



Vol 22 No. 5

May 2024

The Magical Minutes

— RING 92 —
VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Some members arrived early for a chat session.

President Yoosik Oum welcomed and greeted the members and guests.

To start the evening's activities Charles Gauthier presented his three tricks. He will be initiated at the January meeting in 2025.

The workshop for this month was presented by Robert Teszka.

He taught some routines from his magic dropout show as a way of demonstrating some principles that he uses when developing magic. He also talked about a fringe theatre show. During his workshop about his fringe magic shows, he did a chop cup routine using a wooden chop cup and fake cherries and limes. He did a Koran medalion routine with his high school science award. He finished with a routine where he guessed drinks written on blank cards. It ended with a wine glass production using a white silk. After his demonstrations, he explained some of the psychology behind his routines. His timing and misdirection were excellent. He also had lecture notes for sale.

Everyone enjoyed his workshop.

This month's competition was for the Charles Howard trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in magic using gimmicks in a card effect or routine. During the course of the routine, a gimmick must be used, for example, gimmicked cards, gimmicked wallet, or a gimmicked device.

Last year's winner, Roy Hopwood was the host and emcee for this competition. He read the rules. The competitors (in order of appearance) were Greg Ladret, Pranreet Arora, Scott Barker, Jack Schwartz, and Michael Glenister. The timekeeper was Simon Cassegrain. The winner of the Charles Howard trophy for 2024 was Michael Glenister. Congratulations to Michael and to the rest of the competitors. In between the acts, Roy asked himself " what is my sense of humour?" He explained what he thought his sense of humour is; some of his favourite comedians and examples of their work.

He also discussed the difference between " dad " jokes and puns. He also spoke about spoonerisms. He concluded that his sense of humour is : an eclectic mix of styles and influences. The business portion of the meeting included a reminder by e-mail about the May meeting and other details.

During the refreshment time, Graham Kita brought out a chocolate cake to celebrate Roy Hopwood's 78th birthday. Happy birthday Roy. Roy is our secretary/treasurer for the club. Graham Kita and Simon Cassegrain made the coffee.

Other magic performers for the evening were Vitaliy Savchyshyn and.....

Photography was done by Roy Hopwood and Graham Kita.

Thanks to Kim Fabbro for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were 25 members and 4 guests in attendance.

The Presidents Report

Hello, VMC.

We had a great meeting in April.

As the Executive Committee, we want to plan out each meeting so each one is a great one for all of you. We hope, that at each meeting, you have fun, meet and make friends, entertain and be entertained, and leave having learned something new.

We were fortunate to have a great workshop hosted by the host of the monthly Parlour Magic Show, Rob Teszka. And more great lessons are planned for future meetings, including the upcoming Anson Chen lecture later this month. We revealed the lecture exclusively to VMC members first so they can have the opportunity to get tickets before they sell out, and sell out they will.

Looking forward to seeing you next time. Have a magical month!

Yoosik Ethan Oum

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - President

<https://www.koreancanuckmentalist.com>

The Editors Desk

I was caught by surprise when at the April meeting members brought out a cake to celebrate my 78th Birthday. Thank you, I felt honored to be acknowledged.

Rob Teszka presented a great workshop completed with notes, for anyone to take for a donation of whatever they felt they were worth.

In the spotlight this issue is **Rod Chow** who is also presenting a workshop at the meeting on May 23. This is a not to be missed event.

As usual thanks to **Denniss Chan** and **Yoosik Oum** for their regular columns

John Stenning not only contributes reviews for TMM (The Magical Minutes) but also proofreads every issue at least twice. Without his input TMM would not be as good as it is. Why not thank him next time you see him.

The competition this month is the Close Up Competition, so get those props out, practice and register to compete.

Even if you are not competing, you can perform some magic for the members.

Lets make it a fun night.

TMM is always looking for contributions, so if you have photos of events, articles, news items or anything you feel would be suitable for TMM, sent it (them) to me at Hopwood.vmc@gmail.com.

‘Keep Magic Alive, and Live’



in the spotlight

This month is

Rod Chow

MM: Tell us a little about yourself and your family

RC: I am a 3rd generation Canadian, born in Vancouver, a UBC B.Comm and MBA graduate, a recipient of over 50 magic awards, the first ever Past S.A.M. National President from outside of the USA in its 120 year history, and a 33 year member of the VMC. I work together with my brother and two sisters in our family business, Jack Chow Insurance, located in Vancouver, Chinatown.

MM: How did you become interested in magic?

RC: My parents got me interested in magic as a child as we frequently travelled for family vacations to Reno and Las Vegas where we saw magic shows and visited magic shops. Every time they gambled in a casino, they would bring back for me decks and often bricks of playing cards gifted to them by the casino hosts. My professional career began performing at my parent's office parties, working for food and treats.



MM: Who are your biggest influences in the magic world?

RC: In Reno, a dealer showed me Harry Lorayne's One Eye Jack Sandwich, from then I accumulated and read every single book that Lorayne wrote. Combined with Jean Hugard's Expert Card Technique, I felt that I could do anything with a regular deck of cards.

MM: What is your favorite trick to perform and why?

RC: My favourite trick is my walkaround presentation and variation of the Lorayne Force from Close-Up Card Magic.



Photo courtesy of
Academy of Magical Arts | LMCaptured.

MM: Can you share an interesting story from one of your performances?

RC: When during a performance at the Richmond Night Market, at the climax of my Emoji routine, the volunteers on stage were so shocked, that they expressed this shock using swear words, and I had to say that this was a family show.

MM: What advice would you give to someone who wants to learn magic?

RC: Set a date goal, whether it be a show, a competition or a party. Write down the routines you would like to perform. Summarize the steps on your set list. Line up your props. Practice and record your practices until you are able to perform smoothly and comfortably. Enlist someone as your coach to give you feedback and guide you. Establish eye contact, listen and react to engage your audience. Take advantage of every opportunity to perform.

MM: How do you come up with new tricks or routines?

RC: It's all about the theme. Come up with a story, and take that story full circle from beginning to middle to end and back to the beginning. Be creative, innovative and detailed to come up with the magic which fits the story, while allowing yourself the flexibility to adapt the story to fit the magic which would generate the greatest entertainment value and magical atmosphere.

MM: What's the most challenging part of being a magician for you?

RC: Preparing for a magic competition by taking your routine to the highest level of perfection, innovation and originality as possible because your competitor is doing the exact same thing.

MM: What's the most rewarding part of being a magician for you?

RC: I can be anywhere and bring joy, wonder, smiles, laughter, shock and unforgettable amazing memories to anyone at anytime.

MM: Can you share with our readers a fun, non magic, fact that we didn't know about you?

RC: I have and play the only Giant Panda Piano in the World, who is our mascot named Genie. I love Pandas so much that I have just created a brand new theme park-like attraction, the "Ultimate Jack Chow Giant Panda Habitat Magical Experience" in our Skinniest in the World building.



I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood

Stage Fright

(Performance Anxiety)

Do you suffer from '*Stage Fright*' (*Performance Anxiety*)?

Many performers do.

'Stage fright, also known as '*performance anxiety*,' is generally considered a subtype of social anxiety because it involves fear of social situations. However, people who have stage fright do not necessarily have trouble with other common types of social anxiety, like meeting new people or eating in public.

Whether it is a speech at a professional meeting, a wedding toast, or competing in a sports event, sweaty palms and shaky knees are commonplace when speaking or performing in front of a group of people. In fact, most people experience some form of performance anxiety, even if it is only mild. A lot can be at stake, since a good public showing might advance a career, for example. Yet fear can trip anyone up with an increased heart rate and a suddenly blank mind.

It seems impossible, but high-profile performers, like singers **Adele** and **Rhianna**, suffer stage fright just like the rest of us. Sometimes, such phobia may be part of a larger issue that can include symptoms such as dry mouth, nausea, stuttering, tachycardia, changes in vision, tics, and even tremors. An extreme fear of public speaking is a subtype of social anxiety disorder, and some 7 percent of the adult American population suffers from this condition.¹

I can recall several of my magician colleagues in **Adelaide** who suffered from *Performance Anxiety* and showed their anxiety in differing ways.

One person would sit down and rock forwards and backwards while 'moaning' aloud.

Another would pace about and get aggressive with the other performers.

Others would sit quietly.

I did not like to be 'hassled' while I was setting up for a gig, as the gig started my 'nerves' would stop.

I recall taking a good friend and magician, for 'work experience' table hopping at a local hotel restaurant. He was fine watching me work, but when I suggested he perform something for the table, he froze and had to go outside for some 'fresh air.'

'Having some anxiety — especially when faced with a stressful situation - is not necessarily bad and can be helpful ... **The right amount of anxiety can improve performance.** Anxiety is an uncomfortable emotion, often fueled by uncertainty. Conversely, too much anxiety/stress can be detrimental to performance and ongoing health.²

Since being in Canada, other than at [Vancouver Magic Circle](#) (VMC) meetings I have only performed for the public on a few occasions and the only times I suffered from 'nerves' before a performance was:

At a VMC meeting, I performed the **Fred Kaps** presentation of **Ken Brookes** '*The Sidewalk Shuffle*' for the first time in about 30 years. As soon as I started the routine my nerves disappeared time slowed down and everything worked well, a very pleasing performance.

At the recent VMC '*Children's Magician of the Year*' (CMOTY) competition in front of 105 paying members of the public, my biggest gig (in terms of audience size) for more than 15 years. Once again as soon as I stepped on stage the nerves were gone.

What about you? Do you get Stage Fri... eh *Performance Anxiety*?

What form does it take and how do you cope with it?

I would love to hear about your experiences.

¹ Source: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/stage-fright>

² Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/19/well/mind/anxiety-benefits.html#:~:text=Having%20some%20anxiety%20%E2%80%94%20especially%20when%20faced%20with,is%20an%20uncomfortable%20emotion%2C%20often%20fueled%20by%20uncertainty.>

A picture tells a thousand words



VMC Meeting – April 25, 2024



Photos Courtesy of Roy J Hopwood and Simon Cassegrain

INCREDIBLE REVERSE



Another simple, yet clever packet card trick from **Vincenzo Di Fatta**, this trick involves turning three of five face-down cards face up in a spread, squaring the packet up, turning it over, then, after a magical gesture (if you like) you spread them out and voila! All the cards are now magically face down.

Comes with five Bicycle cards and instructions, currently unavailable from Vanishing Inc.

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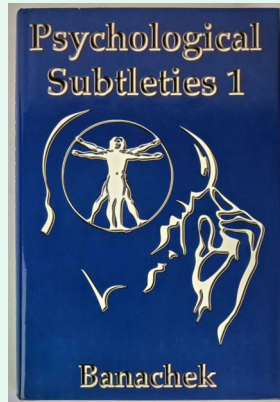
J.Stenning

Fascinating bits of magical information and trivia

- A vaudeville magician, **Jack Norworth**, wrote the words to the famous tunes "**Take Me Out To the Ball Game**" and "**Shine On Harvest Moon**".
- Long before he became one of America's greatest magicians, **Howard Thurston** began his career as a jockey at the tender age of nine. He earned a living as a bellboy, a potato peeler pitchman (apparently having invented this particular design of peeler) and even a professional pickpocket before setting his sights on magic.
- Some magicians have gained fame even while physically challenged. **Eliaser Bamberg** had only one leg (and he used his false leg to hide magic items). **George Kirkland**, blind since birth, entertained Britons in the late 1800's. **Admiral Tom Thumb** was a midget magician who worked for **Ringling Brothers** circus, and who sold his own magic sets, complete with tiny cards. Today, Argentina's **Rene Levante** is famous for his amazing card magic, even though he has only one arm.
- The stage name "**Alexander**" has been used by no less than nine professional magicians, not counting the great **Alexander Herrmann**. The name has been used by **Alexander Heimburger**, **Claude Conlin**, **Alexander Victor**, **Loring Campbell**, **Leon Mandrake**, **James Gordon Alexander**, **Carl Alexis Rhodin** and **Augusta Krocs**.
- Magicians also have their share of bad luck. **John Calvert**, **Von Arx** and **Thurston** all lost shows in shipwrecks.
- **Eliaser Bamberg**, Holland's court magician and great-great grandfather of **Theo Bamberg**, was considered to be a most incredible magician, performing seemingly impossible miracles. The truth was that he had lost a leg in a war, and had his artificial limb fitted with secret compartments, allowing him to perform amazing magic effects.
- **Okito (Theo Bamberg)** developed his silent Oriental act to compensate for the fact that he was totally deaf.
- **Nicola** and **Von Arx** were brothers, as were **Houdini** and **Hardeen**, **Howard Thurston** and **Harry Thurston**, **Ira Davenport** and **William Davenport**.
- **Harry Houdini's** brother, **Hardeen**, was a Leap Year Centennial baby- he was born on February 29, 1876. The year was the 100th year (centennial) of America's independence.
- **Kuda Bux**, the mentalist most famous for his Blindfold Drive and other blindfolded feats, eventually lost his sight to glaucoma.
- Pulling a rabbit from a hat is a classic symbol of magic, yet in truth has rarely been a part of any magician's show. By some accounts, the idea of pulling a rabbit from a hat was part of a publicity stunt. Created by a British magician, the effect capitalized on the public's interest in a woman who claimed to have given birth to a litter of rabbits.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUBTLETIES #1

By Banachek



Originally published in 1998, Psychological Subtleties 1 was received with rave reviews in the magic and mentalism community and since then, vol's 2 and 3 have come out.

If you have an interest in mentalism, then you probably know who Banachek is and may have already read this book, if you don't, you could do worse by getting it and reading it a.s.a.p! Banachek's ideas and methods for mentalism are considered revolutionary and this book contains what are now some modern classics that you might already know and do, but certainly much that you have never heard of. Some of what it contains is:

- Forces and saves.
- Swami gimmick work.
- The old circle and triangle.
- Cards.
- Money.

And of course much more, too much to mention in this brief review. Banachek is also joined by many mentalists and magicians who contributed their version of routines, such as:

- Charles J. Pecor
- Randy Atha
- Christopher Carter

and many more.

This book is highly recommended by several well know magicians and is a treasure trove of information for the modern mentalist.

What more can I say? After looking through it and writing this review, I want to read it again.

J.Stenning May 19/2024.

All the best to my magical brothers and sisters; stay strong, healthy and magical.

Steeplechase Park



Released in 2016 by Penguin Magic and limited to 2,500 decks the Steeplechase Park deck was Manufactured by The United States Playing Card Company (USPCC) on Bicycle stock with premium "Magic" finish deck feels and handles wonderfully while the traditional cut makes shuffling a breeze.



Designed by Jared Hansen, the Steeplechase Park deck is a tribute to Coney Island's original and longest-running amusement park. The back design is wildly colorful and vibrant. The faces have been completely recolored, and you received matching custom Jokers, a custom Ace of Spades, and 2 useful gaff cards. The custom tuck box is closed with a custom sticker seal.



Overall this is a fun deck for general use, magicians and collectors.

It is listed on the [Penguin Magic](#) web site at \$7.95

[Picclick](#) shows it selling on [eBay](#) for about \$19.00

It is in 62 [Portfolio 52](#) Collections

Jest for Fun

A Magician was doing his stage show in front of a big audience but saw he wasn't getting anywhere. After trying all the 'tricks', in desperation, he called a big, muscular man out of the audience.

"Sir, I'd like you to take this 20 pound sledge hammer and hit me as hard as you can right in the head."

The man refused.

The magician then said, "Sir, I am a professional. This is the Greatest Illusion. Besides, there are hundreds of witnesses, hit me as hard as you can right in the head with the hammer."

The man shrugged, did it, and the Magician went flying across the stage, hit the wall, and immediately fell into a coma. He was rushed to the hospital, and remained in the coma for years.

Ten years later, he came out of the coma, looked around, and said "Ta DA!!"

A magician walks into a magic shop.

He glances around at all the musty old familiar curiosities of a bygone era: a large chromed foo can; an canvas straitjacket with suspiciously long sleeves; a gaudy silk cabinet with fake oriental characters on it. A kid behind a counter is badgering a customer to "Pick a card -- any card!". Then the magician notices a small plastic figurine of a rabbit in a top hat. It has no price tag, but it is so cute that he decides he must have it.

He asks the kid behind the counter, "How much for that statue of a rabbit in the hat?"

The kid replies, "It's not a statue, it's a trick! Twenty dollars with an instructional DVD."

"I don't need the instructions. To me it's just an ornament. It'll look good in my magic den. I'll give you fifteen bucks for it -- and you can keep the instructions!" Since the hat and rabbit had been languishing on the shelf for months, the kid agrees to sell it without the DVD.

The magician walks out of the store with his prize under his arm, and walks merrily down the street. He begins to notice a few stray jackrabbits following him. Startled, he walks a bit faster. But a few blocks later he is stunned to see several dozen vicious-looking wild rabbits hopping behind him. He panics and runs madly off in all directions, only to see more and more crazed-looking rabbits, seemingly popping out of nowhere, and racing after him at top speed.

Now in full gallop, the magician runs frantically towards a bridge spanning a large river. He scrambles out onto the bridge with the rabbits right behind him in hot pursuit, now in the thousands. Figuring the ornament from the magic shop is jinxed, he tosses it into the river. He's suddenly astonished to see a 'million' crazed rabbits jump into the river after it! They all drown. It's a ghastly sight.

Thoroughly relieved, the magician staggers back to the magic shop, determined to get an explanation for this nightmare.

"Ah ha!" says the kid behind the counter, "You've come back for the instructions!"

"Heck no!" says the rumpled and haggard magician, gasping for breath and wiping sweat from his brow, "I came back to see if you have any clowns in a hat!"

Diary Dates*

Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.

VMC Executive Meeting:

TBA - via Zoom

Vancouver Magic Circle

ibmring92.com

May 2024:

Thursday May 23, 2024

Workshop — Rod Chow

Competition — Close Up Competition
- The H.B. Maclean Trophy
- The Dick Gardner Trophy

June 2024

Thursday June 27, 2024

Workshop —

Competition —

Shows (as a courtesy)

Hidden Wonders

<https://hiddenwonders.ca>

Shows are generally on Thursday 7 PM, Fri & Sat 7 & 9:30 and Sunday 3 & 7

TBA—check web site for dates and times

The Parlour Magic Show

[The Parlour Magic Show](#)

Monthly on the third Wednesday

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Other Clubs (as a courtesy)

**Society of American
Magicians #95 [SAM#95](#)**

Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the **first Tuesday of the month** at members homes.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Fraser Valley Magic Circle

[FVMC](#)

Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Friday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Magicians for Hire

In the past VMC members wishing to promote their services could do so on the 'Magicians for Hire' page of our website for an annual fee.

Recently members have promoted their services without paying a fee.

The VMC Executive Committee has agreed that a fee is to be reinstated and the fee be \$20.00 per year (January to December).

If you previously had an ad or wish to have one (or more) and would like to run it (them) in 2024 please submit a short bio and photo, if you haven't already done so, to **Roy Hopwood**, Secretary/ treasurer hopwood.vmc@gmail.com. Payment can be made, with a note saying what the payment is for, via either:

- **PayPal** (treasurer@ibmring92.com)
- **eTransfer** (treasurer@IBMring92.com)

Secure your ad for 2024 ASAP, as applications are closing soon.

VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

Please Do Not Forward The Magical Minutes to Non-Members*

This is just a friendly reminder to all our members to please not to forward our newsletter, 'The Magical Minutes' or any private newsletter links, to people who are not financial members of the VMC. The online VMC Library, and The Magical Minutes newsletter are a membership privilege. It takes a lot of time and effort to write our newsletter, and we do it exclusively for the benefit of our members. If a non-financial member asks you to forward The Magical Minutes to them, please refrain from doing so. Lastly, the Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and / or sent positive messages about The Magical Minutes newsletter. It is truly appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it.

Thank you
The VMC Executive Committee

* Except with express permission of the VMC Executive Committee.

** Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.*