



NWMC Rules

Last updated January 2025

1. The name of the Society shall be:

The North Wales Magic Circle ~ Mae Cylch Hud Gogledd Cymru.

2. Objects:

- 2.1: To further the Art of Magic.
- 2.2: To create and foster friendship between magicians and kindred societies.
- 2.3: To discourage exposure of magical methods, sleights or the workings of equipment/props, either by writing for newspapers or magazines (except those devoted to magic), by the spoken word or by any other form of media.
- 2.4: To safeguard the interests of members of this, or any other magic society, who originates a trick or routine. Any such trick or routine shall not to be copied without the originator's written consent.

3. Membership:

- 3.1: General Membership shall be open to all those who are interested in Magic and who are **sixteen years of age or over**. A child who is 10 to 15 years of age and has a keen interest in magic may apply for Junior Membership. The child will be allowed to attend Circle Meetings, any member under the age of 18, **must be accompanied by their parent/guardian**, who will be personally responsible for their child's behaviour and obeying the Circle Rules, particularly with regard to the Objects of the Circle. The Parent/Guardian must also undertake not to expose any magic trick or method as per Object 2.3. Junior Members shall have no say or vote in Circle affairs.
- 3.2: It is a condition of membership that members must at all times obey the rules of the Circle.
- 3.3: Each applicant for membership must have a proposer and seconder from members of The North Wales Magic Circle, and whose signatures must appear on the application form.
- 3.4: A properly completed application form **MUST** be accompanied by the appropriate Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription (see Rule 3.12) and be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary. The application will then be considered by the Committee at their next regular meeting following the receipt of the application form.
- 3.5: Election to membership will normally be to ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (except in the case of children). Full Membership can be granted to applicants of known/proven magical ability/experience. Acceptance will be by vote of the Committee. Two adverse votes will exclude.
- 3.6: Applicants and proposers may be required to present themselves for interview at a Committee Meeting.
- 3.7: Associates will be required to make their debut performance within 12 months of joining or at a Special Debut Night. The Committee has discretion in this matter. Debut performance must consist of a minimum of THREE EFFECTS of the performer's choice, with a minimum performance time of 6 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes.
- 3.8: Associates whose Debut performance has been accepted and approved by the Committee will be granted FULL Membership and will be presented with The N.W.M.C. Badge and Membership Card at the next ordinary meeting following the Committee meeting after the Debut.
- 3.9: Associates are not allowed to wear the N.W.M.C. Badges until FULL MEMBERSHIP is approved by the Committee.
- 3.10: The Ordinary Annual Membership Subscription shall be decided at the A.G.M. Senior Citizens (i.e., 65 years of age and over), Students (up to age 25 and in full time higher education) and family Membership shall be at 50% reduction. Only ONE paper edition Griffin will be sent per edition per family. Family is defined as both Parents/Guardians plus children domiciled under one roof. Child members age 10 to 15 accompanied by an adult shall pay a lesser annual subscription as decided in the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.11: A joining Fee (which will include the cost of the N.W.M.C. Badge) as decided at the A.G.M., is payable by ALL CLASSES of adult members, irrespective of the month of enrolment. Child members are not required to pay a joining Fee.
- 3.12: New Members enrolled after 1st May in any year will pay half of that year's subscription.
- 3.13: The Membership Year commences on the 1st October and expires 30th September. Annual subscriptions become payable on the 1st December.
- 3.14: A member will be deemed to have resigned if their subscription is not paid by 1st March.
- 3.15: Members are expected to dress in a neat and tidy manner, especially at open meetings.
- 3.16: The Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel Members on the grounds of gross misconduct - especially for deliberate exposures as defined under Rule 2.3

- 3.17: As agreed at the 2008 AGM the annual subscriptions be routinely increased by approximately 10% every two years at the discretion of the committee.
- 3.18: Lecture fees will be charged at a rate set by the committee

4. Management and Annual General Meeting:

- 4.1: The affairs of the Circle shall be under the management of Officers and Committee elected annually in the Annual General Meeting and shall include the President Elect, and also the Immediate Past President who shall serve for ONE YEAR following his/her Presidency.
- 4.2: The Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as possible after October 31st to receive reports, to deliberate any proposed alteration to rules or other proposals, to inaugurate the New President, and to elect a President Elect. Treasurer, Secretary/Welfare Officer, Griffin Editor, Entertainments Officer, Minute Secretary, Book Librarian, Media Librarian, Competition Organiser, Photographer and three Ordinary Members, and to transact any other business. Honorary Vice Presidents shall be Life Vice Presidents, limited to FIVE and appointed by the A.G.M.
- Standard Presidential term to last two years.**
Should the elected President decide that they do not wish to serve a second year they are to notify the Committee in August of their first year in office.
- 4.3: Nomination papers together with advance notice of the A.G.M. shall be sent to all members by August 31st.
- 4.4: Alterations to Rules, and nominations for office which must be signed by the Nominee and the proposer and seconder, must be received by the Hon. Secretary by the 1st October. Nominations received after the October Committee Meeting will only be considered for offices which nominations had not been received at or before the October Committee Meeting.
- 4.5: The Agenda and proposals for alterations to rules shall be published with the October Griffin or sent to each member by post or e-mail seven days before the A.G.M.
- 4.6: The Hon Treasurer shall submit at the AGM written Statements of (i) Income & Expenditure and (ii) Assets & Liabilities as at 30th September.
- 4.7: Postal or emailed Votes received by the Circle Secretary after 19.40hrs on the day of A.G.M. will be void.
- 4.8: Method of voting shall be by a show of hands plus Postal or emailed Votes received by the Circle Secretary (except for the contested election of officers and committee which shall be by ballot).
- 4.9: The Committee shall have the power to CO-OPT members.

5. Visitors/Guests

- 5.1: Members may introduce a visitor/guest to a closed meeting provided that the visitor is a bone fide magician, member of a recognised magic Club or Society or has applied for Membership of NWMC. A closed meeting is defined as any meeting that involves general exposure of magical methods or sleights e.g. Lectures and Teach-Ins. Where an entrance fee is payable, visitors/guests (apart from those who have applied for membership) shall pay a higher fee at a rate decided at AGM.
- 5.2: The same visitor must not be introduced to a closed meeting more than three times in any period of twelve months.
- 5.3: Friends/family of members are welcome to attend any meetings that are designated "open".

6. Meetings

- 6.1: The North Wales Magic Circle Ordinary Meetings are held at 8:00pm (7:30pm for prior social interaction) on the First Tuesday of every month, unless it clashes with a holiday or event that the committee deem it necessary to move it to an alternative date, at the designated venue. Further nights may be added to accommodate visiting Lecturers. Details will be announced at preceding Ordinary Meetings and published in The Griffin, on Facebook and on the website.
- 6.2: There should be a minimum of one Committee Meeting every three months.
- 6.3: A quorum shall be formed by four members, one of which should be the President, President Elect, Secretary or Treasurer.

7. Competition Rules

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Entries will be accepted by contacting the competitions officer, either by telephone, e-mail or social media and must be received within the time specified.
- 7.1.2 Should the appointed Organiser wish to enter a competition, then a non-competing Committee Member shall be co-opted to be the Official Organiser for that event.
- 7.1.3 A draw of all those who have entered will take place twenty minutes before the timed commencement of the contest.
A competitor not in attendance immediately before the previously drawn contestant commences to

perform will be DISQUALIFIED, the vacant position being taken by the next drawn competitor.
If a competitor is drawn No.1 and he/she is not in attendance at the time of the draw he/she will be disqualified, at the discretion of the competitions officer.

- 7.1.4 Only paid-up Members can enter a competition.
- 7.1.5 Any disqualification will be announced before the commencement of the next act.
- 7.1.6 An official timekeeper will be appointed who is to log the duration of each performance.
The timekeeper will be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate time warning signal is given during the performance.
An audible/visual warning will be announced two minutes before the stipulated competition performance time is due to expire and at the end of the allotted time.
An overrun of time will result in DISQUALIFICATION however the performer should finish the effect that is in progress as soon as possible after the final warning signal.
- 7.1.7 Each competitor shall be responsible for setting up their own stage/table/props etc.
Under no circumstances may a competitor request the help of the Competition Organiser, President or any of the judges in preparation or performance of his/her act.
- 7.1.8 The competitor's titles, qualifications or achievements, of any kind, must not be announced either before performance or when introducing the competitor.
- 7.1.9 Where there is a tie for first place in any Circle competition, the names of such winners in that Competition will be inscribed on the Trophy and each of the joint winners to hold it for an equal length of time.
- 7.1.10 The announcement of winners will take place on the day/evening of the competition and the presentation of trophies shall take place at the Annual Dinner.
The winner(s) shall be responsible for the safe-keeping of trophies and may be requested to cover the cost of any loss or damage.
Trophies must be returned in a clean/polished condition prior to the following Annual Dinner.
- 7.1.11 The decision of the Competition Organiser is final.
- 7.1.12 The minimum times are recommended times only.
- 7.1.13 At the end of the performances the competitors are reintroduced prior to the voting and a list of each competitor and their number will be available near the voting boxes.
- 7.1.14 Each spectator (or only children spectators at the Children's Entertainer Competition) will be given 1 marble. At the end of the performances each audience member deposits their marble in the voting boxes, labelled with the competing individual's number, they consider should be the winner.
- 7.1.15 A tally is done (by the competition organiser and other witness) and the winner is announced.
- 7.1.16 The Competition Organiser will publicly announce the winner at the end of the competition. No other positions will be publicly announced.
- 7.1.17 Any of the other competitors who wish to know how they fared can request to be advised privately (this would be in form of only their position without any further detail regarding the position of other competitors).

7.2 Stage/Cabaret Competition

- 7.2.1 The contest will take place on a stage.
- 7.2.2 The performance shall be not less than 10 minutes and not more than 15 minutes.
- 7.2.3 An audible/visual warning shall be given at 13 minutes.

7.4 Close Up

- 7.4.1 The performance shall be not less than 8 minutes and not more than 12 minutes.
- 7.4.2 An audible warning shall be given after 10 minutes have elapsed.
- 7.4.3 Tables will be provided for competitors but may be supplemented by competitors' own mats, close up cases or other aids with a maximum height of twelve inches/300mm/30cm.

- 7.4.4 Competitors may be required to perform their act at each table in turn.
There will be a maximum of four tables.
- 7.4.5 Competitors are required to perform seated at or standing behind the table or directly to a spectator adjacent to the table.
Effects and properties (props) used must be those primarily intended for Close Up work.
Large apparatus or tricks which are essentially for platform use are excluded, and the use of such will result in disqualification.
- 7.4.6 In fairness to other Competitors, where more than one is competing at the same time, music accompaniment or other loud distractions are not permitted during the performance.

7.5 Competition Rules: Mental

- 7.5.1 The contest will take place on a stage, if available.
- 7.5.2 The performance shall be not less than 15 minutes and not more than 20 minutes.
- 7.5.3 An audible/visual signal will be given at 18 minutes.

7.6 Competition Rules: Children's Entertainer Award

- 7.6.1 Each year the Committee may at its discretion organise a children's performance.
The performance will run for a minimum of one hour without an interval or a minimum of two forty minutes halves with one interval.
- 7.6.2 The total time will be divided by the number of contestants entering, allowing sufficient time for announcing.
The number involved will therefore dictate the time allowed for each act.
- 7.6.3 Judging will be by a panel of children, excepting occasions where children present are too young to understand the requirements.
Adults in charge of them will be asked to judge in the latter case.
- 7.6.4 All entries must be submitted to the competition organiser 2 months prior to the competition.
- 7.6.5 An audible/visual signal will be given 2 minutes before the allotted time is up.

7.7 Competition Rules: Comedy Award

- 7.7.1 Comedy Award-will be awarded by the committee without consultation with the members, however any member who considers that a performance of a member should be considered for the award may bring this to the attention of a committee member who must put this forward in due course
- 7.7.2 The committee will draw up a list of suitable candidates (for any performance of a member deemed to be suitably amusing) be it in a competition or at any NWMC/CHGC meeting/event) followed by a vote of the committee members. This process will take place at the committee meeting held immediately prior to the annual dinner.

8. The Circle's Book & Multi Media Libraries – General Rules

The Libraries for both books and multi media are opened at the start of each meeting for the borrowing and returning of books, videos, CD's and DVD's.

Both Librarians are pleased to receive gifts and donations of books, videos and dvds on magic and associated arts or on subjects of particular interest to magicians. However, due to transport and storage limitations, the Book Librarian CANNOT accept magical magazines or periodicals.

8.1: Rules for the Circle Book Library

- 8.1.1: The lending library of books and periodicals are to appertain to magic and allied arts and will be available for the sole use of Members of the North Wales Magic Circle - Cylch Hud Gogledd Cymru.
- 8.1.2: The library stock will be maintained, stored, and catalogued by a Book Librarian, elected annually in the Annual general Meeting. The Book Librarian will also maintain a record of Lending and of fees obtained for the borrowing of books.
- 8.1.3: A sub committee of two members will be elected from the members of the General Committee to decide which books to purchase.

- 8.1.4: Members may borrow up to 2 books at a time for a charge as set by the committee per book. Items will be loaned for 1 month.
- 8.1.5: A fine as set by the committee per book/per month will be levied for late return of books. Loan of a book may be renewed at the discretion of the Librarian and be subject to an additional payment of the normal hire fee for each month of the extended/renewed loan.
- 8.1.6: The period of ONE MONTH is defined as from the first Tuesday Meeting Night to the next Tuesday meeting night Irrespective of how many days are in the month.
- 8.1.7: NO part of the books borrowed must be copied, as this is an infringement of Copyright. Permission to copy any part of books created by members should be obtained from the creator concerned.
- 8.1.8: Members are responsible for looking after and returning items borrowed. If a book is lost or damaged whilst on loan, the member will be charged for the repair or replacement cost as identified by the Librarian. If no exact replacement is obtainable, then the Member will be charged for the book's value as determined by the Librarian.
- 8.1.9: Books classified as collectors' items may be loaned at the discretion of the Librarian. A refundable deposit will be required on the loan of a rare or valuable book, the amount of deposit to be at the Librarian's discretion, but for a minimum of £5.

8.2. Rules for the Circle Multi Media Library

- 8.2.1: The Multi Media Lending Library of video tapes, cds and dvds are to appertain to magic and allied arts and will be available for the sole use of Members of the North Wales Magic Circle - Cylch Hud Gogledd Cymru.
- 8.2.2: The library stock will be maintained, stored, and catalogued by a Multi Media Librarian, elected annually in the Annual General Meeting. The Multi Media Librarian will also maintain a record of Lending and of fees obtained for the borrowing of multi media materials
- 8.2.3: A sub committee of two members will be elected from the members of the General Committee to decide which videotapes, cds and dvds to purchase.
- 8.2.4: The period of loan will be one month at a loan fee as determined by the committee, per item per month. Fines for overdue items will be twice the normal monthly loan fee per item for each month overdue.
- 8.2.5: The period of ONE MONTH is defined as from the first Tuesday Meeting Night to the next Tuesday meeting night irrespective of how many days are in the month.
- 8.2.6: Commercial Video Tapes, cds or dvds MUST NOT be copied, as this is an infringement of Copyright. Permission to copy any material taken of members or those made by and/or members should be obtained from the members concerned

9. The Griffin

The Griffin is the journal of the North Wales Magic Circle and is normally published monthly. Each member, or household in the case of family membership, receives a copy either through the post or by email. Electronic (email) transmission is the preferred method of distribution as it saves the society printing and production costs and benefits the environment. Back issues of The Griffin are also available on the NWMC website. The Griffin contains information on forthcoming monthly meetings and chronicles the activities of the society along with other information, and articles of interest to the membership.

Articles and information intended for publication should be sent to the editor. Submissions can be sent by email to the email address noted in the Griffin.