



Southend Sorcerers Society
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SOUTHEND SORCERERS MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

2018 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

8th Apr	Annual General Meeting	5th Aug	Club Night
15th Apr	EXTRA Lecture – Greg Wilson	2nd Sep	Close Up Competition
6th May	Stage Competition	7th Oct	Lecture – Steve Dela
3rd Jun	Club night	27th Oct	Annual Presentation Dinner
10th Jun	EXTRA Lecture – Jamy Ian-Swiss	4th Nov	Props Auction
1st Jul	Dixon Shows Prep Night	2nd Dec	Xmas Fun Night

2018 CLUB SHOWS

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

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LAST MEETING – 4th MARCH – SPEED DATING

The club's March meeting offered a second opportunity to take part in the magical speed dating experience!



Completely unlike the usual meaning of the term, our speed dating session consisted of three magicians visiting each of three different tables in turn to present mini lectures. Each presentation lasted around 20 minutes after which a bell was rung to signal the changeover.

Adrian Fox, Mick Geraghty and Mike Leach visited each table with a varied selection of things to talk about. Adrian discussed and demonstrated the use of the breather crimp in card magic and then went on to take a look at David Roth's coins across routine, a simple version of the classic effect making clever use of a shell coin.

Mike talked about elements of performance, showing and reading snippets from various books such as Derren Brown, Eugene Burger, Juan Tamariz and Tommy Wonder.

Mick covered an ESP card routine showing how, through randomness, we can be subliminally influenced. He also covered his handling of the invisible deck to give the appearance that it is a normal pack of cards. After the formal sessions Mick also presented a demonstration reading with a small group.

It was hopefully an interesting night and we hope you found it useful and entertaining. Also at the meeting, Simon Richardson took and passed his membership audition. Well done Simon and welcome to the club – we're really pleased to have you with us and hope that you enjoy your membership!

EXTRA MEETING – 18th MARCH – BORIS WILD LECTURE



On 18th March we presented the first of our star lectures for 2018 and it was brilliant to be able to welcome Boris Wild to Southend as part of his lecture tour.

Boris is one of the most renowned French magicians in the world. He is an international performer, author, creator and lecturer and his speciality is close up magic.

With a full programme, Boris decided not to take a break as he wanted to include as much material in his session as possible, and we were certainly not disappointed. Of course, he's well known for his marked deck and so the first part of the evening was entirely devoted to it.

Starting with an effect called Zero Touch, a routine making full use of his marked deck, the magician finds a chosen card which has been lost under impossible conditions – and without ever touching a single card of the deck. In a neat twist, Boris went on to show the spectator's version of the effect, where the spectator takes the role of magician and manages to find a selected card without touching the deck (or knowing the secret!). Boris discussed in detail the advantages of using a marked deck and also explained how to mark your own deck using Letraset lettering.

Next came Ten Max, a routine that utilises Paul Gordon's ten card poker deal, using five blank cards and five cards with £20 printed on them. The spectator tries to win the maximum of £100 but always loses of course – thanks to the poker deal and marked cards being used! The routine can be adapted to the use of ESP cards or normal playing cards too.

Symbiosis was next, a very clean 'any card at any number' effect making use of a borrowed deck. A predicted card is found at any number chosen by the spectator – but in two decks! This routine makes use of a couple of sleights that can easily be learned and the effect is astonishing.

Finally, Boris presented his beautiful Pure Telepathy routine. Performed to music as a stage piece, the magician offers the spectator a chance to cut a deck in any place and remember the card they cut to. The remainder of the deck is placed in the magician's pocket. The spectator then shuffles the cards they cut off the deck – but all this is done while the magician has their back turned, so they don't get to see anything of what has happened.

The magician then uses the spectator's 'emotional response' while they look at the faces of the cards to determine which card was their selection. This is a lovely stage presentation and it was beautifully demonstrated.

Boris' lecture was superb and it was excellent to see his work. His tour of the UK continues for some weeks to come. If you want to buy any of his products, or the lecture DVD, you can find it all here:

http://www.boriswild.com/magicshop/Boris_Wild_Artist_Magician_-_Magic_Shop.html

NEXT MEETING – 8th APRIL – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The logo for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) features the letters 'AGM' in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. Below 'AGM', the words 'ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING' are written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.

The April meeting sees the club's 41st Annual General Meeting take place which all members are invited to attend. The meeting is an opportunity to hear from the outgoing committee about all that has been achieved during the last twelve months, and there's also a chance to discuss any issues which you may have identified or which you feel need looking at further.

The committee will formally stand down at the meeting and a new committee will be voted in. All the existing committee members are prepared to stand for re-election this year, but this should not discourage you from thinking about offering your services to the club if you're keen to get involved in running the organisation. The posts are as follows:

President: Prepares newsletter each month; administers club website; produces and manages Dixon Shows; prepares agenda for and chairs monthly committee meetings; acts as host at monthly club meetings

Vice President: Organises lectures and dealers; arranges meeting schedule; administers club competitions.

Secretary: Prepares committee meeting minutes; administers and processes new membership applications and maintains membership lists; maintains the club library.

Treasurer: Manages club finances; produces monthly electronic accounts statements; deals with membership subscriptions and other payments and receipts; liaises with the bank; arranges social events such as the annual dinner.

Shows Secretary: Acts as the club's shows promoter and manager; liaises with clients and members to organise and staff club shows.

Plus all posts attend the monthly committee meetings, are involved in vetting prospective new members before they can apply for membership, and contribute generally to club events such as the annual Christmas fun night.

All committee posts are available for members to nominate either themselves or someone else for service during the coming year. However please ensure that anyone you nominate is a) seconded by another member and b) is prepared to serve for the next year. All nominations should be forwarded to Adrian in advance of the meeting.

Please be aware that the meeting is open to members only; and that any additional items you may want to discuss at the meeting should be notified to Adrian in advance of the evening please. This is to keep things manageable and to ensure that the meeting doesn't overrun.

There's an agenda for the meeting included at the end of this newsletter.

EXTRA MEETING – 15th APRIL – GREG WILSON LECTURE



On 15th April we're proud to present the second of our all star lectures for 2018. Gregory Wilson, the two-time FISM Award-Winning performer, is back to lecture in the UK, and his mission is simple: to share with us professional routines that are cool, clever, and cutting edge.

Greg Wilson is a bottomless well of ideas, lines and tricks. He's a master of sleight-of-hand, misdirection, routining, and presentation, mixed with creativity, charm and lightning speed wit. He can do it all... and he can teach it all to you.

He'll also talk a lot about using natural props, direct methods and compelling presentations. It's these criteria that shape his professional repertoire and help him determine what he shares with you.

You can look forward to an arsenal of ideas that run the gamut from beginner to expert level and cover a wide variety of genres.

We were lucky to get Greg into our programme – his tour is extensive but only so many dates could be accommodated. As always, guest magicians are very welcome to attend and the ticket price for non members is £10.

Look forward to seeing you there in the usual place – the evening starts at 7.30pm.

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.

NEXT SHOW

27th April

St Mary's Church, Little Baddow

Our next show is 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. Rick reports the details as follows:

Venue: Memorial Hall, North Hill, Little Baddow CM3 4TA

Show start: 7.30pm - performers to arrive by 7pm please

This is a normal show of close up and stage magic and there is a proper stage for us to perform on.

Please let Rick know as soon as possible if you can help with this performance in any way.

FUTURE 2018 SHOWS

w/c 11th September

As If By Magic, Dixon Studio

13th October

Chancellor Park School, Chelmsford – Provisional

15th December

Canvey Island show – Provisional

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 been kept to £25 for many years but sadly, with increasing prices from all our suppliers, the price has to increase 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.

NEW CLUB CLOTHING

As reported last month, the committee have recently invested in some smart new clothing products bearing the club logo which will be available to you in a variety of sizes. The items will be available at the AGM and you'll be able to choose from the usual black polo shirts, as well as printed T-shirts and embroidered sweatshirts. We've also ordered a small number of close-up prop bags as pictured below. We're just trying these out initially to see how they go down and will order some more if they prove popular.

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.



PAYING SUBSCRIPTIONS - BACS



Ways to pay

Just a reminder that, with the annual subscription time coming round again soon, we're trying to make it as easy for you to pay your subs as possible. You can pay by BACS – via an electronic online money transfer - directly into the club's bank account from your own.

This means that if you have to miss a meeting or two, you can still make sure that your subscription gets paid on time, so that you don't have to worry about it too much. 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.

STAGE COMPETITION COMING UP IN MAY



Don't forget that our annual stage competition is coming up in May and we're looking forward to seeing what you've come up with for this year's contest. Please remember that only paid up members can enter the competition (so please pay your subs ASAP to avoid disappointment!) and to enter you need an act of between 8 and 12 minutes long.

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.

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.

Ideally you 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.



FINALLY SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

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

T&R, Ambitious effects



POST-IN by Victor Sanz

A spectator signs their name on a regular Post-It note. The note is destroyed in front of their eyes, yet it re-appears back in the centre of the Post-It pad! The signed note then rises to the top of the pad under test conditions and is given away to the spectator as a souvenir. It's T&R, it's ambitious, it's simple to do and easily fits into your pocket!

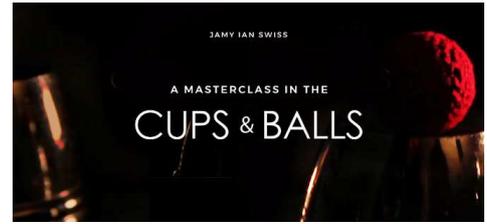
Post-In is an instant download from Saturn Magic and costs just £7.62. You can see it here:

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/the-vault--post-in-by-victor-sanz-video-download.html>

Cups and Balls

MASTERCLASS DVD by Jamy Ian Swiss

As Jamy Ian Swiss is lecturing for us later in the year, I thought it would be good to highlight one of his learning DVDs. Very few people get the opportunity to study with Jamy Ian Swiss (but we do in June!). This DVD lets us peer into the studio and spend an hour with him on a topic of which he is an undisputed master: the Cups and Balls. The DVD features his routine (which is based on Dai Vernon's classic), but also highlights moments and ideas from other influential past masters and routines.



Jamy's final load sequence (which includes a terrific, detailed discussion of liquid loads) is invaluable to the serious student, as is his discussion of timing, misdirection, and routine construction. The theoretical is demonstrated and shown through the material, and this DVD works on two levels: you learn the Cups and Balls along with Mr. Swiss, and on a more fundamental level, you get a chance to observe a master at work, discussing the decisions he made in this routine, and how he came to them.

The cups and balls is one of the classics. Houdini said that no-one could really call themselves a magician if they didn't perform the cups and balls (although to be fair, Houdini himself didn't!)

The DVD is priced at just £13.43 and is available from Saturn Magic here:

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/51529.html>

Mentalism

SPELENDAR by Phill Smith



Spellendar is an amazing, new self-working miracle from the brain of UK mentalist Phill Smith. One spectator freely chooses a word from a calendar and remembers the date associated with that word. Another mentally chooses a card from a shuffled deck. A deck, in full view since the beginning of the effect, is dealt through. You spell to the suit and value of the card, and count to the date they selected, and table the card you stopped on. Any other choices would have left you with any other card. There is no weird mis-count, no variable procedure that changes every time - everything is consistent and fair.

You show the deck, and reveal there is a different word written on every card, and although the choices were unknowable, free and fair, and the two selections were totally independent, and even though you have no idea what the word was, not only is the tabled card their chosen card, but the chosen word is printed on the face.

Spellendar is self-working, with an instant reset - it includes all the special props required to perform the effect - the printed calendar, the specially designed custom-printed deck of cards, a link to downloadable written instructions and a comprehensive video explaining exactly how to perform the effect. Spellendar is ideal for close-up and cabaret performances, one-on-one or with a group, and its easy method means it's accessible and fun to perform.

You can have a look at this at magicshop.co.uk where it costs £52.50:

<https://www.magicshop.co.uk/spellendar-gimmick-and-online-instructions-by-phill-smith-trick>

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

SOUTHEND SORCERERS SOCIETY
41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON SUNDAY 8th APRIL 2018
AT THE EKCO SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
THORNFORD GARDENS,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting
3. Annual Reports and Presentation of Accounts
4. Election of Officers for 2018/2019
5. Membership Fees
6. Honorary Life Memberships
7. Amendments to Rules and Constitution
8. Any Other Business – please note that all AOB should be notified to the committee ahead of the meeting in order to allow the meeting to finish at a reasonable time. Any outstanding issues unresolved after the meeting will be taken away for consideration by the new committee at their next meeting.