



Soroptimist International

Bridgend and District

1947 - 2007

A Brief History

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Co-ordinated by Barbara Miles, Helen Murdoch and Jean Thomas

With substantial help from Club members, their families and friends. Many of the illustrations used in this publication have come from individuals who responded to the appeal for photographs and whose generosity is hereby acknowledged with many thanks.

Introduction

“A meeting of all those interested in the formation of a Soroptimist club in Bridgend was held by kind invitation of Mrs. E. B. Jones at Cartrefle, Merthyr Mawr Road, at 7.30 pm on Thursday May 8th 1947.”

So reads the opening statement in our Club’s minutes and this marks the start of Soroptimist International of Bridgend.

Mrs. Bevan and Mrs. Oswald Jenkins had come from Soroptimist International of Swansea, one of only two clubs in South Wales (the other being Llanelli), to outline the aims and organisation of Soroptimism to sixteen professional women from Bridgend and district. By the end of the evening a petition for the chartering of a new Soroptimist club had been filled in and signed by the founder members. (See Appendix 1) The election of officers and an executive committee followed. (See Appendix 2)

What drew these women to Soroptimism ? Two of our Honorary members know why they joined. Miss Mary Austin felt that in the aftermath of the Second World War women could do more to improve the way the world was run and could do it best through an international organisation such as Soroptimism. Miss Dorothy Worthing said that in the period of hardship and shortage following the war, a spirit of service was central to the ethos of the club. Practical help for the community was more important than fund raising. The members found great satisfaction in the companionship of women of diverse interests and talents.

These feelings were echoed in many areas of Wales during the post war years: four clubs will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversaries before the Millennium. The driving force behind this was the Divisional President for South Wales, Mrs. H. D. Williams MBE J.P. from Swansea, who was the founder of Soroptimism in South Wales.

The highlight of Bridgend’s first year was of course the Charter Dinner on 15th April 1948 at the Wyndham Hotel. The Federation President, Miss M. A. Cox OBE, came to present the Charter. The menu at the dinner (See Appendix 3) seems quite basic but was a feast at a time when food was still in short supply. The occasion was grand in every other way.

The guest list reads thus:

The Chairmen of the Bridgend, Penybont and Porthcawl Councils and their wives

The local M.P. and his wife

The Chairman of Bridgend Rotary and his wife

The Superintendent of Police and his wife

The speakers for the first year and their wives or husbands

Four members each from the other four South Wales clubs.

THE FEDERATION of SOROPTIMIST CLUBS of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND

President
DR. M. M. STEVENSON, M.A.
1, Clevedon Crescent
Glasgow, W.2.

Vice-Presidents
MISS M. A. COX, O.B.E.
MISS G. E. HOLLOWAY, B.A.

Past President
MISS F. M. BAILEY, F.C.I.S.



Hon. Treasurer
MISS S. G. LANGE, F.S.A.A.
42, Wavendon Avenue
Chiswick
London, W.4.

Headquarters of the Federation
Hon. Secretary
MISS D. WARNER, J.P., F.C.I.S.
Alliance Chambers
19, Horsefair Street
Leicester

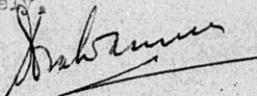
CDC

7th July, 1947.

Dear Miss Mark,

The Petition from the newly-formed club at Bridgend was presented to, and accepted by the Board of Governors at their meeting held in Edinburgh on Friday last. I am writing to notify you that you are now officially recognised as a member-club of this Federation, and to inform you that you may proceed to make arrangements for the presentation of your Charter. As our new President (Miss M. A. Cox, O.B.E., 110 Bierley Lane, Bradford.) is an extremely busy woman, I do advise you to give her a choice of dates, and consult her well in advance of the time chosen. Saturdays are, I think, the most convenient days for the President.

Yours sincerely,


Hon. Secretary.

*Letter to Miss Mary Mark from Miss Warner, 7th July 1947,
accepting Bridgend's Petition to form a Soroptimist International Club.*

Soroptimist International Association



The Soroptimist International Association certifies by these presents
that the

Soroptimist Club of

Bridgend

which has undertaken to respect the Constitution as well as the
Rules of the Federation of Great Britain and Ireland—an undertaking
witnessed by the acceptance of the present Certificate—has been duly
constituted as a Club affiliated to the

Soroptimist International Association

on condition that the total number of members of the said Club never
falls below Fifteen.

Countersigned Clady's Daphne P. 11

Date April 15th 1948

A.H.D. Williams President

[Signature]
President of the Federation of Soroptimist Clubs
of Great Britain and Ireland

Eveline P. Francis Secretary
Divisional Union of Wales

[Signature]
Secretary of the Federation of Soroptimist Clubs
of Great Britain and Ireland

Soroptimist International of Bridgend
Charter

The First Decade 1947 - 1957

The first President of the Club was a barrister, Mrs. Dapho Powell. The Founder Secretary was Miss Mary Mark (later Mrs. Wyndham Jones). Her enthusiasm and efficiency were invaluable to the Club in its early years.

The first meeting was held at the Bluebird Cafe on 21st May 1947. A Categories Committee was set up and over the next few months a pattern of meetings emerged through trial and error. By the end of 1947 two meetings a month were the norm. They were held at Hope Chapel Bridgend on alternative Wednesdays and Thursdays. One was a business meeting preceded by an executive meeting; the other was a speaker meeting. An annual dinner and AGM were agreed upon.



Club President's Insignia of Office

The meeting place changed a number of times in the first ten years. Venues included the W.V.S. Centre, the Wyndham Hotel, Tabernacle school room (rent in 1953 7/- a week) and the Divisional Health Offices (from December 1953 at 5/- a week). The days for meeting changed too, finally settling on the first and third Thursday in the month. There were speakers at every meeting by this time and business and speaker meetings were combined.

In May 1952 the Insignia of Office was first presented by Mrs Watkins to the President, Miss Hilda Roberts. The jewel was designed by a club member, Mrs Pam Weekes, the Art

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mistress at Bridgend Girls' Grammar School - and all members contributed to the cost of £50. The Club already possessed a gavel and stand made of Welsh oak, presented by Miss Margaret Irwin and Miss Connie Thomas. Similar gavels were given to the three sister clubs in America. The charter was framed in May 1954.

In October 1953 it was decided to read the Aims and Objects of Soroptimism at the beginning of every meeting. (See Appendix 4a)

By 1950 only ten of the founder members remained. Busy professional women have little spare time and sometimes move to progress in their careers. The problem, it seems, is constant. By 1953 there were twenty-nine members. The Divisional Union President, Mrs. H. D. Williams, commented that there was quality if not too much quantity in the Bridgend Club. However, by 1958 membership had reached a peak of thirty-six.

The Club established its links with the community in accordance with the traditions of Soroptimism with service the key factor.

They worked for the elderly and infirm and established particularly strong ties with The Rest Convalescent Home and Heddfan. £1/10/0 a week was given to The Rest Paraplegic Centre and personal visits were arranged on a weekly basis. Every Christmas visits were made and gifts were given to Heddfan and the Hospital.

Library books were provided for the Mid Glamorgan Hospital. Members operated the service on a rota until 1957 when the books were donated to the hospital. In 1953 the Club donated a prize for the most progressive nurse in Bridgend General Hospital. Members supported the Summer Fair at Southerndown Home for the Blind.



Annual Dinner 1955 with President Mary Austin and guests

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The young were important. The Club helped the Cottage Homes in many ways. They sent each child a birthday card and provided toys for the nursery at Preswylfa. They also financed the local Christmas party for deprived children, and in 1951 contributed sweet points. On a more personal level the Club members undertook to provide and fill a tuck box each term for the son of a member who died; the boy was at boarding school. The Girl Guides were not forgotten. Miss Mark, President in 1951, was District Commissioner for Girl Guides and the Club supplied gifts for the new Guide hut at Gorwellion in Wig Fach and visited the site during the summer months.

The Club was concerned too about the lonely women who were not old age pensioners but had given up their careers because of ill health. Members decided to give Christmas parcels to twenty such women who were known to them. Visits were also arranged.

Fund raising was of less importance in this decade, though the Club was stung by the Divisional Union (D.U.) report of February 1952 which revealed that other clubs were fund raising more effectively than Bridgend. In June of that year they voted to raise money for a cause to be determined later. The annual subscription rose from £1-10-0 in 1948 to £1-12-6 in 1950. Past Presidents bought their own badges and funds were raised from small activities such as Whist Drives, 'Bring and Buy' and club raffles. Charity money was shared out at Christmas and was given mainly to local charities. In 1953 and 1954 the Darby and Joan Club, Heddfan and the Cottage Homes each received a television, and fifty chairs were given to the Darby and Joan Club. International charities were sometimes



Annual Dinner 1956 with President Dorothy Worthing and guests

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given a donation. The Hungarian Relief Fund (1956), the UN Refugee Fund and Save the Children were typical examples.

Moving outwards from club level to District Union and to Federation we find again patterns emerging and changing. In the second meeting of the Club in 1947 a Divisional Union representative was elected, and there was a Club presence at the Harrogate and Brighton conferences of 1947 and 1948 and the Copenhagen Convention of 1951. In that year Bridgend hosted the Divisional Union Conference at Porthcawl. In 1953 the Club decided that every First Vice President should be nominated as Divisional Union representative in order "that she may be conversant with all matters during her presidential year." This was rescinded at the AGM of April 1956. In the Extraordinary Conference the Federation held in Liverpool on July 18th 1953 Bridgend was in favour of the Federation's becoming a limited company, but the motion was defeated. In this year Dr. Kathleen Davies became Divisional Union Extension Officer, adding to this the post of Divisional Union Treasurer in 1954. During this decade the President and a number of members always attended the Divisional Union meetings and many friendships were formed.

The only area where the Club suffered disappointment was extension. Attempts to start daughter clubs at Barry and Pontypridd came to nothing.

Soroptimism is, of course, an international organisation. The Bridgend Club forged links with Williamsburg, Wickenburg and Courteney in North America. Letters were exchanged between individual members and there were visits from the President of Courteney and members of the Williamsburg Club. Bridgend members visited Williamsburg too. Gifts were exchanged. Bridgend sent copies of Annigoni's portrait of the Queen to its sister clubs in America during Coronation year. Wickenburg sent a recording of the New York Convention which had been attended by Bridgend Club Secretary Phyllis Tudor. On a more practical level in these post war years food parcels were received from America every Christmas.

Overall the first ten years were a time of consolidation and growth. The overriding impression of this first decade is of service and commitment.

The Second Decade 1957 - 1967

In the early 1960's executive meetings increased in number to four a year and two new committees, social and category, were added. A press officer was appointed. The place of meeting was still moveable. The W.V.S. room gave way to the Dunraven Hotel. Combined business and speaker meetings were still the order of the day, speakers being drawn from the local community and from club members. Subjects were varied and interesting but there was no central theme.

In March 1960 the Club Charter was framed by Miss Barbara Harrington and in this year Mrs. Pam Weekes designed new stationery for the Club. The Club members bought their own china. During these years attendance at a special Church Service was introduced. Club membership remained in the thirties until 1963 when it rose to a record forty-four, falling back to forty by 1967.



Blackpool Conference 1966

Phyllis Tudor, Jean Austin, Kathleen Davies and Hilda Jones (Port Talbot)

The Club continued to work for the community. In 1957 it was agreed that an interest should be taken in the new hospital at Maesgwyn. In 1966 the Club nominated Miss H. J. Williams as representative on the Mid Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee. In 1961 the President and Secretary were invited to attend the opening of the new Y.M.C.A.

When the smallpox outbreak occurred in 1962 Miss Celyn Williams, Matron at Heddfan Hospital, was in charge of the small pox cases and Dr. Kathleen Davies, Medical Officer of Health, played a major part in the arrangements to deal with the situation.

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In April 1959 Miss Mary Austin was asked to be the Club's representative on The Rest Committee. Links with The Rest were maintained and extended. The Club agreed to man a stall at the annual Fete and adopted a four bedded ward. The ward was decorated and a plaque was set up in recognition of the Club's support. Dr. Kathleen Davies became Club representative at the Citizen's Advice Bureau (C.A.B.). The Club was represented too on the United Nations Organisation (U.N.O.) local committee and supported it by annual subscription.

The finances of the Club remained satisfactory. Subscriptions rose to £2-0-0 in 1959. In 1966 the Treasurer's report included the comment "It was noted with pleasure that the balance in the general account stood at £7-15-11, a great improvement on the balance of £3-14-4 twelve months ago."

Fund raising assumed more importance in this decade. In 1959 the Sale of Work raised £159-6-0. Whist Drives and raffles were still popular, raffle tickets costing 1/- each. Every year donations ranging from £40-0-0 to 2 guineas were given to local charities and also to outside appeals such as the Persian Disaster Fund (1962), the Cliff Michelmore Appeal for Vietnam (1964), and the Cambrian Colliery Disaster Fund (1965).

Bridgend members played a full part as Divisional Union officers. In June 1958 Dr. Kathleen Davies was nominated as First Vice President of Divisional Union by Miss Dorothy Worthing and Miss Jean Austin. In 1959 Dr. Kathleen was Divisional Union President and in 1963 Divisional Union Secretary. When the Federation Conference was held at Cardiff in 1963, Bridgend members stewarded a coach tour around the Vale. In 1964 Miss Jean Austin was Divisional Union Treasurer. The title had become Divisional Union of Wales South and its territorial limits were the seven counties of South and West Wales. Club members attended charter dinners at Brecon (1957), Merthyr (1958) and Rhondda (1959). Dr. Kathleen Davies and Miss Celyn Williams attended the International Convention in 1960.

International links were strengthened and extended. In 1957 the President of Courteney Club visited Bridgend and was entertained to tea followed by a meal at Quaintways in Llantwit Major. "The Arizona Highway" received from Wickenburg was kept in the County Library together with the Williamsburg Scrapbook. The Soroptimist Magazine was sent to the four link clubs, by Bridgend Club's annual subscription. When President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Bridgend Club sent letters of sympathy to Williamsburg and Wickenburg. In 1966 the Williamsburg Club wrote expressing their sadness over the Aberfan disaster. In March 1958 the Club agreed to accept Finnish clubs as sister clubs. In August 1960 a visitor from Finland was entertained by Club members. In this year too there were visitors from Jamaica and Uganda. Canadian Soroptimists visited in 1964. Gifts of Ewenny pottery were arranged. Members of the Cardiff Club

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joined Bridgend and their guests at an informal dinner. Visits were not in one direction only. In 1963 Dr. Kathleen Davies and Miss Phyllis Tudor visited the Williamsburg and Wickenburg Clubs taking photographs, letters and a tape of messages from club officers and founder members. These intrepid travellers called in Williamsburg again after the Toronto Convention of 1967. In-between they fitted in a world tour.



Club Banner, designed by Club member Lynn Fabian

Club members were very active socially. They visited local beauty spots, went to the theatre and the opera, attended conferences (work or pleasure?) and visited many other clubs for dinners and 'At Homes'.

During this decade the Club was flourishing.

The Third Decade 1967 - 77

In 1967 Miss Kathleen Snell was installed as President in the Dunraven Hotel, but by 1968 the Club meeting place had changed to the Railway Inn and remained there for several years, transferring to the Friends' Meeting House in Park Street in January 1973. Meetings were held on the first and third Thursdays of the month. By the end of this decade there were eight committees in addition to the Executive Committee. These were : Finance, Programme and Entertainment, Attendance, Membership and Classification, Press and Publicity, Civic Action, Social, and Hospitality. Executive meetings were held four times a year at the home of the current President. Addresses and telephone numbers of members were circulated to all members as was the outline of main events during the year. Club membership started the decade well into the forties and ended it at thirty-nine. The lowest point was thirty-five in 1974 - 75.

1973 - 74 was an interesting year for several reasons. The Club was renamed Soroptimist International of Bridgend instead of Bridgend Club of Soroptimist International. The President remained in office past the A.G.M. in April, handing over on 21st June. Club badges were bought for all new members and in November 1973 Dr. Kathleen Davies was made an honorary member of the Club.



21st Annual Dinner 1968

President Kathleen Snell with Federation President Mes Lambert and guests

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Speakers in this decade were still mainly local with a fair proportion of Club members taking a role. Subjects continued to be varied but there was no central theme. However in 1967 - 71 the International theme - Education for progress towards a literate world - was reflected in the Club's work for the community. In 1967 - 68 two representatives were appointed to organise a "Feed the Minds" campaign to raise money to buy books and magazines for the Third World. This was carried forward until 1970.

Previous commitments were honoured. We were still represented on the C.A.B.; Miss Mary Austin was appointed for four years as Club representative on The Rest Board of Management; Miss Kathleen Snell was Vice President of the management committee of P.H.A.B. Club members took part in a forum on race relations in the Temple of Peace in Cardiff. Work for the hospital and the young and old went forward. In 1967-8 forty old people were entertained during Old Folks' Week. They were given their tea at the W.R.V.S. centre and transport was provided by club members. Cards and letters were sent to children at the School for the Visually Handicapped. The Club still supported the Girl Guides, the Cheshire Home and the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

There were new ventures too. In 1969-70, the Bridgend Club became involved with town twinning and two members went to the dinner welcoming the Mayor and Councillors from Ulm in West Germany. In 1973 - 74 there was active participation in the Festival of Bridgend and Miss Rosemary Deere was chosen for the Rent Assessment Panel for Wales. In 1974 the Club became a corporate member of the U.N. Association and in 1975 - 76 four members represented the Club in a question and answer session chaired by the Right Honourable George Thomas M.P. for International Women's Year.

The Club's finances were going through interesting times. In 1968 - 69 capitation rose to £4-4-0. In 1972 - 73 subscriptions for Active members were set at £5.00 and for Retired (post service) members at £4.00. V.A.T. was added from April 1973. In 1974 - 75 these sums rose to £10 and £8-50. In 1975 - 76 the Treasurer, Mrs Frances McConville, informed a concerned meeting that income was barely keeping pace with expenditure and proposed a five year plan. The subscriptions remained the same but prompt payment was urged to meet capitation, demanded early in the year. Differences were suggested for the Charity Fund. These were:

1. Reserve for emergencies.
2. Annual Commitments - The Rest £20 and the cost of a week's visit for one guest, Christmas parcels, President's donation.
3. Three charities chosen by lot from member's nominations, should be supported each year. Any charity chosen would be ineligible for a further three years.

These suggestions were accepted by the Club. The five year plan ran into difficulties and in 1976 the AGM learned that inflation had eroded the surplus.

Fund raising assumed yet more importance during this decade. Jumble Sales and Sales of Work remained major sources of income. In 1975 £405.43 was raised by these methods and in 1976 - 77 a total of £782.45 came from two Sales of Work. In 1976 the three charities supported were the Red Cross, the Leukaemia Fund and the Association for the Deaf. In 1977 it was the turn of Marie Curie, N.S.P.C.C. and the Samaritans. In this year the Club donated £25 to a Miss C. E. S. Black who went to Kenya as a teacher's aid.



Cutting the cake at the 25th Birthday Dinner 1972

President Rosemary Deere with President D.U. Wales South Kathleen Snell

Active involvement in the Divisional Union characterised 1967 - 77. Miss Kathleen Snell was nominated as Second Vice President in 1968 - 69. She did not succeed at this first attempt, but was elected in 1969 - 70. At this point there were twenty-three clubs in the

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Wales South region and seven hundred and twenty members, who raised £5000 for charities. Kathleen's year as President (1971 - 72) began with a meeting at the Dragon Hotel in Swansea. In 1972 the Divisional Union Conference, held at Porthcawl, had as its theme 'Changes in Industry and Industrial Relations'. The Swansea Divisional Union Conference in 1973 - 74 was concerned with pollution. Miss Kathleen Snell was now on the Benevolent Fund. Members of Bridgend Club were in constant touch with other clubs in the Divisional Union mainly through lunches and dinners. In 1968 the President attended thirteen dinners during her year of office and many Club members accompanied her willingly.

Federation Conferences were popular. Newcastle, London, Rome, Killarney and Bristol were all attended by representatives from Bridgend. Two members who went to Newcastle in October 1968 reported that the social side had been much better than the business. In 1976 the Federation announced a quadrennial theme - Search for Quality - and produced a new official emblem.

The Club's International links were maintained along the same lines during this decade. Gifts of Minton sandwich dishes were sent to Williamsburg and Wickenburg and a silver brooch was received by the President. Members of Courteney Club visited us. Finland sent a polished stone. There was discussion as to whether it should be raffled or made into a presidential brooch. The outcome is not recorded. We sent a gift in return. In 1974 the Club's International Night centred around a candle lighting ceremony with German, Guyanan and Jamaican students from Atlantic College. In 1977 the Club had an International theme evening where costumes from Wickenburg were displayed and Mrs Janet Walker made cookies.

During the whole of this decade the Club was making a splendid job of enjoying itself. At the 21st Annual Dinner on March 30th 1968 the Club celebrated in style. The Federation President Miss Lambert was the speaker at a dinner in the Esplanade Hotel, Porthcawl. The mother club, Swansea, presented Bridgend with a Past President's chain of office, first worn by Miss Kathleen Snell in the A.G.M. 1968. The success of this evening led to forward planning for the 25th anniversary so that gifts could be given to all attending the dinner.

The Club was looking forward to the next decade.

The Fourth Decade 1977 - 87

The Club met at the Friends' Meeting House for the first few years of this fourth decade but in 1981 moved to Laleston Church Hall. The pattern of meetings was maintained but in May 1985 meeting nights were changed to the second and fourth Wednesdays in the month (to accommodate members who belonged to other societies). In 1979 the installation of the new President reverted to April. For this decade membership hovered around forty and we ended with thirty-eight members in 1987.

The Club programme began the decade with its accustomed mixture of guest speakers and talks from members. As Divisional Union and Federation links grew stronger more evenings were occupied with speakers from Divisional Union and discussion arising from Divisional Union. In 1982 a Divisional Union Civic Action Committee was set up and funded by clubs. In 1984 in response to Federation policy the Club adopted a quadrennial theme - Human Rights and the Status of Women - one of six programme areas on which Soroptimism now focused. In 1986 - 87 the Club held several discussions on subjects related to this theme, formalised into a forum format.

International Night remained a regular feature. 1980 was particularly colourful as the Williamsburg Club sent us dolls in the costume of countries where there were Soroptimist clubs. There was a conscious effort to establish and maintain friendship links with other clubs in the Divisional Union through lunches, 'At Homes' and invitations to speak. The Church Service was still held every year in a church of the President's choosing.

The Club continued support for its established commitments in the community and added the Samaritans and the Jane Hodge Home. Help was given in particular moments of crisis. In 1979 a donation of £40 was made to the Flood Victims Fund set up by Rhondda Borough Council. In 1980 clothes were given to the Vietnamese Boat People who settled in Bridgend.

In 1985 the Club sponsored Miss Sarah Francis for overseas work and in 1986 Miss Sarah Thomas was helped financially to take part in Operation Raleigh. Both girls later came to tell the Club of their experiences.

Club finances emerged in a healthy state at the end of the decade but there were moments of indrawn breath. In December 1978 the Treasurer reported that the five year plan drawn up in December 1974 would have to be revised. Inflation was blamed. In 1981 fees were raised to £20 for active members and £17 for retired members but in this year income failed to meet expenses by £4.23 and it was feared that in 1982 -83 there would be a greater deficit. In April 1983 subscriptions were increased to £25 for active members and £22 for retired members. By 1986 all was well. Subscriptions remained the same and

some money was invested in a Building Society in preparation for the Fortieth Anniversary celebrations in 1987.

Fund raising for charities was re-appraised in this decade. In the first few years the Sale of Work was still a main source of income raising £368.20 in 1979 and well over £400 in each of the next three years, but in March 1982 the Club adopted a suggestion of incoming President Shân Walsh that it be replaced. She felt that some members were doing most of the work and that it would be more equitable if each member gave a charity donation of £10 or raised money by individual effort. This would give a basic annual figure which could be augmented by other fund raising activities. Cheese and Wine evenings and fashion shows were popular at this time. In its first year this method raised £574.50.



Our 4 D.U. Wales South Presidents

Rosemary Deere, Dr Kathleen Davies, Kathleen Snell and Dorothy Bonnett (Jamieson)

In March 1987 it was decided that the Club would select, by secret ballot, one charity each year from the members' nominations at the first meeting in May after the A.G.M. A chosen charity would then be ineligible for nomination for five years. Thus one charity replaced three.

In this fourth decade the Club was very active in Divisional Union and Federation. Miss Rosemary Deere was elected to several posts. In 1982 she became Divisional Union Vice President, Divisional Union Representative on the Federation Executive Council and Chairman of the Federation Steering Committee. In 1983 - 84 she was Divisional Union President. In 1984 Rosemary accompanied the Federation President, Mrs Margaret Hutchings, to charter a club in Nigeria and gave a slide show to the Bridgend Club on her return. Mrs Dorothy Bonnet (Llewellyn) too was moving forward in Divisional Union. She was Divisional Union First Vice President and Representative on the Federation Programme Action Committee in 1986.

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Club members attended Federation Conferences in Brighton (1977), Blackpool (1978), Glasgow (1979), Jersey (1980), and Edinburgh (1981). In 1977 nineteen members went to the Brighton Conference travelling in a bus and staying in a hotel organised by Mrs. Nellie Evans of Llanelli. In that Conference a project was started to buy Longford Court House as a home for autistic children. The Divisional Union of Wales South was set an annual target of £1000. Study weekends were popular too. A very successful one was held at the Seabank Hotel in Porthcawl on 6th - 8th April 1984. Fifty-five members attended for the weekend and one hundred and sixty-six came on Saturday to hear a speaker on Family Law. In the dinner that night Ewenny Pottery vases and tankards were given to the guests and the musical entertainment was organised by Mrs Nesta Garfield. Pupils from St. Clare's Convent School and members of Mid Glamorgan Orchestra took part. On Sunday there was a church service in Newton Church. Comment from the grapevine was favourable: "The best study weekend I have attended", said a Soroptimist from Brecon. One voice speaking for many we must hope.

In June 1984 the Divisional Union A.G.M. was held at Pyle Leisure Centre followed by a Bridgend 'At Home'. Club members provided refreshments for one hundred and fifty under the excellent direction of Miss Jean Austin, Chairman of the Social Committee. The Club's profile in the Divisional Union was high that year.



40th Anniversary Celebrations 1987

President Felicity Ladbrooke presenting a cheque to Seth Parfitt, Ogwr Cancer Relief Committee

By kind permission of the Glamorgan Gazette

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Federation and Divisional Union influence was felt more at club level. Clubs were urged to write to M.P.'s and local authorities on various subjects. In 1979 they wrote to local M.P.'s expressing concern over the export of live animals for slaughter and to the local authorities about the withdrawal of grants for adult literacy. In 1983 the focus was on equal pay for work of equal value. In 1985 personal pensions, human fertility, and the elimination of discrimination against women were targeted. In 1987 they tackled a wide range of topics - food preservatives and additives, dangers of cancer screening, the Warnock Report, drug abuse, homelessness, the Wages Council and the reform of Social Security.

International aspects of Soroptimism were not forgotten. Our four basic links were maintained and strengthened. In 1979 - 80 several members visited the Vienna Club on its fiftieth anniversary. A two week tour had been organised by Barry Club at a cost of £250.

As always Club members enjoyed many social events - theatre visits, expeditions to places of local interest and further afield to the Houses of Parliament, buffet suppers, and barbecues. Most of these activities included a meal at some point in the proceedings.

The Club was in a very healthy state as it approached its fortieth anniversary.

The Fifth Decade 1987 - 1997

During this decade the Club celebrated several significant birthdays. The fortieth was marked in May 1987; President Felicity provided the wine and Club Secretary Kathleen provided the cake. In 1993 the forty-fifth birthday was held at the Red Cross Centre; President Anne arranged this. Miss Dorothy Worthing and Miss Mary Austin cut the cake and gave us an insight into the Club's early years. On International Night, 12th December 1991, President Frances planted an oak tree in her garden to commemorate seventy years of Soroptimism. Preparations were begun in 1996 for the Club's fiftieth anniversary in 1997.



President Jean Thomas with D.U. Wales South President, Dorothy Bonnett 1988

Until 1989 we met at Laleston Church Hall but in April 1989 we transferred to the South Wales Police Sports and Social Club. We are still there. Our presence is now marked by a handsome slate plaque, donated by President Janet and unveiled by the Mayor, Councillor

Megan Butcher on the 9th October 1996. The ceremony was arranged to coincide with the seventy-fifth anniversary of Soroptimist International.



Adult Literacy and 6th Form Writing Competitions, Presentation Evening 1992

President Frances Rees presenting prizes with guests

By kind permission of the Glamorgan Gazette

Our numbers remained fairly constant in the upper thirties. Miss Kathleen Snell was made an honorary member in April 1989, on her retirement as Secretary after many years of sterling work. Founder Member Miss Dorothy Worthing and Miss Mary Austin who became a member in the very early days of the Club were made honorary members in January 1993 and long standing members Mrs Nesta Garfield and Miss Gwyneth Williams in 1994.

During this decade there were sad losses. Dr. Kathleen Davies, Founder and Honorary Member died on the 3rd November 1989. In lieu of flowers a donation was given to The Rest Convalescent Home. Dr. Kathleen had been its President for many years and was looked after there in her last illness. Mrs. Mary Wyndham Jones, Founder Secretary died

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in January 1991 and a donation was sent to the Girl Guides: she had been Commissioner for several years. When Miss Kathleen Snell died in 1993, P.H.A.B. received a cheque for £100 in her memory: Kathleen had been its President for many years. Former Presidents, Mrs. Kate Davies, Mrs. Ann Croft and Mrs. Sybil Hurley died in 1992. In 1993 - 1994 we grieved again for the death of three Past Presidents, Miss Val Burns, Mrs Olive Loosemore and Mrs. Vera Jones. A gift of two chairs to the Princess of Wales Hospital Chapel was dedicated at a memorial service to Val and Vera. Donations were given to Tenovus chosen by Olive's family. Mr. Norman Jones presented the Club with a new chain of office in memory of his wife Vera.

Mrs. Dorothy Llewellyn (now Jamieson) whose election to the post of Federation Vice President we had celebrated in November 1990, left us to go to Great Yarmouth in January 1993. We said goodbye with a farewell dinner and gift.

From October 1990 minutes were circulated to members. In 1991 retired members were given the choice of becoming Senior or Associate members. In 1996 Active Members numbered twenty-eight, Senior Members six and Associate Members four.

The pattern of meetings was maintained. Speakers were varied. Some talks were linked with the International Quadrennial Themes; members gave job talks; health and education were to the fore with forums to focus attention on the salient points. The position and status of women were always relevant. One forum concentrated on women in the Church in Wales.

Programme Action assumed greater importance. In 1993 - 1994 Club members were divided into Programme Action Groups to attempt action and advocacy in the six programme areas highlighted by Soroptimist International. (See Appendix 4b)

Our service to the community remained an enduring commitment. The Club was represented in C.A.B., Mid Glamorgan Health Authority, P.H.A.B., Age Concern, the Community Health Council, The Rest and the Local Authority. We also supported the Samaritans and we continued our Christmas hospital visits until 1991. After this time a gift to the ward as a whole was agreed. Mrs Dorothy Llewellyn was President of the South Wales District of NALGO, Miss Kathleen Snell of P.H.A.B., Mrs Anne Morgan of Mid Glamorgan Red Cross, Miss Andrea Harries of Bridgend Law Society. Mrs Dulcie Davies was Vice Chairman of the Community Health Council, Mrs Barbara Miles Vice Chairman of the Board of Management of The Rest. Miss Mary Austin became Vice President of The Rest. In 1994 Dr Doreen Annear was appointed Fellow of the British Medical Association.



New President's Chain of Office

Presented in memory of Vera Jones by her husband Mr Norman Jones

We supported local teenagers doing voluntary work abroad and took an active interest in adult literacy. In 1990 the Club took as its project, the problem of adult literacy in Ogwr to coincide with International Literacy Year. The Federation provided funding. In 1992 two competitions were introduced: a writing competition for Ogwr sixth formers and a music competition for Ysgol Cefn Glas. These are still held annually with prizes donated by Sony, The Education Business Partnership and Mid Glamorgan Training and Enterprise

Council (T.E.C.). In 1993 a pilot scheme was undertaken to show school pupils by example what can be achieved by professional women. Locally we were involved in Training & Enterprise working groups and careers conventions. We took part in national schemes to improve the environment and international schemes to raise awareness of the needs of all people and the progress of women to equal status and to persuade governments to take action on their behalf.



*President Janet Pearce with Mayor of Bridgend, Megan Butcher,
unveiling the Club plaque in 1996*

The Club's finances have been stable during this decade. The President's honorarium was increased from £50 to £70 and later to £100. Subscriptions rose steadily from £35 in 1989 to £55 in 1995. Members' charity donations (not a subscription but a voluntary gift) were increased to £15 in January 1994. In November 1994 a new Chain of Office was bought with the gift of £300 from Norman Jones, widower of Past President Vera. Bars from the existing chain have been mounted in a velvet frame.

We supported local charities throughout the decade. At the beginning one charity was chosen in line with the President's wishes. In April 1995 there was a rule change. The rule which stated that no charity could be supported more than once in five years was rescinded to allow the Club to choose the same charity more than once in five years. Substantial sums were raised by a variety of methods to support charities such as N.S.P.C.C., Cancer Research, Bone Marrow Appeal, Macmillan, Y.M.C.A., Ty Hafan and the Samaritans.

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There was active participation in the work of Divisional Union. Mrs Dorothy Llewellyn made steady progress through various offices in Divisional Union and Federation, finally becoming Federation President in 1993 after she had moved to Great Yarmouth. Miss Rosemary Deere became Benevolent Fund Representative in October 1990 and Conference Registrar in Birmingham in 1994. Bridgend Club members were heavily involved with registration for this conference and eleven members attended.

The Club discussed the Cadogan report and sent three members to the Inter-regional meeting at Llandrindod Wells to consider the new Federation Constitution. We took an interest in Regional projects on Osteoporosis and Caring for Carers. Training days organised by Region in 1995 and 1996 were attended by Club members. Some members bought shares and others joined the 500 Club to support The Soroptimist Residential Club at 63 Bayswater Road in London.

International and friendship links were maintained and extended. We received gifts from Williamsburg and sent them a Christmas gift of lace panels. In December 1990 a book sent from Williamsburg in memory of Dr. Kathleen Davies was placed in the library at The Rest. In 1993 Miss Lynda Edwards visited Williamsburg taking gifts from the Mayor of Ogwr and bringing gifts in return.

As always the Club's social life flourished with lunches, dinners, theatre visits to Bath, London and Bristol, musical evenings and visits to local places of interest. There were summer outings, 'At Homes', International Nights, visits to Federation Conferences at Nottingham, Jersey, Bournemouth, Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow and Harrogate.

The Club as always followed a balanced programme of service and fellowship.

The Sixth Decade 1997 – 2007

The decade began with several notable events. In the first meeting, on 14th May 1997, the President, Jean Davies, reminded members that the initial meeting of the Club had been held on 8th May 1997. To mark the event, Founder Member Dorothy Worthing read the Minutes of that meeting and every member received an engraved Welsh crystal posy vase. A history of the first 50 years of the Club was available for members to buy, and a birthday toast set the seal on the occasion.

On 22nd June our Golden Jubilee Lunch was held at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel. Over 100 guests attended including Federation President Olive Newton and Regional President Ann Jones. Engraved posy bowls were given to Swansea and our Friendship Clubs. Swansea, our Mother Club, gave £50 to our Charity Fund.



*Cutting the cake at the 50th Anniversary Lunch 1997
President Jean Davies with Federation President, Olive Newton*

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Significant constitutional changes occurred during these 10 years.

We sent 2 members, Lynda Edwards and Jean Thomas, to a meeting at Portishead attended by 36 Clubs from Wales South and South West England, to consider 'The Way Forward', a review of management structure. A report from the meeting, chaired by Federation President Pamela Lee, was taken back to the Club's Executive Council.

Constitutional motions were put forward at the Bournemouth Conference in 1998 which was attended by 8 of our members.

A new membership structure came into operation in 1999. From April of that year all members paid the same subscription. Each Club had to have at least 15 active members and 50% of the members had to be active. This presented some difficulties for many Clubs, including Bridgend, as many members were retiring at an earlier age. The question of ageism arose as regulations for taking office were brought into prominence by the younger retirement age.

In this decade Club membership fluctuated. The lowest point came in 2002 – 2003 with the number at 28. For the most part membership remained in the 30's rising to 37 in January 2005 and settling at 34 in 2007.

Some of the oldest and most faithful members died – Nesta Garfield in 1997, Aisne Woodrow in 1998, Mary Austin, Gwyneth Williams and Dulcie Davies in 2000 and Dorothy Worthing in 2007. We remember them with affection and appreciation of all they gave to the Club.

Jean Flower and Pat Jones resigned and there were a few lapsed memberships.

There were gains too through the transfer of members from other Clubs – Eurwen Richards from Central London, Eileen Bayley from Newport, Eileen Tomkinson from Southport, Sylvia Scarfe from Llantrisant and Mary Williams from Rhondda.

In 2001 Margaret Bertorelli and Janet Walker were made Honorary Members of the Club.

In 2006 long service awards were given to:

Dorothy Worthing	over 50 year's service
Margaret Bertorelli	
Rosemary Deere	over 40 year's service
Janet Walker	
Eurwen Richards	over 30 year's service
Anne Hughes	
Felicity Ladbroke	
Barbara Miles	over 25 year's service
Shan Walsh	

This is proof, if it were needed, that we know how to keep members.

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A continuing problem through this decade was the finding of officers. In 1999 a small group of members and past presidents – Lynda Edwards, Frances Rees and Anne Morgan – agreed to serve for a second term to give the Club a breathing space. In 2004 Lily Laesser stepped into the breach. This problem affects many Clubs. Joint presidency has been considered in several Clubs, including Bridgend.

Until December 2003 meetings were held in the Police Club at Waterton but from that date on we moved to Nolton Church Hall in Merthyr Mawr Road. From May 1999 Club meeting nights were changed to Mondays. They reverted to Wednesdays in 2001.

Our pattern of meetings has remained unchanged but the Club is moving purposefully forward into the 21st Century. The majority of members now receive their Minutes by email and our name badges are magnetic.

Club subscriptions have risen steadily through these 10 years. From 1997 to 1999 Active Members paid £60 a year. This rose to £65 in 2000, £70 in 2002 (of which 59.6% goes to Federation and Region) and £80 in 2006 and 2007. The President's Honorarium increased in 2001 from £100 to £150 with the recommendation of a 5-yearly review. In 2005 it rose to £175 with an annual review agreed. Voluntary charity donations have remained at £15 throughout.

During this decade there were some very busy years for the Club.

In 1998 the National Eisteddfod was held in Bridgend and our members were actively involved in organising and manning the Regional tent and display, and providing refreshments. Welsh cakes are as individual as the people who make them and many were supplied. The Club also produced a bilingual leaflet for the occasion.



Members of S.I. Bridgend at the National Eisteddfod 1998

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In 2000 the Federation Conference was held in Cardiff and several members attended. In 2001 4 members travelled to Durban in South Africa for the SIGBI Conference and in 2002 11 members went to the Glasgow Conference to support Helen Murdoch who became Regional President that year – the Bridgend Club’s fifth Regional President. Since then Helen has been actively involved at Region and Federation and has served as Federation Executive Councillor for Wales South for two years.



*Regional President Helen Murdoch representing Wales South
at the International Convention in Sydney, Australia*

Our contribution at Regional level was particularly high in 2002 – 2003. We worked hard to ensure the success of the Regional Study and Friendship Weekend hosted at the Rest in Porthcawl, the Regional Party at Miskin Manor Hotel and the Regional AGM at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

We were, of course, involved through the whole decade with varied and useful projects in the region. Domestic abuse was a high profile concern. In 2003 Region introduced the ‘Youth in the Community Award’ replacing the ‘Women in the Community Award’. Sandra Michael of Riding for the Disabled won the Regional Award that year. Helen’s Brownies (3rd Newton Brownie Unit) took part in the Regional Art Competition along with

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3 local schools. Two of these schools had Soroptimist connections through their Head Teachers – Christina Bach of Penyfai Primary and Rayner Rees of Cefn Glas Infants. All 56 entries were on display at McArthur Glen, 2 were taken to Region and 1 entry from Garth Primary School was on display at the Nottingham Conference.

In 2006 a new Regional project ‘Licking Lassa Fever’ was adopted. The project was originally presented as one of the candidates for the 2007 – 2011 Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project. Although it was not successful, the project gained a great deal of support and was adopted as a Regional project for Wales South. Helen remains heavily involved in this with enthusiastic Club support. At the 2006 Regional AGM it was agreed that £180,000 should be raised over 2 years for environmental programmes in Sierra Leone.

The Club has also been involved in joint projects with other Clubs in the region. Cardiff in particular joined with us in supporting projects of mutual interest. In 2006 – 2007 Cardiff and Bridgend held some joint fund-raising events for The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, a charity that has now been adopted by SIGBI.

Federation projects have also received our support. The 1999 – 2003 Quadrennial Project ‘Limbs for Life’ was of considerable interest to us. Our region raised £18,500 for this – the highest amount raised by SIGBI regions. We also contributed to the 2003 -2007 Quadrennial Project ‘Project Independence: Women Survivors of War’ and to the International President’s annual appeals. At Study Days and Weekends ‘Street Children’, ‘Recycling’, ‘Drug Abuse’ and ‘GM Foods’ were all central theses for discussion.

At Club level this was a fruitful decade. Our speakers came from both within the Club and outside. Topics reflected the Programme Focus areas and matters of general interest such as Childline Cymru, the Samaritans, Crime and Policing, Drugs, The Talking Newspaper and The National Health Service.

In 1997 a speaker from The TEAR Fund triggered a 6-year sponsorship of a young girl from Brazil, Ana Paula Bezerra. In this year too Rayner Rees told us of her school’s links with Navajo School in New Mexico.

In 1998 a speaker from Ogwr Women’s Aid (later known as Bridgend Women’s Aid) inspired the Club to give active support. Anne Morgan and Lily Laesser later became Trustees of Women’s Aid and members continue to provide practical gifts of toiletries, bed linen and money.

In 1999 – 2000 Lynda Edwards organised a joint project with our link club in Williamsburg to raise money for a knitting machine for women in Cusco, Peru. S.I. Courtney, another friendship link club, pledged 600 Canadian dollars for this project.

More recently Carys Brown has organised a sewing/knitting centre project for destitute women in Eastern Yemen and 65 large boxes containing sewing machines and fabrics have been despatched.



*Carys Brown, Frances Rees, Jean Davies and Eileen Bayley
packing sewing machines for the Yemen*

By kind permission of the Glamorgan Gazette

When our sponsorship of Ana Paula came to an end in 2003 we sponsored a young student in Cape Verde in conjunction with Cardiff Club.

Barbara Miles and Marjorie Page continued running our writing competition for local sixth formers with generous prizes donated by Sony and by the Club. This maintained our contact with local young people as did our sponsorship of students in their 'gap' years. Some of them came to tell us of their experiences. We also supported a Christmas Tree Festival at Nolton Church.

Individual members have been involved in local affairs. Rosemary Deere is the current Mayor of the Borough and Diane Burns of Bridgend Town. Margaret Bertorelli held that office earlier in the decade. Felicity Ladbrooke was on the Community Health Council for several years and is now County Commissioner for Central Glamorgan Guides. Frances Rees worked with the Samaritans, Anne Morgan and Lily Laesser with Women's Aid, Inez Fulgoni with voluntary work at the hospital eye clinic, Barbara Miles with the Talking Newspaper, Jean Davies and Sylvia Scarfe on the Independent Management Board, HM Parc Prison, Christine Phillips with Citizens' Advice Bureau and Lindy Hutchinson with The Carers' Centre. Several of our members are JP's.

The Club maintained its support for the Rest Convalescent Home now known as the Rest Hotel and for the whole of this decade has been represented on the Management Committee. Inez is our current representative. Funds were raised for local good causes by various means – fashion shows, Advent suppers, hog roasts, concerts, raffles, cheese and wine evenings, barbeques, Fair Trade events. The Meningitis Research Foundation, Riding

for the Disabled, the MS Society, Y Bont (centre for babies and young children with disabilities in Bridgend), the YMCA, and KRUF (the Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation) were among the causes which benefited.

Letters were written to local MP's on the effects of cluster bombs and the evils of human trafficking. First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, was contacted over the threat of closure to the National Botanic Garden of Wales. A regional report on domestic violence was sent to Edwina Hart at the National Assembly of Wales.

We enjoyed ourselves too. Forums, Call my Bluff, visits to Cardiff Bay, the National Botanic Garden, the Western Mail offices, the Town Council Chamber, a Civic Reception at the Borough Mayor's Parlour and Chepstow Races were all lively occasions.



Members of S.I. Bridgend enjoying hospitality in Finland with S.I. Uusikaupunki

Members visited clubs at Uusikaupunki in Finland, Cape Town in South Africa, Palm Springs in the USA, Auckland in New Zealand, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Sydney and Fremantle in Australia. We were in regular communication with our friendship link clubs S.I. Courtney in British Columbia, Canada, S.I. Williamsburg in the USA and S.I. Uusikaupunki in Finland. Our President Elect wears the Williamsburg brooch left to the Club by Kathleen Snell. Gifts from Williamsburg were given to The Rest, The Talking Newspaper and Youth in the Community. A letter of sympathy and support was sent to Williamsburg after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In 2006 a new link was formed with the newly chartered Club, S.I. Taw and Torridge in North Devon. We travelled across the

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Bristol Channel by ferry to meet them for lunch in July and hope some members will be able to come to our 60th celebration in September. We are also expecting to be joined at our 60th celebration by 8 members from S.I. Uusikaupunki.

This decade has seen an increase in our links with other Clubs regionally and internationally. We look forward to further advances in an age where communication and travel become ever easier.

It is still the aims and objects of Soroptimism that are at the heart of everything we do. Their wording may have changed but their message remains the same.

Conclusion

Reviewing the sixty years of the Club's history has left a strong impression that "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose". The Aims and Objects of Soroptimism remain the guiding principle to inspire the Club through the coming years and so much remains to be achieved in all six programme areas that fresh challenges face Soroptimists as we move forwards.

Let us hope that this brief history will be of use to the historian who looks back on the Club in its centenary year.



Our 60th year

Club Members with President Rayner Rees at the Club Meeting in 2007

Appendix One

Founder members and their categories

Mrs. Dapho Powell	Barrister
Mrs. E.M. Watkins	Head teacher
Dr. K. Davies	Divisional M.O.H.
Miss H.J. Williams	County Librarian
Miss M.V. Jones	Hospital Matron
Sister C. Morris	Nursing Sister
Miss G.M. Jenkins	Civil Servant
Miss B. Morgan	Food Industry
Mrs. King Davies	Health Visitor
Miss R. Morgan	Education
Miss D. Worthing	Education
Miss P. Leyshon	Education
Miss E. Griffiths	Optician
Miss E.E. Jones	Matron Blind School
Miss M. Mark	Education
Mrs. E.B. Jones	Matron Children's Home

Appendix Two

Election of Officers May 8th 1947

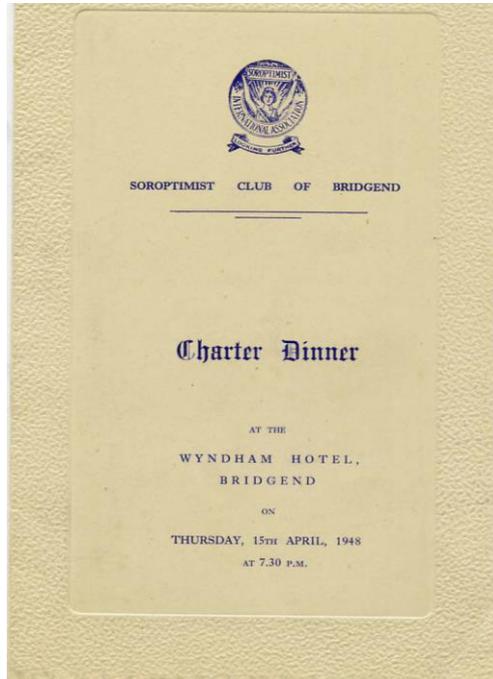
President	Mrs. Dapho Powell
First Vice President	Mrs E.M. Watkins (formerly Evans)
Second Vice President	Mrs. E.B. Jones
Secretary	Miss M. Mark
Treasurer	Miss G.M. Jenkins

Executive Committee members

Dr. Kathleen Davies
Miss H.J. Williams
Miss M.V. Jones
Miss Dorothy Worthing
Miss B. Morgan
Miss E.E. Jones

Appendix 3

The Charter Dinner Menu and Programme



Menu	Toasts
<i>Soup :</i> TOMATO SOUP	1—"The King"
★ <i>Poultry :</i> ROAST STUFFED CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE	2—"Our President" <i>Proposed by</i> MRS. DAPHO POWELL, B.A.L. <i>Response by</i> MISS M. A. COX, O.B.E., <i>Federation President.</i> PRESENTATION OF CHARTER
<i>Vegetables :</i> BOILED POTATOES CABBAGE SWEDES	3—"Our Member" <i>Proposed by</i> DR. D. P. EVANS, PH.D., M.SC., F.R.I.C. <i>Response by</i> J. EVANS, ESQ., M.P. SONG by Miss G. MORGAN
★ <i>Sweet :</i> APPLE PIE	4—"The Federation of Soroptimism" <i>Proposed by</i> DR. K. DAVIES, M.O.H. <i>Response by</i> ALD. MRS. H. D. WILLIAMS, M.B.E., J.P., <i>President for Wales Area.</i>
★ COFFEE	5—"Penybont" <i>Proposed by</i> MRS. E. M. WATKINS, M.A. <i>Response by</i> the CHAIRMEN OF THE BRIDGEND, PENYBONT AND PORTHCAWL COUNCILS
	6—"Our Visitors" <i>Proposed by</i> MISS M. MARK, B.A. <i>Response by</i> a VISITING SOROPTIMIST

Appendix Four a

Aims and Objects of Soroptimist International

To maintain high ethical standards in business, the professions and other aspects of life.

To strive for human rights for all people and in particular, to advance the status of women.

To develop a spirit of friendship and unity among Soroptimists of all countries.

To quicken the spirit of service and human understanding.

To contribute to international understanding and universal friendship.

Amended to:

Soroptimist International strives for:

- The advancement of the status of women
- High ethical standards
- Human Rights for all
- Equality, development and peace

Through International Goodwill and Understanding and Friendship.

Soroptimist International is committed to:

- Service to local, national and international communities
- Active participation in decision-making at all levels of society.

Appendix Four b

Programme Focus

Economic and Social Development

Education

Environment

Health

Human Rights / Status of Women

International Goodwill and Understanding

Appendix Five

Past Presidents

Mrs G. Powell	1947 - 1948	Miss V. Burns	1978 - 1979
Mrs E. Watkins	1948 - 1949	Miss C. Jones	1979 - 1980
Dr K. Davies	1949 - 1950	Mrs D. Bonnett	1980 - 1981
Mrs M. Grey	1950 - 1951	Miss V. Jones	1981 - 1982
Mrs M. Jones	1951 - 1952	Mrs S. Walsh	1982 - 1983
Miss H. Roberts, B.E.M.	1952 - 1953	Miss L. R. Edwards	1983 - 1984
Miss H. Irwin, M.B.E.	1953 - 1954	Mrs A. Croft	1984 - 1985
Miss K. M. Austin	1954 - 1955	Mrs A. Hughes	1985 - 1986
Miss D. Worthing	1955 - 1956	Mrs B. Miles	1986 - 1987
Miss G. Williams	1956 - 1957	Miss F. Ladbrooke	1987 - 1988
Mrs G. Morris, J.P.	1957 - 1958	Miss J. Thomas	1988 - 1989
Miss P. E. Tudor	1958 - 1959	Mrs J. Chatterton	1989 - 1990
Mrs M. A. Celyn Williams	1959 - 1960	Mrs O. Loosmore	1990 - 1991
Miss C. E. Beaumont	1960 - 1961	Mrs F. Rees	1991 - 1992
Miss E. M. Bishop	1961 - 1962	Mrs A. Morgan, J. P.	1992 - 1993
Miss O. M. Harrington	1962 - 1963	Mrs L. Laesser	1993 - 1994
Miss N. Garfield	1963 - 1964	Mrs M. Page	1994 - 1995
Miss L. O. Williams	1964 - 1965	Ms C. Wright	1995 - 1996
Miss J. Austin	1965 - 1966	Mrs J. Pearce	1996 - 1997
Miss E. E. Thomas	1966 - 1967	Miss J. Davies	1997 - 1998
Miss K. M. Snell	1967 - 1968	Mrs Helen Murdoch	1998 - 1999
Mrs M. M. Bertorelli	1968 - 1969	Miss Lynda Edwards	1999 - 2000
Mrs J. Walker	1969 - 1970	Mrs Frances Rees	2000 - 2001
Miss M. Smith	1970 - 1971	Mrs Anne Morgan J.P.	2001 - 2002
Miss R. Deere	1971 - 1972	Miss Eurwen Richards	2002 - 2003
Miss K. M. Austin	1972 - 1973	Mrs Christine Phillips	2003 - 2004
Mrs M. A. Celyn Williams	1973 - 1974	Mrs Lily Laesser	2004 - 2005
Mrs C. M. Davies	1974 - 1975	Mrs Carys Brown	2005 - 2006
Miss D. D. Bussey	1975 - 1976	Mrs Lindy Hutchinson	2006 - 2007
Dr D. Annear	1976 - 1978	Mrs Rayner Rees	2007 - 2008