

## **IAA Affiliate and Member Update, July 2009**

Dear Members and Affiliates,

Welcome to our News Update for July 2009.

- New Affiliates
  - July saw an unprecedented four new IAA affiliates come on board. We're also in contact with several other businesses who are interested in signing up to our voluntary code of conduct and ethics, and we're happy to represent those businesses that will do so.
  - Our new affiliates are:
    - Hobby Airsoft - <http://www.hobbyairsoft.ie/>
    - Predator Combat Games - <http://www.predatorcombat.com/>
    - G-TAC Urban X-Treme - <http://www.g-tac.eu>
    - South-East Airsofters Club - <http://www.sea-c.net/>
- Submissions for RIF Retailers and Venues
  - At the request of the department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, we produced extensive documentation based on feedback from members and affiliates, on how we would like to see the secondary legislation for the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill progress.
  - We also produced a document on Venue Regulations for public safety, for use by Garda District Superintendents, at the request of An Garda Síochána.
  - Both these documents are available on our website, if you check the news section for July. We will be meeting with both the DoJ and the Gardaí in the coming weeks.
- Miscellaneous Provisions Bill
  - This month, the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2009 was signed into law by President McAleese.
  - The import restrictions and venue permission parts were not effective right away, the IAA are working with the DoJ to come up with an implementation timeline.
- Radio
  - Airsoft was mentioned several times on the Radio, with Dave appearing on 98FM.
  - Dave also conferred with FM104, who were going to run a piece on Airsoft and "If it is dangerous and should be allowed". FM104 later dropped the piece before it was run.
  - We'd like to acknowledge the community members who called and texted in to radio stations when these shows were ongoing. You showed our community is responsible, = strong and well-informed, well done!
- GetActive.ie
  - Irish Airsoft was included in the getactive.ie web portal. This site is used by thousands of people across Ireland to get into new sports and activities.
  - Airsoft is now an activity people can browse and search for, and our affiliated venues can have their events posted on getactive.ie
- Gazette Newspaper
  - Irish Airsoft featured in a 6-page pullout in the Gazette group of newspapers in late July.
  - This was produced by the committee, with invaluable help from those who submitted photos and content.
  - We'd like to thank Dan and Shane for contributing writing, and Casper, Marko, Richie and Bernard for contributing photos and time. Also huge thanks to Dave at Rathbeggan for allowing us to use Rathbeggan for a photoshoot.

- Other Bits - We've also been very busy with other things this month, that didn't make the front page, or that are still in progress.
  - We're directing a new venue in their dealings with Coillte, along similar lines to how MAC and SEA-C work.
  - We're assisting with planning for a new venue, as we've done before with other venues.
  - We're meeting with Insurance companies to formulate deals for our members and affiliates.
  - We've redone a good part of our website, and hope it's a lot clearer now.
  - We're meeting with the competition authority about various points to do with the Airsoft industry in Ireland, and will be producing a guide for affiliates.
  - We completed an affiliate survey, which the Irish Aports Coucil need in order for Airsoft to be recognised as a sport.

July has been a fantastic month for the IAA. We'd love to tell you about some of the behind-the-scenes work we're up to to bolster Airsoft's reputation as a safe, fun and rewarding sport and hobby, but you'll just have to wait and see as it happens.

As always, we rely on your support to continue operating. If you'd like to volunteer to help out at events or with organisation, please email us on [info@irishairsoft.ie](mailto:info@irishairsoft.ie). We're also looking for volunteers to man information stands and ranges at an upcoming event in August, email us for more details. As always, the easiest way you can support our work is by joining the association, which you can do at <http://signup.irishairsoft.ie/>

Pew pew,

The IAA Committee (Dave, Aidan, Steve, Keith, Bernard and Gareth)