



Southend Sorcerers Society
Tel: 01702 297983

SOUTHEND SORCERERS APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

2018 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

6 th May	Stage Competition	2 nd Sep	Close Up Competition
3 rd Jun	Club night	7 th Oct	Lecture – Steve Dela
10 th Jun	EXTRA Lecture – Jamy Ian-Swiss	27 th Oct	Annual Presentation Dinner
1 st Jul	Dixon Shows Prep Night	4 th Nov	Props Auction
5 th Aug	Club Night	2 nd Dec	Xmas Fun Night

2018 CLUB SHOWS

27 th April	St Mary's Church, Little Baddow
w/c 11 th September	'As If By Magic', Dixon Studio
13 th October	Chancellor Park, Chelmsford (Provisional)
15 th December	Canvey Island Show

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LAST MEETING – 8th APRIL – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The club's April meeting was the 41st AGM, a chance for all members to have a say in the running of our club, and at the same time the election of a new committee for the coming year.



Full minutes of the meeting will be posted in the members' area on the website along with last year's committee reports and the audited financial report for the year. For members wishing to visit the members' area, the username is 'Jimmy' and the password is 'Rogers'. For those without internet access, paper copies of everything may be obtained by contacting Adrian. In the meantime the salient points from the meeting are as follows:

The meeting opened at 8:05PM.

Members in attendance:

Adrian Fox, Alfie Hawes, Andy Smith, Audrey Heddon, Chris Fenneberg, Derek Martin, Don Simpson, Doug Roden, Keith Pain, Lewis Clifton, Matthew Turner, Michael Leach, Oliver Ward, Ray Simkins, Richard Graham, Simon Stott, Tracy Wise

Apologies were received from: Stuart Burrell, Phil Stepney, Ryan Young, Barry Harvey, and Trevor Cline

The minutes from the previous AGM held in April 2017 were approved – Proposed by Keith Pain and seconded by Doug Roden.

Reports covering last year's events and activities were read out by each of the outgoing committee members, and these were all unanimously approved by the members (proposed by Don Simpson seconded by Andy Smith)

Membership Fees were discussed and it was suggested by the outgoing committee that the fees should remain unchanged following an increase last year. This means that membership subscriptions for 2018/19 are as follows:

Joining Fee	£10
Individual Membership	£20
Family/Junior Membership	£25
Guest Fee at ordinary meetings	£2
Guest fee at lectures	£10

Honorary Life Membership

No one was proposed this year.

Amendments to Rules and Constitution

There were no suggested amendments to the constitution from the floor or the committee this year. The number of committee members required may be reviewed next year.

Election of Officers for 2018

This year all outgoing committee members had agreed to stand for re-election, and there were no other nominations. As a result, the existing committee was proposed for re-instatement by Keith Pain and this was seconded by Don Simpson. The committee for 2018/19 is therefore as follows:

President	Adrian Fox
Vice President	Oliver Ward
Treasurer	Tracy Wise
Shows Secretary	Richard Graham
Secretary	Ryan Young

Any Other Business

Dixon Shows. Don Simpson suggested that, as many members cannot see the performers at the Dixon shows, we should film the shows and have a viewing night at a separate club meeting. The option of holding an extra show in aid of Haven's Hospices was also discussed, and after discussion it was agreed that a simpler option would be to hold a bucket collection after every show, so this would be pursued by the committee.

Lectures. Don Simpson noted that MEMS & SSS often have the same lectures, especially for those coming from overseas. It was suggested that we could combine the clubs for these lectures and therefore save costs. Richard Graham has tried to contact MEMS about this previously, but the committee will look into this in more detail to see what might be possible.

Cross Club Entertainment Evenings with MEMS. Don Simpson suggested that the two clubs might be able to entertain each other at exchange evenings. Adrian mentioned that this had been looked at before but suggested that we explore more things for the future with MEMS. The committee would get in touch with James Cooper at MEMS to explore possibilities.

Merchandise Sales Demo Video. Lewis Clifton suggested using a video displayed on a tablet to demonstrate the magic for sale at shows. This was thought to be a good idea and the committee will explore options.

Club Shows. Adrian Fox mentioned that the committee was considering offering different types of shows to clients – such as a close up only event as well as the traditional combined close up and stage show.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

EXTRA MEETING – 15th APRIL – GREG WILSON LECTURE

This time it's over to club member Chris Poole for a review of Greg's lecture – thanks Chris!



'This was a lecture that I had been looking forward to and was well received by all who attended, although I was somewhat disappointed because it was not actually a lecture, it was a dealer dem. The items demonstrated and for sale were "Chip on Shoulder" an appearing poker chip that appeared on several occasions on the helper's shoulder, as did a coin purse. "Pointless" was a ball point pen where the writing end of the pen jumped from one end of the pen to another. "Exact Change" was an effect where a spectator is asked for a number between 1 and 100 and when the answer is given the change in the performer's pocket added up exactly to that amount. "Band Width" was an effect where a spectator's finger ring was stretched and then returned to normal size. "Foreign Affair" was a misprinted bank note that changed from one currency to another, finally ending up with an examinable UK note. "Split Focus" was an appearing and multiplying American Dollar effect and to close the first half, Greg showed "Revolution", a gimmick to spin a card or the full deck on a single finger.

For the second half of the lecture, Greg gave an effect for free called "Code Breaker". This involved a spectator using their own iPhone and putting in two sets of six digits and the method allowed the performer to know the code to unlock the spectator's phone. As this is not an item he was selling, I will detail now how this worked. This effect only works with an iPhone. The spectator is asked to bring up the calculator on the iPhone and hold the phone so that the performer cannot see the screen. The spectator is then asked to put in 6 random numbers and hit the plus button.

He is then asked to put in the 6 digits used to unlock the phone and press equal. The phone is then taken by the performer without looking at the screen and just as he has taken this away he says to the spectator, "oh, I should ask you to press the clear button so I cannot see what numbers you have put in". Once clear, he turns the phone round and explains that he has just asked him to put in 6 random numbers etc and then turns the phone off, which locks the phone. The performer then proceeds to put in the relevant digits to unlock the phone.

The secret of this is that, with an iPhone, once the two numbers have been added together, (and providing the clear button is only pressed once), pressing the 'equals' button again will bring up the last 6 numbers that have been input into the phone. But in normal circumstances, if someone is asked to clear the screen it is commonplace for them to push the 'clear' button twice (which will clear everything). Therefore after the spectator has entered the second 6 digits (the Pin Number to his phone), the performer holds it in front of the spectator and asks them to push the clear button. This ensures that the button will only be pressed once. Once the screen has been cleared, the performer looks at it and pushes the 'equals' button so it will display the phone's Pin. All that has to be done is to remember the Pin code in order to unlock the phone.

As a follow on to this, Greg gave the phone back to the spectator and asked him to secretly put in 4 digits, which he revealed without looking further at the phone. There was a lot of by play in this, but finally the four numbers chosen were the last 4 digits of the spectator's phone number. Greg was able to know this by secretly looking in the contacts section of the phone (before he gave the phone back to the spectator). The phone number on top of the first entry in the contacts list is the spectator's own name and phone number. To get to it as a shortcut, when looking at contacts, if you press the time at the top of the contacts list, this will automatically display the top of the contacts list and will therefore display the spectator's phone number immediately.

Greg then followed this with some card magic, went on to explain some card sleights and then demonstrated "Cold Case", a deck switch utility prop. "Peak Pack" was Greg's version of the tossed out deck and was a much cleaner and more convincing (particularly for magicians) version of the original. The final effect was a very effective "Rubik's cube" routine where both the performer and the spectator mixed up individual Rubik's cubes, and after all of the mixing the two cubes appeared to have exactly the same pattern.

This was a very entertaining evening and sales appeared to be quite good, although they may have gone much better if the items were more sensibly priced. (£35 for a Poker Chip and some Blu Tac? – come on!).'

NEXT MEETING – 6th MAY – ANNUAL STAGE MAGIC COMPETITION

The meeting on 6th May is our annual stage competition which is open to all members to enter.

If you would like to enter the contest, it's important that you let a committee member know in advance of the evening so that we can plan timings and so on. Depending on numbers we may not be able to accept entries on the night itself so please do let us know in advance if you'd like to enter.

As usual the rules are fairly straight forward and are reproduced in full at the end of this newsletter (you can also find them on the website): your act needs to be between 8 and 12 minutes long, and it can be silent to music or a patter act.



So far I've only heard from Keith Norman, Richard Graham and Start Burrell – so if you're planning to enter please let me know ASAP.

There will be 3 independent judges who will score each act on a combination of entertainment value, presentation (ie how do the effects flow, how does the patter complement the act and so on), and magical ability (which is all about the way in which any sleights or magical effects are delivered).

As usual there'll be a competition for the seniors and another for the juniors (anyone under 16 years of age) during which the judges will decide who should win the Bill Charlesworth memorial trophy for the seniors and the Don Simpson cup for the juniors.

If there is only a single entry for either of the titles, the competition result will be based on the individual's performance, which, in order to win the title, will be required to achieve a minimum target score to be determined by the committee.

If anyone is uncertain about anything to do with the competition, just ask Adrian and he'll be pleased to help – but do let us know if you're planning to enter.

One important thing to mention – **only paid up members can enter**. So if you haven't paid your subscription yet, make sure you do so when you arrive at the meeting in order to be eligible, otherwise you won't be able to enter the competition.

Looking forward to a great night of magic! Don't forget that your friends and family can come along and watch the magic for free!

A special note to last year's winners: could Matty Turner and Mick Geraghty make sure you bring the trophies with you for presentation to the new winners (in a clean condition please!)

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.

LAST SHOW

27th April

St Mary's Church, Little Baddow

Our last show was at St Mary's Church Hall in Little Baddow on 27th April. This was originally booked for early in March, but the unexpected snow meant that the evening had to be rescheduled.

Many thanks to all those club members who performed at the show and to the Dream Team too. It was an excellent evening – a very keen, interested and lively audience of around 80, and we've since had a note from the organisers to say they raised £950 for their charity, so well done to all!

Close up at the show was provided by Simon O'Neil, Alfie Hawes, Don Simpson, Adrian Fox, Richard Graham, Derek Martin, Mike Leach and Chris Stevens.

On stage, with Matty Turner and Robbie Wood having to drop out at short notice, it was down to Rick and Adrian to fill the hour. Adrian presented Mutilated Parasols, No Tear newspaper, the Sheerluck book test and his cards across routine. Rick closed the show with his Invisible to Visible card effect, Dicing with Death, Pure Telepathy and Floating Table.

Thanks also go to Andy Smith for acting as stage manager and sound technician.

It was a great night all round with a really enthusiastic (and largely adult!) audience.

FUTURE 2018 SHOWS

w/c 11 th September	As If By Magic, Dixon Studio
13 th October	Chancellor Park School, Chelmsford – Provisional
15 th December	Canvey Island WI show

As you'll see we could do with a few more bookings, so if anyone has any ideas for people or charities we could approach, please let Rick know and we'll drop them a line.

2018 ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER, 27th OCTOBER



Just a reminder about our 2018 annual dinner and awards evening. As reported last month we've now confirmed the date and venue for our 2018 annual dinner. Please note the date in your diary and try to join us on the night if you can.

Last year's event was really superb and well supported, so if you enjoyed it, do come and spend an evening with friends and family at this special evening. The provisional date is October 27th, and we've decided to head back to the Thorpe Hall Golf Club as it was such a superb meal last year. The menu they've offered us this year looks like this:

To start:

Potato & thyme soup, pork scratchings, baby spinach leaves, chorizo oil
Homemade fishcakes with sweet chilli & coriander dip
Fanned sweet melon with fruit coulis & sorbet

Main course:

Honey glazed Aylesbury duck breast, caramelised pear,
cracked pepper jus & roast potatoes
Chicken breast topped with basil pesto & mozzarella, tomato & olive sauce, with roast potatoes
Baked herb crusted salmon fillet, champagne & mussel volute,
Buttered potatoes
Stilton, walnut & asparagus wellington

Dessert:

Vanilla panna cotta with marinated berries
Warm sticky toffee pudding with custard
Selection of continental cheese, biscuits, grapes & celery

Filter coffee & mint chocolates

The ticket price has increased slightly this year to £30 per head. But with such a fabulous meal, a cabaret and raffle etc, it's still amazing value for money.

Do join us if you can. Let Tracy know how many seats you'd like and let her have a £10 per head deposit as soon as you can please.

CLUB CLOTHING

These items are now available and you can choose from black polo shirts, printed T-shirts and embroidered sweatshirts. We've also got a small number of close-up prop bags as pictured below.

Prices for all these great new products are as follows:

T-Shirts £6; Close up bags £10; Polo Shirts £12; and the Sweatshirts are £15.



DIXON STUDIO SHOWS – SEPTEMBER 2018

Although the Dixon run is a few months away we need to start organising and planning the shows as early as we can, so if you would like to take part in this year's stage shows, could you please let Adrian know as soon as possible so that we can begin to look at show rosters. **So far I've only had notice from two members about taking part in the shows so please do get in touch ASAP.**

Ideally you'll need two acts of around ten minutes, but if you're not sure of what to do or how the shows work, please get in touch with Adrian and he'll give you all the information you need.

The Dixon shows are one of the most challenging things we do, but if you get involved you'll find it to be one of the most rewarding and exhilarating experiences. It's a great opportunity for our members to perform for lay audiences in a professional environment.



More details to follow of course, but in the meantime please get in touch ASAP if you'd like to take part.

PAYING SUBSCRIPTIONS - BACS



Ways to pay

Just a little reminder that its annual subscription time again, and we'd really like to try and get all your subs in as early as possible please. You can pay by BACS, by cash or by cheque.

BACS is probably the easiest way and if you want to pay via this method, the club's bank details are as follows:

Sort Code: 30-65-22

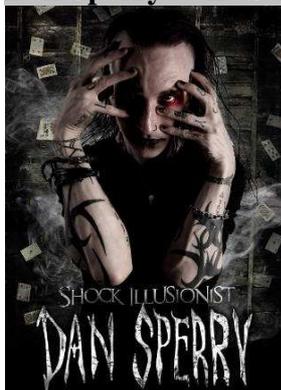
Account no: 79204460

Please make sure that you include a reference consisting of your name and 'Subs18' when you make the payment. That way we'll know that you've paid. Subscriptions for 2018/19 are £20 for individual membership and £25 for junior (ie family) membership. You can also make payments for the annual dinner this way, using a reference made up of your name and 'Dinner18'.

Of course, cash and cheques are still very welcome payment methods too.

MAGIC SHOWS TO SEE

Dan Sperry – the Strange Magic Tour



Dan Sperry, aka the Anti-Conjuror, is on a world tour with his one man show and is due to appear in London for one night only at the Shepherds Bush Empire on Thursday 10th May.

Dan is certainly making a name for himself and having been part of the Illusionists tour is now going it alone. He has a unique take on magic – as his website says about the show:

Your idea of a magic show is about to change.... It has been said **“Dan Sperry puts the ‘ick’ in Trick!”** by the New York Daily News and **“Sperry keeps the audience in stitches with his crazy, manic brand of humor!”** by BroadwayWorld.com. Dan Sperry’s live show is a high-energy roller coaster ride of shock illusion- like you’ve never seen before. Stunning set pieces, a heart pounding soundtrack, high tech lighting and special effects all combine to make this a touring production that puts the magic live, raw, and in your face.

It promises to be an amazing night and should be well worth a visit. Tickets are still available from £35 here:

<https://www.1.ticketmaster.co.uk/dan-sperry-the-strange-magic-tour-london-10-05-2018/event/1F00538F917120FD?artistid=1549317&majorcatid=10005&minorcatid=0>

Morgan and West – Time Travelling Magicians

Morgan and West have embarked on a country wide ‘Time Travelling Magicians’ tour that takes in London on a number of dates. They present two different shows, one specifically for kids. If you haven’t come across them before, here’s a short description from their website:

Morgan and West met whilst studying at Oxford in the late nineteenth century. It was in that most reclining of seats of learning that the duo’s love of deception and legerdemain was born, and they would have been joined at the hip ever since, were it not for the vast discrepancy in the height of their pelvises.



In the intervening centuries these time travelling tricksters have performed their unique brand of magic, wit and whimsy on stages all over the UK, and indeed all around the world. Anywhere there are boards to be trodden, crowds to be wowed or tea to be drunk Morgan & West will be there with miracles in tow.

You can check dates and get tickets here:

<http://www.morganandwest.co.uk/live-dates/>

FINALLY SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Here as usual are some of the new items that have come to my attention recently.....

Wallets

THE JERRY O'CONNELL Z-FOLD WALLET



This is the very latest addition to the Jerry O'Connell range. As with all Jerry O'Connell products, the Z-Fold Wallet is handmade of the highest quality leather and has that great leather feel and smell.

There are loads of possible routines and uses for a Z-Fold Wallet, for a brief overview of it, please see the video here: <https://youtu.be/gb5LD3mYHZ8>

No instructions are included with this wallet; it's just a tool for you to create your own routines. Dimensions are 90mm x 120mm x 10mm

The wallet costs £34.99 and it's available from Propdog here: www.propdog.co.uk/JOL-z-fold-wallet

Card Utilities

NO BOX by Gonçalo Gil

No Box revolutionizes the "Card to Impossible Location" plot. No Box is Gonçalo Gil's magnificent co-invention along with (and developed by) MacGimmick. This special gimmick will allow you to make a signed card appear anywhere, limited only by your imagination.



The magician introduces two cards, saying that they will be important in a few moments - he can put them on the table.

Then he says that there are two ways to pick cards: one of them by chance (cards are placed face down on the table), and the other can be selected (this second card is signed). The signed card is given to the spectator and magically vanishes. The magician picks up one of the cards and it matches the first card, selected by chance. The final climax is that the other card, the one in full view since the beginning, is the spectator's signed card!

You are not limited to "Card to Impossible Location." You can use the No Box gimmick for different effects such as: Signed Cards Transposition, Cards Across or Card Through Table.

Everything can be examined. The cards can be given to your spectators as a souvenir. You can apply the gimmick to different locations/objects. No black art. No pre-show work. No Box!

No Box has been getting rave reviews – it can be bought from Magicshop.co.uk, costs £48.75, and you can have a look at the video here:

<https://www.magicshop.co.uk/no-box>

Card to Impossible Location

MINT BOX by Daniel Garcia



A new design for an age-old plot... and more.

A spectator selects and signs a card. WHAM! It's no longer in the deck! Open up the Altoids box, and show them the folded card inside. The spectator sees you remove and hand them the card to reopen - it's their signed card!

Daniel Garcia, one of magic's most sought-after creators, has done it again with his first magic release in years!

One of the cleanest and most natural switching devices ever created, **MINT BOX** is unlike anything you've ever seen before. Self-contained in a small Altoids tin, the gimmick allows you to **OPENLY** and **INVISIBLY** switch a card displayed inside the mint box for a spectator's **SIGNED** selection... completely surrounded! The mechanics are so good, you'll fool yourself! An instant every day carry!

Includes a Red Bicycle **MINT BOX** gimmick, the Mint Box Quick Start Guide and access to a 30-minute streaming instructional video from Garcia. Learn the basic routine and multiple variations to adapt to nearly any situation! Because of the clever routining that's been developed there's not even the need to be able to Mercury Fold a card.

Mint Box is available from most favourite magic dealers and will set you back £50, but this is going to be really popular. Think card to transparent box without the gimmicky transparent box and you'll get the idea. You can see it here:

<http://www.propdog.co.uk/mint-box-daniel-garcia>

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

ANNUAL STAGE COMPETITION – RULES IN FULL

The Southend Sorcerers Stage Competition is an open meeting where members may bring along guests. The competition is held annually.

Both Junior and Senior competitions will run on the same evening. Entrants for the junior competition must be aged under 16 at the time of the competition. Seniors must be aged 16 or over at the time of the competition.

Entry into the Competition is open to fully paid-up members of the society, but there can be no more than 9 competitors in total, in order to fit in to the evening's time schedule. Competitors must register with the competition secretary at least one week in advance and entrants will be received on a first come, first served basis. Late entries may be accepted at the Committee's discretion.

Under normal circumstances, there must be a minimum of 2 entrants for each section for the competition to run. However in the event of only one entrant wishing to participate, they may do so but must attain a minimum score (determined by the committee) to be awarded the trophy. A certificate of commendation will be awarded to those failing to achieve the minimum score.

Junior members will compete for the Don Simpson Cup. Senior members will compete for the Bill Charlesworth Cup. The winners will receive and retain the cup for one year and both winners and runners up will receive commemorative plaques to keep.

Trophies will be presented at the annual Presentation Dinner, in October.

Each competitor will perform their act once, for up to a maximum of 12 minutes.

A compere and timekeeper will be appointed by the committee. A Stage manager may also be appointed and help competitors with their props if required.

The timekeeper will monitor the period allowed for each presentation precisely, and will signal a '2 minutes to go' warning before the end of each allotted performance.

There will be three judges – 2 lay people and one magician.

Judges will be identified to participants. Judges must not be selected as volunteers by any of the performers. Judges will not be seated together and will not all be seated in the front row.

Score sheets will be made up with the competitors name and copies given to the judges, compere, timekeeper and stage manager. The magical judge will score on magical content, presentation and entertainment. The lay judges will score on entertainment value only. Clarification of these categories will be indicated on the score sheet.

Each judge can award a maximum of twenty points in each category for each competitor. Thus, a maximum of 100 points may be awarded for each competitor. The magical judge's score sheet will include an optional box to record any feedback for the competitors.

The timekeeper will deduct points for competitors running over the allotted time. For each minute over time, or part thereof, 5 points will be deducted from the competitor's total score.

Each competitor's score will be independently verified and the Committee's decision as to the winner is final. In the event of a tie, joint winners will be announced and each winner will retain the trophy for a six month period.