

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
BENEVOLENT FUND**

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the Charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2 - 4
Independent examiner's report	5
Statement of financial activities	6
Balance sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 13

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Trustees	Ann Dawson (Chair) Myra Penn Vanessa Billing Rita Beaumont Clare Comerford Catherine Beal Sandra Morris Norma Reynolds Rita Leaman Yvonne Freeman Julie Williams Gwynneth Hilary O'Rourke Jane Davies Carol Ann Bailey Jillian Patchett Dorcas Akeju Kay Wilkie (resigned 16 November 2024) Ruth Hilary Clavering (resigned 16 November 2024) Janet Stopher-Clark (resigned 16 November 2024)
Charity registered number	211840
Principal office	2nd Floor Beckwith House 1 Wellington Road North Stockport Cheshire SK4 1AF
Independent Examiner	Vivien Cross BA (Hons) FCA Vivien Cross Accountancy Services Limited Bracken Clough Start Lane Whaley Bridge Derbyshire SK23 7BR

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Structure Governance and Management

The Benevolent Fund of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) is an unincorporated association and was registered as a charity, no. 211840 on 28 March 1963. The governing document of the Fund was amended on 11 May 2020.

The Trustees, one from each region, are elected by the Regional Councils within the United Kingdom, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and by the National Association of the Republic of Ireland. In addition, there is one Trustee from the Federation Management Board of SIGBI Ltd. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees from among their number.

Objectives and activities

a. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The object of the charity is the relief of women in need who have been, for at least three consecutive years, members of a Soroptimist Club within the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and the Republic of Ireland and whose membership continues, or if they have left their club and have not been a member of a Soroptimist club for 5 years, or at the discretion of the Trustees.

To meet its objectives Soroptimists are invited to apply for assistance. To apply they can approach their Region trustee or they can apply direct to the Secretary or Chairman. In reviewing each application for assistance, the Trustees observe the strictest confidence. Support for applicants may be a quarterly grant to help the beneficiary with day to day living costs or a one off grant to meet a particular need or emergency. In the recent past one off grants have been given towards costs of specific, necessary building work and to a member who was experiencing short term financial difficulties due to being temporarily unable to work. Applications are received throughout the year with the Chairman, Treasurer, Federation Trustee and Secretary making a recommendation with supporting information to the Trustees.

b. Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

c. Plans for future periods

The investment company Paradigm Norton Financial Planning Ltd is to be retained to continue to maximise the investment return obtained by the Fund. The Trustees are grateful to those members who have included the Benevolent Fund in their wills by leaving a legacy.

The Trustees would also like to express their thanks to the clubs and regions and individual members who support the work of the Benevolent Fund by sending in donations, which are gift aided where appropriate.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

During the year the charity made grants totalling £28,810 (2024: £35,714). 11 present or past Soroptimists have been in receipt of assistance, being either quarterly support or one off payments.

The Trustees will continue to promote the Fund so that more women can benefit.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial review

a. Going concern

The Trustees are grateful for the ongoing support of the Members of SIGBI Limited, without which the Charity would be unable to provide grants to the members who are in need of assistance. The grants are wholly funded by investment income, plus levies, donations and bequests from current and former Members of SIGBI Limited and collected by SIGBI Limited on behalf of the Charity. As advised £5,000 was withdrawn from investments during the year in order to enable the payment of beneficiaries. .

A summary of the results for the year is given in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6. During the year the total incoming resources were £31,644 (2024: £34,695). Total outgoing resources were £34,883 (2024: £43,606), and the net movement in funds was £10,418 deficit (2024: £20,352 surplus).

No Trustee received any remuneration or benefits of any kind from the Charity in the current or previous year. The market value of investments as at the 31 March 2025 was £411,966 (2024: £424,145). The value of the total net assets as at 31 March 2025 was £426,473 (2024: £436,891).

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees have examined the requirement to maintain free reserves and concluded that a reserve of £20,000 should be maintained. The charity could then be able to respond immediately to requests for help. All of the Charity's funds are unrestricted.

c. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND is a registered charity, number 211840, and is constituted under a Trust deed.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

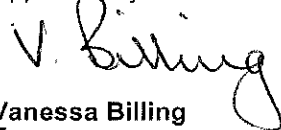
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


Vanessa Billing
Treasurer
Date: 26/7/25

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 26.1.2025

Vivien Cross BA (Hons) FCA

Vivien Cross Accountancy Services Limited
Bracken Clough
Start Lane
Whaley Bridge
Derbyshire
SK23 7BR

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	18,021	18,021	21,065
Investments	4	13,623	13,623	13,630
Total income		<u>31,644</u>	<u>31,644</u>	<u>34,695</u>
Expenditure on:				
Support and governance costs	5	6,073	6,073	7,892
Charitable activities	6	28,810	28,810	35,714
Total expenditure		<u>34,883</u>	<u>34,883</u>	<u>43,606</u>
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(3,239)	(3,239)	(8,911)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		(7,179)	(7,179)	29,263
Net movement in funds		<u>(10,418)</u>	<u>(10,418)</u>	<u>20,352</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		436,891	436,891	416,539
Net movement in funds		(10,418)	(10,418)	20,352
Total funds carried forward		<u>426,473</u>	<u>426,473</u>	<u>436,891</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025	2024
Fixed assets			
Investments	9	411,966	424,145
		<u>411,966</u>	<u>424,145</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	2,429	2,446
Cash at bank and in hand		13,953	12,210
		<u>16,382</u>	<u>14,656</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,875)	(1,910)
Net current assets		<u>14,507</u>	<u>12,746</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>426,473</u>	<u>436,891</u>
Total net assets		<u>426,473</u>	<u>436,891</u>
 Charity funds			
Restricted funds	12	-	-
Unrestricted funds	12	426,473	436,891
		<u>426,473</u>	<u>436,891</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Ann Dawson
Chair of Trustees

Date 23.7.2025

A Dawson

Vanessa Billing
Treasurer

Date:

V. Billing
26/7/25

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is 2nd Floor Beckwith House, 1 Wellington Road North, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 1AF.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes an ability to continue operating for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are confident that the charity will continue as a going concern should income be adversely affected by other unforeseeable circumstances.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of financial activities.

2.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Levies	8,434	8,434	9,094
Legacies	5,000	5,000	1,959
Gift Aid	1,375	1,375	2,540
Other donations	3,212	3,212	7,472
	<u>18,021</u>	<u>18,021</u>	<u>21,065</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	<u>13,623</u>	<u>13,623</u>	<u>13,630</u>

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment expenses	3,138	3,138	4,544
Travel	1,125	1,125	1,397
Administration expenses	486	486	626
Accountancy fee	330	330	320
Bank charges	60	60	71
Insurance	934	934	934
	<u>6,073</u>	<u>6,073</u>	<u>7,892</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Benevolent grants	28,810	28,810	35,714

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £330 (2024: £320)

8. Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024: £nil).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, trustee expenses of £1,125 have been incurred (2024: £1,397).

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

9. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	424,145
Revaluations	(7,179)
Disposals	(5,000)
At 31 March 2025	<u>411,966</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>424,145</u>

10. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	2,429	2,446

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income	1,875	1,910

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
General funds	436,891	31,644	(34,883)	(7,179)	426,473

**Summary of funds - prior
year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	416,539	34,695	(43,606)	29,263	436,891

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Fixed asset investments	411,966	411,966
Current assets	16,382	16,382
Creditors due within one year	(1,875)	(1,875)
Total	426,473	426,473

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	424,145	424,145
Current assets	14,656	14,656
Creditors due within one year	(1,910)	(1,910)
Total	436,891	436,891

14. Related party transactions

The charity has a very close relationship with Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited which nominates all of the trustees and management committee.

Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited collects levies, payable by the members, on behalf of the charity. During the year the amounts collected and received from Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited totalled £8,434 (2024: £9,094). The balance receivable at the balance sheet date was £1,183 (2024:£1,113).

No trustees received any remuneration or other benefits directly or indirectly from the charity. Payments were made to trustees totalling £1,125 for travel expenses (2024: £1,397 travel expenses).