

SIGBI President's February 2017 Blog

January this year has been a little quieter than other years because my first Federation Management Board Meeting is not until February 10th to 12th 2017 due to the lateness of the Federation Conference in Malta.



from the hotel.

Last weekend, I had the delightful task of attending the No63 Annual General Meeting and speaking to the Board members and shareholders as the Patron of 63. The board members do a tremendous job in keeping this delightful boutique hotel running efficiently and effectively. My congratulations also go to the staff of 63 for looking after us so well and reaching the final of the Friendliest B & B Awards. It's a great place stay and I was able to have several walks in Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park which is just across the road

In the evening, I attended the three regions dinner at the In and Out Club – an interesting venue and a delightful evening with members from across the UK. And on the Sunday, I chaired a meeting with many of the Past Federation Presidents to discuss our plans with them and get their feedback on such major issues as charitable status. It was great to draw on their experience!



On the same weekend, the women's march took place in London, and we were lucky to have Soroptimists on the front line of the march. Well done and thank you to Margaret Clark, Assistant Programme Director for Advocacy who grasped the reigns at short notice and managed to get herself and a few other Soroptimists there to take part in the march. Soroptimists marched with thousands of women to show their support for women's equality and human rights at a time when intolerance of others and divisiveness are at the forefront of society.

Over the course of the month, I have been involved in face to face meetings with the Director Finance to discuss the SIGBI budget, Andrew Dewhurst to discuss the roll-out of the Club Growth Plan and numerous electronic meeting to discuss elements of Soroptimist International (SI) business such including the restructure of the SI Board, the appointment of the Assistant Director of Advocacy.

Work continues on the content of the Cardiff Conference and January has been a good month for progress because we have managed to secure our final two main conference speakers. I am afraid you will have to wait a little longer for news of who they are whilst we get their contracts signed, but it's very exciting.

My best wishes to you all as you head towards your first Region, Network and National Association Council Meetings of 2017. Looking further forward I hope you are planning to celebrate the first of our significant dates this year: International Women's Day on 8th March and will use this opportunity to be out in your communities raising the profile of our programme action work and recruiting new Soroptimists to your Club.

Yours in friendship

Ann Hodgson