

IAA Affiliate and Member Update, March 2009

Dear Members and Affiliates,

Welcome to our News Update for March 2009. Apologies for the lateness, some of us are still zombies after attending Phoenix Rising III in Wales at the weekend. March has been an exciting month for Airsoft and the IAA, so let's get going:

- Take AIM Cup

March 1st saw one of the most anticipated and well-executed events for Airsoft ever in Ireland, the Take AIM cup. This saw Ireland's top Airsoft teams battling it out for the cup, at one of Ireland's premier Airsoft venues, Rathbeggan Airsoft. A fantastic day was had by all, and the cup went to Viper Squad, one of the most enthusiastic teams we've ever seen. We'd like to thank the folks at Take AIM magazine for putting on the event, and look forward to the next one, which we're told will be on the August bank holiday weekend.

- Operation New Dawn

This was one of the largest events ever in Ireland, with over 150 players attending at G-TAC in Galway. Accounts from the day say it was a fantastic event, and coverage of the event is in this issue of Take AIM magazine.

- New Affiliates

We've had a number of affiliates come on board in March, with more to come in April. We're please to let you know that the following Retailers, Venues and Clubs have come onboard during March:

- Strike Arms (<http://www.strikearms.com/>)
- Rathbeggan Airsoft (<http://www.rathbegganairsoft.com/>)
- Midlands Airsoft Club (<http://www.freewebs.com/21-egiment-rratf/>)

See the front page updates on these new affiliates for more. We're excited to see such fine venues and retailers coming onboard, and helping to preserve and grow the sport in a responsible and upstanding manner. Welcome!

- Volunteers

We've posted a shout-out on our website for people to volunteer for committee positions and to help out in general. We've been unable to get back to everyone (we'd like to meet some of you in person) but we're very encouraged by the number of people who've volunteered to help out. As you know, we've got several committee positions open, and if you're interested in devoting some time to Airsoft and the IAA, we'd like to talk to you. Drop us a mail at info@irishairsoft.ie, or catch up with one of us at a skirmish.

- Phoenix Rising III

This year, an Irish contingent formed a platoon-size contingent for the Phoenix Rising III event, held in Sennybridge, Wales, in April. The Ghosts, Band of Hawks and An Orde Nua got together to train together and work out logistics as an Irish National Team, and gelled together nicely as a larger group to do FIBUA training and preparations. We'd like to thank Johnny Kenna from the Ghosts for organising training, and the lovely people at Airsoft Reloaded and HRTA for providing venues for training the national team. We're cheating a little bit on this one, since PR3 happened in early April, but most of the prep work happened

in March.

- Other Stuff

We did a reasonable amount of prep for PR3, providing a letter for travellers who needed to be able to use the skirmisher defence under VCRA when travelling in the UK. Steve, our legal advisor, also assisted a few of our affiliates in some planning law issues, including MAC, who resolved an issue with the local Gardai and Planning authority with our help. We've also been looking into sourcing a certified chronograph, and will be using this in our spot checks in future, and at future Airsoft events where we are asked to provide a watchful eye over the chrono. We've also been doing our regular support for our affiliates' events, and will continue to do so.

- Wrapup

March has been a very busy and rewarding month for us. We've seen very encouraging progress in a number of areas. Airsoft businesses are popping up everywhere, and soon, there will be somewhere to skirmish legitimately and safely in every part of the country.

The IAA Committee.