

HULL MAGICIANS' CIRCLE

Rules and Constitution

Adopted May 1969, amended May 1971, May 1974, May 1977, May 1988, May 1998,
May 2002, June 2003 June 2004 and June 2014

1. The name of the Society is HULL MAGICIANS' CIRCLE, hereinafter referred to as "The Circle".
2. The objects of the Circle are:-
 - a. To establish and carry on an association of individuals interested in the theory and/or practice of Magic.
 - b. To facilitate social intercourse, exchange of ideas and promote harmony among those interested in Magic.
 - c. To encourage, foster, elevate and advance Magic in the field of entertainment, amusement and culture.
 - d. To organise entertainments and lectures.
 - e. To oppose public exposure of magical effects, illusions or the principles of Magic.
 - f. To maintain a reference library of works relating to Magic and its allied subjects.

3. **Membership**

Any person of sixteen years of age or over shall be eligible for membership. Every applicant shall receive a copy of the Rules prior to completing the form of application which, in the event of the applicant not being elected to membership, must be returned to the Honorary Membership Secretary.

Every applicant shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Circle. Application for membership must be made on an "Application for Membership" form obtainable from the Honorary Membership Secretary of the Circle. The completed form must be returned to the Honorary Membership Secretary.

All applicants for membership shall be interviewed by the Management Committee and, where necessary, shall be required to give an initiation act of at least fifteen minutes duration such as would be presented to an audience. Those applicants whose interests lie in the theory of Magic shall be required to demonstrate their knowledge at a closed meeting.

All applications for membership shall be accompanied by the Entrance Fee and the appropriate subscription for the current year. In the event of the applicant not being elected to membership the subscription will be returned to him/her, but the Entrance Fee will be retained by the Circle.

After the application has been considered by the Management Committee the name of the applicant and the date, time and place for his/her initiation act will be publicised with the notice of the meeting.

After the applicant has given his/her initiation act he/she shall withdraw. Admission to membership will be decided by ballot, a majority vote of members present in favour of the applicant shall qualify him/her. The Chairman for the evening shall have a casting vote. The candidate shall be notified in writing of the decision of the Meeting by the Hon. Membership Secretary.

The President (or Senior Officer present) shall welcome the elected candidate at the first meeting he attends, and remind him of the Rules of the Circle.

The new member shall be entitled to purchase and wear the medallion of the society.

A past member of the Circle can, at the discretion of the Committee of Management, be re-admitted to membership on payment of the Entrance Fee and the appropriate subscription for the current year. A past member whose membership ceased owing to the non-payment of his/her subscription (under Rule 5), must also pay the arrears of the subscription which was outstanding at the time when he/she automatically ceased to be a member

The Management Committee shall have the power to recommend to the members at any closed meeting that a member of the Circle be elected to Honorary Membership in recognition of his/her services for the Circle.

4. **Entrance Fee**

The Entrance Fee, payable by all applicants, shall be that determined each year at the Annual General Meeting, as recommended by the Committee of Management to the members.

5. **Subscriptions**

The annual membership subscription of the Circle shall be determined each year at the Annual General Meeting and shall be due for payment on the date when it is determined. The annual subscription shall not be less than that recommended by the Committee of Management to members in General Meeting. The subscription will be payable in respect of the year ending on the 31st March after the date of the relative Annual General Meeting.

Members who are in full time education will only pay half the annual subscription.

In addition members graduating from Hull Young Magicians Workshop will not pay a joining fee

Any member whose subscription is in arrears at the 31st of October after the date of the Annual General Meeting shall automatically cease to be a member of the Circle, and any such cessation of membership shall be reported to the membership at the first closed meeting thereafter. Only paid-up members shall be entitled to the privileges of membership. These privileges include admission to meetings, entry to

competitions and copies of the Syllabus and Oracle. Payment may always be made immediately before the start of a meeting.

In exceptional circumstances, members may apply to the committee for extending the allowable date for payment of subscriptions.”

Any person elected to membership on or after the 1st February in any year and before the date of the Annual General Meeting of that year will pay half of the current annual membership subscription.

The Committee of Management shall at all times have power to waive the Entrance Fee and/or a member's subscription or part thereof for such a period as they may think fit.

6. Resignations - Deleted

7. Accounts

The Financial Year of the Circle shall be from 1st April to 31st March. At the Annual General Meeting an Honorary Auditor shall be appointed to examine and report upon the Statement of Accounts of the Circle to be presented at the next Annual General Meeting.

8. Officers

The following Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting:-

A President

A Vice-President

An Honorary Secretary who shall conduct correspondence, notify members of meetings and be responsible for secretarial duties in general

An Honorary Membership Secretary who shall be responsible for recording all matters pertaining to the membership

An Honorary Treasurer who shall record the receipts and payments of all monies and transactions of the Circle and keep proper books of account. He/she shall be responsible for submitting a Statement for the Financial Year to members at the Annual General Meeting.

An Honorary Minutes Secretary who shall be responsible for recording minutes of all meetings

An Honorary Librarian who shall be responsible for the organisation, safe-keeping and maintenance of the Circle's Library.

An Honorary Editor who shall be responsible for producing the Circle's magazine "Oracle".

An Honorary Website Manager who will be responsible for producing the Hull Magicians Website

Committee of Management

The Management of the Circle shall be governed by a Committee composed of the following officers:-

The President, The Vice-President, The Hon. Secretary, The Hon. Membership Secretary, The Hon. Treasurer, The Hon. Minute Secretary, The Hon. Librarian The Hon. Editor , The Hon. Website Manager and two other members of the Circle.

All Officers and Committee members will retire at the Annual General Meeting each year but will be eligible for re-election.

Four members of the Management Committee shall form a quorum.

The Management Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than two members, if in their opinion special circumstances warrant it, and such members will carry the same rights in respect of all matters as if appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Management Committee shall have the right to recommend to the Members, at any time, the name of any person whom they think is worthy to be elected to the office of Hon. Vice-President of the Circle.

The election of a Hon. Vice-President will be decided by the members in ordinary meeting by ballot. At no time can more than two persons hold the office of Hon. Vice-President. Any holder of the office of Vice-President shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Committee of Management and to have full voting rights.

In the event of any vacancy occurring in any office or on the Committee of Management a member may be co-opted by the Management Committee to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting except in the event of the office of President becoming vacant when the Vice-President shall automatically fill the vacancy.

10. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in May or June of each year for the purpose, inter alia, of transacting the following business:

To approve the minutes of the previous A.G.M.

To receive the report by the Hon. Secretary

To receive the report of the Hon. Membership Secretary

To receive the report by the Hon. Treasurer, together with the Statement for the Financial Year and the Hon. Auditor's report thereon

To receive the report by the Hon. Librarian

To receive the report of the Hon. Editor of *ORACLE*

To elect officers for the ensuing year

To elect members of the Committee of Management

To determine the Entrance Fee and annual Subscription for the ensuing year

To transact any other ordinary business capable of being transacted at an Annual General Meeting

Any member wishing to give Notice of Motion before the Annual General Meeting shall give such notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the date of such meeting.

Any nominations for the Officers and Committee shall give such notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the date of such meeting.

All nominations shall be duly proposed and seconded by members.

All Motions and Nominations shall then be publicised with the notice of the AGM

The election of Officers and members of the Management Committee shall be by ballot.

One quarter of the membership, or, if not divisible by four, the next lowest whole number, shall form a quorum.

11. Extraordinary General Meeting

An extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary on receipt of a written request signed by at least one quarter of the total number of members, or if the total membership is not a multiple of four, then the number nearest one quarter, stating the nature of the business to be transacted and the Resolutions (if any) to be proposed.

At least twenty-one days' notice in writing shall be given to all members of such a meeting, and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that for which it is specifically convened.

One half of the total number of members or, if the total membership is not an even number, then one half of the nearest lower even number shall form a quorum.

12. Patrons

Any person of eighteen years of age or over of either sex may be admitted as a Patron of the Circle. A Patron shall receive a copy of the Annual Syllabus and shall have the privilege of attending open meetings. The annual subscription for a Patron shall be a minimum of 50p.

13. Visitors

Visitors may be introduced at any open meeting and the member who introduces any visitor(s) shall be responsible for his or her conduct. Visiting Magicians may be introduced to closed meetings.

14. Secrets of Magic and Magical Effects

Members are pledged to protect the secrets of magic and its allied subjects and to refrain from exposing to the public any magical effect, illusion or any principle of magic. The contents of any magical book must not be shown or revealed in any manner whatsoever to a member of the public.

Members shall regard the originator of any effect or presentation of an effect, as the sole proprietor /proprietress of that effect or presentation and shall not knowingly use or copy the same without his/her permission.

15. Infringement of Rules

Any infringement of those rules will be regarded by the Committee of Management as a serious matter. If any member breaks a rule of the Circle, or if the Committee of Management considers the conduct of a member to be prejudicial to the interests or the attainment of the objects of the Circle, the Committee of Management shall call upon such a member to give an explanation to them.

Both complainant and accused shall state their cases to the Management Committee and then both shall withdraw while a verdict is reached. If the complainant or accused is a member of the Management Committee he must withdraw.

After the Committee of Management, in meeting, have considered the explanation (if any) made by such member, and, if the Committee of Management consider it to be unsatisfactory, or if the member fails to make an explanation, the Committee of Management may request such member to resign within seven days, and if the member does not comply with such request he shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Circle.

Any resolution of the Committee of Management for the purpose of this rule shall be passed by a simple majority of the members of the Committee of Management present and voting. Under no circumstances for the purposes of this rule shall any part of the member's subscription be returned.

16. Medallions

A member shall be entitled to purchase for his/her personal use a Medallion of Hull Magicians' Circle. Bona fide collectors may purchase same on payment of double the current cost price, plus postage, conditional on their not being worn by a non-member.

17. Alteration of Rules

New Rules or amendments to existing Rules shall only be made at an Annual General Meeting of the Circle. Any proposed New Rules or amendments to existing Rules which are proposed must be sent to the Hon. Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

New Rules or amendments to existing Rules shall become effective only after the close of business of the Annual General Meeting at which the relative resolution has been passed.

18. Interpretation of Rules

Any matter which is not specifically dealt with by the foregoing rules shall be decided by the Management Committee.