

SIMS ABBM

Newsletter of the Society of Irish Magicians

JUNE 2010

- SIM sweeps the board
- Shenanigans!
- Paul Wilson for June Lecture

WELL IT WAS DIFFERENT....

LAST MONTH'S MEETING was different, very different from the normal run of the month meetings. But that has been the pattern of late in the Society. And that's why you miss a meeting now at your peril.

Okay so what happened? We had a run down of the Ulster Society's hosting of the annual IBM convention. First a round of applause please for the SIM members who literally swept the board in terms of the competitions.

Two in particular – **NEVIN CODY** and **PADDY GIBSON** seemed to figure in each announcement. First Paddy Gibson took the Gemini Award for the best act performed by an under –18 year old.

Then in the close up section, the John Bowden Trophy for

the best close up performance by an IBM member was effortlessly won by **NEVIN CODY**. The Tony Thursby award in the close up section for an act by a non- IBM member was won by **Paddy Gibson** – AGAIN!. And there's more. The Stage competition brought the big one – **THE IBM SHIELD-** to **NEVIN CODY** – Again!

And to cap it all, the Eric Pollock Award for the Magic Society which contributed most to the art in 2009 was presented to... you're ahead of me – **The Society of Irish Magicians**.

And if that raft of achievement does not merit a standing ovation, I don't know what does.

Well done, everybody!

But it was not alone in the field of magical performance that the Society and its members shone. The architects behind much of the society's innovative thinking – **BRENDAN BYRNE** and **PAT FALLON** – lobbed a large grenade into the mix – when they announced to the IBM meeting in Belfast that they had plans to completely turn the heretofore conventional thinking on – well –conventions - topsy turvy with some out of the box thinking.

Although next year's convention, which might I remind you all is hosted by the SIM, is still a work in progress, advance plans

include a rebranding and a total rethink. For a start, out goes the hidebound 'Irish Magic Convention' label. The new name is...

SHENANIGANS!

So what else is new about it? The competition element will be reduced with the emphasis replaced on performance, participation and excellence.

Here is how BRENDAN BYRNE describes it in Irish Magic News:

Big things are planed for Shenanigans. With the help of the sponsors Tourism Dublin we hope to deliver a world class, intimate convention for the Irish magic scene. The new headquarters hotel – the Crown Plaza, Blanchardstown, offers superb facilities, and a secure convention centre that is exclusively ours for the duration of the convention, great food & drink and very reasonable and competitive room rates.

All of this plus more exciting performers and lecturer's to be announced means we are very excited about the future of Irish magic and hope that with the support and goodwill of all on this island that we all benefit from what lies ahead.

We have developed a designated convention site for Shenanigans which you can view at www.irishmagicconvention.com

There you will be able to register your interest in attending, become a fan on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to keep abreast of developments."

And there the matter rests for the moment. Your editor thinks this is a significant moment in the history of the Society, and urges all members to access the site and add their thoughts and suggestions.

Already one of the headliners has been booked.

DAVID WILLIAMSON



Truly a name with which to conjure, he is considered to be one of the world's most talented magicians, David dazzles audiences with a unique and delightful brand of entertainment, blending heart-stopping magic with sidesplitting hilarity. His best-selling magic book, "Williamson's Wonders", has been translated into four languages. His instructional DVDs "Sleight Of Dave", "Dave 2" and "Magic Farm" are bestsellers worldwide. David will perform, lecture and get up the usual antics he is known for all over the weekend.

Members who attended our May Meeting got a sneak preview of one of the many

surprises that visitors to SHENANIGANS may expect – a late night chat show which will take the format of guests, special surprise performances, and music. The dry run was hosted by **Brendan Byrne** and the guests interviewed were **Joe O'Donnell** and **Nevin Cody**. Joe's contribution was essentially that of magical adventures in the mid twentieth century, whereas Nevin's contribution was a complimentary bookend on the twenty first century approach using cutting edge psychological and management techniques to shape an act. **NEVIN** might we remind you all picked up two prestigious awards in the recent convention. **PAT FALLON** provided the magic between interviews, and it all augured well for the success of the idea.

AUDITIONS

DONAL BYRNE auditioned for membership at the May meeting. Donal presented a variety of sleight of hand effects all done with panache. It was obvious that as much thought had gone into the patter and presentation as had into the tricks themselves. Particularly impressive was the surprise production of a bottle of Champagne. This production when well done, as it was by Donal, always plays well. The effect is treated in great depth by Bob Read in a wonderful DVD – The Impromptu Magic of Bob Read: the lost footage. Available at YFD.

**HANS KLOK AND THE
DIVAS OF MAGIC**

A non-magician friend (I have a few you know) sent me the following link which you might find interesting.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLu9hN4x6vk>

Paste and copy this into your browser. It is one of the fastest and slickest illusion acts I've seen. Dutch magician HANS KLOK AND THE DIVAS OF MAGIC attempt to break some sort of record. They do 10 illusions in 5 minutes and do not manage to finish the 11th. to the obvious chagrin of Herr Klok. It's a TV live performance and well worth looking at. Some of the exchange routines would give the Pendragons a run for their money they are that fast. Or should I say – the act formerly known as the Pendragons. Sad that. Oh Hamlet what a falling off was there!

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**AUDIENCE
MANAGEMENT**

Eric and Muriel Sharp share some thoughts from a lifetime of performing experience.

You arrive at your venue to find a large hall with adults and children seated around the sides of the hall. Not a good situation

to entertain satisfactorily. You request that if they sit in front of you a wonderful show is about to start. One or two do so, the rest cling to their mothers, you are left in an embarrassing situation. The answer is: don't get into that situation in the first place. Place a small treat on the equivalent number of chairs to children. When you are about to commence the show, announce that those that sit in front of you for the show can keep the surprise gifts placed on the chair they sit on. They will all come. If it is too expensive to do that then you haven't charged enough.

To older children adopt a different approach: 'All of you come and sit on a chair, the show's about to start, but before you sit on it, look underneath the chair, there is a prize underneath one and whoever finds, keeps it.' They will be there. Every one must be sitting on a chair first.

For an adult audience such as a dance particularly a fancy dress and you are doing a spot during the interval and you want to make sure of

an audience that are in a good mood. 'Ladies and gentleman I will be performing an entertaining magic show before the second half which will commence in fifteen minutes. Every lady dancing with a man when we commence will receive a gift from me.' The crowd will be there early.

You imply but do not actually say you are going to attempt a magic trick, leave that to them. 'Ladies & Gentlemen, As you know we are going perform some magic, so first of all may I ask every gentleman with a lady to put his hand in his pocket and remove all the loose change without looking at it, (pause) now please hold the hand towards the lady friend and hand them contents of your hand without looking at it. **Ladies please don't look at it for the moment.**

'Ladies have you got that?' you haven't looked at the contents of your hand yet. Good! Well Ladies you can keep that, that is my present to you this evening. Performing at the Nylon Spinners adult Christmas party at

Pontypool Wales we brought the house down with that. They held the Crazy dance again later at the same venue with the same thirty two piece band but without myself as MC and entertainer, it was a flop. Mind you it takes a hell of a nerve to do such gags; the band members had to give their tonsils a wash before they could perform and myself a teetotaller. Many an MC will tell you the posher they are, the easier it is to get them laughing. The cruder the joke the funnier the richer people think it is. We still laugh when we think of that evening.



MORE GLEANINGS FROM A MAGICAL BOOKWORM

by Michael Thurston

Another gem from Supreme and this one has a strong Irish flavour. William G Stickland was an International President and Life Member of the IBM; Past President and Life Member of the British Ring; magician and magic author. This is his

opus magnus. *Introducing Bill's Magic* does exactly what it says on the cover.

Unlike many magic books the magic in this volume is divided into sections. These are:-

Kiddies Magic
Comedy Magic
Close-up Magic
Novel Platform Mysteries
Illusions in Miniature
The magic of Eric P Wilson
Sporting Sorcery
Living Marionettes

The Irish slant is easily explained when we read that our own late former President, Eustace Malcolm, supplied some of the photographs. So on page 175 we see the late Mike Rogers welcoming Bill into the Shillelagh Club at an Irish convention. On the next page we see Bill with Bob Armstrong and Pat. On page 187 at the convention dinner are Goodliffe, Mrs Goodliffe, Tony Thursby, Penny (Bill's wife) and Mike and Mrs Rogers. On the next page there is a very good close up of Bill chatting with the late Hubert Lambert.

Introducing Bill's Magic is a book that stimulates, educates and entertains. It is another of my old friends. And I must thank Tony Thursby for having given it to me all those years ago.

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MISS OUR NEXT MEETING AT THE PERIL OF YOUR LIFE!

Our next meeting, Tuesday June 1, usual place and usual time, is the final meeting of the season and, by George, it is a cracker. It has been a wonderful season. Off the top of my head I can think of the incredible 75th Birthday Celebration with JOHN ARCHER and AONGHUS MACANALLY, the workshop with NEVIN CODY and STEVE THOMPSON, CHUCK HICKOK'S whirlwind mentalism, DAVID PENN, and the little sparks of delight at NEVILLE WILTSHIRE'S grab bag of past delights. And who can forget the lecture on Remote Viewing. Ah, happy days! As we've said many times before, these events do not just happen. They are thought up, booked, and engineered by a very hard working Council who consistently produce a multiplicity of rabbits from hats on a monthly basis. Our thanks to them and their generosity and loyalty.

Now back to the next meeting. Your society, at enormous cost has obtained the services of the multi-faceted **Paul Wilson** to share his prodigiously inventive output with the membership at 8pm Tuesday 1st June at Cassidy's Hotel, Dublin 1. Paul is a busy working pro sharing his time with performances, lectures, writing, consultancy, and being one of the stars of the TV series **THE REAL HUSTLE**.

The night is free to all members of a recognised magic society. Bone-fide magicians who are not members of magic societies will be charged €20.

Don't miss it.