



THE ARTILLERY CLUB - NEWSLETTER 3/2015



INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 2/2015 promulgated on 23 March consisted of sections covering Governance, Activities, the Artillery Corps and Looking into the Past. The format, which was very well received, will be mirrored in this Newsletter. Particular issues within this Newsletter include Membership, Social Media, Website, Rules, Clothing, report on visit to Segovia, information on the July Shoot and September Golf Outing, and finally Appointments, Promotions and Retirements. Looking into the Past, contains an extract from an article written by Commandant C.P. O'Halloran, Artillery School, published in the November 1973 edition of *An Cosantóir*

The School Commandant, Regimental Commanders and Club Members are encouraged to provide information for the Club's Newsletters.

On 15 April, Newsletter 1/2015, Newsletter 2/2015 and the Diary of Activities were posted to members without an email address.

The Club's next activity is the Artillery Shoot in Glen Imaal on Wednesday, 15 July.

GOVERNANCE

Focus

The Artillery Club's current focus remains on: organising activities, revising the Club's Rules, developing a Website, extending its Membership base and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events.

Committee

Since the AGM, the Committee convened on three occasions: 15 January, 26 February and 30 April. The Committee will reconvene on the following dates: 23 June, 24 September and 04 December (before the AGM on the same day).

Since the AGM, the Committee approved the Information Brief, issued Newsletters 1/2015 and 2/2015, developed an iterative list of activities for 2015 and approved the Clothing catalogue. Currently, the Committee is actively addressing the Membership Drive, the Chief of Staff's Portrait, a revision of the Club's Rules, the development of a Web Site and a Window Insert in the Garrison Church McKee Barracks.

DFHQ Officers' Mess and Auditorium have been booked for the Annual General Meeting and Saint Barbara's Day Lunch scheduled for 04 December.

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.

Arising from recent Banking procedures, the means by which Membership Subscriptions are paid were revised. In tandem, the Membership Application form was also revised. Both documents were proved by the Committee on 30 April and are attached to this Newsletter for appropriate action by potential new members and those with outstanding subscriptions.

Under the leadership of the Membership Secretary – Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd), the current Membership Drive, consists of two stages:

Stage 1 - 26 Feb to 23 June. Serving PDF and AR personnel;

Stage 2 – 26 June to 24 September. Retired PDF and AR personnel.

As at 16 June, following an internal membership audit, the Club's membership roll shows 123 members, 101 of which are active members having paid the €10 subscription for 2015. The balance of 22 reflects lapsed members, some of whom go back to 2007.

New and lapsed members are requested to contact Colonel McDermott (Retd), Woodenbridge, Ballybrittas, Co Laois, or email: seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com.

Rules – Revision Process

During its February meeting, the Committee agreed that revised Club Rules should be presented for approval at the AGM on 04 December 2015, necessitating the circulation of draft rules to all members NLT 07 November (28 Days before AGM).

On 30 April, the Committee approved the proposed Headings for the Revised Rules. The Rules will provide for the following Sections: Title, Mission and Objectives; Membership; Governance; Financial Matters; Meetings; and Miscellaneous Provisions.

The first draft of the Revised Rules will be presented to the Committee at its June meeting. It is envisaged that the circulation of the final draft to the Club's membership will be approved during the Committee's September meeting.

Members who wish to participate in the process are invited to contact the President.

Social Media

On 18 April 2015, availing of Premium User Names, the following social media assets were secured and commissioned on behalf of the Artillery Club:

Facebook www.Facebook.com/ArtilleryClub

Twitter www.Twitter.com/ArtilleryClub

or @ArtilleryClub when logged into Twitter.

Web Site

The Club registered a Website Domain in January 2010, www.artilleryclub.ie

The Committee has approved the nominal financial expenditure covering the technical design of the Website.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart McNamara CIS Corps has kindly agreed to be the Project Manager and will sponsor the hosting of the domain on Register365 and the installation of WordPress software. He has also offered to act as the initial Webmaster and will provide training to the Club's designated Webmaster who will take over the duties NLT 04 December.

The Committee has approved the Site Map, Home Page Format and the initial text for the sections covering the Home Page (Welcome Message), About Us, Membership and Links. These items were passed to the Project Manager on 16 June.

Website Timeframe

On 23 April: Committee approved Website Action Plan (V 23 Apr 15). Committee authorised the President to engage with the Project Manager. Committee scopes suitable photographs for the Website. Dedicated Social Media endorsed by Committee.

NLT 23 June: Initial Site Map provided to Project Manager, including Masthead Slider on Home Page. Having been approved by Committee, appropriate text for key sections provided to Project Manager, (including Home Page, About Us Section, Membership Section and Links Section). Website Designer appointed. Dedicated email requirements provided to Project Manager (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster). Committee briefed on the "under construction" Website. Committee approve of nominal Annual Costs.

NLT 24 September: Construction of Website at an advance stage. Committee to formally approve content of posted Sections on “under construction” Website.

04 December: Formal launch of Website at AGM. Club’s Webmaster fully trained by Project Manager. Project Manager withdraws from Website project.

Club Clothing

The Committee has approved the Club’s Clothing Catalogue, kindly produced by Commandant C. O’Flanagan (Retd), listing garments (Jackets, Polo Shirts, Headdress, Tie and Bow-tie), sizes and price list. An Irish version of The Artillery Club title is available on request. The complete catalogue is circulated with this Newsletter and will be posted on the Website when the site is activated.



Window Insert – Garrison Church McKee Barracks

On 30 April, the Committee was briefed on the associated Design and Costings for a Window Insert. Having conducted a recce of the Garrison Church, the Committee authorised Commandant Richie Armstrong (Retd) to advance the process, with an expenditure of €450, and having the Club’s Logo inserted in the first window on the left hand side of the Church. It is envisaged that the window will be dedicated during the Annual November Commemorative Mass.

Committee’s Short Term Priorities

The Club’s short term priorities are: Website, Attendance at Shoot on 15 July, Planning of Golf Outing on 10 September, Elaboration of Revised Club Rules, Membership Drive, COS’s Portrait, and Window Insert in Garrison Church.

ACTIVITIES

Diary of Events

The Club’s activities are of an Artillery nature, hopefully appealing to a large number of members. The current version of the Diary of Events is attached as Annex A to this Newsletter. The Diary of Events is iterative in nature and will be revised as appropriate. Details will be timely issued in advance of a particular event. Members are encouraged to offer recommendations for Club activities.

The Club acknowledges the encouragement and support provided by the Chief of Staff, the Director of Artillery, the Artillery School, the 1 Artillery Regiment the 2 Artillery Regiment, the Spanish Royal Artillery School, DFHQ Officers' Mess, the National Museum of Ireland and the Royal Curragh Golf Club for its 2015 events.

The Royal Artillery School, Segovia -April – Coordinator: Comdt Michael Flood (Retd)

During the period 25 through 29 April, the Artillery Club's visited the Spanish Royal Artillery Academy in Segovia. 17 Participants, including 3 Spouses, took part. On arrival in Madrid on Saturday 25 April, the Party spent two days in the capital visiting places of interest. On Monday 27 April, the Party departed Madrid and spent two very enjoyable days in Segovia accommodated in a hotel located at the foot of the Aqueduct of Segovia, one of the best-known monuments in Spain and Europe. Courtesy of our Spanish hosts, the Party visited the Artillery Academy and participated in tours of Segovia and the Alcazar, home of the Artillery Academy (1796 – 1862).



The Royal Artillery Academy is the principal training establishment for artillery warfare in the Spanish Army. The core of the Academy consists of three main areas: Teaching, Research and Simulation. During the course of a conducted tour of the Academy, the Party visited the Library, Church and Museum, had lunch in the Officers' Mess and received a comprehensive briefing on the Simulations currently used by the Spanish Artillery Corps.



Presentations to the School Commandant Brigadier-General Alfredo Sanz y Calabria included one from the Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle, and one from the Artillery Club.

The Committee remains grateful to Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) for the planning, coordination and execution of this memorable activity.



Artillery Shoot – Glen Imaal Wednesday 15 July

Co-ordinator: Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd)



By kind permission of the School Commandant Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Yorke, the Club is invited to attend the next Artillery Shoot in the Glen on Wednesday 15 July. Under the auspices of the Artillery School, the Shoot is associated with the Army Reserve Young Officers Course and a Fire Support Team Course. Both the 1 and 2 Artillery Regiments will be deployed as a composite 8 gun battery, firing 105mm Guns.

From 1100 hrs: Car parking facility in Seskin Gun position, (past Fentons and Former School, on Right – watch the granite gate posts!!), where transport will be provided to Keogh's House Gun Position. No parking or drop off at Keogh's House.

1200 hrs: Equipment Display at Keogh's House.

1230 hrs: The Club President will be invited to present the Captain Jack Jones (RIP) Trophies to the Best Students from recent Young Officers (4) and No 1s Courses (4).

1300 hrs: Arrival of the Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle.

1315 hrs: BBQ kindly hosted by The Artillery School.

1415 hrs: Artillery Shoot, during which the Chief of Staff will fire his Last Round, will receive a presentation and will address the assembled personnel.

1530 hrs: Transport available to Seskin Gun Position Car Parking Facility

Club Members who wish to attend should advise the Club's Coordinator NLT Wednesday 08 July: Col Seamus McDermott (Retd), Woodenbridge, Ballybrittas, Co Laois, or email: seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com.

Wreath Laying – National Memorial Merrion Square – Saturday 08 August



By kind permission of the military authorities, the Artillery Club will lay a wreath at the National Memorial, on Saturday, 08 August. The Honour Guard will be mounted by the 2 Artillery Regiment and the 28 Infantry Battalion, during the period 1200hrs to 1300hrs. All Club members are encouraged to attend.

Golf Competition – Royal Curragh Golf Club – Monday 14 September

Coordinator: Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd)



The Artillery Club Annual Golf Outing will take place on Monday 14th September 2015 at The Royal Curragh Golf Club. Tees are reserved from 1400hrs to 1530hrs. Dinner is planned in the Club House at 2000hrs approx. All Club members, spouses, partners and guests are welcome to the dinner, irrespective if they participated in the golf.

Entry Fee, including Green Fee, is €30. Cost of Dinner is €30. Single Stapleford competition will take place for both ladies and gentlemen. Spouses, partners and guests of Club Members are welcomed to participate in the golf competition. Competitors with current GUI and ILGU Handicaps will play to their official current handicap on the day. Non members of a GUI or ILGU affiliated Clubs will be allocated a maximum handicap on the day: 18 for

Gentlemen and 24 for Ladies. Five Buggies have been reserved for the outing, on a first come basis – cost is €25 per buggy.

The competition for the Captain Jack Jones (RIP) Trophy is confined to serving and retired officers of the Artillery Corps. Prizes will include a visitor's prize.

In due course, the event coordinator will invite Club Members to indicate their intention to participate in the golf outing and dinner, to advise if they are bringing spouses, partners and guests to the either or both events, their Handicap, their preferred playing partner, and to submit a remittance to cover Entry Fee and Dinner. The likely closing date for such indications is 14 August.

In the interim, Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd), the event coordinator, can be contacted at chris@ashcrow.com

ARTILLERY CORPS

Membership Invitation to New Gunner Officers

On 17 April, the President formally wrote to recently appointed Gunner Officers, congratulating them on their commissioning and formally invited them to become members of the Artillery Club: Lt Salma Bedair, 2 Artillery Regiment, Lt James McKeon, 1 Artillery Regiment and Lt Denis Sheahan, 1 Artillery Regiment, and 2/Lt Philip Dowling, 1 Artillery Regiment.

Promotions

The Artillery Club is delighted to record the recent promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel Daragh McKevitt on 9 April, and Commandant Karl O'Sullivan's selection for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel on 28 May. Congratulations to both Gunner Officers.

Officer Commanding 1 Artillery Regiment

Arising from his promotion, Lieutenant-Colonel McKevitt was appointed as the Regimental Commander, 1 Artillery Regiment. A member of the 64 Cadet Class, on commissioning Daragh was posted to the 8 Heavy Mortar Battery and filled many appointments in the 4 Field Artillery Regiment including Adjutant and Quartermaster. He also served as Battery Commander and Second in Command 2 Field Artillery Regiment and was OIC 2 Air Defence Battery. Daragh held appointments in DFHQ (A Admin Sec, OIC COMO, Combat Support Section and Ops Division) and HQ 2 Eastern Brigade. His overseas service was with the 77 and 85 Infantry Battalions UNIFIL; 33 Infantry Group KFOR; UNTSO; and 102 Infantry Battalion MINURCAT. Lieutenant-Colonel McKevitt is married to Bernie. They have four children, Jack, Aoibhe, Cian and Kate and reside in Naas, Co Kildare.

Retirements

On behalf of all members of the Artillery Club, the Committee salutes the service of the following officers on their retirement from the Permanent Defence Force and wishes them and their families all the best for the future:

Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Coleman – 1 Artillery Regiment. As a member of the 53 Cadet Class, Pat was commissioned on 15 November 1976 and retires on 14 June after 39 years of loyal service to the Artillery Corps and the Defence Forces. He served in numerous command and staff appointments, including service with the Equitation School, 1 Field Artillery Regiment, 8 Field Artillery Regiment, 4 Air Defence Battery, 31 Field Artillery Regiment, HQ Southern Command and HQ 1 Southern Brigade. He commanded the 1 Field Artillery Regiment, 4 Infantry Battalion, 1 Logistics Support Battalion and was also Officer Commanding Collins Barracks Cork. Pat's overseas service included tours of duty with the 55 and 87 Infantry Battalions UNIFIL, 37 Infantry Group KFOR and Sector West UNIFIL. Pat and Bets who have two adult children Louise and Brian, reside in Dromahane near Mallow.



Comdt Mairead Ledwidge – 1 Artillery Regiment. Mairead was commissioned with the 68 Cadet Class in 1993 and was appointed to the 1 Air Defence Regiment in Magee Barracks, Kildare and subsequently to the School of Artillery as an Air Defence Instructor. Her appointments included Quartermaster 1 Field Artillery Regiment, Staff Officer 8 Field Artillery Regiment, OIC Area Records, SO Personal Management Section, and Battery Commander and Second in Command 1 Field Artillery Regiment. Mairead completed two tours of duty overseas with the 84 and 89 Infantry Battalions with UNIFIL. She is married to Darragh Wiley. They have three children Ben, Joe and Meabh, and reside in Mallow.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

The ACK-ACK

(Extract from an article written by Comdt C.P. O'Halloran, Artillery School published in the November 1973 edition of *An Cosantóir*.)

“The story of the AA really begins with the departure of an arms purchasing mission to England in 1927; while there, they purchased 4 anti aircraft guns, consisting of 2 two-wheeled and 2 four-wheeled 3in 20 cwts. These duly arrived from England in March 1928 and were stored in Islandbridge Barracks, which was then an Ordnance Depot.”

“The record from this point until a date in 1931 is not at all clear except for one bright spot – the record shows where Lieut M.P. McCarthy (now Lt Col Retd) was sent to England to undergo an Anti-Aircraft Artillery Course at Larkhill in the latter half of October 1929, and he arrived back in early January 1930. What is certain is that the “Anti-Aircraft Battery came into being on the 16 September 1931.”

“On the 16th September 1931, the Final issue of Daily Routine Orders for the Artillery Corps, as it was then established, contained the new organisation in accordance with the terms of DFR No 57 of 1931 (Peace Establishments 1931/1933) and thus the Corps was strengthened by the new inclusion of a new unit The Anti-Aircraft Battery”.

“Routine Order No 7 of the Anti-Aircraft Battery was published on 17th September 1931 and included the place of parade: Troops of the Anti-Aircraft Battery will parade on the EAST SQUARE, the right hand marker in line with the 25 yards from the EASTERN END of building No 130 (utensil store 2).”

“The total inclusive strength of the Battery on formation was 2 Officers and 48 other ranks. The original party of pioneers helped to lay the foundation for the expansion of World War 2 and the basis on which the present AA Regt rests. The two original officers [Lt Maurice P. McCarthy and Lt James J. Dolan] were later O/C and 2 I/C of the AA Brigade during the 1940s.”

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Serving and retired personnel are encouraged to provide information, news and photographs, for publication in the Club’s Newsletters.

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.

THE ARTILLERY CLUB

June 2015

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 21 Jun 15)

Annex B: Membership Proforma

Annex C. Subscription Payment Options

Annex A

ARTILLERY CLUB DIARY of Events – 2015

(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)

Date	Event	Coordinator	Remarks
15 January	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
26 February	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
19 March	WW1 Exhibition and PALS – Collins Barracks	Capt L. Joye	13 Participated
23 April	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
25 - 29 April	Visit to Royal Spanish Artillery School, Segovia	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	17 including 3 Spouses Participated
23 June	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
11 July	Annual Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
12 July	National Day of Commemoration	President	
15 July	Glen: FST and RDF YO's Shoot, COS's Last Round, Presentation to Best YO Student	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	RV 1100hrs Seskin Gun Position Car Park for Transport to Keogh's House
08 August	Arty Club Wreath Laying, The National Memorial Merrion Square, 1200 - 1300	President	2 Arty Regt and 28 Inf Bn
12 September	Veterans' Day Collins Barracks	President	
14 September	Annual Golf Competition – Royal Curragh Golf Club	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd)	Initial details Promulgated in Newsletter 3/2015.
17 September	Chief of Staff's Stand-Down Ceremony	President	
24 September	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
November	Glen: Corps Concentration	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	Date To be Confirmed – 1 st week
14 November	Annual Mass – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
04 December	AGM and Lunch – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
09 December	Carol Service – Church of the Defence Forces Arbour Hill	N/A	

The Artillery Club – Membership Application

Rank: Name:

Address:

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Phone: Mobile: Email:.....

I hereby apply to the Club’s Committee for membership of The Artillery Club and submit that I am eligible on account of my service as a Commissioned Officer of the Artillery corps in the following units:

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I understand that the Annual Subscription is €10, and that I will be advised of the payment options when my application is approved by the Club’s Council.

Signature of Applicant: Date:

Proposed by¹:

Seconded by²:

Please send completed Application Forms to the Membership Secretary: Col Seamus McDermott (Retd), Woodenbridge, Ballybrittas, Co Laois, or email: seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com.

For Committee Use Only

Date Received:

Date Approved by Council:

Date of Notification to Member:

Date of Subscription Payment:...

¹ Optional on Application Form

² Optional on Application Form

The Artillery Club

Payment Arrangements – Membership Subscription

Introduction

The annual subscription to the Artillery Club, which is due on 1 November, is €10. This may be paid annually by cash, cheque, on-line transfer, or by Standing Order. When payment is received, your membership will be activated. The Standing Order method is the preferred option, as it minimises administration. The Club's Committee requests confirmation of the date for which an on-line transfer or Standing Order is set up, as the Club's bank cannot do this for us at the point of registration of your instruction.

Standing Order

Standing Orders can be initiated on-line through Bank of Ireland Banking 365, Ulster Bank Anytime Banking, or AIB Internet Banking. Alternatively, Standing Orders can be initiated through in branch ATMs for AIB customers, or manually using a bank proforma available in all banks. If you wish to set up the Standing Order manually, you will need the bank proforma, which is obtainable from your bank, and also on-line for the Bank of Ireland.

When you have initiated the Standing Order, please provide confirmation to the Club's Membership Secretary, in writing or by email, of the date on which the Standing Order will be deducted from your account each year. Membership Secretary's coordinates: Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd), Woodenbridge, Ballybrittas, Co Laois. Email: seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com.

Internet Bank Transfer

If you use this method, please provide confirmation to the Membership Secretary of the date on which the transfer has been initiated from your account on a yearly basis.

Cheque

Cheques covering membership should be crossed and made payable to the Artillery Club, and supplied to the Membership Secretary.

Bank Details – Artillery Club

Bank of Ireland, Kildare Town Branch, County Kildare.

Sorting Code: 90-11-67

IBAN: IE 70 BOFI 90116711387191

BIC: BOFIE2D