



UKAPU AGM MINUTES

January 13th 2018

Minutes of previous AGM: David Weston briefly ran over these and all agreed they were correct. Only action was for Matt Furey-King to pass over any organisation contact details

Reports

Chairman's Report: DW gave a brief speech detailing his thoughts on the first year of being chairman of UKAPU. DW expressed disappointment with various authorities for allowing legal issues with Airsoft to be relegated to the sidelines. Additionally he was pleased with the continued support of the members, as well as an editorial in AI. Furthermore, disappointment was expressed with the state of progression of the Airsoft Trade Body.

Vice Chair Report: Tim mostly gave a brief overview of the state of the European Airsoft Association. Their current chair, Joachim is stepping down within the next months having felt he has done all he can. There is a concern now that this transitional period could drag on leading to a fracturing of the EAA and a loss of will to carry it on.

Registrar's Report: Membership spiked last year with the looming threat of the now PCA. Total membership stands at 2682. The system DW has put in place for administering the paid memberships is working well and much simplified from previous versions.

Treasurer's Report: Accounts were circulated and briefly ran through. Balance is currently healthy with no unexpected outgoings.

Election of Officers

All of the positions were uncontested and voting was unanimous. Discussion was had afterwards about the importance of filling some key roles, notably Secretary and will be addressed.

Chairman	- David Weston
Vice-Chair	- Tim Haines
Press Officer	- Jon Hill
Registrar	- Vacant
Secretary	- Vacant
Treasurer	- James Williams

Regional Representatives:

Scotland	- Robbie Hutchison
East England	- Vacant
South West	- Tim Haines
South East	- Chris Stoel
Midlands	- Vacant
Wales	- Benjamin Cresswell
Northern Ireland	- Vacant
Student	- Declan Malone

Co-opt additional positions and sub committees

Benefits	- Chris Stoel
North England	- Steven Morely (listed as such due to commercial interests)
EAA Representative	- Tim Haines
Consultant	- Matt Furey-King

Subscription Rate

Discussion was had and it was agreed to keep the current 0-5-10 figures for the membership donation rates.

Date of the next AGM

It was discussed that the timing of the AGM in November did pose an issue for certain people with limited availability so close to the holiday season. DW proposed that the constitution be amended to hold the AGM in January, seconded by JW. Therefore the date for the next AGM will be January 2019.

VCRA Defences

Graham Hoffman gave an overview about UKASA to those present.

David Weston proposed that UKAPU tries to official vet the currently available VCRA defences. Before any move to vote was taken an involved discussion was had.

Matt Furey-King and Steve Morely both felt that if there is any chance that UKAPU would move to attempt it own verification scheme for members then there could be perceived conflict of interest and wasted effort and it may be more prudent to skip to the end and create such a scheme if this in the intent.

Points were made that despite recent hiccups the UKARA database is working now and in the main retailers are happy with it. Upsetting the apple cart at this stage could be unnecessary

James Williams forwarded the issue that since the removal of the player check function that the UKARA system had offered, 2nd hand player sales have been affected. Would it be worth focusing on aiding this as is more directly related to our membership.

Tim Haines was worried that we could be getting blinkered by this one issue and loosing our focus on protecting player interests. There was no need to reinvent the wheel and the amount of time and resources that would be needed for a project such as this would be better spent elsewhere.

Another issue brought up was of people using UKAPU membership as a purchasing defence. JW made is clear that it wasn't and had never been pushed as such. Whilst people can claim what they want, it was agreed that this needs to be looked at to see if anything can be done to prevent it.

DW then made his proposal that UKAPU should vet existing defences – DEFEATED

DW the proposed to investigate the issues in creating a player defence – PASSED

MFK proposed investigating making UKAPU a re-enactment club in line with VCRA legislation - DEFEATED

Recognition by Sport England for Airsoft

DW introduced this topic by highlighting the problems that Uni students face with keeping their airsoft equipment in halls of residence and the often anti attitude of Student Unions in general. Much of this would be alleviated by proper recognition as a sport.

UKAPU as a players organisation cannot alone go forward with this aim, as a minimum a sites body would need to be involved.

DW felt that we should aim to create an umbrella body with sites and retailers for this exact purpose. It would need to have evidence of 2 AGM's so is a medium-long term project.

MFK gave a brief explanation on Sport England and how they have opened up the criteria and access for all sorts of activities to become sports, such as yoga. Benefits would include stronger legal positions in future and a more positive image as a legitimate sport.

Knowing how fractious the airsofting community can be JW asked if such a body would only need sites on board and how representative does it need to be.

DW proposed that we should find the minimum requirements that such a body would need to fulfil – PASSED

Disability within airsoft

A member submitted topic was discussed, and how on the whole our members have found that airsofters and airsoft sites have been very accommodating of disability and made them very welcome.

Those present felt that it could make for the good base for an article for the positive promotion of airsoft.

Other Matters

- a: MFK proposed that we should advertise for a new rep for Firearms UK – PASSED
- b: With the current chair stepping down there is some worry that the EAA will lose forward to step in as a caretaker chairman if the need arises.
- c: MFK proposed that the debt his is owed by the EAA (hosting fees and misc. running costs) is moved to UKAPU – PASSED
- d: Discussion surround redrawing of region boundaries will be deferred to a later meeting.
- e: Robbie Hutchison had sent an email regarding promotion of UKAPU including
 - Mainstream positive articles
 - Press Packs
 - Road Trip
 - T-shirts and patches
 - Benefits

Much of this has been talked about, or even done in the past but as people have moved out of the roles it can be difficult to carry the momentum of keeping things going.

Steve Morely revisited previous suggestion about getting some of the larger names in airsoft on board and trying to promote UKAPU.

MFK suggested that Simon “Tank” Jamison would really like to be used to promote a positive image for airsoft.

SM did caution against too much public exposure through personal bad experience in this area.

- f: Graham Hoffman raised the issue of checking the online terms and condition surrounding any auto renew of donations due to the enactment of new data protection regulations.

Date of next meeting

TBC and circulated to committee members