

Flexible Options for Club Management FAQs

What is Flexible Options for Club Management

We previously consulted on an approach to Club management known as the “Light Touch Club” which was well received. But in reality, there is no such thing as a “Light Touch Club”.

The phrase “Light Touch Club” was a working title and not one that we intend to continue using because this is NOT a different type of Club – it is just an alternative approach to Club Management.

Now that the resolutions at the General Meeting in Gateshead about the Club, Region, National Association and Network Constitutions were successful, it brings choices to you as Clubs and Members about how you manage your Club.

A Club using this approach to Club Management will usually operate without a Club executive and with the of minimum three officers - Programme Action Officer, Secretary and Treasurer

Is a Club using this approach to Club Management second class?

No. It is a Club that simply decides to manage itself differently.

Can any Club use this approach to Club Management?

Yes.

It is recommended that it is discussed as part of your reflection meeting so that all members of the Club agree to work in this way.

Can the Framework be given a different name? The term “Light Touch” makes the Club seem second tier.

Yes. The phrase “Light Touch Club” was a working title and not one that we intend to continue using because this is NOT a different type of Club – it is just an

alternative approach to Club Management.

How many Club Officers do we need if we approach Club Management in this way?

Clubs can operate with a minimum of three Officers - Programme Action Officer, Secretary and Treasurer.

Can we implement some parts of this approach to Club Management and leave others?

Yes. We hope that this approach to Club Management is simply offering choices to Clubs. Clubs and their members can decide how far they want to introduce this different way of working providing that they meet the minimum requirements.

Can we have a President and still work in this way as a Club?

YES. This approach is simply suggesting the minimum number of Club Officers required to manage Club activities, which is a Secretary, Treasurer and Programme Action Officer.

If your Club wants to continue having a President and has a member prepared to take on this role then that is the Club's decision. There are already many examples of different ways of working throughout the Federation.

Many Clubs are not able to recruit a President so this approach gives them an alternative way of working.

The Club Constitution does not allow for Clubs to work in this way

Successful Resolutions at the Newcastle Gateshead Conference made changes to the Club and Region, National Association and Network Constitutions which allow us to introduce this alternative approach to Club Management.

Will Clubs working in this way have lower fees?

This approach to Club Management is about the internal management of the Club only. In all other respects the Club is the same as any other and has the same rights so the SIGBI capitation will be exactly the same.

Will Clubs become "social clubs" if they adopt this approach to Club Management?

This alternative approach to Club Management puts Programme Action at the centre of Club activities so it is not believed that this will be the case.

That said, a key part of our enjoyment of Soroptimist International is the friendships that we make, and it is hoped that social activities to support programme action work or simply to build good teamwork will still be a significant part of a Clubs' activities.

Our Club does not want to do Programme Action all the time – what about the friendship/social aspect?

Programme Action is the cornerstone of all Soroptimist Clubs. Whilst not specifically stated in this alternative approach to club management it is expected that members will still enjoy themselves socially and make friends whilst doing activities that are about programme action. All work and no play is not what we are suggesting. Club social activities are an important part of club life as they help cement members as a team and help you to understand one another.

What happens to Club members who do not have access to e-mail

Clubs will need to put in place processes to keep those members not on email informed – such as having an e-mail buddy system, which many Clubs already operate.

Is this approach to Club Management only for Clubs that are failing

This approach to Club Management is not about failing Clubs. It is also not a different type of Club – just a different way of managing a Club. Its aim is to give members the flexibility to manage their Clubs in a way which meets their needs and enable them to recruit members through effective project work.

That said, over the last year, we have encouraged Clubs who are thinking about closing to consider this approach as a way of continuing their Club.

How long can a Club use this alternative approach to Club Management?

There is no time limit providing that Club Members are collectively in favour of operating using the framework.

Can Clubs become a traditional Club again?

This approach is about the management of the Club. The Club and its members can decide how they want to run their club. The work of the Club i.e. Programme Action should remain unaffected.

Do Clubs using this approach require the support of their 'Mother Club'?

No. Clubs that adopt this approach to their Club Management are not a different type of Club; they have just chosen a different way of managing their Club.

What is the impact of this approach to Club Management on the role of the Secretary?

This approach encourages Club members to work together to run their Club so it is hoped that the work of the Secretary can be supported by other members. It is up to the Club to decide how it administers itself.

Additionally, the new process for distribution of the Federation Mailings means that the majority of members need only receive the fortnightly newsletter. Individual members can also sign into the Members area of the SIGBI website and read all of the mailings.

How do you prevent power being concentrated in a few members' hands if there is only a small executive?

This approach to Club Management encourages Club members to work together as a team to deliver its programme action projects and administer itself so power should not be concentrated in the hands of the few.

The whole ethos of the framework is to engage all members in the activities of the Club.

Who do Clubs have to tell about adopting this approach to Club Management”?

No one. The Club decides what suits it best.

What role will the Region, National Association and Network play in respect of Clubs adopting this approach to Club Management?

The Region, National Association or Network role in supporting its clubs is unchanged.

The Club should of course appoint a Regional, National Association or Network Representative so that they can engage in the work of the Region, National Association or Network, and benefit from the support which the National Association, Network or Region can provide.