



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes**

anecdotes

SIEnna 208 May 2022

Presidents Message

What a great, positive and enthusiastic start to our new Soroptimist year! We had a very lively and engaging first business meeting with great participation in our quick-fire session led by Anna about how we promote ourselves more in the community and how we maintain engagement with potential new members – thanks to everyone for their ideas and input. A good reminder that whilst we have ‘dedicated’ leads for all our areas of club activity, it is the responsibility of ALL of us to support, engage and play our part. Long may that enthusiasm continue!

It was also fabulous to record that 7 of our members will be attending the first (in a long time!) face to face Scotland South Regional meeting at the end of May. We may think of ourselves as a small club but we are mighty in our commitment!

Another spell of good weather is always welcomed and encourages the tennis, the bowls, the golf and the gardening to start again – oh and the holidays! It is important in our busy and productive lives that we do identify some ‘me’ time and we keep our batteries charged.

As we head into our 95th year of service, I hope that we can all re-energise and re-emerge (from the issues and challenges of the past 2 years) with renewed vigour and passion to continue the great work that we do. The awful situation in Ukraine has definitely increased the UKs governments focus on how we welcome and support refugees migrating to UK– and we stand ready to assist any refugees that arrive in Scotland, and Edinburgh in particular, however we can. Whilst it seems like an age since we first offered support to any Afghan refugees arriving locally, it has been important to engage with the right authorities and make sure our assistance is positive and appropriate. With the latest update from the connections Liz has made on the Clubs behalf, it does feel like progress is being made and we can mobilise some practical support fairly soon.

In the meantime, enjoy the weather, and your ‘me’ time but let’s keep our Ukranian friends in our hearts and thoughts, and pray for peace. Nikki



SIE Business Meeting held on 11 May 2022 (at ECHS and on Zoom)

Present: President Nikki(in the Chair) + Anna, Myint Su, Marjory and Edith (at ECHS), and Pat, Liz, Lindsey, Winifred, Clephane, Alison, Gari and Dorothy (on Zoom).

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Anna.

Apologies for absence were received from 5 members: Morag, Irene, Christine, Kathleen and Patricia .

News of members: Myint Su reported that she had visited Irene, who is well but not very mobile and sends best wishes .

Minutes of last Meeting 13 April 2022 – Accepted (proposed by Anna and seconded by Clephane). There were no matters arising.

Actions: Clephane has emailed members an address for reporting of phishing scams.

Most subscriptions have now been paid.

Regalia items were brought to the AGM.

Gari's report on UNAE was omitted from circulation prior to the AGM but was included in material circulated by Alison following the AGM.

Clephane has drafted an obituary for Mary and has sent it to Edith and Lindsey for comment, prior to sending it to SIGBI.

Dorothy has emailed SIE's congratulations to Sally.

Follow-up to AGM

AGM draft minutes have been circulated. Comments are to be sent to Alison by 18 May 2022.

Myint Su volunteered to take on responsibility for Cranston Street collections.

Blister packs are to be added to the list of items for collection as Myint Su knows a local chemist who will take these for recycling. Lindsey has put together a list of items that people could collect. We are currently collecting Smalls for All, Mobile phones, blue & green milk carton tops, stamps and pens. Items can be brought to the face to face meetings or let Nikki/Lindsey know if they need collecting from members.

Correspondence: Everything has already been circulated to members by email.

Treasurer's Report: Myint Su reported that she has paid Scotland South dues. She asked for members' agreement to the following payments: £200 to 3S Trust (increased from amount agreed at AGM); £50 from President's Charity Fund to Trussell Trust and £120 to the International President's Appeal. These payments were agreed. The balance of funds remaining will be held meantime, with a view to providing support for refugees in due course.

Programme Action: Liz : ADVOCACY - Liz asked for volunteers interested in joining a core group to look at and take forward topics that SIE wished to follow up in respect of lobbying and campaigning. Nikki, Lindsey, Clephane and Dorothy volunteered and Liz will

convene a “meeting” when convenient.

Liz mentioned that UKPAC had proposed that on 25th of every month there should be some action relating to “oranging”. The campaign is to be launched at the domestic abuse conference in Yorkshire on 21 May. Liz suggested wearing something orange and perhaps producing a short explanatory leaflet – she will investigate to see if there is already something suitable available. Pat confirmed that she would try to add an appropriate item to SIE’s Facebook page on 25th of each month. Action will start at SIE’s next meeting is on 25th May. (ACTION: Wear orange on 25th May)

Liz reported that on 8 June there is to be a meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention re action against violence against women and domestic violence. There is a campaign to encourage the UK Government to ratify the Convention, and the group leading this will provide toolkits to assist in this. Members were in favour of supporting this campaign.

16 July is to be SIGBI day of action on single-use plastics. Members were asked for suggestions as to how, if at all, we want to be involved. (ACTION: Members to consider action re single use plastics).

President Nikki suggested the inclusion of a calendar in SIEnna showing these relevant dates and Gari agreed to follow this up. (ACTION: Gari to include calendar of relevant dates in SIEnna).

Liz advised that Scotland South had produced a draft letter asking MPs to look at protection for Ukrainian women. It was agreed that Liz would

convene the core group (see earlier) to edit the draft with a view to circulating it to members for them to take action. (ACTION: Liz to convene core group)

Lindsey reported that at Scotland South meeting the feeling was that collecting items involves a wide range of members, even those who would not otherwise be able to participate actively. Mention had been made of the need for small toiletry packs for women in custody, prior to appearing in court. Gari offered to check to see what custody arrangements there are in Edinburgh. (ACTION: Gari to check on custody arrangements in Edinburgh)

Membership : Anna has had no response to her efforts to contact prospective members. (See next item)

Key updates/discussions

Membership Month ideas Anna asked members to consider two questions: “How can we make ourselves more visible in the community?” and “How can Anna encourage responses to her membership approach letters?” The following points were noted:

Q2

- Ask the enquirer what attracted them to make an enquiry via the SIGBI website.
- Ask what particular interests the enquirer has.
- Invite the enquirer to attend a meeting and, if they do not follow up, ask why.
- Perhaps involve another member as well as Anna.

Q1

- Consider our target audience and tailor our approach accordingly.

Local publicity helps. Recent items in Evening News were mentioned, and particular reference was made to the

articles on Pat in Evening News and Scotland on Sunday. Thanks were expressed to Anna for making the connection with the journalist. Pat will include an item on SIE's Facebook page. (ACTION: Pat to add publicity item to Facebook)

· Prepare brief biopics of members to demonstrate spread of experience.

Legacy Fund rules Members present were not aware of any restrictions that had been set by donors.

95th anniversary celebrations It was agreed that any celebrations should be low-key, saving the big celebration for the 100th anniversary. An afternoon tea was suggested (there was an afternoon

tea at Royal Scots Club on the 85th anniversary. The opportunity should be taken to advertise SIE and its achievements over 95 years. Partner organisations could be thanked, and sponsorship investigated. An on-line linkup with friendship link clubs was suggested.

June Social Marjory's contact has been unavailable but Marjory hopes to make progress after Monday. She has had a look at other plaques at Saughton and noted that many include organisation logos. It was agreed that the "dynamic S" Soroptimist Logo should be included on SIE's plaque. She reported that the Bistro is apparently available for events, but suggested waiting until the plaque is finalised before organising anything.

Communication: SIEnna - Items for inclusion to Gari by 20 May 2022

Programme: Alison noted the speaker at the meeting on 25 May will be May East (UN House Scotland) on Climate, Cities and Gender. Alison is to check

whether the speaker will be attending at ECHS or on Zoom. (ACTION: Alison to check re speaker attendance).

We hope also to have Syrian delicacies made by Hadil (the Syrian refugee lady who visited the club with her family earlier this session). Alison is making the necessary arrangements and will invite Hadil and Kristee to attend. (ACTION: Alison arranging for Syrian visitor etc)

Scotland South: President Nikki reported that there was to be a meeting at Glasgow Caledonian University on Advocacy. Pat (who will be speaking at the meeting), Nikki, Liz, Lindsey, Anna, Edith and Myint Su will attend. President Nikki will submit the necessary application for the list of attendees from SIE.

UNA Edinburgh

Gari reported that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Entry into Force 22 January 2021, has now been Ratified by 60 countries. There is to be a meeting in Vienna in June and UNHS has access to the civil society part of this meeting. It hopes to fund 2 interns to attend. Around £1,000 will be required to achieve this. It was agreed that SIE would contribute £100 from the Charity Fund. Gari has circulated details to members of how they can contribute, should they wish.

AOCB: Myint Su has offered a book on the Great Tapestry of Scotland, autographed by the authors, for raffle – possibly for 3S Trust. It was suggested that perhaps 100 numbered squares could be sold, rather than producing raffle tickets. This will be considered further.

Date of next meeting : 25 May 2022 at 7:30pm face-to-face at ECHS and on Zoom.

ORANGE THE WORLD

We will be wearing something orange on the 25th of every month for Violence Against Women.

The next meeting is on May 25th so please wear **ORANGE**

Change of speaker: Yuemiao Ma (UNHS) will give a presentation on Model UNs for P7 students.

Scotland South Region Meeting
28 May 2022 at Glasgow Caledonian University at 10.30am to 3pm.

To celebrate the return of the first face to face Region meeting for over two years and to let members socialise, a complimentary lunch of soup and sandwich will be provided as part of the meeting.

Following the Region Council meeting, the focus of the speakers' presentations will be Advocacy related to issues for women and girls.

The three speakers are:

- Pat Black, W7 Adviser and Member of SI Edinburgh.
- Agnes Tolmie, Chair of the Scottish Women's Convention.
- Christina McKelvie MSP, Minister for Equalities and Older People for the Scottish Government.

Minute Secretary Rota

As discussed at the 2022 AGM, please find below a suggested rota for members to take the minutes for the relevant Business Meetings through 2022/2023.

If for any reason you are unavailable on your allocated date, please can you liaise and swap with another member on the rota (or someone else!)

Minutes should be captured on a word document, shared for agreement with the President and then submitted to the SIE Editorial Team for inclusion in the next edition. (A standard template is available from Nikki or Dorothy)

Many thanks for your co-operation and participation:

8th June	Alison
14th Sept	Dorothy
12th Oct	Christine
9th Nov	Dorothy
2023	
11th Jan	Lindsey
8th Feb	Gari
8th March	Winifred

News of Members ~

Irene ~

Irene asked me to come for a cup of coffee about 2 weeks ago. She tells me she doesn't go out much because she has problems keeping her balance but that she's perfectly content staying in her flat.

My selfies are not so great, but she does look good doesn't she in the photo? Can't say that for myself!



Morag ~

Another selfie with Morag! Last week, she rang me to say that she had another box of the creams and cleansing materials that she's provided with at her care home but which she doesn't use. She is always very anxious to get rid of them as she doesn't want any clutter in her room. (By the way, I have been able to donate them to the British Red Cross shop, for which I'm very glad).



As it was a very sunny and warm day, I asked her whether she would like to go out for a run and she said yes very swiftly, so I thought we could go to Saughton Gardens as I had been telling her about the Soroptimist tree (bush?) SIE had donated.

So here are the photos from that outing. I hope I did get the right tree/bush?! I do ask pardon if I'm wrong – put it down to my bad memory.



***Myint Su
May 2022***