



FISMTM

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques
International Federation of Magic Societies

FISM Newsletter

Nr. 76 – March 2020

**To all Presidents of the FISM member societies
and Delegates in the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the FISM**

Dear Delegate, dear Friend in Magic,

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

On 10th February 2020 the FISM Board of Directors received a complaint **filed by Ms. Kate Medvedeva** about a possible case of plagiarism in Russia by **Mr. Alexander Murataev** concerning a show - or part of it - of Derren Brown. **Neither Mr. Brown nor his management has contacted FISM about this matter. The owner of the intellectual property is the person who can best assess whether there has been a violation.**

This complaint was widely distributed by E-mail, which on one hand made for an interesting and lively discussion within the international magic community, but on the other hand made it of a more difficult solution.

The FISM BoD has immediately addressed this complaint, as follows:

- upon receiving the complaint in question, the same has immediately been submitted to the legal advisors of the BoD;
- the I.P.R Consultancy Group was informed immediately thereafter;
- simultaneously (11th February 2020) the BoD has asked Mr. Murataev for his view on this matter, which he sent by return (14th February 2020);
- all five legal advisors involved have issued their opinion about this matter of which the common denominator boils down to: "that part of the complaint filed with the BoD could be qualified as plagiarism" (18th-20th February 2020)".

Mr. Murataev admits that he:

- has always found a lot of inspiration in the performances of Derren Brown and that he may have transgressed in the past (the show in question was stopped in 2017) in his show the fine line between "inspiration" and "plagiarism";
- has, as far as that may have been the case, expressed his sincere apologies and regrets;
- has full respect and understanding for the FISM's policy regarding IPR;
- has - last but not least - decided for present purposes not to pursue his application for FISM "Judge in training".

The FISM BOD has therefore decided, as a provisional measure, to suspend his candidacy.

The FISM BoD deems this issue thus settled and would like to use this opportunity to draw the reader's attention **to the proper procedures for filing complaints with FISM** which prescribe that these should be

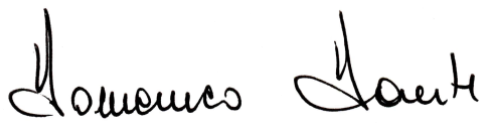
submitted to the FISM Continental Executive Board (CEB) or to the FISM BoD that will forward the same to the applicable FISM CEB **only when it has also been received by the owner of the Intellectual Property.** Accusations of plagiarism can harm personal reputations and should therefore be dealt with carefully and professionally and should always receive a fair handling.

The FISM BoD **will seek maximum transparency in such instances** and will react and respond as expediently as possible, after consultation with the FISM Legal Advice Group and taking also into account the advice of the I.P.R. committee.

The protection of ethics and integrity in magic remains a high priority for the FISM BoD just as it should be for all lovers of our art.

The BoD decision has now become final and the BoD will no longer and not further dwell on this matter as it considers the case now closed.

With kind regards,



Domenico Dante
International President



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