



**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 180

May 2019

***Message from the President***

Thank you, SI Edinburgh, for asking me to remain as President for another year. This I agree to happily; happy in the knowledge that we have a great team of Soroptimists working to advance our meetings, our service, fundraising and programme action activities. We have all benefitted from the excellent minutes taken by Dorothy and wish her well as, after six years, she can now relax at our meetings. I have been so very grateful to Past President Anna for her welcome advice on all aspects of our meetings and activities and I know that she will continue to guide in her calm and conscientious manner.

Our programme of meetings this year reflects a commitment for 'building cooperation and working with partnerships'. Over the past year there were many opportunities to speak about Soroptimism with a variety of organisations and people. Our CSW63 Conference, hosted with UN House Scotland and the Scottish Women's Convention, was a good example of such collaboration. Further collaborative partnerships are likely to arise this coming year, so I hope we can seize the initiative and open yet more doors for SI Edinburgh to enter. We will have many occasions to

take forward this aim, with STEMM speakers from Antarctic and international expeditions, women's mental and menstrual health charities, as well as from businesses run for and by women. Each and every meeting is open to our collaborative partners, some of whom we may work with on further conferences, seminars and other activities.

Thinking of activities, we started the year with the sale of Meru Garden Produce at Gogarburn and, you will be pleased to read, the remaining jars of jam can be purchased at our own meetings! I hope most sincerely, that our fundraising for local and for the international campaigns will gather momentum and that we can make valuable contributions to all we support. In the immediate months, this may be to harvest our small change for the 3S Fund: every little smarties tube of 20p pieces (or one pound coins) counts! In the longer term we may find we could apply to Foundations and Trusts to support our activities and collaborations.

I look forward to working with all at SI Edinburgh to take forward the Mission and Vision for SI - especially to help women and girls realise their potential and have an equal voice in creating strong peaceful communities. We can do this through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. Indeed, we can!

***So onward!! and into the  
next session of SI  
Edinburgh.***

***President Gari***

**SISSR Meeting**  
**1<sup>st</sup> June 2019**  
 Council Meeting *PLUS*  
**“A Celebration of Membership”**  
 Long service members  
 ‘Special Award’ Member  
 2 Young Members  
 Helping other women  
**Come along, bring a friend**  
 10 am. Green Park Community Centre,  
 Polmont

**Meru Garden Produce**

At the stall at RBS Gogarburn on 3rd May we sold 56 jars of jams and sauces. Those who worked in the building passed by at various times of the morning and many took an interest in the products and Soroptimism.

Many thanks go to Anna for organising this and co-ordinating all that had to be done. I went through more security hoops than at many an airport!

You will have an opportunity to purchase some at the club meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, and 12<sup>th</sup> June if any are left.

*Ed.*

**THINK ON IT** members in green on 8 May




Back row L–R: Edith, Christine, Anna, Dishari, Alison, Winifred, Clephane, Marjory, Myint Su, Lindsey.  
 Front row L-R: Ayushi, Gari, Isabel.

**Speaker Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Lorna Slater** has recently returned from the Antarctic where she was a participant in the Homeward Bound programme for women in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine); launched in 2016, the inaugural programme culminated in the largest ever female expedition to Antarctica.

Do be sure to be there to hear of her expedition – and maybe we’ll hear about some penguins, of interest to Winifred and myself?

*Ed.*



**THINK ON IT**

SIGBI President Sue Williams chose as her theme for 2018 – 2019  
**‘THINK ON IT’**  
 to provide a focus on mental health for women and girls.

Mental Health Awareness week is  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
 The theme for the week is ‘Body image – how we see ourselves and how that makes us feel’.  
 SI Edinburgh meets on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
 and it would be good if we all wear something.

**GREEN**

*To SI Scotland South Club Presidents and Members*

Dear Club President

**SISS 3S Fund**

We are delighted to inform you that at the end of the financial year 2018/2019 the SISS 3S Fund has been able to support a record number of young people in helping to provide service to and develop communities and themselves. The Fund supported 20 young women who had been recommended by SISS Clubs to get involved in many different ways such as teaching, helping with building projects, encouraging young girls to express themselves through drama. Most of the young people report back to their sponsoring clubs and some keep in touch.

We heard the stories of some of the young people who had been supported previously last year (2018) at our AGM. It is hoped that again at the AGM this year we will be able to listen to the impact the contribution from the 3S Fund has had for recent recipients on their lives and those of the communities they lived in and visited.

At a recent meeting of the Trustees to review the work of the Fund we also heard that as a result of the extra activity the Fund is becoming quite low financially and we wanted to remind Clubs that to continue helping these young people we will need to do some more fund raising. There are several ways in which the Region and clubs currently raise funds on a regular basis:  
Some clubs fill Smartie tubes with 20p pieces (and apparently the new £1 coins fit nicely in tubes!);  
By collecting books for 'Better World Books' SISS receives a regular amount back for 3S Fund;

Individuals have been making small donations.

SISS now has an Easy Funding page - (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/siscotlandsouth/>) so when you are doing your online shopping you can contribute effortlessly.

Additionally, Trustees thought that we could consider a Region fundraiser for this year so if anyone has any ideas we would love to hear from you.

A huge **Thank You** for your continuing support for this very valuable aspect of our Programme Work. The benefits to clubs and the Region are enormous, as it puts the name of Soroptimist International in front of many young people and their families.

Best wishes from the 3S Fund Trustees,

Pat Black, Chair and Immediate Past President, SISS  
Margaret Mowat, President, SISS  
Tina Chapman, President Elect, SISS  
Valerie Cuell, Treasurer SISS  
Brenda Kay, Programme Action Chair, SISS

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## **SIE Business Meeting held on 8 May 2019 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel**

**Present** President Gari (in the Chair), 10 members, a visiting Soroptimist from SI Calcutta, Ayushi and her friend Dishari, and a 3S applicant.

### **3S Fund Applicant**

Marjory introduced Caitlin who is going to Chile with Project Trust to teach English in the Primary Department of a school. She is a student of Spanish and hopes this will help her integrate into the local community and host family.

### **SI Vision and Mission statement**

This was read by Christine.

**Apologies** for absence were received from Nikki, Kathleen, Trish, Irene, Margaret, Morag, Pat, Laura, Dorothy and Dorothea.

**News of Members** Irene has a sore foot and is finding difficulty in walking. Morag has settled into her new home and welcomes visitors.

### **Minutes of Business Meeting held on 10 April 2019**

They were accepted as a correct record – proposed by Winifred and seconded by Lindsey. There were no matters arising.

### **SIGBI Election of Office Bearers**

The Federation Management Board had voted and identified the following candidates:

SIGBI Trading Director: Cathy Cottridge, Judith Lewis, and Jacqui Purnell.

HR Liaison: Claire Bell

Archivist: Margaret Parsons

The following posts still have to be filled:

Vice President: Cathy Cottridge, Johanna Raffan.

Project Liaison Officer: Helen Murdoch and Rayner Rees. Both candidates have requested a job-share arrangement.

Director of Membership: Judith Grocott

President Gari asked members to consider the online applications for the five candidates and be ready to vote at the Business Meeting on 12 June 2019.

### **Resolutions to be made at Conference**

President Gari asked members to consult the website and consider the resolutions for Conference prior to the Business Meeting on 11 September 2019. The three resolutions to concentrate on initially are:

1. Revised SIGBI Articles
5. Revised Club Constitution
6. SIGBI Membership Fees

### **Treasurer's Report (Myint Su)**

The badge for our new member has been paid

Membership fees to SIGBI have been paid

Residue from the Charities Fund plus further donations have been sent to the 3S Fund

Myint Su will provide details of "Easygiving" for SIEnna.

The list of Members and Office Bearers is being prepared, to send to SIGBI.

Myint Su indicated that she would not be at a club meeting till September. Any financial matters will be dealt with by Dorothy and Isabel.

### **Post AGM meeting**

Irene, on behalf of Morag, wished to have details of the Speaker Meeting on 22 May. Christine has produced a flyer (see 'correspondence' below.)

### **Friendship Links**

The Friendship Link Report Form has been received. The list will be up-dated and any queries dealt with by Irene.

### **Correspondence**

- Christine has produced a flyer for the meeting on 22 May. This could be distributed to neighbouring clubs and interested parties.
- She requested a photograph of all present at this meeting for the Mental Health initiative 'Think on it'.
- Christine announced that Margaret Mowat was the sole candidate for the position of Federation Councillor. Members voted as follows: *for 11, against 0, abstentions 0*. Christine will return the form.

### **Programme Action**

- Lindsey had 'Think on it' green badges for sale. Mental Health Week, 13-19 May, theme is 'Body language' and members were urged to be positive and publicise this.
- Toiletries for Cranston Street Hostel would be collected at the June Business Meeting.
- Carolyn wishes to donate handbags and shoes to 'Dress for Success' to be taken to the Region meeting on 1 June. Anna kindly offered to do this.
- There is a Pub Quiz in aid of Kids Love Clothes on 6 June. Tickets cost £25 and will include a two-course meal. Christine showed interest – contact her if you are interested.
- Alison reported that she had completed the PA reports for 2018-2019.

### **Fund Raising and Raising Awareness (Go for it)**

Anna reported that the stall at RBS Gogarburn on Friday 3 May had been successful. People spoke and showed interest. They also purchased Meru products raising £19 and £2 donation. Some Meru products were available for sale and there would be further supplies at the meeting on 22 May and 12<sup>th</sup> June if any are left.

### **3S Fund**

The club decided to support Caitlin's application for a grant.

Marjory then explained the changes to the 3S Fund Handbook (version 5).

New conditions included:

- the requirement for a candidate to be 16 at the time of the project and it should be at least four weeks duration.
- 2.1.4 we do not comply with the 'within four weeks of receipt and minutes the decision' as club meetings are less frequent over the summer months.
- 2.1.6 As we have a 3S Fund Organiser who returns the forms (and not the Secretary as in the Handbook). Marjory will contact the 3S Fund organisers.

Marjory also mentioned the report from an earlier applicant, who is currently in Guyana working in a primary school. She is anxious to provide suitable books to encourage the children to read for pleasure. A pilot scheme has been successful. Marjory asked if we could donate books and send them to her. Marjory was asked to get more information about the type of books and possible cost of transportation.

### **Region Meeting 1 June, Polmont**

Myint Su, Anna, Lindsey and Edith hope to attend and possibly Christine. Laura is to be invited. Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, the first lady Inspector of Prisons may be able to attend. Anna will keep in touch.

**Visitor to Edinburgh**

Hafdis from SI Kopavogur, who had attended our 90<sup>th</sup> lunch, will be in Edinburgh on 26<sup>th</sup> August and would like to meet members.

**Summer Social**

Members thanked Gari and took up her offer to visit Gladhouse on Wednesday 26 June from 5-7.30 pm. We will be able to meet her neighbour, Jasmin Parris, a vet, and possibly some UN interns. Catering – please bring a contribution. Transport will be arranged at Wednesday 12 June meeting.

**The raffle** was drawn. A “**Green**” photo was taken of members present – this would be put on the website.

**Date on Next Meeting**

Wednesday 22 May 2019 at ECYH. The speaker is Lorna Slater.

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<b>Dates for Your Diary</b>	
<b>2019</b>	
May 22	Speaker Meeting <b>Lorna Slater</b> , a participant in the Homeward Bound programme for women in STEMM subjects
June 1	SISSR, Greenpark, Polmont
12	Business Meeting
26	Social, Gladhouse
July 18-21	SI Convention, Kuala Lumpur

**Items for SIEnna 181** should be sent, to the editor by 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019

SI Edinburgh web address:  
[www.sigbi.org/edinburgh](http://www.sigbi.org/edinburgh)