



# INFORMATION PACK 2009

**Secretary: Barry J Martin**

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## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER ?

Thank you for your enquiry about becoming a member of The Leicester Magic Circle.

Membership shall be confined to persons 16 years of age and over, who are practising magic in an amateur, semi-professional, professional capacity or who have made a study of magical methods and principles.

Our Annual Subscription for 2008/2009 is £40 for out of county members and £57 for in county members with an entrance fee of £10

Once your application has been received our rules require that your name is read out at a general meeting and providing there are no objections after a period of seven days you will be invited to attend an audition before the Executive Committee.

Following acceptance by the committee and the successful performance of an audition, which may include a magical performance should the committee so wish, the applicant shall be designated an 'ASSOCIATE MEMBER' for a period of 12 months from the date of the committee approval. At the end of that period the ASSOCIATE shall be called into FULL MEMBERSHIP of the circle, provided that the committee is of the opinion that the ASSOCIATE is a fit and proper person to be so accepted. The Committee shall have the power to refuse FULL MEMBERSHIP to an ASSOCIATE MEMBER and the committee shall not be obliged to give any reason for such refusal. After being an ASSOCIATE MEMBER for 12 months and finally approved by the committee the applicants application form shall again be read out before a meeting of the members and if after 7 days there has been no objection put to the Secretary in writing the ASSOCIATE MEMBER shall be initiated into FULL MEMBERSHIP at the next convenient closed meeting.

We appreciate your interest in The Leicester Magic Circle and I hope to be able to welcome you as a member. Please complete the Membership Application Form and return to me at your convenience, at this stage there is no need to complete the Application to participate in the CRB Vetting Scheme.

Meanwhile if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry J Martin", written over a dotted line.

Barry J Martin  
Secretary



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

### THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE.

Secretary : Barry J Martin 10 Mitchell Drive Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 5FG  
Tel : (01509) 843066 Fax (01509) 844453 Mobile: (07885) 959520  
Email: lmcircle@hotmail.com

FULL NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel.No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Please state whether Amateur - Semi-Professional - Professional - Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other magical society ? \_\_\_\_\_

If so which ? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to join THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been interested in magic ? \_\_\_\_\_

Mention a few effects you can perform competently: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you prepared to give an audition before the Executive Committee of THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note:

Completed application forms should be signed (PTO) and returned to the Secretary. (Address above)

# DECLARATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

hereby promise ( if admitted to THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE )

- (a) To abide by and act in accordance with the rules of the Circle
- (b) That I will not intentionally disclose any magical secret other than to:-
  - A brother magician
  - A pupil under magical instruction
  - The Editor of any publication devoted entirely to magic.
- (c) That I will not copy any original magical idea or an original line of presentation of any magical effect, without first obtaining the originator's written consent.
- (d) That I will at all times use my best endeavours to elevate the Art of Magic and promote the interest and welfare of the Circle.

On receipt of an application for membership it shall be read out at a meeting of members and if after seven days there has been no objection put to the secretary in writing the application shall be put to the committee. Following acceptance by the committee and successful performance of an audition, the applicant shall be initiated at the next convenient closed meeting of the circle. On being accepted into membership the applicant shall pay the entrance fee together with one year's subscription.

Signature of applicant : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT proposer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT seconder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**( Please note we can provide a Proposer & Seconder if required – Leave the space blank and you will be contacted by the Secretary )**

Committee decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Founded 1924

### Brief History

The Leicester Magic Circle.

Ramada Jarvis Hotel  
Granby Street  
Leicester  
LE1 6ES

### History of the Society

The Leicester Magic Circle has a long history – one of the longest in the world, in fact. Eddy Ward, one of the founder members recalls how half a dozen enthusiasts met regularly on Saturday afternoons, eventually booking a room the Turkey Café in Leicester. Will Sutton was chairman, Albert Ballard designed the badge.

There is some debate about whether the first meeting was held in 1922 or 1924 but we seemed to settle on a year of 1924. Meetings were held monthly with a whip-round to pay for the room.

Soon the Circle was moved to Secular Hall and then to the Y.M.C.A. Interest slackened after a couple of years but revived in 1935, centred around Wilf Hubbards Magic Shop in Waterloo Street Leicester. Meetings started up again at King Richard Public House, among those present being Chris van Bern, Cecil Tebbett and Wilf Hubbard. Cyril Gibbons (Cyraldo of tubes, silks and liquid fame) insisted the Circle be run on businesslike lines, he was the first chairman of the reconstituted society. Wilf Hubbard was Secretary and Eddy Ward Treasurer/Librarian.

Soon Headquarters moved to the White Hart Hotel and Sir Julien Cahn became President. To this day the Leicester Magic Circle holds a competition amongst members for the Sir Julien Cup, held until 1999 at Stanford Hall Theatre, near Loughborough. Stanford Hall was the home of Sir Julien where he built a 352 seater theatre with cinema organ (Wurlitzer) in 1938 so he could perform himself, whenever he wanted to do so.

In 1935 the first Annual Dinner was held and in 1936 came the first visit by another society – the Midland Magical Society. The circle itself 'went foreign' for the first time with a visit to the Northampton Magicians Club in March 1936. Seven magicians performed, Robert Harbin was guest artist. That year (1936) saw a move to the Victory Hotel and in July the members went en masse to the Great Levante Show at the Opera House, having arranged for the performance to be halted briefly whilst they presented a Leicester Magic Circle badge to Levante. In October 1936 the circle presented its first big public show at the so-called Little Theatre. Such shows were continued over the years – performers always included well known names – Rex Reader, Billy Wilson and Cliff Townsend to name but a few. About this time the circle started doing charity shows at hospitals and other venues, an activity which continues to this very day.

When in 1939 the war started the Headquarters moved to the Foresters Institute and then to the Royal Hotel and the Bell Hotel, enjoying a long, happy spell here until the hotel was demolished as part of a rebuilding programme in Leicester. The final move was to the elegant, centrally situated Grand Hotel where 80 members still meet fortnightly.

The officers serve it well, for example Gordon Collin 35 years as secretary was recognised with Life Vice Presidency in 1985 and 50 year long service award in 2000. Doug Jones became a Life Vice President in 1981 in recognition of 21 years as Stage Manager. Alan Holmes had been Treasurer from 1977 until his tragic death in 1995. In November 1999 Roy Johnson received from the Magic Circle the J.N.Maskelyn Prize for major contribution to the literature of magic. He also received at the Leicester Annual Dinner in April 1999 the 50 year long service award.

The Leicester Magic Circle is perhaps the best equipped provincial magical society including a reference and lending library of over 500 books stored safely at the Grand Hotel where members may borrow books free of charge. Its popular President's Night and Annual Dinner firmly established as highlights of its social calendar, its competitions for the Sir Julien Cahn Cup (stage magic) the Alan Brook Holmes Trophy (children's magic) and the Roy Johnson Cup (close-up magic) ..... The active, friendly, well heeled and well talented Leicester Magic Circle strides confidently toward the next century.

### *The First President.*

Sir Julien Cahn (bart) Lord of the manor of Stanford on Soar. Born in 1882 he was an eminently successful businessman, knighted in 1929 and receiving his baronetcy in 1934. His interests were varied; he supported the arts and sport. He was master of several hunts and the exploits of his own cricket XI are legendary and without parallel. His great love however was magic and this led to the building of the private theatre adjoining Stanford Hall. The theatre was designed by a cinema architect both as a cinema and theatre and based on the Grenada Theatre. Seating 352 it was built in 1938 at a considerable cost.

Sir Julian was a magician in his own right, he and his staff developed many magical effects and illusions. He frequently performed them to an invited audience on the stage of his theatre. He was a member of the British Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) and was the President of the Leicester Magic Circle from 1936 until his death in 1944.

### *The Leicester Magic Circle's 'At Homes'*

Our first At Home held in 1969 at the Bell Hotel, Leicester was experimental but it was very successful and many more quickly followed. It is now listed in the hundreds.

At Home is quite different to any form of entertainment available today. Briefly it consists of close-up or table magic performers with the audience seated round small tables, ideally ten to a table. Six tables are used, at which six close-up magicians perform for ten minutes, simultaneously moving on to all the tables in turn. An interval of five minutes between acts enables the audience to purchase drinks from the private bar.

Halfway through the proceedings, (after three acts) there is an intermission for the serving of a buffet. The evening's entertainment is rounded off with a cabaret act, which usually take the form of a modern illusion or silent colourful act.

These 'At Homes' take place in the luxury of the Grand Hotel, Granby Street, Leicester, generally on Thursday evenings in an atmosphere specially created by the members. The accent is on fun and judging by the number of repeat bookings it is well appreciated by our audience.