



Southend Sorcerers Society
Tel: 01702 297983

SOUTHEND SORCERERS FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

2019 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

3rd Mar	Club Night – Speed Dating	21st Aug	EXTRA – Joshua Jay Lecture
7th Apr	Annual General Meeting	1st Sep	Close Up Competition
5th May	Stage Competition	6th Oct	Lecture – Paul Voodini
2nd Jun	Lecture – Jamie Daws	3rd Nov	Props Auction
7th Jul	Lecture – Oliver Tabor	1st Dec	Xmas Fun Night
4th Aug	Club Night		

2019 CLUB SHOWS

9th Mar	All Saints School, Maldon
29th Mar	St Mary's Church, Little Baddow
8th Jun	Stambridge Primary School, Ashingdon Community Hall
22nd Jun	St Nicholas' Church, Canvey Island
W/C 26th Aug	As If By Magic 2019, Dixon Studio

CONTACTS

President - Adrian Fox
01702 297983 / 07711 982890
adrian@adrianfoxmagic.co.uk

Vice President – Oliver Ward
07538 178182
oliverwardmagic@icloud.com

Treasurer – Tracy Wise
01702 597002
tracywise@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary, Membership & Librarian – Ryan Young
07854 634592
ryangyoung@hotmail.co.uk

Club Shows Secretary – Richard Graham
07951 441333
richard@richardgraham-magic.co.uk

LAST MEETING – 3rd FEBRUARY – LECTURE, DAVE LOOSLEY



The club's February meeting was a lecture from Dave Loosley, a well established performer and creator of commercial magic and of course well known for his close association with Alakazam Magic. He's been performing magic for the past 16 years and is an Associate member of the Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star.

Dave is a really nice guy and pointed out straight away that he was there in his own right and not as an Alakazam dealer demonstrator – always good to get the ground rules established! He went on to lead a great evening packed full of superb commercial magic, some of which can be created at home for free and with a minimum of effort. There was also a very interesting discussion about the creative process and how to approach coming up with your own original magical effects.

The effects included in the lecture started out with a card in pocket transposition, where the back colour of a signed card changed. Dave used a timing force to ensure that the correct card was chosen, and explained how to attach the centre panel of a different coloured back to a card using spray mount. Next came another card effect, this one titled 'Squash', where a squashed bottle cap was found on the back of a selected card.

Dave's sweets prediction came next using a nice set of cards that had pictures of various sweets printed on them. The spectator chose a card and Dave's prediction was in view from the outset. Unfortunately his prediction (a bag of Skittles) didn't match the spectator's selection (fruit gums). Undeterred, Dave opened the Skittles and gave some to the spectator to eat – and then when the bag was fully opened it turned out to contain the fruit gums that had been selected!

A nice portable chop cup routine came next using a camping cup that had been specially adapted by Leo Smetsers. The cup packs flat and can be stored in a card box to save on pocket space. On to one of Dave's marketed effects next – 'Inflexion' made for Dave by Rob Bromley, where the index of a card changes visually in full view. We also saw 'Expansion' an effect where a punched hole in a card stretches to allow a coin to pass through; and 'Mystique', a nice colour changing deck effect.

Another nice card routine involved the spectator reversing a card in the deck while it was behind his back. Dave knew which card had been selected ahead of time, all thanks to a force card already reversed in the deck and a middle stock of double faced cards!

But probably the most talked about routine was the classic 'paper balls over the head' effect – Dave's version had a really nice new take on the original, where a torn tissue was restored twice.

Finally, a couple of great tips from Dave that everyone can use. First, you can use the pimple under the clip on a Sharpie lid to imprint the corner of a card. The resulting raised dot will allow you to feel the card as you deal, and the card can then be used as a key card locator. Great idea! Dave also suggested using a magic square in reverse – is to *force* a number!

A great night - and if you missed it, you can find Dave's lecture at Penguin Magic here:
<http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/7090>

Also at the meeting, Ollie Ward led a mentoring session on card controls, introducing a variety of methods and sleights to control a spectator's freely chosen card. Such things as a double undercut, a push through shuffle, a swing cut control and a fan pass were included and the audience soaked it up. Thanks to Ollie for sharing some of his skills with us all.

NEXT MEETING – 3rd MARCH – CLUB NIGHT, SPEED DATING

For those who have never heard of magic 'Speed Dating' this is for you. Speed Dating involves four tables being set out in a small lecture format. A magician comes to each table and performs a mini lecture (typically one trick or subject) in a period of around 20 minutes. The lecturers then move around the tables so that everyone sees all of the sessions and the different styles during the course of the evening.



We've tried this out for the last couple of years and it goes down really well, so here we go again. Seconds out! It's time for our third round of speed dating! Should be loads of fun.

At this year's tables we have Robert Dean with some great effects for you to learn, Trevor Cline talking about balloon sculptures, Tracy Wise looking at story telling development, and Richard Graham leading a discussion on one of the often forgotten essentials of close up magic – pocket management and routing.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and guest magicians are welcome – admission for non members is £10.

NEXT MENTORING SESSION



As our March meeting is pretty much entirely thrown over to mentoring from our club colleagues, we'll cancel the specific mentoring session this month and pick things up again next month.

In the meantime, if you have any thoughts about subjects you'd like covered in these mentoring sessions, please let Adrian know and we'll make sure that your topic is included in the programme.

CLUB SHOWS

If you'd like to perform at any of our future shows, either with close-up magic or as a stage act, then please contact Richard Graham on 01268 783202. Rick will also provide details of venue addresses, times and directions as required.

Our shows are not just one of the ways in which we keep the club running successfully from a financial perspective; they also offer our members a unique opportunity to perform for non-magical audiences, and to practice their routines while improving their skills.



If you've never been involved in one of our shows before, please think about offering some help – there's nothing to lose and everything to gain from practicing with 'real' people.

FUTURE SHOWS

We now have some new shows in the diary for 2019, so please do make a note of the dates and see if you can be available to help out with some or all of the shows we have coming up. Dates so far are as follows:

9th March	All Saints School, Maldon
29th March	St Mary's Church, Little Baddow
8th June	Stambridge Primary School, show at Ashingdon Community Hall
22nd June	St Nicholas' Church, Canvey Island
W/C 26th August	As If By Magic 2019, Dixon Studio

Apologies for the typo in last month's newsletter which listed the show on 22nd June as being held at St Saviour's Church on Canvey Island. As you'll see, the actual venue is St Nicholas' Church so please make a note of the change.

The next shows in March are full performances so we'll need both close uppers and stage acts – please let Rick know if you can help out as we'd like to complete our planned line up as early as possible to save last minute worries. Rick will send out details for the next show and we hope to see you there for another fun filled evening of magic.

You'll also notice that we now have dates for this year's run at the **Dixon Studio** – it's week commencing Monday 26th August. There'll be theatre shows to cast on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday so please let Adrian know ASAP if you can be available and would like to perform at these important shows – an email is preferable please. **NO-ONE has been in touch yet – please do let me know urgently if you'd like to take part.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is just a little early warning that our AGM is coming up in April. It's the time when the committee stands down and a new committee is voted in. We currently have five committee posts: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Shows Secretary.



If anyone is keen to stand for a committee post this year, please get in touch with one of the current members and we can explain what the different roles involve. It's an important part of how the club is organised and remains successful so if you'd like to help and obtain experience of running a club like ours, do let us know.

Please also note that if you have anything you'd like to discuss at the AGM that's not on the usual agenda, we do need advance notice as we may not be able to accept 'any other business' items on the night. Thanks for your co-operation.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Tracy Wise – Psycon 2019



Love putting the myth into mystery? Want Magick in your Magic and Cult in your Culture?

Then experience this special opportunity to attend a one day gathering with like-minded individuals at Psycon 2019.

Psycon is an exploration of the connectivity between the occult, Fortean themes, gothic culture, the curious, storytelling/mythmaking and performance arts. With guest speakers, visual arts, magic, storytelling and an exclusive exhibition of original artwork by King Mob (The Wise Brothers) this will be an incredible day to remember.

Attendees can also book to attend 'The Whitechapel Murder Trail' led by Psycon organiser and magician Tracy Wise. This will take place on Friday 15th November with Psycon itself running on Saturday 16th at:

Concrete, The Tea Building, 56 Shoreditch High Street, Shoreditch E1 6JJ

Early Bird tickets are £50 including lunch and refreshments and can be purchased here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/psycon-gateway-to-occulture-tickets-52409712862>

OTHER MAGIC SHOWS ETC

BLACKPOOL MAGIC CONVENTION 2019



This year's Blackpool magic convention ran 15th – 17th February and it promised to be the best yet!

A number of our members attended this year and it was great to see the club so well represented. Adrian Fox, Richard Graham, Tracy Wise, Rob Newson, Chris Campos, Lewis Clifton, Oliver Tabor, Ollie Ward, Terry Machin, Chris Poole, Alfie Hawes

and Doug Roden all met up at some point to compare notes. Trevor Cline was also at the convention taking part in the Family Entertainer competition. Unfortunately he was unsuccessful this year, but congratulations for taking part Trevor!

As you might expect there were some highlights and plenty of discussion about the various shows and lectures that were held – and with 4000 magicians in attendance, there was plenty of opinion about the highs and lows of the weekend. Rick, Adrian and Tracy all stayed in the same guest house along with the Alakazam team, and each morning there was some lively discussion over the breakfast table about the previous day's events.



For me, the highs included the Morgan and West show and lecture – which contained a fabulous new handling for cards across, and a very well thought out version of the famous multiplying bottles routine. The Other Brothers lecture with Nicholas Lawrence had some great effects to play with, some of which could be made with some simple DIY.

The 'strangest lecture of the weekend' award goes to Dan Sperry. Known as the 'anti-conjuror', Dan was drafted in to replace the Amazing Jonathan who had to drop out because of illness. In his 11.30pm show one night, Dan presented his usual range of routines and effects – things like thread from eyeball, needles through a spectator's arms etc. So next morning, we all turned up to his lecture expecting some insight into his methods – but instead, he spent 45 minutes talking about his experiences as a children's entertainer!



The gala shows were a mixed bag to be honest. Hans Klok headlined the last show and although many magicians don't actually like 'box illusionists', you had to appreciate the slickness and speed with which his 30 minute show was put together. Some of the other acts that went down well weren't magic acts at all – we had jugglers and all sorts. Some people were very disappointed and angry at a few racist gags that somehow found their way into a couple of the acts – and quite right too! These days that sort of material really isn't acceptable any more.

Some of the acts were also let down by being a little outdated – For example, US star Rudy Coby has been performing the same act since the 1980s (I remember going to watch a pilot TV special being filmed with him at the BBC!) and unfortunately, for those sat near the front of the theatre, the methods used were all too obvious.

But the biggest standing ovation of the weekend was undoubtedly for Eric Chien. As the winner of the FISM grand prix, his lecture was something to marvel at. He showed us how to tackle his retention coin vanish, which is like watching real magic – and you too can master it if you have two years to practice!



Then he presented his prize winning act in one of the gala shows – absolutely mesmerising! You can see it here if you haven't witnessed it already:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvzMqIQLiXE>

His act drew a huge standing ovation – and quite rightly too: an incredible performance that must have taken years to perfect.



The other part of the weekend was of course all about the dealers – and with 150 of them to visit, it was pretty much full on. You could find everything, including a noticeably high proportion of new electronic marvels. One company in particular, Illuminati Magic, presented their new range of integrated devices that promise to put everything else into the shade when they go to market in a few months' time.

So in conclusion it was a fabulous weekend and if you've never been to Blackpool before, I'd really recommend it as a 'must do it at least once' occasion.

FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Cards

BLADE by Nicholas Lawrence

Here's one that debuted at Blackpool – Blade by Nicholas Lawrence.

A homage to the famous Sawing a Woman in Half illusion, Blade allows you to mysteriously split an ordinary card into two separate moving pieces right in front of your spectator's eyes! After the card is split, you effortlessly fuse the pieces back together without any additional cover. The best part? You can immediately hand everything out for examination *without* having to switch the cards!



Blade arrives ready to perform right out of the box. Each gimmick is handmade by Nicholas Lawrence and the Abstract Effects team.



Immediately hand everything out for examination. Each package comes with a fully built gimmick as well as additional materials for customization.

Blade is available on pre-order at a price of £27 at Vanishing Magic:

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic/close-up-magic/blade/>

Street Magic

MINT-O by Liam Jumpertz

A complete sell-out sensation at Magic Live and Blackpool!

You borrow or have a spectator examine a set of headphones. Then you pop an examined mint (Polo mint) into your mouth. Next you bite down on the headphone cord for an instant and, when you open your mouth, everyone sees that the mint has penetrated the cord! It's as if someone combined an impossible puzzle with a magic trick...and the result is fantastic!



Consider these important points:

Mint-O can be performed with a borrowed mint.

There are no angle restrictions.

You can use headphones, a necklace, a rubber band, or any thin cord.

You'll even learn a version where you can hand the mint out at the end!

Mint-O has the same qualities as Needle-Swallowing, in that the mint is magically threaded onto the cord--but it's much quicker and more appropriate for family audiences.



The effect is easy to learn, easy to perform, and has NO angle restrictions.

No props to replace.

No DIY props to make.

And... it's instantly repeatable.

You supply your own package of mints and you can then perform the trick ANYWHERE: onstage, in the street, or walk-around.

You can watch the trailer at [Magicshop.co.uk](https://www.magicshop.co.uk) – they seem to have the best price at £18.75

<https://www.magicshop.co.uk/mint-o-gimmicks-and-online-instructions-by-liam-jumpertz-trick>

Mentalism

MYSTIFY by Vinny Sagoo

This little gem was something I had to buy at Blackpool purely for the ingenuity and simplicity of the way it works!

Mystify is a book test like no other and fits snugly into your pocket. Unlike conventional book tests that are cumbersome and utilise difficult codes, gimmicks and other obscure methods, this is both simple and straightforward.



Mystify is compact, light and has a very simple system that will take minimal time to learn. To perform Mystify, you simply ask a spectator to select a page number from the book. For instance, they might select page 50, whereby you then ask them to remember a word several lines down on that page. You then proceed to read the spectators mind and reveal the word. You can repeat the trick with the same spectator, or indeed with several spectators at the same time, all selecting different pages and words.

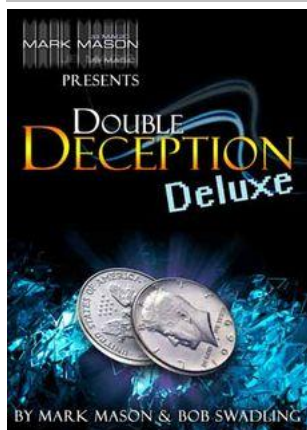
Examinable, dead easy to do, totally hands off, pocket sized, no setups and no prompting for information.

You can buy Mystify for £34.99 directly from Vinny's company Neo Magic – see it here:

<https://www.neomagic.co.uk/product-page/mystify>

Coins

DOUBLE DECEPTION by Mark Mason and Bob Swadling



Double Deception Deluxe UK - £2 Version

J B magic have taken Bob Swadling's original, classic effect Double Deception and made it unbreakable. In 2010 Bob and Mark brought to you the ground-breaking Next Generation Flipper, as a part of the Triception coin set. They've once again, pushed the boundaries with the incredible Double Deception Deluxe. This set features a brand new design of next generation flipper, the first ever Locking Gravity Flipper coin. It has no rubber bands to break, no gluing, no repairing, no pieces to fix ever.

If you have seen Double Deception then you already know this is the killer, close-up or walk around magic effect. Perform this brilliant piece of magic with 100% confidence. Never worry about a rubber band breaking during your show - there aren't any!

This coin set will never leave your pocket. Along with the unlocking magnetic system, you will receive the first Locking Gravity Flipper with the new, revolutionary, hinge system. This takes away all the trouble of ever fixing flipper coins.

Every set features:

New Locking Gravity Flipper (No Bands)

Magnetic Coin (Unlocking System)

Step-by-step DVD

DVD Features:

Strolling Coin Thru Silk - The perfect strolling routine, always set; perform anywhere, anytime.

Coin Thru Silk New Handling - The new, locking gravity flipper allows a brand new killer handling.

Spectator Coin Thru Silk - The effect Mark is killing with! The spectator actually performs the effect themselves!

Marks Bonus Handling - A brilliant combination of all three routines, it is killer

Caring For Your Flipper - Everything you need to know about this incredible flipper.

I know a few people who picked this up at Blackpool and it's a wonderful coin set. Not cheap at £70, but the coins are so well made and will last forever! You can see the video and more information at the JB Magic website:

<https://www.jbtv.co.uk/p/j-b-exclusives/double-ceception-2-set-by-mark-mason-bob-swadling>

That's about it for this month everyone – send any articles for next month's newsletter to Adrian for publishing.