

## **Shree Prajapati Association (UK)** **Youth team leader's report Year 2008/2009**

Namaste and Jai Shree Krishna

We have seen another busy, yet challenging, year from the Youth aspect of SPA. Over the year, we have seen the Youth teams develop and establish a firm structure and I hope we can continue with this for the coming years.

### **SPA Sports Day 2008 – Loughborough University**

This year we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Sports Day, which is an outstanding achievement for our Samaj. Over the past 30 years we have seen sports day develop and experience many changes. It is remarkable to see the sporting talent we have within our Samaj and this year saw some new faces taking part. I believe over the coming years we will be able to make sports day even better. The 30th annual sports day was held at Loughborough University in August, which had been hosted by Leicester Branch together with the help of Kishorbbhai (Loughborough) and the Sports Team. The day turned out to be a huge success, in particular, we were all able to enjoy the good weather. Sports Day has developed over the past few years and we have seen the addition of some new sports and this is the way forward for future sport days.

Another of our sports events that has considerably grown in the last two years is the annual cricket tournament. Unfortunately, this year we had to postpone the event to a later date due to bad weather conditions.

Preparation is underway for the forthcoming sports day to be hosted by London Branch at the University of Hertfordshire on 22 August 09. For the first time in many years we are moving sports day out of the Midlands and will be an exciting event.

### **SPA Youth Ball – Latino Fever**

In February, we had the Youth Ball at St. Johns Hotel, Solihull, which proved once again to be an exciting event enjoyed by all who attended. This year's ticket sales were slower than previous years; however, the ball team continued to work and was able to sell the tickets. The ball was a colourful event this year with an array of décor with sombreros hanging from the lights, feathers and maracas spread across the room, piñata on the dance floor and custom cocktail bar. With this year's ball done, the ball team is already busy preparing for next year's event.

We have now been able to establish a good structure and there are new members joining the teams continually. My role as youth leader has been challenging over the past year, as there has been difficulty trying to establish a communication network between the branch youth leaders. I hope going forward we can try once again to initiate interest from the youth in samaj activities to encourage new ideas and share ideas. However, on the positive side we have seen new faces coming to events and taking up roles within our youth teams. This year we have some new ideas in the pipeline, which we hope will bring the youth together.

Finally, I would like to thank HQ, branches and all our members that have supported me and the youth teams in our roles over the past year; making the work we have done a huge success.

Melisa Mistry  
SPA (UK) HQ Youth Leader (2008\_09)