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The ASM meets on the second Monday of each month (February to December inclusive) at the Swiss Club, 89 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Magic Makers

Magic Makers is the official newsletter of the Australian Society of Magicians Incorporated (ASM) and is published 11 times a year (combined January / February issue).

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Hi and welcome to the special "Convention Edition" July issue of Magic Makers.

By the time you read this the Sydney magic convention will be just a memory. I couldn't make it this year but fortunately for me, Magic Makers roving reporters were thick on the ground. This issue of Magic Makers contains fantastic write-ups on different aspects of the convention by David Jones, Graham Etherington, Ted Heath, David Wright, Barry Govan, Peter Rodda and Wal Parker. Thanks very much to all these contributors for their fantastic articles and a special thank you to David Jones for coordinating the whole thing for me in Sydney and making sure not everybody wrote about the same event! If you went to the convention, why not drop me a line and let me know what you thought of it? All of our correspondents included the winners of the Competitions they reported on in their reports, but to save a little space, here they all are in one go.

Sydney Convention Competition Winners

UNDER 16 STAGE

- 1st - Joel Howlett (Aust)
- 2nd - Natasha Babich (NZ)
- 3rd - Karl Daniel (NZ)

ADULT STAGE

- 1st - Demis Christo & K.T.(Aust)
- 2nd - Thor Blomfield (Aust)
- 3rd - Jack Mazlounian (Aust)

UNDER 16 CLOSE-UP

- 1st - Joel Howlett (Aust)
- 2nd - Holly Ford (NZ)
- 3rd - Jarred Fell (NZ)

ADULT CLOSE-UP

- 1st - James Galea (Aust)
- 2nd - Trevor Duffy (S.Africa)
- 3rd - Matt Hollywood (Aust)

WALK-ON WALK-OFF

- 1st - Neville Finney (Aust)
- 2nd - Joel Howlett (Aust)
- 3rd - Greg Britt (NZ)

As this is an "all convention" issue I've held the second part of Ian Wood's excellent "Card College" article over until next month.

See you around the club – Nick Morton



The 28th Australian Convention of Magicians

No doubt about it, this was an excellent convention. Lots of good magic to be seen, no complaints, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The special guests were Lennart Green, Magic Christian, David Malek, Moi-yo Miller Montes and Gerald Taylor. All were excellent and made valuable contributions to the overall success of the convention. With so much happening it's difficult to cover everything, so the following is a random sample of some of the events I attended.

International Close-up Show: The performers were David Malek, Barry Govan, Magic Christian, Andrew Wimhurst, Lennart Green and Tim Ellis. The performers rotated between three different rooms, each fitted with tiered seating, so the audience had an excellent view of the magic. David Malek is a very polished New York magician (now based in Los Angeles) and he romped through a bunch of standard effects with panache – Ambitious Card, Dishonest Abe, Chop Cup, Anniversary Waltz, repeat card to pocket ending with the David Williamson 51 cards in pocket where the selected card is the only one which DIDN'T make it to the pocket. Next came a twist on the old Insurance Policy, with David playing it more like the card on the forehead rather than the standard presentation. He finished with a couple of very strong card items which he has made very much his own. Firstly a selected card is discovered by asking various spectators the last digit of their telephone number, street address, PIN number, etc. etc. The numbers are totaled and the selected card is then found at that number in the pack. His closing item was the immediate and exact cutting of any number of cards from the pack. This was repeated several times and he was always spot on.

Barry Govan was next and he raced at typical breakneck speed through many of his favourite routines. He started with the WRONG card, followed with Ring Link, and then borrowed a \$20 note for his very funny routine in which the borrowed \$20 turns out to be a counterfeit note and Barry tries to turn it into a regular \$20 for the spectator. Next his own Rubik Cube effect in which one of the faces of the cube vanishes and becomes imprinted on a blank card inside a wallet. He then had one of the younger audience members assist with the very funny Yes Game, then moved into some nice card work starting with Casino Aces, in which the four aces are produced, undergo a variety of twists and turns, and end up having four distinctly different backs from the rest of the pack. He then used the Gypsy Curse cards to perform a Wild Card Monte, and closed with Jazz Aces using his invisible palm patter.

Magic Christian came on scaling cards into the audience and announcing, "I don't do anything else!" We all wondered how much public liability insurance he was carrying as the cards looked like they would do some serious damage if they hit an eye! He then performed a very entertaining routine with the old flick knife effect, in which the blade appears to hang completely free until the magician applies just the right combination of twists and turns to the handle, then the blade springs back to life. He followed this with a cigarette routine where the cigarette was torn and restored several times. Next an intriguing series of effects with a chain, where the individual links travelled from one hand to another and linked and unlinked at will, sort of a cross between the Chinese Linking Rings and coins across. The climax of the routine involved finding one of the links attached to the stem of the wine glass. He finished with the absolute best Haunted Hank routine I've ever seen.

Continued:-



Andrew Wimhurst followed and gave a very smooth demonstration of expert card handling. He started with his Shuffle Tracking routine, which is actually an extremely convincing version of Marlo's Topsy-Turvy Aces where the four aces are effortlessly produced from the deck even though it is repeatedly shuffled in a face-up/face-down manner. The final ace is found to be the only face down card in the face up spread, in spite of all those face-up/face down shuffles. He followed this with his Aussie Cooler routine, where a peeked at card (the nine of clubs) appears in his pocket. The card is returned to the deck and then the spectator is offered the choice of another card, but finds himself unable to choose anything but the nine of clubs several times in a row. Finally, all of the cards travel to the pocket, EXCEPT the nine of clubs. Next he performed Roy Waltons "The Smiling Mule", always a great trick, and then followed this with his formula stack routine, or "The Expert at the Bridge Table", which is a very funny poker demonstration routine in which the performer explains how to deal himself four of a kind in a poker game. He then demonstrates how to win at Bridge by dealing all 13 spades from a shuffled deck. He finished with a routine in which two cards were selected, lost in the deck, and then revealed. The first revelation used the familiar long card, although in this case Andrew used it both as a gag revelation, and also as a means of misdirection to cover the load for the revelation of the second card in his pocket. A great idea.

Lennart Green came next and hopefully by now you've all seen him at the lecture and workshop at the ASM clubrooms in Melbourne, so you know how incredibly good he is, and how difficult it is to describe what he does. He started by producing a number of freely named cards from a borrowed pack with incredible speed. He then gave a demonstration of centre dealing, and also performed a routine in which he supposedly memorised the order of a shuffled deck in a matter of seconds. He performed an incredible routine in which he is blindfolded by layer after layer of strong tape, and then effortlessly produced all 13 spades from what appeared to be an unbelievably well shuffled pack of cards. He followed this with his amazing Laser Deal, where cards dealt onto the table into the beam of his "laser" just vanish! He closed by finding a selected card in his shoe, after first producing the shoe from the middle of the pack! A comment I overheard from one of the New Zealand visitors summed it up – "he's the best one!"

Tim Ellis then closed the show in my room with a couple of new effects he is working on. The first was a coins across routine using an Australian \$1, 20 cent and 10 cent coins. It made a pleasant change from the usual four 20 cent coins across and relied on a combination of gaffed coins and expert sleeving. Tim then invited Tammy Twister to show us her amazing ability to inflate four modelling balloons at once! She followed this by getting an audience member up to assist and then making a balloon doggie, whereupon the spectator found that his watch was missing and in fact was inside the balloon doggie. I guess Tim and Tammy figured that Lennart was such a hard act to follow that they would do something COMPLETELY different! Tim then closed with a nice version of the thought of card in envelope. A nice touch to the routine was that the (absolutely freely) thought of card was first very cleanly shown to be missing from the pack before being discovered in the envelope.

To sum up, this was a long show by close-up standards (two hours, no break), but a damn good one. Following the close-up show I attended the David Malek lecture. This was interesting. David obviously doesn't lecture much because he started by asking, "What would you like to learn?" and then went off on tangents many times during his explanations. Fortunately, I found all his off the track ramblings to be quite interesting and would have enjoyed hearing more of his thoughts on various topics (especially about the Magic Castle!), something we did get to pursue further during the panel discussion on the last day, which by the way was very capably handled by Timothy Hyde. In between his off the cuff comments about whatever took his fancy he did explain in detail



his ambitious card routine, the cover pass, his multiple card control, and quite a bit on pinky counting. He explained several of the routines in his close-up act that relied on pinky counting and this was excellent value. For those not into digital dexterity he also fully explained his Insurance Policy routine, which is very funny, requires zero manipulative skill, but can only probably be performed by someone having his brash New Yorker persona! His 2nd lecture (Lennart Green and David Malek lectured twice, and you were free to decide which one to attend first) was apparently much better, in the sense that it had more structure and less rambling anecdotes, and he did some more of the very difficult stuff for which he is better know. Barry Govan for example was most impressed with his riffle stacking work, which he said was the best he had ever seen.

A further comment: It was nice not to have to sit through a four-hour long marathon auction as in previous years. This year the organisers tried something new, a Magic Marketplace, and I think it was a great success. Basically, anyone having anything for sale paid \$20 and had the use of a table for 2 hours to display their wares. I brought items for sale and sold about ¾ of them. This was definitely a win-win situation for all concerned – the organising committee had a LOT less work to do, just collect \$20 from around 20 people as they fronted up on the Monday morning. The buyers were able to get a much better look at the various items for sale, and both the buyers and sellers could agree on a sensible price with which they were both happy. I would definitely like to see this market place idea replace the auction at future conventions.

David Jones

Editor's Prize Competition

Don't forget we are running a competition this year for the best contribution to Magic Makers. You can send in a trick, product review, story, letter, article, anything you like relating to magic.

The prize is \$50 and will be presented next December in time for some Christmas Magic Shopping.

Good Luck to everyone!



WANTED TO BUY

Book "Greater Magic"
by John Northern Hillard.

Contact Jim Page on 03 95791859

66 Castlewood St,
East Bentleigh
Victoria 3165

Membership Dues for 2002

ASM fees are due and payable on 1st
January 2002.

Metropolitan	\$50
Non-metropolitan	\$25
Junior	\$25
Magic Makers Only	\$12

Please refer to accompanying invoice in
previous Magic Makers.



Sydney Convention Close Up Competition

First up in our room was Greg Britt (El Gregoe) from New Zealand. He opened with a donut production from the mouth, followed by a ring / no ring bell routine and a trick using the D'Lite effect. Next was a handkerchief vanish with a reappearance from a spectators sleeve. A sponge ball routine followed and then a paddle routine using a wand. A prediction effect was next and then some standard dealer items such as the "tong" trick with a \$5 bill. Carrot productions were next and then the diminishing card case. He then performed a card trick where the selected card was on his glass and ended his set with a gravity defying glass. A nice performance but mainly dealer item oriented.

Trevor was the next adult close up performer, all the way from South Africa. He started with a dinner setting all set up for a romantic dinner for two. These people of course were to be his assistants. He did a nice bottle production, cards to pocket, and cards to card case, ending with the vanishing deck. An interlude with a bending fork followed, then an envelope prediction. Coin manipulation was next which ended with the very difficult "coin star" flourish popularised by the USA magician "Manuel" many years ago. Three coins across was next and he followed his coin routine with two large coin productions. It was a very polished performance where everything flowed from one trick to the next.

Anthony D'Masio was next and he started by accidentally (or on purpose) trying to balance a number of cups and saucers, which fell to the floor in pieces. I'm still not sure if this was deliberate or not. Crazy man's handcuffs followed along with the stretching arm illusion. He then did a burnt and restored handkerchief effect and a three-frog monte routine where the spectator had to guess the one that squeaked. This was quite a funny routine. Next came some card effects, then the "web" trick but unfortunately he got a non-reacting spectator and it ended a bit flat.

CJ the Impossible was next and he did material that has never been seen before. I can't tip it here but if you were there then you know what I mean. His handling of spectators was an object lesson to us all.

Neville Finney then came on and did the three-card monte with the torn corner bit and an antique card production.

Matt Hollywood followed with an opening coin manipulation routine ending with coins across. A card concerto to music was next with flourishes, cuts and shuffles. The chop cup routine was the closer with the production of two live chickens. A great ending was when he put them away in a KFC box.

James Galea was then on and did some cigarette productions from flash paper and then some vanishes. He followed this by his version of "Sam the Bellhop" which he performed in a really professional style. His finale was a three fly routine. An excellent performance.

The junior close up competition was held concurrently with the adult competition and the standout performer was Joel Howlett who took out most of the prizes throughout the convention. He is going to go far. The junior competition wasn't recorded.

Barry Govan



Magic Menu - Regular Meetings for 2002

Note: Regular meeting time is 8.00 pm at the Swiss Club.

“Video Show” starts prior to the meeting at 7.30pm with a different video every month. Come and watch or bring along a video for the other members to view.

<p>Monday 8th July 2002</p>	<p>MAGIC IN THE AIR</p> <p>Be treated to an incredible night of top class entertainment as Barry Govan hosts the evening. Barry will introduce us to some fantastic magic and guests as well as teach us a thing or two. The evening will include the following terrific items;</p> <p>David Jones will give a short lecture on the History of the Annual Fechter’s Finger Flicking Frolic, review the latest FFFF and show a few tricks he learnt there. This is your only chance to hear the inside news on this exclusive convention – don’t miss it!</p> <p>Straight from the underground comes Chris Shing to give a demonstration of his Card and Coin sleight of Hand. Virtually unknown in traditional magic circles, Chris as been described as one of the top sleight of hand coin artists in Australia. After his demonstration, Chris will give a short teach-in.</p> <p>Barry Govan will lecture us on pocket management for close-up performers, as well as give us a teach-in on a couple of his favorite tricks. Barry’s teach-in will include a free trick for all participants.</p> <p>There will also be a mini-auction of rare close-up magic, books and magazines as well as many more surprises!</p> <p>This is an evening of magic not to be missed – make sure you are there!</p>
<p>Monday 12th August 2002</p>	<p>NEVILLE FINNEY PRESENTS</p> <p>Member Neville Finney has kindly agreed to give a mini-lecture in August. Those of you who have seen Neville perform know the high standard of his work. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from one of the ASM’s most respected members.</p> <p>“OVERSEAS MYSTERY GUEST”</p> <p>And now for something completely different... a performance from a mystery overseas guest. Stay tuned to Magic Makers for more details to follow.</p>
<p>COMING September October November</p>	<p>Keith Lawrence, ASM member and well respected Agency owner. "The Agents Point of View".</p> <p>Ted Heath on "Entertainment"</p> <p>Charles Gauci on "Mentalism"</p>



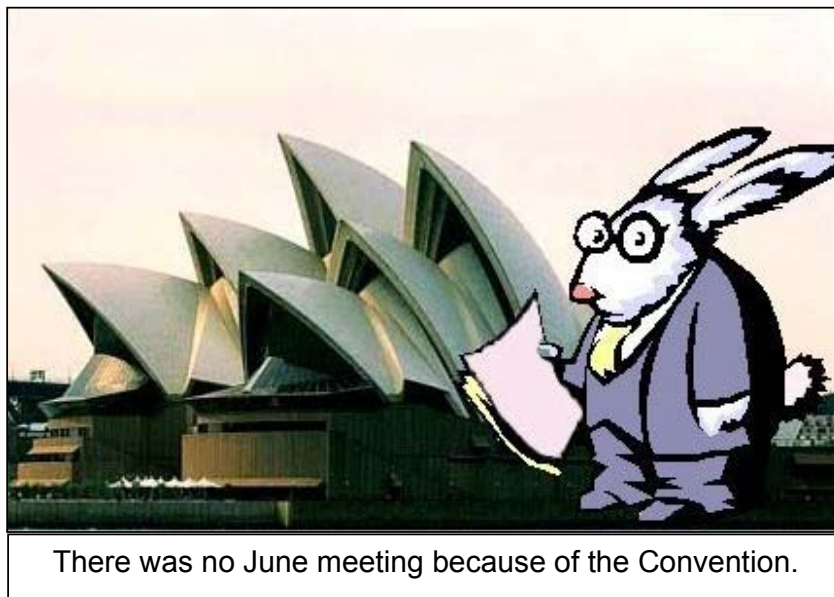
Some Convention Memories

- The friendly laid-back pace of the schedule allowing time to meet and greet.
- The problem with late-night lectures is just that, otherwise great. But if you do want to attend these, you tend to pass up on room parties and / or drinks at the bar (can't quite handle the repeat early mornings anymore.)
- The evening shows, all of excellent standard if a trifle long with some acts.
- The Convention committee's hilarious skit in the Closing Show.
- Magic Christian's charming manner and his scholarly study of Hofzinsler.
- David Malek's not so invisible pass.
- Young Harry Potter look-alike "JD" Joel Howlett who scooped the prizes pool with his endearing manner.
- The terrific NZ contingent and their fortitude in the face of merciless ragging (that'll teach 'em to talk funny).
- Fire! Fire! Or the flaming brief case and near roast-duck.
- Torn and Restored newspaper – Magic Christian's novel twist and David Malek's unintentional exposé.
- The stylish performances of Timothy Hyde and Amazing Lynda.
- Sean Taylor's Golf Act and envelope shredder.
- The number of times cards were 'late' in being stabbed by the point of an umbrella.
- The increasing popularity of ducks (Wot, no rabbits?).
- Discovery that even the world's best card men sometimes have to lick their thumbs.
- The Parramatta Convention venue - ideal – Hotel, theatre, restaurants all conveniently clustered.
- Cute name – Justin Time (NZ), part of whose act was distinguished by being extinguished (sorry!).
- Gracious presence and manner of Moi-yo Miller Montes, one-time chief assistant to Dante, now returned to Australia.
- Terrific re-creation of "The Lazy Magician" by Gerald Taylor as Dante, complete with cigar (Boy! Did Gerald practice smoking that cigar).
- Christian's performance piece with spectator and Do as I Do-6 Card Repeat. Likewise, hilarious Diminishing Cards.
- The comedy send-up of magicians by Tim Ellis and Sue-Anne Webster.
- Impossible-looking, all-clear sawing in half performance by Tony and Juleen.
- Steve Walker's unblemished compering.
- Bill Walsh's yellow jacket.
- Bill Walsh's other jackets.
- Bill Walsh and Steve Walker using each other's gags, because each claim they were the first one to have pinched them.
- Blank looks when volunteers for the next Convention Committee were called for.

Peter Rodda



ASM Meeting Report



The 28th Convention – Sydney 2002

The 28th Australian Convention of Magicians from 7 – 10 June was at the Riverside Theatres and Carlton Hotel, Parramatta. Over 200 attended – including lecturers, performers, competitors, dealers, organisers, and critics. The latter are the non-performers who appreciate magic – the audience. I shall mention some of the main participants and events.

Starting with the Registration Bag there was a special AMM (Australian Magic Monthly) Issue, a tribute to Lyndsay Rietschel, 16th August 1929 – 3rd April 2002. The many tributes showed that he contributed greatly to magic and the present convention. In particular, many will remember TYM – The Young Magicians (Magic School).

A special guest who has returned to Australia was Moi-yo Miller Montes. She was chief assistant and co-star to Dante the Magician (1883–1955), who toured the world with a large illusion show called SIM-SALA-BIM. She appeared in the Sunday evening show, Remember Dante. The overseas magicians were Lennart Green, Magic Christian and David Malek: the Australian one was Andrew Wimhurst. These magicians are all known for their card work!

Lennart Green demonstrated a wide range of card effects, some of which utilises the Green Angle Separation (GAS), and others the Snap Deal. His work evoked the admiration and wonder of most magicians! Magic Christian was born (1945) Christian Stelzel in Austria. He is known for his work on industrial and graphic design. He is also known for producing playing cards for magicians. At the convention, he emphasised the presentation of magic, and also the work of Johann Hofzinger, the father of modern card magic.

David Malek covered general close-up magic, and demonstrated the pinky count and the cover pass. Andrew Wimhurst is, by now, well known for his skilled close-up card technique. His notes, Down Under Deals, describe this, including the Centre Deal.



Of the competitors, a 12-year old, Joel Howlett, was outstanding. His manipulative act with cards and balls was very accomplished. He garnered the 1st place for the under 16 stage and the under 16 close-up, and 2nd place for the walk-on walk-off

Wal Parker

Convention Thoughts

Here is a quick report on the convention. It amazes me that the amount of work and organising that goes into a convention, and the team I think, must be congratulated. This is the first time I have not competed in anything. I just thought I would sit back and enjoy myself. My overall impression was very good and I enjoyed all of it. Unfortunately I was taken ill and missed one segment of Lennart Green's lecture but hopefully I will be well enough to see him at the club Wednesday the 19th. The under eighteens competition impressed me, and I think the judges would have found it hard to make a decision about the winners. The only disappointment I had was the lack of dealer's stands. At the last convention at Parramatta there was two rooms full of dealers.

One thing I noticed was that the Riverside Theatre has become farther away and it has also become up hill, plus the cars go a lot faster since the last convention there.

I would like to thank all those that were so concerned about my health. The fellowship among magicians is overwhelming.

Ted Heath. The one and only Professor Sausages in Show Business

Under 16 Stage Competition

Whilst I felt honoured to be asked to judge a competition, I never feel comfortable, as it is an onerous task. You must do your best in fairness to the competitors and in fairness to all the conventioners watching. In most cases the competitors have spent hours practicing and therefore deserve the best decision. Consideration has to be given to appearance of the performer, magical content, originality, and how the audience perceived the performer or enjoyed the act. The winner, Joel, was easy to pick as he had personality, he acted (looked surprised when he had to etc.), his choice of material was good, there was lots of magic content, he had obviously spent hours practicing and he won the hearts of the audience.

The hardest for me to decide was the second and third place getters as either of them could have won on the day. The standard was high and close between all the other competitors. New Zealanders are known for their interest in stage magic with most performers either having a stage act or have had one in the past. This probably has something to do with the way they encourage their young performers to do a stage act. It used to be the same in Australia but this has now changed over the years and there are many close-up performers who have never tried a stage act. Stage (or Cabaret) is my first love and like many, I hate to see it disappearing. To those who didn't get a place, keep on trying, we need performers like all of you. Overall I believe magic is in good hands with performers like those who entered this competition and likewise, those who entered the Under 16 Close-Up Competition.

Graham Etherington



Walk-on Walk-off Competition

This was the first competition of the convention on the Saturday afternoon, and is a variation of the Quick Tricks competition, for a routined stage **act** of three minutes maximum, no presetting and no special technical requirements. The act had to be something more than just walk out and vanish a cane. From my hastily scribbled notes written in the dark, here goes.

There were ten competitors who performed in the following order:

STEPHEN BELL dressed as a tramp clown in a long overcoat, produced silks, did the Twentieth Century Silk where 4 different coloured silks become one, then produced a fountain of silks (a la Marconick) finally producing a dove, which was then hypnotized and then vanished in the tails of the coat (Dove to silk).

GREG BRIT from New Zealand, dressed as the Mad Scientist in white lab coat, did Multum In Parvo, where a small beaker of milk filled a bigger beaker, which filled an even bigger beaker until it filled a large jug, the contents of which were poured back into each beaker, until each held milk.

Our own **PETER COOK** levitated a ball of wool, some wool was then removed from the ball and a cut and restored wool was performed. A full sized rope was produced and cut and restored in the mouth with the aid of a squirt or two of Rope Cement. Very original.

TERRY FERNANDEZ of Sri Lanka used a spectator from the audience to hold two knotted silks while he vanished a third silk, which appeared between the two knotted silks.

MICHAEL PECK from New Zealand did an all rope routine starting with the Equal Unequal Ropes, and doing the rope with 3 ends, ends jumping, etc. I suspect this was the major part of Daryl's Rope Routine, including the Rope with 3 Ends effect.

In introducing the next artist, the compere warned that he was about to perform the same trick, but like a true professional, our own **NEVILLE FINNEY** went out and performed The Rope with Three Ends Routine, based on a routine he saw years ago at a Zodiac Club meeting in the UK.

ADRIAN HALLAM went on next and performed a brief D'lite routine, then produce a bouquet without flowers, the flowers appearing and disappearing at will (?). A sponge ball bit was done, and finally the act closed with a silk to cane.

Twelve-year-old **JOEL (JD) HOWLETT** came on next and confidently performed a Cut and Restored Rope Routine. This kid is destined to be a star.

A familiar face from Queensland, **JOE LEWIS**, was on next with a very funny and entertaining Spirit Cloth Séance with Joe standing behind a table, holding up a cloth with both hands, and the articles on the table moved around, bells rang, answered questions, etc.

Our final competitor, also from Queensland, was **COLIN (CJ) BEST**, who did a 'THUMB TIP FROM K-TEL' pitch, producing bigger and bigger thumbtips capable of holding bigger and bigger silk scarves. During the act he produced water and a live fish, and finished with a Jumbo Thumbtip (the size of a top hat) Zombie. A very original and funny act **for magicians only**, he lost a hump at his back when the large thumbtip was produced.

David Wright



Green Magic

Years ago, the FISM judges were so amazed by Lennart Green they concluded he must have used stooges and faked cards given to him when he asked to borrow cards. He didn't win.

Next time he competed he made sure the judges provided their cards. He won.

So it was, with a borrowed shuffled pack, that Lennart Green started his Convention Lecture dealing a winning poker hand to the audience-selected player. After explaining a card-culling technique; switching cards; second, third, fourth and fifth deals (technically "difficult") he returned the borrowed pack to use his own cards for demonstration of an "easier" method that mere mortals might prefer.

But LG seemed to be having trouble (?) handling his cards – he kept dropping them all over the place – apologising all the while and yet, again dealt out a winning hand to a selected player. Of course, each of the other players was successively shown to have even better hands but LG had the Royal Flush to win.

Pausing for a breather, every time LG reached for a drink we noticed his glass was empty. A quick polish with a napkin and the glass was brimming with ale!

Cutting the deck a shoe was removed from the cut (Yes!) well that's how it seemed. Then a bottle of Whisky ("Gee this guy's good!"). The method for producing a selected card from bottle and shoe was demonstrated.

An effective and sleightless prediction effect was demonstrated where cards are dropped haphazardly, some falling face up, some face down. The face-down cards are removed and the process repeated until one face-up card remains – it is the predicted card (Hint: faked card used!!).

A break from the cards was a routine with a large brass nut, which penetrated a cord several times.

Back to the cards, a brief summary of material noted was One–Two Separation – a red / black card separation; Angle Aces – using a false, angle riffle shuffle; Snap Deal – cards dealt vanished (using lateral palming "popularised" by Steranko 40 years ago per LG; Matrix with cards under coins (the opposite of the usual!); various fx using the Thumb Shot - a card shot from top of deck and caught in the other hand, done so rapidly that the card just appears. Combined with lapping and lateral palming, various card changes etc were also shown ("I told you this guy was good!").

Although blindfolded with strips of gaffer tape, LG was able to deal out in order from the shuffled deck all the cards of a selected suit. This routine included a great deal (pun intended) of humour, as indeed did the majority of effects shown.

The whole lecture, particularly for cardmen, was a procession of gasps and laughter as all manner of sleights and stratagems were demonstrated. And most of that shown was the "easy stuff". Next time LG promised to show the hard stuff (I'm not sure if he was serious).

His 3 videos for sale contained a lot of material, including the FISM act – some, not all of which is explained throughout the videos. Check this out for just some of the contents:



Greek Shuffle; Circulation Shuffle; Overhand Circulation Shuffle; Rapid Cuts Shuffle; Eternal Chain Shuffle; Pinch Cut; Elegant Cut; Flourish 2 Cut; Pivot Five Cut; Float Pass; Centre Windmill move; Lateral Center Steal; Bottom Palm; Spread Bottom/Top Palm; Top Shot; Thumb Shot; Mirror Count and several routines (for a captive audience).

By the time you read this LG will have also completed a lecture in Melbourne and elsewhere. Lennart Green came across as a very gentlemanly fellow, quiet humour, very approachable.

While some of Lennart's material required him to be seated and couldn't be done just anywhere (angles; need for a table; captive audience) a number of the effects / ideas / approaches could prove of value to those prepared to work at it.

A Convention highlighter indeed!

Peter Rodda

Conventioneering

Wednesday evening Steve Walker rang to tell me that I was on the last show (normally a send up show) and to tell Gerry McCreanor that he was on it as well. (Gerry was staying with his daughter here in Melbourne before flying up to the convention.) I got onto the phone and spoke to Gerry for an hour; we decided to pool our ideas and show as we only had Thursday to come up with something. At a Bar-B-Cue Thursday night we had a run through using Peter Rodda as the third person, however Peter didn't want to be part of the act. (He was noticeably absent when it came time to present our segment). Friday we briefed Reg Launchbury from Adelaide telling him over and over again that "It would be alright on the night".

Monday we were introduced as 'Expected Magic' or something like that. (I'd thought up a great title and had completely forgotten it again). I walked on stage and commenced with "6 bottle repeat" using bottles printed on cards. On cue the compere (Steve Walker) said "Get him off" at that point Gerry & Reg came on, tied a rope on my back and hauled me off into the audience. About 5 or 6 rows from the front Gerry proceed to cross the theatre pulling me along with him. He got to the far side, I got to the middle and Reg was left holding the two ropes at the beginning of the row. The theatre had 2 aisles, one each side about 25 metres apart. Gerry and Reg were supposed to hand one rope to the audience and ask them to pass it up to the other end. In the excitement the chap grabbed both of Reg's ropes, Reg woke up and went charging into the audience row to retrieve one of the ropes. The ropes were eventually swapped while all this time I was still doing the 6 bottle repeat, throwing cards all over the place.

Gerry called out 1, Reg called out 2 and I was supposed to call 3 but I hadn't heard them call their numbers. Meanwhile I was continuing with the 6 bottle repeat throwing cards out all over the audience with some people giving them back to me while others grabbed them for souvenirs. Eventually I heard something out to my left, it was Gerry saying "Graham 3" I though that's funny he is supposed to be saying one. I then realised they must have been yelling for some time and I hadn't heard them. Grabbing a giant picture of a bottle (about 600 or 700 mm long) I produced it from my trouser leg, at the same time grabbing the wand from behind my back released the rope and held both hands high I yelled 3. The rope came out and as they held it high a pair of Longjohns was seen hanging from the rope. I don't think the washing line has ever been presented in such grand way before - each rope was 25 metres in length (Yes 2 whole reels)

Graham Etherington

