

## Skills & Events Convener Report

Convener - Anne Howat



The committee have been meeting regularly to discuss the way forward.

So far this year we have been busy looking at Competitions & Events, Proficiency & Judges tests, Evelyn Baxter Scholarship and events on-line and in person.

This required first of all looking at each event/competition financially and view how viable they were. It became clear from the analysis of each event that losses could not continue. Travelling expenses that are paid to the teams competing at these events was the main reason for the losses.

The committee proceeded to discuss each event in detail and fully assess whether the event/competition needs to be reviewed to revamp, changed, or continue with monitoring it. In the case of events that need to be completely reviewed, these might need to put on hold till a redesign is ready. In the case of events that needed a slight change, they would continue and make change without putting on hold. Funding for these expenses is no longer available therefore travelling expenses would be phased out with some exceptions for the Highlands & Islands.

### Proficiency Tests & Judges Tests

A sub committee was formed to look at the tests. The title of these tests and process didn't clearly define the route to achieving the certificates. The language needs to equate to modern skills, include levels including beginner, intermediate and advanced. The National Judges were invited to join this subcommittee and bring their experience to the discussions. A lot of thought and work went into revamping the process. A framework for working through the levels of achievement work in progress at the moment. We aim to bring tests into line with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

Meanwhile Federations have been asked to submit information to assess how many members have articles waiting for tests. It is hoped that Federations will get together and create a viable centre for the National Judges by opening by up to neighbouring Federations. Work is ongoing as to how we can accommodate the Judges test within this framework.

### Evelyn Baxter Scholarship

This is a unique scholarship within the SWI and the success of this is unmeasurable. This was demonstrated at the National Conference in Perth with the Vaughan Nash having record entries. Many of the items displayed demonstrated skills that the members had gained through the Evelyn Baxter classes. However, the process is complicated, particularly for judging and the amount of space required, both for judging and storage. The fee also needs to be more realistic. The language needs to be clearer with and re-packaged to explain what the competition is. This will be reviewed before the next National Conference.

**Summer School** The uptake for this year is encouraging with the number at over 110 so far. In the future this will take place once every triennium.

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**SWI Tour** to the Peak District has proved popular with a full coach going on the tour.

### **Online events**

Online events are successful, there is currently a good balance between online and in person events. All are well attended, and non-members are engaging and paying a small fee. All events are evaluated, example will be shared with committee.

**Sports competitions** vary in costs. The Golf and Curling is suspended due to the cost of green and ice fees. Bowling competitions don't incur the same costs therefore are continuing meantime.

The decision to suspend some of the events is challenging and not easy decisions to make but necessary to preserve the finances and ensure a viable future. The committee appreciate it will be disappointing to some members, but it is necessary at this point not to continue running them at a loss. Be assured that the committee is investigating how to revisit these events if the numbers add up.

The committee have looked at suggestions for some new events with the view to incorporating some of the events that have been put on hold. Suggestions from members would be appreciated.

My thanks to the Skills & Events Committee members and the staff at SWI Central Office for their support and input over the last year.



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