

DERBY MAGIC CIRCLE



RULES AND CONSTITUTION

Latest Update: 14th April 2019

(This document supersedes all previous documents relating to rules and constitution)

RULES AND CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

- 1.1 The name of the society is ‘**THE DERBY MAGIC CIRCLE**’, thereafter referred to as ‘**THE CIRCLE**’

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To promote and advance the art of magic and encourage members to attain a high standard of magical knowledge and ability.
- 2.2 To discourage the disclosure of magical secrets to the public.
- 2.3 To protect from imitation, original magical inventions and routines.
- 2.4 To organise entertainment, lectures and conferences on magic and its allied arts.
- 2.5 To foster co-operation between all those who are actively interested in the art of magic.

3 CONSTITUTION

3.1 Membership

- 3.1.1 THE CIRCLE shall consist of a number of persons not under the age of 16 years, who can be admitted into any of the following categories.
- i Member of THE CIRCLE
 - ii Associate Member of THE CIRCLE
 - iii Patron of THE CIRCLE
 - iv Life Member

3.2 Member of THE CIRCLE

- 3.2.1 Every applicant shall receive a copy of the rules prior to completing the application form. In the event of an unsuccessful application, the Rules must be returned to THE CIRCLE.
- 3.2.2 An applicant must be proposed by a paid up Member of THE CIRCLE and the completed form returned to the Honorary Secretary. It is the responsibility of the Member to ensure the applicant is made aware of the

importance of membership and has the knowledge and ability for their proposed class of membership.

- 3.2.3 All applications for Member or Associate should be interviewed by the Executive and, where necessary, maybe required to perform an audition of at least ten minutes duration. Those applicants whose interest in the theory or allied arts of magic may be required to demonstrate their skills or knowledge at a closed meeting.
- 3.2.4 All applicants shall be made aware of the entrance fee and the appropriate subscription for the current year and when these payments are due.
- 3.2.5 Following an appraisal interview of an applicant, The Executive, at its discretion may admit a person to any category of membership without examination providing it is supported by at least 80% of the Executive attending and voting at the appraisal meeting.
- 3.2.6 After the applicant has given an audition, he or she shall withdraw. Admission will then be decided by a secret ballot requiring at least 80% of the vote in favour to qualify for either Associate or Member. The Chairman shall have a casting vote and the applicant shall then be notified of the decision at the meeting. A successful applicant shall receive THE CIRCLE badge, a copy of THE CIRCLE Rules and Constitution, Membership Directory and Certificate.
- 3.2.7 A past Member of THE CIRCLE can, at the discretion of the Executive, be re-admitted on payment of the entrance fee together with the subscription for the current year and any arrears subscription which was outstanding when he or she ceased to be a Member. Should the cessation of membership be due to late payment of subscription, the Executive have the right

to cancel the entrance fee up to the late payment date after the AGM, following a satisfactory explanation.

- 3.2.8 Any person whatsoever, ceasing to be a Member, shall have no further right to claim upon THE CIRCLE, its property or funds or to use its name for personal gain.
- 3.2.9 All applicants shall be made aware of the entrance fee and the appropriate annual subscription for the current year, together with the date these payments are due. A successful applicant will qualify for a refund of 50% of the entrance fee, to be paid with payment of their annual subscription. An unsuccessful applicant will forgo their entrance fee.
- 3.2.10 At the discretion of the Executive, any applicant, who is or has been a member of a recognised Magic Society, can be given automatic full membership. The successful applicant will be required to pay the full entrance fee, together with the appropriate apportioned annual membership subscription.

3.3 Associate Member of THE CIRCLE

- 3.3.1 Application for admission as an Associate Member shall be made in writing on the appropriate form and proposed by a paid up Member. It is the responsibility of that Member to make the applicant aware of the importance of membership and has the knowledge and ability to become an Associate Member.
- 3.3.2 Applicants shall be interviewed by the Executive, who shall vote thereon. Two dissenting votes shall exclude the applicant from being elected. In accordance with THE CIRCLE's objectives, the proposing Member of a successful candidate, shall become their mentor and will be responsible for the progressive knowledge and ability of the Associate.

- 3.3.3 Every Associate Member wishing to become a full Member shall be required to undergo and pass an audition in accordance with rules 3.2.3 and 3.2.6.
- 3.3.4 The audition will take place at a date and time mutually agreed between the Executive and the applicant.
- 3.3.5 Every Associate Member or applicant becoming a full Member is required to perform or demonstrate their knowledge of magic or the allied arts at the 'New Members Night' on THE CIRCLE's syllabus.
- 3.3.6 Any Associate Member whose membership has ceased will not be permitted to re-apply for a period of one year from the date of cessation.
- 3.3.7 An Associate Member applying to be a Full Member and whose audition has been accepted and approved by THE CIRCLE, will acquire full voting rights and be presented with a membership certificate.

3.4 Patron of THE CIRCLE

- 3.4.1 Any person wishing to become a Patron to THE CIRCLE must be proposed by a paid up member and shall apply in writing on the appropriate form. The completed form shall be returned, together with the annual subscription, to the Patron Secretary.
- 3.4.2 All applications to become a Patron will be assed by the Executive who shall vote thereon. Two dissenting votes shall exclude the applicant from being elected and his subscription returned.
- 3.4.3 A Patron shall receive the annual programme, The Patron Magazine and a copy of the rules and constitution. He or she will have the privilege of attending open meetings and the notification of forthcoming open events.

- 3.4.4 The annual subscription for a Patron shall be determined each year by the Executive.

3.5 Life Member

- 3.5.1 In recognition of outstanding service to THE CIRCLE, the Executive can recommend the election, at the AGM, of a member to become a Life member of THE CIRCLE. Such membership will have the same privileges of a fully paid up Member.

3.6 Subscriptions

- 3.6.1 The Executive has absolute discretion to determine the annual subscription and entrance fee for all classes of membership, including recognise Life Memberships, Retired Members over the age of 65 years, Associates and Patrons.
- 3.6.2 The annual subscription shall be payable in advance and is due after the AGM.
- 3.6.3 All classes of membership whose annual subscription is in arrears after the 30th May of that year, shall automatically cease membership of THE CIRCLE. A letter from the Executive shall be sent to the Member notifying of their arrears before the May meeting. Any cessations shall be reported to the membership at the first closed meeting thereafter unless delayed by the Executive.

4 ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

- 4.1.1 The general policy of THE CIRCLE shall be vested in the membership through the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and any Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) requested by the membership.
- 4.1.2 The administration of THE CIRCLE shall be with responsibility of an Executive Council, elected and initiated by the membership at the AGM or EGM.

- 4.1.3 The Executive Officers shall take office at the time of their election and shall remain in office for one year until the next AGM.
- 4.1.4 The Executive shall have the power to co-opt members, if circumstances warrant it. Such members will carry the same rights as if elected at the AGM or EGM.
- 4.1.5 Co-opted members shall be named at the following closed meeting and printed in THE CIRCLE's magazine.
- 4.1.6 A member should have at least 3 years continuous membership before serving as a President.

5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 5.1.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in March of each year for the purpose of transacting the following business:
- i To approve minutes of the previous AGM;
 - ii To receive the Executive Officers reports;
 - iii To elect Executive Officers for the ensuing year;
 - iv To transact specifically agended business.
- 5.1.2 Any member wishing to request an item for discussion must write to the Executive no later than the February meeting of THE CIRCLE prior to the AGM.
- 5.1.3 The method of voting shall be by a show of hands or by ballot. Such a ballot shall be at the discretion of the President or by demand from the floor by at least three members of THE CIRCLE, prior to voting.

6 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 6.1.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting is convened by the Honorary Secretary. Such a meeting will be convened upon receipt of a written request signed by at least one

quarter of the total paid up membership. Such a written request should clearly state the nature of the business to be transacted or a resolution to be proposed. A quorum for an EGM shall be two thirds of the paid up membership.

6.1.2 At least one calendar month notice, in writing, shall be given to all members notifying them of the convened EGM and no other business shall be conducted at this meeting.

7 VISITORS

7.1.1 Other than an AGM or EGM, a member may introduce a visitor to a closed meeting, provided the visitor is a magician or properly interested in magic or its allied arts. The member is fully responsible for the visitor's conduct.

7.1.2 The same visitor must not be introduced to a closed meeting more than three times in any one financial year.

7.1.3 Open and closed meetings will be clearly indicated on THE CIRCLE's syllabus. A normal monthly meeting is deemed to be a closed meeting unless otherwise stated.

7.1.4 Visitors from other recognised magical societies are welcome to attend any meeting of THE CIRCLE, other than the AGM or EGM, upon payment of the 'Visitor's Fee' as set out by the Executive. The admission of such a visitor must be after THE CIRCLE's business has been conducted

8 GENERAL

8.1.1 THE CIRCLE's meetings shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

8.1.2 New or amended rules shall only be made at an AGM or EGM.

- 8.1.3 The accounts of THE CIRCLE shall be independently examined and signed by an appointed independent examiner elected at the AGM.
- 8.1.4 All members, guests and visitors must sign a register on entering the clubroom.
- 8.1.5 Should the conduct of a member be considered contrary to the interests of THE CIRCLE or the art of magic, it shall be the duty of the Executive to request in writing the exclusion of that member from THE CIRCLE for a specific period of time. The member has the right to offer an explanation either verbally or in writing to the Executive who shall decide and act thereon. Should the Executive vote for the expulsion of the member, he or she will cease forthwith and all privileges of membership immediately withdrawn.
- 8.1.6 The Executive shall decide on any matter which is not specifically dealt with by, or the interpretation of, the Rules and Constitution. The Executive shall be the final arbiters of any decision made.

8.2 General Data Protection Regulation

- 8.2.1 THE CIRCLE is committed to the security and protection of the membership's personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR). This rule covers any data collected or that what is provided by a member for processing of that information.
- 8.2.2 The following paragraph or similar, will be included in all application forms for membership.

'In line with the rules that govern 'Data Protection' any member that does not consent or does not wish Derby Magic Circle to retain the minimum information as shown on the DMC Membership application form, should request in writing for its removal.

The information is only held on file by the Membership Secretary for administration of Derby Magic Circle and for no other reason and will not be made available to any other organisation without first the member's approval.