

THE SOCIETY

Harrogate Society of Magicians Newsletter

Issue 3: April 2010

Editorial

Well... This month's newsletter is considerably shorter due to the fact that there was no magic performed by us due to having Richard Special lecture for us. Jim had kindly written a short piece on the lecture which you will find below. I have also attached a copy of the AGM notes for you to peruse!

I must also apologise for the lateness of the newsletter, it has been a rather hectic month! I even had to remind Jim that I needed a presidential from him pronto, as he has been very busy this month too!

There isn't much else for me to say this month as I think Jim has probably said it all below, hope everyone is well and see you on Monday.

N

Presidential

A short Presidential this month (aren't you the lucky ones?) as I'm off to Turkey any minute, and haven't yet packed my swimming trunks, sun cream and 47 decks of Bicycle cards.

Leeds Magical Association will be visiting us while I'm away. (I hope that's nothing to do with the lecture I gave them back in February.) I'm sure you'll make them very welcome, and pinch anything useful for your own acts later in the year.

In mine and George's absence, Clive will assume supreme control. You've all got used to saying what you like, when you like and having me apologise should you interrupt me in full flow, but be warned: Clive will brook no nonsense and has my full support should he find it necessary to send any of you out to the bar for misbehaviour.

I'm sure it will be a great night's entertainment, and we can always learn from others. If you want to perform, it's important to take every opportunity you can to learn, listen or step up to the mike. While I'm away, I've been booked to do some shows and table-hopping magic over several nights at a restaurant in Turkey. Doesn't that sound grand? The fact that the restaurant belongs to my brother is just coincidence. They'd have booked me anyway – especially as I'm free. And if I mess up, hopefully no one will know who I am – especially as I'll be giving them one of your names.

Right, I'm off now. See you all at the next meeting, by which time I'll have lectured at clubs in Nottingham and Potter's Bar, and probably been thrown out of both.

Take care, and don't forget to clap loudly. We'll be visiting Leeds later in the year, so it won't pay to stamp your feet and throw a large tomato.

J

Meeting Theme

This month there was no magic performed by members as we had a lecture from Richard Special. The write up for which you will find below.

News

- **Twitter**

I have created a twitter page to give people information of things that are happening in the world of the Harrogate Society of Magicians. There are a few followers, although some that I may remove as they have no relevance! Even Jay Sankey is following us! What do you think? A good idea or not?

Editor – Neil Bradley-Smith
HSM News Online – hsmnews.webeden.co.uk



- **Frazer Theatre**

Though time was short, we had a brief chat about the forthcoming Frazer Theatre show, which Mike and Bob are helping to organise. It was agreed that, once we've finalised our team, it would be a great help if we could perform a dress rehearsal at Leeds Magical Association. We still need to ascertain exactly who will perform and comper the show, but hopefully – for Mike's piece of mind – we can confirm this as soon as possible. Bob, in the meantime, is going to look into the technical set-up at the Frazer.

Members Present

- Members present at the March meeting:

Neil, Stuart, Adrian, Mike, Rex, Clive, Joe, Bob, Jim, George, Brian, Steve, David, Marcus

- Apologies for absence:

Dan, Denys

I hope that's everyone!

Next Meeting

DATE: Monday 17 May

TIME: 20:00

VENUE: Harrogate Conservative Club

THEME: LMA Visit

AGM Notes

Please find below the notes from the AGM, which was held at our April Meeting.

Harrogate Society of Magicians
Income and Expenditure for 12 months ending 31 March 2010

Cash at Back	£1467.56	Rent: Harlow Carr	£144.00
Cash in Hand	£7.90	Website	£34.88
Rodney Scott Foundation	£50.00	2 Dinner Tickets	£35.00
Subscriptions	£260.00	Harrogate Cons Club	
		Registration	£10.00
		Cash at Bank 31.03.10	£1546.74
		Cash in Hand 31.03.10	£26.36
TOTAL	£1796.98	TOTAL	£1796.98

Members

G Fowler
B Knowles
D Curston
B McBratney
M Coyne
R Stott
C Cullum
J Ward
D Hird

S Broadbank
M Hill
S Bellerby
D Hollys
A Salamon
N Bradley-Smith
J Walsh



Richard Special – Lecture

Following our AGM, we enjoyed a lecture from Richard Special, a full-time working magician and member of The Magic Circle, based in Surrey. Richard was visiting Bob for the week and was kind enough to give us his lecture for free. (It was much better than the last lecture we had – which I seem to recall was given by me and went on all night.)

Richard opened with several versions of Coin Unique, all taken from his working repertoire, and followed this up with his own approach to the Omni Deck. He reinforced this with a teaching session, in which he was helped by Neil – who, I recall, does a pretty mean Omni Deck routine of his own. He concluded the evening with his own version of ‘X Marks The Spot’ (which, for anyone who has it, can be found on p 172 of *The Practical Encyclopedia of Magic* by Nicholas Einhorn), and a card-change sleight which was still, he confessed, a ‘work in progress’, but which looked very useful.

Richard also talked about presentation and his professional life in general. All in all, an entertaining evening, from which I’m sure we all learned something.

I’ve since emailed and spoken to Richard and I know he enjoyed himself, so thanks for making him welcome.



