

Soroptimist International Cockermouth & District
Minutes of the meeting held at VeeVa –15th November 2018 8pm

President Helen welcomed sixteen members (Doreen Bertram, Chris Blake, Tricia Burgess, Martha Dewis, Ros Earthy, Lindsay Edmiston, Katherine Eilbeck, Maureen Foy, Joan Hetherington, Sue Mendus, Lynette Norris, Hazel Potts, Claire Rawlinson, Judith Spencer, Barbara Williams, Angela Winkworth) and five guests (Lesley, Marion FitzGerald, Jan Johnson, Sue Johnson, Tellervo Juurmaa).

Apologies from Mhairi Angus, Guida Bass, Jane Inman, Helen Tinnion,

A short video clip of member Joan Hetherington's vignette of 'Shirley Valentine' was shown as we approached the UN day for Elimination of Violence against Women.

Minutes

The minutes of 18th October had been circulated and names amended so were accepted and signed.

Matters arising would be dealt with in the agenda

President's remarks.

Helen reported that the flower arranging demonstration had been enjoyed by all even if it went on rather too long. £309.05 had been raised. The missing urn had been tracked down by MD and would be returned by the beginning of December.

Helen, Martha and Claire had attended an enlightening and interesting lunch at Newcastle, celebrating the suffragette/suffragist movement and granting votes for (<10%) women in 1918. The journey home had been uninterrupted by diversions.

Helen had been accompanied at the Cenotaph by Trisha on Remembrance Sunday. However she had been disappointed by the failure of the Town Council to have the scaffolding removed for the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI. Other members had attended Church services.

Treasurers report

Admin £510.09 (includes £200 for honorarium to be used in a fundraiser in Spring).

Subscriptions account £644.97 prepaid for next year.

Charity £1,351.84 for Brain Tumour Research. The money raised for Dementia had been paid. There would be increases in subscriptions to sigbi, SI, Region and UKPAC as well as increased costs of the room £40 (£30). Present subs stood at £81 and had not been increased for two years. There were currently 20 full, 1 honorary and 10 linked members going forward to 2019. Next year outgoings would be approximately £1400 on fees and £700 on room hire. Presently the Club received about £30 from full members and £1 from linked members. There would be consideration of all increases including those at Federation by the Finance Committee prior to an Exec meeting on 8th January 7.30pm at Helen's for the Club to make a decision on 17th January. Katherine would be holding a planning meeting for her year on 7th February.

PA

Sunday 25th November, UN Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women was the start of 16 days of Action culminating on Monday 10th December Human Rights Day/SI Day of Action. We would be distributing Orange Ribbons and Leaflets in Cockermouth. Initially Helen had intended to do this outside Lloyds Bank on Main street and had contacted Highways dept but heard nothing back. On further consideration it was felt that Allerdale Car Park outside Sainsburys might have

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greater footfall so it was decided to distribute there. (Sainsburys no longer has a foyer event, however it was felt they should be informed as a courtesy).

We had booked the Charity Market Stall on Saturday December 1st 9-4pm in Keswick to give out Orange Ribbons and advocate support for Handicap International/International ban on landmines. CB needed 4 people on each shift and passed round the sheet for members to sign up. A lightweight table was needed for the display boards which BW would deliver to Helen's. Sunday 2nd December would be the Victorian Fair. But there was insufficient support available to walk around distributing leaflets.

There was a flyer from the Purple Community Fund and a container was going out to the Philippines so Claire was sending off ring pulls from drinks cans. This fund was now carrying out work in the UK working with asylum seekers and women ex-prisoners as well as supporting in the Philippines.

Cumbria Police Force was joining the White Ribbon Campaign.

There was now a Police co-ordinator for Modern Day Slavery, Sandra Radcliffe, lead by DI Craig Smith. Jane had met with them and Pat Newsham from Penrith to discuss further awareness training in the Spring run by the Clewer Initiative and Churches together with a trainer at the Braithwaite Institute. SI Grange has already undertaken training in the South of Cumbria. We would need to pull in other organisations; WI, Girl Guides, Schools etc. It was hoped this might help to keep Penrith Club going. The Grab/New Start/Comfort Bags were to be taken forward for use in Cumbria. DB explained to visitors what went into the bags to provide essential items for rescued women. There were no safe houses in Cumbria so should be stored at the Churches used as centres.

Fund Raising

The next major fundraiser would be a singalong showing of 'Oklahoma' in March and it was yet to be decided if Kirkgate would sell half the tickets.

Friendship Links

JI & MD had met up with members of Northallerton at the friendship desk at Conference as Jane reported in her circulated report. MD had also spoken with Pat Black from Edinburgh.

Communications

Lindsay distributed copies of the updated Development Plan. At the beginning of the year the decision had been made to support Age UK and not take the lead in future events. The Meru project was coming to an end and would be replaced by the chosen sigbi Federation project in 2019. Liz Hunter had a project enabling a group of girls to become self sufficient in making sanitary towels in Sierra Leone.

We needed to review Balsalm Bashing as we had been told it was being controlled biologically, while TB reported that Bee Keepers advocated leaving the Himalayan Balsalm as a food source. We needed to target Women and employers in the locality and consider our position in the Region with respect to the remaining Clubs in the West. We also needed to ensure we maintained links with our Whitehaven members. JS was taking names for a lunch with them on 24th January. We also had to consider using Meet Up again. Newcastle Club had found members from this. We decided to pay £10 towards Regional membership rather than £130 for a group of clubs in the West. However, we must use it more along with developing skills on Twitter, Instagram and snapchat. We needed to put articles on it to attract younger age groups. We could offer facilitating form filling etc as our Emergency Response contribution.

Federation

MD reported that Conference had been very worthwhile and enjoyable with a slick opening ceremony of all the flags and a colourful welcome to all members in the Conference Centre with a cheerful swing duo. The speakers had all been good. Emily Rose Yates, a disabled wheelchair

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user was inspirational in encouraging others to travel. Terry Waites expounded the only way to solving the crises in the world was negotiation not aggression. Ann Marie Wilson was inspirational in asking us to change the culture of FGM, although in 22 of the 28 countries it was now illegal and had been medicalised. There were reports of many admirable PA projects. International President Mariet had invited us to the next Convention in Kuala Lumpur next year.

The Programme Resolution voting had been a little angst ridden as the first proposer tried to put the two motions together. All clubs should lobby their Government to support initiatives to address climate change and its impact in their respective countries and 2 lobby Government to review finance for Caribbean Small Island Development Sites. Both were passed. There was confusion over the choice of sigbi Project. Initially STEM had most votes and Think Pink and HEAL Mayuge were eliminated. BUT the Stem Project was renumbered as project 2, consequently Empowering Girls in Nepal gained more votes.

At the General Meeting after a summary of plans for the future by Sue Biggs, the Accounts and Report were accepted.

GM Resolution 1 to adopt the changes in byelaws was passed comfortably as was the tidying of language on linked membership in GM Resolution 2

GM Resolution 3 was to raise dues for bands 1,2 & 3. This caused many comments from members in those bands. Pat Carruthers pointed out that the £2 would have to be adopted whatever the Federation voted as it was constitutional. The vote was lost.

GM resolution 4 was to raise dues for band 4 by £4.99. This was considered lost as only 74.2% was recorded for the motion. Sue Biggs said we would have to seek legal advice. The following morning, she announced that that the decision could be defaulted to FMB and that abstentions should not have been counted. This took us over the 75% as 8.2 % had abstained.

Jane has circulated of a report of speakers on the last day.

Region

Sue Brown had served her six years as Benevolent Club Rep so nominations were invited from members of the Region.

Membership

It was good to welcome so many prospective New Members to the meeting. MD was to contact Judy Davidson about the lunch at Hunday Manor as she had not made it to Coffee at the Lakes. Dorothy had been seen out on her mobility scooter and TB had seen Guida.

Xmas Party 6th December . Please contact Doreen so she can give numbers and dietary requirements to Gareth and pay £18 on the night. Wear **ORANGE!!** The time will be 7pm for 7.30pm. The Cockermouth Post would require a photo.

AOB

The meeting closed at 21.24.

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