



Southend Sorcerers Society

Tel: 01702 297983

SOUTHEND SORCERERS MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

2021 MEETINGS – SOME TBC

6 th Jun	Dealer Dem – Alakazam and Leo Smetsers
4 th Jul	Lecture - Paul Gordon TBC
1 st Aug	Club Night
5 th Sep	Close Up Competition
3 rd Oct	Lecture – Vinny Sagoo
7 th Nov	Props Auction
5 th Dec	Xmas Fun Night

2022 CLUB SHOWS

26 th Feb 22	Wentworth School, Maldon
Aug 22	As If By Magic – Dixon Studio (TBC)

CLUB WEBSITE

www.southendsorcerers.com

Members' area password - jimmy

CONTACTS

President - Adrian Fox
01702 297983 / 07711 982890
adrianfox@compuserve.com

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

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

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

LAST MEETING – 2nd MAY – LECTURE – MARK SHORTLAND



Our May meeting was a welcome return for Mark Shortland who last lectured for us some years ago – during his last visit he ended the evening by nearly hanging himself with a real gallows during a magical game of hangman! This time of course, the evening was held on the Zoom platform but Mark was in good spirits and clearly well prepared for his time with us.

Mark started out with his take on the bill switch and how it can be used for a variety of effects including for Zoom shows. Using the usual thumb tip to perform the switch, Mark explained how he felt the original handling had some drawbacks in that the paper was sometimes covered by the hands. His version meant that your hands never cover the paper entirely, making it more deceptive. The Zoom version he performs involves the turning of a hand drawn banknote into a real note. (The ‘real’ note is actually a photocopy printed on Tyvek paper which is far more resilient than ordinary paper. It will last for dozens of performances and is available on Amazon – search for printable tyvek paper)



Next came Mark’s double headed daisy routine which culminated in two daisies being joined to form a double header. (Something we probably all did as kids and really easy to accomplish!)



Apart from his skills as a magician, Mark is also a talented artist and has created some decks of cards featuring his artwork. One of these is ‘53 Movies’, a set of pro sized cards illustrating different famous films by the use of caricatures of the main characters in them. Mark used this deck to perform a mind reading routine with a card freely selected and then divined. The backs of the cards are cleverly marked, not only with the movie on the card, but also with the identity of the card above it in the stack. This makes mentalism routines easy to accomplish and the artwork gives the effect a nice added interest for the spectator.

An unmarked set of the cards is also available in poker size – these come with an additional card to enable the performance of a classic card routine, ‘The Chicago Opener’. There’s also a poker sized deck of unmarked cards featuring illustrations of well known magicians (53 Magicians).

On to rubber band magic next, and a simple routine using a single band which apparently penetrates your fingers by jumping from your 1st and 2nd fingers, down to your 3rd and 4th fingers in the blink of an eye. Although this is an easy and well known effect, Mark used it as an opportunity to discuss scripting and to explain how your script can almost be more important than the trick itself. This is something we could all do with giving more thought to and it was a good point well explained.

Next, Mark took a look at probably his most famous invention, the ‘Amazebox’. Available in 3 versions now, Amazebox is simply a brilliant way to switch a set of spectator billets for a pre-made set of force billets. The switch is performed automatically as the spectator opens the box and allows all sorts of mentalism routines. Mark demonstrated a brilliant add a number routine where a number of spectators are each asked to write down the value of any single banknote, then to fold the billet and place it in the box. When the box is opened and the values added, the total matches a prediction which has been on full display throughout the show. Mark discussed the way the box had been designed (it’s actually based on a KFC box!) and went through different uses for it.



The three versions are in different sizes in white, black and brown, and you can also buy an 'Amazebook' from Vanishing Inc which contains ten routines from a number of performers.



Mark's final piece was a fortune teller routine using a paper 'snapdragon' which is designed to allow you to force an outcome – it makes clever use of a dry wipe marker to end up with the final choice.

Mark offered us some great deals on all his products for a 48 hour period but you can purchase any of his effects by visiting the shop at his website www.markshortland.com

He also generously allowed us to record the lecture (for our members only) and the video is now on the club website as usual – you can find it in the members' section at www.southendsorcerers.com (the password is jimmy)

Thanks go to Mark for a fabulous evening which we also shared with Mid Essex Magical Society.

NEXT MEETING – 6th JUNE – ALAKAZAM/LEO SMETSERS WORLD TOUR

Our next meeting is on June 6th - and this time we're bringing you a rather special evening featuring not only the magic of Leo Smetsers, the well known and creative Dutch magician; but it's also a double header with probably the best known magic dealer in the UK, Alakazam Magic.



Leo is well known in the magic world for some amazing products and ideas including some superbly made baseball styled final loads for cups and balls, not to mention a lovely range of micro cups and shells too. He's also done some great work with dice – and his flight case prediction prop is incredible (although expensive!) Rest assured Leo will be brilliant to watch!

And Alakazam are probably one of the biggest dealers around. Founded by Peter Nardi, and with his son Harry fully on board now, the Alakazam team are really nice guys and extremely helpful. I have no idea what to expect on the night from them, but I know it'll be an incredible evening not to be missed.

We've opened this meeting up to Mid Essex Magical Society and also to other non member magicians – Leo was keen to try and achieve the biggest audience possible – so it should be a really vibrant and well attended meeting we hope. If you know any other magicians who might be keen to dial in, feel free to share the sign in details with them – it's free for all attendees.

The meeting starts at 7.30 as usual and here are the Zoom dial in details:

Topic: Sorcerers Alakazam/Leo Smetsers Evening

Time: June 06, 2021 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

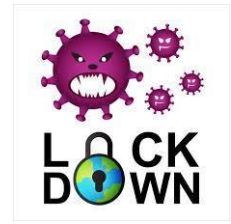
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8254968023?pwd=MFRZVVZZclozNVBnUFNlNmmtaHphdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 496 8023

Passcode: sorcerers

FUTURE MEETINGS – GETTING BACK TOGETHER?!

We've been in touch with our usual meeting venue, the Ekco Club, and we've had some great news! All being well, as long as lockdown easing progresses as we all hope it will (although watch this space of course) the Ekco have confirmed that we'll be welcome to hold our meetings back at the venue with effect from July!



This means that from July onwards we'll hopefully be able to meet in person again rather than via Zoom. Of course we'll need to see what happens in June with the planned lockdown easing, but let's all keep our fingers crossed. If all goes to plan, our first meeting at the Ekco will be on 4th July and will be a lecture from card man Paul Gordon.

We'll keep you up to date with developments as soon as we know what's happening for sure!

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.

CURRENT SHOW BOOKINGS

Nothing new to report this month unfortunately, but with lockdown easing, let's hope we can get back to booking some shows soon! At present our next shows are as follows:

26th February 2022, Wentworth School in Maldon

Final date still to be confirmed! Please keep this one in mind and let's all hope that we can get our performing shoes on and get out to show them some of our best magic!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Annual Dinner 2021

In last month's newsletter we mentioned the idea of holding some sort of very informal annual dinner type of social get together, perhaps involving a fish and chip supper. We only received a reply from one member (thanks Don and Carol) so we're really interested to know your views on the idea.

Do drop any of the committee members a line to let them know your thoughts and we'll take it from there! Thanks again for your input.

MAGIC NEWS

Tracy Wise – Crime Scene Illusion – Royal Hotel - 12th June



Assuming all goes according to plan with the lockdown easing, Tracy is back at the Royal Hotel with her Crime Scene Illusion show on Saturday 12th June and tickets are available now. It's a fascinating show which combines the science of forensic investigation with magic and storytelling.

For more details, email Tracy at tracywise@hotmail.co.uk or give her a ring on 07544 150208

FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Comedy Mentalism

MEASURE FOR MEASURE by Iain Bailey

Measure For Measure by Iain Bailey is a powerful, funny and visual effect for Parlour, stage, close up or even social media performances.



With Measure For Measure you receive a special Stanley tape measure and an in depth tutorial download where Iain teaches, amongst other things, a great fun routine where you predict a freely chosen spectator's height and also their name which is clearly written on the back of the tape measure!

You could also have your spectator mark any position on a wall (any distance they like from where you are standing) and when they put the tape measure to that exact distance you can clearly show you had predicted it ahead of time!

With Measure For measure, there is nothing to secretly write on, nothing to secretly rub off - Iain's method is simple and direct, accurate and baffling.

Each Measure For Measure gimmick is handmade by Iain from a genuine Stanley tape measure so you know the quality will last you a lifetime. The handmade gimmick is customisable to predict anything - a distance, a name, a word from a book, a phone number, in fact anything you can imagine. The prediction is large enough to be seen on stage.

Measure For Measure can be performed anytime during your show and is ideal as a strong opening piece. Whether you choose perform Measure For Measure as a straight piece of mentalism, a compere bit, a comedy prediction or even as part of a larger routine I guarantee you will perform it! Everything you need is included in the box, including the genuine Stanley tape measure!

You can see it at Alakazam where the price is £50

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/measure-for-measure-by-iain-bailey.html>

Mentalism

E-WAVE by Marc Oberon



Grant the power of Extra Sensory Perception to anyone. E-Wave starts with a super clean 50/50 'which hand' style effect and builds progressively towards a staggering climax. A combination of methods allows the spectator to correctly guess the position on a board of any one of five different ESP symbols. They can guess any symbol in any position!

No procedure, nor mental gymnastics, no memorization needed - this is direct, effective mentalism. Innocent looking precision made props are used which are made from high quality materials. Similar in performance to Kovari's Perfect Match in effect - but this is much stronger and taken to amazing new levels.

This is Marc Oberon's latest release and although it's pretty expensive, if you like ESP style mentalism effects, it's a sure fire winner. You can see it at your favourite dealer's website - but it'll set you back around £130.

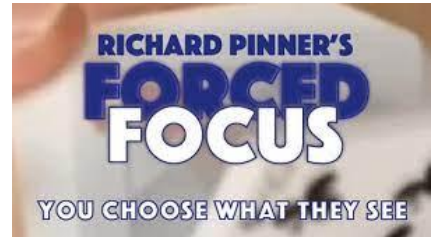
<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/e-wave--gimmick-and-online-instructions--by-marc-oberon--trick.html>

Cards

FORCED FOCUS by Richard Pinner

From the creator of Kids Cards and Ringflash comes Richard Pinner's Forced Focus, a card effect where you choose what they get to see!

Forced Focus gives you the ability to force one or several cards in a very clean and fair way, without the participants touching the cards – great for lockdown non-contact magic.



The ingenious principle means the spectators cannot see any values other than the cards being forced, yet it gives the impression that a complete deck of cards is being shown.

This clever idea creates new possibilities for classic plots such as Tossed Out Deck and Multiple Card Revelations and it also opens them up to the virtual world. It is ideal for virtual shows but also in a live environment.

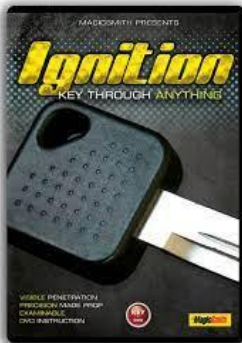
I love some of Richard's material and this is a brilliant idea – a gimmicked deck, yes, but there's no need for the spectator to handle the cards anyway. You receive the deck, some additional cards for extra effects, and membership of a FaceBook group, as well as the detailed instructions of course.

Forced Focus is available at your favourite dealer and costs around £30

<https://www.propdog.co.uk/forced-focus-richard-pinner>

Penetrations

IGNITION by Chris Smith



Think of pen through note, but substitute the pen for a car key, and there you have it!

Ignition is a key that can penetrate any borrowed object - a bill, a sugar packet, even a spectator's sleeve. Yet, when you rip the key out, there's no hole, no rip and no damage! You can pass the key and the borrowed object immediately for examination - there's only one key. They won't find anything because ignition is a real car key that can withstand the closest inspection - even by a locksmith!

Ignition is always on you. When not in use, it travels inconspicuously on your key chain. But, when you're ready to perform, there's no fumbling - just detach it from its quick release karabiner (included) and you're set to perform.

The handling is so easy that anyone can learn it in minutes. There's even a quick start method that will get you performing immediately. Ignition can be performed anywhere - surrounded. It's good for table hoppers, and those spur of the moment situations when someone asks to 'see something'.

Ignition comes with access to an online instructional video that teaches 3 different routines:

Key through bill

Key through sugar packet

Key through shirt

A whole new approach to pen through note routines – Ignition costs around £30 and you can see it here: <https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/ignition-by-chris-smith.html>

Wallets

PACKET WALLET by TCC

Have you performed a packet trick by first removing the cards from a torn, plastic carrier? It's time to give your presentation "class" by using a professional, leather packet wallet by TCC. First impressions say a lot about you, and when you show this packet wallet, you're telling your audience you are a magician.



The design is simple, yet elegant. You'll be proud to display this packet wallet, as it is of the finest PU leather. We were very particular in making this so you'd be thrilled with it. We selected eight leather industries from 60 before finally choosing the one with the best craftsman's spirit and sense of quality detail. We spent three months making a conscientious selection in materials, colours, and wallet design. In short, detailed craftsmanship at an affordable price!

Enjoy performing your packet effects with the new packet wallet.

The Packet Wallet is simply that, but at the price Saturn Magic have it for, it's a bargain! It costs just £4.35. I bought two!

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/packet-wallet-by-tcc.html>

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