

# Sikh Soc

*University of Kent*

**Annual Report  
2012 - 2013**

**The UKC Sikh Society promotes activities that appreciate the culture, history and ideological discussions, based on and associated with 'Sikhism'.**

## **Our Vision, Values and Aims.**

Statement written up before the start of the academic year:

Whilst categorised as 'religious', the Sikh Society welcomes members of all philosophical dispositions, beliefs and lifestyles. Providing a friendly and open forum for all, being Sikh or having existing knowledge of Sikhism is not a pre-requisite to attend and share in activities; everyone is free to become as involved as they wish. To cater for the spiritual, social (and sporty!) needs of members, this year there are four areas of activity based upon Sikh principles:

### **THE GENERAL SIKH SOCIETY (GSS)**

'Sat Sangat' - Community

Keeping the company of likeminded individuals, making friends and sharing in the lives of others is important to us! Weekly meetings held under the banner of the general Sikh Society provide the opportunity to learn about and discuss a range of Sikh topics in addition to kirtan, simran and trips to local gurdwara (Sikh temples) arranged on an informal basis.

### **UKC SEVA (CHARITY)**

'Seva' - Selfless Service

Giving something of ourselves to others is made easy by charity projects running throughout the year. And of course, it provides the opportunity to make friends as well as money for worthwhile causes!

### **SIKH SOME SPORT**

'Jeevan' - Lifestyle

A healthy body leads to a healthy mind, and if nothing else takes your fancy, join our intrepid team of sportsmen and women out on the astroturf!

## **MEDITATION & SPIRIT**

‘Sadhana’- Spiritual practices

Many of us seek to balance the 21st Century lifestyle with meditation and yoga but don't know where to start, or find that participating as part of a group is less daunting and supports their own practice. Please feel free to join us.

Throughout the year we will be holding a variety of events, with lots for everyone to get involved in! This includes:

- Meditation (Simran) sessions
- Guest speakers
- Gurdwara trips
- Sikh Sports (Cricket, Football etc.)
- Seva (Selfless Service) projects
- Movie nights
- Samosa Socials and much much more!

## MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Elections were held according to the protocol set about by Kent Union. Each candidate uploaded a manifesto to the Kent Union website for whichever position they were applying for. From here each paying member was allowed to vote for one candidate in each position and the candidate with the highest amount of votes won and was elected into their position.

### **SOCIETY OFFICERS**

Manbir Singh Nirwan – President  
Perdeep Singh Grewal – Vice President  
Daven Singh Nijran-Talwar – Events Secretary  
Uroosa Kaur Binopal – Secretary  
Sukhbhajan Singh Sidhu – Treasurer

### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Around 40 paying members, with membership costing £5 each.

STUDENT SERVICES

## **ACADEMIC STUDIES**

N/A

## **WORKSHOPS**

Regular lectures were given by the society president and vice president. Attendance varied between 5 and 20 members per lecture. Guest Speakers were also invited on occasion with similar attendance figures.

## **ASSISTANCE**

N/A

## ACTIVITIES

### **SPORT**

The Sher-E-Canterbury football team was set up and played regularly in a 5 a side league against other university teams. Open training sessions were also held on most weeks where members were free to come and play football.

An 11 a side football match was also held between the Sher-E-Canterbury Sikh Society team and the Hindu-Society.

### **ARTS**

[N/A]

### **WELL-BEING**

[N/A]

SOCIAL LIFE

## **FRESHERS WEEK**

[N/A]

## **CELEBRATIONS**

Gurpurb was marked with a society organised trip to Gravesend Gurdwara.

## **EXCURSIONS**

A Gurdwara trip, guided tour and Gatka demonstration was held for new members during fresher's week.

A bowling trip was organised for members in the first term.

A Gurdwara trip was organised for Gurpurb.

An end of year meal was held at a local Italian restaurant at the end of the second term.

## **MAJOR EVENT**

The biggest event occurred during fresher's week where the society organised a trip to Gravesend Gurdwara for new members as well as Religious Studies Students. At the Gurdwara a tour was given by former society president, now a Gurdwara committee member and a talk on Sikhi was given by a local scholar. Langar was shared and the trip ended with a Gatka demonstration.

## **ACTIVISM**

N/A

## COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

### **MODES**

Emails were sent out weekly to members alongside updates of the Facebook group and the creation of Facebook events.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

# **SUMMARY**

See below

# **ACCOUNTS**

Pizza was ordered for members on two occasions and samosas were ordered on another. Other than this no expenses were made and Kent Union has, as per their protocol, wiped our account for the coming year.

## THE FUTURE

Steps are being taken to ensure that the society is both more active and an enjoyable place for members this coming year. It has generally been acknowledged that the past year has not been as satisfying for members as previous years have been and major changes are being made to ensure that this does not happen again. Bigger and more regular events are being planned, including a Sikh awareness week on campus. More Sports teams are being created including badminton and cricket. A larger range of discussions and more *interactive* workshops, talks and events will be held to uphold the idea of individuality, open discussion and Sangat, which many feel has not been apparent this year.

### **Incoming Committees statement:**

Whilst categorized as a religious society, UKC Sikh Soc is a social group for members of all different backgrounds, regardless of faith or beliefs. Whilst talks, discussions, debates and meetings are approached from a contextual approach based on 'Sikh' beliefs, being 'Sikh' or having existing knowledge of 'Sikhism' is not required.

In following with the key Sikh tenants of 'Sewa' (charity) and 'Sangat' (community) we host a range of social activities such as paint balling, bowling, Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) trips and museum visits, as well as organising fundraising events to aid chosen charities.

In addition to all this we have our Sher-e-Canterbury football, badminton and cricket teams for which training sessions and matches are held regularly. Like all our activities and meetings these are open to all, regardless of whether you are an aspiring professional or are playing for the first time.