

# TWJC NEWSLETTER

May 2000  
Edited by  
Jon Relf

*At last I've got my PC back. It has had a replacement motherboard, hard drive, DVD drive, floppy drive, power supply, new graphics & sound cards, new memory chips & a new processor all inside a new case too. It is certainly good to get my old computer back.*

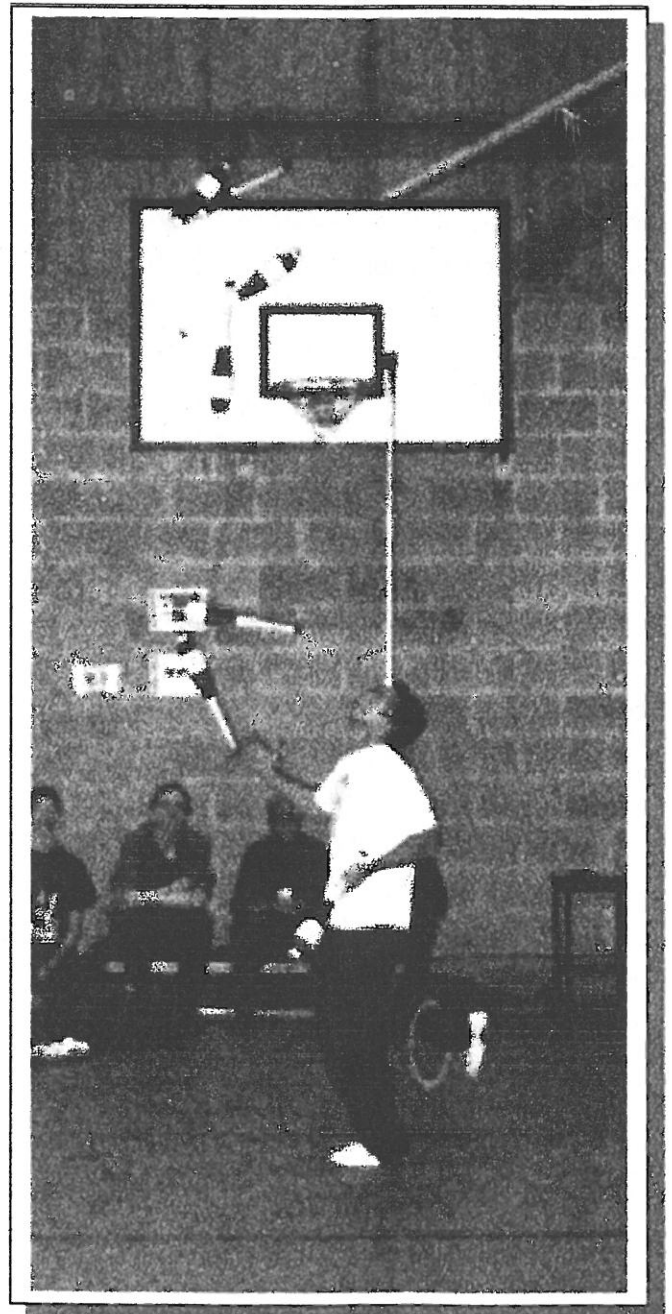
*Because of the delays suffered through technical problems this newsletter is not a full newsletter but merely a stopgap that catches up on the news before the next one. (?)*

*Jon*

*BJC2K*

*Just so that it's on paper:*

*We arrived at about 3pm signed in & picked up our dog tags which are the dooziest passes to date. They were even better after we had decorated them with club decoration tape. Then we were lead to the campsite by Mini on his skateboard & we couldn't believe the number of tents already there. We spent about twenty minutes trying to find a pitch. There were 17 of us in total & we wanted to pitch together but that wasn't going to happen. Everyone was pretty much camping on top of eachother. Concern was shown for the*



complex latticework of guy ropes that would be needed to be traversed at night.

Dave K., Jacqui & I played a game of giant Jenga which was quite funny. I'm not sure whether Dave's dodgy placement of the bricks at odd angles counts as cheating or not but we went with it. Jacqui was the one who made the fatal move but she did have the disadvantage by being the most vertically challenged of the group.

We watched Anthony Gatto in the small hall training for about 2 hours with mouths wide open. He really is a breed apart from the rest of us. Most people practise, he trains very seriously. When we first arrived he was just bouncing a ball on his head, to warm up, then he systematically worked through some of his repertoire. He'd work on a trick until he'd successfully pulled it off or reached a certain number of catches. I remember a five club flash pirouette behind the back, a nine ring pull down maintaining a headbounce throughout, five consecutive alberts with five clubs, four backcrosses with seven, dropping his bouncing ball into a five club cascade to carry on with six, then throwing it up high so it bounced behind him & then catching it on his forehead again. I think that this guy is an android. First time I've seen anyone get a standing ovation for a practise session.

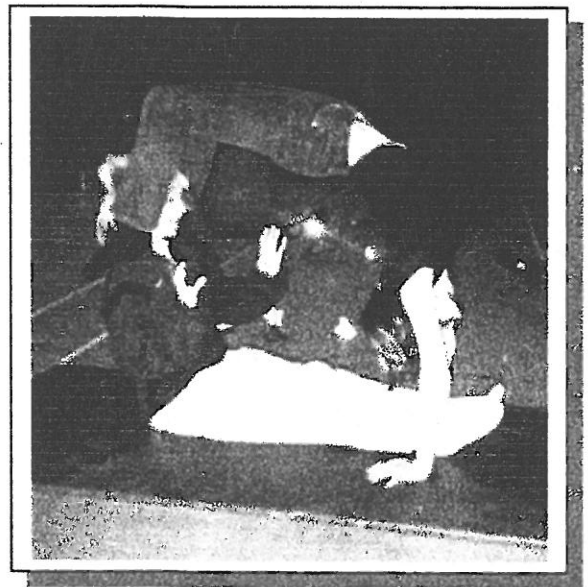
Jacqui & Beth decided not to sleep at all for the first night, & not a lot the other 2 nights either, but they did look very cute in the car on the way home. Just how far am I going to take advantage of you two before I agree not to publish those photos?

The Ceilidh dancing didn't have the same atmosphere as it would have done in the tent with the tables & it was difficult to hear the guy with the steps through the echoes. But it was still absolutely amazingly fantastic fun. Nothing beats getting so hot & sweaty with total strangers, & getting up close & personal with Jacqui. Ceilidh is a great test of stamina; the band gave everyone a great work out. I

think that after one more dance I would've outlasted Jacqui.

## Renegade

On Saturday night we were amazed by Ken & Tina, from Tumblecircus who should have been in the public show but the theatre people wouldn't allow the crew to rig a trapeze. I've never been a great fan of static trapeze as all these acts seem to be the same but these people were great. There was a whole host of moves that I'd never seen before performed brilliantly at an energetic pace. Absolutely fantastic. My next favourite act was by my hero Jay Gilligan, never in my life have I even thought that someone could invoke shouting & screaming with a three scarf juggling act. What a master. Jay also did a three ball spot with elastic chords running from his hands to his feet which created a nice visual effect especially when he did mill's mess & the dummy elevator. Nice innovation & I love his style.



Jamie Fletcher spectacularly freemounted an 8ft unicycle to a well earned thunderous cheer, after 3 equally spectacular hard falls. There was some very cool fire eating by Alan Fell, as far as I could tell he had a little parafin in his mouth, but still had enough room to put out a torch. Then he'd light a small flame with a torch in his other hand & he'd then use that small flame to light the other

torch. Extremely impressive. David from Rotterdam made famous by his Bohemian Rhapsody routine at Durham performed a fantastic fireswinging & gloclub set. Haggis did a couple of spots with his gorgeous UV bullwhip with some stunning visual effects. A guy from Cambridge came on & did a hilarious spot, which involved a little three-ball trickery & a lot of surreal witches-from-Macbeth style chanting. The highlight of his set was his maniacal leaping around with his arms limply hung in front of his body, but around the back of his neck. After around twenty minutes he was actually carried off stage by Mini Mansell.

I also remember Errol the diaboloist & a friend singing some songs which was very funny. Arnie from France made a bizarre balloon sculpture which was later thrashed to death by bullwhip.

Of course Anthony Gatto was sent up, & it took two people to do it, far more impressive though was the speed with which the invisible half of Anthony Gatto could down pints of beer. Another guy from France had a great struggle with his two volunteers who helped & hindered his story of a couple's mating ritual told with the diabolo, very amusing. Ex TWJC member Bryn did some nice stroby globball stuff on stilts, but was better off them, in his orange Martian outfit. But since when has Paddock Wood been in Amsterdam?



## The Show in a paragraph (Albeit a long one)

The public show was simply superb. Compered by Mr Jules & Andy 'Tiger' Woods indeed, "What about Norway?" The first act was some flashy ring & club passing from Freefall, their continuous albert, tomahawks & slapovers were particularly good, as was the nine club finish. Next (A\*\*\*\*\*s!) up were Manomani. Two very athletic performers from Manchester who showed us some wonderfully graceful & brilliantly executed acrobalance, they certainly gave us a few ideas for things to try on Tuesday. (Please note: chronology ends here) The same goes for Decubitos Supino (or more affectionately: bananas in pyjamas) three artistes from Spain who dressed up in brightly coloured stretchy duvet covers & demonstrated a sweet acrobalance/dance/ring manipulation routine. Sharron & Kati performed a clubswinging & dance routine which although was very good offered nothing new to me (although I've never considered kicking my clubs across the stage, I usually only do that in practise). I was very much impressed by the slick diabolo skills of Errol Richardson from The Circus Space. This guy performs with great style & amazing speed. Apparently he still hasn't found his shirt since Durham '99 though. Benjamin Smalls from Germany did two comedy juggling spots, one with balls & one with clubs. After a shaky start which really didn't help the act he showed everyone that he is a very good juggler with some very deft moves & a whole host of humourous ways to cheat at various tricks. Nottingham '97 favourite Rod Laver joined up with David Ericson for a nice ping-pong ball & bounce juggling act. Although initially disgusting their 7 ping-pong ball passing pattern was pretty cool. Sam Foulkes (only 15) wowed everyone with some excellent freestyle BMX trick riding, leaping around his cycle in every way possible. The Gandinis took a break from the Millenium Dome & treated us



to two performances of pieces from their show, featuring complex passing patterns with balls, rings & clubs, & also a bit of bingo calling. Three ball maestro & sharp dresser **Jamie Fletcher** reminded everyone just how good low number juggling can be. I loved every second. **The Curious Eyebrows** provided a fantastic break from the juggling with a bizarre comedy routine based upon a strange song which had lyrics consisting of a list of 'things to do', & as each was read out & displayed on the projector screen the instructions were hilariously carried out. The entire audience were amazed over the premier of the gorgeous new programmable gloclubs from **Aerotech** being expertly handled by the people of **Feeding the Fish**. Everyone wants these props. Although the technology should not blind people from the brilliant performance & choreography inputted by the human element. Last on stage was of course **Anthony Gatto** performing in Britain for the first time (in long trousers), & we found out exactly why he is renowned as the best. Who else would even consider opening with juggling five flaming torches whilst balancing a flaming pole on his forehead & spinning a flaming ring around his leg? He ran through astonishing feats at a blistering pace hardly giving the audience time to pick themselves up. Seven ring pirouettes, solid five club backcrosses, six clubs whilst bouncing a ball on his forehead, then dropping the ball into the pattern to continue with a seven object cascade before returning to the fountain with a headbounce by a flurry of seven backcrosses. Naturally after the final club was caught everyone in the audience was on their feet & having babies. What a show. Best I've ever seen by far.

### Tonbridge Flower show

Beth, Dave, Cora, Pete, Kevin & myself turned up to run workshops at the Tonbridge Flower show on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Rain & general marsh type conditions forced us to set up inside one of the marquees. We found an

area the size of a postage stamp in front of a papier mache elephant & a giraffe, which I unanimously decided should be named Cora. It was a very tight squeeze & there was very little that we could do, but

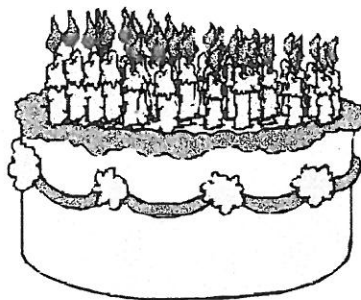
Dave A. came into his element with his close up magic skills. Did my ears deceive me or did he say, "Never perform a trick more than three times."??? Beth spent most of the time chatting up the guys on the Territorial Army stall. The same people gave me a very informative tour of their destructive memorabilia, "This is a green land mine, this is a brown landmine..."

They were also kind enough to let me juggle with an extremely heavy (live) cannon ball & balance a mortar on my chin. & They even invited me to join the bomb disposal squad. Which was nice.

### Serious bit

Just a quick mention that we only actually hire the main hall, not the entire Camden Centre. So please could everyone try & keep inside the hall as much as possible. Other groups use the Centre too so please don't disturb them, unless they read poetry (Joke).

### Happy Happy Joy Joy



To Kevin, Dave & Cora who have all enjoyed or suffered birthdays recently. Their combined age is almost a hundred.

Isn't that a nice happy note to end this newsletter on? All in one hour & three minutes. I ought to make shoes. But who could tell me what was written on Anthony Gatto's trainers?