



# SWI Skills & Events committee Achievements 2024

## Meetings and Events

### Main committee

- 10 committee meetings held in 2024.
- 14 committee members.
- Committee attendance rate 77.5%.

### Sub Committee

- Established for 2024 involving 10 SWI members, meets online monthly.

## SWI national events

- **National sporting competitions**  
Indoor Bowling, Outdoor Bowling and Ruralympics.
- **National competitions**  
Variations on a Theme, Photography, Warnock Trophy and Evelyn Baxter.
- **SWI Study Tour to The Peak District, 2023**
- 50 members attended, Anne Howat facilitated with support from members.
- **SWI Summer School, August 2024**
- 120 attendees, Mary Burney and Anne Howat facilitated the evening entertainment and organisation, supported by SWI members.

## Committee development

- **Evelyn Baxter Scholarship pathway**  
Forming a structured learning pathway for SWI's flagship programme.
- **SWIFTS development**  
Creating an attractive alternative to National Proficiency Tests – SWI Framework for Textile Skills / SWI Food Techniques – which offer members a recognised qualification and a clear learning pathway from beginner level to advanced level within the SWI and encourage more members to sit tests and become judges.
- **New sporting events**  
Gathering Federation interest for short-mat or ten-pin bowling as area events.

## Committee development (part 2)

- **Enhancing current competitions**

Updating and standardising guidelines for host Federations, working towards introducing spectator fees for sporting events and developing competitions which are attractive to younger members.

- **Assessing SWI Summer School and SWI Study Tour**

Utilising feedback from Study Tours and Summer School for continual improvement and maximum member enjoyment and satisfaction.

## Successful new initiatives

- **Evelyn Baxter Scholarship enhancements**
  - Expanded the number of scholars for 2024/2025
  - Introduced a workshop as part of the Evelyn Baxter scholarship.
- **Online Event Guidance**

Produced clear instructions for booking cancellations.
- **Communications**

Expanded the use of social media for event promotion and communication.

## Assessments and decisions

- **Matter of Opinion** competitions paused due to lack of entries.
- **Indoor Bowling** and **Curling** competitions paused in 2025 following survey feedback from Federations.
- Transitioned **Variations on a Theme** online due to low uptake.
- Decided on venues, classes, and cities for **SWI Summer School** and **SWI Study Tour** events.
- Devised competition themes for **Warnock**, **Photography**, and **Vaughan Nash**.
- Selected craft for 2025 **Evelyn Baxter Scholarship Programme**.
- Implemented committee 'Event Leads' for events and competitions.

## **Financial Sustainability**

- Ensured all events achieve profitability or at least break even.
- Increased costs for Evelyn Baxter classes across Federations.
- Raised sporting competition entry fees.
- Communicated phased-out approach of the Action Appeal grant.

## **Governance and Communication**

- Committee aligned with national strategy.
- Skills & Events committee reports to SWI AGM.
- Regular Skills & Events communications in the e-newsletter and e-magazine.
- Member-led.

## Next steps: Align with the SWI Strategic Plan

- Maintain financial sustainability of SWI events.
- Explore events to attract new and younger members i.e. craft workshops, upcycling, beginner classes.
- Monitor uptake of National competitions to ensure financial viability.
- Communicate what traditional events/competitions are for new members, . e.g. Warnock Trophy, Variations on a Theme, to ensure they are as accessible as possible.



**Thank you!**