

Irish Airsoft Association AGM 2009 Meeting Minutes

Table of contents

- Opening
- Attendees
- Opening Address from Chairperson
- Ratification of outgoing committees actions
- Presentation of financial report from acting Treasurer
- Presentation of the Criminal Justice Act 2009 Stages employed by Committee to achieve community's requirements
- Motions for voting
- Election of Officers for new committee
- AOB
- Close meeting

Opening

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Airsoft Association was called to order at 14:30 on 14 November 2009 in The Red Cow Hotel, Dublin by Dave O'Connor.

Committee Attendees

Keith Douglas
Stephen Fay
Dave O'Connor

Aidan Quinlivan
Bernard Lyons

Apologies

Gareth Neville

Attendees

See appendix A

Opening Address from the Chairperson

Dave O'Connor announced that Airsoft is now officially recognised as a sport by the Federation of Irish Sports and added that the IAA is now the official body recognised as the national governing body for Airsoft in Ireland.

He explained that 2009 was an exceptionally tough yet vitally important year for airsoft in Ireland and its future survival, and expressed the hope that the new committee would be able to spend more time promoting the sport now that we have secured official recognition and the future of Irish airsoft.

He also outlined month by month, the actions and achievements of the IAA in 2009.

Actions and Achievements of the IAA in 2009

January

SEAC Inauguration
Membership Fees reduced from €30 to €10
Membership term from join date
DoJ Meeting

February

Take AIM Cup
MAC Opening
NI Linkup, meeting with Predator about NI issues
SE Airsoft Discount

March

PR3-Related Work
New Affiliates
StrikeArms.com
Rathbeggan Airsoft

April

New Committee Members
Aidan Quinlivan

Gareth Neville
Bernard Lyons
New Affiliate - Midlands Airsoft Club

May

Criminal Justice Bill Published
IAA publish response to DoJ.
IAA publish "Airsoft, the MPB and you".
Conor Scolard resigns as IAA Chairperson
New IAA Affiliate: Airsoft Reloaded

June

Additional feedback sent to DoJ about MPB
IAA joins GetActive.ie

July

Submitted proposals on RIF Retailers
Submitted proposals on Airsoft Venues
Criminal Justice Act 2009 signed into law
New Affiliate: Hobby Airsoft
Irish Airsoft supplement in Gazette

August

Salute!
New Affiliates
Predator Combat Games
SEAC
Hellfire Wargames
Airsoft in the Gazette – again!

September

More consultation with DoJ
Retailer guidelines drafted and proposed
Implementation timeline updated
Take AIM Cup
Work with local planning authorities for Compound site

October

New Affiliate: MIA
More work on project plan for Take AIM Cup

In 2009 there were 5 new affiliate retailers and 7 new affiliate venues

Ratification of outgoing committee's actions

Due to the fact that the outgoing committee were inquorate over much of the last year; ratification of the committees actions was required.

Ratified by unanimous majority.

Financial Statement

Dave O'Connor presented the financial statement of accounts.

<BREAK in MEETING>

CJA 2009 / MPB by Stephen Fay, Legal Officer

Stephen Fay presented a comprehensive overview of the IAA's involvement in the process and progress of the IAA involvement with the Department of Justice in relation to the CJA 2009 through to it becoming law. He explained that the MPB, which has become law, has in effect given airsoft a legal foothold in Irish law and in doing so has validated and secured the future of airsoft in Ireland. He also highlighted specific points including:

- DOJ proposed intention to turn airsoft devices clear plastic and red-tipped
- Final Draft as signed by the President is in effect
- Licenced Retailers only allowed import and sell
- Personal imports banned
- Private sales are not affected
- Clear Plastic RIF's will probably be classed as RIF's – currently with the AG's Office.
- Myth that Minister allowed to ban airsoft on a whim dismissed – same requirements affect airsoft as affect alcohol (which the minister can also “ban”) but proposals must be put before the Dail before any ban can be implemented. DOJ have been “our friend”
- Community Responsibility to maintain the positive image of airsoft in Ireland and must be stressed to everyone in every part of the community
- Recommended information sheet with every airsoft device purchase, at all shops and sites, outlining the responsibilities, precautions and penalties

- We have been given a pass and we are here to stay. We are not going anywhere.
- Credit due to the DOJ for their openness and assistance

Brief questions / discussion was opened to the floor concerning the following:

- Private purchase of parts and components – not affected
- Returning with airsoft devices from events abroad – not importation as already owned. Suggested have proof of purchase /ownership prior to departure
- Importation of items such as scopes and mags, being confused with real component parts of a firearm – we currently have this problem
- There is no easy exemption. Customs officials must, by law, send suspected components to the Firearms Bureau in the Phoenix Park. They are already under extreme pressure
- Clear Plastic RIF's – currently with the AG's office for a decision.
- Why UKARA model not examined here – it was and was deemed unsuitable as it would restrict a large part of the airsoft community such as non-skirmishers and collectors

Further discussion moved to AOB

<break in meeting>

Motions for Voting

Motion to vote to grant the exec committee the power to establish the Association as a not-for-profit limited company in line with requirements of the Revenue Commissioners for not-for-profit tax status.

Proposer : Stephen Fay, Seconded: Keith Douglas

Passed unanimously

Motion to remove the now defunct CLO position from the constitution of the association.

Proposed by: Keith Douglas, Seconded: Dave O'Connor

Passed unanimously

Motion to modify the Constitution by the insertion of an article to expressly prevent persons who have a commercial interest or, a connection to a commercial interest in the sport being allowed to run for, or sit on the executive committee.

Proposed by: Stephen Fay, Seconded: Keith Douglas

Passed 18 to 8 in favour

Motion that the following sections be added to Article 6 of the IAA constitution:

3. ***All material or monetary donations equal to or exceeding fifty euro in value shall be itemised in detail in the end-of-year financial report presented at the AGM.***
4. ***Any material or monetary donations received by IAA committee members or officers shall be remitted to the association, and treated as a donation to the IAA.***

Proposed by : Dave O'Connor, Seconded: Conor Scolar

Passed unanimously

Motion that Article 5, Section 2 (v) be deleted from the IAA constitution (Legal officer).

Proposer : Dave O'Connor, Seconded: Conor Scolar

Passed unanimously

Motion that the IAA should formally adopt the Irish Sports Council's "Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport", in accordance with section 2.6 therein, and in accordance with the principles of Children First...

Proposer : Bernard Lyons, Seconded: Paul Horgan

Passed unanimously

Elections of New Committee

Chairperson

Richard Smith Elected unanimously

Vice Chairperson

Declan Duffy (absent)
Graham D'arcy

Graham D'Arcy elected 19 votes to 12

Public Relations Officer

Kevin Weaver
Mariel O'Keeffe (absent)

Kevin Weaver elected 23 votes to 12

AOB

Further discussion regarding why UKARA model was not used here – the IAA represents players, skirmishers and collectors alike and felt it was in the best interest of airsofters in general to avoid a UKARA model.

Paul Horgan expressed concern as retailers that following the implementation date of Jan 1st 2010, retailers who need to increase prices due to increased costs or unfavourable exchange rate changes, will be torn limb from limb over allegations of price fixing and milking the ordinary airsofter who can no longer privately import devices. SF explained that the IAA have already met with the Competition Authority and they already have a team to examine any irregularities.

Tony Geraghty questioned if a complaint was made – would it be investigated, to which Kevin Weaver replied if a complaint warranted investigation then it would be.

Chris Morris stated that he found the lack of definition of RIF very worrying. Further clarification regarding definitions currently being decided by DOJ.
Licenced retailers will have a licence number which will be required for importation of RIF's.

Non-Executive positions including Technical and Safety Officers will be up to the new committee to contact and appoint.

The IAA are one of the founder members of the new EAA (European Airsoft Association). Aside from the restrictions being imposed by the new MPB there is a EU Weapons directive which is going to restrict personal importations of guns (real or imitation).

Kevin Weaver added that although he worked as a weapons specialist for some years with the US Military, he would be hard pressed to tell from looks alone an RIF from a RS device. With that in mind it's really no wonder that the EU Weapons directive which is principally a postal led ban, is coming in.

Paul Carey suggested the IAA draw up a set of guidelines for "brandishing" to explain to Joe Public the current law, it's restrictions and penalties for the community with regard to use in public.

Chris Morris asked regarding a time frame for publishing site regulations and requirements. These are not yet available but will be published by the IAA as soon as they get them from the DOJ.

It was agreed by all that such important issues need more time than was available at the AGM for discussion.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 17:15 by Dave O'Connor.

Minutes submitted by: Aidan Quinlivan

Approved by: Richard Smith, IAA Chairperson

Appendix A – Attendees

Adrian Breen
Chris Burke
Carl Calderon
Darren Carroll
Alan Ciapas
Graham Darcy
Igor Dolgov
Keith Douglas
Tim Drew
Stephen Fay
Evgeny Frindunbekov
Tony Geraghty
Ruslanas Golubevas
Mark Guildea

Neil Guthrie
Paul Horgan
Sergejus Ignatjevas
Jakub Job
Paul Kane
Dmitrij Karpovic
Gintaras Kaselis
Gintaras Kazakas
Thomas Keogh
Savelii Lebedev
Bernard Lyons
Malcolm McGrath
Christopher Morris
James Murphy
Keith Naylor
Ger Newell
Mervyn Nutley
Shane O'hUid
Daniel O'Connor
David O'Connor
Igori Prokofiev
Aidan Quinlivan
Robert Rea
Tadhg Scanlan
Justin Silgalis
Richard Smith
Kevin Weaver

Paul Carey (Affiliate, non-voting).