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Oriental Club Member
The Queen's Gurkha Engineers Association
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www.qgea.org

1 Jul 26

Dear Association Members,

ORIENTAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2026/27

The Club

1. Currently, serving and ex-officers who are also [GBA Members](#) enjoy *most favoured status* with the Oriental Club, and as members of the [QGEA](#), we are also granted this status. The Oriental Club was established only nine years after Gurkha Soldiers began serving The British Crown, and since 1824 and has been an iconic Central London focal point for those who have lived, worked or travelled in the East. Due to the connections of the Brigade of Gurkhas with the far East over the last two hundred years, we are eligible to be considered for membership. Today, a diverse membership of the Club values the modern amenities of Stratford House, situated yards from Bond Street Underground Station in the heart of London, and the attentive service offered by the Club's Staff.
www.orientalclub.org.uk

Benefits of Membership

2. **Amenities.** A firm base in central London, a magnificent building, with exceptional [food](#), discounted drinks and [accommodation](#), great atmosphere in an environment that is known to us all, but critically is a more relaxed feel than a typical Officers Mess. One of the benefits of the Oriental Club, is that it's a predominantly younger civilian membership, rather than other London Clubs that sometimes feel like a Guards' Mess, inhabited by retired senior officers.

3. **Networking.** Networking is probably one of the biggest benefits of being a member of a London Club; be that to find new employees, diversify and grow your own business into the Asian markets, or just to find a new job opportunity in a part of the world close to our hearts. For those still serving, do not underestimate the power of a recommendation when looking for employment, consider it as the difference between a High & Exceptional recommendation on your OJAR!

4. **Events & Societies.** [Events](#) both in and outside Stratford House are on offer to members. A private concert performance, wine tasting & tours, or exclusive access to rugby matches and horse racing. In the past a couple of QGEA Members and their guests enjoyed a super baht at one of the regular Curry Society Dinners...a must for all! There are a myriad of Societies, including an [Under 35s Society](#), to link up younger Members both within the Club, and to other London Clubs.

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5. **Reciprocal Clubs.** A [full list](#) can be found on the Reciprocal Club page. This offers the opportunity to experience a spot of luxury whilst away on holiday (KL, Jakarta, Thailand), or perhaps whilst on business (Hong Kong, Tokyo), but also across America, Canada and even Nairobi (for a bit of BATUK R&R!)
6. **Other Benefits.** As you'd expect, there are [other perks of membership](#):
 - a. Bottle of birthday fizz.
 - b. Oriental Club Dine at Home...the superb food delivered to your door in the UK.
 - c. Access to a superb wine cellar, for those connoisseurs.
 - d. Private dining bookings, for working lunches or when trying to impress clients.
 - e. Home office facilities, including IT access and complimentary tea and coffee.
 - f. Weekend accommodation offer; Friday live music; discount premium wines (Monday) and gin (Thursday); amongst other offers.
7. **Oriental Club Online Secure Members' Area.** This secure area provides all the information about the Club, as well as the ability to book rooms, make dinner reservations and check your bill.
8. **Details.** Full details can be found in the [Club Guide](#).

Becoming a Member

9. **Eligibility:**
 - a. Those QGEA members who currently hold a commission and have served within the Brigade of Gurkhas at some point in their career.
 - b. Civil Servants, Non-BG Officers and full-time civilian staff serving in, or employed by The Gurkha Welfare Trust, Gurkha Museum, HQ BG or BGN. This is for the duration of their time with their respective organisation. Upon departure, they can apply for full membership, with no requirement to pay the entrance fee.
10. **Membership.** The following routes to membership are open:
 - a. **Brigade of Gurkhas Oriental Club 12 (BG OC12) Scheme.** If joining between 18 and 30 years old.
 - b. **Associate Member.** Once Officers on the BG OC12 Scheme turn 31 they become an Associate Members. As do all those joining on or after their 31st Birthday.
 - c. **2015-25 Concessions.** For those who are under one of the three previous membership categories, these remain extant. It should be noted that The Oriental Club does reserve the right to adjust these terms.
11. **Proposer & Secunder.** As a member of the GBA, there is no requirement for a proposer or seconder. Brig (Retd) John Anderson Saheb (late 6 GR, ex-Brigadier BG and ex-GBA Chairman) has secured our concession. The GBA Secretary and my details should be used on the form.

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12. **Joining Fees.** For 2026 this is £2,000, **all** GBA applications are exempt, which is a considerable saving.

13. **Subscriptions.**

a. **BG OC12 Scheme.** One off fee of £1,100 payable on acceptance. This is the equivalent of £220 per year, if joining on arrival in a QGE Sqn on your 26th birthday post RETCC.¹

b. **Associate Member.** £540 annually.

c. **Comparative Rates.** The [Current subscriptions rates](#) page has the rates of other forms of membership to compare. Depending on age, this could be an annual saving of up to £2,140. Subject to annual increase, as dictated by the Club.

14. **Application Process.** A [Full Membership form](#) must be completed online, with a headshot photo sent to membership@orientalclub.org.uk. Please CC me, so that I can track QGEA membership applications, and I'll inform the GBA Secretary that you are eligible. It will be reviewed by the Oriental Club Membership Sub-Committee, and they will approach the GBA Secretary to close the eligibility loop. If successful, potential members will be invited to drinks at the Club, with all of the other applicants, and usually Anderson Saheb.

15. **Full Membership Form.** The majority is self-explanatory, however for GBA Members:

a. **Membership Category.** Select *Town*, this will automatically revert to GBA Member.

b. **Time in East.** If you've not been out there, just put the years you were in post in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

c. **Proposer Details (4 boxes).** *Adrian, Jones*, adrian.jones383@mod.gov.uk, GBA Secretary.

d. **Seconder Details (4 boxes).** *Rob, Oakes*, rob.oakes924@mod.gov.uk, QGEA OC Member.

Finally

16. We currently have QGEA members of the Club spread throughout the serving and retired *toli*, Brit & Gurkha, younger members and those of more senior years! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. As a member myself, I should be able to find the answer. We will also be looking to use the club for London Drinks and events, watch this space...

Yours faithfully,

Rob Oakes

¹ Five 12-month periods.