

**Before I start, a short message for the benefit of Mark Greasley:**

*I no longer give a \*euphemism\* about spelling & grammar*

**Did we have a good time in Durham? Yes I think so! I went to the 12<sup>th</sup> British Juggling Convention with £182.10, & I came back with 80p. As well as lots of new toys, some neat tricks & some great experiences. This issue details a little of what went on.**

### **My Convention diary**

I did intend to write a chronological account of our experiences in Durham, but unfortunately I'm having trouble recollecting all of what went on for some reason & I really don't have the space to write about everything. So instead I'm just going to go through a few of the highlights at random.

#### **'Mama just killed a man'**

The first night in the Renegade tent saw an interesting act from a mad German guy who decided to do a club swinging routine to the most inappropriate music possible. So we all chose to sing Bohemian Rhapsody while he swung away. He was probably good but we were all far too busy singing to notice. Queen's epic song was the main recurring

# TWJC

May '99

theme throughout the festival, we sang it several times during Renegade, during the public show, in the bar, on the buses & we even got the Irish band to play it!

#### **'1,2,3 Oi!'**

That band was **The Wildcats of Kilkenny**, & they were superb. They were a lively folk/rock band with an Irish style that kept us all dancing & provided a lot of fun.

#### **'Let's all point at Dave & make noises of disapproval'**

The dancing continued on the night before (I did say that it would be at random) when we all had a go at **Ceileidh**, which is a form of Scottish folk dancing. When I said 'all' I actually meant all except Dave A. It was fast, fun & great for meeting new people. Very well done to Jacqui for showing up all of the 'oldies'. She took part in all of the dances, whereas all the others would do 2 dances & then collapse for 2 (I

would've also performed each dance but I was regrettably stuck in the bar queue during 1 of the numbers).

One morning in the food tent a member of the catering staff stormed out!

A group of us went for a brief walk on the first day & we came across a very steep hill so someone suggested having a race to the top. We got about 2/3 of the way up before stopping because we couldn't carry on. Jacqui & I slid down on our posteriors while the oldies took their time in coming down. Dave was the only one to actually fall over. It was decided that it was a stupid idea after all, so let's all point at Dave again.

Aerotech were showing off their latest glow product, very flash two colour programmable balls (at £69 per ball they had to be). I thought that they were over complicated nonsense until **Haggis & Charlie** did a spot with them in the Renegade tent, which was brilliant. The best thing that the balls are for is banging them against your head, although apparently they make a rather good cell phone.

The public show (full review later on) was held 26 miles down the road in Middlesborough. 13 buses turned up to ferry everyone down in one go which was a good idea. The journeys were a

lot of fun as we fired modeling balloons at each other down the middle. Over taking each other up the inside on the dual carriageway was funny to, we would have won but they had more people paddling.

### **Arty-\*arty**

There was a showcase performance from students of the Circuspace & Circomedia schools, which was very.... (Maybe I'll be able to think of a word by the end of the newsletter).

There were a couple of good acts. The man from the Basque Lands telling his story about his quest to perform was good, as were the two diaboloists (although if you ask Cora why she will say nothing about their skills). The one image that will stick with me for eternity from that show was the bit where the French girl, who performed a very raunchy rope & unicycle piece, yanked up her dress, exposing her knickers to get on the giraffe. Kevin started jumping up & down in his seat at the time. As Claire the compère said, "I'm not sure if mounting the unicycle changes in translation into French?"

### **Girls on heat**

A guy from Brazil came up & asked me how to do a trick in the hall. He had his shirt undone & was showing off his 6-pack, Jacqui & Cora started acting very strangely. Indeed there has been

an unusual amount of virility among the TWJC members on tour. Most notably among Dave, his friskiness even spilled over onto me at one point, I thought it was Cora until I said something the next day. I wish I never asked I'd have rather not known. (I would point at Dave & make disapproving noises but I don't want him to mistake it for a mating call!)

### **It can't be done!**

The Renegade tent saw some impressive acts, 3 ball Mill's Mess done with Penguin catches (give me a week), **Jay Gilligan** being Jay Gilligan (he dropped lots but with the tricks he does you knew he would), 12 ring passing, some very flash club tricks & much more. A guy called Russell rolled 5 of the convention yo-yos, 1 in each hand, 1 from each nipple ring & 1 from his nose ring. The rumour was that he had a Prince Albert to, we all chanted 'we want six', even though we didn't.

**Charlie Dancey** pushed **Haggis Mc leod** around the sports hall in a wheel chair while he was juggling 5, stopping every now & then to do a little of their trademark carrying & placing tricks.

**Devilstick Pete's** Jesus impression was absolute perfection but no one got a photo! Watch out for Haggis'

Jesus joke at the TWJC summer show, I'm sure Dave has it written down somewhere.

### **Committee meeting to be held soon**

The committee is due for a meeting to discuss the running of the club very soon. We are not going to tell anyone when this meeting will take place so all committee members must make sure that they attend every week or they may find that they have been volunteered for something.

I don't know why we bother calling it a 'committee' meeting because anyone is welcome to join in. If you have any ideas, views or chocolates please feel free to share them with us.

### **Singers Wanted**

Cora & Kevin are both coming up to a birthday. They must be nearly 40ish by now. On behalf of the club I'd like to wish them both many happy returns of the day. We'll all look forward to singing to you nearer the time, so that will be something to look forward to!

### **The show with the unloved compère**

The show was great, from getting off the bus to getting back on again was great. We were locked out but Charlie made them

open the door (the usher's face when he saw the mob of people was priceless).

The atmosphere before the show was fantastic. Dave was very quick off the mark & started the traditional balloon chain around the theatre which was quite a sight. There were also many balloons flying around & a salvo of paper planes launched from the top tier to the bottom.

The TWJC contingent managed to get a top tier viewpoint for the fantastic show hosted by **Rod Laver** who I recall as the astounding Ping-Pong ball juggler from Nottingham.

First on stage was **Bruce Wilson** who did some beautifully choreographed ring juggling & manipulation with some very nice silver rings which flashed in the light. He ended juggling 7 inside a circle of rings spinning on the floor, which looked superb.

**Yuron** from Israel did some nice 3-ball juggling; I particularly liked his trick where the balls rolled down his arms to bounce off the floor & back into the pattern.

The club juggler whose name escapes me (**Toby** according to some people on the net) was nothing short of breath taking. His juggling was millimetre perfect, his most stunning trick for me was the one where he bounced a ball on his head, while

juggling 4 clubs, then he went into triple singles & did a helicopter spin across his head underneath the bouncing ball! Wow!

The Swedish topless diaboloist (say that with a mouthful of peanuts) from the Circomedia/Circuspace show did his surreal rolling across the floor bit again & the very graceful French club juggler (**Cecile** apparently) also won a place in the public show with her routine.

**Ben Jennings** performed a contact juggling routine around a candle lit altar type thing, which created a nice effect of golden flames inside his crystal balls. It was good but I expected much more from the routine.

A guy from Channel 5 came on & did a mime routine based on the mask. It included some interesting touches, but for me it wasn't as good as the act that Richard Vobes performed at the Royal Tunbridge Wells juggling Festival.

**Wots'its Face** (see what happens when you don't have a program or a copy of The Catch) did a very cool devilstick routine with some highly impressive leg maneuvers.

'The former best juggler in the world' **Greg Kennedy** performed a stunning bounce juggling routine using a 'V' shaped apparatus (which was at 90°



otherwise Bryn gets upset) which caused a vertically dropped ball to bounce twice & come up on the other side. 5 balls certainly looked impressive.

**Ben Jennings & Greg Kennedy** later joined forces to move this bizarre construction of white tubes which could be moved & twisted to make all sorts of interesting shapes. There was no skill involved, just walking around & moving the struts about. It certainly was not juggling. I preferred the spoof version done with a cube made from modeling balloons during Renegade.

'Old Blue Eyes' himself AKA **Haggis Mc leod** performed a nice hat routine which was a bit better than Mark Greasley's act last year.

The best act by far though was the first routine from **The Gandini Juggling Project**. It was simply 5 jugglers all with 3 clubs. The only tricks that they did were double spins, a bit of passing & the 'bat spin' trick (throw a club & bat the body so that it doesn't complete a spin), there was nothing fancy at all but it was an audio routine much more than it was visual. The sound of all 5 jugglers catching in unison & stamping bare foot on the stage plus the couple of tricks described earlier in various combinations produced some fantastic rhythms

which were all performed with clinical precision.

The second act from the show 'Remembering Rastelli' by **The Gandini Juggling Project** finished off the show with the whole troupe juggling balls & rings. The routine was very well put together in that the skills & fluidity of movement were very good but it was far too busy. At any one point in the show there was always far too much going on to take in, I found myself just watching Jay Gilligan & whoever was around him at the time. They performed many intricate passing & multi person patterns such as 4-ball mill's Mess between 3 people at times with carrying & placing variations by a fourth member of the group. All very clever stuff but a bit too intense. The musical score was terrible too.

### **Big Brother is watching you**

It has come to our attention that certain people have been a little 'absent minded' in paying their entrance fees on club nights. This is a very serious matter; we rely on your honesty & the money you pay to keep the club going. No money = No club (no staples even).

I think that we all want to see the club continue, so there will be an increased watch on the cash box in future. Anyone caught not

paying, using foreign coins, buttons or washers will be liable to a severe beating.

### **Sorry to tell you this again but...**

If Dave & Kevin could get their side of the bargain done correctly first time then I wouldn't have a problem but unfortunately the list of upcoming performances that appeared in the last issue has undergone a few alterations. So I have got to use up some of my precious column inches to give you the correct information meaning that you miss out on something more entertaining that would have been printed here. Nevertheless we can still all point & make disapproving noises.

People will now also notice that all the dates are in the correct order.

2nd May	Tonbridge Flower Festival
Sunday	12:00--16:00
31st May	Iden Green Fete
Monday	13:00--16:00
13th June	Mayfield College
Sunday	10:00--13:00
3rd July	Pembury School Fete
Saturday	we just don't know
10th July	Mark Cross School Fete
Saturday	we just don't know

17th July	Paddock Wood Carnival
Saturday	12:00--17:30
7/8th Aug	Rye Medieval Festival
Sat/Sun	9:00--17:00
28th Aug	Pembury Hospital Fete
Saturday	12:30--16:00 (Including the traditional TWJC photoshoot on the tree stump)
11th Sept	Crowborough Carnival (a must)
Saturday	17:00--23:00

### **So where are the pictures?**

I know that some people have great difficulty reading the words in my newsletters (Mark), & they just like to look at the pictures more than anything else. These people may be a little worried by the lack of pictures used so far.

The problem was that I had so many photos that I didn't know what to do with them all, in the end I decided to create a nice little picture gallery at the back of this newsletter.

I thought that we could have a little caption competition. Those who come up with something funny will earn fame in the next edition of these hallowed pages (as long as they tell me their ideas). The hugging & kissing prizes are also still available if anyone is interested.

# TWJC Photographic Tour Diary

I'm caught wearing Jacqui's clothes



What a weirdo



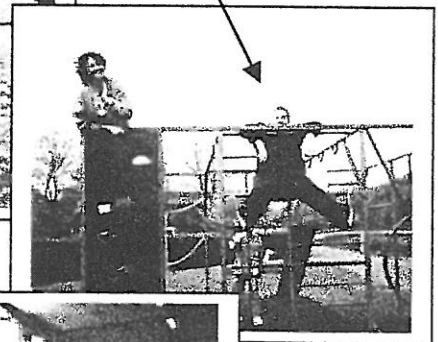
?



Dave, I said, 'DON'T have a cow'!



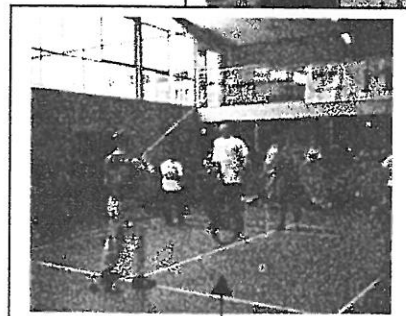
Bryn gets that Sinking feeling



Isn't she sweet?



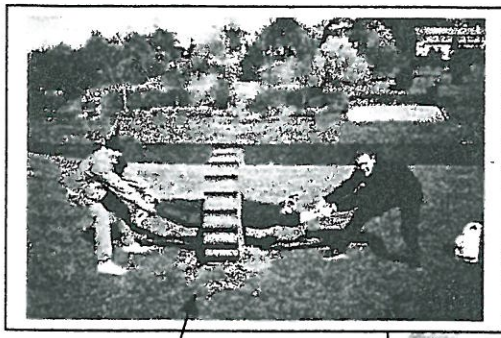
There was lots of skill in Durham, none of it was ours.



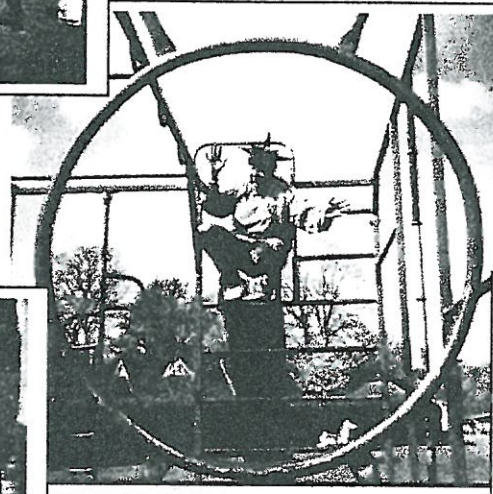


I'm sure that he hasn't heard any of my jokes.

Cora tries to stop Dave from embarrassing himself



Kevin & Bryn try to pull Jacqui



Jacqui went up a hill & fell down a mountain



Kevin Fletcher. No caption necessary



I try a new skill: cereal packeting

horsing around

