

SI Northern England Regional Council

Meeting

Date: 15 November 2025

Time: 1:30pm

Meeting held on zoom

Present: **Cockermouth:** Doreen Bertram; Martha Dewis; Bethan Hill-Gorst; Sue Mendes; Claire Rawlinson; Moira Rogers; Jane Shaw; Judith Spencer. **Darlington:** Barbara Brown. **Durham:** Geraldine Hudson; Jane Katsambis; Sue Percival. **Middlesborough:** Pam Cooper. **Newcastle:** Margaret Ayton; Christine Cottingham; Hellen Giblin-Jowett; Pam Turner; Cris Young. **Stockton on Tees:** Caroline Allred; Joyce Chesney; **Sunderland:** Suzanne Brown; Hilary Clavering; Joan Heckels; Kath Tuddenham; Marge Wilkinson. **Tynedale:** Norah Thornthwaite. **Tynemouth and Whitley Bay:** Jan Robinson; Shirley Hallam-Gould; Anne Gunning; Sue Miller; Cynthia Bartley; Pat Jefferson, Rosemary Webb. **Associate members:** Christine Lumsdon; Patricia Gatherum.

Apologies: **South Shields:** Dorothy Seth

Item No.	Subject	Action by whom
1.	RMT/ FLC Joyce Welcome This meeting would be the first held on zoom for many years!	
2	Handover of Presidential Chain from RMT/FLC Joyce and Past President Jan to President Shirley Two videos, one from Birmingham Conference that showed the handing-over ceremony were shared	
3	Vision and Mission read by President Shirley	
4.	In Memoriam A bereavement has been experienced by SI Stockton, who are in our thoughts. The In Memoriam will be delivered at the March RCM	
5	Roll call (see above)	
6	Minutes of last meeting, 13 September 2025 Agreed	

7	Matters Arising None	
8	Regional Officers' Reports	
8.1	President Shirley's Welcome President Shirley suggested adding the 3 C's (Courage, Challenge and Cooperation) to the website mission statement.	
8.2	Treasurer Christine Cottingham Commented that the last Zoom meeting had occurred in 2022, shortly after the Covid outbreak and there had been 58 attendees.	
8.2.1	2025/26 Treasurer's Report Nothing to add to the Financial Report circulated and no queries in the meeting.	
8.3	Programme Action - new co-ordination trial This year the Club PA Officers will meet monthly and Christine Tomkins (SI Newcastle Upon Tyne) will co-ordinate this. A short report of each meeting will be sent to President Shirley	
8.4	Safeguarding Officer, Joan Heckels Nothing to add to the Safeguarding Report circulated and no queries in the meeting.	
9.0	Federation reports	
9.1	Federation Liaison Councillor - Joyce Chesney	
9.1.1	Notes from September 2025 FLC meeting A Report of the September Meeting has been circulated. JC had not attended as it clashed with the SINE AGM in September. JC had met with Kate Bellinis (Federation PE and new chair of FLC Group) at the Conference in Birmingham	
9.1.2	Note of October FMB Meeting Notes had been circulated. JC said that there had been some last minute comment about the amount of data on the SIGBI Club Websites and this will be reviewed and Clubs notified. See Bethan note under AOB.	

11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Bethan Hill-Gorst in response to the comment at Conference about the website said that she would speak to SIGBI to understand the issue as Clubs are paying for website space. The back-up process is not simple so she asked Clubs to do nothing until she understands the issue.</p>	<p>BHG to speak to SIGBI about website usage</p>
12	<p>President Shirley's Comments and Close Meeting</p> <p>President Shirley thanked all attendees for participating and hoped that using the Zoom platform allowed for the meeting without the need for travel in November was useful. As Regional President, Shirley Hallam-Gould is now on the SIGBI Working Party on the safety of women on Public Transport. All groups. Please remember that the 'UN Sixteen Days of Activism' are fast approaching, and she is looking forward to seeing Clubs reports of their activities.</p>	<p>All: Report back on 16 Days Activities</p>
13	<p>Address by Gillie O'Rourke, 2025/27 Federation President</p> <p>Federation President Gillie joined the meeting after a short break and gave a short talk on her journey in Soroptimism and gave a flavour of the next 2 years under her Presidency.</p> <p>Membership figures have increased, the rate of loss has slowed. So, great news but there are still vacancies. Please tell fellow members to consider putting their hands up! There is no 'little' contribution from local branches: it all accumulates into a veritable tsunami of good work from Soroptimists. Future generations will stand on our shoulders: be proud.</p> <p>This part of the meeting was recorded and will be available on the SINE Website.</p>	<p><u>https://sigbi.org/northern-england/</u></p>

NOTES

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 14 March 2026 Venue tbc