

A Brief History of Soroptimist International Rugby

SI Rugby is a daughter club of SI Coventry and the club was Chartered in April 1939.

The club's earliest role was being part of the war effort by knitting socks etc, together with involvement in local activities. One member became an ambulance driver. The Club has always played an active part in the life of the community and in 2019 we were semi-finalists in the Pride of Rugby award.

Many events and fundraising activities have taken place over the years, some of the highlights being:-

In 1955 a building known as Soroptimist House was purchased which was then converted into 10 flats for single women. It was recently sold, and a Charitable Trust formed, which has since given funds to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance and Rugby Myton Hospice.

Another initiative benefiting women and girls was the raising of sufficient money to provide a mammogram unit for the local hospital.

The club sponsored the education of a girl in Gambia, another in Rajshahi and a Tibetan boy. Their families were also given bags of rice.

Other charities that the club has supported include Eye Camps in India, Save the Children, The Children's Society, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Warwickshire Blind Association, Cancer Relief, Cross-Roads, and The Children's Centre.

In 2005 we wrote and published a booklet for ROSA (a grant making charity for women's organisations) to be used as a survival guide for victims of abuse.

Currently the club is helping the local Women's Refuge, Young Carers, Hope4 and WaterAid.

Our Friendship links have included Palmerston N.Z., Rajshahi Bangladesh, Mumbai India, Cork Ireland, and some in the UK.

Celebrations have been held for the big "0" years, the most recent being "80" when a service took place in Rugby School Chapel, followed by a meal in the Rugby School Old School.