



Vol 21 No. 6

June / July / August 2023

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

The Magical Minutes

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report—June

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, June 22, 2023. Several members arrived at the hall early for the usual chat session. **President Yoosik** opened the meeting by greeting the members and guests. A broken wand ceremony took place to remember long time Vancouver Magic Circle member **Roger Sylvestre** who passed away on January 27, 2023. In attendance to remember **Roger** was **Rangie Sylvestre**, her friend **Gill Laziran** and **Roger's** nephew **Keith Roy**. **Graham Kita** conducted the broken wand ceremony. **Graham** also read the write up about **Roger's** life which was submitted by **Rangie**. He then read the broken wand ceremony. He then broke the wand and handed it over to **Rangie**. There was a moment of silence.

After the ceremony, the workshops and other magical performances were presented by **Joji Yamashita**, **Rod Boss**, **Jack Schwartz**, **Blake Aleong**, **John Stenning**, **Cameron Minty**, **Reg Donnelly**, **Robert Teszka**, **Ken Cowie**, and **James Nguyen**. They all showed various card moves and techniques. Well done everyone. These mini workshops are proving to be very popular amongst the members.

Competition time. The competition for June was for the **Ray Gamble Trophy**. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in card magic. Competitors are handed a brand new deck of cards with the cellophane wrapper and the seal still intact. The timing starts after the competitor has removed the wrapper and opens the seal. The seal must be opened by hand. The cards must be used as they are from the box and nothing else may be used during the routine. The Jokers and the box may also be used. The cellophane wrapper may also be used. Any additional items will result in disqualification. Last year's winner, **Rod Chow** was the MC and host for this competition and he also read the rules. This is an adult competition. **Robert Teszka** was the time keeper. The competitors (in order of appearance) were **Charles Gauthier**, **John Stenning**, **Roy Hopwood**, and **Simon Cassegrain**. **Simon Cassegrain** was the winner of the **Ray Gamble Trophy** for 2023. Congratulations to **Simon** and to the rest of the competitors.

In between the acts **Rod** spoke about the first ever President of the Society of American Magicians from outside the USA, the first ever Canadian President of the oldest magic organization in the world in its 120 year history. He also spoke about the benefits of competing at various levels- local, regional, national and international, and encouraged members to enter as competitors inspire confidence, creativity and act development.

Dennis Chan gave another reminder to the members not to play around with their cards and cell phones during a lecture or a competition as this distracts the performer and other members. In the words of **Ice McDonald**, you should not be performing unless you are scheduled to perform.

The business portion of the meeting, members were reminded about the August picnic, and the September auction.

The evening ended with I.B.M. president **Billy Hsueh** presenting **Dennis Chan** with a framed interim certificate recognizing him for the Order of Merlin Excalibur and his fifty years of continuous membership with the I.B.M. The official pin and certificate will arrive by post. Thanks to **Billy**

and to everyone in the Vancouver Magic Circle.

Graham Kita received a Presidential citation from **Billy** recognizing him and his hard work and dedication to Ring 92. Congratulations **Graham**.

Photographers were **Henry Tom**, **Graham Kita**, **Rod Boss**, **Billy Hsueh**, **Simon Cassegrain**, **Glen LaBarre** and many others who took photos of **Dennis Chan** and **Graham Kita** receiving their certificates on this special occasion.

For the refreshments, **Rod Boss** brought cookies, **Graham Kita** brought cookies, coffee, and bottled water. **Cameron Minty** brought, baklava which is some kind of a dessert. Thanks everyone. Thanks to **Kim Fabbro** forgiving me a ride to and from the meeting.

There were 26 members and 7 guests in attendance.

The Presidents Report - June

Hello VMC.

Hope you're enjoying the great weather. Wow, it's already July. Time flies! I hope you had a great Canada Day weekend. Remember there is no meeting in July. Our next meeting is the picnic in late August, for now scheduled to be on Saturday the 26th. More details will be emailed to you soon.

Congrats to **Simon Cassegrain** for winning the Ray Gamble competition and congrats to all the competitors. As **Rod Chow** said, while acting as the MC for the contest, the VMC meetings are a great opportunity to share your magic and to perform, grow, compete, and make mistakes and learn from them. We continually encourage each of you to share and perform with us.

More opportunities to perform will come later in the year with the Halloween magic competition and the Stage competition, both of which are open to VMC adult and junior members so keep those in mind and start practising!

Have a great magical day!
Yoosik Ethan Oum

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - President

<https://www.koreancanuckmentalists.com>

The Editors Desk

Hi to all members of the VMC. I hope you are all well and enjoying the great weather - not too hot for you? See my I Recall ... Column in this issue.

Following some ongoing health concerns; changes in medication and some family issues (Back in Australia my Brother in law and his wife (my sister) died within 8 weeks of each other.

I must once again give a huge shout out to **John Stenning** and also to members of the **VMC Executive Committee** for the ongoing support and encouragement offered to me during these difficult times.

However, I am now back at the desk preparing a multi month, catch up edition of 'The Magical Minutes'.

Congratulations to **Simon Cassegrain**; **Blake Aleong** and **Billy Hsueh** the Competition winners in May and June. Congratulations as well to **Jack Schwartz** for your fund raising for the **Kidney Foundation of Canada**.

Keep the magic alive and register for the July 2024 IBM Convention in Tacoma.

Roy J Hopwood

I Recall...

By

Roy Hopwood

Gigs and the Weather

(first published in the August 2023 edition of Magic Makers—edited)

July 2023 has been the hottest month in the world in recorded history. As at July 28, 2023 Phoenix, Arizona have had 26 days straight of temperatures of over 43.3°C. (110°F). With record temperatures in the USA; Italy; Greece and other parts of the world, the indications being that the average global temperature, currently 17.18°C (62.62°F) will continue to increase.

So, if you have a 'hot act' already chances are it is going to get even 'hotter'.

I can recall occasions when a gig has been affected by the weather, not all of which have been heat related.

Not a magic gig, but I can recall on Remembrance Day, Sunday November 11, 1962 as the Troop Leader for my scout group, it was my duty to lay a wreath at the War Memorial. Being in uniform shorts and shirt (No jumper or gloves permitted) it was so cold I could not move my fingers into position to salute.

Again, not a magic gig, but I recall being sent home from work in Stockport, UK as a 16-year-old in the winter of 1962-1963 as a result of the extreme cold, which caused the heating system (steam) to completely freeze up.

*'The winter of 1962–1963, known as the Big Freeze of 1963, was one of the coldest winters (defined as the months of December, January and February) on record in the United Kingdom. Temperatures plummeted and lakes and rivers began to freeze over.'*¹

For a couple of years during my 15 years on King Island I worked for a Sand Mining Company at Naracoopa.

Those of you who have visited King Island will now it is situated on the 40th parallel, and it is nearly always windy – hence it is known as the roaring forties. Visitors to the island are surprised just how windy it can get, and often ask, *"The wind, is it always like this?"* to which the locals will reply with, *"No, it is usually much worse than this"*. This is normally followed up with, *"At least you can tell when the wind dies down ... the cows fall over"*.

Being the local magician, the only one, I recall performing at the company Christmas function outside on the grassed open area along the waterfront, I had a table with my props on, but spent most of the show chasing after items from my table which the wind had blown off the table. A hard lesson learnt early on in my 'career'.

We've mention cold, and wind we now move on to the heat.

30 years in Adelaide means you get used, well sort of, to the hot weather. Even the gigs that are indoors can get hot and sticky, making handling cards and the like extremely difficult.

*'In March 2008, Adelaide, South Australia experienced maximum temperatures of above 35 °C (95 °F) for fifteen consecutive days, seven days more than the previous longest stretch of 35 °C (95 °F) days. The March 2008 heat wave also included eleven consecutive days above 38 °C (100 °F). The heat wave was especially notable because it occurred in March, an autumn month, in which Adelaide averages only 2.3 days above 35 °C (95 °F).'*²

This prompted some smart entrepreneurs to produce and sell tee shirts that said:

'I survived summer in Adelaide'

I can recall doing gigs in the heat, not at all pleasant, but nowhere near as bad as doing corporate Santa Gigs in the park, when it was 42°C. You have to stay in full costume and character for up to an hour when you are at the gigs, ending up with your inner clothing wringing wet, and you cannot remove the costume until you are out of sight of all people.

After moving down to Hobart in 2009, partly as a result of Adelaide's blistering heat, I was a sort after Santa. I was **also Cadbury's** preferred person to 'play' **Caramello Koala**, alongside his best friend **Freddo Frog**.



One of the regular gigs was the **Cadbury Marathon** held in **Hobart** each January. Even though **Hobart** doesn't get extreme heat of **Adelaide**, it can still get hot.

*The hottest temperature in Hobart, Tasmania history is 41.8 °C which happened on Friday, January 4, 2013.*³

Inside the Caramello Koala costume it can become stifling. As the gig is over a few hours, the rule is 20 minutes outside in character followed by 20 minutes back in the change room, where you can remove the costume, then 20 minutes back outside in costume, then

The extremely hot weather is the 'new' normal, so we need to get used to it, as it is only going to get worse, with many more records being broken.

What are YOUR experiences with extreme weather, I'd love to hear about them, that is if you are not too **HOT** or too **COLD**.

¹Extract from: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Winter_of_1962%E2%80%931963_in_the_United_Kingdom

²Extract from: [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/List_of_heat_waves#:~:text=In%20March%202008%2C%20Adelaide%2C%20South,\(95%20%C2%80F\)%20days.](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/List_of_heat_waves#:~:text=In%20March%202008%2C%20Adelaide%2C%20South,(95%20%C2%80F)%20days.)

³Extract from: <https://www.extremeweatherwatch.com/cities/hobart/highest-temperatures>

John's Reviews

DARYL'S CARD REVELATIONS VOL 1

L&L Publishing 2001



Writing this review brings up some very unpleasant memories as well as some good ones, for as some of you may know, the man known as "The magician's magician" died by suicide in 2017. I was quite upset when I found out as I had been a fan for years and learned many things from his DVD's. I still remember talking to him at our 3 of clubs convention where I mentioned this series of DVD's and how much I'd gotten out of it. We'll never know why he made the choice he did, however, his memory and magic will live on forever.

This is the first of a 5 DVD set, teaching the finest methods for revealing selected cards, this first one featuring 23, including classics like the Chicago opener, Happy birthday card, psychological force, the 21 force and many more. Most are very easy to learn and are excellent for the beginner magician or anyone who wants a review.

With simple tricks, one can focus on performance and these effects are excellent for just such a purpose as well as for showing to lay people who will most likely not have a clue as to their methods.

I've always found Daryl to be easy to understand as he explains things simply and clearly and this series is no exception. Easy to watch as well as giving more creative types many ideas and opportunities to modify effects to their own liking, this is viewing that is time well invested.

J.Stenning Jun 9, 2023
jrsbbf@icloud.com

J.Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the Magician.

jrsbbf@icloud.com

Comments and questions to: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

ON DECK!

LOST IN THE SHUFFLE



If you haven't heard about the movie coming out later this year, then I urge you to go online and look at the website (that's also where you can get these cards) and find out about the movie project that our own Shawn Farquhar has been working on for the last two or three years; I don't know too many details about it, other than you are going to want to see it and that these cards are the official playing cards of the movie by Animal Mother films.

This deck is also designed by Mr Farquhar and are limited to 1500, so if you want a deck or two, I suggest you get them soon.

Is that all? Of course not, but I don't know much more and what I do know, I'll let you find out on your own.

Congratulations to Shawn for all his hard work on getting this project off the ground, getting some of the biggest names (if not THE biggest) in card magic involved and all the travelling that was involved. I can't wait to see it!

J.Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the Magician

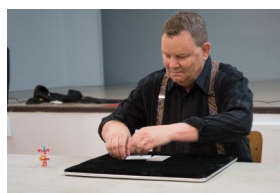
jrsbbf@icloud.com

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS



VMC Meeting May 2023



A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS



Photos courtesy of John Stenning and Henry Tom

Broken Wand

“... any man’s death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind ...”

- John Donne

Roger Sylvestre

Roger Sylvestre, 85 of Vancouver , B.C. passed away on January 27, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 49610R. He was a Vancouver Magic Circle for thirty years.

Best known to everyone he met as a Diamond Driller, Landlord, and Magician. Roger also studied at a Quebec seminary to be a priest. (He did not follow through on this one), was a welterweight boxing champion, sailed in the Canadian Navy, graduated from BCIT, owned drilling equipment and sat on the board of 3 public companies.

He was also a legendary Storyteller. Born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario and raised in Timmins, Ontario but decided in 1962 that Vancouver would his home. He played many sports including hockey, tennis, badminton and boxing. **Roger** was also fascinated by the magicians he encountered in his travels and the shows that he watched.

In 1972 he received a Magic Kit as a Christmas present. There was no holding him back. He frequented every magic store in Vancouver or wherever he travelled. Never could he leave without buying a trick. He called himself an amateur magician. He did shows for Charity and Christmas and Fireworks celebration were never complete unless there was a magic show.

Later on in life he enjoyed sitting on the deck either at home or at the Jericho Tennis club. Spent much time enjoying watching sports on TV and flying The Canuck, the B.C. Lions, or Whitecaps flags on his patio in Kitsilano. He especially loved the Friday nights at Jericho, socializing with his friends and his coffee group at the Kits Eyewear. A celebration of life was held at the Jericho Tennis Club on February 19, 2023.

At the June meeting of the VMC, **Graham Kita** performed the Broken Wand Ceremony.

In attendance to remember **Roger** was **Rangie Sylvestre**, her friend **Gill Laziran** and **Roger’s** nephew **Keith Roy**. After **Graham Kita** had conducted the broken wand ceremony, he then broke the wand and handed it over to **Rangie**. There was a moment of silence.



Photos courtesy of Henry Tom

Opinions expressed in this newsletter 'The Magical Minutes' are not necessarily those of the Editor or the VMC

Congratulations

Jack Schwartz

Our VMC Member **Jack Schwartz** was recently featured in the PLUGGED IN YouTube Channel for doing an amazing Magic Show that raised over \$2600 for the Kidney Foundation of Canada!

Click on the link below to watch his performance and interview.

<https://youtu.be/IXegbr2joj8>



The 2024 IBM Convention is in Tacoma WA in July 10 - 13

It has never been this close to BC before

Already 9 Members of VMC have signed up.

It would be awesome if you can get many more members to sign up.

note: prices have already increased by \$45 and as prices will increase again on March 1 2024, register before then to save

Click on the link below for more information

<https://ibmconvention.com/>

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.

Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle

lbmring92.com

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

August 2023:

August 26, 2023—Venue— King George Park, Richmond
VMC Annual Picnic

Online auction

September 2023:

September 28, 2023—Venue—Hall

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

VMC Annual Picnic

Don't forget that this year our Annual Picnic is being held on a Saturday (August 26) at King George Park in Richmond.

Due to health and dietary concerns it is preferred that this year everyone should bring their own food to the event, however, a dessert would be appreciated.

There will be the usual fun and games as well as a show for the public, a 5-7 minute set. If you intend to do your Wand Holders performance you are required to perform a 15 minute set.

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.

This is the tenth issue of the revived 'The Magical Minutes', I hope it has and continuous to meet with your approval. I would, however, welcome contributions from the membership. So if you have any articles; ideas; anecdotes; show / book / video reviews; photographs; cartoons; jokes; or anything else that you feel would be suitable for 'The Magical Minutes' please submit them to:

Roy Hopwood via hopwood.vmc@gmail.com or 1 604 219 0897.

~~~Thank you in anticipation~~~

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