

Southend Sorcerers Society
Tel: 01702 297983



SOUTHEND SORCERERS

Christmas

2020 NEWSLETTER

2020 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

6th Dec Xmas Fun Night on Zoom

2021 MEETINGS – SOME TBC

3rd Jan Lecture – Andrew Normansell
7th Feb Lecture – Steve Valentine
8th Mar Club Night
5th Apr AGM
2nd May Stage Competition
6th Jun Lecture (Paul Gordon TBC)
4th Jul TBC
1st Aug Club Night
5th Sep Close Up Competition
3rd Oct Lecture - TBC
7th Nov Props Auction
5th Dec Xmas Fun Night

2021 CLUB SHOWS

27th Feb Wentworth School, Maldon
w/c 16th Aug As If By Magic – Dixon Studio

CLUB WEBSITE

www.southendsorcerers.com
Members' area password - jimmy

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LAST MEETING – 1st NOVEMBER – ZOOM LECTURE – MARK ELSDON



Our November meeting was the Zoom lecture from experienced creator Mark Elsdon. Mark has been performing magic and mentalism professionally for 25 years. He has authored dozens of books and many, many more single-release tricks; and he's been a popular lecturer throughout Europe and the USA for the last 15 years. He focuses his creativity on devising powerful and memorable material that is designed to end up in your repertoire, not in your junk drawer. It was a pleasure to welcome him to the Sorcerers screen.

Mark's first effect involved a marked deck and a mobile phone, where the spectator shuffles the deck and cuts to a free selection. The selection matches a prediction message you'd sent to a friend earlier in the day which you can show the spectator. This simple effect uses 4 marked aces in the deck, which are breather crimped to help the spectator easily cut to one of them. Then it's simply a matter of showing the spectator the correct message on your phone – as there are only effectively four outs, it's a fairly straightforward effect to accomplish.

Mark took some time to discuss the benefits of the breather crimp and some of the things that can be achieved using one. He installs a breather crimped card into every new deck he opens and feels that it's an underused tool that can invisibly and easily be used to control or force cards in all sorts of situations.

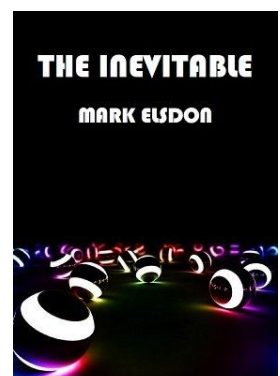
He went on to explain a Free Will effect where the spectator holds a coin in one hand behind their back. They're asked to think of a number between one and twenty and to count to that number while switching the coin from hand to hand for every number counted. Next they're asked to think of someone's name and spell it, again moving the coin from hand to hand for each letter. Finally, they're asked to spell 'left' or 'right' depending on which hand the coin has ended up in. Whatever they do, this last stage ensures that the coin will always end up in their left hand – so you can now apparently 'guess' which hand the coin is in!

Following on from this, Mark explained his Tequila Hustle routine, where, no matter whether the spectator lies or tells the truth, you can always deduce which hand the coin is in after two simple questions.

He went on to discuss the issue of creativity and how he comes up with ideas for new effects. Mark keeps notebooks of everything he sees or hears, with all sorts of information and thoughts contained in them. He uses these to look for ideas and usually finds something new that springs to mind by flicking through his notes – he encouraged us all to keep notes for future reference.

Mark's next effect was an 'any card at any number' routine. Each card in the deck has a different number written on its back and Mark had the spectator select two cards – one to choose a number and one to choose a face. He was then able to reveal a prediction which successfully showed that he knew ahead of time which card and number would be selected. This routine uses a simple Svengali deck where each force card had the same number written on its back. By dribble forcing once card face up and the other face down, it's easy to force the two elements required.

Next up was Mark's 'Inevitable Card' routine. This uses two decks which were shuffled by two spectators, and then the cards from each deck were dealt one at a time face up until a match was discovered. Then it was a simple case of using an invisible deck (or an Ultra Mental deck which Mark used) to reveal that you knew ahead of time which card would be the 'inevitable' card.



Finally, Mark presented his version of Out of this World, titled 'Galactic Halo', which he'd adapted for use in virtual shows. Each spectator was asked in turn to declare red or black, with the cards being dealt to the appropriate pile, and at the end of the routine it was shown that all the cards were now sorted into red and black piles as randomly directed by the spectators.

The evening was a brilliant demonstration of Mark's clever thinking and I'm sure that everyone who dialled in came away with something new to try. Thanks to Mark and also to all our members who took part.

EXTRA MEETING – 29th NOVEMBER – KEITH FIELDS ZOOM LECTURE

On Sunday 29th November we held an additional Zoom meeting, arranged at short notice. This one was another in our series of lockdown lectures and featured Keith Fields and Lady Sarah presenting a mini show and lecture all the way from Detroit.

Keith moved to the States some 12 years ago but was originally part of the South East London group who used to meet up at Morley Budden's Kaymar Magic back in the 80s. Keith is a well respected magician and entertainer and is a regular performer on TV and at the Magic Castle, so it was lovely to welcome an old friend to our screens for this short get together.



Starting the evening with a comedy show, Keith and Sarah presented some fun magic including the snorting of a balloon up Keith's nose (!), his version of the 'Professor's Nightmare' three rope trick, a vanishing bird cage, and a very nice card effect – which turned out to be Erik Casey's Poker Test 2.0 (available at all good dealers!)

Following the show, Keith sat down and talked us through his handlings for the balloon up the nose effect (which was surprisingly easy to do), and took a detailed look at his routining for the three rope trick. This included some very nice variations which made the magic look much stronger – he spent time explaining the count of the three equal length ropes for example, which can easily be performed awkwardly, but his approach made it much easier and far more fooling.



He also showed us his handling for the classic thumb tip streamer effect, which was made stronger by his use of clever routining.

Keith also shared some top tips with us, such as the importance of smiling when performing, to help endear yourself to your audience more effectively. In fact he has produced a PDF of 50 tips to help make your magic stronger which he is giving us free of charge, along with access to a full YouTube lecture.

If you'd like to take Keith up on his kind offer, just email keith@keithfields.com with 'Free Stuff' in the subject header, and he'll send you the PDF and the access link to the lecture.

Keith also encouraged us to record his lecture, so it'll appear on the club website shortly for you to re-watch as many times as you'd like.

Huge thanks to Keith and Sarah for a really entertaining evening – I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

NEXT MEETING – 6th DECEMBER – ZOOM CHRISTMAS FUN NIGHT

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Sunday 6th December and will be an adapted Christmas fun night (hopefully!). We'll have some fun quizzes for you to have a go at and we're also running a little magic competition for you to take part in.



All you need to do is film yourself on your phone performing your favourite effect and send the video to Adrian (Adrianfox@compuserve.com). It doesn't need to be anything fancy, just a short piece filmed simply. Or, of course, you can opt to perform something live on the night if you prefer! We'll play the videos back and take a vote for the best one – and the winner will win a prize. It should hopefully all be a bit of fun ahead of what will probably be a slightly different Christmas for most people.

Hope you can join us – here are the dial-in details:

Topic: Southend Sorcerers Fun Night
Time: Dec 6, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8254968023?pwd=MFRZVVZZclozNVBnUFNLNmttaHphdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 496 8023
Passcode: sorcerers

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

As you know, we have no shows in the diary at present due to the difficult Covid situation, but we do however still have a show booked for **27th February 2021 at the Wentworth School** in Maldon. This is a repeat booking and is currently still scheduled to go ahead as far as we know so please provisionally book the date in your diary if you'd be keen to help out.

NEWS ABOUT 'AS IF BY MAGIC' 2021



All being well, our 10th anniversary shows for 'As If By Magic' at the Dixon Studio will be running during week commencing 16th August 2021!

Let's all keep fingers crossed that this is a date that can go ahead – but in the meantime, please note the date in your diary and be ready to get involved! Start thinking about the magic you want to perform at this brilliant week of magic now!

We're really looking forward to getting this brilliant project back on track after having to miss the shows this year – hopefully it'll be an amazing week for all of us!!

MAGIC NEWS

Tracy Wise – Royal Hotel, Southend

Tracy returns to the Royal Hotel with a series of her chilling shows:

Thursday 17th December – Crime Scene Illusion

Appearing for the first time at Brighton Fringe Festival, Crime Scene Illusion is an exploration of crime scene investigation through the use of storytelling and magic.

Written and presented by Tracy Wise, Crime Scene Illusion presents magic in an innovative way creating an engaging, entertaining and interactive show.

Tickets for all Tracy's shows are £15 and you can get more information from the Royal Hotel website, here: <https://www.royalhotelsouthend.com/what-s-on>



Wednesday 23rd December – Tales from the Shadows – a Merry Hauntmas Special



Tales from the Shadows brings you a very special festive show resurrecting the Victorian tradition of Christmas ghost stories. Not those of joy and light as Disney would have us believe, but tales of the harshness of winter and life; of ghosts, of beasts, or horned gods and...well...shadowy tales.

A Victorian Christmas would not be complete without a scary story of two...so welcome to a haunted Yule.

Oliver Tabor – Illusion Impossible

Oliver is embarking on a new UK tour next year with Illusion: Impossible, a 30 date magic tour also featuring Jamie Raven, BGT finalists James and Dylan Piper, and world speed illusionist Kayden Black. Along with Vicky Butterfly, Oliver appears as himself and as part of their double act, The Glamourists.



Collectively these performers have been seen by hundreds of thousands of people around the world and with over 500 million YouTube views between them, this production showcases their incredible talents together live on stage.

Illusion: Impossible features exclusive tricks never seen before.

With a non-stop show packed with breathtaking magic and illusions from Appearing Superbikes, Impossible Predictions, Double Levitations with an EXPLOSIVE finale!

You can check dates and venues at www.illusionimpossible.co.uk

We all wish Oliver the best of luck with this amazing opportunity! Break a leg Oliver!

FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Cards

POKER TEST 2.0 by Erik Casey



The Poker Test 2.0, by *Erik Casey*, is an updated version of his original *Poker Test* trick. It includes a new and versatile gimmick that is leagues above the original Poker Test gimmick that allows for more routines to be done besides the signature effect. This new and versatile gimmick allows for any cards to be the "prestige" cards. You can choose a different poker hand, use it for a multiple card revelation, or to produce a four of a kind. You are only limited by

your imagination with the cards. There is no better trick out there that can get your audience as involved like *The Poker Test* does; this is a trick that you are sure to take everywhere you go.

Phase 1: Observation

You ask the audience to participate in an observation test and to focus on the details of what they see before them – a five card fan of blank faced cards with blue backs. And the note that there are no extra cards in either hand, it is a fair test.

Phase 2: The "Easy" Question

You start by asking an easy question, which the audience can easily answer. How many cards? And they answer correctly in telling you the number of cards in your hand.

Phase 3: The "Hard" Question

You tell the audience that the next few questions will be harder than before. By asking what the bottom card was, you seem to confuse the audience, for this question was just as easy as the previous. But to everyone's surprise, a card has impossibly appeared where the blank card was held.

Phase 4: The "Harder" Question

Ask the audience to dig deep into their memory and remember what the colour was on the back of the playing cards. But alas, the colour of all five cards has changed to red!

Phase 5: The "Hardest" Question

Now that all the card backs have impossibly changed colours, it's time to draw the audience's attention back to the faces of the cards. Asking them to recall what the other four cards were seems like an easy feat. As you slowly drop your hand down to reveal the faces of the said four blank cards, you now hold in your hand an entire Royal Flush!

Poker Test 2.0 is easy to do and available from Alakazam priced at £24.33

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/product-poker-test-20-dvd-and-gimmick-by-erik-casey--dvd-pokertest2.html>

Mentalism

MAGIC BEEP by Kim Andersen

We got this set of special squeakers from a supplier in South Korea and could instantly see the fun in them. But only when Kim Andersen got them in his hands, it developed into a solid routine, which became a big hit at this year's Magic Weekend in Lund and The Session in London.

For example, you press a tomato (or a nose, or ...) and it makes a funny beep sound. You reveal that you have one of these little "squeaky-things" in your hand, but when the spectator presses it, it doesn't make any noise at all. This is how the routine develops. At one point there are three squeakers on the table - two that do not work and one that does - and you perform a form of "3 Squeak Monte".



The spectator's task is to find the one that works, but it is always wrong. It's as if you can move around the sound ...

BEEP MONTE is just for you to bring in your pocket and it can be shown wherever, for children and adults alike.

You receive a complete set of the 3 squeakers + Kim's detailed online instruction.

The price is £14.99 at Alakazam and you can see a performance of it here:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/magic-beep-by-kim-andersen.html>

Mentalism

AD SENSE by El Gran Bronzini and Nahuel Olivera



This is the first trick in a long time, where every magician who's seen it, instantly wanted it. Honestly, it is one of the simplest and cleanest effects to perform. It's impossible to back track and easy to do. Subliminal messaging doesn't work on everyone, but now you have the power. Welcome to Ad Sense, where you influence people for harmless entertainment.

You ask your spectator to place 3 objects on 3 cards at complete random. And when you flip over their selections, everything matches perfectly. There's nothing to bring in or out of play, these really are their chosen cards.

Incredibly easy to do. Nothing to bring in and out of play. Virtually self-working, barely an inconvenience. It will fool you even if you are familiar with the principles involved. They can change their minds on where to place items. Extremely entertaining. Multiple handlings taught in the instruction. Effect can be instantly repeated with different items.

Ad Sense costs around £32 and comes with all the custom printed cards you need. It's available at your favourite dealer but you can see the trailer here:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/adsense-with-gimmick-and-online-instruction-by-el-gran-bronzini-and-nahuel-olivera.html>

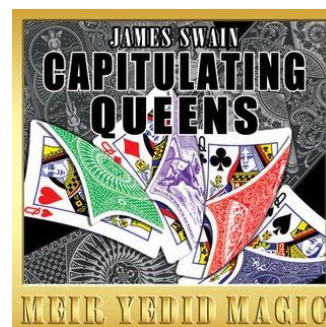
Packet Tricks

CAPITULATING QUEENS by James Swain

This routine has often been referred to as one of the best packet tricks. It has more visual impossibilities than most in its genre.

You cleanly show four queens, explaining that one of them is very special. A Queen is selected (let's say QH) and when you show the backs of the Queens they all have blue backs except for the one they named... it has a green back.

You now show that if they selected the Queen of Diamonds it would have been the special one, now having a purple back, while all others stay blue. The same is repeated with the Queen of Clubs who is the only one with a red back. The Queen of Spades is cleanly shown to have a blue back as you explain it too is special. The cards are shown again and now they all have red backs except for the Queen of Spades. As a finale the four Queens are shown to have four different back designs and colours and they can even be handed for examination.



Comes with all the necessary cards, printed on US Playing Card Bicycle stock, and an online video tutorial. Use your own blue Bicycle deck.

Capitulating Queens costs around £20, and again, you can see it at Alakazam, here:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/capitulating-queens-by-james-swain.html>

Cards

INSTACAAN by Joel Dickinson



This is the latest take on the 'any card at any number' plot.

After placing a prediction card face-down, you introduce a deck of cards and a participant or two decide on a number between one and fifty two.

The cards are freely counted down to your spectator's decided number, arriving at one card. **AMAZINGLY** their selection matches your prediction **PERFECTLY**.

The effect doesn't stop there. You have now set up your audience for the unexpected finale. You spread the deck of cards face up, revealing that every other card in the deck is completely blank.

And not only that, **EVERYTHING** is **EXAMINABLE**. It's easy to do, it's quick to reset & guaranteed to get great reactions. Learn it in no time and it lasts a lifetime.

Once you have learned the secret, you can apply this method to your own favourite deck of cards.

Instacaan costs around £28 – you can see it at Alakazam here:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/instacaan-red-with-gimmicks-and-online-instruction-by-joel-dickenson.html>

NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS

We've pretty much finalised the programme for next year now so take another look at page one to see what we've got coming up in 2021 – it's shaping up to be another super year!

AND FINALLY.....

Finally, as this will be our last edition before the festive season, the committee wishes all our fantastic members the very best of Christmases in these difficult times for 2020. Try to have a really wonderful time over the season and into the New Year; and we really look forward to the year ahead – hopefully another amazing year of magic for Southend Sorcerers!



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