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Oriental Club Member
The Queen's Gurkha Engineers

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12 Sep 22

Dear Association Members,

ORIENTAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2022/23

The Club

1. Currently, [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. Be that a private concert performance, wine tasting & tours, or exclusive access to rugby matches and horse racing. Recently 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 35's 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. One complimentary night of accommodation per year (or seven for overseas members).
 - b. Bottle of birthday fizz.
 - c. Oriental Club Dine at Home...the superb food delivered to your door in the UK.
 - d. Access to a superb wine cellar, for those connoisseurs.
 - e. Private dining bookings, for working lunches or when trying to impress clients.
 - f. Home office facilities, including IT access and complimentary tea and coffee.
 - g. Weekend accommodation offer; Friday live music; Saturday champagne when dining; discount premium wines (Monday) and gin (Thursday); amongst other offers
7. **Oriental Club App.** This secure app 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 on the [Membership Facilities page](#), along with a club guide.

Becoming a Member

9. **Membership Categories.** Currently, this is available only to those who have, or have held a commission.
 - a. **Serving Officers (Category 1).** Full Membership Status. Entitled to propose spouses as Associate Members.
 - b. **Ex-Officers (Category 2).** Those Officers no longer serving. Entitled to propose spouses as Associate Members.
 - c. **Retired Officers (Category 3).** For those retired officers who are already members, they now have Full Membership Status and remain on current discounted subscription. Entitled to propose spouses as Associate Members. This membership category is now closed for new applicants.
10. **Proposer.** As a member of the GBA, there is no requirement for a proposer or seconder. Currently Brig John Anderson Saheb (ex-Brigadier BG and ex-GBA Chairman) acts in this role as the GBA Representative, and vouches for GBA Members.
11. **Joining Fees.** For 2022 this is £1,800, **all** GBA applications are exempt, which is a considerable saving. All Categories will continue to be exempt in the future.
12. **Subscriptions.**
 - a. **Category 1.** Full Membership at the reduced Gurkha Rate of £408 for 2022

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- b. **Category 2.** Full Membership at the appropriate rate for age and location.
- 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 £1,608. Subject to annual increase, as dictated by the Club.

13. **Application Process.** A [Full Membership form](#) must be completed and scanned or posted to the Membership Office. Please CC me, so that I can track membership. It will be reviewed by the Membership Committee, and if successful, potential members will be invited to drinks at the Club, with all of the other applicants, their proposers & seconders and the GBA Representative.

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

- a. **Paras 7 & 8.** Enter *QGEA and GBA*.
- b. **Para 9.** Put down the address: *Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas, Robertson House, CAMBERLEY, GU15 4PQ.*
- c. **Para 21.** Enter *GBA Membership Application*. Leave paras 22-24 blank.

Finally

15. 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, watch this space...

Yours faithfully,

Rob Oakes