



THE ARTILLERY CLUB - INFORMATION BRIEF

Introduction

The objective of this Information Brief is to provide an overview of the Artillery Club, addressing issues such as Aim and Objectives, Membership, Governance, Current Focus, Activities and Partnership. The Club's Rules (December 1997) were used as a basis for the elaboration process which was conducted under the auspices of the Club's Committee.

The Irish Defence Forces Artillery Corps was formally established in Islandbridge Barracks, Dublin on 23 March 1923, and the establishment of the Artillery Club was authorised by the military authorities in 1972. To date, the Club has had seventeen Presidents – the first holder of the chain of office was Lieutenant-Colonel J.P. Kane, Officer Commanding 4 Field Artillery Regiment.

Aim and Objectives

The Artillery Club's aim is the promotion and fostering of the Artillery Corps Esprit de Corps. The Club refrains from any political activity.

The main objective of the Artillery Club is to maintain, promote and foster the Artillery Corps unique legacy and solidarity, distinctive customs and traditions, lasting ethos, valuable fellowship and the bond of camaraderie.

In addition, the Artillery Club supports the preservation for posterity the proud military heritage of the Irish Defence Forces Artillery Corps, and promotes professional excellence through sponsoring the Best Student Award on Artillery Young Officers Courses.

The Artillery Club provides a focal point for remembrance and comradeship, both of which are vital for the cohesiveness and operationality of the Artillery School and the Regiments of the Artillery Corps.

The Artillery Club promotes the study of military history associated with Field Artillery, Air Defence Artillery and Coastal Defence Artillery, circulates appropriate publications and information, and supports military and regimental museums, in the maintenance and display of Artillery weapons, equipment, material and artefacts.

Finally, the Artillery Club facilitates a networking environment throughout Ireland, enabling serving and former officers of the Artillery Corps to maintain a lasting bond with colleagues, coupled with retaining contact with their parent Regiments, the Artillery School, and by extension the Corps.

Membership

Membership of the Artillery Club is open to all serving and retired commissioned Artillery officers of the Permanent Defence Force and the Army Reserve, (previously the Reserve Defence Force). The Club's current membership of 101 includes the Defence Forces Chief of Staff (an Artillery Officer). Members pay an Annual Subscription of €10.

Honorary Membership is conferred on distinguished Artillery Officers. During the 2013 Annual General Meeting, Commandant John D. Curtin (Retd), 41 Battery and 1 Field Artillery Regiment, was elected as the first Honorary Member. As an Ack Ack gunner, John engaged German aircraft with live fire during the Second World War. The second Honorary Member was elected on 4 December 2014 - Commandant Paddy Gillen (Retd), 8 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA), who was awarded the "*Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur*" arising from his service with the 6 Special Commando on D-Day in 1944.

Governance

The Rules of the Club are the basis of the Club's effective governance, transparency and accountability. The Club refrains from any political activity,

The management, control and direction of the Club are exercised by a Committee consisting of serving and retired Artillery officers, geographically spread over Ireland. Members of the Committee are elected by the Club's Annual General Meeting. The current tenure of office is for one year. Under the chair of the Club's President, the Committee arranges functions and activities as it deems appropriate to achieve the Club's objectives. The Club's President presents a report to the Annual General Meeting, which takes place during the month of December.

The Club is a non-profit organisation. Financial accounts are audited on a yearly basis and presented by the Club's Treasurer for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Current Focus

During the period 2015 – 2016, the Artillery Club will focus on key measurable outputs such, organising appropriate activities and projects (including the elaboration of the Club's history and the revision of the Club's rules), extending its Membership base, enhancing its communications strategy through its newsletters and launching a dedicated Web Site, improving interface with other Corps Clubs, and active involvement in the Decade of Centenaries.

Activities

Regarding its activities, the Club acknowledges the encouragement and support provided by the Director of Artillery, the Artillery School, the 1 Artillery Regiment and the 2 Artillery Regiment.

The Club's activities are of an Artillery nature, appealing to a large number of members. A programme of events is published on a yearly basis and is well supported.

Tried and tested activities include the award of the Best Student on the Young Officers Artillery Course, attending Live Firing Shoots conducted by the Artillery Regiments, visiting Artillery Emplacements and Battlefields in Ireland, Annual Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations and attending Artillery Parades, and National and Regional Commemorations.

In recent years, on an annual basis, the Club conducts an overseas tour such as visiting Battlefields in Belgium and France.

The Artillery Club concentrates on projects to achieve its objectives. In the past, projects included commissioning portraits of Artillery officers appointed as Chief of Staff and the painting of the "*Battle of Ballinamuck*" by Thomas Ryan and currently on loan to the 2 Artillery Regiment.

Other activities include lectures, visits to museums and an annual Golf Competition for Club members, including their spouses or partners.

Partnership with Other Military Clubs

The Club has effective partnership with the McKee Officers Club, the Cavalry Club and the Supply and Transport Club. Club members frequently avail of activities organised by the McKee Officers Club, such as Theatre Outings and Tours.

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.

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January 2015