



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
March 2014 Volume 9, Issue 7

February's meeting

It's not unusual to walk into the meeting room and not recognize anyone – our meeting room is sometimes taken over by other groups at the last minute. But this night, they were here for our meeting – it was **Family and Friends Night** – and we had a dozen people come to be entertained!

Mike Fisher stepped up as the MC for the night – and what a job he did. He performed at the grand finale as well as between other performers, with effects like **Richard Sanders's** *FiberOptics* rope routine, the old "Kate and Edith" *Three Card Monte*, and his excellent dice mind-reading effect.

Mark Hogan started the program with **Bill Abbott's** *Mind Control* where a spectator's selection of a number of items on the table matched a prediction. He then taught a card trick to a volunteer, who made the card disappear and end up reversed back in the deck! He finished with **Larry Becker's** *Casino Royale*, predicting a casino, amount of gambling money and a blackjack hand on an imaginary trip to Las Vegas!

Paul French was next with *Bathing Beauty*, where a picture of a woman at the beach takes off her clothing! He taught a colour changing hankie (using a hole in his hand), and his use of a mouth coil, and his version of *Sam the Bellhop* to a great response. He finished with a card prediction and a rope that seemed to have 4 ends!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 19 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: DOLLAR STORE NIGHT!

**Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253**

Jon Akrey brought a number of friends and neighbours (including his friend Eli who performed a unique juggling routine of us!). Jon also taught a colour changing hankie (much different than Paul's, but equally entertaining!) and finished by changing four coloured hankies into one mutli-coloured one! He also performed the *McCombical Prediction*, and a nice *Bank Nite* routine using keys that open a container with \$100 in it.

Finally, **Mike Fisher** took the stage with an ESP card prediction, and followed it up by **Anneman's** *Seven Keys to Baldpate* with keys that open a treasure chest where he locked the spectator's wallet! He also performed an excellent *Coins Across* routine into a glass, and then ended with a marvelous *Signed Hanky in Apple* that floored everyone!

The show was over, but it didn't end there – Paul performed a few extra card tricks, and Mike showed off his *Three Shell Game*. The audience loved the entertainment. Thanks to everyone for bring their family and friends and showing off what we can do!

Mark Hogan

To see parts of the show, visit: <http://youtu.be/apVy4g3uxDk>

March's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, March 19 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: DOLLAR STORE NIGHT!

As we all know, magic can be expensive ... but it doesn't have to be!

This month, let's do more with less! We're looking for tricks using items bought at a dollar store. Take a visit to your local dollar store, bring a few loonies and see what items you can find that you can use in an effect or routine.

We're not looking for fancy – we're looking for cheap! Dollar store cheap, that is! Bring in an effect or two with dollar store items – who knows – you might walk away with a new act for just a few bucks!

<p>We Want Your Reviews and Tricks! Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to: magic_london@yahoo.ca</p>
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News Of Interest



Magician crowned British champ (The Bucks Herald)

Magician **Paul Megram**, known and loved by hundreds of Vale children as **Colonel Custard**, has been awarded a top magic award.

The Aylesbury entertainer received the *British Children's Entertainer National Champion award*, at the annual three-day

Magic Convention in Blackpool.

Almost 4,000 magicians from across the world gathered for the event which is organised and hosted by the *Blackpool Magicians Club*.

Mr Megram, who lives in Vale Road with his wife Lisa and their son Oliver, said: "It's such a big thing for me and an honour."

Six top magicians from across the country performed their magic in the finals.

The audience included many children and their parents and they all had the chance to vote for the acts.

Mr Megram learned of his success at a glittering award ceremony held in the magnificent 75-year-old Opera House on the final evening of the convention.

He said: "I was absolutely overjoyed, it was considered to be the strongest competition ever, so that makes it even more thrilling."

For Mr. Megram, his award was the perfect topping to a busy weekend of lecturing and sharing his secrets with fellow magicians.

A familiar face in Blackpool, he has compered at the convention in the past and gives lectures on the art of entertaining to the rest of the fraternity.

He has been attending the convention regularly since 1999 and in 2000 was awarded the British Magical Champion.

He is well known around Aylesbury and well beyond, as an entertainer for both children and adults.

He has honed his art over decades and is known as the lovable Colonel Custard to his youthful audience, attending children's parties and events to entertain with magic tricks and stunts.

At the other end of the age spectrum he also entertains adults with incredible close-up magic artistry at private parties, corporate events and weddings.

He regularly performs at top UK venues including Blenheim Palace and the Grosvenor House Hotel, and internationally in France, Germany, Spain, Russia and Denmark.

Mr Megram, who was self taught initially and then auditioned for the Magic Circle, of which he is a member, said: "It's a lovely, lovely life."



David Blaine meets Rob Ford at City Hall

(Global Toronto)

Mayor Rob Ford took a break from prepping for next week's council session to meet with word-famous magician David Blaine Friday.

The magician entered and exited the mayor's office through the back door and was kept out of the gaze of Toronto's media.

But a picture of the meeting did make it on to Twitter shortly after the magician left Friday:

The impromptu meeting was apparently set up late Thursday night when Doug Ford said he received a call from the magician.

"He said 'I'm a big fan of your brother, and I'd love to come by and do a few tricks,'" Ford claimed.

The councillor joked that it was okay for Blaine to come to city hall contingent on him making the media disappear for an hour.

Some of the city's top civil servants also received a show Friday as the magician arrived in the middle of their council session with the mayor.

Magician changes soccer fan badge into another team

(The Bucks Herald)

Magician and apparent *MC Hammer* admirer **Troy** has his own TV show in which he unleashes his tricks and illusions on the public. In this clip, Troy visits an Arsenal pub prior to the north London derby and ruins one fan's day.

Speaking to a man who says he's been a Gunner since he was "knee-high to a grasshopper," Troy asks what it would take to get him in a Tottenham shirt. The man says it's not going to happen, but Troy proves otherwise by touching the badge on the man's replica Arsenal shirt and turning it into a Spurs crest.

The man laughs in disbelief and when Troy goes off to buy him another pint, he takes off the altered shirt and tosses it into a crowd of fellow Arsenal fans. Even though it seems the more sensible thing to do would be to ask Troy to change it back for him.

Don't be surprised if football clubs start employing magicians to travel the country switching the badges on fans' shirts to those of their rivals just so they have to buy new ones now.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=MIZV6u4H_9s

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The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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