

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SCOTTISH FENCING LTD
HELD AT 6.30PM ON 20TH JANUARY 2026, VIA ZOOM**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Attending:

Scottish Fencing Board:

Sam	McLellan (SMcL)	Chair
Gregor	McCallum (GMcC)	Vice-Chair (app. January 2026)
Kate	Daykin (KD)	Director, Equalities (Co-opted)
Peter	Drummond (PD)	Director, Governance
Robin	Paterson (RP)	Director, Communities
Colleen	Walker (CW)	Director, Finance

Scottish Fencing Staff:

Daniel	Baker (DB)	
Liz	Anderson (LA)	Minutes
Val	Wright (VW)	Safeguarding

British Fencing Staff:

Dusty	Miller
Virginia	Bailey

Scottish Fencing Members

Stuart	Anderson (representing Liz Anderson and Livingston Fencing Club)
Emma	Bowman
Keith	Davidson (also representing Glasgow West End Fencing Club)
Ben	Hanley
Fiona	Hetherington
Hugh	Kernohan (HK)
George	Liston (GL)
Ross	Morrison
Brent	Myers
Malcolm	Napier-Holford
Alexander	Pearson
Jennifer	Sancroft
Thomas	Sorbie
Liddy	Stanier
Georgina	Usher
Stacey	Wagstaff (StW)
Sean	Walton (SW)

Apologies:

Sheila	Anderson	
Clyne	Grant	
Karen	Grant	
Stan	Stoodley	
Paul	Vaughan (PV)	Director, Performance and Board Safeguarding Lead

2. MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the 2024 AGM approved as a true record on a motion by GL, seconded by HK.

3. Report of Scottish Fencing Activity 2025/26

SMcL reported on some highlights from 2025/26:

- The Board thanked Moya Nelson for her time as a director and welcomed new directors, Peter Drummond, Robin Paterson and Gregor McCallum.
- Alan Martin has left the organisation and the board wished him well in the future.
- SMcL thanked LA and DB for their work over the last year.
- SMcL noted the loss of two much valued members of the fencing community Mandy Kettles and Patsy Nicholls during the last year.
- SMcL thanked Stan Stoodley and Phil Carson for their contribution to coach education. SMcL also thanked sportscotland for their coach bursary as these funds enabled SF to widen the access to coach education.
- The Board congratulated Tom Sorbie on 50 years of coaching.

Coming up in 2026

- Referee education in foil and sabre
- Changes to PVG requirements as the system moves from a lifetime to a five-year membership.
- Solution Riposte which is a new initiative to support women recovering from breast cancer surgery run by Brent Myers.
- Essential safeguarding training for clubs and Welfare Officers on UNCRC adoption and safe and effective club communications
- A broadening of the Pathways programme to provide opportunities across the Scottish fencing community.
- GMcC also highlighted plans in place for four competitions this year, including SF support for those clubs running youth events
- Recruiting junior members for SF's youth panel

4. British Fencing Update

The Board welcomed GU, British Fencing CEO and SF member to the meeting. GU thanked for the Board for British Fencing's (BF) invitation and highlighted the five strategic objectives for BF which are:

- Grow Participation
- Create a Sustainable Future
- Deliver GB success
- Support Women and Girls
- Deliver Positive Social Impact

GU was pleased to announce that BF had unlocked APP funding from UK Sport for Jaimie Cook and the importance of this opportunity not just for Jaimie but other athletes on the performance pathway. It is hoped BF, **sportscotland** and SF can work together to find other opportunities to support and fund athletes aspiring to be on the performance pathway.

GU also highlighted the recent pathway camp organised at Salle Holyrood as an example of how BF is ensuring BF performance programmes are accessible across UK.

GU was also pleased to announce a new BF club officer role with the remit to support clubs across the UK. SF and BF working together on SwordSeat initiatives is a great opportunity to support clubs across the UK to become more accessible. SF has a geographical advantage with clubs being closer together to enable seated fencers to come together to train.

GU and SMcL have discussed how to ease the burden regarding the work both organisations are required to do to meet governance standards. BF is keen to support SF in areas such as data capture for example to enable the more efficient use of staff resource.

5. Presentation of the Accounts

CW presented a financial report based on the accounts to 31 March 2025. Replying to a question from SW CW confirmed that SF's reserves were £80k. CW will detail the increase from membership income in writing to SW.

6. Special Resolution – Recruitment of Directors

PD introduced the paper, prepared by the past co-chair, and explained the rationale. The preference is to have a Board made up of elected directors chosen by members to serve members, but at times, temporarily, for specific tasks the Board may need additional support and certain skills hence the need for co-option over and above the existing provision for casual vacancies.

There was spirited and extensive discussion around limiting the time co-opted directors can serve, if/when members should approve co-opted directors at AGMs, succession planning for independent directors so that skills were not lost to the Board when an independent director left and other good examples from other SGBs. Given the range of views from the floor PD was happy to withdraw the Special Resolution for further consideration and the Board will carry it forward for review.

7. Approval of Appointment of Kate Daykin as Director

In response to a question from GL, PD noted that KD had been co-opted to a fill a casual vacancy in order to ensure there was sufficient Board capacity to cover current commitments. The proposal is that she now be appointed as an additional director not an elected director, rather than delaying whilst an election is organised. It was agreed that a member can be an independent director and the Board have the powers to co-opt a member as an independent director. KD was appointed by a majority vote on a proposal by PD, seconded by SW, and SMcL welcomed her to the Board.

8. AOB Questions form members

The Board took questions from the members. SMcL added that he and the other Directors welcome questions from members and to keep these coming through the year not just at the AGM.

Ross Morrison

How are the board ensuring that we are maintaining our previous 100% compliance with **sportscotland's** safeguarding standards when there have been less than half a dozen board meetings this year. What are the board doing to ensure compliance in the absence of a standing agenda item at board meetings, addressing issues at board level?

SMcL replied that VW is a highly regarded safeguarding expert working with the staff to ensure policy and procedures are competent. Our recent assessment has highlighted some policy amendments and these are currently with the Board. Safeguarding is a standing item at every meeting. VW added that Children 1st hold SF tightly to their compliance standards and SF meets and reports to them quarterly to make sure SF is making progress.

Have all the board members completed the required board level training? This is difficult to establish given the absence of minutes for all but 2 meetings of 2025.

PD noted that regular refreshers are essential for all boards and that he had approach the Board, and SportScotland, with a proposal for refresher training last year. The details of that are being finalised now and the first session is expected to roll out around March 2026.

How badly has our relationship with **sportscotland** been effected by the boards lack of engagement with them in respect of board meetings? Is this likely to have an effect on funding going forward.

SMcL noted that there were regular meetings with sportscotland, the most recent of which was the preceeding week, and the relationship was very positive. The Board are optimistic that there might be scope for increase in funding following the recent increase in funding announced by the Scottish Government and are exploring this with sportscotland officers.

In the absence of board meetings how have the board been able to demonstrate to **sportscotland** that we have been consistently meeting the investment criteria? This assumes SF is meeting the criteria. If we are not. What steps have been taken by the board to address this?

*Directors meetings are held regularly. The Directors speak regularly to **sportscotland** on the realisation of targets and there has been no suggestion of any concerns.*

Why was Scottish fencing not represented at the whole of sport meeting with **sportscotland** last week in respect of increased funding from Scottish government?

SMcL and PD received the details of the additional funding in a separate meeting.

When did the CEO and co chair leave the organisation and why has this just been communicated to the members via a minor website update rather than any official communication?

*PD replied that SF is unable to comment in any detail on matters regarding HR or office-bearers for reasons of confidentiality, to do otherwise would be potentially placing the organisation at risk of a financial claim. PD confirmed that directors had fully briefed **sportscotland**.*

In the absence of a CEO and losing one of the co chairs who has completed, or will be completing, the annual return for Sportscotland?

*SMcL offered reassurance that relationship with **sportscotland** is strong, regular meetings are held, and that the annual return is hand.*

Does the board feel there is a danger that in reducing the number of member board directors that influence of individual clubs could dictate policy to an unhealthy degree.

This is one of a number of issues the Board are considering. The proposed resolution goes someway to dealing with this and this is a matter the Board will return to.

In the event that the resolution passes what is the board doing to attract high quality independent directors to fill these vacancies? We appear to be unable to keep the independent directors we have.

Not relevant, resolution not passed

What strategy has the board put in place to ensure a pathway for young fencers to progress through the ranks to senior internationals, how has the success of this been monitored and assessed?

See youth events below

What strategy does the board have in place to support a progression of competitions in Scotland that ensure fencers of all ages and abilities have access to a competitive environment at a range of different levels?

See youth events below

1. As Elected Director positions on the Board have become vacant for some time, when does the Board intend to issue notice of an election (as individuals should not be appointed to these posts)?

PD noted that the Board was keen to have elections at an early stage, once a skills audit/matrix had been completed.

2. Ahead of a vote for the proposed change to the Articles, can the Board evidence that the range of skillsets required has been identified by the Independent Directors, the process for recruiting them and the plan for managing succession in these roles? (There are some good examples in other SGBs: I expect that they have been studied? If not, this should be deferred to an EGM.). Additionally, as the efficiency of a Board tends to reduce with size, how would the Board intend to address this?

See above in respect of the skills audit. Resolution not passed. The Board will consider this and the previous discussions in the redrafting of the resolution.

3. Will the Board confirm that the 2025 to 2029 Strategic Framework, developed following members' input, and against which sportscotland agreed the investment in principle, remains extant?

SMcL confirmed that yes, the Board and staff are continuing to work towards the goals set in the 2025-2029 Strategic Framework.

4. Given that the role of President has been put "on hold", as stated in the minutes of the 24th June 2025 meeting, can the Board confirm where the responsibilities of that role now sit and where this has been published?

SMcL advised that the duties of the President are currently with the Chair. However the Board are minded to advertise for an ambassador and will seek to recruit someone with the relevant experience and skills at some point in the future.

5. Given the reputational damage suffered by the SF Board during recent months:
 - a. How does the Board intend to prevent a recurrence?
 - b. How does the Board intend to manage the impact of this on recruitment?

The Board work to avoid any reputational damage and are always working optimally for the betterment of the sport. PD will respond in writing as it is unclear what reputational damage the member is referring to.

Stacey Wagstaff

Why wasn't there a SYC competition held in 2025 and so far not programmed for 2026? Why wasn't an alternative date found for Scottish Open this season when it became apparent that a booking wasn't made in October for the usual November weekend? How can we expect to keep current young members happy and engaged in the sport when they don't have the option to attend local competitions run by SF?

In response to both questions GMcC confirmed that the Board and staff team are working very hard to ensure a much expanded portfolio of events in 2026. SF have secured a venue in Stirling in June to host a "summer of sport" event and the Board will make announcements soon.

6 Close of meeting

SMcL thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8pm