

Imperial College Sikh Soc

**Annual Report
2009-2010**

The Imperial College Sikh Society promotes activities that appreciate the culture, history and ideology of the Sikh way of life.

INTRODUCTION

This year, Imperial College Sikh Society held weekly simran sessions on Thursday evenings, whereby we had a regular place to meditate. Afterwards there would be refreshments every week and we often have a discussion on a range of topics, sometimes with a student doing a presentation. Sometimes we would instead have a social outing, for example a dinner. We have also had a guest speaker come in. There were social trips throughout the year, including an exhibition, Go-Karting and a musical. Our main event was our annual inter-University dinner, Collaborations, in November. We also created a new logo this year and had hoodies. We focused the year on making Sikh Society a place people didn't just feel they 'should' come, but rather somewhere they wanted to come. We hope that people felt they improved their spiritual well being and gained more knowledge about Sikhi, whilst also making friendships. This year we also wanted to expand our relationships with other Sikh Societies, as well as establish ourselves in Imperial.

AIMS

- Promote the teachings of Sikhi
- Allow everyone to learn more about Sikhi and increase their understanding
- Provide a friendly social support network
- Make a student's time at Imperial more enjoyable

MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the 2009/10 committee was as follows:
An email was sent to the Sikh Society mailing list with the positions available on the next year's committee. You had to submit a manifesto by a certain deadline and were able to apply to a maximum of 2 positions. These manifestos were sent to everyone the day before the AGM (annual General Meeting). At the AGM (all of Sikh Society is invited), for those positions whom more than one person had applied speeches were given. A paper vote was then carried out. Also, for those not attending the AGM an email vote was accepted.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President
Vice-President x 2
Secretary
Treasurer
General committee members x3

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Paid members= 32
(+ 1 lifetime/associate member)

Membership Price= £3

STUDENT SERVICES

ACADEMIC STUDIES

None

WORKSHOPS

Lecture- 5 vices

Went to a lecture at V&A Museum- Nihangs of Punjab

Lectures/workshop given by students (Raag, Sikhs & the Media, Guru HarGobind Sahib Ji crossword)

ASSISTANCE

None sought.

ACTIVITIES

SPORT

None offered at Imperial.

Went to KCL 5K run.

Idea of an inter-uni football or badminton tournament but this was not implemented. However, the idea was promoted to the committee of 10/11 who have planned a football tournament.

ARTS

Exhibition at the V&A museum (Maharajahs on India)- joint with QM Sikh Society

Lion King at Lyceum Theatre

WELL-BEING

We hoped the weekly simran helped everyone's spiritual well-being. There was also a family feel to the Sikh Society and we hope that this also helped mental well being by knowing there was a support network there.

Nothing was in place for physical well being.

SOCIAL LIFE

FRESHERS WEEK

Freshers' Fayre: signed people up to the mailing list, promoted the society and its events for the year. Unfortunately we were assigned to a hard to find location, so people went out with clipboards to get sign-ups, but this may have hindered our attempt to let everyone know there was a Sikh Society

Cha&Samosa Party: First event of the year. This consisted of simran and food afterwards. It was a chance for people to mingle and get to know each other; new and older years alike. We also signed up members. It was an opportunity to get across what our Sikh Society is about and our plans for the year,

CELEBRATIONS

End of term= Dinner at Pizza Hut

End of Year= Lion King

EXCURSIONS

V&A Museum

Lion King

Go-Karting in East London

Also attended events happening at other Sikh Societies in London, for example the Student Akhand Paath at Shephard's Bush and the UCL Langar.

CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

MAJOR EVENT

Collaborations- Interuni dinner
Mid-November
Attendance= approx 130 people

The event was to promote inter-university unity and have a fun evening where people could get to know each other. There was a three course Punjabi meal. There was also a chance for other Sikh Societies to advertise up-coming events. Additionally, it was open to all, Sikhs and non-Sikhs.

Held at Imperial College London (bigger venue would have allowed a greater capacity as tickets sold out but we were unable to book an external hall due to financial reasons)

ACTIVISM

Raised money for a charity to help villages in India through our main event of Collaborations.

Imperial Interfaith Society held events through the year that involved all the faith societies of Imperial, e.g. tube collections for the Haiti earthquake.

COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

MODES

We used the Sikh Society's Imperial Email as it links to a mailing list for all those that have ever signed up. This was used to remind people of the weekly simrans (location, time etc)

We utilised Facebook, sending out emails to members of the Facebook group. We also created events for Cha&Samosa, Collaborations and Lion King on here too.

At the Fresher's Fayre there was a leaflet with all up-coming events for the year.

We used posters around the University campus, and also passed Collaborations posters on to other Universities. We asked other Sikh Society Presidents to sell tickets for Collaborations at their own Universities.

Text messages were used sometimes to remind people of events/simrans.

PARTNERSHIPS

WITHIN IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Imperial College Interfaith- held events where people could learn more about each other's religions and also debates on different topics, e.g. vegetarianism, as well as fundraising events

Imperial College Punjabi Society, Jain Society and Hindu Society all had a good relationship and some events were advertised to the other's mailing list.

NATIONAL BODY

BOSS provided us with posters, books etc about Sikhi for Fresher's Fayre

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

We tried to keep a good partnership with other Sikh Societies

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY

ACCOUNTS

THE FUTURE

Overall, the year had a lot of successes but there were also areas that could have been improved and can be built upon in future years.

Weekly simrans went well. It would have been nice to also have a tabla player every week, however just a vaja was adequate. Using Sikhi-to-the-max was a very useful resource. Also after simran the discussions we had were a great chance to hear different perspectives and opinions, however it would have been helpful to have brought in expert speakers more often as frequently there were questions raised that no-one could answer. This would have enhanced the experience. It was nice though to sometimes have some social activities after simran, such as going for dinner or playing charades to add some variety.

One of the major successes of the year was in creating a logo and having hoodies, something not done before in my time at Imperial and this was good at creating a group feel to the society. In terms of social events, I feel we built a lot on the last year and had excursions (something that we did not have the previous year), so I feel in this way the society progressed. Another positive thing was the relationship with other societies with Imperial, which I hope remains, and also with other Sikh Societies, which should be maintained and developed further.

Unfortunately we were unable to give any lessons in instruments, Punjabi or Sikh History and I hope the next year's committee start this up as I believe there would be an interest in these. It would help achieve our aim of increasing understanding of Sikhi.

Additionally, it would be great if the new committee further improved Collaborations to make it even better next year. A change of venue could take the event to a whole new level and allow more inter-University unity as it would allow a greater number of people to attend.

Also, in our year there was no updated website and this is a resource that could be very useful in advertising events, so it would be beneficial if this was set up.

Being on the committee was a lot of fun and a chance to meet many new people within Imperial as well as other societies. I hope that those attending enjoyed Sikh Society 2009/10, and I sincerely apologise for any failures or short-comings this year. I believe that the Sikh Society has much potential to grow and advance to ensure that our aims are met and people get the most out of coming to Imperial College Sikh Society.

I wish all future committees the best of luck!

WJJK WJKF

Gunveer Plahe (President 09/10)