine foods as their assistant manager. He then moved to Doncaster and was the manager for Laws, another grocery store.

In 1970 he was transferred to the Harrogate branch of Laws where he was manager for 6 years. He was then offered another branch in Tyneside, but by this time he didn't want to move around, so left the company.

David then applied to be a manager at Morrison's where he was told "You're too old to be a manager!" although he was offered a job as a cashier (working in the cash office). David stayed with Morrison's for the next 20 years, during which time he was asked to help set up new stores with his vast experience of retail.

In 1983 whilst in Harrogate Library David came across an article for the HSM. After a phone call to Brian Knowles he was asked to audition for membership, which he passed! Two years after joining he was made Treasurer, a position he held for over 20 years. The subscriptions back then were £4!

In 2007 David and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary and have 8 grandchildren! He also met the Queen in 2007 after receiving an invitation to the garden party.

After retiring, David became a volunteer in the kiosk at Harlow Carr Gardens, where he stayed for another 10 years until Betty's took over.

Thank you very much for your talk, David.

### **Meeting Theme : Magic With Fruit**

**Jim Ward** - Jim opened the magic with a great routine. He started by asking Marcus to think of a fruit he liked (in this case an orange.) Jim then showed a stack of business cards with every fruit you could think of. After shuffling them, he dealt them onto the table and proceeded to get rid of some... and some more... and some more until he had one left, and of course it was the thought of fruit. A great routine, and of course being Jim, they were all memorised!!

**Bob McBratney** - Second up was Bob, with his famous bill in lemon, which always goes down very well.

**Mike Coyne** – Mike's effect didn't start with fruit. He showed us a great knotted silk routine. His surprise... A huge banana 'gun' (what else do we expect from Mike!!) His second effect was with a 'Jack' Box, with 4 sides, no top and a bottom with a hole in it. He proceeded to produce several silks, and you guessed it... Bananas!!

**Brian Knowles** – Brian's changing fruits was another good effect, especially the fruit he was using, which he spent hours turning from wood.

**Marcus Hill** - Marcus's effect didn't involve any fruit, but a very good wand levitation! Nice effect!

**James Ore** - James's effect didn't involve fruit either, but he showed us a very good silk penetration, with a small silk being pushed through a larger silk. Another nice effect from James.

**Clive Cullum** - Clive's effect was somewhat of a surprise! It all began before the meeting even started with him carrying in a HUGE box (containing what we thought was a rabbit.) His effect turned out to be the vanish of the smallest bird cage in the world! A good effect, with a comic twist!