

The role of the Steering Group

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rs21 is run between National Meetings by a Steering Group. When we set up rs21 in 2014, many members had just left the SWP. We had seen the SWP's leading body, the Central Committee, abuse its authority in many ways. People were wary of the notion of "political leadership". It was agreed that the SG in rs21 would be a purely organisational body.

However, organisational decisions are always to some extent political. For example, organising a meeting involves choosing a speaker, and choosing a date which does not clash with other important events – and this involves a political judgement about which speaker to invite, and which events are the important ones we shouldn't clash with.

In general, then, we should be clear that the SG's role is inevitably both political and organisational. SG members need to organise events and activities, but they also need to develop and debate political strategies about the development of rs21.