



Vol 22 No. 4

April 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 Wednesday, March 27 at Stefano's restaurant in New Westminster. It was a special meeting. It was the club's annual Mystery, Magic and Dinner evening.

Normally this event takes place in February. Because of a change in the scheduling of events, this was done to coincide with the Magic Festival being put on by **Shawn Farquhar**. Arriving at the restaurant early to set up the lighting, staging, sound and backdrops were **Shawn Farquhar**, **Rod Boss** and **Graham Kita**.

After the evening's event, **Shawn**, **Graham** and **Rod** disassembled the staging. Thanks to **Shawn Farquhar** for making the arrangements to have the dinner and show at Stefano's restaurant and for letting us be a part of the Magic Festival.

The doors opened at 6:30 p.m. as members and guests arrived for a chat session. **Rod Boss** welcomed and greeted the members and guests and told them to enjoy themselves for a fun evening of magic and mystery. **Rod Boss** and **Graham Kita** were the hosts and MCs for the evening.

While the food orders were being taken, walk-around magic was performed by **Graham Kita**, **Shawn Farquhar**, **Rod Boss**, **Mike Vetterli** and **Jay Alexander**. **Yoosik Oum** and **Terri Kita** sold 50/50 tickets.

After the delicious dinner, **Rod Boss** introduced the new executive for the 2024 magic year. Then it was show time. The featured performer for the evening was **Jay Alexander** who is from San Francisco. For his opening effect, **Jay** did a dice and cup routine, where he was able to divine which numbers were face up on the dice for several audience members. He did a ring divination trick where he guessed which hand his ring was in. He also did a book test. He did a number prediction using a magic square in which the numbers added up to 41. He did some Rubik's cube magic and another book test using a telephone book and a cell phone camera. It was a very interesting and fast-paced show. After his performance, **Jay** received a standing ovation. Everyone enjoyed his show.

To end the event for the evening, there was a 50/50 draw. **Chelsea Kita** drew the ticket. Photography was done by **Simon Cassegrain**, **Graham Kita**, and **Chelsea Kita**. The Helping Hands were **Chelsea Kita** who also looked after the check-in at the door and **Terri Kita** who sold 50/50 tickets. Thanks to **Roy Hopwood** for keeping the executive up to date regarding the ticket sales and accounting for this special event. The Vancouver Magic Circle thanks all those who attended this year's Mystery, Magic and Dinner evening. Without you, the event would not have been such a success. The Vancouver Magic Circle is hoping to see you all again next year. There were 15 members and 60 guests in attendance.

The Magic Festival ended with the Children's Magician of the Year competition for the Wilf Rutherford trophy for 2024. The competition took place at **Rick Bronson's House of Comedy** in New Westminster on Saturday, March 30. Arriving early to the theatre to set up the staging, lighting, sound and backdrops were **Shawn Farquhar**, **Alex Zander**, **Graham Kita**, **Pranreet Arora**, **Simon Cassegrain** and **Rod Boss**. The doors opened at 2:30 p.m. and showtime was at 3:00 p.m. **Rod Boss** was the producer of the competition, and he also produced the souvenir programme booklet with the names and photos of each of the competitors. There were also several sponsors in the programme. He also did the layout and printing of the booklet.

The ushers were **Charles Gauthier** and **Pranreet Arora** as they led the audience members to their places. The ticket scanner was **Simon Cassegrain**. **Dylan Hemenstall** handed out the voting tickets.

The previous winner of The Children's Magician of the Year, **Rod Chow** was the host and MC for the afternoon. In this competition, it is the audience members who are the judges and will determine who the winner will be. Before the competition, **Rod Boss** read the rules to the competitors and gave them a briefing about the competition. Each competitor is allotted ten minutes for their performance. Any competitor going over the ten-minute time limit will be disqualified. Before show time walk around magic was performed by **Rod Boss**, **Dylan Hemenstall**, **Jack Schwartz** and **Michael Nemeth**. The timekeeper was **Michael Nemeth**. The criteria judges were **Ken Cowie**, **Michael Nemeth** and **Billy Hsueh**. The awards director was **Simon Cassegrain**.

The competitors (in order of appearance) were **Magic Max** aka **Alex Zander**, **Roy Hopwood**, **Melrick the Magician** aka **John Stenning**, **Graham Kita** and **Yoosik Oum**. The stagehands were **Ray Wong** and **Pranreet Arora**. **Shawn Farquhar** was in charge of the sound and lighting. He was also the technical supervisor. During the competition, some of the performers had children come up on stage to be their "magician's assistant"

After the competition, the audience members gathered in front of the stage area to vote for their favourite performer. The voting was done by ballot boxes each with a headshot photo of the performers.

Unfortunately, one competitor was disqualified for going over the ten-minute time limit.

After the votes were tabulated and the voting process was done by the VMC team, there was a prize draw **Rod Boss** drew the winning tickets. It is customary that after the competition, the previous winner and MC of The Children's Magician of the Year do a magic presentation. **Rod Boss** introduced **Rod Chow** who was dressed in a gold sequined suit.

After his colourful performance, it was time to announce the winner of The Children's Magician of the Year for the *Wilf Rutherford Trophy* for 2024. The winner was **Graham Kita**. **Rod Boss** presented the trophy to **Graham**. Congratulations to **Graham** and the rest of the competitors. Photos of the presentation were taken by **Terri Kita**. **Simon Cassegrain** was the official photographer. **BillyHsueh** did the videotaping. The audience members enjoyed a great afternoon of magic. The attendance was just over one hundred. To end The Children's Magician of the Year competition and the Festival of Magic, **Rod Boss** thanked the audience members for attending the competition and the Festival of Magic and helping make the event a success. He also thanked *Rick Bronson's House of Comedy* for providing the venue. He mentioned he hopes to see everyone back next year! It has been a fast and exciting week of magic. Many thanks to **Shawn Farquhar** for putting it all together. Many thanks to **Rod Boss** for spending a lot of time in producing The Children's Magician of the Year competition and the souvenir programme booklet and to others who worked behind the scenes that other people may not see.

Acknowledgements.

Thanks to **Terri Kita** for treating **Dennis Chan** for the pizza. Thanks to **Shawn Farquhar** for giving me a ride to the competition and to **Charles Gauthier** for giving me a ride home. *The Magic Mystery and Dinner posters* were designed by **Shawn Farquhar**. *The Children's Magician of the Year posters* were designed by **Rod Boss**. The Children's Magician of the Year is a production of *The Vancouver Magic Circle Ring 92*. During the week of the festival, the shows took place at the following venues. *Hidden Wonders*, *Stefano's restaurant*, *Rick Bronson's House of Comedy* and the **Metro**.

Dennis Chan and the VMC crew

An amateur magician accidentally turns his wife into a loveseat and his two kids into armchairs. He starts to panic. He tries every trick in the book, but none work. In desperation, he decides to take them to the hospital. At the hospital, the magician spends a sleepless night while the medical staff run numerous tests on the unfortunate woman and children. Finally, the head doctor comes out into the lobby to speak to the magician. "How is my family?" he asks worriedly, "Are they alright?" The doctor replies, "They're comfortable..."

The Presidents Report

Hello VMC.

As you may know, **Shawn Farquhar** was hard at work for a long time producing and organizing *The Magic Festival*, which recently finished its week long run, and what a big hit it was!

All that hard work paid off. Every event either sold out or was packed. There is clearly a demand for magic here in Vancouver. This of course could not have been done without the collaborative efforts of all the people who stepped up to volunteer their services to making these events the best ever. Thanks so much to all of you.

The festival also included the VMC Annual Children's Magician of the Year competition and show. Congratulations to Graham Kita for winning!

It was a fun time and I felt like a rock star with kids coming up to me and asking for my autograph on the show brochure!

The fun doesn't stop there! Not even close .

We have an exciting lecture coming up from Anson Chen as part of his Reality is Magic tour. Details and tickets online now at

<https://buytickets.at/themagicfestival/1205933>

These sell out fast so get those quick!

Thanks for supporting live magic!

Yoosik Ethan Oum
President
Vancouver magic Circle
IBM Ring 92
<https://www.koreancanuckmentalist.com>

The Editors Desk

WAMIW!!

(What A Month It Was)

A **HUGE** thank you to **Shawn Farquhar** for producing and organizing *The Magic Festival*. What a great success. Thanks to **Dennis Chan** for his detailed report on the dinner and also *CMOTY*. Congratulations to the winner **Graham Kita** and the other competitors: **Alex Zander**; **Roy Hopwood**; **John Stenning** and **Yoosik Oum**.

Thanks also to: **Graham Kita** for organising the Dinner Show at *Stefano's Restaurant*; **Rod Boss** for organising and printing brochures and posters for *CMOTY* at *Rick Bronson's House of Comedy* and **John Stenning** for his continuing assistance with *The Magical Minutes*, including contributions; proofreading; keeping me on track and on time. He also shows concern when my health is not at its best, which these days is most days.

I was only able to attend two (2) events during *The Magic Festival: The Magic Mystery and Dinner* and *CMOTY*. I enjoyed **Jay Alexanders'** Show

Although I wasn't the winner at *CMOTY* I had fun performing for my largest audience since I've been in Vancouver (April 23, 2019) at *CMOTY* and the April 25, 2024 meeting will be five (5) to the day (April 25, 2019) since by first VMC meeting.

Oh! BTW it is also my Birthday.

The **VMC Executive Committee** have more exiting events planned for 2024 and we look forward to seeing you at these events.

This month is

Charles Gauthier

MM: Tell us a little about yourself and your family

CG: I was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I did my undergraduate (Bachelor of Arts) and graduate school (Master of City Planning) at the University of Manitoba. I started my career as a community economic development officer in rural Manitoba, but moved out west in 1990 to Summerland, BC to do similar work. In 1992, I moved to Vancouver and became the General Manager of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, now known as Downtown Van. I stepped down as President and CEO of Downtown Van in 2021 after a 29-year tenure to enjoy retirement and pursue old and new hobbies. I'm married to my lovely wife Donna who was an elementary school teacher in Surrey for 35 years. We're both active in our community and enjoy travel.

MM: How did you become interested in magic?

CG: The fire was first lit when I was on stage with a magician at my dad's annual Christmas family event. I must have been seven or eight years old. The magician did a linking ring trick that mesmerized me. Ever since I've loved magic, but only started doing magic myself much later.

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

CG: This is tough to answer because I have so many favourites. But here are a few— Doug Henning, Lance Burton, David Copperfield.

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

CG: Con Cam Coincidencia by Paul Wilson because I can perform it with a borrowed deck.

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

CG: I did an elementary school performance last year where a young spectator who was helping me with my egg bag performance decided to spike my wooden egg into the gymnasium floor. Without missing a beat (yes, it alarmed me), I picked up the undamaged egg and carried on with the routine, and the rest of my act.

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

CG: Find ways to learn and collaborate with other magicians so that you can become a better magician. VMC meetings and getting together for coffee or lunch with club members in between meetings has helped me immensely.

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

CG: At this moment in my development as a magician I'm not deviating too much from established tricks and routines by other magicians other than coming up with my own patter so it sounds more genuine.

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

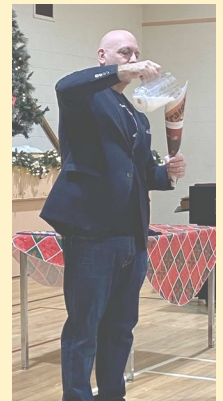
CG: Staying focused by practicing and perfecting routines I already know rather than gravitating to the new shiny magic products filling my email inbox every single day.

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

CG: That I can stir a wide range of reactions and emotions from the audience— from scepticism to disbelief to wonderment.

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

CG: I have hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu with my wife on a guided tour back in 2006. We followed that up next year with a backpacking trip on the beautiful 75-kilometre West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island.



I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood

The show must go on.

"**The show must go on**"¹ is a phrase in show business, meaning that regardless of what happens, whatever show has been planned still has to be staged for the waiting patrons.

The saying and principle are traditional in the theatre, but they both originated in the 19th century with circuses. If an animal got loose or a performer was injured, the ringmaster and the band tried to keep things going so that the crowd would not panic because "**it is a point of honour not to let the other players down by deserting them when no understudy is available**".

"**The Show Must Go On**"² is also a song by British rock band **Queen**, featured as the twelfth and final track on their 1991 album, '**Innuendo**'. It is credited to **Queen** but written mainly by **Brian May**. The song chronicles the effort of frontman **Freddie Mercury** to continue to perform despite approaching the end of his life, although his diagnosis with HIV/AIDS had not yet been made public despite ongoing media speculation claiming that he was seriously ill. When the band recorded the song'.

'**Harry Houdini** was proud enough of his superb musculature and toned body to allow the audience to feel his biceps or punch him in his ripped abdomen.

As the story goes, a few medical students from **McGill University** visited **Houdini** in his dressing room at 5 p.m. on Oct. 22, 1926, after his matinee show at the **Princess Theatre** in Montreal. A few days earlier, **Houdini** had lectured at **McGill** about his work in exposing fake mediums and spiritualists. One student, **Joselyn Gordon Whitehead** asked if he could take a punch and immediately **Houdini** nodded an assent. The student hit the great magician twice but before he had a chance to tighten his abdominal muscles and brace himself. The "**hammer-like**" punches caused visible pain and **Houdini** stopped **Whitehead** in mid-blow on the third attempt to punch his gut.

As **Houdini** travelled by train for more than 15 hours to his next performance in **Detroit**, he experienced a great deal of pain, which he blamed solely on the belly punches and a recently fractured foot.

By the time **Houdini** got to the **Garrick Theatre** in **Detroit**, his temperature was 104 degrees Fahrenheit. A physician was called to his dressing room and diagnosed Harry with acute appendicitis. The doctor ordered an ambulance to take **Houdini** immediately to the hospital, but the performer had been schooled on the adage that "**the show must go on!**"

He declined the medico's help, declaring, "**I'll do this show if it's my last.**" The performance was not his best but did not include him collapsing on the stage or having to be rescued from the **water torture chamber** by an axe-wielding assistant as many apocryphal tales and motion pictures have claimed.³

I can recall in July 1969 following a serious motor vehicle crash (another car was speeding, lost control and collided with my car) I sustained a head injury that required sutures. I was a member of the **King Island Drama Club** and was due to play the part of **Furse the Butler** to be in a stage performance of '**Little Lord Fauntleroy**'.

The **Drama Club** after hearing of the accident and that I had '**died**', quickly sourced someone else to play my part. When I arrived at the hall for the show, the cast was surprised but very pleased to see me. They were even more surprised when I said that I was going to go on and play my part, as '**The show must go on.**'

Before 'curtain up' the director appeared in front of tabs and explained to the audience what had happened and why my head was covered in bandages, I think this was the first time I had received such applause before a performance. During the intermission, my doctor, who was in the audience, came backstage to see how I was and to give me a couple of painkillers.

There have been many occasions when I can recall not being well and having gigs (Magic; Balloon Twister; Santa etc.) to attend, I would do the gig(s) and then crash in a heap when I got home.

Let me make one thing clear: it isn't just when you do the gig even though you are not really up to it, it also applies to helping out a fellow performer, when they are unable to due to any reason, and you step in and do their gig. I recall in Adelaide getting a phone call from the wife of one of my colleagues, saying that they needed another person to ensure all of the guests (several hundred) at the function got to see some close-up magic. She initially phoned another performer who was a lot closer to the venue

than I was, however, he had to “**think about it**” so she phoned me. I asked for the address and said, “**I am on my way.**” She; my colleagues and the venue were most appreciative.

I haven’t been feeling well lately and I have the most important gig since arriving in Canada almost 5 years ago, coming up on March 30, 2024. This is the **Vancouver Magic Circle’s (VMC) 2024 ‘Children’s Magician of the Year’ (CMOTY)** competition in front of a paying audience.



By the time you read this, the competition will be done and dusted. Even if I am unwell, I will still compete as ‘**The show must go on.**’

Editors note: I didn’t win but did well and I must compliment my fellow contestants **Alex Zander, John Stenning; Yoosik Oum** and the winner, **Graham Kita** – we put on a great show for over 100 people.

I am sure that I am not the only one who follows the adage ‘**The show must go on.**’. It would be great to hear from you and your experiences.

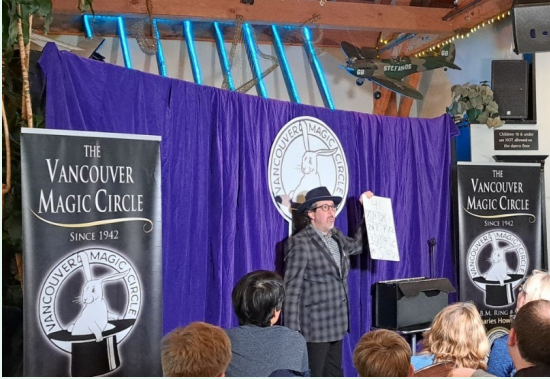
¹ Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/The_show_must_go_on

² Source: [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/The_Show_Must_Go_On_\(Queen_song\)](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/The_Show_Must_Go_On_(Queen_song))

³ Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/what-caused-harry-houdinis-mysterious-death>.



The Jay Alexander Show at Stefano's restaurant on March 27, 2024



Photos Courtesy of Roy J Hopwood.

CMOTY 2024 at The Rick Brunson House of Comedy on Saturday March 30, 2024



 **THE VANCOUVER Magic CIRCLE I.B.M. RING #92** 

PRESENTS
THE 2024 CHILDREN'S MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION FOR THE
WILF RUTHERFORD TROPHY

Master of Ceremonies - **Rod Chow**

THE COMPETITORS

 Magic Max	 Graham Kita	 Yoosik Oum
 Roy Hopwood		 Melrick the Magician

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION FOR VOTING
THE AUDIENCE CHOOSES THE WINNER OF TODAY'S COMPETITION
Please cast your ballots in the box of your favorite performer out in the lobby

**SECOND HALF ENTERTAINMENT BY OUR
AMAZING MASTER OF CEREMONIES
ROD CHOW
ANNOUNCEMENT
OF COMPETITION WINNER**



Photos Courtesy of Roy J Hopwood and John Stenning

A great meeting and advice

On April 17, 2024 Jack Schwartz on his Facebook page posted:

Thrilled to have met the iconic **David Copperfield** [@copperfield](#) after his show *MGM Resort International* [@mgmresortsintl](#). Received sage advice for a young performer:

“Perform as much as you can and the audience will teach you everything you need to know”



This post reproduced with permission.

[Thanks Jack](#)

Quotes by David Copperfield

“Never stop listening to your audience”.

“The real secret of magic lies in the performance”.

“The audience likes to be taken on new journeys”.

SEMPERTEX BALLOONS

Far from being an incredible balloon artist like some of the magicians we know, I nonetheless still do a little balloon twisting from time to time and have found that these balloons are of exceptional quality, even the left-over package I had sitting around for months. Not one of them broke when making/twisting them.



Much, much, better than anything you can get at a dollar store, I had to pay a little for shipping on my last order, but at least I won't have to worry about them breaking and popping while doing a gig.

Highly recommend and if you know of another brand that is just as good and how to get them faster at a better price, feel free to let me know!

J. Stenning

jrsbbf@icloud.com April 20/2024



On April 1, 2024 Jay Alexander posted on his Facebook page:

Last week, I spent a brisk 36 hours in Canada. My friend [Shawn Farquhar](#) invited me to perform at [The MAGIC Festival](#) in New Westminster, BC.

Our first stop was a hidden wonder: a cafe nestled within a lumber yard.

Following that, we visited Shawn's unique magic theater, [Hidden Wonders Speakeasy Magic Experience Group](#), before the festival show and the gathering for the [Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92](#)

The warmth and hospitality were incredible, and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends while meeting new ones truly made my visit extraordinary.



<https://www.facebook.com/528125296/videos/pcb.10168550026605297/1110689640175919>

This post reproduced with permission

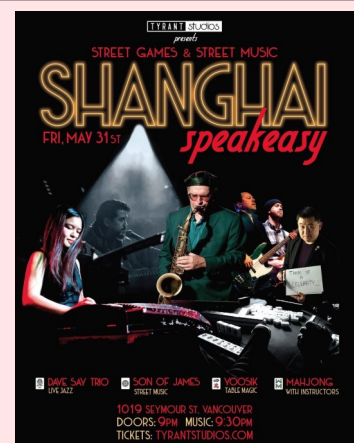
[Thanks Jay](#)

Hi VMC.

Last year, I was honoured to be part of the lineup of an epic variety stage show called Chinatown Nights: A Neon Dream .

I'm excited to announce that The producer has added me to the lineup again for the next instalment May 31, called Shanghai Speakeasy, a parlour show of live jazz, street music and a street hustler themed magic performance by myself.

Yoosik Oum

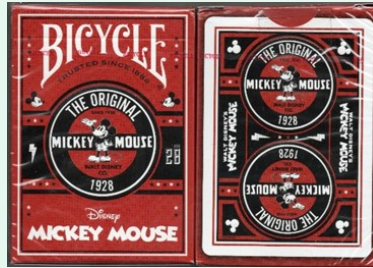


Roy's Deck Review

The Original Mickey Mouse 1928

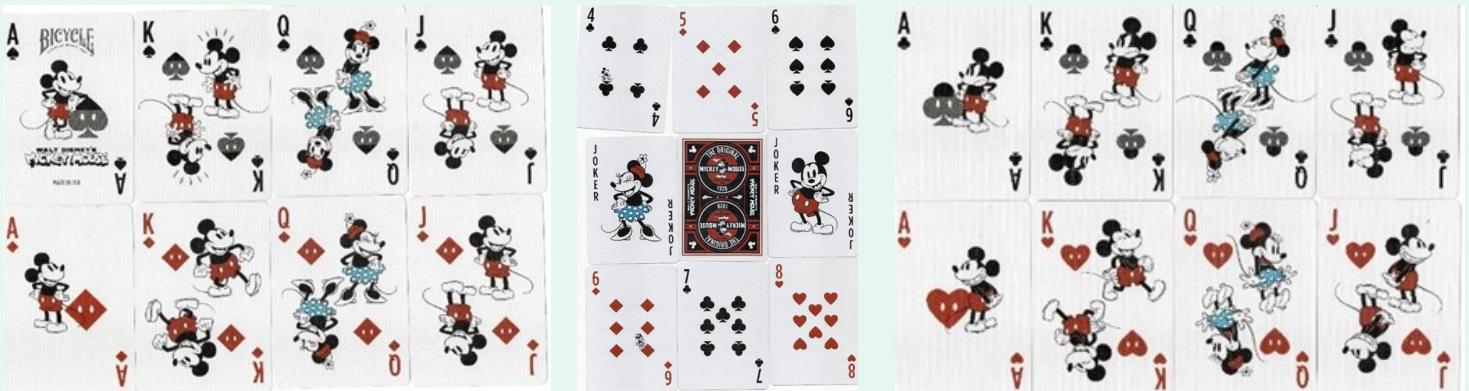
This classic edition of ©Disney's Mickey Mouse playing cards was released in 2023 by the United States Playing Card Company (USPCC)

Printed by the USPCC's premium casino rotary press, in Erlanger Kentucky USA, exclusively in Q1 quality (the highest card grade in the industry) Quality, durable, Bicycle Classic stock crushed thinner. Ultra-thin luxury paper that gives cards a premium feel and avoids the break-in period needed for lower-quality cards. These cards are Air-Cushion Finish, and the cards feel great straight out of the box spreading without a problem.



Tuck box front and rear.

The deck consists of 54 poker-sized playing cards and comes in an embossed cardboard tuck box from the brand Bicycle. The backs of the cards are Black and Red – The original colour scheme for the original Mickey Mouse in 1928 and the faces feature Mickey, with Minnie also making an appearance.

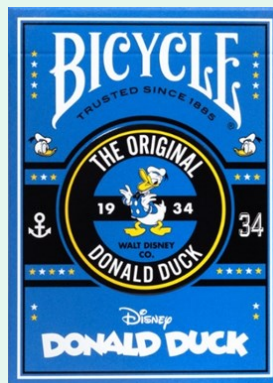


The aces and court cards – Spades and Diamonds.

Faces; Jokers and back.

The aces and court cards – Clubs and Hearts.

The Original Donald Duck 1934 has been released (2024), I want it for my collection. If this deck is as good as the Mickey Mouse you won't go wrong in buying a couple of decks.



The Original Donald Duck 1934

Jest for Fun

A Magician and His Rabbit

A magician went to the vet and told him that his rabbit did not look well. The vet said that he would examine it, so the magician produced the rabbit from his empty top hat, and placed it onto the table.

The vet examined the rabbit and then said, "Your rabbit is dead !" The magician was shocked and replied, "It can't be, it was running about the hutch this morning. I want a second opinion."

The vet went to the door and whistled to his dog. A large Labrador ran into the room. The vet told him to jump up onto the table. The dog did as commanded, saw the rabbit lying there, took one sniff at it, and promptly jumped back down to the floor and lay down.

The vet said, "There you are, if the rabbit was alive, the dog would be chasing it all around the room. It's dead!"

The magician still refused to believe the vet and demanded a third opinion, so the vet then went to a back room and returned carrying a ginger tabby cat in his arms. He placed the cat on the table beside the rabbit. The cat took one look at the rabbit and immediately curled up and went to sleep.

The vet said, "That confirms it. Had your rabbit been alive, my cat would have fought with it and ripped it apart with his sharp claws. It's definitely dead!"

The magician answered "OK, I believe you now. How much do I owe you?"

The vet replied, "\$325"

The shocked magician asked why it was so expensive and the vet replied, "Well, had you taken my first opinion, it would only have cost you \$25, but now you will also have to pay for the lab report and the cat scan."



Answers to Roy's 5 Question Quiz – March 2024

Who is Orlando Carmelo Scarnecchia better known as?

John Scarne

John Scarne (March 4, 1903 – July 7, 1985) was an American magician and author who was particularly adept at playing card manipulation. He became known as an expert on cards and other games and authored several popular books on cards, gambling, and related topics.

He was born **Orlando Carmelo Scarnecchia** in Steubenville, Ohio, United States, and at some point, anglicized his name to **John Scarne**. He grew up in the New Jersey communities of Fairview and Guttenberg. When he left school after the eighth grade, he learned from a local card sharp how to perform such swindles as The Three Card Monte, and how to cheat in gambling card games by manipulating the cards.

Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/John_Scarne

Who was the creator of Fox Lake Playing Cards?

John Snyder Jnr

Source: <https://www.wopc.co.uk/members/royjhopwood/fox-lake-playing-cards>

What is the 'Dead Man's Hand'?

Ace of Spades; Ace of Clubs; 8 of Spades and the 8 of Clubs

The accepted makeup of Poker's '*Dead Man's Hand*' has varied through the years. Currently, it is described as a two-pair poker hand consisting of black aces and black eights. The pair of aces and eights, along with an unknown hole card, were reportedly held by Old West folk hero, lawman, and gunfighter **Wild Bill Hickok** when he was murdered while playing a game. No contemporaneous source, however, records the exact cards he held when killed. Author **Frank Wilstach's** 1926 book, **Wild Bill Hickok: The Prince of Pistoleers**, led to the popular modern-held conception of the poker hand's contents.

What is currently considered the dead man's hand card combination received its notoriety from a legend that it was the five-card stud or five-card draw hand, held by **Wild Bill Hickok** when he was shot in the back of the head by **Jack McCall** on August 2, 1876, in Nuttal & Mann's Saloon, Deadwood, Dakota Territory. **Hickok's** final hand purportedly included the aces and eights of both black suits.

According to a book by Western historian **Carl W. Breihan**, the cards were retrieved from the floor by a man named **Neil Christy**, who then passed them on to his son. The son, in turn, told **Mr. Breihan** of the composition of the hand. "Here is an exact identity of these cards as told to me by Christy's son: the ace of diamonds with a heel mark on it; the ace of clubs; the two black eights, clubs and spades, and the queen of hearts with a small drop of **Hickok's** blood on it", though nothing of the sort was reported at the time immediately following the shooting.

Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Dead_man%27s_hand

Which magician was the first person to show films in the UK?

David Devant

Devant was a pioneer of early cinema in London. On 19 March 1896 Devant showed the first films ever seen in the UK. These **Edison** films were shown at *Maskelyne's Egyptian Hall* using a film projector (known as the *Theatrograph*) made by **R. W. Paul**, two days before **Paul** himself demonstrated his new machine in public at Olympia. Also that year **Devant** began his association with the pioneer of cinematic special effects, **Georges Méliès**, to whom he sold a *Theatrograph*. **Devant** then toured the country showing films, and for a time became **Méliès'** sole agent in Great Britain selling both his films and cameras. As well as being an early exhibitor of film, **Devant** appeared in three films made by **Paul** and another by **Méliès** (*D. Devant, prestidigitation*, 1897). **Méliès** also used one of **Devant's** stage acts, which involved making a portrait of a woman come to life, to create his 1903 film, *The Spiritualist Photographer (Le Portrait Spirite)*.

Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/David_Devant

Who is credited with the invention of the Chop Cup?

Al Wheatley

A fairly modern development is the '*chop cup*'. This cup was invented around 1954 by **Al Wheatley** who performed a Chinese-costumed act with the name "**Chop Chop**". The *chop cup* is a variation of the cups and balls with one cup and (apparently) one ball, hugely popular because it requires only a very small flat area to perform, unlike the considerable table space needed for the classic three-cup routine. The Chicago close-up magician **Don Alan** performed his streamlined chop cup routine on television, and was immediately copied by magicians all over the world. **Paul Daniels'** routine with the chop cup has also done a lot for the routine's popularity. The chop cup can be handled entirely by the top, creating a more seemingly impossible performance.

Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Cups_and_balls

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
April 2024:	Thursday April 25, 2024 Workshop — Rob Teszka Competition — Gimmicked Card Competition - The Charles Howard Trophy
May 2024	Thursday May 23, 2024 Workshop — Rod Chow Competition — Close Up Competition - The H.B. Maclean Trophy - The Dick Gardner Trophy

Vancouver Magic Circle
lbmring92.com

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@lbmring92.com)
- **eTransfer** (treasurer@lbmring92.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.*