

THE SOCIETY

Harrogate Society of Magicians Newsletter

Issue 1: January / February 2010

Presidential

What with Christmas, New Year and meetings being cancelled due to bad weather, we haven't had a newsletter for a while, but, on the plus side, you haven't had to plough through any of my Presidentials. Still, into each life a little rain must fall, and, once again, it's time to dig out your brollies.

Some of you will be going to Blackpool very shortly and, by the time you read this, you'll probably be back again, too, armed with all the latest magical releases – not to mention a few more duds to squeeze into the back of that already overcrowded cupboard/box under the bed or loft extension in which you keep all the stuff you've never used and/or never will again.

Perhaps that's no bad thing. Magic is all about invention and reinvention – much like life itself, though now is not the time to get all deep and philosophical. We can leave that to the next meeting at the Conservative Club, when we're all propping up the bar in the interval and trying to show the staff our new quadruple lift.

Just about every magician has spent too much over the years – and, unless we can reclaim the cost from the taxman, it's probably best to keep no receipts in case we or our loved ones are ever tempted to start adding them up.

But magic, of course, as well as being a wonderfully childish and entertaining pastime, is also a never-ending learning process. And we learn not only by doing the right thing, but the wrong thing also. We buy tricks that work; we buy tricks that don't work. Some books we'll read; others we'll forget we even own until we come across them unexpectedly, while searching for that one with the trick in that we can't quite remember how to do.

We may try different approaches to magic: serious, silly; close-up, stage; mentalism, cards, coins and so on. We may discover one overriding interest, or we may prefer to range freely across the whole gamut of magic. But nothing is a total waste of time. We learn what we like, what we don't like; what we can do, and what we can't; and, more importantly, what we want to do and, hopefully, how to do it as well as we possibly can.

It might be nice to reach our destination quickly and with a cheap ticket. But then we'd miss out on all the interesting sights, sounds and people that we come across by travelling along the more scenic route.

I'm not sure this has made me feel any less guilty about all the cash I've spent over the years, or all the hours I've wasted performing to a mirror in an empty room when I might have been sitting in front of the telly with a cup of tea and a pot noodle. But it is, I think, an inescapable fact of magic that we have to keep on buying the tricks, reading the books and watching the latest videos/DVDs. We may be the poorer financially, but hopefully we're the richer magically.

That's what the dealers tell me, at any rate. And I know they wouldn't fib.

Anyone like to buy some lecture notes?

Till the next time,

J



Meeting Theme

Adrian - January Meeting

Performed a novel effect in which a card vanished from the pack, only to reappear in a chain around his neck.

Bob - January Meeting

Introduced us to his new rabbit – a replacement for Flopsy, who sadly died after the Ripley show last year. He also showed us a card effect he uses in his School for Magic classes which used a gimmicked card he gets the children to create as part of their lesson.

Brian - January Meeting

Showed us a 60-year-old trick, the Genii Tube (originally purchased for 6 guineas) in which coloured hankies placed into tubes turned into a variety of different coloured drinks (matching the colour of the hankies). The drinks were then poured into a cocktail shaker and transformed into a multi-coloured hanky. Very unusual! He also showed us a mismatched Father Christmas silk effect.

Marcus - January Meeting

Performed Paul Curry's colour-changing deck routine.

Mike - January Meeting

Showed us a terrific card trick involving the same 'mesh' principle used in the popular Wow! card effect, and followed this up with a clever signed card transposition routine.

Stevie - January Meeting

Performed and explained the book test he had used at the Staveley show last year. He also showed us a children's card effect involving bananas and apples.

Stuart - January Meeting

Performed a table effect for Marcus in which, despite random mixing and dealing, he was constantly able to arrange for winning hands at poker.

Joe - February Meeting

Joe asked Bob and Jim to assist in his first trick - He got both Bob and Jim each to pick a card from the pack. After a little comedy counting, the cards were revealed and handed to the relevant spectator. What they didn't know was that the cards would then switch places! A good trick and fantastic to see Joe back in action!

For Joe's second trick he asked Neil to pick any card (Neil picked 5 Diamonds) and return it to the deck. Joe then guessed what Neil's card was and removed it from the deck. On showing Neil the incorrect card he then put it into a clear wallet and it visually changed into Neil's chosen card the 5 Diamonds!

Adrian - - February Meeting

Adrian showed us a trick he was hoping to perform at an upcoming competition. It was a great, quick fire coin matrix effect. Thanks Adrian and hope the competition went well!

Bob - February Meeting

This month Bob took over as chief mind reader and asked Marcus and Brian to assist. Brian was asked to pick a card from the deck and keep it to himself. He then asked Marcus to try and read Brian's mind and guess the card. Marcus named the Jack of Spades (which was incorrect) Bob then remembered that in order for Marcus to be able to read Brian's mind he must wear a special pair of mind reading glasses. Once Marcus had these he correctly named Brian's card as being the Two of Hearts. A great trick, thanks Bob.

Marcus - February Meeting

Marcus' trick was a fantastic 4 coin production and vanish using various methods, including a viagra tablet or 2! A great trick as always!

Brian - February Meeting

Brian showed us a great trick that he has been performing since he was 16! It involved 6 silks, 2 pink, 2 green and 2 blue - all separate. Brian tied 1 of each colour together only to find the second set had mirrored his actions. He then untied them to find the same thing had happened. A good trick again Mr Knowles!



News

FEVA 2010 - Added February 2010

Bob mentioned that he had been contacted by the organisers of FEVA and that they were interested in us performing at one of their evening shows. He has been in contact again and a date was agreed by members at the last meeting. The plan is to perform a 2 hour show on Saturday 14 August. There will be more information closer to the time. This information can be found by clicking here

Hey Presto Show & Easter Parade - Added February 2010

Stevie reminded us that Bradford's "Hey Presto" show would take place on 20 March, and the Northern Magic Circle's Easter Parade in Fleetwood (27/28 March) was looking for entrants for the stage and close-up competitions. Matthew Garrett will be lecturing in Bradford on 5 March and members are welcome to attend (£7 entry fee). Rex told us that there would be a table top magic sale in York on 21 May, and that visitors can book a table if they wish.

Where to Find Magic

Blackpool Convention 2010

Dates - Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February, 2010

Venue - The world's largest magic convention happens in the northwest of England on the last weekend of February every year. The convention is held in the Winter Gardens and Opera House.

Number of Attendees - The world's largest magic convention! Approximately 2000 magicians attend Friday and Saturday and another 1000 on Sunday.

Members Present

- Members present at the March meeting:
- Apologies for absence:

Next Meeting

DATE: 15.03.2010

TIME: 20:00

VENUE: Harrogate Conservative Club

THEME: Marcus – Teach us a trick

