

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
MATTER OF OPINION COMPETITION

Competition Rules

The competition will be held in the North and the South in alternate years as follows:

NORTH - North, West Highland, North East and Central areas

SOUTH - South East and South West areas

Awards: The Golden Jubilee Cup for the winner and The Kennedy Shield for the runner-up. A certificate is presented to the Best Chairman and to the Best Panel Member.

1. **Teams**

A team shall consist of four members. One member of the team shall act as a Chairman, and it will be necessary to indicate which member will undertake this duty in advance. Two or more institutes may combine to form a team. Any federation having six or more teams taking part at the federation round will be entitled to send their winners and runners-up to the final.

2. **Procedure**

All teams will be given 15 minutes to read and discuss a list of 7 topics before going on stage.

On the platform the Chairman will rise to introduce the team to the audience. This duty should not occupy more than two minutes. The Chairman may have notes. The team members are not allowed to use notes on stage and should direct their comments through the Chairman.

The Chairman will invite discussion from her team but will not take part. At least three topics must be dealt with. During the discussions chairmen and team members remain seated. There is no acting or role play allowed. The total time allowed to each team, including the chairman's introduction, is 16 minutes.

3. **Scoring**

The following basis will be used for scoring:

(a)	Chairman			
	Presence and style, voice and clarity	10		
	Introduction of team, originality of remarks, management of team and summing-up	<u>35</u>		45
(b)	Team			
	Subject matter and relevance of discussion	20		
	Presence, style, voice, clarity	<u>15</u>		
		35	each	105
(c)	General balance of teamwork			
	e.g. equality of participation of members			<u>20</u>
				<u>170</u>

Marks for incorrect timing will be deducted as follows:

Two marks for each full minute over or under the time on the total team performance.

At the national final, the Adjudicator will announce the top two teams, the Best Chairman, Best Panel Member and will give a short overview of all team performances. The full range of marks for every team taking part in the final will be sent later.

4. **Expenses**

Institute Level – to be met by members or institutes

Federation Level – to be met by members or federations

Final – Hall rent, administration and judges' expenses will be met by Headquarters Committee. For the 2017 competition, if your federation has not opted for the Action Appeal Grant, Headquarters will refund 100% of travelling expenses to federations competing in the competition on submission of receipted accounts **within 28 days of the event**. Contributions from supporters on buses should be deducted from the total cost so that HQ pays 100% of the cost **less contributions**.

Headquarters will reimburse cost of engraving of trophies. Please send claim with receipt to headquarters within 6 weeks of the event.