

# Serendib

*Serving the Community since 1972*

*The oldest Sri Lankan Association in the UK*

Issue 129 Rabi Al-Thani 1441AH December 2019

*This issue:  
Building Report  
Charity Report  
Communications Report*

## Executive Committee

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## Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

My Dear Brothers and Sisters

As the year is drawing to a close and we prepare for another with our AGM set for 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020, a new set of office bearers and Exco Members are due to come in.

It is now time for the nominations to be submitted to the Secretary before the first working day of January 2020. The nomination forms have been published and I urge everyone to come and support the SLIA in our 48<sup>th</sup> Year InshAllah by filling in any vacant posts.

I am delighted to report that as in previous years the Iftars, Eid Al Fitr function and other religious events were well attended. Thank you to the Sub-Committee Chairs and other Exco members who helped to make these events a success.

The Chairpersons of each Sub-Committee will provide a brief report to the membership.

Was Salaam

**Ahamed Hussain Wahab, President of SLIA**

## SLIA Vision

*To connect our  
members with their  
Sri Lankan heritage*



# Treasurer Report

Dear Members, Assalamu Alaikum

Having assumed office in April 2019, please see below an update on the financial health of the SLIA. The finances relating to the building and charity are covered in separate reports.

## Events update

I am happy to report that we have achieved breakeven on all events we hosted this year.

- The four Iftars held early this year, were funded by member contributions in either providing the food or contributing towards the cost. The hall costs were met from association funds.
- The Eid-ul- fitr function held at the Novotel hotel was a sell out and we are pleased to state that all costs incurred were recovered through ticket sales and contributions. In addition we were able to raise £1700 towards charity funds on this occasion.
- We very much regret that the Eid-ul-Adha function was not held this year despite our efforts to arrange one. The main reasons for not doing so were because of not finding a suitable hall within the affordable price range, the reduced number of members likely to attend given the end of summer holidays and the bank holiday weekend, and the potential risk of financial loss if only a small number attended the function.
- The most recent event, held at the Harrow mosque, was the Meelad celebrations. We had over 160 participants and the cost of the event was £1,560. Alhamdulillah, we achieved breakeven on this occasion due to the generosity of our members. May the blessing of Allah and our dear Prophet be on all those who contributed to this event and to all those graced the event.

## Membership Subscriptions

This year we have collected approximately £1900 from membership subscriptions. You will appreciate that this is our only source of funds to finance all of our association activities. The rising costs of hall hire, food, stationery, postage, printing, audit fees, web site maintenance, just to mention a few far outstrips the income we receive. We appeal to all members to kindly support the activities of our association, by paying up your subscriptions in a timely manner. Even the cost of mailing reminders to members has become prohibitive. Please help us serve you better by choosing any one of the following methods to pay your subscriptions:

- Cheque made payable to 'Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association'
- Set up an annual Standing Order
- Online Bank Transfer (please quote your membership no.)

**SRI LANKA ISLAMIC (UK) ASSOCIATION** Sort Code: **30-99-08**; Account Number: **01663411**; Bank: **Lloyds Bank PLC**

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all those members who have contributed in numerous ways in helping us to hold these events. Your support has allowed the committee to prudently utilise the limited funds we receive from membership subscriptions. May Allah reward those members and their families abundantly for their continued generosity and support.

Wa alaikum Salaam

**Imtiaz Muhseen, Treasurer**

# Building Sub-Committee Report

## Sub-Committee

### Chair:

Rafat Hashim

### Members:

Ikraam Fareed  
Abdul Hilmy  
Haleem Ossman  
Jezri Mohideen  
Shamique Ismail



SLIA Building  
Rear aspect

## Current Status

The lease on the SLIA building in Hanwell, has been Surrendered by the Tenant, bringing an end to the Tenancy which had been in place since August 2013. The Tenant concluded the Tenancy, by settling all rent arrears detailed at the AGM, and a further 3 months rent whilst negotiations continued.

Alhamdhuillah, The SLIA has taken over the keys to the centre in Hanwell, and has recently got the legal clearance from the land registry to be able to re-let the premises. We are in the process of a clean-up prior to marketing and InshaAllah, letting it out once again. A local Entrepreneur-group has shown interest & has met with us, but we await more detailed proposals and/or will be marketing the property via agents, in the open market.

Was Salaam,  
**Rafat Hashim, Chair Building Sub-Committee**

## Upcoming Events

### **Nakshabandhi Zikr/Shazulia Halara**

**February 2020**

Details TBA

### **48th Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 5th April 2020**

South Ruislip Community Centre  
Deane Park/Long Dr, Ruislip  
HA4 0HS

### **Ramadan Iftars:**

**Iftar 1 - Nakshabandhi Zikr**

**Saturday 25th April 2020**

St Vincent De Paul Church,  
2 Witham Road, Isleworth,  
Middlesex, TW7 4AJ

### **Iftar 2**

**Saturday 2nd May 2020**

Claremont School Kenton,  
Harrow, HA3 0UH

**Iftar 3 - Hizb**

**Saturday 9th May 2020**

Claremont School Kenton,  
Harrow, HA3 0UH

**Iftar 4**

**Saturday 16th May 2020**

Claremont School Kenton,  
Harrow, HA3 0UH

### **Eid-ul-Fitr Celebrations 2020**

**June 2020**

Details TBA

### **ASICS Virgin 10K Run**

**5th July 2020**

Piccadilly, London

### **Eid-ul-Adha Celebrations**

**August 2020**

Details TBA

### **Meelad-un-Nabi**

**November 2020**

Details TBA

Donations for Iftar are most welcome. Please contact our President, Secretary or Treasurer to discuss, pledge or notify in advance.

## **SLIA Mission**

*SLIA's mission is to promote charitable, social, cultural, sports and educational activities to achieve unity and strengthen relationships in line with our religious and cultural values for the benefit of our members and the communities we engage with*

# Charity Sub-Committee Report

*All praise to the Almighty Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.*

## Ramadan Appeal:



Alhamdulillah, in April SLIA transferred **GBP 6,697** (LKR 1,502,037.10) to our local partner, VOSD, to provide dry rations and Zakath-al-Fitr packs to feed **200** poor and needy families in Hijrapuram & Neeraviputti in Mullaitivu. SLIA also transferred **GBP 9,589** (LKR 2,199,184.80) to a local volunteer, Hassan Ariff, to buy dry rations to make up food parcels for **320** poor and needy families in Hambantota town and suburbs, and provide Khanji for 10 days in Tsunami Village, Hambantota.

Unfortunately, the April terrorist attack led to police prohibiting large gatherings of Muslims in certain districts, therefore VOSD had to change the location of distribution from Mullaitivu to Puttalam, where many poor Muslim IDPs from the North remain after the end of the civil war. SLIA received a completion report from VOSD on the Ramadan distribution in Puttalam.

Hambantota police had also prohibited mass gatherings during Ramadan. The budgeted LKR 75,000 and the LKR 41,585 exchange rate gain were given to the Hambantota mosque for Khanji distributions as these were permitted. The balance LKR 2,082,600 of SLIA funds were deposited into the client A/C of Numerix Pvt Ltd (accountants in Colombo) at Standard Chartered Bank, to be held for future SLIA food distribution projects.

## Easter Sunday Bomb Victims:

An SLIA team participated in the ASICS Virgin Sport 10km run in central London on 10th July to raise money for the Sri Lankan Easter Sunday bomb victims (see

article). This is in addition to the £1,705 raised at the American Auction at the SLIA Eid al Fitr event on 16th June 2019. The Charity sub-committee are looking into two UK registered charities, BUDS and AEDU in Batticaloa, that meet the required Charity Commission due diligence standards, as being suitable recipients of these funds. Further information on these charities can be found at <https://budsuk.org/> and <http://aedu-international.org/batticaloa.htm>

## Neeravipitty Education Project:

As we could not find a suitable building in Neeravipitty to purchase and administer through a trust, the sub-committee has looked into alternative education initiatives for the £22,500 set aside for this project. We are still committed to the vision of an initiative that allows SLIA participation in volunteer schemes so that the younger SLIA members maintain links with our Sri Lankan Muslim heritage. We have invited Muslim education-related charities in Sri Lanka to submit suitable project proposals.

In addition, two Charity Sub-Committee members who participated in a World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims conference in October at the Marriot Hotel, Regents Park, reported on the following assessment by educational experts from Sri Lanka. The increase in the number of Muslim boys in unskilled labour jobs correlated with an increase in drug dependency among Muslim boys and over-representation of young Muslim men in the Colombo prison population. The drop in aspirations means these young men are rejected as suitable marriage partners for Muslim girls, who have higher educational aspirations for themselves and their future families. We are currently looking into an after-school tuition initiative for Muslim youth in Colombo to try to halt this worrying trend for Muslim boys.

## Muslim Aid/Syria Project:

The balance funds of £4,993 from the Muslim Aid Walk for Syria were due to be donated to a Muslim Aid Prosthetic Limbs project in Syria for the victims of the civil war bombing. However, Muslim Aid advised that they had discontinued this project and at their request the funds were donated to Muslim Aid's mother and baby health clinics, helping Syrian refugees residing in refugee camps in Lebanon.

**Lloyds Charity A/C Balance as at Nov 2019: £62,943.95**

# Communication Sub-Committee Report

## Sub-Committee

### Chair:

Mohamed Saleem

### Deputy Chair:

Ghanzanfar  
Hameed

### Members:

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Khalid Malhar  
Tariq Salih  
Imran Harris

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[www.slia.org.uk](http://www.slia.org.uk)

Facebook: [sliauk](https://www.facebook.com/sliauk)

Twitter: [ukslia](https://twitter.com/ukslia)

Instagram: [ukslia](https://www.instagram.com/ukslia)

## SLIA Communications

The SLIA Comms team aims to promote our community news, increase the profile of our SLIA and inform the community of the extra work our ExCo are doing for the SLIA for example through raising funds for charities and developments on our building. We aim to primarily communicate to our SLIA members and also interested readers and external related organisations. We have also increased and aim to improve content on our ways of communicating through email, SMS, Facebook, our website, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

This year we are focussing on 3 main areas to improve the fundamentals of our communications strategy.

### 1. Improving our GDPR compliance

The team have completed a process of moving all SLIA related files and programs to be stored via the Cloud. This takes important SLIA files off personal computers and makes it secure and accessible by all the ExCo team for future generations. To complement this, we have also began using 'slia.org.uk' email addresses for correspondence which will ensure SLIA material can be stored securely and accessible for future reference if needed.

### 2. Membership accuracy

The team are in process of analysing our existing records for members and ensuring they are accurate. This will be an ongoing process with the eventual goal to move towards self-maintenance for our members via our website.

### 3. Communication to our members – Move to WhatsApp

One of the more popular ways of communicating with our members has been via our text message service. Whilst this has proved effective, we now aim to enhance this service and save further costs to the SLIA through moving this service to WhatsApp. Over the coming weeks you will receive a message asking if you still would like to receive notifications from us and that we will be moving our service to WhatsApp. This will have a number of advantages including speed of notifications to our members which can be particularly beneficial in cases of janaza notices and also enable us to send poster notifications of our future events. Of course, for members who do not have WhatsApp they can still receive notification via our traditional text service. Watch this space..

If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us using one of the following channels listed on the left.

**Mohamed Saleem, Chair Communications Sub-Committee**



# SLIA 10K Run

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh **السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ**



The inaugural SLIA London 10K Run was held on the 21st July 2019. This was the first time we embarked on such an ambitious charity run. It was a great success and we're really proud of our community for taking part and generating charity funds. 11 runners participated and together they raised £2580.61. The purpose of the run was to raise money for the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks. All the money raised will be distributed to the victims in Batticaloa. This is a region in dire need which has still not been allocated official resources to help those who were tragically affected.

Communities in Sri Lanka have lived together over generations and the SLIA has aligned itself with the movement to promote peace and harmony in our motherland. The

SLIA Exco are keen to reach out to other communities in time of need and support Sri Lankans during these difficult times. We hope that the SLIA will be represented in more charity events over 2020 and we look forward to keeping our members informed of further opportunities to join together in fundraising efforts. Thank you to everyone who donated, supported, ran and cheered us on!



The next ASICS London 10k is to take place on the **5th July 2020**. We encourage members to participate. Please email: [10k@slia.org.uk](mailto:10k@slia.org.uk) or WhatsApp on: +447495333515 with your full name & a contact number if you would like further information or to register as part of Team SLIA.

**Ghanzanfar Hameed, Executive Committee**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other \_\_\_\_\_ Forename \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

Zakat £ \_\_\_\_\_ Education £ \_\_\_\_\_

Sadaqah £ \_\_\_\_\_ Ramadan Appeal £ \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Aid  Please tick if you are a UK taxpayer and your donation is eligible for Gift Aid

Please make cheques payable to Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association and return to:  
**The Treasurer, SLIA (UK), 7 Broadway Buildings, Boston Road, London W7 3TT.**

Direct/Electronic payments to the Lloyds Bank Account:

Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association    Account Number    21061860    Sort Code    30-99-08

## SLIA Ramadhan Iftars

### Ramadhan Iftar Programme – May/June 2019

Alhamdulillah the SLIA Exco along with a number of supporters were able to organise four Iftars on each of the Saturdays in Ramadhan, where all our members were able to come together in prayer and to breakfast, during this sacred month. As in the past, we were able to conduct different programs each Saturday, followed on with Iftar, Dinner and Tharaweeh prayers. Once again, all four days were very popular, with approx. 150 members & families attending each event.

The First Iftar was held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019, at St Vincent De Paul Church Hall, Isleworth, commencing with Nakshabandhi Zikr, prior to breaking fast. The breakfast items & dinner was cooked by many volunteer families, and Alhamdulillah was very much appreciated. Tharaweeh was conducted by our Own 'Members Children', who did an excellent job to a very high standard and is a 'first' for the SLIA, which we should be very proud of. It is certainly a credit to the boys, their parents & teachers, and no doubt a vision of the SLIA's founders & past members that we should be able to generate our own leaders, from amongst us.

The Second Iftar and onwards was hosted at Claremont High School, Kenton and commenced with the recital of Yaseen and followed with Halarathus Shazulia, conducted by Bro. Iqbal Ossman. Alhamdulillah we had a good crowd for the prayers and follow on breakfast and Dinner. The Tharaweeh was conducted by the 'Fazal Alavi' boys.

The SLIA Hisb Thammam was held on the third week, coinciding with the bank holiday, where two Qurans recited by our members were completed and Thammam-ed. It was good to see the members come together and recite a Juz of the Quran during this holy month, fulfilling yet another good practice during this holy month. As always with the SLIA Hisb, both the Prayers and the Dinner was exceptional, to conclude yet another iftar in this holy month.

On the fourth and final event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019, we had the guest speaker - Dr Yusuf Abdul-Jobbar – to commence the evening with a talk on 'Transforming Our lives after Ramadan'. The Talk was a very timely reminder to us all, to continue the good habits cultivated during this holy month, and to build on it going forward. Once again we had a number of volunteer families who took on the responsibility to ensure we had a good concluding Iftar.

Alhamdulillah, Once again this year, we were able to have a full & active program during Ramadhan, for all our members to come together and enjoy the benefits of this holy month.

*The Prophet Muhammed (Peace and blessings be upon him) said: "What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful and to remove the sufferings of the injured"*

*(From Sahih Bukhari)*

## SLIA Events Report

### SLIA Meelad-un-Nabi Celebration – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Alhamdulillah, SLIA held its Annual Meelad-un-Nabi Mowlood, at the Harrow Central Mosque on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The prayers began with all taking part in the recital of Yaseen & Katham Thamam, for our beloved Prophet (SAW) and also for all our departed members. The members had previously, undertaken to recite a Juz each, and hence complete a full quran to be recited and Thamam'd. The event was very well attended, with approx. 150 families. Bro's Nizam Ismail, Ishack Thahir, Iqbal Ossman & Imtiaz Muhseen led the prayers, joined by a number of members who shared & took part in recital. The children too enjoyed the opportunity to distribute Niyath and participate in the program. As is customary, we were treated to a great Savan lunch which was enjoyed by all. We would like to thank everyone who took part and making it a very blessed & successful event. Also would like to thank all the donors who contributed to make this a cost neutral event.

### SLIA Eid-al-Fitr Celebration – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Alhamdulillah the SLIA celebrated a successful Eid al-Fitr event on 16 June at Novotel, Heathrow. The event was attended by over 200 guests with an amazing auction that raised £1,700, a fantastic achievement. Guests included the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Manisha Gunasekera. The monies collected from the sports memorabilia, calligraphy and cake will be distributed to Sri Lankans impacted by the Easter Sunday bombing. A special mention to the auctioneer, Hilar Deen, for his energy which resulted in guests donating very generously. The children engaged well and were entertained by games and movies that were coordinated by Khalid. Thank you to those who contributed items to be auctioned, and thank you again to everyone who attended and donated to the auction.

## SLIA Membership Subscriptions 2019

Please can all members pay the 2019 subscriptions which was **due on 1st January 2019**. In addition to paying any previous outstanding subscriptions could you also ensure we have your current contact details. If not already in place, please also consider paying your subscriptions by standing order.

Should you wish to action any of the above, contact one of the following:

Imtiaz Muhseen     [treasurer@slia.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@slia.org.uk)  
Ikraam Fareed     [asst.treasurer@slia.org.uk](mailto:asst.treasurer@slia.org.uk)

If you are aware of new members who wish to join the SLIA please request them to contact any member of the Committee.

Bank Account     Lloyds, Walthamstow  
Sort Code         30-99-08  
Account No.       01663411

Membership Type	Price
Life Membership (Single)	£250
Family Membership (Husband, wife & children under 18)	£30
Family Membership (Husband & wife over 60)	£15
Individual Membership	£15
Individual Membership (Over 60)	£7.50
Student Membership	£4