

Annual General Meeting
of
United Kingdom Airsoft Players Union

at
Cavalier Tavern, Worcester
Saturday 19th November 2011

1. **ATTENDANCE:**

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|---|---------------|---|--------------|---|
| James Williams | Y | Matthew Furey-King | Y | Hayden Morgan | Y | Mike Prosser | Y |
| Rhys Vokes | Y | Gareth Neale | Y | Chris Neill, | Y | | |

2. **APOLOGIES:** Andrew Fox, Frank Bothamley, Phil Bucknall, Chris Salter, Josh Golding, Neil Guthrie

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:**

Minutes were posted online for all to see,

Proposed correct MFK, _____ seconded HM approved

4. **REPORTS**

- a. Chairman's Report:

Two years have passed since the meeting which established UK Airsoft Players Union and the need for our association is clearer than ever. Not so long ago airsoft was an underground hobby and in the last 15 years it has burst into the limelight and grown exponentially as a result. Most people reading this would not have heard of airsoft if it wasn't for the hundreds of people who have pushed airsoft to new levels, volunteers and entrepreneurs alike. Each year more people get involved and as a result we now have a staggering array of shops, sites, literature, guns and equipment to select from, with competition and the economy of scale keeping prices down. Airsoft was always a cheap activity due to extremely cheap ammunition and reasonable site fees; certainly it costs a tiny proportion of a day of quad biking or paintballing. That is one of the reasons airsoft has still flourished in an economic climate where most people have less spending money. So things are looking good for our hobby.

However, this growth is shedding light on the fact that as a new industry in the UK we are struggling to find our feet in terms of self governance. As we get bigger we are leaving an exploitable power vacuum. It is our community and the attitude of sportsmanship and professionalism that players bring to airsoft which makes the game everything that it is, but are in danger of losing sight of this as the hobby becomes more commercialised. It is up to everyone in airsoft form together and take the reins, to make sure that the hobby both sticks to its roots and lays the groundwork for the future.

A good example is sites that have increased their fully auto limit to 370fps in light of the ACPO lethality report. Whatever their reasons, encouraging players to use airsoft replicas which are on the very edge of what the police have been told to regard as section 5 firearms is unjustifiably risking the reputation and future of our hobby (as well as the liberty of players). Accountable, democratic governance would help us steer away from self destructive behavior such as this.

In light of the above my aim for the following year is to reengage with governmental and nongovernmental organisations first hand. Relying on intermediaries has resulted in a less than acceptable flow of information to the outside world from the airsoft community and vice versa. UKAPU will also continue to push for the creation of a UK Airsoft Council.

I hope that this year more of you will stand up and be counted by joining UKAPU. It only takes a few minutes to sign the application form on our website and a measly £5 a year, every extra member on our books helps us do more. Let's make airsoft better.

b. Registrar's Report:

Membership currently stands at 244. The main two problems which are hampering membership numbers are getting people to renew and the ongoing problem we have with validating new members. There was a suggestion that we could use a referral from any existing member for applicants.

c. other reports

Press Officer: AI are still publishing our material, as is the new Airsoft Action magazine. More things to talk about would help. Both mags happy with our submissions.

Events Manager: Would like to provide a game for members after having promised them one, but otherwise the other events we have attended have gone according to plan and expectations.

5. ACCOUNTS (TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS)

:The accounts were circulated and audited by Rhys Vokes. The only item of note was a cash surplus of £50 which has been recorded as such. Issue was raised with Paypal being inferior method to manage the payments compared to google checkout. Treasurer will be looking into ways of improving the service.

One item listed in association holdings, Marquee, held currently by MFK

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

All positions were uncontested and the votes unanimous, though as Andrew Fox (secretary nominee) was not present he will need to be confirmed at a future management meeting.

- a. Chairman - Matthew Furey-King
- b. Treasurer - James Williams
- c. Registrar - Hayden Morgan
- d. Press Officer - Chris Neill
- e. Secretary- Nominee not present

7. CO-OPTED MANAGEMENT POSITIONS:

These were also uncontested and co-opted unanimously by the management committee.

Events Manager - Gareth Neale

Membership Benefits Manager - Phil Bucknall

Newsletter Editor- Chris Salter

Student Representative - Chris Salter
 Forum Manager - Neil Guthrie
 Unsure as to whether Linas Masteika wishes to continue as web manager.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----|--|
| AGM 2011/ 1 | contact Linas and verify | MFK | |
| AGM 2011/ 2 | amend website with NGs details | MFK | |

8. SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

Current subscription rate presents good value and should not deter potential members.
 Proposal to keep subscription rate the same. **£5 for membership, £2.50 for bulk membership, £2.50 for patch**

MFK Proposed we maintain current rate, seconded RV. Approved

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Donations-

The opinion of the committee and all present was that as long as the process is clear, open and documented then accepting donations would be extremely beneficial to the association without compromising our integrity. The donation contract has been created to ensure that any such funds are properly treated; document was reviewed by all present.

Proposal that donations are accepted under the terms of the donation agreement.

Proposed MFK, seconded CN

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-----|--|
| AGM 2011 / 3 | contact potential donors who have expressed interest | PB | |
| AGM 2011/ 4 | to post document on website | MFK | |

b. Constitution amendments: There were many small amendments, all of which were agreed by those present, the list of amendments was discussed. List is highlighted in red and can be viewed on AGM page on website

Proposal is to amend the constitution as discussed. Proposed MFK, seconded GN Approved

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----|--|
| AGM 2011 /5 | post amended constitution on website | MFK | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----|--|

c. Automated membership renewals

It was suggested that making renewal automatic would help with retention as people who wish to remain members are not getting around to renewing. As the committee would need to ensure that members were never conned into renewing it was decided that automatic renewal in the next year could be offered as a clear option to new and existing members, and that it would be made as easy as possible for members to cancel their renewal subscription.

Proposal that automatic subscription be adopted as discussed. Proposed MFK, seconded HPM- Approved

| | | | |
|-------------|---|-----|--|
| AGM 2011/ 6 | find a suitable web designer to implement proposals | MFK | |
|-------------|---|-----|--|

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The chairman was sadly informed of the death of a member, Wayne Tupper. The association committee sends its condolences to the family.

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|----|--|
| AGM 2011/7 | amend database | HM | |
|------------|----------------|----|--|

As the officers up for elections were the only candidates the secretary, with the consent of the chairman, decided that sending out voting forms for uncontested positions was a misuse of the associations money. Electronic voting to enable AGM votes to be take place at reduced cost was therefore discussed.

| | | | |
|------------|--|----|--|
| AGM 2011/8 | look into utilizing Survey Monkey or a similar system for this purpose | MP | |
|------------|--|----|--|

11. DATE OF NEXT AGM:

17th November 2012

Management meeting held directly after AGM to be minuted separately