



# AIRSOFT AUCKLAND

WARGAMES LIKE NO OTHER



MINUTES  
14<sup>th</sup> May  
Chair: Mark

**Any Apologies:**

**Present:** Khamtanh, Andrew, Oliver, Gabriel, Mark

**Absent:** James

**1. Previous minutes**

Committee AGREED that the minutes of previous minutes accurate.

**2. Financial Accounts Status – Andrew**

Balance of account -

14/5/08	Members joining	\$	581.80
14/5/08	Donations	\$	892.50
14/5/08	General expenses	\$	-265.89
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,208.41</b>
<b>Total</b>	Liabilities	\$	400.00
		\$	<b>808.41</b>

**3. Membership Report and New Members**

a) Current number of full members - 43 members  
(30 yet to renew / possible may or may not renew)

**4. Website Report/Forum Report**

a) New posts - 2565  
b) Personal messages (PM's) - 2317

## **5. Task list, completed / to be completed**

Check list of actions to be completed by committee members from previous meetings.

- 1) Club goggles- Khamtanh completed
- 2) Club whistles- Outstanding
- 3) Hit Markers- Khamtanh completed

## **6. Games for May / June**

Tentative dates of games.

- 17<sup>th</sup> May - Whiriwhiri (Khamtanh)  
31<sup>st</sup> May - Waimauku (Mark)  
14<sup>th</sup> June - H3 / T-3 interclub  
28<sup>th</sup> June - Flatbush (DS to be determined)

## **7. Membership renewal (Andrew)**

The renewal date for club membership was detailed in the March meeting minutes and renewal fee set as \$20 per player. There have been at least two posts on the forums regarding membership renewal as well as a PM sent by Andrew to all members reminding them of this in the last 6 weeks.

Members have till Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008 to renew their membership. Failure to do so will result in forum access restrictions with the ability to view the ASA members area removed.

**Action point:** Andrew is to begin removing access to the ASA members only area for all players failing to renew membership by the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. All in the committee agreed to this action.

## **8. Safety (Oliver)**

Oliver suggested several ways to improve safety and each is discussed below.

### ***Removing goggles***

At a recent game, following the end of a scenario, Oliver reports that a senior player gave permission for other players to remove their safety goggles. Players then proceeded to remove their goggles. This call was completely inappropriate as not all players were in the one place at the time and there was no guarantee that all players on the field were aware that the game had ended. In future games, as it should have been in this one too, only the DS has the authority to make the call regarding the removal of safety glasses. This call made by the DS only occurs when all players are gathered in the one location and all guns switched to safety.

### ***Physical removal of magazine***

As an added safety precaution, Oliver recommended that during game breaks where goggles are removed, that before removing goggles, all magazines are to be removed from guns. Because a BB would still be chambered in the gun each player would also have to fire a round to two to clear the breach. If a player un-holsters a pistol they will also have to remove the magazine. DS to implement this new safety procedure. Those in the committee appreciate that this will take a few games to get use to.

### **Safety zone**

Presently during games there is no safe area in which goggles can be removed during game play. This could be resolved by the construction of a mobile safe zone. This temporary structure would need to be easily transportable as well as easy to erect. Khamtanh proposed that the structure could be made from BB resistant material attached to stakes via cable ties.

**Action point:** Khamtanh to determine amount and cost of material required to build safety structure.

### **DS safety instruction manual / checklist**

Revision of the safety guide instruction manual / checklist to be pinned in the forums and a copy attached to the first aid pack.

**Action point:** Oliver to revise post

## **9. First Aid Training (Oliver)**

Oliver mentioned about a first aid training course that he was interested in attending. Previously the committee recognised the need for such training and had enrolled 3 for a first aid course, but due to unforeseen circumstances was never undertaken. While several members attending games do have this training it would be very beneficial for several within the committee and particularly those that DS to have first aid training. Both Oliver and Gabriel volunteered to be trained.

**Action point:** Oliver to investigate courses available and find out dates when run and costs. Khamtanh to supply details on the course he originally recommended

## **10. Player Age (Mark)**

The president of ASNZ in May meet with Joe Green (NZ police) to discuss various aspects of airsoft in New Zealand. In the meeting the issue of player age and Joe Green supplied the following.

*Section 43 of the Arms Act makes it an offence to supply (or sell) an airgun to any person under the age of 18 years who is not the holder of a firearms licence. However, section 43(3)( i) & (ii) set out a defence to the general rule: (ii) That at all times while that person was in possession of the airgun, that person was under the **immediate supervision** of either a person of or over the age of 18 years or the holder of a firearms licence.*

*In the District Court case of Police v Trevor & Clifford Walker J considered the meaning of the term "**immediate supervision**". Walker J concluded that what amounts to "immediate supervision" under the Act may vary from case to case taking into account the relevant circumstances. In particular, he was interested in the supervisor's control over the environment in a holistic sense.*

*It is useful to apply this approach to how (I have been advised) paintball gaming generally operates. Information I have indicates that paintball games are generally run within a consistent structure of rules and procedures, in a confined area of play, with participants being required to wear safety equipment and which is supervised by a referee who is physically present. In the general sense it appears to be an environment with significant structure and supervision.*

*In my view, on the information I have, it is clear that paintball gaming operates through out the world. There are recognised standards of international best practice which have been adopted by the New Zealand Paintball Association. Where paintball gaming businesses operate within these guidelines it is highly likely that the supervision provided would be found to amount to "**immediate supervision**".*

Prior to this, ASA ruling regarding the age of players is based on the legal requirements surrounding ownership of airsoft guns (18 years and older or 16 years with a gun licence). Since ASA run games similarly to that of paint ball, with gaming 1) restricted to confined area, 2) players adhering to field rules, 3) having to wear approved safety gear and 4) the games being run by a DS (directing staff), this would appear to constitute "*immediate supervision*".

This then potentially allows players under the age of 18 and without a gun licence to attend games and use airsoft guns. However, off the field, those in possession of an airsoft gun have to be 18 years old or 16 with a firearms licence. This presents a real problem for players that don't meet the legal requirements who turn up or leave a game. They would have to travel to and from their destination with a person that meets the legal requirements. It is highly probably that this would not always be adhered to and that if the individual was caught by the police they could get into serious trouble and ASA too.

The other aspect considered was the maturity of underage players and the potential for them to be irresponsible off the field while at home or school. The police already face lots of problems with underage people irresponsibly handling and illegally in possession of spring airsoft guns in the public arena. All in the committee viewed those younger 16 years as not mature enough to be members.

All in the committee agreed that players attending ASA games need to meet the legal requirements for ownership of an airsoft gun (18 years and older or 16 with a gun licence). However as a concession, if any player brings their son or daughter to a game and is also gaming, then their child may be permitted to play at the discretion of the DS.

#### **11. Calling hits / Cheating (Oliver)**

In recent games there have been several incidents of players not calling hits. Those not calling hits are simply cheating and spoiling the enjoyment of the game for others. Players need to be honest and call their hits. A hit is when a BB hits a person directly, their clothing, webbing, vest or their gun.

If players have a problem with an individual not calling their hits, rather than confronting that player in the field they should speak to a DS. The DS will then approach the player and reiterate the hit rules and try to keep an eye on that person during the game. If there are repeated complaints regarding a player not calling their hits they will be approached by a DS on the day but also a follow up official letter sent by the committee warning that this behaviour is unacceptable.

#### **12. Treatment of New players (Andrew)**

Andrew mentioned that an older player did not like the way those who were new to the game were called 'noobs' or 'newbies' and considered this disrespectful. They should be referred to as new players. While those in the committee recognise that these are common terms used on the internet as a shorter version of new players, they will endeavour to be welcoming to all players and avoid any discrimination.

#### **13. Finances (Andrew)**

As a reminder, in order to receive any reimbursements from club funds there needs to be presented a receipt.

#### **14. ASNZ (Mark / Andrew)**

There was considerable discussion on the recent ASNZ poll results regarding society funding with focus on the way the poll was conducted and the final outcome of the 3-way tie resolved by the presidential vote. Various issues were raised and following the meeting were refined online and posted as two threads on the ASNZ forums.

## **15. Any other Business**

**Delta C6 and APA**– Many of those that ran Airsoft Players Auckland (APA) have stepped down from running the club and have joined Charlie 6 (C6); a team of players not affiliated with any airsoft club or have any players that are members of other clubs. The players of C6 are keen to attend games run by other clubs including those by ASA, but also will be looking at hosting games with open invitations to other clubs.

As a consequence of key people leaving APA this potentially creates a leadership vacuum. Our president is to extend a warm welcome for those remaining in APA to feel free to join any ASA games and join the club if they wish. *Since the committee meeting, Gavin has taken over the leadership of APA.*

## **16. Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be set for the 11<sup>th</sup> June. Meeting to be held at