



4-8 July, 1999 XVI Soroptimist International Convention,
Helsinki, Finland

Sunday 4 July
The Famous Cyber-Breakfast

by *Eva Tyson, Dunfermline Club, Scotland South Region, SIGBI*

Although scheduled for 7.30 am at the Hotel Intercontinental, members of the Chat Line were already gathering long before that, eager to actually meet face to face all those cyberspace friends. Would the faces from Hendre's rogues' gallery help in what might develop into an identity parade? Everything was beautifully organised by Kate Moore with huge name tags on hand together with the cyber badges.

I have attended many Soroptimist events, but this was the most wonderful and friendliest I have ever experienced, cyberhugs and all. It was like a reunion of old friends picking up from where they left the chatline.

The number attending was around sixty and like all Soroptimist gatherings there was plenty of food to enjoy, although judging by the volume of the chat, I am not sure if anybody had time eat.

Kate welcomed us all with an update, including the news that a second chatline is being introduced - called the Soroptifun Line, which will carry funny stories, jokes, and chit chat - leaving the Chat Line for more business of a Soroptimist nature etc. The Soroptifun Line will be reserved for the more light hearted and fun emails.

Fay Cori showed us her magnificent cybermap and had brought along enough copies to go round. The amount of work that has gone into this map is difficult to comprehend.

International President Hilary Page, who we must remember was instrumental in encouraging Kate to start the chat line, explained how it had contributed to our aim of international goodwill and understanding.

A surprise and welcome musical interlude followed. Our Finnish Soroptimist member Anu from SI Hamina played the piano "The spruce trees" by Jean Sibelius, that greatest of Finnish composers and then a Prelude by a contemporary of Sibelius, Heino Kaski.

Eva Tyson, one of the members from Scotland, paid tribute to Kate for all her hard work and suggested that we were now the Cyber Space Federation with Kate as President. Kate herself summed up the whole experience in four words. "A dream has come true".

Anu, I need to express my gratitude for all that you and all the Finnish Soroptimists did to make our stay in Helsinki so memorable. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I felt like I was being welcomed by family. Indeed, I guess we are family. And now I find your pictures of the Chat Liners Breakfast which brings more memories flooding back. Thanks and please come to San Diego so that we can return the hospitality.

-- *Tex Cornwell, La Mesa Club, Desert Coast Region, SIA*