

**Minutes of a Meeting of the SBU Board of Trustees
held on 24 June 2025 at 2.00 pm.**

In the Chair: Alan Goodman (resigned 24/6/25)
Sarah Gunn (Elected 24/6/25)

Present: Jean McLaren
Ronan Valentine (2-3pm)
Mike Hodder
Robert Ferrari (from 4pm)

In attendance: Bob McKinnon (Ops Coordinator)
Apologies: Ian Patrick

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Election of Chair of Trustees and Chair of Finance Committee

Sarah Gunn elected as Chair of Trustees of the SBU, with immediate effect
Robert Ferrari elected as Chair of Finance Committee of the SBU, with immediate effect

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4. Actions arising from April 2025 meeting

Issue	Responsibility of	Update
International Report	MH (item c)	(see below)
	IYC update	Paul Maiolani is now the IYC (Paul Barton resigned)
Board self-evaluation - Trustee minutes on website	AG	With Damien Byron to be uploaded
Standing orders to be re-viewed	IP	Deferred to August board Meeting
Overseas congress	SG	Contract now signed with Fred Bridge. Anne P had a successful visit to the hotel and the dates are confirmed for 2026; 26/05/26- 2/6/2026
Communications	RV	Agenda item
Review of Bye laws	IP	Deferred to August Board Meeting
National Congress	BM	(see below)

5. Matters arising from the April minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

Safeguarding and child protection at the SBU Summer youth Camp.

Mike Hodder has raised some questions with Michael Rushworth and is also in correspondence with Alex Hunter, the SBU Safeguarding Officer and these are summarised below:

1. What are the outdoor activities planned? It would help with an understanding of the potential risks if the activities are identified.
2. Ditto for the evening social activities
3. Some specific issues
 - (i) Have the venue caterers been informed of the severe peanut allergies?
 - (ii) Have the SBU specified minimum ratios of responsible adults to students- dependent on ages?
 - (iii) Abuse/drinking alcohol should be an identified risk with corresponding mitigating controls.

Mike Hodder considers the format of the Risk Assessment to be limiting. In discussion with Alex Hunter (SBU safeguarding officer) their view is that putting too much emphasis on the numerical harm and likelihood ratings distracts the reader from the important bit - the control measures.

Action: MH to report back to trustees (via email by 4 July) that the Youth Camp organising team have put in place adequate controls to mitigate his concerns (above).

National congress – intention is to hold 2 Events in Glasgow and Edinburgh for Bronze/Silver players

6. Approval of draft AGM minutes

Approval to be deferred to august meeting. NB these will always be “draft” until approved at 2026 AGM but the intention is to upload them to the website if no further queries from trustees.

Action: AG to upload draft minutes to trustees sharepoint – August board meeting. Approval of trustees sought at next meeting.

7. Finance Report.

Sarah presented a report following the finance committee meeting on 7 June. No actions required – just for noting

8. Communications

Ronan-Sarah-Bob met to agree a way forward in terms of communication. The general outline is below:

- i) Ronan has been in contact with Neil Archibald. Productive discussions have been had. Neil has shared what he was working on, outlined the difficulties he faced, and has agreed to act as a sounding board to Ronan. Neil is open to supporting in a more involved role, if the role/timing is right.
- ii) The general strategy would be that the website becomes our hub that has content for members to engage with.
- iii) The publication of the SB News will be put on hold until we understand its role in our communications strategy.
- iv) The idea that would work in conjunction with the website renewal, is that we would generate a monthly newsletter which would link to content on the website. The convenors would send copy to a 'newsletter editor' and that would then be sent to members. We would also wish to include a club highlight section to hopefully build a better connection between our clubs and the SBU.
- v) By the end of the calendar year, we would then be able to look at developing social media presence with the idea, again, of pushing people to a functional website. Interestingly, the Clyde Bridge Centre have hired someone to do their social media. Our plan is to see how this works over the next 6 months, and to evaluate the viability of that proposal for the SBU.

Outcomes after the meeting:

1. Sarah has approached Jack Shearer with the possibility of paying him to produce a regular newsletter and to get his thoughts on the current website and how the SBU can adapt it to make it a better communications tool for both current members and prospective players. **No response yet from JS**
2. Ronan has asked Neil if he would consider being the newsletter editor and if he isn't prepared to do it, Ronan would be willing to

The trustees agreed that to move this project forward will incur costs initially and on a regular basis. This should be factored into the budget for 25/26

Actions: Sarah to email the trustees with the previous review document of the website (July 2023). Ronan to continue to lead on this project with support from Bob and Sarah.

9. Pay2Play

Alan referred to the minutes of the initial meeting held 3 June (tabled). Further to previous discussions the Trustees agreed that in principle this was a fair and effective way to generate revenue to cover overheads.

Members of the operating team did not consider the implementation to be too onerous or requiring expensive technical updates to existing systems and processes. The start date of 1 January 2026 was deemed manageable.

The level of charge will be determined by the finance committee and be part of the budgeting process for 25/26.

The main difficulty will be communicating to the clubs and ultimately members. The 2 main issues being i) the reasons for the charge and ii) the processes involved.

A combination of zoom calls and F2F roadshows was deemed the most effective way to communicate. All trustees were in favour of a powerpoint/video outlining the basics and ensuring the message is consistent. The trustees were keen to ensure these roadshows were not considered to be “in consultation” as the revenue stream has already been agreed with the intention of a start date of 1 January 2026. They should be promoted as an opportunity for clubs/members to understand how the processes will work etc.

10. Operations Coordinator Update

A comprehensive update was tabled by Bob.

Other matters:

1. The Britannia Pairs have now been publicised to other NBOs in Europe and the EBL.
2. The results of the survey on the future of the Scottish National Congress will be published on the website. **Action: BM**
3. The SBU has only 3 TDs capable of hosting national events. This is of concern and Bob will be working with Chris Miller and Angus to address this.
Action: BM
4. Robert Ferrari is concerned that the SBU is organising events that may be loss making. It is thought this will not be the case for 25/26 but the trends are still downward so this may happen by 26/27. Controls need to be in place to guard against this **Action: BM/AM/LC**

Date of next Meeting – 6 August 6pm