



UNITED KINGDOM AIRSOFT PLAYERS UNION

UKAPU AGM MINUTES

February 29th 2020

Attendees: See separate sheet

Apologies: Tim Haines, Steven Morley, Daniel Shears, Leigh Batson, Sam Ireland

Minutes of previous AGM: David Weston briefly ran over these and all agreed they were correct.

Reports

Chairman's Report: David gave a speech celebrating the 10 years that UKAPU have been in existence, and thanked both the members that were in attendance – and our hosts, Grange Live Gaming of Birmingham for helping the association celebrate it in a clean and fun manner. He lamented the omission of much promised cake.

Additionally, he outlined the work we did in the past year and the intentions of the committee to press the Northern Ireland Assembly (and UK Government) in our boosted campaign to normalise power limits across all the Home Nations.

Registrar's Report: Our registrar, Anthony Harrod-Jackson reported that membership levels are steady, and the membership levels are what are what we would normally expect to have when there are no active, pressing events causing issues to UK airsoft.

He also explained that there were, at the time of the morning of the AGM, 583 Gold memberships/donors, 255 Silver memberships/donors and 1420 Bronze memberships. A very small dip in memberships were recorded in comparison to the year previously, however this was to be expected (as noted above).

There were 97 entries to our competition at the National Airsoft Festival, and out of that number, 89 members were new to UKAPU that day.

Year	Membership
2019	2258
2018	2265
2017	2682

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.

Chairman	- David Weston
Vice-Chair	- Tim Haines
Press Officer	- (vacant) †
Registrar	- Anthony Harrod-Jackson
Secretary	- Ryan Solly
Treasurer	- James Williams

Regional Representatives:

Scotland	- Robbie Hutchison
East England	- (vacant)
North England	- Steven Morley
South West	- Daniel Shears
South East	- Tyler Townsend *
Midlands	- Leigh Batson

Wales	- Jacob Stanswood *
Northern Ireland	- Micky Logan *
Student	- James Clarke

Co-opt additional positions and sub committees

Benefits	- Andy Peet
Events	- Andy Peet
EAA Representative	- Tim Haines
Consultant	- Matt Furey-King
Sam Ireland	- No official position

** indicates new members to the committee*

† indicates position became vacant post-AGM but before publication

Subscription fees

The basic subscription fee is to remain at its current rate of being zero pounds per annum – this means that the basic membership cost of joining UKAPU (the “Bronze” package) continues to be free.

We are also continuing with our current donation packages, as follows:

- “Silver” package, priced at £5 per annum
- “Gold” package, priced at £10 per annum

Each of the three membership tiers will continue to receive the same benefits.

EAA Report

It had been reported that it is rather quiet at the European Airsoft Association. The current chairman of the EAA, Matt Furey-King outlined his intention to stand down at the next AGM that organisation, therefore a new chairman would need to be sought.

Member submitted topic: Additional Roles

A detailed discussion was held with regards to the possibility of creating two additional roles within UKAPU:

- Disability
- Discrimination

These roles may or may not be included into one role, however due to time constraints that were in place, we decided that we would be holding more discussions into these roles in a future internal management meeting.

One notable comment from these discussions was that of mental health – it has been noted quite often, sometimes in the national press, that Airsoft can have a positive effect on those with issues with their mental health, and that we should build on this.

Member submitted topic: Deputy regional representatives

A detailed discussion was held into the potential workload that some of our regional representatives’ experience. An example being that a representative cannot be skirmishing at one venue whilst simultaneously skirmishing at another venue. Therefore, it has been decided that we will amend the constitution to allow the position of deputy regional representatives. This amendment will be voted upon at a management meeting in the future.

Campaign: Northern Ireland

David had been in discussion with a couple of skirmishers regarding the possibility of restarting the campaign to normalise the power levels between all Home Nations – at the standard 1.3J/2.5J limits.

As highlighted in the Chairman's statement, the outcome of these discussions was promising – and UKAPU is proud to announce that we have managed to secure the assistance of a skirmisher that has a broad range of experience with working with the government structure that is in place in NI – and we hope to use his expertise in the coming months.

Additionally, we are in contact with other skirmishers within Northern Ireland – the goal of which is to start a campaign that is NI-led to effect change within Northern Ireland. We believe that such an action would be welcomed by the Airsoft community in Northern Ireland, as over the years we have received numerous communications from our members and non-members alike, complaining about how the 1J limit in Northern Ireland is hindering them from playing on the mainland.

Campaign: University Guidance

Following on from cases which UKAPU have been working on prior to this year's AGM, it has been highlighted that those who are responsible for running or managing sports societies within universities feel that there is a lacuna in guidance when it comes to Airsoft, primarily due to a lack of a governing body.

In one instance, the person responsible for managing sports societies believed the governing body for Airsoft had been a site based in Essex – this confusion being caused by the name being similar to what a governing body would ordinarily have.

We therefore believe it would be important for universities to have the correct guidance, and have pledged – with the assistance of our student representative who has experienced issues with universities previously, to create a set of guidelines for storage and potentially also a code of conduct that can be followed by both university management and Airsoft sport associations alike.

Campaign: UKAPU Awards

It has been mentioned previously that UKAPU should conduct some awards procedure, primarily to act as a way of highlighting UKAPU and the work that we do, but also to point out sites and retailers that are seen to be leaders in helping to progress UK airsoft. It was a welcome idea however this would need some serious consideration as an association, for example, even when taking our discounts system into account, we do not formally provide any sort of recommendations – as we feel this would taint our objectiveness.

Other topics of discussion

Website features

It has been suggested that we are not promoting the benefits of UKAPU enough, by allowing all content to be indexed by search engines and allowing people who are not members of UKAPU from benefiting from information.

It has therefore been agreed that changes to the website may be put in place to allow articles of lesser importance to be hidden for those who are not current members of UKAPU (and the benefits of joining shown in its place), however it was made clear that any content that is deemed to be necessary either the holding of airsoft skirmishing, the participation thereof or any other noteworthy articles and documentation are not to be held behind any sort of login wall.

Loyalty patch

It has been noted that we do not offer as a matter of course, additional patches for members who have been a member of UKAPU for several years. Therefore we have decided to investigate getting some patches made for long standing members – this will be debated further in a future management meeting.

Holding of next UKAPU AGM

Previous annual general meetings have been traditionally held towards the end of the year – or as we've experienced in the last couple of years, towards the beginning of the next year. It was brought to our attention that many of our members could not attend due to family commitments during December and January, and other commitments during early February.

We took the decision to move the date towards the end of February (or the beginning of March) – to coincide with having a week or so free in case any members present could also attend the IWA OutdoorClassics.

It has been deemed a success and therefore we will continue and the next AGM will be held in late February or early March 2021.