



**Annual Report  
2010-2011**

**Kings College London Sikh Society  
promotes activities that appreciate the  
culture, history and ideology of the Sikh  
way of life.**

## **OUR VISION, VALUES & AIMS**

- Enhance our understanding of Seva and simran – the foundation of Sikhism
- To build a stronger Sikh student network within the university and across the nation
- Provide a relaxing, informative and spiritual realisation to Sikhism through meditation and discussions
- Help answer the unanswered questions behind Sikhism
- Bring about a greater awareness of Sikh culture, faith, values and promote Seva (selfless service).

# INTRODUCTION

Being one of the most active and well established Sikh societies in the UK, we strive to provide as many opportunities as possible for Sikhs and non-Sikhs to increase their knowledge of Sikhism and pursue a path of spirituality. This includes a weekly simran (meditation) session every Tuesday where students and non-students come from all over London to participate and join in discussions. We look forward to sharing different views and perspective on the controversial topics of today, and those questions we never seem to know the answer to. The society believes that meditation and seva is the key to Sikhism and with this as the core focus we unite and aim to achieve peace of mind amongst the congregation.

The committee was made up of two different year groups with a number of fresh ideas being added to the Sikh calendar. This year the social events were also important to have in place as over the recent years, the average attendance to Sikh society events had fallen. The highly successful 5K run for Water Aid was carried out again, raising approximately £3,000 over the two years. Alongside the 5K run were many other social events, which include ice skating, homeless runs, movie nights and football tournaments.

The theme for Sikhi week was the five sins and each day the society had a different event running. The theme worked well and helped acknowledge a number of different issues as well as attract a number of students from different universities. The week would have worked a lot better if each day was presented by a different university, as there was a lot to organise. The Homeless run around Charing Cross proved to be the highlight of the week for most people as it gave people a feeling of selflessness and appreciation for how fortunate we actually are. Alongside the homeless run, the week welcomed some very inspiring talkers, kirtanis and highly constructive question and answer session.

It is important for the Sikh society to continue the tradition of weekly simran; however they must acknowledge what the members want from their society by providing a range of activities relating to Sikhism. Sikh society needs to be a place where everybody is welcome and happy to attend because it is providing a blissful, rewarding, and informative atmosphere that students are eager to be a part of.

The society has some great ideas planned for the near future and with all the London Universities working together a lot can be achieved in terms of building a stronger network and young individuals realising the gift of Sikhism.

## MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

# SELECTION PROCESS

Becoming a committee member was open to anybody who was already a member of Sikh society. Those that were interested in becoming a part of the new committee were asked to submit a formal application stating their reasons for volunteering, what they have to offer, and the position they were going for.

The applications were then reviewed by the current president, vice president and treasurer and a decision is made of who fulfils the new positions best. We always try to find a place for every applicant by putting them in the position we feel they will bring the most to the society.

# SOCIETY OFFICERS

Gurjeev Nandra – President  
Sharondeep Gill – Treasurer  
Gagandeep Baath – Secretary

## **Socials**

Rajni Ghir  
Sandeep Bassi  
Kulveer Rooprai  
Simrun Chowdhary  
Kiren Rai

## **Simrun Co-ordinators**

Pavan Deygun  
Mandeep Sohi  
Amanpreet Singh  
Shanker Verma  
Maheep Singh

## **Sports**

Gurnam Aulakh  
Gurpal Gill

# SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Number of paid members: 37  
Average attendance for a general event: 28  
Cost of membership: £5

## STUDENT SERVICES

# ACADEMIC STUDIES

This year saw the launch of the Sikh Studies Course put forward by Naujawani.com, which proved to be highly successful across the different universities. Unfortunately, KCL Sikh society only had 5 students attending the course on a regular basis, which was fewer than expected. However, these students enjoyed the course and hopefully more students will attend in the forthcoming years.

# WORKSHOPS

Sikhi Week Workshops – Lust (25 attended)

Sikhi Q/A (30 attended)

Collaborations 2 Workshops (50 attended)

Average attendance for Singhrow/ KhalsaAid/ Manvir Singh – (35 attended)

# ASSISTANCE

The first thing the committee agreed on was that we needed new brighter and bolder hoodys. However, these could not have been possible without the financial assistance of Naujawani.com. The hoody's sold well over the year making other costs very affordable. Furthermore, drprint.com helped reduce the cost for printing hoodies and posters for all the major events.

Kings College Sports assisted in making the Inter Sikh Society football tournament a cost-free event, fully profitable for the charity KhalsaAid. The grounds were offered at no cost, and Naujawani.com happily provided small snacks and refreshments for all those attending the event. Without the assistance of these organisations, the money raised for KhalsaAid would not have been enough to feed one family in Punjab for one year.

## ACTIVITIES

### **SPORT**

The 5K run event helped promote good health and provided the opportunity for people to make new friends early on in the academic year. Football sessions were also carried out throughout the year to help students prepare for the 2 inter Sikh society tournaments that were hosted by Imperial and Kings College Sikh societies. Sporting events are a great way of getting Sikh students together and raising money for charity as well as keeping fit and expanding the Sikh network.



'Students gather around Baba Fauja Singh after he delivered a very inspiring speech'

### **ARTS**

None offered

### **WELL-BEING**

Physical - Football Tournament, 5K Run  
Mental - Homeless Run, Raag workshop

## SOCIAL LIFE

### **FRESHERS WEEK**

At fresher's fair committee members helped promote Sikh society by telling the fresher's what Sikh society is about, past experiences a highlights they've had and what they can look forward to throughout the year. A lot of past literature and CD's were available to the fresher's, as well as the new hoodys. Two committee members were at the stall at all times where they signed up people that showed interest and gave out fresher's packs that were provided by BOSS and Naujawani.com

### **CELEBRATIONS**

Cha & Somosa Party – 200 attendees  
Spit Langar – 100 attendees  
Roben Suite Langar – 250 attendees  
End of Term Meal / Movie Night – 60 attendees

### **EXCURSIONS**

Collaborations (Imperial) – 25 attended  
UCL Langar – 8 attended  
UCL Kirtan Jam – 10 attended  
Collaborations 2 (Shepherds Bush Gurdwara) – 20 attended

## CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

# MAJOR EVENT

Kings College London is very privileged to have a high attendance from other university for a large number of the events we host. The 5K Run for Water Aid had the largest attendance last year. It was a new event that worked really well as it appealed to non- Sikh society members and managed to get other universities involved as well. Likewise, the Inter Sikh society football tournament worked really well and both events raised a lot of money for charity and made the society appealing for the less spiritual students.

The major event this year in terms of attendance was the Roben Suite Kirtan Darbar, which has been a tradition for a number of years and never fails to provide an evening of unforgettable kirtan and langar kindly provided by Shepherds Bush Gurdwara. The evening accommodated very talented kirtanis from across the country and local students, young professionals and ex-students all gathered together to enjoy the biggest kirtan night on the calendar.

As the aim this year was to promote as much simran and seva as we could, the London universities got together to provide the students with a two day student-led seva-simran event known as Collaborations 2. The homeless run was an eye-opener for the majority of the students and the importance of seva within the community was highly appreciated by all those involved.



'Students come together for a night of kirtan – Roben Suite Kirtan Darbar'

# ACTIVISM

5K Run for Water Aid

Homeless Run around Strand – three separate occasions (food provided by shepherds' bush gurdwara)

Inter Sikh society football tournament for KhalsaAid



'The homeless form an orderly queue as students serve them langar – Strand'

## COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

# MODES OF COMMUNICATION

Many different forms of communication were used throughout the year for different events. Facebook was utilised a lot this year as many students were already members. The Sikh society facebook page was regularly updated and messages were sent using this tool. Emails were also sent using the university email system.

Posters were also used for the social events and sikhi week. The fresher's fair was a great time to make people aware of the early events in the year.

Announcements at the end of each simran always included upcoming events. Word of mouth always proved to be a good method of communication. The king's college London website was up and running but was not viewed very often so may need a few changes before it can be utilised.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### **WITHIN KCL**

The 5K run was open to members of any society, therefore increasing the number of people participating in the event. We aim to have more inter-society events in the upcoming year to improve our relationship and awareness of other religions/groups of people.

### **NATIONAL BODY**

We receive information packs from Naujawani.com for fresher's fair and appreciate the help they provide. Accenture have been in touch this year promoting their business to young students interested in that specific field.

### **EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Throughout the year we have always sought the lowest prices for everything from flyers to food. For charity events such as the Homeless Runs and kirtan events, Shepherds Bush Gurdwara has been kind enough to provide us with food free of charge. They also were happy for students to openly utilise the Gurdwara resources during the Collaborations 2 event. Drprint.com were very kind to provide low cost printing, which helped us promote events using larger colour poster instead of small black and white ones. We are grateful for having the close contacts to provide us with the resources we needed this year.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### **SUMMARY**

The Kings College Sikh Society is well established and has always had a core number of Sikhs to push forward the society. However over recent years, there has been a fall in the number of students becoming members which has had an affect on the amount of funding we get from KCLSU. Fortunately, we have had a considerable amount of generous support from external organisations this year bringing the finances to credit. However, in the forthcoming years a better attempt needs to be made at increasing the number of members to the society. A paying member should see the benefits of becoming a member such as discounted prices at all social events and other incentives.

The committee this year worked very hard to increase the average attendance to Sikh society events. I am confident that the new committee will use the foundation that the Sikh society already has in place to achieve all their aims. I am also very glad to see a breakthrough of other university Sikh societies all working together to make events bigger and better.

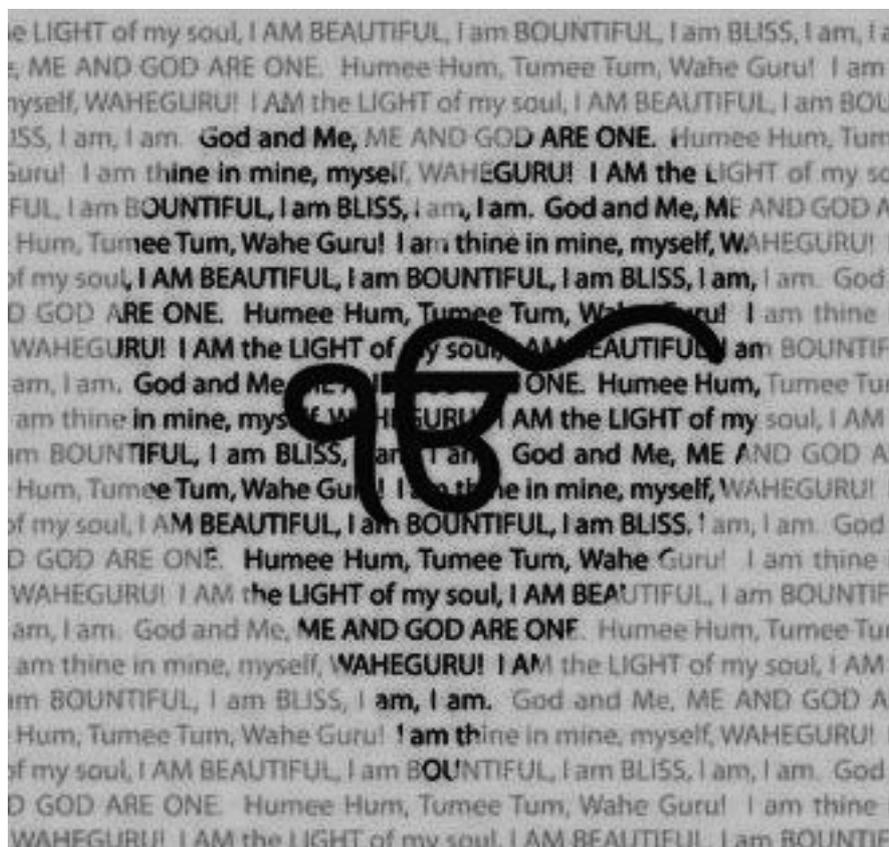
### **ACCOUNTS**

Not available as yet.

## THE FUTURE

The aims from this year have been fulfilled by utilising the resources we have to get the most out of simran (meditation) and promoting more seva (selfless service) so people can experience the unique feeling that no activity can provide.

In the current climate, it would be great to see Sikhs unite between the different university Sikh societies and with other faith groups within their own university. Events carried out on a larger scale are definitely hard work, but every challenge will bring great rewards, so I look forward to seeing Sikh societies expand and put to practice more innovative ideas.



'A bright future comes with unity- ik oankaar'