

These minutes share the main decisions and discussions from the SWI Board of Trustees meetings. To respect confidentiality, we have removed names, sensitive business information, and any topics that are legally or commercially private.

The purpose of these reports is to keep members updated while protecting personal privacy and the organisation's strategic interests. Please note that this is not a word-for-word record, but an approved summary of key points and agreed actions.

SWI Board Meeting – Minutes (Public Version)

- **Date:** 2nd June 2025

Attendees

- Board Trustees (online)
- CEO (staff representative)

Apologies: 2 trustees

Opening

- The meeting was chaired by the National President, who welcomed attendees.
 - No declarations of interest were made.
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Previous Minutes

- Minutes and action logs of 27th March 2025 and 29th April 2025 were approved.
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Chair's Report

- Attendance at UK and federation events, with thanks given for trustee support at the AGM.
- AGM was attended by over 100 members. Minutes and FAQs have been shared with federations.
- Ongoing engagement in committees and member meetings.

CEO Report

Growth Priority

- Target: 2 new group launches per month (excluding summer/winter).
- Planned launches in Stonehaven and Galashiels, with strong attendance expected.
- Central office is currently leading on new group growth due to limited interest from federations.
- New staff roles in membership development, events, and heritage have commenced or are about to start.

Partnerships

- Developing national partnership campaigns, including a winter knitting initiative.
- Exploring opportunities with external organisations.

Member Priorities

- Ongoing issues with bank charges being monitored.
 - Monthly e-news and heritage e-news have consistent readership (circa 3,000).
 - Member-led committees and volunteering opportunities continue.
 - New website on track for Summer/Autumn 2025 launch, with member feedback integrated.
 - Peer groups to be reviewed via federation survey.
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Heritage/Home for our Heritage

- Expression of Interest submitted to National Lottery Heritage Fund.
 - Ongoing events and volunteering, including magazine digitisation.
 - Exploratory discussions with cultural institutions on exhibitions.
 - Contingency planning required if funding is unsuccessful.
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UK Supreme Court Ruling

- CEO updated board on potential legal implications.
 - Discussion of risks, legal costs, and external legal advice.
 - Monitoring developments with national organisations and awaiting further guidance.
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Board Recruitment

- Applications received for trustee roles. Interviews will be conducted.
 - Longer-term challenge: trustee retirements in 2026.
 - Plans for recruitment campaign on the new website, including testimonials and case studies.
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Finance

- Q1 accounts approved.
 - Summer school expected to break even.
 - Discussion on use of restricted investment funds (no action at this time).
 - Loan and expense adjustments approved.
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Policy Review

- Absence management policy to be reviewed and updated.
 - Need identified for policy covering ageing members and safeguarding considerations.
 - Ongoing review of policies at each meeting.
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Any Other Business

- A member concern was raised and addressed; future process for handling correspondence discussed.
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Risk Register

- No changes reported.
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Approvals and Actions

Approvals:

- March and April board minutes
- Trustee interviews
- Q1 accounts
- Adjustments to funding and expenses
- Ratification of credit card loan process

Actions:

- CEO to liaise with legal advisors re: UK Supreme Court ruling
- Board to review member correspondence response
- CEO to review costs of Federation classes and report
- CEO to progress trustee recruitment process
- CEO to prepare federation survey on peer groups
- CEO to review absence management and elder member policy options
- CEO to prepare trustee recruitment campaign for 2026

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