



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
August 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

June Meeting

June was the last month of our magical year, so it's no surprise that it was time for our annual dinner/show. Once again, the event hosted by the Elephant & Castle Restaurant in downtown London.

This year's emcee, our beloved "prez-who-is-soon-to-be-ex-prez"

Andy Parr did an admirable job on the evening, and started things off by showing us his rather amazing artwork. His many hand drawings of famous celebrities were perfect props for a prediction effect, where a spectator's choice of a celebrity was found in an envelope that was in view the entire time!

Mark Hogan had seven different spectators each choose a card, then turned back the clock to correctly reveal them all! **Mike Fisher** showed us the latest addition to his show: a "wild animal" that finds selected playing cards and coloured balls (What a funny routine!).

Domenic St. Jacques was next – revealing selected cards that spectators were merely thinking of! **Ricardo Leon** showed us his popular Diminishing Cards routine, and **Greydon Gilmore** impressed us with a card routine.

The night ended with a Torn and Restored competition, with the audience as judges. There was lots of variety... **Ricardo Leon** used money; **Max Scott** did it with laundry tickets; **Mark Hogan** showed us his "Patented No-Handed Signed Playing Card Restoration Move"; **Mike Fisher** even tore and restored his own arm! (That's gotta hurt!!) Congrats to Mark for taking top spot.

Two new members of the club were honoured this night: **Harry Chang** and **Ming Nguyen**. And **Ron Keller** had the pleasure of announcing this year's winner of the Al Munro "Magician of the Year" award: Congratulations to **Greydon Gilmore!**

It was a great night, with lots of good food, laughter and magic. Thanks to everyone who attended, performed, and made this an evening to remember!

- Mark Hogan

Next Meeting:
Wed. Sept. 14, 7:00 pm
Beal Secondary School,
Room 225
525 Dundas St., London
Topic: Favourite Magician



Word from the President

I hope everyone is as excited about this year as I am. I'm pleased as punch to be given the chance to run things.

So what have you got to look forward to this year?

Good question. I've spent a lot of time thinking about why I started going to the magic club and what kept me coming back every month.

First and foremost, I joined the club to learn. There has never been a shortage of talented people in the club so I've been able to see a ton of material, learn what is possible, filter what appeals to me and what doesn't, and spend the time learning what I wanted to learn.

Second, and this is related to the first, the club gave me a resource to learn which products were worth purchasing. I used to have a horrible track record buying magic. I always fell prey to dealer ads and ended up buying junk. Going to the club gave me the chance to talk to people who had bought a certain trick before buying it myself. Even better, the club turned out to be a great place to borrow videos and books.

Third, the club gave me a place to perform magic. It's tough to find an audience to try a trick for the first time. The magic club is perfect for this.

Last, I loved the people I met in the club. The club attracts a huge number of interesting and talented people. I've always been amazed at

the generosity and good spirit of the magicians I've met.

It's these four areas that I hope to focus on over the next year. I want to see more and more people doing magic at each meeting. I want to share as much of what I've learned over the years as I can, and I hope others do too. I want the club to be a place for people to learn and have fun. Oh, and I want to stop using phrases such as "pleased as punch" – but that's something better worked on with my therapist.

September's Meeting

Wed. September 14, 2005

For the September meeting, I'd like everyone to think of a magician who has had a big influence on you. It could be your favourite magician. It could be someone whose books or videos you've read or watched over and over again. Pick one magician and be ready to present a trick or two of his at the September meeting.

Memberships

Remember, we will begin collecting membership fees at the September meeting. **Membership for the year is \$30.** This allows you to attend club meetings, lectures and special events for free. It also gives you voting privileges, which in turn allow you to have a say in the direction of the club. Finally, club membership gives you a free listing in the club's online magician directory, which can be a valuable way to get paid performances (if you want to be listed in this directory, let Mark know).

News Of Interest

New Web Area

One of the big benefits of belonging to a magic club is being able to borrow books, videos, and other materials from other members. This gives you the choice to preview commercial items in order to better make purchasing decisions.

To help out, I am creating an area on my own website where people can list books, videos or DVDs they are willing to lend. Access to this web site will only be available to other club members who have materials they are willing to share.

Anyone who emails me a list of at least 3 items they are willing to lend will be given a password to the site. The site will list all items that people are willing to share along with their name and email address. Browse the list, and if you see something you would like to borrow, you can email that person directly.

The exact details of the loan are up to you. Usually it's good etiquette to offer to trade something of equal value when borrowing. It also goes without saying that you should keep the borrowed item in excellent condition and return it promptly.

If you are interested, email me your list of three or more items at Steve_Sequin@hotmail.com and I'll send you a link and a password.

Magician of the year – Greydon Gilmore

At the June dinner/show, **Greydon** was honoured with this year's Al Munro "Magician of the Year". Greydon joined the club several years ago as one of Andy

Parr's students, and has grown to show Andy (and the rest of us!) a thing or two about card magic. Cards are Greydon's specialty, and his talent has grown enormously in a very short period of time. Last year he even gave the club a lecture in card shuffles and flourishes – quite a feat for someone still in high school!

Greydon has branched out into doing shows, and never passes up an opportunity to entertain, especially at the Honest Lawyer after meetings. He is always helping other with their technique, or discussing the newest DVD's.

Greydon had some fun with Jay Sankey on stage at the CAM convention in June. Jay had received some e-mails from Greydon and seemed quite glad to meet him, until Jay asked him if he performed one of his pet effects. Greydon's answer: "Not any more!". Never one to let a laugh go by, Jay lit into Greydon – and the place was in hysterics!

Congratulations to Greydon for his much-deserved award!

- Mark Hogan

Calendar

August 28 **Max Maven** Lecture at Browser's Den

September 4 **Gregory Wilson** Lecture at Browser's Den

September 14 **London Magic Club** Meeting

October 14 **David Ginn** Lecture in London

October 23 **Family Entertainers** Workshop in Toronto



Magic Reviews

Simon Says: The Close-Up Magic of Simon Lovell
(L&L Publishing)

Simon Lovell combines killer close-up magic with a madcap personality. His performances not only fool audiences but also have them laughing as well. His comedy straightjacket escape has become the stuff of legend.

Simon Says captures 50 of Lovell's best routines from his professional repertoire. Not just the tricks, but also the patter, the jokes, the theory, everything. You can pick three or four routines from the book, perform them exactly as written with the patter provided, and you would have a very healthy career in magic.

This was one of the very first magic books I ever read. I must have read it a dozen or more times. Part One of the book consists of a series of essays on performing close-up professionally – approaching tables, openers, closers, routining, resetting, tips and more. Plus there is an intriguing essay on using personal space and comfort zones. Next comes 220 pages of routines, broken down into openers, middles, closers, sit down effects and tricks with gaffs. Along the way he gives his handling of sleights such as the pass, classic force, top changes, and more. Lovell's light writing style and humor make it a pleasure to read.

Of particular note are "Fingered Number 3" (a finger on card routine), its follow up "Fingered Number 4" (card to wallet), the "Mayo" series of sandwich effects, and "Sleight of Mouth". Sleight of

Mouth is a powerful and hilarious card to mouth routine that is an absolute showstopper. It's an excellent book. Highly recommended.

- Steve Seguin

We Want Your Reviews! Please send any reviews of magic tricks, books and videos to:
Steve.Seguin@hotmail.com



Tricks

Open Warp, by
Steve Seguin

This is the variation of **Card Warp** that I use when performing close-up. The Card Warp effect, by **Roy Walton**, is a visually stunning piece of magic in which a playing card folded with its back outward is slid through another folded playing card and emerges folded face outward. I don't claim my variation as better than the original or any of the countless variations that already exist. It simply satisfies my own personal criteria for the routine.

When I started playing with Card Warp, I wanted to accomplish two things:

First, I wanted to make sure that the "warp" was visually as strong as possible. I sat down and tried every combination of warp I could think of – two playing cards, a bill and a card, two business cards, and a playing card and a business card. Ultimately I liked the look of the playing card pushed through a business card – probably because the smaller business card showed

more of the playing card surface and left little room in the spectator's mind for hidden gimmicks.

Second, I wanted to eliminate the tearing of the warped card at the end of the routine. Tearing the card always seemed a cop out to me since it was primarily done to destroy evidence of the method. I wanted to be able to open everything up and show both cards cleanly. The method I came up with to satisfy this need also had some extra advantages such as giving me an instant reset and allowing me to use the same two cards forever.

I should, however, point out that many magicians would argue that tearing the warped cards adds tremendously to the impact of the card warp effect, that it is integral to the routine, and that it serves as a much-needed climax. I'm the first to admit that I don't have a rational reason for wanting to eliminate it. I just never liked it.

Enough preamble...

Effect: A standard card warp routine using a playing card and a business card. At the end of the routine, both cards are opened up and shown freely.

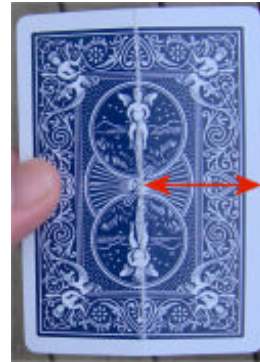
Set Up: Take a Jack, Queen or King from a poker-sized Bicycle deck. Fold it in half lengthwise with its face out, as shown. Refold it along the same crease back out, working the crease so that it folds freely in both directions.



Fold your business card in half width-wise with its front out, as shown. Refold it back out. Work the

crease so it folds freely in both directions.

Instead of tearing the playing card as in other card warp routines, use a pair of scissors and cut the playing card from the edge to the fold.



Here's the neat thing about this set up: Pinch the edge of the card where the cut is between your thumb and first finger, making sure the white border is covered by the finger tip. The detail on the court card makes it extremely difficult to see that the card has been cut. The Bicycle design on the back also makes it hard to see the cut. Keeping the card in motion makes the cut completely invisible.



Kenton Knepper and **Ben Harris** have both used this idea in torn and restored playing card routines. As far as I know, no one has ever applied this stratagem to Card Warp.

Routine: My patter roughly follows **Mike Close's Dr. Strangetrick** patter about an origami time machine from his Workers series. There isn't any need to describe it here. Similarly, the

handling assumes you are familiar with the original Card Warp method.

I keep the business card and the playing card face to face in the side pocket of my vest with the cut in the card pointing up. As I talk, I take the cards out and show them front and back. This is done as an afterthought, without focusing on the cards. Setting the business card down for a moment, I fold the playing card face outward. The cut is on the bottom flap, and out of view of the audience.

I point out that the card is folded face out, noting the time as in the Close routine, and then I refold the card so that it is back outward. The fingers hide the cut during the folding action. Again, the cut ends up on the bottom flap, out of audience view.

I then fold the business card back outward and slip it into the flap in the playing card, as per the original card warp method. I



announce I am going to fold the origami time machine. I refold the business card so that it is face out, setting the playing card in "warped" position. If you don't know the original Card Warp method, this won't make sense to you – ask me to show you next time you see me.

Since the Close patter leads the audience to expect an intricate series of folds, the fact that I only made one fold usually gets a laugh. Tension and release.

I explain how the time machine works and have the spectator push the playing card

through the business card. It emerges face outward.

Pause to let this register.

I then open up the business card and playing card, fingers covering the white border of the card, showing them both front and back. The audience at this point is usually looking for a hidden piece of some kind and not a tear in the card. The opening action is really that simple. Describing it in detail just overcomplicates it. Having said that, for completeness, I will describe this opening action in full at the end of the routine.

Refold the cards, again getting them into "warp position". I push the playing card back and forth through the business card a couple of times, showing it change. Then slide the playing card out at an angle,



showing as much of the warped card as possible. Raise the packet up beside your face as you say, "...and this is about the weirdest thing you're ever going to see." This locks in the image of the warped card and your own face – always try to keep the climax of an effect close to your face.

Open up both cards again, showing them very casually front and back. By showing them openly and cleanly, no one has ever asked to examine the cards.

Opening Action: To open the cards without revealing how the warp is done, do the following. Open the cards like a book. Slip your



thumb inside and press the flap of the playing card against the business card as you open them. Keep the flap of the playing card towards you. The left hand

continues opening the business card, folding it back on itself so that it is back outward. The left hand fingers are holding the playing card, the right hand fingers are holding the business card. The right hand moves to the right, pulling the business card free, and then comes back in front of the playing card so that your left thumb can help open the playing card. The left thumb grabs the edge of the playing card right at the cut, holding the two halves together as it opens up.

The left hand rotates forward at the wrist showing both sides of the playing card while the right hand rotates backward to show both sides of the business card.



Finish off by slipping the business card in front of the playing card between the left thumb and forefinger, concealing the cut in the card.

We Want Your Tricks! Please send any original magic tricks or routines to:
Steve_Seguin@hotmail.com

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Steve Seguin, Editor

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

Content and opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magic Guild.

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Coming Soon!
David Ginn Lecture
October 14, 2005

World-renowned performer, creator, author David Ginn will be lecturing at our club meeting.

