

UKAPU Management Meeting Minutes, 11th Mar 2026

Please note that some of the topics noted within the management meeting minutes may have originally been voiced at the Annual General Meeting, which was held immediately prior to the management meeting on the 11th of March 2026.

The Annual General Meeting itself is a formality, and management meetings are where the detailed discussions occur therefore in order to maintain the brevity of the AGM document, all management related discussions have been minuted in this document instead.

UKAPU Site Voice

A new Site Voice role has been introduced as a way of helping UKAPU become more visible and approachable at local airsoft sites. The idea behind the role is fairly simple: to have recognisable people at sites who players can talk to if they have questions, concerns, or simply want to know more about what UKAPU does.

The role is intended to act as a bridge between everyday players and the organisation itself. Rather than being heavily committee-focused, Site Voices are there to help improve awareness and point people in the right direction when needed.

The role will involve:

- Speaking to players at sites and helping explain what UKAPU is.
- Helping direct people towards the correct support channels if they have issues.
- Improving UKAPU's visibility and public presence within the community.
- Acting as approachable points of contact at events and game days.

Site Voices are welcome to attend meetings and be involved in discussions, although the role itself is non-voting.

There was also discussion around creating dedicated patches for Site Voices as a way of recognising the people volunteering their time to help represent UKAPU at sites.

Patches

A fairly large part of the discussion focused on patches, patch distribution, and ways to modernise how UKAPU handles merchandise and membership rewards.

A few practical problems were raised first. Some members have not received their patches, and in several cases this appears to have been caused by outdated addresses or confusion around how the current PayPal system works. There was also concern that recurring PayPal payments may discourage some people from signing up in the first place, particularly those who are uncomfortable with automatic renewals.

As a result, several actions were agreed:

- Review how reminder emails and payment notifications are handled.
- Look into introducing non-recurring payment options for memberships.
- Improve the wording and clarity on membership and donation pages.
- Encourage members who are still waiting for patches to contact David directly.
- Investigate better ways of distributing patches, including supplier-direct shipping.

Alongside the practical issues, there was also a much broader conversation about redesigning and refreshing UKAPU's patches in general. The feeling was that the organisation needs to keep evolving visually and avoid looking stagnant.

Ideas discussed included:

- Updating or redesigning the main UKAPU patch.
- Creating regional versions such as:
 - Scotland
 - England
 - Wales
- Trying different patch shapes and layouts instead of the long-standing rectangle design.
- Annual patches (for example “2026 edition” style patches).
- Event-exclusive patches tied to specific games or appearances.
- Membership-themed patches linked to Bronze, Silver, or Gold levels.

The general tone of the discussion was not about changing things for the sake of it, but about making UKAPU feel more current, active, and visible within the hobby.

Financial Reserve Clarification

A question was raised about why UKAPU keeps a relatively large amount of money sitting in reserve, rather than spending it more actively.

The explanation given was that these funds are effectively emergency protection funds for the hobby itself. Airsoft-related lobbying, legal advice, and representation can become extremely expensive very quickly, especially if legislation or government action becomes a threat.

Examples were given from previous years where significant sums had already been spent, or where major costs had nearly been incurred. These included:

- Travel and lobbying costs relating to Brussels and European discussions.
- Specialist firearms solicitors costing several thousand pounds.
- Larger lobbying or representation efforts potentially reaching £15,000–£20,000.

It was stressed that the reserve is not simply money being left unused. Instead, it exists so that UKAPU can respond quickly if serious legal or political challenges arise in future.

There was also acknowledgement that from the outside it can sometimes appear as though “nothing is happening”, but much of the value of the reserve is in ensuring the organisation is prepared before problems occur rather than reacting too late afterwards.

AttackSense Roadshow

One of the larger proposals discussed was the idea of creating a UKAPU AttackSense Roadshow.

The concept would involve partnering with airsoft sites to run AttackSense activities, challenges, and competitions during game days. The intention is that this would help both the sites themselves and UKAPU by creating more engagement, visibility, and social media activity.

The broad goals of the idea are:

- Increase awareness of UKAPU at sites around the country.
- Encourage more players to engage with the organisation.
- Promote participating sites through UKAPU social media.
- Create friendly competition and interaction between sites.

Some of the proposed features included:

- UKAPU representatives attending sites to help run events.
- Lunchtime or downtime competitions during normal game days.
- Leaderboards and scoring systems.
- Social media posts highlighting players, scores, and participating sites.
- Potential long-term rankings between locations.

There was positive feedback overall, although some important practical concerns were raised as well.

These included:

- Ensuring insurance properly covers events and activities.
- Understanding how player data would be handled.
- Clarifying how the AttackSense app integrates with any scoring or records.
- Making sure there are backup/manual systems if technology fails.

Actions agreed included:

- Confirming insurance arrangements.
- Speaking to the AttackSense developers about possible data handling and automation options.
- Looking at ways to keep administration simple and reliable.

The overall feeling was that this could become a strong outreach tool for UKAPU if handled correctly.

Website & Communications Improvements

There was broad agreement throughout the meeting that UKAPU needs to communicate more regularly and appear more active publicly.

A recurring theme was that many players simply do not hear much from the organisation between major announcements, which can create the impression that little is happening behind the scenes. Several attendees felt that even small updates would help reassure players that work is ongoing.

Suggestions included:

- Refreshing and modernising the website visually.
- Making the site feel more current and regularly updated.
- Bringing in additional volunteers to help with feedback, content, and ideas.
- Posting more regular updates to the community.
- Creating six-monthly “what we’ve been doing” style summaries.
- Improving engagement with both players and site owners.
- Highlighting ongoing work more clearly on social media and the website.

The discussion was less about dramatic redesigns and more about improving consistency, visibility, and communication.

Clothing & Branding

There was also discussion about improving UKAPU’s public presentation through clothing, banners, and general branding.

The feeling was that when representatives attend events or sites, having clear and professional-looking clothing helps establish credibility and visibility. It also makes it easier for players to recognise who is involved with the organisation.

Ideas included:

- Committee softshell jackets.
- Branded shirts and polos.
- Clothing specifically for events and site visits.
- Posters or banners for sites working with UKAPU.
- Print-on-demand merchandise that ordinary members could purchase themselves.

The overall goal is to create a more professional and recognisable appearance while also helping spread awareness of UKAPU naturally through events and community activity.

Safer Airsoft/Headshot Competition Concerns

A proposal was raised regarding online “headshot challenge” style content and competitions that encourage deliberate headshots for entertainment or social media engagement.

There was general agreement within the meeting that this kind of behaviour reflects poorly on the hobby and risks encouraging unsafe or irresponsible play styles.

The shared view was:

- Headshots should only happen when unavoidable.
- Players should not deliberately aim for the head where other options exist.
- Turning headshots into competitions or social media trends is unnecessary and potentially harmful.

A motion was passed supporting efforts to discourage this type of content. However, it was clarified that this would simply be noted in the meeting minutes and was not intended to become a formal campaign or public initiative.

Lifetime Membership Awards

A motion was passed granting lifetime membership recognition to:

- James Williams
- David Weston

The recognition was given in acknowledgement of their long-term service, contributions, and continued support for both UKAPU and the wider airsoft community over many years.

Several attendees also spoke positively about the amount of behind-the-scenes work and support both individuals have provided over time.

European Airsoft Federation (EAF) Discussion

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the European Airsoft Federation (EAF), its current structure, and concerns surrounding how it has recently been managed.

A number of issues were raised relating to:

- The handling of leadership changes.
- Governance and constitutional changes.
- Concerns over transparency.
- Perceived dominance by the Dutch organisation involved in restructuring the federation.

Despite these concerns, there was also recognition that international cooperation remains important, particularly when it comes to protecting airsoft at a European level.

Benefits discussed included:

- Sharing information between countries.
- Monitoring changes to EU legislation.
- Coordinating lobbying efforts.
- Protecting the ability for players to travel and play internationally.
- Learning from how other countries handle legal and political challenges.

Examples were given of previous EU proposals that could have had major negative impacts on airsoft by effectively treating replicas more like regulated firearms through serialisation and registration requirements.

Although there was scepticism about aspects of the federation's recent management, there was still support for maintaining involvement and communication internationally.

As a result:

- A motion passed supporting the idea of UKAPU becoming involved again with the federation.
- A formal letter of concern regarding the previous restructuring process is to be drafted.

Airsoft World and International Competition Discussions

The meeting also covered discussion around Airsoft World, an international airsoft network focused on cooperation and competitive events between countries.

The discussion explored the possibility of:

- International competitions.
- National representation.
- Cross-country community building.
- Team-based events involving multiple nations.

There was particular interest in how this could potentially create:

- UK regional qualifiers.
- Scotland vs England vs Wales style competitions.
- International representation opportunities for UK players.
- New ways of promoting the UK scene internationally.

The conversation also touched on the wider community value of international events, not just as competitions but as a way of building relationships and cooperation between players and organisations across different countries.

The committee expressed interest in learning more and potentially exploring future involvement if suitable opportunities arise.

Future Growth & Event Presence

A recurring topic throughout the meeting was the need for UKAPU to become more visible within the wider airsoft community.

Several attendees felt that the organisation needs to attend more events, appear at more sites, and generally become more present within the hobby if it wants to continue growing.

Areas highlighted included:

- Greater visibility at national events.
- More direct engagement with sites and players.
- Stronger social media activity.
- Building a larger volunteer base.
- Developing more public-facing projects and activities.

At the same time, there was acknowledgement that volunteer availability remains one of the biggest limiting factors. Many of the ideas discussed are achievable, but only if enough people are willing and able to help run them.

Despite that challenge, the overall outlook from the meeting was positive, particularly around:

- Competitions and events.
- Site partnerships.
- Community engagement.

- Expanding UKAPU's public profile over time.

Meeting Outcomes / Actions

A number of practical follow-up actions came out of the discussions during the meeting. These included:

- Reviewing recurring membership payment options.
- Improving membership payment reminders and notifications.
- Investigating annual and special-edition patches.
- Looking at supplier-direct patch distribution.
- Exploring AttackSense integration and insurance requirements.
- Refreshing the website and communication strategy.
- Investigating branded clothing and merchandise options.
- Drafting a formal EAF concern letter.
- Researching opportunities connected to Airsoft World.