

Patricia Fahey, or Tricia as she was known to hundreds of Soroptimists, joined SI Crosby in 1980. Within five years she rose to be President of the club.

She had been invited to join as she had already become highly successful in her professional career within Merseyside Probation Service. She started as a diocesan youth worker in Liverpool and London before joining the Probation Service. She went on to become Assistant Chief Probation Officer of Merseyside, the first woman to be appointed to the role.

Through her work she was active against drug abuse, and she sat on the Merseyside Regional Health Authority Drug Advisory Committee. She also went on to head the Merseyside Probation Service Staff and Training Development Centre in Crank near St Helens.

Alongside her professional career Tricia soon made her mark in Soroptimism, holding various regional roles before becoming President of the South Lancashire Divisional Union (now Region) in 1988. She was installed as Federation President at the SIGBI conference in Glasgow in 1995.

During her presidential term of office, she travelled extensively around Africa and the Caribbean chartering new clubs (SI Bona Beri in the Cameroons and SI Scarborough in Tobago) and forging closer links with fledgling clubs.

A keen bowler, she was a founder member of the local Northern Club's Ladies Bowls section. She established a bowls league within SI South Lancashire Region in which members still compete for a championship trophy named after her.

Longstanding members, who remember Tricia very fondly, recall her infectious enthusiasm and her great capacity for fun and friendship.

In an interview when she became SIGBI president with her then local newspaper, the Crosby Herald, Tricia was quoted as saying: "Soroptimist International has been very supportive to me, both personally and in my professional life. Networking of women is crucial if we are to use the qualities women can contribute to make our world healthy, happy and a caring place in which to live.

"Friendship has been at the centre of my Soroptimist experience and I feel privileged to have met so many friends from around the world. Yes, it's true that when you become a Soroptimist you become an international woman but this, in turn, gives you an international responsibility."