Reflections at 80

The 80th Anniversary of the Singapore Khalsa Association

The Singapore Khalsa Association (SKA), born out of the Singapore Sikhs Cricket Club which had been formed by school boys from Raffles Institution, Anglo-Chinese School and St Joseph's Institution with a love of sports, was officially registered in May 1931.

Physically the SKA has evolved from a wooden shed at Target Road in 1931 to the present 5 storey building at Tessensohn Road in 1971 and its membership has swelled from the initial 30 to more than 1800 today.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the SKA. Although most of the stalwarts that set up the SKA have handed the baton to dedicated committees of successive generations, one remains, Lt-Col (Retd) Jaswant Singh Gill, who still guides the SKA Trustees. The founding members established an early community link with Sikh organisations within and around the region, and put in place financial safeguards to ensure the association is sustained through the years.

With the marking of its 80th anniversary, it is worthy to note the pivotal role the SKA has played and continues to play in the transmission of the rich Sikh heritage and culture to the continuing generations of the Sikh Community. While in the 70s and 80s it was undisputedly the choice location for Sikh weddings, it has evolved itself to greater heights serving the social, sporting and networking needs of the Sikh community in the 90s and in the new millennium. This is aligned to SKA’s aspirations to remain relevant whilst serving the needs of the next generation of Singapore Sikhs and the Singaporean community at large.

Many Sikhs who frequent the premises often affectionately call it a ‘Club’, in which a sporting sense it still is, but as an association, the SKA reflects the objective of the Sikh community in promoting the Sikh values of honest work, sharing one’s wealth, voluntarism, and service to the community through sports, culture and in the support of the education of Sikh youth.

Besides the arena of sports, the SKA has also taken on cultural and educational dimensions. The activities of the SKA show the reach of the association in Sikh and Punjabi life in Singapore and the region. The Gurdwara Cup Games of the 1950s are still active today, with added sports and carnivals of the Vesakhi Melas, the Young Khalsa soccer and hockey tournaments, Golf meets and even a Table Pool competition. More recently the Young Khalsa Sports day has been added to the list of sporting activities.

The dynamism of the early years is still visible today in the leadership of consecutive management committees in promoting Sikh values. In addition, professional commercial sporting bodies and F&B vendors have been brought in to make profitable use of the premises for the benefit of both its Sikh members and the wider Indian community. The more recent themes of the Vesakhi Melas show this expanded vision of the SKA:

a. 2005/6 - Forging Our Multi-racial bonding
b. 2007/8 - Forging Family Values in our Multi-racial Society
c. 2009 - Forging Community Spirit Through Youth
d. 2010 - Forging an Inclusive Community

Cultural activities have also expanded with annual events held by SKA and the Ladies Wing committees, ranging from stage shows, invited instrumentalists, yoga and dance classes and the hosting of Punjabi festivals such as Lohri and Teejan.

With its diverse roles in sports, culture, education and its sound and inclusive leadership, the SKA’s central role in the Sikh community has been cemented further. Much of this is possible due to the guidance of the Patrons of the SKA, amongst whom we count such luminaries as the late Justice Choor Singh, the late Sant Sohan Singh of Malacca, Kartar Singh Thakral and Naranjan Singh Brahmpura.

The SKA Management Committee continues to reinvent itself to meet challenges characterised by the desire of members to have better membership privileges and state-of-the-art club-house facilities.

The SKA continues to reinvent itself to remain relevant to the social, cultural and sporting needs of the community.
SKA CARPARK

SKA Management Committee is pleased to inform the members that the Club has obtained the necessary approvals from LTA (Land Transport Authority) to construct a new turning along Tessenhorn Road that would allow the drivers coming from Balestier Road to be able to turn right into the new SKA car park entrance instead of having to make a U-turn to come back to the SKA car park entrance.

The Management Committee believes this convenience will definitely be welcomed by all. This project is targeted to be completed by April 2011.

Gatka Group

The Gatka group, Bir Khalsa Group which is affiliated with Gatka Federation of India, put up a spectacular Gatka show at the SKA premises on Sunday, 26th December 2010. The group comprised a 20 man troupe and was headed by Kavraj Singh (Prince).

The Gatka performance was appreciated by the audience especially when such fine art performance is seldom available to the Singapore Sikh Community.

SKA Kindergarten

The school commenced on Tuesday 4th January 2011 this year for the students at Khalsa Kindergarten. The new students had their parents accompanying them for the first three days and while there was a lot of hustling and bustling for the first two weeks, things are back to normal with all the students well settled down in their classes and curriculum.

For the children in K1 and K2 both the swimming lessons and conversational Mandarin have started. The children are enjoying themselves under the tender care of their loving and professional teachers.

Khalsa Kindergarten is running at its capacity with more than 250 students and all classes are full. There is a long waiting list of students waiting to join the kindergarten as was the case too last year. The Khalsa Kindergarten is looking forward to a bright and fruitful year ahead.

LOHRI 2011

This year’s Lohri Celebrations were organised by the SKA Ladies Wing on 9th January 2011, Sunday, at SKA Level 2 and a variety of performances awaited the approximately 600 ladies who attended this year.

The performances, which included the children from Mighty Khalsa and our expat friends, wowed the audience with their moves and energy during the dance performances. A special mention must be made of Steff and her friends, who have always supported our events, and mesmerised the audience with their slick dance moves. Of course the highlight was definitely the singing of folk songs. Our in-house MC, Jessie, as usual kept the ladies truly entertained in more ways than one. A special thanks to Mrs Naranjan Singh and Ms Amrik and the young boy who played the dholki!

The feedback from the ladies was very positive. They had enjoyed the performances, camaraderie and of course the delectable food served. Goodie bags were distributed to those who attended.

This year’s Lohri celebration event was filmed by Mediacorp and telecast on the Vasantham Channel on 12th January 2011, Wednesday, 7.30pm.

This event would not have been possible without the support of the SKA office staff for their unrelenting help, Jagga and his crew from Riverwalk Tandoor for ensuring the refreshments did not run out and the SKA Management Committee for their support. Kudos to all who have helped to make this event a roaring success!
2nd Young Khalsa Sports Day

The SKA and the Singapore Sikh Education Foundation are jointly organising the inaugural "2nd Young Khalsa Sports Day" on Saturday, 26th February 2011 at the Toa Payoh Stadium.

We are looking forward to all SKA members to attend this event with their families and friends to support our young athletes.

NUS Sikh Society & NTU Sikh Society Proudly Present....

Goal! 2011 – 5-a-side varsity tournament in collaboration with Singapore Khalsa Association will be held on Sunday, 6th March 2011 from 9.30am to 1.30pm at SKA Futsal Pitches. The tournament is for Open & Ladies Categories.

Join Goal! 2011 on Facebook or email goal2011@live.com.sg for more information. Visit SKA Website @www.singaporekhalsa.org.sg for more information.

SKA Ladies Wing International Women’s Day

The Singapore Khalsa Association (SKA) Ladies Wing are organising the "The Big Walk" in conjunction with International Women’s Day on Sunday, 13th March 2011 at 8.00 am.

This Sikh community event is to promote a healthy lifestyle among the Sikh women and also enhance the bonding among the families and friends.

8th YOUNG KHAL rsa SOCCER LEAGUE

The 8th Young Khalsa Soccer League is set to kick off on 6th March 2011 and will run until 17th April 2011. The League is open to boys and girls and the team categories will be for the under 12s, 14s, 16s, 18s years of age for the boys. The girls are provided with an “Open” category.

The teams are encouraged to register early. The registration details are available on the SKA website. Other than the attractive prices offered this year, each individual player will receive a goodie bag worth $100.

Inter Centre Hockey Challenge

On 12th March 2011, Saturday witness the first ever Inter Centre Hockey Challenge – a joint effort between the SSEF and the SKA to help nurture skills in our traditional game of hockey. A total of 20 teams are expected to compete in this half-day 5-a-side hockey competition with each Sikh Education Centre fielding five age-group teams. The age group for boys will be below 12yrs and between 13-18yrs while for the girls will be below 18yrs and the competition starts at 9 am sharp.

Winners will receive colourful trophies and an overall Trophy will be awarded to the best winning Centre.

So start forming your teams and practice sessions are free for every team from 5pm to 7pm on weekdays at the new turfs at the Premier Pitches at SKA. Please book your slots with the SKA Admin Office early.
Activities lined up for the year!

Top of the Job - Series of Talks for Young Sikhs

TOP OF THE JOB – A series of motivational talks for our youths by distinguished Sikh personalities in July 2011.

The TOP OF THE JOB series of motivational talks aim to motivate Sikh youth to aspire them to greater heights. The talks will feature prominent speakers like former member of parliament and CEO of Drew and Napier Davinder Singh, the first Sikh woman professor for Mathematics in Singapore Berinderjeet Kaur and the first Sikh general in the Armed Forces, and currently Deputy Secretary (Technology) MINDEF, Ravinder Singh.

The dates for these talks are as follows: **BG (NS) Ravinder Singh** 2nd July 2011
**Mr Davinder Singh** 16th July 2011
**Mrs Berinderjeet Kaur** 30th July 2011

Looking forward to a high turnout with a good participation from the Sikh youth community for this event, as this would be a great opportunity to meet and hear first hand from the distinguished guest speakers. Look out for more information in the next newsletter.

Vesakhi Celebrations

The annual Vesakhi Mela for 2011 is planned to be held on Sunday, 24th April 2011 at the SKA premises. As part of 80 year celebrations, the theme for the Mela this year is “Forging an Inclusive Community” and Mr George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs will be the guest-of-honour.

In conjunction with the Mela, the annual Vesakhi Golf tournament is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 21st April 2011 at Pulai Springs, Malaysia. A Cultural Show is being planned on 22nd April 2011 and on 24th April 2011 field and court games such as Cricket, Pools, Hockey, Soccer and Netball will be played at Balestier Plain fields.

The organizing committee is finalising the program so do look out for the details of these events on the SKA website.

**SKA ACTIVITIES 2011**

| JAN | 9 | Ladies Wing Lohri |
| FEB | 26 | 2nd Young Khalsa Sports Day |
| MAR | 6 | 5-a-side Varsity Soccer |
| | 12 | Inter Center Hockey Challenge |
| | 13 | Ladies Wing Big Walk |
| | 6 to 17 Apr | 8th Young Khalsa Soccer League |
| APR | 21 | Vesakhi Golf |
| | 22 | Cultural Show & Preliminary rounds of Tug of war & Kabbadi |
| | 24 | Vesakhi Mela |
| MAY | 14 | *Industry Talk |
| JUN | 9 - 12 | 60th Gurdwara Cup (Ipoh) |
| | 20 - 24 | *Youth Camp @ St John’s Island |
| JUL | 2 | Ladies Wing Charity Dinner |
| | 2 | Top of the Job Speaker: BG (NS) Ravinder Singh |
| | 16 | Top of the Job Speaker: Mr Davinder Singh |
| | 30 | Top of the Job Speaker: Mrs Berinderjeet Kaur |
| AUG | 14 | Ladies Wing Teeyan |
| SEP | 25 | Ladies Wing Family Day with Udaan |
| OCT | 8 | Ladies Wing Children’s Day Party |
| | 29 | *65th Annual General Meeting |
| NOV | 5 | Diwali Ball |
| DEC | 5 - 16 | *Youth Camp Overseas |

*Tentative date*