

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: 8th October 2025

Attendees

Board Trustees (online) and CEO (staff representative)

Apologies: 2 trustees

Opening

The meeting was chaired by the National President.

- No declarations of interest were reported.

Previous Minutes

- Minutes and action log from 6th August 2025 were approved.
- A minor point regarding tense usage in minutes was noted for future monitoring.

Chair's Report

- Update provided on recent engagement activities, including participation in podcasts and national events.
- Feedback from recent events was positive overall, with some logistical issues noted for future improvement.
- Attendance at sector debrief meetings highlighted areas requiring follow-up action.

UK Supreme Court Ruling

- CEO provided an update on legal guidance and its implications for the organisation.
- The board noted ongoing developments in national guidance.
- Members will be consulted on future organisational approach in line with legal advice.

Membership Update

- Updates provided on national campaigns, member communication tools, events, and new institute development.
- Some planned activities were impacted by adverse weather conditions.
- Ongoing challenges with engagement across a small number of federations were discussed.
- Board agreed that publishing redacted board minutes whilst adhering to GDPR would improve transparency and member confidence.
- Discussion held on encouraging greater member participation in governance and committees.

Website

- CEO presented a walkthrough of the new website, highlighting improved functionality and event integration.
- Website launch will be supported by podcasts, with a formal review after three months.
- Promotion to members and the wider public will be prioritised.

The Crichton Project

- The board agreed to pause progress for six months while reflecting on funder feedback and exploring alternative options.
- Ongoing discussions continue regarding securing a permanent home for the heritage collection.

Exploring Alternative Heritage Solutions

- Options discussed included partnerships with rural museums and other suitable venues.
- Cataloguing work continues, with consideration given to safeguarding and accessibility of collections.
- Board agreed to continue discussions with national heritage bodies to help inform discussions and decisions.

NDS Touring Exhibition

- Update provided on a proposed touring exhibition in partnership with GSA.
- The exhibition aims to showcase traditional and contemporary craft, subject to securing funding.

- Potential benefits include education, member and public engagement, and income generation.
- Board recognised the opportunity to raise the organisation's profile nationally.

Triennium

- Update provided on the launch of the Triennium campaign, including board and committee transitions.
- Plans confirmed for online sessions and discussions to encourage member engagement.
- Importance of peer-to-peer promotion highlighted.

Policy Review

- Introduction of a new Dignity at Work Policy noted, as part of wider anti-harassment obligations.
- The following policies were reviewed and approved with minor amendments:
 - Code of Conduct
 - Safeguarding
 - Anti-Harassment and Bullying

Any Other Business

- Draft 2026 board meeting dates discussed and minor correction identified.
- Member suggestions from recent meetings included:
 - Earlier launch of the 2026 membership survey
 - Rotating hosting of competitions between federations

Risk Register

- No changes reported.

Meeting Close

- The chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Approvals and Actions

Approvals:

- Minutes from 6th August 2025
- Updated Code of Conduct, Safeguarding, and Anti-Harassment policies
- Six-month reflection period to explore alternatives to the Crichton project

Actions:

- Launch Triennium campaign
- Progress NDS Touring Exhibition development
- Circulate redacted board minutes for publication
- Continue liaison with legal advisors
- Keep board informed of federation engagement updates
- Issue corrected 2026 meeting dates
- Refer competition-hosting suggestion to Skills & Events Committee