



Volume 108 Number 11 February 2019

THE MAGI

"Mundus Vult Decipi"



Members only circulation Founded 1909



President:

Adrian Sullivan 10, Albermarle Street Ashton-U-Lyne OL6 9NR
0161 336 0609

adriansullivan@talktalk.net

President Elect: David Owen

Life Members: John G. Smith,
Adrian Sullivan, Peter McDonald, Jack Steel, Geoffrey Newton

Secretary and Treasurer: Mike Sharples
4, Netherhey Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5BS
0161-287 7865

secretary@orderofthemagi.co.uk

Magi Editor and PRO:

Geoffrey Newton
0161-969 8222

pro@orderofthemagi.co.uk

Entertainments Officer: Max Townsend

max.townsend@stockport.gov.uk

Librarians: Brian Berry and Richard Blackie

brianberry@tiscali.co.uk

Council Members:

Peter Moran, Ian Ball, Alan Russell

Honorary Members: John Pye, June Smith,
Nikki Sharples, Vivien Jackson, Lorraine Hamer



Editorial



With so many attending Blackpool, by the law of averages some of our members would have been there. There's been only one response to my request for a report and that is from Cara Selle. It's taken a woman to come forth, must be something to do with multi- tasking. You'll see her views within these pages.

I have though also spoken to several magicians (not all our members) who said that it had been very enjoyable with plenty to see and do.

There are various other magical activities coming up. The Northern Magic Circle returns to their old stamping ground, the Crown Hotel in Harrogate for the 2019 Northern Magic Summit. I shall be giving two presentations there so if you missed *The Key Ring Lecture* or *Paper Magic* at The Magi there's an opportunity to catch up.

In May there's the Bristol Day which although it is a long way from Manchester should prove a good magical day out. Their venue is only a 5 minute walk from the main line train station.



Next of the horizon is the I.B.M. British Ring dinner in Langho near Blackburn and details appear on the back page of this magazine. The Mytton Fold Hotel is a great venue so why not make a weekend of it?

Talking of The British Ring, the Picnic this year returns to The Little Theatre in Leicester on Sunday 26th May. At only £10 including lunch it is remarkably good value for money. Go to www.britishring.org.uk for further details as they become available.



That's about it directly from me this month so see you all at the next meeting. Just keep in touch with www.orderofthemagi.co.uk to see what is coming up here at your local society.



Finally, what's this character called? There's a prize for the first correct answer.



From the Secretary

Subscriptions Update

(This is my with my treasurer's hat on)

Annual subscriptions will be due at the end of March for the forthcoming year. I am looking at the possibility of taking electronic payments, so if that will make it easier for you then let me know and I will sort out the relevant details. All I ask is that you drop me a short text or email to let me know that you have paid then I can look out for it on the statement.

A few people asked me about this method of payment at our meeting on 26 February but I don't want to give out this information on the public domain of the internet via the magazine.

Membership Drive (Again!!)

Ladies and gentlemen need your help on this item, have you got any ideas how we can boost out membership. We are open to suggestions, but it would be great if we could all put our thinking caps on and come up with something please.



April 2019

This forthcoming year will be our 110th year of Magic in Manchester and I for one am very proud to be a member of such a well-respected society. We are looking at ways of celebrating this momentous occasion, so if you have any suggestions please let us know and we will see what we can put in place. David Owen (pic) will be our President at this time and he deserves your support. How about a night of performing 110 tricks between us? I'm sure some organisation would like to present an evening of us doing this rather ambitious challenge.



Some wise words:

A poor memory's not the same as a clear conscience

Youth passes, but with luck immaturity can last a lifetime!

Best Wishes

Mike

0774 8833666 (just in case you need it)

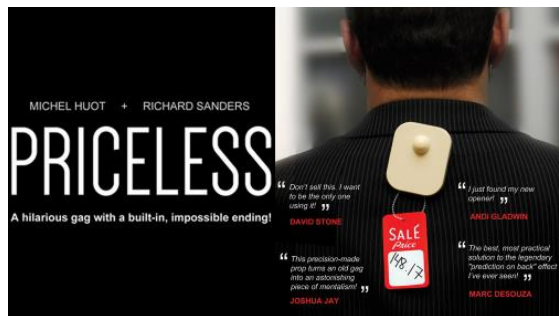
Dear Members and Friends



I hope those of you who went to Blackpool convention enjoyed it, this is no doubt the

busiest and best there is, thanks to the Blackpool magic society and their efforts. I personally enjoyed a two weeks holiday in Gibraltar, completely away from magic, however it is a shame that so many places I go to have no magic shops or societies. Maybe one day we will start a branch over there.

You can tell how people are hungry for magic, just look at this year's Blackpool convention with 4000 delegates.



Our last meeting on the 26 February was about what we bought at the convention, the star of the evening being Mike Sharples, who kept showing us one effect after another. He nearly filled the night,

what an enthusiast. I performed my latest purchase *Priceless* by Richard Sanders and it went straight to my repertoire. I thoroughly enjoyed evening, and look forward to the next meeting on 12 March, when Chris Stickland together with his magic partner Andy Hurst. They are lecturing old friends of mine (over 30 years) where Andy will talk about the technical side of their business as he is the wonderful engineer behind the manufacturing of the quality *Sharpie Thru Anything* and coins and chips tricks on the market. Chris will lecture on magic effects, I'll be there will you?

I have over the years forgotten more than I remember of those great effects I used to do 50 years ago all gone. Why get yourself a notepad, and when you obtain a new trick write it down, you can even take the printed instructions, punch a couple of holes in and keep them in a second loose leaf binder.

There's few things more frustrating than staring at a trick that you've found in the bottom of your case or drawer and you can't remember how it is done.

If you try and try, and you can't succeed, to hell with it.

Adrian

BLACKPOOL 2019

The surprise Spring like weather encouraged my contact at the 'Pool' to re- visit The Convention after a break of 15 years. Everything was busy as usual going through the entrance. It all felt the same until joining the queue for coffee. This venue now had to cater for 4,000 people. Amazingly things were very different and I have it on good authority that someone clocked up 8,000 paces on a pedometer watch for the first circuit of the dealers hall.

This time it really was an International Convention. Looking back at the *60s onwards the old programmes, there always had been International* performers on the bill and perhaps a few visitors from afar. This was different. Many were dealers and their accents could be heard amongst the 150+ stands. Plenty of different gear which was good , as magicians everywhere are eager to spend their cash on something new. More young than old faces, all just as eager to buy as we were back when?

A regular from the very start of Blackpool Magicians when the club had only 9 members, young Mark Raffles was spotted amongst the crowd. Hippy Bob Little 'Wild man wild', he was way ahead of his time with his art form of dressing down? His IBM lecture in 78 Llandudno shocked the establishment.

It's perhaps not as intimate or cosy, watching close up on big screens, at least everything could be seen but not quite the same 'feel' somehow? Linking the Erlich Brothers from Stuttgart was great and in 'real time'. Dealer's stands with show reels, where it used to be videos, slides and DVD stands, all improved on now.

It was a little worrying when a lecturer referred to' close up mats stuffed

with electronics', giving the game away to Joe Public .Robert- Houdin used clockwork 150 years ago. There weren't many lay folk attending his lectures and without the arriving Internet, the world wasn't made aware of the 'cheating.'

Three nights of shows running about 1 and 1/2 hours without a break, unusual these days as people seem to only manage 3/4 hour in theatres without disturbing the row of seats. 2,000 Potential plumbing seekers?

The must have for performances these days is Play It Loud, Shout and be aggressive with your volunteers.

High definition flashing show reels as a pre curser to the performance. Sometimes things didn't always live up to the actual promise.

Who then received the most enthusiastic applause --- Charlie Frye the comedy juggler.

As they say " It's not what you do . It's how you do it".

A non English speaking Russian dealer brought the In Thing this year THE BIG FISH, an all day production of four foot long mini folded (paper/ plastic aquatic)? production.

My contact whose on the cusp of clocking up eighty years complained that he only wanted a die tube and was unable to buy the item amongst the fish and bowls of thumb tips?

In spite of his disappointment with the die this returnee really enjoyed himself. So look out youth the ' THE LIVING DEAD SHALL BE AMONGST YOU NEXT YEAR'.

As related to Kay Murray

Creating with Chris by Geoffrey Newton



In the 22nd January, Chris Stevenson made a welcome return to The Magi, a former member himself and most proficient magician. He's a man with many magical skills but on this occasion

concentrated mainly on 'teach ins' on two particular aspects.

Many of us marvelled at Uri Geller many moons ago bending objects on television, the first being in an interview with David Dimbleby in 1973. When I first saw this I never imagined that all those years later I would be able to replicate this using principles a magician could be taught.



Tonight was though the night though as with the generosity of Chris we were welcome to take as many forks as we needed. He took us through all the moves and in no time at all I was bending tines and the forks in half. Others were able to progress further with twists and visual 'bending.' Granted for some of the more advanced moves you would need an ingenious gadget but it would be money well spent. If you missed this lecture be sure to catch up with it at another club which accepts visiting magicians.

Chris gave us the best advice about using these new found skills in live performances in restaurants. That is to tell the proprietor what you will be doing and that you supply your own forks!

The second part of the evening generally worked around multiple card revelations, something at which Chris excels at. With the use of a short corner card, positions of cards can be controlled and a variety of revelations could then be made. It was a good night of strong patient tuition and we all came away satisfied that we had been able to achieve something.



In between the two major sessions he brought to us the 9 times table ideal compere fill. He freely admitted it was not his invention but the demonstration was very welcome. His inclusion of the watch steal and how to handle the various types of fastenings was very thought provoking.

Chris was generous with his time allowing for a comprehensive Q&A session before it was time to go.

Thanks Chris, it is always a delight to see you.

Who is this?





2019 Convention

British Ring No 25

International Brotherhood of Magicians



Shows

Competitions

Lectures, Workshops

International Gala Show

Ali Bongo Micro Marathon

Plus much more

Registration Officer

Carol Tynan 01704 533768

ibmbritishring25reg@gmail.com

Organising Team Leader

Moirra Fletcher 07771 613894

moira1.fletcher@gmail.com

5th - 8th September
Eastbourne Welcome Building
and Devonshire Park Theatre

Will you be
sending in a
contribution
next month?

Anyone Remember This?

