

## **Ajit Singh Kalirai MBE**

**09.09.1927 to 19.05.2008**



It is with enormous sadness and a sense of huge loss that we announce the passing away of Ajit Singh Kalirai. Ajit Singh was an outstanding athlete with 6 live GB records for long jump and triple jump primarily in Veteran Athletics. He was recognized for his achievements over a 30+ year period as the first Asian to be awarded an MBE for services to Athletics in 2002.

His drive and determination coupled with his humility and simple approach to life will always remain an inspiration to all who came into contact with him.

Ajit Singh Kalirai is survived by his wife of 63 years, Kuldip Kaur, four children – in age order: Surinder (son), Sukhwinder (daughter), Sukhtinder (daughter) and Sukhjinder (“Suki” son) and 9 grandchildren.

Ajit was a well respected Sikh and his funeral will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. The provisional programme is below.

We believe it will be possible to have a last lap for the great athlete of his training track for most of the last 40 years at Perivale Park Athletics Track. Our thanks go to Jamie Bath for facilitating this.

**Ajit Singh Kalirai - 09/09/1927 to 19/05/2008**

**Timings for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

Please note timings are exaggerated to allow for traffic and the slower speed of the hearse and convoy – if we are early for venues we will wait for the timings on this schedule.

1. **Depart Home** from Beaconsfield - journey to Perivale **10.15 – 11.15**
2. **Perivale Park Athletics Track** Perivale Park, **11.15 – 11.30**  
Stockdove Way, GREENFORD, UB6 8TJ Telephone: 020 8575 5776  
Electronic Map Links: [Multimap 1:10,000 \(Street Level\)](#) (parking available)
3. Journey to Sikh Temple (Gurdwara) 11.30 – 12.15
4. **Farewell to dad at Sikh Temple (Gurdwara):** **12.30 - 13.00**  
Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Park Avenue, Southall UB1 3AG (parking available but depends on turnout). Open Coffin display.

A coach will be provided here at the Gurdwara for those who wish to travel to & back from the Cremation

5. Journey to Amersham (Junction 2 M40 – close to M25) 13.15 – 14.15
6. **Cremation:** **14.30 – 15.15**  
Chilterns Crematorium, Whielden Lane, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0ND Tel: 01494 724263. [www.chilternscrematorium.co.uk](http://www.chilternscrematorium.co.uk)
7. Journey back to Sikh Gurdwara Southall
8. **Bhog – culmination of 7 days of prayer will close with a final prayer which will formally close proceedings after we return to the Gurdwara** and finish approx. **4.30pm** at Sri Guru Singh Gurdwara, Park Avenue, Southall
9. **Tea and /or food for all who wish to take it at the Sikh Gurdwara (“Langar”)**

## About the Sikh religion:

The Sikh religion is a very tolerant and accepting faith. Sikhism recognises and respects all faiths and sets out the principles of equality for all faiths, creed, sexes and castes.

There are three aspects which affect tolerance and equality in this regard:

1. All denominations of visitors are genuinely welcome to all Sikh Gurdwara's
2. To promote equality, the congregation sits on the floor, usually women on one side and men on the other. The only point of reference is that the Granth Sahib (The Holy Book) / the "altar" are higher than the congregation. To keep matters clean, shoes are taken off and left at the cloakroom (so remember to wear your best socks!) and for ladies sitting on the floor is difficult in a short or tight skirt. When sitting one should not point ones feet in the direction of the Holy Book.
3. Langar (canteen) is available to all visitors at all Gurdwara's. It is normal to eat or drink with the congregation to demonstrate equality. Tea is Indian style (heavy in milk which has been "cooked in"). Food is served in very clean metal trays. It is simple and clean. It is seen as wasteful and not respectful if one gets lots of food and then leaves it unfinished.

In addition all head hair is supposed to be covered in the Sikh Gurdwara. In practice this is mostly covered. This is normally carried out with a scarf, long for women and shorter for men.

The traditional colour for death in India is white/cream but nowadays the custom is to wear a white or cream plain scarf to cover the hair and plain clothes elsewhere – conservative, loose fitting, as you would expect for any funeral. It is normal to cover trousers with a top that covers the bottom. Men usually wear a black suit and a plain shirt with a white scarf at the Gurdwara.

None of these aspects above are onerous and people are very forgiving of those non Sikhs who would not be aware of custom and practice. If you are unsure or want to discuss anything then please call Suki on his mobile below.

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