

UKPSF AGM 2020, 11th March Meeting Minutes held 11 am – 3 pm

Present:

Mr Don Logan (Chair/Treasurer)

Mr Antony Leadbetter (VC)

Mr Ainsley Baddeley (VC)

Jamie Pagett, James Gregory, Tim Taylor, Tom Taylor, Paul Banks, Thomas Banks, Ash Chaplin, Jody Else, Martin Collins, John Evans, Brian Moore, Craig West, Wallace Skirmish (NRN), John Green, James Chinn, Duncan Sandercock, Jackie Sosta, Steve Collins, Kerry Mayo, Ged Green.

1. Apologies for Absence: John Payne, Tommy Pemberton, Kayleigh Stanton, Chris Malton.
2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were circulated and approved
3. Agenda displayed and approved:
 - 1) Update on the UKPSF finances (income/ expenditure)
 - 2) Current membership numbers: sites, trade and players
 - 3) Project updates
 - 4) Points for discussion
 - 5) Q and A
 - 6) AOB
4. Finances approved and expenditure explained. Yearly money out was £15,349.65, money in £13,433.43. Expenditure explained to the members at length, mainly around the deficit of £1916.22, the bulk of which was the final balance owed to Leeds Beckett University for the final part of the study into Sports Recognition.
5. Membership Update:

65 site memberships representing 80 sites now across the UK. 92 player memberships. Members discussed the path of recruiting more members through events again. Ainsley Baddeley suggested that he would be making UKPSF membership mandatory at CPPS events in the future. Also need to push harder on social media outlets to boost membership now that the website is fully functioning.
6. Project Updates:

Leeds Beckett Paintball Study, with emphasis on paintball seeking sports recognition. Study is now completed and have a “summary” from Leeds Beckett to condense some of the key reading points from the entire study. Agreed from members that the study was worthwhile and now need to push player members.

Paintball seeking Sports recognition was discussed again at length. Now members needed in order to proceed. 1650 members needed for the whole of UK, and although smaller numbers can be allowed to seek status for England alone, it made more sense to try and seek the higher figure as members felt there were probably 2000 active players in the UK.

New website discussed. Few bugs still present, but for the most part operating well with new retailer and trade functionality for player member checking. This would then allow further potential for the big game operators to then look at ID card checks in the future.

UKPSF behind the scenes: Company house information updated listing Don Logan as Chair, registered office moved to the UKPSF accountant's office, and bank account signatures updated to now list only Don Logan (previously required 2 signatures, but new regulation stipulates only 1 is required).

Team GB Sponsorship: Members agreed that supporting Team GB would be a solid move for more tournament players to see the benefits of UKPSF and so UKPSF will pay the EPBF affiliation fee for 2020.

7. Points for Discussion:

UKPSF Fit for Purpose?

Members had a long debate about the current state of UKPSF. Main questions raised by the committee were that with paintball parks further venturing outside the realms of paintball and into activity centres, should be looking to be more diverse in our Federation. The members felt that we should keep focus and if required, seek guidance from other governing bodies if applicable.

Question was asked about cost of membership to sites in the current climate. Members decided that the price was more than reasonable for the support given.

In the board's research, they found a total of 172 paintball companies in the UK, representing approximately 200 venues, and with only 65 site members representing 80 sites, how could they be encouraged to join. The main point raised by the board was that technically in all insurance documents for public liability, it states that the business must follow their governing body guidance. As we are recognised as the governing body in England, surely if you are not a site member, how then could you follow our guidelines and therefore your insurance would be invalid.

26 venues have closed in the past 12 months. Is this survival of the fittest and seeing the "hobbyist" site owner falling aside? Members agreed this was not necessarily a bad thing, but to monitor the situation closely.

The board also highlighted the changes in paintball groups over the past 10 years and how average time at venues has nearly halved, group sizes diminished and the spend has also dropped. The members discussed ideas about how paintball is packaged, looking at American systems (splitting prices into paint/equipment etc to give value to items on rental days, and allow sites to offer "discounts" and "upgrades").

8. Questions Raised:

Steve Collins questioned again about Airsoft being considered as an arm of UKPSF. Once again, members resisted overall. The board highlighted the dangers of Realistic Imitation Firearms within airsoft and how any incident could then reflect badly on the paintball.

9. Any other Business:

Voting in of UKPSF Positions

Members were asked if they wished to put themselves forward for any positions on the board, but everyone happy with the current board.

Date proposed for next AGM in 2021.

AGM Closed.

Meeting closed 4.20pm.