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One Universal Creator God. Realised By the Grace of The True Guru



Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha
General Secretary's Report 2019-2022
Presented at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 29th May 2022

Further information can be obtained from:

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8th May 2022

Dear Gurdwara Member,
Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

I present this brief report for the period 2019-22 to the congregation at the AGM to be held on the 29th May 2022. With Waheguru's blessings, continuous support and cooperation from the congregation, this report reflects the summary of the period and the restoration of services (post-C19 Lockdown) delivered at the Gurdwara Sahib for the benefit of the congregation and the local community.

I am grateful to the members of the Executive Committee, Trustees and every sewadars who have helped us achieving these milestones.

Gurmeet Singh Dhanoa

General Secretary

Executive Committee 2021-2024 (Trustees)

Jagtar Singh Thethi	President
Manjit Singh Brar	Vice President
Pritam Singh Mann	Vice President
Gurmeet Singh Dhanoa	General Secretary
Jasminder Singh Grewal	Joint Secretary
Surinder Pal Singh	Treasurer
Manjit Singh Sagoo	Assistant Treasurer
Jasbir Kaur Grewal	Stage Secretary
Inderpal Singh Mondair	Stage Secretary
Narinder Kaur Bhandal	Langar
Joginder Kaur	Religious Activities
Manpreet Kaur	Library
Surinder Kaur Dhillon	Asst Library

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY 2022

General

Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Annual Report covers briefly the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022. Our last scheduled meeting in 2020 had to be cancelled as the world went into a "C19 Lockdown" mode; the Gurdwara access was ceased as of Sunday, 29th March 2020. The Report covers an overview of 2 major 'events' during the stated period; it also reflects contributions from many volunteers delivering in their empowered responsibilities. In this respect there continues to be emphasis placed on youth involvement.

Many successes have been achieved, through adaption to demands outside our control, recognizing and promoting the Gurdwara as more than a place of worship as well as meeting community's religious, educational, cultural, welfare & social needs.

We ensured worshippers received appropriate service during the C19 shutdown as well as when visiting the Gurdwara - and that conduct was in accordance with the *Sikh Rehat Maryada* (Sikh Code of Conduct).

Some of the main activities and services that Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha provided, to meet Constitutional Aims, are listed at Annex B.

Covid 19

The emergence of an unknown 'pneumonia' in December 2019 leading to the shutdown of the World around mid-March 2020 forced our Gurdwara to shut its doors at 8:00pm on 28th March 2020. As the curfew set-in, the real impact surfaced and the isolation led to the vulnerable and the elderly being very disadvantaged.

The Gurdwara acted as a pier to the local Government to support the casualties by being a hub to provide medication, groceries, hot meals, telephone support and many other forms of 'sewa' that we were approached for. Hounslow Gurdwara commenced connecting to the sangat via social media platform (YouTube channel) to share the morning and evening prayers.

Whilst the NHS was overwhelmed by the shortages, we engaged a team of our ladies who sewed scrubs and washbags for the NHS staff. The Gurdwara made its estate available to be used as both a Testing Centre and a Vaccination Hub – administering over 10,000 vaccinations within the first 4 weeks. The Gurdwara also collected & donated £4,000 for the NHS.

As the World regained some confidence and the places of worship were allowed to welcome members of congregation in a controlled manner, a very fine one-way flow system was implemented at the Gurdwara ensuring social distancing, effective signage, disinfection protocols, digital track & trace registration, etc - the Gurdwara was highly recommended as a reference site for other public places to follow by SFI (Strengthening Faith Institutions).

The shutdown and the partial reopening of services was also a test for all – with funerals limited to a handful and the weddings with the couple and parents.

We reopened fully but under controlled measures on the 4th July 2021 when all restrictions were removed in the UK and we are gradually re-introducing our full range of services.

Gurdwara Neighbouring Land

The site next to the Gurdwara was leased to us in 2003 to be used as an overflow car park. No development was allowed for a period due to a chemical incident on the site. The final lease expired on 30th June 2021. The site was earmarked for Education purposes.

As such, the Gurdwara submitted plans to the Council in 2015 to build a 'Hounslow Community Free School' on the site following projected demand to the shortage of secondary school capacity in the Borough between 2018-2023. These plans were rejected despite being encouraged by the authorities.

The site landlord (Department of Education) and its agents conducted consultations among a handful residents during the C19 shutdown (16 of which 12 opposed the plans) and submitted an application to build a school (Special Education Needs) on the site, supported by the revenue generated from 125 residential units squashed on the site. The submitted application to the local Council has been strongly objected to, forcing the decision to be delayed. The decision will be made once the new Leadership and the Planning Committee is in place following the local Council elections on 5th May.

In the interim, we remain very active in gaining support from authorities at all levels to reconsider the proposed plans that will benefit the school, the residents and the Gurdwara whose proposed plans are aligned to the Government Education, Climate & Environment agendas.

Religious

Religious functions continue to be based on the Nanakshahi Calendar. Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburb, along with other recognised Gurburbs were celebrated with various visiting jathas paying tribute.

Gurdwara youths continue to perform kirtan every Sunday and are encouraged to participate in every religious function. Istri Sat Sangh takes place every Tuesday, where the ladies lead the services..

SGSS Programmes	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Marriages & Weddings	124	98	115	116	55	106
Path Sukhmani Sahib	187	227	247	250	109	156
Funerals	75	127	110	89	61	78
School Visits	35	57	42	52		6
Sehaj & Akhand Paths	87	136	130	105	55	150
Gurdwara organised Visits	3	3	3	2		

Education

A summary of Gurdwara Education Programme is set out at Annex B.

Over 300 students attend Panjabi Classes (from 6years to adults), leading to GCSE and 'A levels. Adult English classes continue to be provided at the Gurdwara, in partnership with West Thames College.

Kirtan classes are gaining popularity with student numbers on the increase.

Separate classes are held twice a week, for learning to correctly read and recite Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Use of Gurdwara library continues to grow with current membership exceeding 400. Local and national English newspapers, UK and Indian printed Panjabi newspapers are provided. Weekly classes in Gatka and Taekawondo martial arts are held at the Gurdwara.

Welfare & Social

Gurdwara's Sikh Assisted Marriage Service has continued to both grow and become digital, enabling the supporting members to manage the services online whilst still providing face to face sessions.

The Annual 8km Sponsored Walk is scheduled to be held on 17th July with funds raised for Gurdwara's many voluntary services.

Health awareness sessions are held as and when availability of hosts to benefit sangat members - Diabetes UK, British Heart Foundation, Stroke Foundation, Hounslow PCT, Hounslow Public Health and Age Concern being in attendance. The aim was to promote healthy living, healthy eating and exercise, which was successfully met.

Local Members of Parliament and the Ward councillors hold surgeries at the Gurdwara.

Coach trips continue to be organized for the congregation's benefit.

Humanitarianism

Disability Network Hounslow continues to hold weekly Friday surgery at the Gurdwara.

Gurdwara Head Granthi visits Immigration Removal Centre every Thursday - conducting religious services and providing pastoral to the detainees.

Gurdwara Head Granthi, being Sikh Chaplain, remains on 24x7 call.

We continue to support and donate towards humanitarian appeals.

Gurdwara Estate

The Gurdwara estate now comprises of 7 residential properties which generates an income to support the Gurdwara. Most of these were renovated in the last 2 years, providing additional parking within the 233-235 Hanworth Road premises.

Accounts

To meet mandatory requirements, Accounts for 2021/22 are being audited by the Gurdwara Accountants, and the Report is not likely to be available until the Autumn, when these will be brought to the attention of the membership.

Historical accounts are available on our website - www.sgss.org/Accounts.aspx
Digital Golaks have been made available to collect donations via credit cards.

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Income	£ 779,997.00	£ 745,013.00	£ 905,388.00	£ 951,950.00	£ 955,524.00	£ 365,486.00
Expenditure	£ 534,471.00	£ 606,394.00	£ 701,893.00	£ 740,215.00	£ 796,233.00	£ 459,959.00
P/L	£ 245,526.00	£ 138,619.00	£ 203,495.00	£ 211,735.00	£ 159,291.00	-£ 94,473.00

Pre-C19 Gurdwara Main Activities being restored as opportunity arrives

Activities Facilitation	Landscape Management
Adult Education (ESOL)	Langar Review Team/Caterers
Annual Sponsored Walk	Library
Assisted Marriage Service	Maintenance
Business Development	Martial Arts - Taekawondo
Chaplaincy Service - (Hospital/Detention Cnt)	Martial Arts, Gatka
Civil Marriage/Matrimonial	Nagar Kirtan
Crowd & Highways Management	Notice Board Displays
Exhibitions & Lectures - (Sikh Heritage)	Paath Classes
Exhibitions (general)	Panjabi (RE)
External Liaison	Panjabi adults
First Aid/Medical Support	Panjabi Sunday - (session1)
Football Tournament	Panjabi Sunday - (session2)
Fund Raising	Panjabi Tuesday
Gift Aid	Police Liaison (IAG)
Gobind Marg Magazine	Ration purchase
Guest Speaking (away)	Ration store
Gurdwara Duty Rota	Security & Alarm systems
Health & Safety	Seminars
Holiday Trips	Sports
Hospital & Nursing Home Visits	Stage Management
Host School Visits	Stall at Gurdwara (religious)
Housekeeping	Stationery
ICT Classes	Summer Camp for youths
ICT Strategy	Translations (Screen)
Interfaith Liaison	Utilities Liaison
Istri Sat Sang	Wellbeing
Kavi Darbar	Youth Kirtan Darbar
Kirtan Classes	Youth Management of Gurdwara

GURDWARA EDUCATION PROGRAMME

First Floor Classrooms, unless stated otherwise

Panjabi Regular Classes

Tuesday	6:00-7:30pm	Sunday – 1 st session	9:30-11:00am
		Sunday – 2 nd session	11:15-12:45pm

Panjabi GCSE	Panjabi 'A' Level
Sunday 11:15-1:15pm	Sunday 10:00-12:00pm

Panjabi for Adults	English for Adults (ESOL)
Saturday 10:00-11:30am	Tuesday 10:00-12:10pm
	Wednesday 10:00-12:10pm

Religious Education for the Young (4-6Years)

Sunday 1:00-2:00pm

Computer Training Classes (Library)

Tuesday-Friday (adults only) 11:00am-2:00pm

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Recitation

Monday 5:00-6:00pm	Wednesday (youth only) 5:00-6:00pm
Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm	

Kirtan (& Tabla)

Monday 5:00-6:30pm	Thursday 5:00-6:30pm
Tuesday (adults only) 10:00-12:00pm	Main Blg; 1 st /2 nd Floor rooms

Sports

Martial Arts – Gatka (Sikh)	Thursday 6:00-8:00pm – Ground Floor
Martial Arts – Taekwondo (Korean)	Saturday 4:30-6:30pm – Ground Floor
Football (Under 13 & 10)	Monday 6:30-8:00pm – Indian Gymkhana
Football (Under 17 & Adults)	Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm – Indian Gymkhana

We strongly encourage parents and children to take more active roles at the Gurdwara so that future generations are not lost due to the increasing generation gap at the Gurdwaras. In the first instance, contact khalsa@sgss.org.

Ask not what the Gurdwara can do for you BUT what you can do for the Gurdwara.