

THE Oracle

The Magazine of Hull Magicians' Circle • Vol. 11.1 Jan - July 2009

Summer Edition!



Featuring:

Introducing Joe Hustler

In Town tonight - Virgil

In The Spotlight - Debbie Griffiths

Hull Magicians' Circle
Founded 1933



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Editorial

Jon Marshall

Magic competitions are strange beasts. Recently Jack Gleadow and young HMC member, Joe Harper were unsuccessful in the heats of The Magic Circle's Young Magician of The Year Competition in London. Both were eliminated under Rule 3 - not suitable for family entertainment - clearly Jack's cheeky approach did not impress the judges - and Joe was severely censured for his use of a Bikini. I helped Jack prepare his act (and advised Joe on part of his) sadly I clearly failed to spot that Jack's act was so risqué.

We have all seen magic competitions where the results are a complete surprise to others who saw the same performances; there is nothing new in this. The decisions are always subjective, entirely reliant on a judge's personal opinions, feelings and magical experience.

Joe commented - "I was disqualified for being too rude. I do a gag where I have a man and woman on stage. I say to the woman, 'normally I have a beautiful assistant to help me with my tricks, and she wears one of these. (A bikini is produced from my case). But don't worry; we're not going to make you wear it tonight. So Sir, would you mind if you slip it on?' (Man puts it on to the music *You Sexy Thing* and to thunderous applause and laughter by everyone, including the volunteer). Apparently that was highly inappropriate for a family audience."

Jack and Joe's emailed judges' comments presumably were intended to be helpful. They only mentioned negative points. To give a balanced judgement, especially to young magicians, positive elements should be highlighted as well, unless the judges felt that there were no parts of their presentation worth encouraging. Sometimes we think old friends will just go on and on forever Ali Bongo was a friend to so many in magic - every ready to chat and give help and advice to anyone - young or experienced. We at HMC have enjoyed his company over the years as a performer, lecturer and as guest of honour at our Annual Dinner. As most know, Ali died following a stroke that most hoped he would recover from. Our Dinner this year was held on the same day as Ali's funeral - just a year since Ali appeared at our 2008 Dinner. In the same week it was reported on the Internet that *Abracadabra* magazine, edited by our member Walt Lees, was to close after continuous publication, weekly, since 1946. Sadly Walt was given no time to prepare an issue befitting such a record. Walt has done a tremendous job in reinvigorating *Abra*. A last minute take-over was planned but for economic reasons did not proceed. There are internet forums and web sites but there is nothing to replace the weekly *Abra* with its mix of tricks, advertising, letters, independent reports and editorial based on good



journalism from an experienced writer. I really miss it popping through the letter box every Friday – although it's interesting that the last issue arrived on the Saturday, just after our Dinner. We have two new contributors in this issue – Walt has let us have one of his tricks to publish in Deception Point and Joe Hustler commences a new series of tricks. So with Arthur's Swindle we have a three trick issue – well it is a magic club magazine!

I'm sure that we all were shocked to hear about the sudden loss of member David Cookson's son Philip. Many members have known Philip for years and got to know him better more recently when Philip drove David in from Withernsea to attend HMC meetings. Although Philip has had, with David, a long association with magic it was through his more recent regular visits that his interest reached the stage where he was looking forward to performing his

initiation show. Richard Morrell knew Philip since they were both youngsters. Philip was a junior leader in the Boys Brigade and was affectionately known as Inspector... HMC were represented at the funeral by Brian Wilson and Brian Waltham. Speaking to David after the service he told them that Philip was looking forward to doing his initiation show and had incorporated some electronic gadgetry into a book test he was going to perform.

We must give our congratulations to Eddie and Amy who were guests of honour last month in the USA at the Yankee Gathering. And to Derren Litten who writes the comedy series, Benidorm, broadcast on ITV. At the 2008 National Television Awards, Benidorm was voted Most Popular Comedy Programme beating the other nominations, Harry Hill's TV Burb, Ugly Betty and My Family.

Coming Soon....

Tyler Wilson



Presidential

Eddie Dawes

These lines bring greetings from the USA where Amy and I are currently enjoying ourselves and, as Editor Jon is pressing for his deadline, we'll mention some of our magical experiences over here.

We spent a few days in North Carolina visiting Bill and LaRose Spooner, Bill being our Guest Lecturer on President's Night last year when he presented talks on his Wands and Lota Vase collections, and it was a great pleasure to view not only all of these items but also the extensive other interesting material he possesses. He is knowledgeable with electronics and I saw some remarkable effects derived from the repertoire of the legendary Del Ray, and naturally there was much magic discussion during our stay.

We were also guests of Bill Kalush, supremo of the Conjuring Arts Research Center in New York City and manager of David Blaine, for dinner at a Persian restaurant and then to a performance of Monday Night Magic at the Bleeker Street Theatre. Both the meal and the show were very good indeed. The theatre is quite intimate with some 200 seats and a thrust stage, which can obviously present problems for manipulative acts, one of whom, we were told, announced that "This side of the audience will see a magic act and the other side will experience a lesson in manipulation!" However, no such problems presented themselves in this particular show. There were some

familiar faces present including David Blaine, David Kaye, Roger Dreyer of Fantasma Magic and Simon Lovell.

The MC was Todd Robbins who is a featured performer with *Sideshow by the Seashore* at Coney Island (seemingly the last remaining sideshow in America). His training as an actor and familiarity with the carny business was readily apparent and during the course of the evening, besides items with rope and the growing tie, we were treated to a six-inch nail hammered up his nose and an amusing interlude with a partially-inflated sausage balloon which he pushed up a nostril, retrieving the end from his mouth while leaving the other end dangling from the nostril. Then, by alternate squeezing of each end of the balloon, he produced the very comical effect of a balloon popping out of each orifice in turn, to howls of laughter from the audience.

Todd introduced the first performer, Aye Jaye, 'The Godfather of Comedy', a seasoned carnival performer who was born and raised on the midway. With much audience participation he romped through some comedy card magic but without sacrificing mystery for laughs. Along the way there was some pickpocketing and the old gag of gambling with a spectator's money, the latter being challenged to say "Cochroach" to every question put to him, with the inevitable outcome. Then five audience members were invited on stage and each given a large white

board and a pen and invited secretly to draw a simple image. The boards were collected, shuffled and placed face down. Aye Jaye showed each card in turn to the five who were instructed to say "No" to his query "Did you draw this?" and, in the time-honoured manner, he correctly identified the perpetrator of each drawing. He retired to a good hand.

The next to appear was the black performer Chris Capehart, who started as a street performer in NYC before travelling the USA with his skilled sleight of hand and quick repartee. He is a wonderful entertainer and his interaction with both adult and children was a delight to see. A live rabbit participated in his Miser's Dream routine that also involved a girl from the audience who likewise helped in his Losander Floating Table sequence by sitting on the stage so that she could see under the table and later by holding one side of the tablecloth. Chris closed with his famous 3-Ring Linking Ring routine which is featured in the *Stars of Magic* series (No.13), concluding by moving around the auditorium to allow audience members to see close-up the remarkably fast and completely deceptive linking and unlinking of two rings. Enthusiastic applause!

During the Intermission three close-up performers, David Condon, Peter Kougasian and Andy Roberts, displayed their skills to groups of eager spectators.

The second half featured Mike Caveney with 'act as seen' but it was never better! He started with his clear-glass cup of coffee placed in a hoop and swung around, milk added and spun in the air

'to mix them', sugar cubes followed, thrown in the air behind his back and caught in the cup, finally throwing the cup full of coffee off the hoop and catching it.

There was the 'magic paper' (toilet paper), individual pieces of which were distributed to the audience. Gathered up, they were restored into their former undetached condition. There followed Mike's hilarious chosen, marked card returned midway into the deck and to be shot at with bow and arrow, penetrating to the precise depth to locate the card while the deck is held by the spectator. The unexpected climax brought much applause. There was also his famous juggling sequence with two and then three arms, the handling of which during his patter causes much laughter, and to close we had the Knife Through Jacket. Just as the late Bob Read extracted the maximum comedy from this effect by apparently pulling the lining out of the jacket, so does Mike when a knife drops out of the victim's coat, followed by another and eventually a cascade of them plus silver platters and 'the kitchen sink', leaving an astonishing pile of silverware on the stage. It was a great climax to a delightful act and the audience acclaimed it accordingly.

Finally, our congratulations to Jack Gleadow who has been invited to appear in the *Stars of Tomorrow* show at the upcoming Convention of the Society of American Magicians at Buffalo in July. Well done, Jack!

In Town TONIGHT

Magicians in Hull Theatres

by Arthur Settingington

Virgil



When Arthur sat in The Palace Theatre, Hull in the week of 4th June 1956 to watch Virgil 'Premier International Illusionist' and Julie 'The Sweetheart of Magic', present their World Famous Mystery Revue, *Magicana*, Virgil and

Julie had been travelling around the world for four years. Carrying one-hundred and thirty-five theatrical crates with a weight of forty-five tons the show included a cast of twenty assistants and flew twenty-four backdrops.

The opening scene was set in a cave of witches who were banished by Virgil who appears as Mephistopheles, rising out of a cauldron. A door and frame was shown to be empty and then Julie appeared in the doorway. Virgil took a net on a pole and started casting around in mid-air when he caught a dove. This was followed by three or four more. He then exchanged the net for a rod and line and, baiting the hook, cast out the line and began catching goldfish in mid air.

Against the background of an Indian market, Virgil presented the Famous Indian Basket Trick. A girl was unceremoniously pushed into a bottle shaped basket, a number of swords thrust in the basket and, when removed, Virgil stood inside the basket, then covering the basket with a cloth, a shape was seen, and when the cloth was removed the girl was revealed to be unscathed.

Throughout the show Julie assisted in various mysteries but came into her own when she presented the Twenty Articles Memory Test and the Spirit Cabinet. In the latter she was tied to a chair and a wide strip of cloth that had been nailed to a vertical plank of wood was tied around her neck making movement impossible. A number of musical instruments, tambourines, etc were left in the cabinet but as soon as a

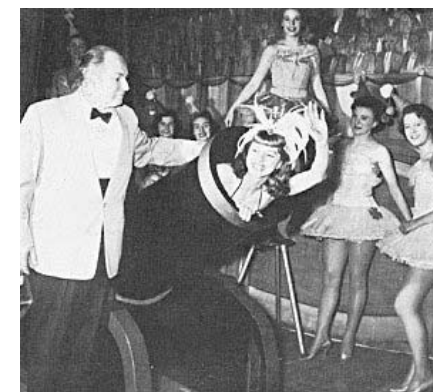
curtain was drawn the instruments were heard, and then thrown over the curtain. Immediately the curtain was drawn back, but Julie was still securely tied. A man from the audience was invited to stand in the cabinet with Julie. The front curtain closed and when drawn back a moment later Julie, still securely tied, was wearing the man's jacket.

The Substitution Trunk and the Floating Lady were well presented. An Execution was a new illusion to Hull. The magician was captured by a group of assassins who fitted on him a cloak and hood and led him up some steps to a scaffold. A rope was fastened around his neck, a lever pulled and the trap beneath his feet opened. He plunged downwards but when the assassins went for the body it wasn't there, only the cloak and hood. Virgil was discovered to be the executioner.

The show ended with a bang - The Great Cannon Mystery. A cannon was brought on stage and Julie loaded into it. Virgil drew the attention of the audience to a large trunk that was suspended from the roof of the theatre. The cannon was pointed in the direction of the trunk. There was a loud explosion and the trunk swung slightly. The trunk was lowered on to the stage and was opened to reveal a second smaller trunk. This was opened to reveal another trunk. When this was opened Julie stepped out.

Virgil was born in Oregon in 1900 his real name was Virgil Mulkey. Virgil had performed professionally as an illusionist since 1925; he was an

assistant to illusionist McDonald Birch in 1927. Later he met and married Julie Capriotti in the late 1930s. Virgil died in October 1989





Danny Hargreaves

Debbie Griffiths



Debbie Griffiths is our Minutes Secretary, and that can be a thankless task – she provides the information for our Missed a Meeting reports which record HMC history and lets those members who cannot get to meetings know what went on. And that sometimes includes Debbie. She has a very demanding job as Development and Training Officer with Hull City Council that often means work in the evenings and weekends. She is one of four finalists in the national Council Worker of the Year Awards 2009

her nomination says, “Debbie has transformed the delivery of training for foster carers at Hull City Council”. Magically we have seen Debbie perform as the other half of the magical duo, Debbie and Karen but at our recent Committee Entertains meeting she presented an excellent close-up magic act. For the last few years Debbie has been co-organiser of our Christmas Celebrations.

What started your interest in Magic?

Magic shows on the television were always a favourite but I also came into contact with people who could perform the odd trick. The eagerness of these people to entertain and share some of their enthusiasm impressed me as much as the actual magic itself.

What type of magic do you enjoy?

I prefer close-up more than stage illusions. To me, the magic is in the relationship with the audience, whether 1:1 or a group and I think I’ve seen better examples of this, achieved successfully, in close-up performances.

Have you followed another profession?

I wish I had more time to dedicate to magic but because of my work as a trainer, I have very little opportunity to enjoy my non-work interests. I envy those who are skilled enough to be able

to pursue magic as a profession.

Have you used your magical skills with that other profession?

I have managed to slip the occasional trick into my training and in a way that links the visual element to the message I am trying to convey. It’s also an effective ice-breaker.

What has been the highlight of your magical life so far?

Seeing Rene Lavand at a Blackpool Convention several years ago, he is in a class of his own. I loved the way he combined a magical story with his flawless performance. I could have watched him perform the same Chop Cup routine all day.

Do you have favourite performers?

Eddie Dawes is someone I always enjoy to watch and listen to because of his remarkable memory, intellect and impeccable manners. He is an outstanding role model.

Jon Marshall is the only person who I could watch, reading the *Yellow Pages*. An amazing performer who I believe makes any trick special through the power of his personality.

Do you have any other hobbies?

I read a lot and collect books. Films – I love the *Bourne Supremacy* type of film, action thrillers. Other than this, I’m afraid it’s all work and no play.

How did you end up in this area?

I’ve lived in Hull all of my life and for this reason, I feel very loyal to the area and the people. I don’t have children but I am an aunty and I have a great relationship with my niece and nephew who I wish I saw more often.

What don’t you like in magic?

I dislike it when individuals use their position as performer to put others down in order to try and boost their own position in the eyes of the audience. Fortunately, this seems very rare in the field of magic.

Have you any remarks about Hull Magicians’ Circle and its events?

I love the friendliness, standards and values implicit in HMC. My only regret is that work prevents me from attending every meeting. It has been a valuable constant in my life during several career changes.

Have any amusing incidents occurred in connection with performing?

You had to be there really, but one that springs to mind was when Karen and I were passing fire back and forth with new gimmicks. In attempting to maintain the serenity and smoothness of the routine, accompanied by a tranquil classical piece of music, we ignored the progressively severe burning to every finger for as long as we could for the sake of the rehearsal until the floor set alight. Our aspirations as fire illusionists were extinguished that day alongside the carpet.

News & Views

Jack Gleadow has great news (reported in the *Hull Daily Mail*, 6th May 2009). He has been asked to appear at the Society of American Magicians' Annual Convention in Buffalo, New York in July. Jack was spotted by Marlene Clark of the SAM when Jack won The Magic Circle's Young Magicians' Club Junior Day stage competition. This year's SAM President, Bruce Kalver loved Jack's cheeky humour when he met Jack at Blackpool and after Jack sent a DVD of his act they invited Jack to appear in the Stars of Tomorrow show. Jack will receive a fee but this will not cover the full cost of Jack and his father, who will have to accompany Jack, flying and participating for the 4 days of the convention. "It is a great honour to be asked" said Jack, "and a wonderful opportunity, not only to perform in the USA but to attend and learn at the Convention where there will be other shows and lectures. I've got to raise the money by doing shows and I hope to attract some sponsorship".

Congratulations to member **Rob James** who married Hayley Teasdale on Sat May 23. The evening Cabaret included a performance by David Williamson ??????????

And congratulations to **Jack Gleadow**, again, at the Blackpool Convention in February 2009 Jack came second in the British Junior Close-up Competition. Pictured here being congratulated by

Kerry Scolah.

Danny Hunt and Annette came over to Hull on Saturday May 2 to give a talk and demonstration to the young magicians' group on escapology. Danny had all the youngsters fascinated with tricks of the trade coupled with a talk on Houdini. Danny had kindly brought along pieces of rope and chains and soon all the juniors were tying each other up, and escaping! Jack tried on an unusual armless straightjacket and Aleks managed to escape from a regulation jacket.

Jon Marshall's exhibition of Jon Gresham's restored illusion sideshows (part of Circus of Wonders, a display of Sideshow and Circus ephemera and objects) at Blackpool's Showzam Festival, run during February 2009, attracted 17,000 visitors and national press, radio and international TV coverage. HMC Member Tim Cockerill worked on the shows and presented Electra – the girl who defies 27,000 volts!



Missed a Meeting?

Compiled by Debbie Griffiths

March 27th 2008 – A Trick from the Library / Waltham's Wizardry

There were 5 competitors; **Brian Wilson, Walt Lees, Colin Vize, Brian Waltham and Eddie Dawes**. The result was a win for Colin Vize with his trick Three Horse Race. Eddie Dawes came in second place.

For Waltham's Wizardry **Brian Waltham** performed and explained Manual Printing Press, Surpriso Silks off rope, Travelling Tube, Kiltpintrate, The Harry Card Find, ABC's of magic, Ever Ambitious Card, Cut and Restored Silk, Sucker Silks, Thought Process and Amusements with magic squares.

Eddie thanked Brian for an entertaining evening.

April 3rd 2008 – Lecture by Magic Books By Post

Steve and Paul started by discussing their takeover of the business and the massive task of cataloguing the 180,000 books with around 3,000 different titles. Paul performed David Ginn's Vanishing Coke Bottle, from Kidbiz, Steve invited Colin Vize up and performed a mentalist effect from Roy Baker's Bakers Brainwaves. The next effect was Lewis Ganson's Endless chain which was performed by Paul, with assistance coming from **Jack Gleadow**.

Joe Harper performed a routine with cups and a prediction from Power of Persuasion by Arthur Settington. Steve and Paul then performed Blindfold Discoveries, a blindfold effect with unique ending from Bakers Bonanza.

After the interval Paul spoke about illusions, and some of the best illusion books they stock which included Device and Illusion, The Complete Jarrett, and The Great Illusions Of Magic.

Paul then performed the Chinese Compass complete with the Paul Daniels routine, from Safety Magic for Children by David Ginn. Finally from the Len Belcher book Steve and Paul went head-to-head against each other in a spelling competition, and the finale was the revelation of GOODNIGHT ALL written on the spelling cards. Eddie thanked Steve and Paul for coming and asked the members of HMC to once again thank them.

April 10th 2008 – Ali Bongo Lecture

Eddie introduced Ali Bongo who first came to Hull in 1974 and again as president of the British Ring in 1979. Ali explained that his lecture focused on simplicity in method, effect and construction.

Ali performed and explained a variety of effects including a Cut and Restored Tie, Discoincidence, an effect in which 3 members of the audience freely selected matching poker chips, Grandfathers

Watch, an Egg Penetration, Four Kings Easy, Charlie the Caterpillar, Coin in ball of wool, Lucky number, and the original A Card Named Fred.

Ali explained the workings of all the effects and showed how they could easily be made up by members. Eddie thanked Ali Bongo for an entertaining and informative evening.

April 24th 2008 - Workshop

This workshop evening had been organised by **Roland Tuplin**.

Members were split into four groups and given the opportunity to participate in all four of the workshops.

Richard Morrell taught a Sponge Ball routine and some simple card changes utilising the double lift. **Tom Wilkinson** taught the Cups and Balls. **Ray Burrell** showed and taught some tricks with Elastic Bands and **Walt Lees** taught a Coin and Card routine.

The above members were thanked for their contribution to a fun and entertaining evening and also thanks went to Roland for organising the night.

May 1st 2008 - Joshua Jay Lecture

Joshua started the evening early; he performed thirty minutes of card magic, with everyone gathered around the table. The tricks were mostly taken from his Talk about Tricks column in MAGIC magazine, and it made a fantastic informal start to the lecture.

Then it was onto the lecture proper. The underlying theme was thoughts on how to arrive at a method for a trick, demonstrated with various examples. Josh showed and explained Heightened Senses, which was a mental effect where someone's height was accurately predicted and Charming Chinese Challenge, Troy Hooser's coins off ribbon effect. Two great card effects rounded off the first half, Las Vegas Visit which was a different approach to the 6-card-repeat plot, and Split Decision a great double prediction that finishes with an unusual souvenir.

The second half took more of a workshop feel, Josh's Any Card at Any Page Number got a great reaction when the method was explained in detail, and then we all broke out the cards and coins to learn, hands-on, his Discreet Displacement move and applications, and also a neat coin vanish. With such a great start to the evening, and the practical and clever tricks and methods that followed, everyone agreed this had been a great evening.

May 8th 2008 – Steve Dela Lecture

Steve opened by contact juggling with a crystal ball from which a drink appeared. This was followed by a card routine which Steve used when table-hopping.

Steve then ran a mini workshop for members in which he taught his Oil and Water card routine. This was followed by a fortune telling fish and an effect in which a spectator's chosen card was

found in his wallet.

After the break, Steve performed one of his favourite effects an impossible prediction in which he used a stooge. This was followed by a routine using a specially adapted wallet in which he went mind shopping with a spectator.

Steve then ran another mini workshop in which he taught members the centre tear. Steve finished with Ambitious Steve his version of an ambitious card routine.

Richard thanked Steve for an excellent lecture.

May 22nd 2008 – Jon Gresham Request Night

This club night is often fun. It was dreamt up as an opportunity for members to request performances, demonstrations, advice on magical topics and the requests would be anonymous so no one need be embarrassed by asking a simple question such as, “How do you perform a Double Lift?” Well this very question was posed and after the Jon Gresham night presenter, **Walt Lees** had performed Uncanny Hankerchiefs (another request), **Richard Morrell** and **Domanic Li** were on hand to give demonstrations of tricks using the Double Lift and then an explanation of methods of performing the sleight.

Walt explained that one question was, “how do you establish yourself as a professional magician?” After giving

his views on the subject Walt opened the topic to other members to give their advice.

Roland Tuplin then performed and explained a trick with a signed drinks bottle. **Domanic Li** performed his latest Deception Point trick straight from the pages of the *Oracle*. **David Cookson** performed his effect Thidney Snake published in March 1979 *Magigram*.

Jon Marshall was asked to perform Bob Moore’s Grandma’s Teeth card trick but was unable to attend. Luckily **Joe Harper** was able to step in and perform the trick

June 4th 2008 - Bill Spooner Lecture

For his president’s night Eddie Dawes had invited Bill Spooner, fresh from his appearance at The Magic Circle Collectors Day, to lecture to us. This was a unique evening; Bill shared with us his in-depth research on two magical items through PowerPoint slides and demonstration.

For the first-half Bill talked about what he believes to be the oldest recorded magic prop, not the cups-and-balls but the Lota Bowl, he has traced this back to 500 B.C. and showed us some examples from 1290 A.D. a pre-columbian bowl and the first magical performance from 1582 A.D. in Turkey as documented in a Mickey Hades publication. Bill then took us on a world tour of lota bowl sightings ending in the present day, when in 1978 he found a closed-trap Lota built into a

shot tumbler on Camden Flea Market, and traced it and its use through a patent to a pub in London, which he assured us was still standing, as he managed to visit it when down at The Magic Circle. Bill finished the first-half with some of his own tricks, a Water Vanish, Snap Knot and a clever coins-to-glass effect had us all scratching our heads.

For the second-half Bill took us through his collection of Magic Wands of all shapes and sizes, he showed us how he catalogued them and had them x-rayed to show the inner workings, Candy producing, Fire Belching, Gravity-defying, Penetrating, Vanishing where just some of the types he showed,



wand. An in-depth look at two often



finishing with a look at coin-producing wands and the ultimate Bates coin

over-looked props and we thank Bill for bringing them to our attention with such an obvious passion for the subject it made for a fascinating evening.

September 18 2008 – Pocket Trick Drive

This is a popular night at HMC and always has a good attendance. The precise logistics of ensuring that the participants all watch each other and there is no duplication has to be worked out on the night with formulas available for how many numbers there are taking part.

Nearly every one took part who attended, even the prospective new members. It was a most enjoyable evening and a wide variety of tricks were shown. The Pocket Trick Drive formed the first heat of the Simpson Shield, with all participants gaining their first point.

The result was a double joint win for, in first place, **Ron Thompson** and **Tom Wilkinson** and in joint second place were **Gordon Stow** and **Roland Tuplin**.

October 2nd 2008 John Born Lecture

John's lecture focused on elegant sleight-of-hand artistry. His style is very much low-key and relaxed, which makes room for the magic to stand out, and with his excellent technical ability coupled with strong presentations, it certainly made way for some powerful routines.

John started with a coin sequence set to music, some beautiful matrix, shadow-coin and translocation sequences finished with the copper coins he was

using visually turning to silver half-dollars. This was coupled with Four of a Deck an opening sequence producing the four aces and four coins underneath each card.

John then showed Write on the Money, a prediction effect similar to the Fred or Phil trick, a card was freely arrived at, and an amount of money counted from a wallet, the exact amount was found written on the back of the named card. I Love You, was the name of a card trick that could be used in a similar manner to Anniversary Waltz, again John showed how he could take a simple card change and routine it into something quite magical and special.

Original coin sleights followed including John's Balance Palm and his work on the Back Thumb Palm, with applications that looked incredible, his bare handed coin productions and changes gathering gasps of amazement as he demonstrated them for small sections of the audience.

John is well known for his recent work on the Any Card at Any Number plot, and his book Meant to Be is recommended reading, John finished his lecture demonstrating and explaining a version of the two deck Al Baker ACAAN, called Baker Bested, a wonderful hands-off effect using a brilliant Ed Marlo subtlety to good use.

This was a fantastic finish to a superb

lecture by a true artist who showed how he thinks and works at his craft.

October 16th 2008 – Henning Koehlert Lecture

Henning began his lecture with 'an experiment with colours', an Oil and Water effect in which the coloured backs on the cards reacted to sound in the form of a squeaker.

This was followed by 'Bar Code Plus', an effect in which a member of the audience was taken on a virtual shopping tour in which the cost of the item selected was correctly predicted. Henning then demonstrated an effect in which a spectator selected a card he had predicted, with the selected card he was then able to find two other cards to make up four of a kind, this was a variation of Allan Ackerman's Another Quick Coincidence.

This was followed by another card trick 'Chaos Queen' where the four queens were placed in a small packet which was then mixed up by both Henning and a member of the audience but in the end the four queens were the only face up cards in the packet, this was a variation of John Bannon's Degrees of Freedom.

After the interval Henning demonstrated an effect 'Las Vegas Dice' and all members were able to participate in a mini workshop. This was followed by demonstration of a card effect 'Einstein',

and again all members could participate. Henning then performed and explained a card trick 'Dexterity and Illusion'. The lecture ended with a performance of 'Afghan Hearts'.

Eddie thanked Henning for a very practical and interesting evening.

October 16 2008 – Spooky Trick - Workshop

Initiation shows were presented by - **Derek Baugh** introduced by **Ray Hall**, Derek performed, Will our Minds Merge, followed by a coin trick and a card prediction. **Joshua Johnson** was introduced by **Ray Burrell** and performed a card routine followed by ghost coins and a Jack the Ripper routine? **Rob James** also introduced by Ray Burrell performed a variety of card routines. All three prospective members were accepted into membership.

The Simpson Shield – Spooky Trick was organised and presented by **Ron Thompson**. Seven competitors took part. **Tom Wilkinson** performed a trick assisted by a friendly spirit; **Gordon Stow** presented a spooky floating 'Zombie' skull routine. Also entering into the fun of the competition were **Peter Bennett**, **Roland Tuplin**, **Walt Lees**, **Brian Wilson** and **Brian Waltham**.

The second half of the evening was a workshop organised by Roland Tuplin with Malcolm teaching a match trick and Walt Lees teaching coins sleights and a routine.

Seasonal Delights and Bob Moore Comedy Competition 2008

Thursday December 13.

Bob Moore Comedy Trophy Competition and Christmas Celebrations

Our 2008 annual festive meeting was held on Thursday 11th December, sufficiently far into the pre-Christmas excitement to ensure a merry atmosphere. The meeting room at The Sailmakers was splendidly decorated and a good turn out of members and guests assembled for the fun. Debbie and Karen organised another of their evenings of fun quizzes. The paper based quiz had everyone scratching their heads over film clues and later Ron Thompson acted as Quizmaster between heckles from the audience. At the interval there was an excellent buffet provided by the Sailmakers staff. The main entertainment was, of course, The Bob Moore Comedy Trophy and this year six members participated with Ron Thompson as compere. What's great about this night is that it's all very informal, from Ron's disparaging remarks about the competitors to the absence of any rules - do some comedy magic for five minutes or under otherwise be gonged off. There are no judges apart from the members in the audience. Colin Vize opened the competition with an 'x-ray glasses' routine. Les Watson followed performing a Cut and Restored Tie routine. Tom Wilkinson performed a card routine, Bob Moore's Kate and Edith - a funny story about a King and Two Queens with the punch line, "You can't have your Cake and Edith". Paul Kitchen presented a Sword



through Neck penetration and Gordon Stow followed with a rope routine. Joe Harper closed the competition with a Wrist Chopper routine. The competition resulted in a win for Gordon Stow with Joe Harper in second place. Bob Moore reveled in comedy magic and so enjoyed his membership of Hull Magicians' Circle after he moved to our area. He originated many comedy tricks, mostly with cards and it is great that his memory is perpetuated in such a fun way.



HMC Supper 2009

Friday 15th January

The Annual Supper, with traditional Steak and Kidney Pie meal and magical guest act was initiated in 1973 on the 40th Anniversary of the Circle's foundation and has been held at Darley's Hotel since that year.

This year the Supper was held on Friday 15th January and again attracted a sold out crowd. Our Treasurer, David Hand, and Ann, had a very busy time before the Supper juggling tickets and table plans. Sadly they couldn't be with us this year; we missed them and hope they will be able to participate next year. The Chef and kitchen staff at Darley's excelled themselves this year and the Pie was delicious it was altogether an excellent meal.

Onto the Close-up entertainment, for many years this has been provided by



our own members, at previous Suppers there has occasionally been a problem of covering all the tables, not so this year there was a splendid response from all and magicians seemed to be popping up from every table to grab the guest's

attention. I spotted Ray Burrell with a rope routine, Domanic Li with cards, Tom Wilkinson produced glasses of Sherry, Malcolm Bromwich penetrated arms with scarves, Martin Moore read minds and others including, Ajay Vora, Roger Yaxley, Dale Constable, Peter Bennett, Colin Vize, Bernard Reuben, Danny Hargreaves, Walt Lees, Derek Baugh, Chris Pawson, and Grant Constable all amazed and entertained.

Thoroughly magically warmed up the audience were ready to watch our guest act. Jon Marshall introduced him – Mel Mellers, Mel had lectured the previous evening to some of the members and now they were able to see the magical master of comedy unleashed onto our



unsuspecting guests. He was hilarious, at times standing on a chair to aid visibility, sometimes performing in the audience, amongst the tables and then inviting, commanding, his volunteers to come up and assist on the platform. Mel is a master of comedy but also a master of the insult. His character and patter all



enhance his personality, it's clear he has developed this over many professional performances. He has a slightly camp stance and delivery with withering looks down through the over large glasses perched on the end of his nose as he gives disparaging looks to his victims. His script is cleverly constructed to set up comedy remarks and the audience volunteers walk right in to Mel's trap. It doesn't matter what reply he gets from his assistant, Mel has a stock of answers - the important thing is that he gets a reply. A seemingly innocent question from him about supermarkets and whether there are Morrisons around here entices the reply that there are more Tesco and Asda shops from the helpful, unwary, audience member, of course it is followed up with the pause, the look, and the devastating put down line, "Oh we seem to have

discovered your expert subject". Now in the wrong hands this could be awful but Mel's personality is such that he carries the whole audience along with him. One of my favourite lines is from his Rocky Raccoon routine when he explains how he operates the puppet with his two fingers and then asks a lady if she would like a go. Discarding the raccoon he approaches here, fingers ready, with the line, "I'm not sure I'll be able to pick you up". Ray Hall, wearing bright red braces, attracted Mel's attention and was called up to be an onstage volunteer culminating in Mel's final routine a comedy Arm Penetration. It was all wonderfully funny and Mel left the stage to huge applause. Our President, Eddie Dawes thanked everyone for attending and wished all a safe journey home and that concluded another great Supper.

Connolly Shield Report

Saturday March 7 2009

Michael Harrop

The Willerby Methodist Church Hall, with a well equipped stage, was the venue for this year's stage competition; it was filled with an enthusiastic audience, the front row being reserved for children.

Gordon Stow opened the competition in his character of Professor Dumbledore and opened with Sympathetic Knots as taught to him by his granddad. He used a Square Circle as a running gag, producing anything but a circle until the end. This was followed by Alan Shaxon's Mugged routine incorporating the vanish and reappearance of a pearl necklace, and finished with a Silk Blendo.

Malcolm Bromwich started with a bang, an Exploding Wand! He followed with a Cut and Restored Rope sequence using three ropes. After showing his magic table, he amazed the audience by going ropey with a red and white ring tied on rope transposition, a set of rope and knot tricks, a Rope through Neck trick and finished with a Ring on Rope routine.

Roger Yaxley opened with a Jumbo Three Card routine which culminated when all the cards became Queens. He selected a volunteer from the audience and gave him a waistcoat to wear. A selected card was placed in an envelope and then the volunteer's costume was transformed in a series of fast costume changes to a Queen's gown, matching the previously selected card - the Queen of Hearts. The costume changes

culminated in a comedy beachwear costume. The levitation of a shoe followed and Roger invited a boy on stage for a delightful ring and rope routine with him. The audience enjoyed the humour and interaction from Roger.

Joe Harper concluded the competition with his Rope through the Body routine and then invited two volunteers to participate in a Double Wrist Chopper trick. His next sequence used Arthur Settington's comedy Whispering Teapot to vanish a signed, selected card that was finally revealed in a teabag in the teapot. Joe finished with an accomplished, 7 rings, Linking Rings routine.

The result of a close competition was a win for Roger Yaxley, with Joe Harper and Gordon Stow joint second. The judges came from Grimsby Magic Society. Our President **Eddie Dawes** presented the Shield and **Michael Harrop** was the timekeeper.

After the interval, **Domanic Li** gave a cabaret performance, Paul Green's Rope Routine, Mike Close's Frog Prince and culminating in Dave Forrest's The Man Who Paints The Future, a card prediction revealed in an impressive self-portrait painted by Domanic himself.

The show was compered by **Paul Kitchen**, who showed his ability working with children and adults, some

great magic and balloon modelling, which continued after the show when Paul was still making balloons for a long line of children! The Stage Manager and organiser was **Brian Wilson** with help from **Richard Morrell**.

HMC Annual Dinner Report 2009

March 27 2009

What a line-up for our Dinner, three members of The Inner Magic Circle in the after banquet show, three keen entrants for the Maskelyne Wand Competition, good food, wine and more. It was a great way to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Hull Magicians' Circle. Around two-hundred guests were greeted by colourful stilt walkers, Paul Kitchen and Hayley Escreet making miniature balloon models, no three-twist dogs here they made most intricate and unusual designs and many were carefully taken home as souvenirs. Toastmaster, Alan Johnston called the members and guests including, honoured guests, Betty Davenport and her husband Fergus Roy, John Palfreyman and Dorothy Savage to dinner. It was apt that Betty and Fergus were with us as their magic business the House of Davenport was founded in 1898 by Lewis Davenport grandfather of Betty and they celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the firm this year.

The meal was excellent - Smoked Chicken and Greenland Prawn Salad with a main course of Gressingham Duck Breast stuffed with Apricot and Cous Cous with Redcurrant Sauce and a delicious desert - Chocolate Harlequin Torte topped off with a Quebelle of Mascaspon. Once coffee and mints had been served the toasts and responses began, Fergus Roy, while proposing the toast to the Circle, regaled us with magical events that took place seventy-five years ago including his wife, Betty Davenport's birth! Eddie Dawes

responded with witty humour and Vice-President Ray Hall proposed the toast to the guests with a neat and amusing speech. Pat Gresham responded on behalf of the guests and delivered a very funny speech with brilliantly presented stories about life with Jon Gresham, all delivered with immaculate timing, Pat stole the show.

The distribution of our major trophies followed and Betty presented the Spooner Trophy (for Young Magicians' Stage Magic) to Jack Gleadow, the Simpson Shield to Colin Vize on behalf of winner Tom Wilkinson who wasn't present, the Shirley Watts' Close-up Trophy went to Paul Kitchen, the Bob Moore Comedy Trophy to Gordon Stow and the Connolly Shield to Roger Yaxley.

The HMC members entertained the guests with close-up magic in the after-dinner interval; organist Ray Burrell provided live musical entertainment and then it was time for the Maskelyne Wand Competition for Originality. Roger Yaxley was up first and used a costume and mask on an audience volunteer to predict a chosen card - the Queen of Hearts. Brian Wilson managed to divine the colour of a felt tip pen that was selected from others and used to draw a smiley face. Finally Malcolm Bromwich amazed everyone with his Rubik Cube trick a black cube was placed in an examined bag with the loose coloured tiles from a cube. The bag was shaken and the cube was seen to have the tiles attached. Judges, Betty, Fergus and

Maurice Johnson deliberated in record time and declared Malcolm the winner. The show promised to be good and it was. Compere, John Archer, a great friend of HMC - rehearsed the audience in a practice applause session starting with polite 'cricket' applause and leading up to a raucous American Game Show audience reaction. It worked; Roy Davenport entered to excellent applause and presented his version of his great grandfather's act. It was fast moving with flash and panache, amazing ball manipulations, a tambourine production of a whirl of paper streamer, Mutilated Parasol and Linking Rings interspersed with surprising Colour Changing Waistcoats. A great start to the show. John Archer once said that he felt he was always being asked to compere shows, and jokingly suggested that maybe people didn't rate him as an act! Well he *is* a brilliant compere and his act *is* hilarious. A Book Test and Magic Square were just two routines given the Archer treatment. Closing the show was our own member Martyn James and company - Martyn romped through a Fire Cage Production of his two girl assistants and a host of brilliant illusions, a Barbed Wire Ring Exchange, Harbin's Topsy Turvy and Martyn's baffling Barrels illusion all presented with moments of comedy, an excellent end to our Annual Dinner. Stage management, lighting and sound were by Steve Collison and Jamie Waudby who made the show seem to flow effortlessly even though they were working under great difficulty with a malfunctioning lighting board. Enormous thanks should go to Eddie and Amy who put in so much

preparatory work and not least, invite many guests; including many who have become regulars, to join us. It was a great evening of good company, good dining and superb entertainment.

Next year the Dinner will be on Friday 16th April 2010, put it in your diary now.



BBC foreign correspondent and magician, Geoff Harrison has launched what is claimed to be the world's first magic channel, TV Magicians (<http://www.tvmagicians.com>). The site, part of Global Digital Broadcast's IPTV network, Play TV UK, will feature magicians' showreels, effects demonstrations, industry secrets and related material. The site will host sub channels on jazz, independent films, nightclubs and other entertainment. Content will come from Harrison's company TV World Productions and magic specialists Party PR, Club Chiva and Penguin Magic.

Friendfeed is a new social site made by ex-google employees, you can see an introduction and explanation on Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendfeed>. Recently they have implemented a Rooms function and I have setup a magicians' room at <http://friendfeed.com/magicians>

If you are into any of the Web2.0 sites like Twitter, Tumblr, Youtube, Google Reader, del.icio.us or any of the other 30+ sites that Friendfeed picks up, sign up for a Friendfeed account, add those services and then you can re-share that information or post it directly using the friendfeed bookmark into the magicians' room, and share the magic based content you come across on a daily basis with all the other participants who can then comment and discuss the content in the room.

I think it's almost like having a huge collaborative blog that anyone with a friendfeed account can post too, pulling in content from these services or starting their own discussions, so you get the best of Youtube (you can watch the clips directly on the site), the best blog posts via google reader or tumblr or del.icio.us or people's twitter comments or Flickr photos or Yahoo Upcoming events etc. If anyone wants to add me on Friendfeed I am here: <http://friendfeed.com/rmorrell>

Christiaan Lopez-Miro (<http://www.christiaanlopez-miro.com/>) has a new gallery of photos on his site called Smoke and Mirrors, click on the Images link and then Smoke and Mirrors. In his words, "These photographs are supposed to be about the moments between the performance. The moments when the magician is simply alone contemplating his/her own craft. They are meant to be very intimate photographs that confront the viewer". Well worth checking out.

A Youtube Magic index has recently emerged at MagicTricks.tv (<http://www.magictricks.tv>). It is owned and run in direct conjunction with the Magic Tricks Store, www.magictricks.co.uk. It is aimed at anyone with an interest in magic and has been designed to put many magic videos in one place. MagicTricks.tv also has a community facility, where individuals can sign up to be members of the site and this allows you to upload your favourite magic videos to display

to the rest of the magic community. One of the top advantages of using www.MagicTricks.tv is that the search facility has been specifically designed so it only finds magic related videos, instead of the YouTube search facility which displays all videos with relevance to the key words. If you have a favourite magic related video, join the site and upload it today, they will be rewarding members for uploading their videos and for the number of views per month.

James Munton has also opened a new Youtube video site called Abratube (<http://www.abratube.com>), he said on The Magic Café, "I got frustrated trying to search YouTube for good magic videos. You have to wade through the thousands of bedroom magicians doing awful card tricks. So I put together a website that allows people to post their favorite YouTube (and Google) magic videos. They are categorized and searchable. My hope is that magicians will post their favorite YouTube videos and we will build a collection of videos that will be a great resource. Imagine you are working on a Cups and Balls routine. You do a search for Cups and Balls and in one place you get to see every good Cups and Balls routine. By opening it up to allow everyone to register and post their favorite videos, I'm hoping to quickly build this into a great resource. There are already a bunch of great videos that folks have posted that I hadn't seen before. So please check it out and I would love to hear any comments or suggestions you have to help make it better".

The Magic Video Blog (<http://www.magicvideoblog.com>)

is the third of these new Youtube magic video sites and was started in 2008 by a select group of magicians who love vintage magic videos. Their intention is to provide an amazing magic clip - every 24 hours. The more they can expose you to great magic, the chances of helping you improve your own magic will increase. In turn, the art of magic advances. And ultimately, that's what we all really want!

Howcast (<http://www.howcast.com>) offer how-to videos and guides, as part of their site they have produced a play-list of Magic How-To-Guides (<http://www.howcast.com/playlists/714-Magic>). Dave Horowitz from Howcast says "We created some cool how to magic videos that I wanted to share with you. Much like a good act, they both entertain and are accessible on top of being informative. Please check out the full playlist."

Finally, Time to Be Awesome (<http://www.timetobeawesome.com>) is a new internet TV show from David Corsaro. The latest episode is an interview with award winning magician Boris Wild, others include a discussion with Marc Desouza and a discussion about magic competitions and what it takes to succeed. Marc was also gracious enough to show them around his collection of magic posters and perform an effect. Other shows include a behind-the-scenes of *Monday Night Magic*, an interview with NY Coin Magic Seminar producers, Michael Rubinstein and David Roth and a discussion with Francis Menotti about theatre in magic.

Settingington's Swindles

Arthur Settingington

SEEKIT

If we lose something small and have difficulty finding it we sometimes use an ancient quotation - "It's like looking for a needle in a haystack". The following effect is based on this saying.

Effect

Eight magazines held together by a rubber band are on the table. (We find that *Reader's Digest* can be easily handled). A spectator is handed a business card and asked to push it between the pages of one of the magazines. This is done whilst the performer's back is turned. The spectator is asked to mix the magazines. They should be held flat to do this, to prevent the card falling out. He is then asked to separate the magazines into two heaps of four. The performer places his fingertips on each heap, and decides to discard one of them.

The remaining four magazines are mixed and divided into two heaps of two. Again the performer discards one of the heaps. Taking the final two, he discards one of them. The last magazine is shaken; the pages riffled, and from it drops the business card.

Method

Eight magazines are required. A rubber band and two identical business cards.

The rubber band is placed around the magazines lengthwise and just over halfway across the covers, to allow the

pages to be opened for the insertion of the card. The second business card is in the pocket ready to be retrieved at the right moment.

Attention is drawn to the pile of magazines. While the performer's back is turned, or while he is looking away, a spectator is asked to insert a business card into the pages of a magazine. He is asked to push it well in to prevent it dropping out before the climax. The spectator is then asked to remove the rubber band and to mix the magazines, then to divide them into two piles of four.

For the first time, the performer approaches the magazines and rests his fingertips of each hand on a pile of magazines. He then rejects one pile and asks that the remaining one to be mixed and divided into two piles of two. The same procedure is carried out and one pile is rejected. The two magazines are mixed. While this is being done, the performer obtains the second business card and conceals it in his hand. After the mixing the performer picks up a magazine in each hand. The business card is held behind the magazine in the right hand. He discards the one in the left hand and shakes the one in the right, then riffles through the pages and allows the business card to fall onto the table.

A smear of Lipsyl could be attached to the back of the business card to prevent it prematurely making an appearance.

Arthur Settingington Junior Close-up Competition 2009

Thursday May 7 2009

The Humberside Young Magicians Workshop held their annual close-up competition on Thursday May 7th. Joseph Lee's card skills were evident as he performed transpositions and colour changes. Jamie McKellar was proficient with coins using Roy Johnson's Cent routine to good effect. James Fisher's coin flurries and vanishes showcased his excellent sleight-of-hand. Kai Wymes confidently performed a silk change and Hydrostatic Glass and earned second place. The winner was fifteen-year-old Aleks Pawinski with very funny patter, an interesting presentation of Ken Brooke's Burmese Prayer Sticks and some great card tricks including Red Hot Mama and Eddie Fechter's Be Honest Where Is It? Past Vice-President Alan Johnston presented the Trophy. It's interesting that for some of the entrants this was their first public performance and one fourteen-year-old had learned his magic entirely from the Internet – mainly card tricks and sleights from YouTube! He'd never seen a magic book or magazine! There will be a revelation for him when all entrants receive their prizes of books – from Steve Short and Magic Books By Post. Richard Morrell organized and stage managed the evening assisted by Jon Marshall, Malcolm Bromwich and Tom Wilkinson.



Hustler Rides Again

Joe Hustler



An introduction -

If you have been an *Abra* reader or a longstanding member of Hull Magicians' Circle then Joe will need no introduction. He is one of those backroom ideas men of magic. His real name and location has been a mystery. You may have read his many magical tricks but some will not know that Joe lives in Hull, with his wife Denise. Joe was a great friend of Arthur Setterington and has for a number of years, under his real name, been the magical judge for the Spooner Trophy Competition. As a magical originator and writer Joe

has contributed many series to magical magazines over the years but especially *Abracadabra* magazine. Joe's series feature his, typically, short tricks with simple plots, many instantly playable and always written with gentle humour. They often feature routines with Tarot Cards reflecting Joe's past experiences as a Tarot and Psychic reader and interest in mentalism and cold reading.

The sad demise of *Abra* has produced an unexpected consequence for our club magazine, *Oracle*, as Joe has offered us his recently written but unpublished series for the enjoyment of our members. So in his own words the Hustler Rides Again...

My interest in magic was first aroused in the 1940s and that's a darnn long time ago, but it was only last year I had the great pleasure of meeting HMC member Walt Lees. I was the magical judge, as I've been on numerous occasions, for the annual competition of the Hull young magicians, these days held at the Ferens Art Gallery in the city centre.

Walt was there too, and decided to take a photograph of yours truly, this appearing in *Abra* soon afterwards, and its appearance made me aware of the fact that perhaps I'd been kidding myself for ruddy years. Thinking I was 'wearing

well' it was a bit of a shock to open at a certain page and see a silly, gormless looking twit staring up – and suddenly realised it was me!

Surely not ... never in a month of Sundays ... and other words that cannot possibly be printed here. Anyway, eventually regaining my composure, it became quite obvious that there must clearly have been a fault with the lens on Mr Lees' camera. Surely no-one could look as bad as old Hustler did on said photograph. But, and here's a most remarkable coincidence. I've looked in the bathroom mirror many times since and ... it's got exactly the same fault as Mr Lees' camera lens!!!

Now, let's move on. Here's something I came up with that went down well on being put over for a small group of lay people recently. You'll need six dice and the Major Arcana from a Tarot deck. It makes things look even more interesting if the dice are different sizes and colours.

In advance I had the Major Arcana prepared with the symbols one to six in number order on top. To perform, these were mixed, though keeping the small stack intact, then spread out face up left to right along a table, but not exposing the top six. Before scooping them up again it was pointed out that all were different. Then, the top half dozen were dealt into a face down row on the table. Next a die was placed in front of each,

the uppermost sides showing a digit, 1 to 6, all different. These are not placed in numerical order. I chose a suitable lady spectator, asking her to slide back any one of the face down Tarot symbols, then removed the remainder returning same to the Major Arcana out of harms way. I, of course, at once knew the number on the chosen symbol. It was in fact number 4.

Directing attention to the row of dice, I requested her to say either odd or even. She decided on odd, so the three dice bearing 1, 3 and 5 were removed. Had she chosen even I'd still have removed the odd numbers saying, "We'll not need these then" (Usual Magician's Choice business, no need for me to spell it out). Next, I requested, "high or low?" High was named, so die number 6 was taken away. Saying, "Please place a finger on top of either die," the finger went for number 2, so it was removed leaving number 4.

The climax was when the assistant turned over the FREELY CHOSEN face down Tarot symbol (numbered 4 you'll recall) to discover both it and the RANDOMLY (?) selected die bore the very same number. Heck! And this, to her obvious delight, PROVED (ho hum) that she most certainly has a real touch of the E.S.Ps. Fingers crossed that when the time comes, I do go up and not down!

Deception Point

Domanic Li

A Change of Hearts

EFFECT

Some heart-shaped Goshman sponges, costing only 25p each, on Practical Magic's stand at the South Tyneside Convention earlier this year, gave rise to the following.

The performer introduces a red two-inch sponge ball and places it underneath the hand of a spectator which is resting palm down on the table.

A pack of cards is brought out and another spectator freely chooses one. (The fact that it's always the two of hearts is neither here nor there!) This card, having been shown around, is slid under the chooser's hand, which has also been placed flat on the table.

The magician explains that he will cause the ball to magically change places with the card. Of course, the transposition of such unlike objects in this way sounds too good to be true ... and it is! After several failed attempts, both people still have the items originally given to them.

The perplexed performer admits defeat, snatches the card and turns it over. It is seen to no longer be a two-spot but to have become a picture of a red sponge ball!

After professing surprise, the magician requests the other spectator to uncover the ball. When this person raises his or her hand, two heart-shaped sponges are revealed.

So the transposition was a partial success but in an unexpected way.

METHOD

You'll need a couple of the heart-shaped sponges, a two-inch Goshman sponge ball of the same colour and a blank-faced card with a back to match the pack you intend using. On the face of the card draw a picture of the sponge ball and colour it in. Depending on your artistic capabilities, this can be anything from a simple coloured circle to an elaborate depiction with light and shade.

During the course of the trick you will need to force the two of hearts from your deck and switch it for this picture card. There are numerous ways to do so, from the simple to the highly advanced. Therefore I will leave this part to your own ingenuity. A very easy method would be to have the two-spot on the bottom of the pack with the picture card immediately above it. Force the two with the Crossing the Cut Force; then in removing it, use the Glide to switch it for the picture. Or perhaps you might prefer a one-hand Classic Force behind the back followed by Ed Marlo's In and Out Switch (second method) ... no, I didn't think so! But it's up to you.

Begin with the pack in your pocket, set for whatever force and switch you care to use. The sponge ball is visible on the table while the two heart-shaped sponges are Finger Palmed in the right hand. It's probably easiest to obtain them as the hands go to the pockets searching for the ball. Incidentally, it's not necessary

to keep the hand concealing the sponges tightly clenched; a loose relaxed position is far better provided you're careful about the angles.

Bring the right hand down over the ball as in photo 1. Notice the position of the two concealed hearts and how they are in front of the ball. This is important if the switch that follows is to be clean. Squash the ball against your right palm and put only the hearts into your left hand, which immediately turns back upwards and drops flat onto the table with the fingers extended but kept together. Don't close it into a tight fist as it receives the hearts; this is not necessary. Nobody can see what it holds and even if they could, provided the hearts are kept together everything looks more or less as it should. As you carry out this action, say to a spectator on your left, "I want you to hold the ball against the table like this." By now your hand should be flat on the tabletop with the supposed ball underneath.

Have the spectator place his or her hand down in a similar manner; then with your right forefinger and thumb, reach beneath your own hand and bring out the two hearts lightly squeezed together (Photo 2). Slide them beneath the spectator's hand. Take care that the hidden ball doesn't flash when you do this.

Mention that you also need a pack of cards. Feel in your pocket; dump the ball and bring out the cards. It's important in situations like this that people know in advance why you are going to your pocket. When you openly put something in, no explanation is necessary; everyone can see the reason. But when a supposedly empty hand is suddenly thrust into a pocket without warning, suspicions can

be aroused. Even though the subsequent removal of an object justifies the action, it's then too late. The damage has been done; too much attention has been drawn to something which would otherwise have been dismissed as irrelevant.

Force the two of hearts on another spectator, ensuring everyone sees and remembers it. Switch it for the picture as you tell the person to lay a hand on the table in a similar manner to the other assistant. Slide the face-down picture under the person's hand, leaving a corner exposed.

The work is now done, although for the audience nothing has yet happened. Explain that you are going to transpose the two articles by magic. This should raise a few eyebrows because both are so dissimilar in size, appearance and texture. Indulge in a bit of comic mumbo-jumbo as you unsuccessfully attempt this impossible feat, several times. On each occasion ask the two people if the items have changed yet and feign increasing bewilderment when repeatedly told not. Finally, in exasperation, grab the card pulling it from beneath the spectator's hand and turn it over. Exclaim something like, "Amazing! The pips have turned into a ball! I wonder what's happened to the ball."

Ask the other assistant to lift their hand and see. The two heart sponges will be revealed to the awestruck company.

If you are like Chris Randall, you will now wait for the most beautiful woman in the room to throw herself at your feet, screaming, "Take me, I'm all yours!"

But you may have to wait a long time!

from Bert's scrapbook...

Max Andrews

This distinguished looking magician was prominent as a British magical dealer. According to Bart Whaley (*Who's Who In Magic*) Max Andrew's real surname was McAndrew.

Max (1918 to c1988) set up as a dealer in London until the outbreak of war in 1939. He became the manager of Hamley's Conjuring Department in 1940 and in 1949 he founded Vampire Magic which ran in Archer Street, London until the mid 1950s. Lenz, a previous subject from Bert's Scrapbook, was a full-time employee and devised many effects that Max sold.

His monthly house magazine, *The Magic Magazine* was published from 1952 to 1956 and was extremely popular. Our own Arthur Settington along with Billy McComb, George Blake and other prominent magicians contributed to Max's magazine.

The complete file of Magic Magazine is available digitally from www.Lybrary.com. On that site Martin Breese reports that from information supplied by Val Andrews (no relation to Max), "Max Andrews was an excellent dealer who produced a wide range of well-

manufactured, innovative magic ranging from pocket effects to stage and cabaret illusions. Val Andrews met Max Andrews on many occasions and remembers the impression that he would make at any magic convention that he attended. "He would have a large stand filled with colorful, yet practical, apparatus and he would willingly demonstrate any item without making the potential purchaser feel that he had an obligation to purchase."

Val Andrews recalls the impact that Max Andrews had on his arrival at a convention: "He would have an entourage of magical associates with him including Eddie Joseph and his family, Lenz and many others. At times there would be around twenty people in the group and once the stand had been set up for the convention, Max Andrews would head for the bar in the convention hotel and would order drinks for almost everyone present."

Max authored *Sixteen Card Index Gems* in 1943 and later in 1947 he published *Sixteen Thumb Tie Gems*.

Max retired from magic and moved to New Zealand.

(Additional information from Whaley's *Who's Who In Magic*)

The above picture is from Bert Dexter's Scrapbook. Bert was the first President of HMC and he collected many photographs of Music Hall performers when they appeared in Hull.