

## **M.A.C Meeting 16/01/2009**

19:00 Longford Arms Hotel, Longford

IAA Rep: Stephen Fay (SF)  
Trevor Henry (TH)

### **Minutes**

Meeting Opened with a discussion of clubs and Airsoft

- TH Outlined the progress that Midlands Airsoft Club has made, the structure of the club and the new site they have acquired.
  - SF agrees that a Midlands club is a fantastic development.
- MAC Concerned that some clubs are actually for profit businesses and not actual clubs
  - IAA's position is that to be an Affiliate club the organisation must be not for profit, this must be reflected in the clubs constitution
- SF put forward the IAA's position of, Clubs being a key part of the future and adding a social cohesion and shared responsibility to the community. Also that the image of a club based community would be welcomed by the authorities.
  - SF spoke about the Draft club standards Document being drawn up by the IAA with the input of clubs and invited MAC to contribute to the drafting of the standards.
  - Stephen to forward Draft Document to MAC for their review and input
- TH Spoke about the recent securing of land from Coillte
  - All agreed the granting of permission for access to state land was a massive success for the sport
- TH Spoke about the problem of illegal Skirmishing and the danger it posed to the public and the Sport.
  - Stephen agrees, and puts forward the IAA's new approach to reports of illegal activity. SF explained the position of the IAA and how it could be open to legal action if it accused someone and the case could not be proved, but reassured that investigations will now take place and evidence gathered passed to the authorities for their action.
  - TH spoke about the hard work people put in to set up legitimate sites and clubs to skirmish on and the illegal sites could ruin all of that.

- The topic of Airsoft and boards.ie was raised
  - TH asked does boards vet who it grants admission to the Commercial forum? Do the mods check that all sites in their are legitimate?
  - SF said he would speak to the MOD's and see the process.
  - Concern was raised over the IAA's relationship and influence over the Airsoft forum on Boards.ie
    - SF Said that while a Committee member is a Moderator on the forum (Keith Douglas, founder of the Forum) he avoids any political matters that come up, unless their is no other moderators available.
    - SF mentioned that Boards.ie is not always the best friend of the IAA, and political "feeding frenzies" can erupt, with demands for instant information on situations that the committee cannot immediately comment on. SF then highlighted the issues in December and the fact that while working with the DoJ we cannot make public some information, unless granted permission by the Department.
    - TH Spoke about the abuse he suffered after he set up the petition on Boards.ie for the Minister for justice.
    - The IAA Deplores the attacks on TH for standing up and trying to help his community.
    - The IAA code of conduct allows for disciplinary action to be taken against any member that was involved in the abuse.
    - SF Thanked TH for his hard work on this matter.
- SF spoke about some of the objectives of the IAA in 2009, including training for Sites, Clubs and Marshals, Child protection officers and policy's for all Affiliates and the continued protection and growth of the sport.
- TH Asked if we would do spot inspections of affiliates to insure compliance with the standards of affiliation, eg. Insurance and Site permission.

Meeting closed 21:15