



ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

October 2009

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# SLMC MEMBERS' day: 22/09/09 <sup>3<sup>rd</sup></sup> Club Nite

The star performer for the day was **S.K.Dharmapala**. As expected he performed in his performing outfit. To start with he showed a Rs. 100/= note, rolled it and produced a long ribbon from it followed by the rope with four ends. Next was the centre card mystery and then the colour changing die (from black to white). He continued with the cut and restored newspaper strip, linking ribbon loops in a paper cone where he placed several ribbon loops in a paper cone and the last was kept on the cone with a part of it exposed. When this ribbon was taken out all others loops were linked in a chain. Next was the multiplying plumes followed by a card trick where the back design changed several times. He ended with sweets out of confetti. Here he showed a plain tumbler and filled it with confetti and asked a member to follow him. Both were covered with a piece of paper and when the paper was removed Dharmapala's confetti had changed to sweets and there was no change in the member's tumbler.

There was a discussion about his performance as to how to improve some acts and moves Chandrasena Gamage, Rohan, Ronald and Karunasena contributed in this discussion.

For the performances by members, Sanjeewa Hewapathirana showed a card trick where he asked a member was asked to select a card and return to the pack. He produced the selected card in a novel way. He fanned the cards in front of his chest and showed the selected card and when the pack was removed the selected card was seen to hang on to a chain that he was wearing round his neck. Next Shelton came up with a pack of cards and showed a few shuffles and finally the "drunken shuffle" where the cards were mixed some with faces up and some with faces down. With a snap of the fingers all the cards were re-arranged with all faces in the same direction. Then he called two spectators and with their participation he showed the "Cards to pocket" where he showed ten cards, held them in one hand quite visibly and made the cards travel from his hand to his trouser pocket on the other side. He explained the we had a fine performer named E. Sundersingh who performed this trick in an expert manner and as he is no more, Shelton said that he thought of practicing and performing this. Many members were fascinated by this trick and wanted to learn it. This trick involves a lot of practice with a few slights and false counts. C. Gamage came up and showed a similar trick "Cards Across" where he invited two members and got them to count twenty cards and keep it on a chair and sit on the cards. With a snap his fingers he sent three cards from one side to the other. When cards were counted there were three cards more on one side and three cards less on the other side Karunasena finally ended up the performances with a card trick.

The Club Nite has come to stay! This got off the ground in August 2009 ( 08 Members ) & since then in September ( 15 Members ) & October ( 20 Members ) on the 2nd Friday from 6.00 PM to 9.00 PM. More members have shown a keen interest in joining up since the simple objectives are, (a) to create a deep fellowship & understanding among members, (b) enjoy a relaxing time with members singing, dancing, cracking jokes, ( c ) participating in simple games, ( d ) in brief it is PARTY TIME !!

At the October Club Nite, the following 20 members were present; **Ronald De Alwis, Elrea Pereira, Ranjith Salpitikorale, A.Wijesinghe, Ajith Kodagoda, Alex Perera, G.S.Rodrigo, Rohan Jayasekera, Suranjith de Soysa, Clarence Heendiniya, Sanjeewa Hewapathirane, A.T.A.Karunasena, K.W.Silva, Shelton Jayasekera, Dinsh Thangavel, Rohith Silva, M.D.J.Gunatilleke, Yassas Gunaratne, Devsiri Fernando & Palitha Guruge.**

These members voluntarily brought Biscuits, Mini Wade, Mixture Bites, Murukku, Chocolate Cake, Mega Soft Drinks & some added colour by bringing musical instruments ; Sanjeewa Hewapathirane as usual brought his Karoake Music & DVDs on Magic, Shelton Jayasekera ( FM Mike ) Rohith J. Silva ( Guitar & Bangos ) & Alex Perera ( Mouth Organ )

The MC was the ever energetic President Colonel Ronald De Alwis who kept the members on their toes with members singing, dancing & even introduced Musical Chairs which they all enjoyed since members from 30 years to 77 years enjoyed every moment. The Winner KW. Silva & the Runner Up D.D.C.Heendiniya received 2 gifts..

Notable features were that a] members were voluntarily even paying their dues to the Treasurer Elrea Perira, b] maintaining a healthy rapport & chit chatting with each other & knowing each other, c] sharing eats & drinks and thereby creating friendliness & harmony, d] creation of trustworthiness & harmony & e] ending the evening with a Smile even after limited & controlled use of Bacchus !

The Concept of the Club Nite an innovation of Kala Bushana Ronald De Alwis has definitely Come to stay !!

So dear member, if you missed the previous Club Nites please be present on Friday 13th November to make the event memorable. An additional feature would be a Game or 2 of "TOMBOLA". You may bring a Family Member after informing President De Alwis on 2852998 . No other Guests can be brought without the express permission of the President. You may come in earlier but the show winds up by 9.00 PM.

## In Remembrance

In this issue we feature Wickramapala Alwis "Prof. Akbar" formerly of 42/5 Samudrasanna Lane, off Kongahawatta Road, Mt.Lavinia

# Prof. Akbar

By Chandrasena Gamage



**Wickramapala Alwis** joined the Sri Lanka Magic Circle on 22nd November 1957 was better known by the pseudo name **Professor Akbar** was professionally attached to the Government Film Unit.. He was an outstanding and a popular member of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle. He was popularly addressed as Prof. Akbar & he was known as a magician locally and internationally. He was a member of the Circle from 22.11.1957 to till his demise on 21.9.1994.

Professor Akbar was the first winner of the A.C.G.S Amarasekera Challenge Shield (Magician of the Year) held in 1961. His wife Pearl Alwis joined the Magic Circle on 26.09.1958 was Wicky's personal assistant & her stage name was " Pearl of the Orient" & she won the Magician of the Year Award in 1969 while his elder son Roshan won the same title in 1972 and they gave much publicity and did a lot of service to the art of magic. Professor Akbar acted like a foreign Magician & so was his patter ~" Sinhala tikai tikai dannawa " and spoke in broken Sinhalese and he was very clever in this respect. His stature and walk added to make him look like a foreign or!. He preferred 'Sleight of Hand' to normal magic and he dedicated his time and efforts to practice and modify these effects.

This artiste was very clever in presenting the 'Linking rings.. It is sad to note that there is no one who followed his style of presenting this particular item in this routine He counted the rings by naming them as hiring, wiring, firing etc!! He links two sets of three rings in each and name s them as 'ear rings'. Next he linked all these into a ' swing for a small baby'. Then he linked six rings into a ball and said a 'basketball for a young lady'. Then he linked all these rings into a 'necklace for tomorrow'. He converted all ring into 'a pendant of yesterday'. Then he placed all the rings round his head and called 'a spaceman of Soviet Russia'. He added two more rings and decorated his head and shoulder into a 'soldier in war'. He was able to create something new with these eight rings.He was a very active committee Member of the SLMC.

Wickramapala used to carry a lot of pocket tricks where ever he went & was a pleasure to watch him perform.

After his demise his wife Pearly & son Roshan packed up their box of Tricks. Pearly lives a retired life & son Roshan joined a Musical Group..

I can present a bit of Professor Akbar's history because it was he who proposed my name to join the SLMC in1975. Also it is he who named me "Black Wizard". He gave me a helping hand towards my forward journey in magic and his demise on 21st September 1994 was a great loss to me, the SLMC as well as the general public who loves magic.

May he attain Nibbana !

## Members News

- ⇒ **Major R.M. Piyatilleke** has come back to Sri Lanka after his holiday in the USA.
- ⇒ **Mr. Joy De Silva** - Brain Surgery - Good News ! He should be back with us very soon.
- ⇒ **Mr.Terry Amarasekera** under went a Cataract Operation.
- ⇒ **Mr.Gehan Somanader** - We wish you Success at your higher degree to be held in November
- ⇒ **Mr. Merril Weckasinghe** left on a Pilgrimage to Rome on the 9th October and returned on the 16th of October.
- ⇒ **Mr.Palitha Fernando** has to undergo a Heart Operation ASAP ~ Latest News Unknown
- ⇒ **Mr. Vijaya Silva** is surrounded by Wild Elephants !!



- 01st **Mr. Suranith De Soysa**
- 03rd **Mr. Ajith Kodagoda**
- 06th **Mr. Manoj Rajapakshe & Mr. Mahes Dharamadasa,**
- 07th **Mr. Royston De Zilva**
- 16th **Mr. Kamalshantha Silva**
- 17th **Mr. Chandra Jayatilleke**
- 18th **Mr. Vijaya Silva,**
- 20th **Mr. A.Wijesinghe**
- 22nd **Lt. Col. Ronald De Alwis**
- 28th **Mr. Rohan Jayasekera**

Last month **Mr.A.T.A. Karunasena** celebrated his birthday with a Cake & Biscuits & Soft drinks.

Thank u ATA!

*Hope the October Birthday boys will follow his example !! Even otherwise please be present for us to sing Happy Birthday !!*

### October Members' Day

9am to 10 am - DVD show on some fantastic Magic  
 10 am Mini Contests -**Rope Magic** and **Silk Magic**(3 mins per contestant)  
**Dr. Alexander of India** who performing his **Magical Fiesta** from 23rd to 26th at the **St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 Auditorium** is due to make us a visit during our meeting.

### Report without fail

The following members have to report without fail on Sunday 25th October at 156 Templars Road, Mt.Lavinia at 9.00 PM to take their Oath of Secrecy.

**Master Lahiru Goonewardane and Mr. B Anandarajah**