



The Scarborough Convention

By KEN DE COURCY.

The word 'Priority' headed the telegram of good wishes received from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. and greetings came from all over the world for this, the 21st Annual Convention.

But the real beginning was in the hands of The Amazing Fogel who hit the headlines of Britain by catching six bullets in his teeth.

Apart from the "Have-you-seen-this?" sessions which flourish even before a convention opens, the first scheduled magic was a modern 'War of the Roses,' a friendly tussle from which Yorkshire narrowly emerged the winner.

The Official Opening of this Coming-of-Age Party was enhanced by a large birthday cake which, when cut, opened to reveal Sheila Hughes dressed as a rabbit.

It was here, too, that Bill Stickland introduced the Overseas Guests, and Prof. Boleys and Joe Rendell, two Founder-members, were each presented with a case of I.B.M. spoons.

Mystic Craig handed "The Dealer's Trophy" to Gil Leaney, Ron Macmillan won the Shield and Harold G. Beaumont secured the Conventioneer's Trophy for the most original act. As a long-standing competitor, he (and his pink elephant) really deserved it.

"Fashions and Flowers" was strictly for the ladies, then back to Olympia they went to join the males at the Civic Reception where, between dances and the cabaret, George Smallwood and his team took a record £72-18-6 with their Tombola.

Those in search of magical education were expertly catered for by John Howie, Scotty Lang, Alex Elmsley, Stanley Thomas and Dick Armour's 'Museum', but 'Close-Up' enthusiasts had rather less than usual.

At the Banquet Dr. Zina Bennett introduced a new trophy for annual presentation to the most outstanding worker for the British Ring. As the donor, he claimed the right to nominate the first recipient: Bill Stickland.

Following the banquet were two shows, one of 'Kindred Arts', the other 'International Magic'. In the latter, Zina Bennett, long the King of Giant Cards, turned to Giant Coins.

The children of Scarborough will remember this convention; not only was there Wilfred Tyler's 'Children's Playtime' but a band of magicians visited the Children's Ward in Scarborough Hospital. As they departed, three cheers showed the happiness they'd left behind.

Bill Stickland's Gala Show presented a truly cosmopolitan bill. Closing Chis Foo and Gopla Pasha are two names from a scintillating list of brilliant artists sequenced by a subtle John Saluse.

The last Sunday morning came as quickly as always and the Rev. Michael Seacombe conducted the simple service for all denominations.

Later, at the Cocktail Party in the Grand Hotel's South Lounge, Jeff Atkins closed his year of office by handing the presidency over to Les Levante who declared the 21st Annual Convention closed.

Looking back at those five crowded days one realises that many familiar faces were missing, some never to be seen again. But life and all its magic will go on. There will be new faces to replace the old, new friendships will ripen, new happiness will shine out of the darkness.

May this annual mecca for magicians continue to give as much enjoyment as Scarborough.



JEFFERY ATKINS, President



LES LEVANTE, President 1957-58.



ARCHIE TEAR, President-Elect.

MAURICE FOGEL'S FAMOUS BULLET CATCHING EFFECT.

The sensational Bullet-catching of Maurice Fogel was the Highlight of the Scarborough Convention.

It set off with a Bang one of the best-ever Conventions.



This Feat was performed in a Masterly way and produced in an atmosphere of intense excitement right up to the actual firing of the Rifles by the Six Guardsmen.

Our grateful thanks to the Amazing Fogel for his wonderful performance which must rank as one of the best opening shows at any Convention.

The Press reports were good and added zest to the I.B.M. at Scarborough.



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

KEY NUMBERS TO THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPHS

1. A section of Group Photograph.
2. Dancing at the Olympia.
3. Helen Strachan and Mollie Harrison saw off Cyro's head.
4. Cyro and Tom Harris. At it again!
5. Barry Gordon and Dorothy Fiddick.
6. ? ? ?

7. ? ? ? ?
8. ? ? ? ?
9. Jack Pitter, Fabian (Ara), Wilf Tyler, Mrs. Fogel, Miss Fogel, Len Ainsworth, Oscar Paulson, Bill Bailey and Fogel.
10. Cliff Townsend and Cyro saw off Helen Strachan's leg.

11. ? ? ? ? ?
12. John Todd's Poodle Production. Doreen Gregson, Mandy, John Todd, Jill, Mrs. Macartney, Mr. and Mrs. Francis.
13. John, Scott, Cyro, Frank Crosswalle and Cliff Townsend.

14. Tom Harris and Cyro take a ride on the Donkeys.
15. Bob Hunter, Jack Ambrose and Frank Baumforth.
16. "Mac" does a Liberace act!
17. Fred M. Davies, "Stevani", John Morgan, Wilford Hutchinson.

18. Joe Neal receives his "Tomb Raider" prize (Bottle of Whisky) from "Tommy" Giddick.
19. Mayor of Scarborough, Bill MacAlam, Cecilia Pasha.
20. Mrs. Jack Ambrose and "Chester" is Maurice Fogel.
21. Ken Green does a spot of "Big" parking.

21. Mayor of Scarborough, Cecil Pasha and Bill Giddick.
22. Lyle Woodcock (Ara), Tom Harris, Doreen Gregson, Mrs. Macartney, Mrs. Fogel, Miss Fogel, Len Ainsworth, Oscar Paulson, Bill Bailey and Fogel.
23. Mayor of Scarborough, Cecilia Pasha.
24. Mrs. Jack Ambrose and "Chester" is Maurice Fogel.
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8. "Me" Hewart up to his tricks.
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19. Mayor of Scarborough, Bill Stickleland, Gogia Pasha.
20. Mrs. Jack Ambrose says "Cheerio" to Maurice Fogel.
21. Ken Green does a spot of leg pulling.

22. Mayor of Scarborough, Gogia Pasha and Bill Stickleland.
23. Les Woodcock (Hull), Tom Harris (Derby), Grand Hotel.
24. Zina Barnett obliges.
25. Mayor of Scarborough, Gogia Pasha, President Atkins.



KEY NUMBERS TO THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPHS

Numbers 28 to 35 inclusive:
The I.B.M. at the Children's Hospital.

36. Levitation by the Davenport, Bally and Dad, in the High Street, Scarborough. Photograph by Scarborough Evening News.

37. Cyro and Tom Harris have fun on the donkeys.
38. The Citizens.
39. Cyro, Tom Harris, Wilf, Tyler and Clown entertain at the Scarborough Children's Hospital.

40. ? ? ? ? ?
41. Wilfred Tyler.
42. Tom Harris, Cyro, Chung Chin Foo (Italy), Dr. Duplayen.
43. ? ? ? ? ?
44. Fun at the Children's Matinee.