



Sportsman's Association News

April 2015

By Mike Wells, General Secretary

AIRSOFT FACTS UNCOVERED

There has been some confusion over defence for a person to purchase an airsoft pistol for the purposes of recreation and training. Nick Doherty, a specialist firearms Barrister, has acted for Sportsman's Association members on several occasions. Nick was contacted by the British Airsoft Club for legal opinion on the 2006 Violent Crime Reduction Act. Here is what he said: "Membership of the BAC provides a complete defence to retailers of Realistic Imitation Firearms who sell such items, in accordance with the provisions of Section 37 of the Act and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (Realistic Imitation Firearms) Regulations 2007.

Given my analysis of the law... I have no hesitation in saying that membership of the BAC is more than adequate to satisfy the requirements of these Regulations and provides Retailers with a complete defence from allegations brought Under Section 36 of the Act.

The British Airsoft Club online registration scheme provides adequate safeguards to ensure that only genuine airsoft users who

intend to take part in permitted activities within the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 can become members, and the Club's scheme complies in all respects with the relevant legislation."

Mr. Nicholas Doherty, Barrister
The Chambers of Timothy Raggatt QC
4 Kings Bench Walk, London

The same applies to the membership of the Sportsman's Association. Our £10 million public liability insurance covers participation in all legitimate field sports. This means all shooting sports including stalking and vermin control. In addition cover is underwritten for Target Sports, Archery, Fishing, Jousting, Sword Fencing, Skirmishing, Paint Ball, Black Powder Cannon, Beating and Picking Up.

Many Rifle and Pistol Clubs have airsoft target sections to hone the skills we once had shooting pistols. Indeed I am Honorary Director of a Polish shooting club, who offer weekend shooting courses with live 9mm ammunition in Poland, however to keep the cost down the Poles practice with Airsoft.

The Sportsman's Association heartily encourage Airsoft Target as a legitimate



For disabled shooters it's great fun, and no need for ear defenders

sport, as many of our members are too old to practice Skirmishing or are disabled.

Membership of this Association is indeed a defence for Airsoft retailer's to supply Sportsman's members without fear of contravening the 2006 VCRA.

What about .22 rimfire?

In my experience the conservationists give little thought to rifle clubs, concentrating on lawful quarry as opposed to paper targets. If the shooting world does not wake up and take the lead issue seriously, all lead ammunition would be banned. This would delight the antis and the Government will have won the war to reduce all firearms held by civilians.

The humble .22 LR cartridge, produced in billions and used by rifle clubs and Olympic shooters would die as there is no suitable substitute for that .22 lead missile. Clubs would disappear, 112 years after Lord Roberts recommended that clubs be set up to teach all men and women to shoot after the terrible losses suffered by our "Boys" at the hands of Boer marksman during the Boer Wars in South Africa.



The humble .22 rimfire uses a lead projectile