

UKAPU Skype Meeting

18th February 2011

Present: Matt Furey King, James Williams, Gareth Neale, Chris Neill, Hayden Morgan, Ashley Chandler, Chris Salter

Progress Reports

Chairman:

Chairman has been in touch with EAA. Main organisers are based in the Netherlands where there has been a victory with replicas being made legal. Enthusiasm for European association project in general is on the up.

Andy Fernandez (Discounts manager) has postponed contacting shops piecemeal and instead intends to spend a whole week arranging discounts for members.

Press Officer:

Press Officer has nothing major to report, although has noticed some direct recruitment related to forum threads on main news issues. Point was made that the first University signing has been made to take numbers to over 200.

Discussion was made over a recent development at X-site Airsoft where the local police force had taken the view that no-one under 18 should be using an upgraded sniper rifle unsupervised as they classified them as air rifles. Whilst this would only apply to replicas over a certain power level the decision had been made by x-site to not allow the use of a sniper rifle of any power level by under 18's.

Hayden commented that the next logical step for the Police would be the enforcement of rules that mean you could not shoot an upgraded sniper rifle at a person without it being classed as an air rifle.

Treasurer:

Little to report

Registrar:

Still contending with long winded effort to validate any new members, even with the new help from Dingo Dogs shop its at least a 2 week turnaround for applications. Alternative to be sought.

Events Manager:

Arms fair is all booked.

Still waiting on clarification from Steve about what we could do at The Uprising/Combat Arms Festival.

Had responses about having a bar at Fireball big game, for more than 300 attendee's the bar would be provided free, for less it would be £300. Nick from Fireball is happy for us to do a bar, but is unable to give any firm idea of numbers.

From the options available Matt felt that it might be best to go for the same thing that we did for the Ground Zero game, i.e. a simple social area as we do not have enough man power to organise much.

Newsletter

Matt suggested that we approach the author of the comic strip Airsoft life of Terdz to potentially add that to the newsletter

Website

The new website is up for committee members and management to look at. Seems everything that needs to be on there is, and anything else can be added as needed.

Al commented that some minutes are still to go up and will work with Linas to get them available. Also that the method to sign up should be large and clear on the new site, likely a big Sign Up button.

James is to contact PayPal to sort out the issues with the account so that can go live.

Linas is also to move the membership form over to the new site, perhaps with Gareth's help.

James put forward that there should be a space on the recruitment forms for sites to add their UKARA stamp as that would mean we wouldn't have to verify through any 3rd parties.

Matt would like the creation of a journalists guide pack similar to the BASC one. Chris to draft for next meeting.

Amalgamated Renewals date

At the moment renewals are grouped at the start of the month, with the current numbers of members this is manageable however it may not be if the numbers expand allot in the future.

A grouped renewal system would make any professionally printed card much easier to do.

Hayden feel that its best to just run with the system we have and group renewals on a monthly basis until numbers expand.

Renewals will be notified by both a physical mail shot and then followed up by an email.

Lethality

Matt has been maintaining oversight on this topic, and has been in contact with a lobbyist. One of his points of note was that the Home Office will soon suffer large staff reductions due to the cutbacks, which may affect their approach.

Matt spoke firearms solicitor Sean Wilson, he feels that lethality could become a separate issue to what makes an airgun. This means lethality could still be decided on a case by case basis but there could be a clarified bottom threshold set as to what constitutes an airgun. He also feels that there is a possibility to have IF's and RiF's at separate legal power levels. Sean is keen to attend further meetings with UKARA/UKASGB/UKAPU.

Progress has been made on the lethality front by an external body, which will be officially announced in the next few months. UKAPU members to be informed as soon as we are able to share the information.

Matt proposes to buy the Low powered airgun testing document from ASTM, seconded by Chris and passed.

UK airsoft umbrella organisation

The idea is to form an overarching council with UKARA and UKASGB to increase our ability to achieve mutual aims. Shooting sports have such an organisation (British Shooting Sports Council) and this could be replicated in airsoft.

The heads of UKARA and UKASGB are very keen on this concept though it will also require the support of their members.

No-one had any objections to this concept and Matt put forward the proposal that UKAPU would be in favour of actively pursuing this as a goal, seconded by James.

Any Other Business

Andy Fernandez suggests that for RiF retailers that offer our members discounts we should only work with UKARA members in order to forge a closer relationship with our sister association and promote responsible trading of RIF's.

Andy would also like to create an opt in email list for supporter retailers to be able to verify membership and for shops to use to email offers to our members. This would work alongside a space on the forum for retailers to place discount codes or offers for members.

Chris explained about a uni team tournament at the Grange in March that Matt felt it would be worth getting someone from the committee to speak to the team leaders to get more affiliates on board.

Secretary to publish minutes. Next meeting to be arranged as necessary.