

**International Brotherhood of Magicians  
Ring 180, The Horace Bennett Ring, Richmond, VA**

**Report of Meeting  
August 12, 2015**

Ring President Watt Hyer began the August meeting with announcements and discussion of the magic show staged by five members at the Firehouse Theatre. He expressed hopes that members will be able to offer another performance in September. Because the evening's two themes were, "Original Magic" and "Homemade Magic," Watt displayed the "Square Circle" that he had made. (This classic prop is a rectangular box with an opened front. Through the opened front spectators see a cylinder standing in the box.) Watt showed both the box and the cylinder to be empty. He then produced items that could be used in other routines, including long zippers, which he referred to as an "elephant fly" and a "dragon fly."

Because of his inability to have a spectator sign the card in the several versions of the "Torn and Restored Card" that he knew, Davis West developed a method for performing the effect. Unfortunately, he could not "heal" one tear, so he used a comedy bit of stapling it. Davis also liked effects, such as David Regal's "Clarity Box," but thought he could save money by building one himself using a plastic box that he had on hand. Davis' box had a black bottom and a clear top. The box contained a folded playing card and was placed on the table when he began his routine. When the signed card, which had been returned to the deck, could not be found, it was discovered to be the one in the box.

Dan Dalton showed his gimmick made from a plastic pill bottle to load a finger ring into a nest of small cloths. He vanished a borrowed finger ring and had a spectator unwrap a package of cloths to find it. He also had a wooden "Duck Bucket," which a friend had constructed for him. He showed the bucket empty and produced a mass of feather boas obtained from a party store. He reported that he usually produced two rabbits from it.

Tom Olshefski with the help of Dan Dalton demonstrated his original approach to the "Open Prediction" problem, occasioned by his dissatisfaction with Ed Marlo's solution in *Hierophant*. Tom placed a card on the table from a blue backed deck. Dan dealt cards from a red backed deck and stopped wherever he wished. Of course, the last card Dan dealt matched the card Tom had placed on the table. Joe Duck joined Tom and Dan. Joe held the "death card," signed by Dan, in a packet of four kings, secured by a rubber band while Tom told the story of an "Appointment in Samara." Dan held a card taken from the deck. When Joe examined his packet, the signed card was missing. It was now the card that Dan held. The effect was Tom's adaptation of a Darwin Ortiz effect. Tom's version allows the death card to be signed.

Michael Douglas performed a portion of his kid show. Though he used many stock effects, he believed his routining to be original. He opened with his "Stinky Sock" (i.e. dirty sock) routine in which he removed his sockless foot from his tennis shoe and then removed a glass jar containing the stinky sock from the same shoe. The sock was put into a change bag with a zippered bottom, which occasioned several comedic bits. A break-away wand and a giant foam wand were also used for comedy. In the end the sock was clean. Michael's "Spot Card," also known as "What's Next" and "Hoppin' Spots," routine was pretty standard, but the patter contained an original approach.

Mike Kinnaird changed into shorts and T-shirt in order to escape from police issued handcuffs and a homemade mailbag secured with a Master lock. He compared this escape to Houdini's first escape effect performed in 1910.

Harry Gallant had assembled props from *Syzygy* magazine for "1-2-3-Go." A cardboard bearing the abbreviations of all the cards in a deck was placed on an easel. Tom Olshefski chose a card from a deck. He told Harry what column held the card's abbreviation. A second cardboard was placed on the easel. Tom again stated the column on this card that bore the chosen card's abbreviation. Harry identified the chosen card.

Barry Mills dealt five cards each to Amy Duck, Joe Duck, Mike Kinnaird, Davis West, and Tom Olshefski. Each mentally selected one card from the hand. The cards were re-dealt, and the spectators identified the hand that held the chosen card. Barry instructed each spectator to answer "No" each time he showed a card and asked, "Is this your card?" Under the guise of spotting tells Barry identified the chosen cards.

With all performances completed small groups formed to discuss them until time to leave the premises.