

## The Cosmos Club—Reciprocal Clubs

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The Cosmos Club has 40 reciprocal Clubs in the US, 10 in England, 8 in Europe, 8 in Australia, 7 in Canada and one each in Brazil, in Chile, in Mexico, in India, in New Zealand, in Singapore, 2 in South Africa and 4 in Japan. It is the largest number I know of any Club's reciprocity arrangements as of May 1995, the date of publication of the latest list I possess.

In Scotland, there is the New Club, founded in 1784, situated on Edinburgh's foremost avenue, Princes Street. Owning its house in this highly desirable commercial district, the Club reconstructed the whole premises some years ago, and let out the ground floor profitably. Access to the modernised Club is by lift to the first floor, where by brilliant architectural reconstruction, the ancient oak panelling is beautifully preserved and the rooms are decorated with the portraits of the Club's most distinguished past members, often in military uniform and kilt. Comfortable guest rooms are available on the floors above.

Once when I spent a night there, my neighbour was Mr Edward Heath, the English Prime Minister from 1970-1974. I noticed a chair outside one of the rooms, on which a man was sitting all night. Later I realised that this must have been the Prime Minister's personal bodyguard. In my rating of Clubs, the New Club certainly deserves five stars.

On the opposite side of the Earth, in Singapore, there is another five-star Club, the Tanglin Club, deriving its name from the beautiful local trees which surround it. It is a truly luxurious establishment, befitting the wealthy commercial society of this thriving city-state. With its Olympic size swimming pool, its tennis courts and outdoor eating facilities for breakfast, its ubiquitous air-conditioning indoors, its large and sumptuous bedrooms and its grandiose restaurant, where delicious specialities from East and West can be consumed — the Tanglin Club offers its members, and those who can enjoy reciprocal hospitality, every luxury one may desire in the tropics.

Still further East, in the Australian capital Canberra, there is another five-star Club, aptly called the Commonwealth Club, situated in Yarralumla, the Diplomatic district. Its character befits its members, high-ranking public servants, Members of Parliament, senior academics, diplomats and military gentlemen. By no means as luxurious as the Tanglin Club, its quiet elegance is more reminiscent of the grander London Clubs and their exclusiveness. Its delight is the view from the bedroom windows across Lake Burley Griffin, named after the town planner of the Capital. When I first visited Canberra in the 1940s, this central area was a dusty area of 'bush' and only later a beautiful artificial lake was created, which became a pleasant place for recreation.