

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Magicians' CLUB



RULE BOOK

RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Name

The Club shall be called "The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club".
Our motto shall be "Sustinere Res Occulta", translated as "Keeping the Secrets".

2. Objects

To endeavour to foster among its members a helpful interest in all things magical, to try at all times to improve the standard of magic and to organise Social Functions and Nights of Magic.

3. Subscriptions

Subscriptions shall be decided from time to time at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

Any member whose subscription remains unpaid one month beyond the due date may be formally requested in writing to make immediate payment. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid for a further month shall cease to be a member. However, at the discretion of the Committee, the member may be re-admitted upon repayment of the current fixed joining fee.

4. Officers

The management of the Club shall be vested in an Executive consisting of President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to four Committee members. A President Elect or a Chairman, or both, may be elected, but the Executive shall not comprise more than seven members who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Hon. Life Vice Presidents may be ex-officio members of the committee.

5. Duty of Secretary

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Executive and the General Meetings (or find a substitute in emergency) and record all the secretarial business of the Club.

6. Duty of Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep a record of all monies paid into the Club, together with all disbursements.

No payments must be made or agreed by any member on behalf of the Club, without prior approval of the Treasurer.

7. Club Activities

Lecturers and paid performers shall be arranged by the Program Secretary and must be approved by committee. All other Club activities shall be arranged by the Committee. For the purpose of discharging this function, the Committee may appoint a Programme Organiser or Sub-Committee drawn from the Club Membership.

8. Membership

Membership is open to any person interested in Magic and who is prepared to contribute his share in the general knowledge, welfare or entertainment of the Club.

NMC is a welcoming club and will not discriminate against a person's age, disability, race, education, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

Membership is open to Magic Hobbyists, Magic Collectors, Magic Enthusiasts, Amateur Magic Performers, Semi-Professional Magic Performers and Professional Magic Performers alike. Acceptance to the club is by way of an interview with two Committee Members and if this interview is successful the Committee will vote on full membership at the next Committee Meeting.

Upon successful application to the NMC the annual membership fee will be charged (if not already paid), it may be charged on a pro-rata basis depending on when the new member is inducted or by monthly standing order.

The Committee have the opportunity, where they see fit, to offer membership of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club Official Facebook Group to any person interested in Magic and who is prepared to contribute his share in the general knowledge, welfare or entertainment of the Club.

Junior members are those aged 16 and under, and pay a subscription which is equal to 50% of the adult membership fee. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who must also join the Club, paying the normal subscription, and abiding by the rules.

However, the junior member's parents / guardians may share one membership to enable them to take turns accompanying their child to meetings.

At any meeting so designated by the Committee warranting such action, a visitor's fee will be charged.

Visiting lecturers may invite up to 2 visitors who will be exempt from payment.

9. Change of Address

Any member changing their contact details shall notify the Secretary in writing within fourteen days of such alteration.

10. Ethics

Members shall solemnly promise that they will not divulge the secret or working of any effect to anyone not connected to a Magical Organisation, neither will they copy nor use any performer's original patter, effect or presentation unless permission from the said originator be obtained.

To guard against accidental exposure, they will not present in public any effect that has not been fully practised and mastered, thereby endeavouring to maintain the highest possible standard for the Club and for magic generally.

11. Meeting Place

Meetings of the Club will be in accordance with the programme (or otherwise, as the Committee may decide) at a time and a place as arranged by the Committee from time to time.

NMC holds its meetings at different venues. Club members have to abide by the rules of the venue being used.

Any major changes from the practice of meeting, (excluding practice sessions), twice per month shall be placed before the members at the Annual General Meeting.

12. Executive Powers

The Executive shall have the power to refuse any member's subscription should it be deemed advisable in the interests of the Club to do so. The member in question will have the opportunity of appearing before the Committee if he or she wishes.

13. Rule Changes

Any alteration to these Rules can be made at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for this purpose. Such notice of intended alterations must be given to the Secretary in writing 28 days before the date of such meeting.

14. Dissolution / Suspension

Should it ever be necessary to dissolve or suspend the Club, such dissolution or suspension shall not be effective unless a resolution to that effect shall be carried at a General Meeting convened for the purpose by a majority of two-thirds of the members then present.

15. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held at a date to be arranged by the Committee. The meeting shall generally be notified to members at the previous Annual General Meeting or not less than 28 days before the date chosen.

16. Complaints Procedure

A member may make a formal complaint to any Committee Member and will then have a period not exceeding 28 days to supply any relevant information and/or evidence to substantiate their complaint.

If the complaint is about an individual the accused member will be notified in writing of any such complaint within 7 days of the formal complaint being received and will have a right of response within a further 28 days of the final submission by the complainant.

The Committee must be notified of any formal complaint and any action will be decided upon by the Committee. If the formal complaint is regarding a Committee Member then that Committee Member may not be present whilst the matter is discussed.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

COMPETITION RULES

All competitions will be governed by the following general rules:

- Entrants must be bona fide members of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club - Only paid up members of the NMC may enter. Non members may not enter.
- Dates of entry will be issued by the Secretary or Programme Secretary from time to time, as may closing dates of entry.
- A draw will be held to establish the order of performance - The competitors will randomly select a numbered card to generate a random running order.
- Dates of entry will be as issued by the Secretary or Programme Secretary from time to time and may be announced in club meetings, by email and / or on our official Facebook group.
- All Trophies / Cups / Shields and awards will be held for 1 year and then must be returned to the Club.
- Entries received within one week prior to the competition may be refused.
- Acts must abide by the rules of the society. Deliberate exposure of magic secrets or offensive material may result in disqualification.
- The disposition of the judges shall be at the discretion of the President; they need not all be seated at the same table. For the purpose of discharging this function the President may appoint a member of the Committee or Sub-Committee drawn from the Club Membership.
- The President may sit on a panel of judges or judge a competition, however, for any competitions requiring members to vote the president shall not vote, but may cast his / her vote in the event of a tie or in the event of ballots for 2nd and 3rd place if there is no result.
- Where judges deem minimum standards have not been met, it is not required to award trophies, nor second or third places.
- The judges' decision will be final. All competitors are welcome to ask the President or Chairman of the Judges for constructive feedback, which will be given within 28 days following the competition.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

THE ANNUAL STAGE MAGIC COMPETITION RULES

- Competitors are competing for the title of "The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club - Stage Magician of The Year" and for the N.M.C. Cup.
- The Runner-up will receive The Newell and Godfrey Shield.
- The Competition is before an invited audience.

For the guidance and assistance of adjudicators and to provide uniformity in the marking of each act, it is required that a maximum of 60 marks be awarded to each competitor, that is, 20 marks under each of the following headings:

a) PRESENTATION

i.e. Dress, stage setting, quality of speech, delivery of speech or quality of music, use of stage. "A measure of how the act comes across to the audience."

b) MYSTERY or MAGIC

i.e. Is the act generally, or are the individual tricks and effects, of a sufficiently magical or mysterious nature? "A measure of the magic content as opposed to drama or comedy."

c) ENTERTAINMENT

i.e. The extent to which an audience's interest will be aroused and maintained by the act as a whole. "A measure of the audience enjoyment."

Unless otherwise specified, The length of each act must be from 8 to 12 minutes. A penalty of 1 point (out of 60) will be made for each 30 seconds or part thereof over or under time. At 15 minutes, the act may be required to cease.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

CLOSE-UP MAGIC COMPETITION RULES

- Competitors are competing for the title of "The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club - Close-Up Magician of The Year" and to keep The Walter Ashton Close-Up Magic Trophy for 1 year.
- The Competition, before an invited audience, will be awarded to the highest scoring entrant.

Each act shall be presented under close-up conditions either at a table or immediately in front of the audience. Any trick normally classified as stage magic will not be valid. The President will be the sole arbiter in instructing the judges as to the validity of the act or any part thereof as close-up magic.

Competitors must be prepared to repeat their act at several tables.

For the guidance and assistance of adjudicators and to provide uniformity in the marking of each act, it is required that a maximum of 60 marks be awarded to each competitor, that is, 20 marks under each of the following headings:

a) **PRESENTATION**

i.e. Dress, quality of speech, delivery of speech or quality of music. "A measure of how the act comes across to the audience."

b) **MYSTERY or MAGIC**

i.e. Is the act generally, or are the individual tricks and effects, of a sufficiently magical or mysterious nature? "A measure of the magic content as opposed to drama or comedy."

c) **ENTERTAINMENT**

i.e. The extent to which an audience's interest will be aroused and maintained by the act as a whole. "A measure of the audience enjoyment."

Unless otherwise specified, The length of each act must be from 8 to 12 minutes. A penalty of 1 point (out of 60) will be made for each 30 seconds or part thereof over or under time. At 15 minutes, the act may be required to cease.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

THE DAVARIS ORIGINALITY COMPETITION RULES

- Competitors are competing for the title of "The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club - Originality Magician of The Year" and to keep The Davaris Originality Trophy for 1 year.
- The Trophy will be awarded to the entrant, who in the opinion of the Club Members present, has the best original idea.
- Entrants may perform more than one magic trick / effect, routine or subtlety that they believe is original to magic. However, judges will be instructed to vote for the single best original idea, and not for a combination of separate tricks / effects.
- Entrants must then explain what they believe is original about their trick / effect, routine or subtlety.
- After all entrants have performed, there will be an interval in which all members are invited to notify The President, or in their absence an appointed committee member of any challenges to originality.
- Entrants may be disqualified if their claim to originality is deemed invalid by The President, or in their absence an appointed committee member.
- The President, or in their absence an appointed committee member may make an announcement regarding aspects of acts' originality prior to voting.
- The contest will be judged by all members of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club present by way of casting a single vote for the winner on a secret ballot, which will then be counted by an appointed member of the Committee.
- Members have a duty of impartiality and are obliged to vote on the merits of each performer's originality.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

MAGIC OF THE MIND COMPETITION RULES

- Competitors are competing for the title of "The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club - Mentalist of The Year" and to keep The John A. Lee Memorial Salver for 1 year.
- The John A. Lee Memorial Salver will be awarded to the member performing what the judges feel is the best 'mental item'.
- The term 'mental effect' will be at the discretion of the President, or in their absence an appointed committee member.
- The contest will be judged by all members of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club present by way of casting a single vote for the winner on a secret ballot, which will then be counted by an appointed member of Committee.
- Entrants may perform more than one magic trick / effect, routine.
- Unless otherwise specified, The length of each act must be from 8 to 12 minutes. A penalty of 1 point (out of 60) will be made for each 30 seconds or part thereof over or under time. At 15 minutes, the act may be required to cease.

CHILDREN'S MAGIC COMPETITION RULES

The Competition, before an invited audience, is for the Neville 'Pip' Ayriss Memorial Trophy For Children's Entertainment

For the guidance and assistance of adjudicators and to provide uniformity in the marking of each act, it is required that a maximum of 60 marks be awarded to each competitor, that is, 20 marks under each of the following headings:

a) PRESENTATION

i.e. Dress, stage setting, quality of speech, delivery of speech or quality of music, use of stage. "A measure of how the act comes across to the audience."

b) MYSTERY or MAGIC

i.e. Is the act generally, or are the individual tricks and effects, of a sufficiently magical or mysterious nature? "A measure of the magic content as opposed to drama or comedy."

c) ENTERTAINMENT

i.e. The extent to which an audience's interest will be aroused and maintained by the act as a whole. "A measure of the audience enjoyment."

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

Unless otherwise specified, The length of each act must be from 12 to 15 minutes. A penalty of 1 point (out of 60) will be made for each 30 seconds or part thereof over or under time. At 20 minutes, the act may be required to cease.

THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RULES

The 'Ric Ellam Achievement Award is awarded, at the President's discretion, to the member who has contributed the most to the Club throughout the year.

THE ACHIEVEMENT IN PERFORMING AWARD RULES

The Achievement in Performance Award is awarded to the member, who the committee feels has improved their performance most over the year. The entire committee including The President may vote and in the event of a tie, the President shall make the final decision.

NMC PARLOUR COMPETITION RULES

- Competitors are competing for the title of The NMC Parlour Magician of The Year and to keep the Parlour Magic Trophy for 1 year.
- The competition is for parlour magic - defined as magic suitable for an audience of 50 people.
- Performances shall last 8 -12mins. For every 30 seconds under or over this time 1 vote will be lost.
- The competition will take place at the club's usual meeting place.
- The contest will be judged by all members present of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club and present impartial visitors (visiting family and friends of competitors may not vote) by way of casting a single vote for the winner on a secret ballot, which will then be counted by an appointed member of Committee.
- Second and Third places will go to the competitors with the 2nd and 3rd most votes.
- There is no limit to the number of tricks that can be performed.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB

THE RICHARD STUPPLE TROPHY RULES

The Richard Stupple Trophy will be awarded to the Member who has accumulated the most competition points throughout the programme year which begins at the AGM.

Competition points are gained from entering and placing in competitions at The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club throughout the programme year.

The competition points are awarded from all club competitions as follows:

1st Place (or 1st Equal)	10 points
2nd Place (or 2nd Equal)	5 points
3rd Place (or 3rd Equal)	3 points

and 1 point shall be awarded for every other competition entrant who completes their performance without disqualification.

In the event of a tie, the President shall make the final decision.

END OF RULES