

STMSAABBIM

Newsletter of the Society
of Irish Magicians

MAY 2007

✚ PLAYING THE
GOAL GAME

✚ THE CELTIC
CABAL

✚ NEXT MEETING:
NOT TO BE
MISSED!

This report on the April meeting was written by President **BRENDAN BYRNE**... Our thanks to Brendan for taking this trouble

NEVIN AND STEPHEN DEFINE AND SCORE GOALS – AGAIN!

Easter, and time for a rebirth of our own. In our case the evening of Tuesday 6th April saw a small gathering attend another superb workshop night devised by **Nevin Cody** and **Steven Thompson**.

For the unaware a similar night was held last season and with Nevin's wide experience in management and Steven's

ground-breaking work in the training industry is it any wonder these nights are fast becoming 'must attend' events.

The theme of the night – setting goals - was, on the surface, fairly simple. Setting goals requires us to engage in clearly defined processes in order to achieve them.

A large puzzle game saw two teams competing to solve the puzzle in the shortest time possible. After 3 attempts both teams managed to get their times down from around 15 minutes to 4 seconds. The lessons to be learned? Nothing is impossible.

The second part of the night was hung on the hook that is creativity. We were treated to a display of effects which showed off the creativity process of **JACK WISE**. Jack illustrated how he had taken a Steve Spill gag of taking your eye out with a tea spoon and brought it to new levels. It is always interesting to see how creative minds work and Jack opened up to us a lot in this regard.

The real success and indeed the hope of a night

like this is the thought and debate that it generates. And we were not disappointed in this regard. The last 30 minutes or so was full of chat, learned debate, hints, tips, know-how and technique regarding character and the performance of magic.

Food for thought indeed and a fitting and appropriate end to a magnificent night for the few who were lucky to be there. Kudos to Steven, Nevin and Jack.

WELCOME TO THE CABAL

Recently I came across a truly remarkable e-book: compiled by the inexhaustible Peter Duffie. The collection features 45 routines, by some 35 contributors from Ireland, Scotland and Wales, hence the title – THE CELTIC CABAL. In its 170 pages you also get two essays – one on mentalism by David Lees, the other on Creativity by Geraint Clarke.

In addition there's a ten page bonus mss by Tom Sellars which contains his much sought after out-of-

print treatise on gambling sleights and routines: enough here, I reckon to get you into considerable trouble in any poker game. I can imagine our **John Bowden** devouring this, 'though he probably has the original!

This is an e-book, which means you download it onto your computer as a PDF file. In theory you could print it out 'though it's 170 pages long.



Okay, so the first thing you do after downloading the manuscript is to check out the Irish contributions. Pat Fallon has two items, and Quentin Reynolds, Nevin Cody, Steven Thomson, and Harry Guinness have an item each. There is also one from Patrick McCullagh and ex-pat currently resident in Australia (Ise).

All routines are workers and have the stamp and patina of items which have actually been used, as opposed to something just theoretically composed.

Pat's take on the Hydrostatic glasses is a cracker. Sorry, Pat, I'm going to steal this – it's got everything I like about magic: a strong story, interesting props, and – *mirabile dictu* – a simple methodology. Also with a strong plot is Nevins's WINE AND WATER routine with a Lota bowl. Again lovely story and a kicker of a finale. Steve has a new and cheeky take on the OUT OF THIS WORLD plot. It's so cool, 'though it does require gonads of pure steel to carry off. Quentin shares a clever variation on the Confabulation theme, and Patrick McCullagh has a routine called ESTIMATION which I imagine would require great audience handling skills and experience to pull it off. Harry completes the septet with T^3, a three-phase in-the-hands card transposition which is a corker; Pat's other effect is an out-of-sight location, using a

paper bag and a crisp presentation angle making it ideal for table hopping.

But that's only the home grown contributions. There's loads more good stuff including Val Le-Val's clever take on Fogel's Bewitched, Bottled and Bewildered, and an intriguing piece from Trevor Lewis requiring a small plastic Nun! Yes, you read that correctly: I can't wait.

The book is lavishly and generously illustrated with photos and graphics. This is incredible value and is available from YFD.

I got it from Chris Wasstuber's www.lybrary.com for a paltry \$22.50, that's about €17. Come on, as the man said: seventeen euro, sure you wouldn't give it to a child on his birthday!

**MAGIC
ON TV**

Looking at a recent transmission of BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT we were less than impressed at how the magicians performing at the auditions came across.

One got the doors of his ZIG ZAG stuck and had to wheel it off in disgrace. Very funny

moment, 'though when backstage Ant and Dec, the presenters were knocking on the half-open half-shut jammed box asking with great concern the assistant inside if she were all right. The next guy got his dove load stuck and had to do a lot of uncomfortable pulling and tugging. He was buzzed and booted off.

Finally the guy doing a one-man WALKING THROUGH A WALL dropped the false hand (think Daylight Séance) and had to abort the entire operation while a camera got a close-up of the false hand sitting pathetically on the stage.

Is it any wonder that Simon Cowell thinks magicians the most boring of all performers?



Imagine our delight therefore to watch **JACK WISE'S** ten-minute spot on Craig Doyle's new Saturday night show. It blended comedy, magic and ventriloquism using an audience member as a doll. A great act and one that got huge audience reaction. Well done, our Aidan! Hope it brings you huge luck.

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**IRISH MAGIC NEWS
IN CONVERSATION
WITH.. LIVE!

NEXT MONTH'S
EXTRA SPECIAL
EVENT**

Okay, so – let's say - you've just come back from a weekend of magic at the IBM Annual Convention in Belfast. You have prestidigital indigestion, conjuring confusion, and thaumaturgical migraine.

If this is your prognosis, and you feel you can't face the monthly meeting on Tuesday, 4th May – the day after the Convention, then, we have the perfect antidote for you and your jaded pallet. Read on:

First put this date in your book:

TUESDAY: MAY 4TH.

It is the date of our upcoming May meeting.

And of course it is at our usual and well-appointed venue – CASSIDY’S HOTEL, opposite the Gate Theatre.

So what happens, and why is it so unusual? Bear with us, a moment.

Without a doubt the launch last year of the website www.irishmagicnews.com last year was a seminal event. Conceived, masterminded and stylishly engineered by BRENDAN BYRNE, the site has catapulted Irish magic into the 21st century.

Among the many popular features has been the series of interviews with practitioners. BRENDAN’S idea is to extend the scope of this, incorporating the interview element, but extending it into a live public event which could possibly include performance elements. Here we have something which is unique and has not been done on this scale before.

So what will the evening consist of? There will be a series of extended interviews, some

performances and lively interaction with the audience.

In addition to this, the evening’s event will serve as a template and dry run for a possible event for the 2011 IBM Convention which the SIM is hosting by the way. So come along, and be amazed.

TUESDAY 4TH MAY
CASSIDY’S HOTEL

MORE GLEANINGS FROM A MAGICAL BOOKWORM

By Michael Thurston

Once upon a time there was the Unique magic studio, and then came Supreme. The Supreme Magic Company not only marketed many tricks and illusions they also published very many books. Their most prolific writer was Lewis Ganson. I have a list of 58 of his books in front of me as I write, and he also contributed hundreds of article to *The Gen*, *The Pentagram*, and *The Magigram*. No wonder then that a prized book in my magic library is **The Ganson Book**. It is written by Lewis himself and he also supplied the photographs. It was unfortunately his last book and he didn't live to see it published.

Lewis Ganson bridged the period from the days of British music hall to the era of television and his story is a magic adventure of those days. Yes, there are tricks

and routines in this book and yes, there are contributions from other magicians. And yes, there is much more. From the music hall days we meet (and see) George Formby Snr. and Florrie Forde.

Like most Englishmen of the times Lewis entered the army; after the war he was stationed in Germany.

Ganson and his lovely wife Jo were to meet, and work with, many famous celebrities and most top magicians. If cards are your choice there is a strong slant towards cards in this book. Lewis loved card effects, and he was particularly proud of his card fans and double card fans.

This book tells the story of a man totally dedicated to the art of magic, and it also contains many gems. Apart from the card magic there are gems like the Cap and Pence, Peter Warlock's Plastic Silks, Edwin's Rainbow Chips and more. This is a great book by and about a great man.

LAST CALL FOR CONVENTION!

**Still time to book yourself
into the IBM Diamond
Jubilee Convention hosted
by the USM in Belfast**

**Friday 30th April - Sunday
2nd May 2010**

**The Hastings Stormont
Hotel – Belfast. Online
registration is now available
on the Ulster Society of
Magicians website.**

www.online-usm.com/

**Or go to
www.irishmagicnews.com
for up to date info.**