



2GR SIRMOOR SATHIES UK – ANNUAL REPORT 2017

BACKGROUND

1. Since its inception in April 1815, the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (also known as Sirmoor Rifles) has been one of the Gurkha regiments that has remained most loyal to the British Crown. Due to its unwavering loyalty during the 1857 Indian Mutiny the regiment was awarded the Queen's Truncheon famously known as 'Nishani Mai' amongst Gurkhas. Even to this day, the Sirmoor Regiment soldiers proudly pay their respect to Nishani Mai (QT) – the practice is now followed by the millennial Gurkhas in the Royal Gurkha Rifles. The 2007 changes in Gurkhas' Terms and Condition of Service (GTACOS) allowed Gurkhas to resettle in the country they so loyally served and valiantly fought for the past two centuries. Many Sirmooris along with other Gurkhas took the opportunity to settle in the UK but some stayed in Nepal hence the 2nd Gurkha Rifles Association-UK (Sirmoor Rifles) was branched into three main groups: Sirmoor Club UK (Known as British officers' club), Sirmoor Sathies UK (British Gurkha members) and Sirmoor Club Nepal (Sirmooris living in Nepal). The 2nd King Edward VII'S Own Gurkha Rifles (Sirmoor Rifles) was disbanded on 01 July 1994 in Hong Kong. 2nd Gurkha Rifles Association-UK (Sirmoor Sathies) was officially formed in March 2014 at Aldershot in UK (but was unofficially formed in 2005).

AIM

2. The UK Sirmoor Sathies' aim is to keep alive the Regts history plus unwavering true friendship, uniquely vibrant esprit-de-corps, ethos and camaraderie in amongst the three Sirmoor Rifle Associations (SRAS) members. This is achieved by annually celebrating unique battle honours, ie **Delhi Day (1857)**, **Tigris (1916)**, and **Tamandu (1943)** on the 14 September each year or on the nearest weekend mainly to pay respect to the Queen's Truncheon.

3. 2017 has been a busy year for the Sirmoor Sathies. The annual Delhi Day celebrations was a success. The overall cost was largely subsidised by the SRA Trust Fund. Our intent is to keep the annual celebration going at least until 2031. After 2031 annual celebrations at such a large scale will very much depend on the financial state of SRA Trust Fund. By 2031 many beneficiaries would have reached their twilight years. Although our funding requirement will decrease, the future increase in commodities cost is bound to have an effect on funding feasibility.

4. A total of 3,220 members are registered in UK, exclusive of spouses but including 236 widows. So if all accompanied married members turn up with their partners on Delhi Day, the couple strength will be 5,956 + 236 widows = 6,192 total strength. This report contains descriptions and photos of 2017 activities enjoyed by our association.

5. More than 1,300 Sirmoori members and their spouses celebrated Delhi Day and other battle honours on Saturday 9 September 2017 at three locations, Aldershot, Nuneaton and Catterick. It makes sense to cater such geographically dispersed members separately at these three locations. The Queen's Truncheon with its Subedar and team came to Aldershot where the majority Sirmooris attend. Other locations pay their respect to the QT on a Life-size photo.



Maj Lalbahadur Gurung, ex-chairman Sirmoor Sathies-UK, reading out the Delhi Day history



Sathies Executive team with Colonel William Shuttlewood OBE, Chairman Sirmoor Club UK

6. Behind the scene various meetings with various external agencies took place in order to make the annual event a success.

7. **Funding.** The SRA Trustees had authorised a total of **£14,342** for a series of commemorative events and other activities that took place throughout 2017. The Sirmoor Sathis request the SRA Trustees to approve of at least **£16,500** for 2018 Delhi Day and beyond in order to be able to celebrate to the minimum UK standards by fulfilling a whole host of Health & Safety and Insurance criteria as per the Law of UK. The following Annexes are provided to help explain the expenditure and funding requirement:

- A. Financial statement as at 31 Dec 2017, Appendix 1 to Annex A - Auditors' Report
- B. Area boundaries showing Sirmooris' attendance as per areas 1, 2 & 3
- C. Funding requirement forecast for 2018 and beyond up until 2031.
- D. Initial Co-ordinating Instructions for Sat 15 Sep 2018 Delhi Day celebrations.

8. Area 1 contains almost 91% of our members. The members are widely spread across England i.e. South East, South West and Central England including the whole of Greater London extending from East to West London. To bring together such widely spread elderly members, we lay coaches at certain collection points. SRA Trustees are therefore requested to authorise for half of the recreational transport cost to be subsidised from the Trust Fund. The overall cost will obviously vary depending on which bus company we use, distance, and how far in advance we book – the earlier the cheaper.

9. For fairness and ease of accounting, the Trustees are requested to allocate the 2018 grant on a per head basis as per Annex C. Please be reminded that **£10 per officer and £5 per WOs & below** is collected at the entry point from each member and that drinks have always been on self-purchase basis, except for few invited guests whose support plays a vital role in making the event a success. Therefore, if the Trustees approve of our very reasonable request for a £5 grant per head, then the total grant that needs to be approved for 2018 adds up to **£16,500** (ie, 3,220 total strength (excluding spouse) x £5 = **£16,500**). NB: 2017 Grant was **£14342**, which resulted in a deficit of **£1,114.91**, which was later made good from the Sirmoor Sathies' 'Restricted Fund' and it took some persuasion to obtain members' approval. As the wives including widows, have played a vital role in their husbands' army career, it is advised that funding for spouses should also be made.

10. Unavoidable logistical costs for D Day was as shown below. Please note that out of 15 Security Personnel required, we had 10 Sirmoor Sathies SIA licence holders. We only had to pay for 3 security personnel hired externally.

• Venue hire cost for Aldershot military stadium	- £1,234.80
• Annual event insurance (Public liability covering 30 vols & 2500 pers)	- £497.25
• 2 x First aiders with ambulance for 8 hours	- £176.64
• 3 x Event security from external security company	- £312.00
• Recreational coach hire for members (members over 65 and not driving) and QT Admin mini bus	- £4,130.03
• Garland for the Queen's Truncheon and loose flowers	- £61.00
• Public Address system (PA)	- £600.00
• <u>Council events entertainment licence fee for 1,500 People</u>	<u>- £890.60</u>
• Total unavoidable logistics cost for Sirmoor Sathies UK was:	= £7,902.32



Sirmoor Sathis-UK AGM Meeting at Bhetghat Restaurant in Aldershot on 8 Jul 17

11. **Other Activities.** The Sirmoor Sathies also took part in many other events/activities such as: Attending the Brigade Briefing Day, SRA Trustees' Meeting, GBA Annual Remembrance Day/Lunch at RMA Sandhurst, 3 x meetings with SO1 Aldershot Garrison for the military stadium booking for D-Day 2017, Sathis' AGM, Gurkha Bhela/Nepal Cup 2017, 160th Delhi Day, Tigris, and Tamandu Celebrations 2017, Field Remembrance and GBA Dinner in London; Sirmooris funeral services, and the Remembrance Sunday March Past by the Cenotaph on 12 Nov 2017. Soon after the completion of the Cenotaph Parade we were rejuvenated by curry lunch and drinks very kindly and generously by David Hitchcock and family at their house in London. The Sirmooris extend their profuse thanks to David and his family for their unparalleled hospitality and support to us as well as to the rest of the GBA Members for the last couple of years.

13. The year also saw forming up of a new Executive Committee on 1 Oct 17. The following were elected to lead the Sirmoor Sathis until December 2020:

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|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| • Capt Raju Gurung | - | Chairman/Trustee |
| • Capt Shamsher Gurung | - | Vice Chairman |
| • Maj Samundra Gurung | - | General Secretary |
| • Capt Pitamber Gurung | - | Treasurer |
| • Capt Ram Prasad Gurung | - | Event PR/H&S Officer |
| • Lt Resham Sherchan | - | OIC Event Entertainment |
| • Lt Muktijung Gurung | - | ESO/Secretary |
| • Sgt Krisna Kumar Gurung | - | Assistant Treasurer |
| • Cpl Amrit Bhattachan | - | Property IC |
| • Cpl Rambahadur Galami | - | Assistant ESO |
| • Cpl Krishna Gurung | - | Assistant Entertainment |
| • LCpl Bhuwaniprasad Gurung BEM | - | Event Medical IC |

14. **New year and Queens Birth day Honours 2017.** The following Sirmoori Officers have been awarded MBE and CGS Commendation in 2017. The Sirmoori members would like to congratulate for their well-deserved award and Commendation.

- Major Prembahadur Gurung MBE
- Captain Gaubahadur Gurung MBE
- Captain Mahendra Phagami - CGS Commendation.

15. Once more on behalf of all Sirmoor Sathi Members, I would like to extend our gratitude to Maj Lalbahadur Gurung, my predecessor, for his long and dedicated service to the association and its members. I and my team are also looking forward to maintain the healthy relationship with SC UK and SC Nepal, which we all have been fostering since our formation up until now. **Jai Lali Paltan !**

Dated: 18 February 2018

(Signed)

Authenticated & Signed by:

Captain Raju Gurung

Major Samundra Gurung

Chairman

General Secretary

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Annexes:

- A. Financial statement as at 31 Dec 17 & Appendix 1 to Annex A - Auditors' Report 2017.
- B. Area boundaries showing Sirmooris' Strength as per areas and Appendix 1 Annex B Appt List.
- C. Funding requirement forecast for 2018 and beyond up until 2031.
- D. Initial Co-ordinating Instructions for Sat 15 Sep 2018 Delhi Day celebrations.