



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
May 2026 Volume 19, Issue 9

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## April's meeting

In April we welcomed some members from the Hamilton magic club (*IBM Ring 49 – the Doug Henning Magic Wand Club*) who came to entertain us. And entertain us, they did!

The MC for the evening was **Rick Rossini**, who showed us a paper showing "*The Magic Of*", then folded and changed it to say "*Ring 49*"! Then he lit a candle which then vanished, and finished with his version of **Richard Sanders'** "*FiberOptics*". And in-between acts, he kept the magic coming with a *Colour Changing Hanky* routine, *Multiplying Balls*, *Chinese Sticks* (using a tassel on his hip!), a *Vanishing Cane*, *Egg & Hanky*, and a *Linking Ring* performance. He also did a **Carl Rosini** effect where a fairly selected card by the spectator matched the spectator's own selection, and all the other cards were Jokers! Rick's performance alone was worth the price of admission!



But there was much more magic in store. **Peter Wilshire** showed us a few of his incredible effects that, as a woodworker, he crafted himself. He pushed a magic wand through a hole in a box, then pushed it in "the wrong way" and another wand popped out! He levitated a magic wand – which also had a built-in phone! A beautiful **Rising Card** box holding a wand wouldn't work until the wand was removed, when the rest of the deck dropped and only the

### **Next Meeting:**

**Date: WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Topic: HAMILTON CLUB EXCHANGE!**

**Location: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
Room 253**



selection was left! He ended his set with a handcrafted die jumping off a ribbon, and showing some tiles spelling "Reverse"- and reversing them, and then mixing them – and it still spelled "Reverse". Peter's routines were terrific and his craftsmanship is superb!

**Victor Staniewski** performed several effects that he performs at long term care homes. First was a beautiful *Zombie* routine using a lighted candle, where he also manipulated the light from the candle. He also did a terrific *Lighted Rose effect*, and switched and multiplied whiskey and pop bottles by covering them with tubes. He ended by holding two cards by placing one behind his back, but it kept switching places with the other card!



**Renee Chouinard** told some wonderful stories to magic. One used a burned match that disappeared and reappeared back inside the matchbox! Then a model airplane flew across the room! *Sailor Sam* was then covered with both water and sand – that somehow came from the same tube! A small red ball levitated in his hand – even with a solid ring around it. And a beautiful empty wooden box, full of flowers, was shown to actually be empty!



The final act was **Jonny Garcia**, who exhibited his mentalism prowess with a game called "*Gladiators*", where three spectators faced off in battles where only one could win – and yet blindfolded, Jonny knew who would be the winners – and also predicted in advance the final winning positions! Amazing!



Many thanks to the Hamilton club for arranging such a terrific show for us! The bar has been set very high for the London club to match - some of our members travel to Hamilton's club meeting to perform for them next month!

Mark Hogan

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## *May's meeting*

**DATE: Wednesday, May 13**

**TIME: 7:00 PM**

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
Room 253**

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## **TOPIC: QUICK CARD REVEALS!**

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You pull out a deck of cards and say the words all spectators know is coming: *Pick a card, any card!* And of course, once it is selected, and then lost in the deck.

If you had to reveal their card quickly, what ways would you do it? Perhaps you can shoot the card out of the deck; or find it with some fancy cuts; or find the wrong one and switch it to the selection; or have the spectator find it themselves; or ...

There are more ways to find a card selection than there are ... well ... card in a deck! If you know some interesting or even eye-popping card reveals, bring a deck of cards to the next meeting and say "*Pick a card, any card*".

Hope to see you on **Wednesday, May 13!**

**We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!**

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:  
[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)

## News Of Interest



### Club exchange with Hamilton's Ring 49 - VISIT TO HAMILTON on May 12

(Ring49magic.com)

The *London Magicians Guild* has accepted an invitation from the Hamilton magic club (*I.B.M Ring 49 - the Doug Henning Magic Wand Club*) to do an **exchange** this spring.

Members of the Hamilton club visited London in April to perform (see the writeup above), and members of the London club will return the favour at Hamilton club's regular meeting on May 12.

*Up to **8 London club members** have indicated an interest in going to Hamilton on May 12.*

**NOTE:** There was a suggestion put forward for London to considering hosting *both Hamilton and Windsor clubs* at a future club exchange event (perhaps sometime next year). People in attendance at the February meeting thought it was a great idea.



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### Penguin Magic Award winners & nominees for 2026

(PenguinMagic.com)

Thanks to thousands of votes from the magic community, the best products and creators of the year have been chosen.

2025 was an incredible year for magic, filled with groundbreaking releases and unforgettable performances. After careful nominations and your votes, we are proud to reveal this year's winners.

#### **Book of the Year**

Winner – [In the Spotlight - Christopher Carter](#)

Also Nominated:

[Flamenco - Juan Tamariz](#)

[Absolute Madness - Craig Petty](#)

[52 Farewells - Geoff Latta](#)

[Marlo's Magazines](#)

### **Card Trick of the Year**

Winner – [Savant Deck - Craig Petty and Lloyd Barnes](#)

Also Nominated:

[Super Extra - Rizki Nanda](#)

[In Flight - David Regal](#)

[30 Seconds to Stun - Richard Sanders](#)

[Escape Room - Rizki Nanda](#)

### **Close-up Trick of the Year**

Winner – [Falcon Ring - Josh Burch](#)

Also Nominated:

[Tongue Tied - Mario Lopez](#)

[Fast and Loose - Paul Vigil](#)

[Impossiballoon - Robert Ray and Robert Gray](#)

[Invisible Harmonica - Fabien Rebouh](#)

### **Mentalism Trick of the Year**

Winner – [Charms Deck - Nikolas Mavresis & David Jonathan](#)

Also Nominated:

[Game Night - Craig Petty](#)

[Spirit Coffin - Nathan Kranzo](#)

[Trinity Book Test - Alex Latorre](#)

[Mental Block Dice - Dan Harlan](#)

### **Technology of the Year**

Winner – [Materalizer Wallet - William O'Connell](#)

Also Nominated:

[Instrumental - David Jonathan and Nikolas Mavresis](#)

[SFX - Penguin Magic](#)

[Firefly - Titanas](#)

[Atomic Deck - Craig Petty](#)

### **Money Trick of the Year**

Winner – [Dream Dollar Pro - Kyle Purnell](#)

Also Nominated:

[Mokito Box - Alex Latorre](#)

[Game Changer - Craig Petty](#)

[Nailed - Nick Marotta](#)

[Holeystick - Michael John](#)

### **Lecture of the Year**

Winner – [Gabriel Werlen LIVE](#)

Also Nominated:

[Davide Fragione LIVE](#)

[Marlo Lopez LIVE](#)

[Nikola Arkane LIVE](#)

[Javi Benitez LIVE](#)

### **Creator of the Year**

Winner – [Craig Petty](#)

### **Trick of the Year**

Winner – [Materalizer Wallet - William O'Connell](#)

For more information visit:

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/about/penguin-magic-awards-2026>



## The Trick Nobody Believes In

(Conjuror.community)

When I was younger, I was constantly excited about some new idea.

I would show it to someone and try to explain why it was interesting. The reaction was almost always the same: a polite nod, maybe a half-smile, and then the inevitable response:

“Show it to me.”

Which, of course, is exactly what people say when you start describing a trick. No one is really interested in the idea until they see the magic happen. Most people simply can't picture it yet.

And sadly, they're right.

Magic ideas live in a strange place where they only become real once someone experiences them.

That meant I had to learn something early: the only way anyone ever sees the potential in an idea is if you follow it all the way through.

Sometimes that means prototyping. Sometimes it means practice. Sometimes it means solving one small problem after another until the thing finally works the way you imagined it.

You keep shaping it until the idea that lived in your head actually exists in the world.

And that process takes far more energy than most people expect.

Over time I noticed something interesting about the tricks that survived that process. The ones that made it were the tricks that contained an idea I cared about enough to keep working on long after the initial excitement faded.

The older I get, the more I appreciate the classic tricks that have lasted for decades or longer. When I come back to one of those pieces now, my contribution is often very small. It might be a convincer. It might be a touch on the method. It might be a small presentation idea that clarifies the moment.

The idea itself may be tiny.

But if that idea matters to you enough, it can become the most valuable leverage you have.

Because in order for one small idea to shine, the entire trick has to shine. The effect has to be clear. The method has to be reliable and deceptive. The presentation has to create a context that ties everything together.

Building that container takes far more effort than the original idea itself.

What keeps you going through that process usually isn't strategy or discipline alone. It's that one aspect of the trick you care about enough to do the work required to make the entire routine strong enough for that idea to shine.

I've spoken many times about strategy in magic — choosing material that fits your goals, selecting tricks that help you grow as a performer. Those ideas are important.

But in the real world — where time is limited and attention is divided — passion alone is often the deciding factor.

If one small aspect of a trick excites you enough, that spark alone can be enough to fuel the long stretch of work required to turn imagination into something real.

So if you find yourself drawn to some strange, impractical, or slightly ridiculous idea... pay attention.

That one small idea might be exactly what carries a trick all the way from imagination into reality.

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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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