

Fermoy Rifle Club.

Affiliated to National Association of Sporting Rifle & Pistol Clubs.
Affiliated to Shooting Sports Association of Ireland.



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NEWSLETTER

Dear Member.

On Friday 6th February last, Kieran Barry, Gerry McCarthy and Denis Linehan attended a seminar at the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar at the invitation of Mr. Garreth Byrne, Principal Officer at the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform.

All “Range Operators” were invited to hear at first hand the DRAFT regulations on target shooting clubs, and shooting ranges. The seminar was very informative and highlighted the fact that Fermoy Rifle Club and other similar Clubs will be compelled to manage its affairs adhering to the **Firearms (Authorisation of Rifle & Pistol Shooting Ranges) Regulations 2009.**

The new legislation is expected to be signed into law in the near future, i.e. within the coming weeks.

This new procedure follows the implementation of Section 33 of Part V of the Criminal Justice Act 2006 **which provides:**

“A rifle or pistol club or the owner or operator of a rifle or pistol shooting range shall not allow any firearm or ammunition to be used or stored on the premises of or at the club or shooting range in connection with target shooting unless an authorisation under this section is in force”

The Criminal Justice Act 2006 also states that holders of pistols / revolvers must be members of authorised target shooting clubs.

Hereunder are examples of the new Regulations which provide for the following;

- No person shall be a member of a club if they are dis-entitled to hold a firearms certificate. However, holders of a firearms training certificate may be a club member.
- The club maintains an up to date register of all members including their name and address, date of birth, firearm certificate number(s) and membership card number subject to appropriate data protection measures in place having regard to the sensitive nature of the addresses of members specifying the location of firearms.
- The club maintains a register of all persons shooting at the club, and will inform the local Superintendent of any member who has not shot with the club in the preceding 6 months. In addition, the club will maintain an attendance record for each member and make it available to a member of the Garda Síochána upon receiving such request in writing.
- The club does not run a day or temporary membership scheme.
- A first time application for membership shall be made in writing to an authorized officer of the club giving the names of the applicant's proposer and seconder, both of whom shall be club members.

Management of the Club:

- ✓ Appropriate safety rules are applied, consistent with the type of shooting activities that the club may participate in. The club is not used for any type of shooting other than target shooting. The club is not used for any form of security or bodyguard training.
- ✓ Club members observe the rules and regulations of all ranges used by the club.
- ✓ The club must appoint an authorized officer to liaise with an appointed officer of An Garda Síochána and shall meet with the Superintendent, or his representative, not less than 2 times per year.

- ✓ The authorized officer of the club shall immediately inform the Garda Síochána of any club member, being the holder of a firearms certificate, ceasing to be a member of the club for whatever reason.
- ✓ All records made under this subsection must be maintained for at least 6 years.
- ✓ Where a club member is notified of the revocation of his firearms certificate he shall immediately notify the club secretary in writing.

These regulations are in conjunction with the **Firearms (Authorisation of Rifle & Pistol Shooting Ranges) Regulations 2009**, a 56 page document which will regulate each individual range.

So, you will see that your Committee and your Club have much work to be completed thereby ensuring our compliance with new legislation. Never the less we are well placed in our management structure to ensure minimum impact on our progress.

You as a member also have an important role to play in this new legislation.

As secretary of the Club I will be obliged to report to An Garda Síochána and the Firearms Range Inspector the following incidents as they occur;

- 1. Up to date membership list of current members.***
- 2. Up to date list of lapsed members.***
- 3. Up to date list of those members who have not shot or used the facilities in the preceding 6 months.***

Fermoy Rifle Club membership falls due for renewal on the 1st February annually. I ask that you ensure your membership fee is paid asap to James Murphy, Treasurer.

Fermoy Rifle Club will host high profile “events” in the coming months. This is an ideal opportunity for you as a member to attend and compete with your licensed sporting equipment. You must always keep in mind that you will be required to show “good reason” and “usage” of your licensed shooting equipment from the 31st July next. If you fail to demonstrate this you may very well have difficulty in renewing your firearms.

We have now installed a new computerised “SIGN IN” system at the range. You will be issued with a scanning card at renewal which you will be required to use on arrival and departure at the range. The system will have the capacity to print off an attendance record of each member on demand.

When you have renewed your membership for 2009, you will receive your new membership card and your “Sign In” card.

N.B. : You will continue to sign the register manually, with your name and scan card number, as this will prevent any person handing over the card to another person for scanning. You are NOT permitted to loan, or permit another person to use your scan card. The card remains the property of FRC.

For details of National Competition dates please refer to our National Governing Body web site at www.nasrpc.ie . The FRC website will soon be updated.

Annual General Meeting.

The FRC AGM took place on the 1st February last. Our new Chairman is Denis Linehan and we wish Denis “good luck” for 2009 and beyond !! Now that we have him he will not be released until we have him worked to the bone !!!!

We wish to thank our outgoing Chairman, Tom Ryan for his untiring commitment to FRC in the last 8 years. Tom wished to step down this year, and while we are sorry to lose him from the Committee, we look forward to meeting Tom at the range while he gets his “eye in” and starts winning medals again.

National Competitions.

FRC will host a national WA1500PPC and a national 50 metre Benchrest Competition on Sunday 29th March next. This is an ideal time to put your skills to the test at these disciplines. It is recommended that you have experience at the pistol disciplines, before entering. If you have a doubt please ask for advice on the day of competition.

If you do not wish to enter any of the events we would be delighted if you came and assisted with the running of the days events, e.g. Range Officer, Range Officer Assistant, stats, scoring cards, etc. There is plenty to do, and we are always looking for help.

It is most important that you keep up to date with the happenings at FRC. In the coming weeks we expect new legislation, to conduct new courses in Safety and Range Officer duties. It is in your own interest to keep up to date and keep in contact with your Committee.

From time to time you will receive a text message from our Club Phone (086-3532127) which is managed by James Murphy. This may give you a brief message on a particular item or it may refer you to our Club web site for information which we believe is of interest.

The Committee will soon be meeting with the Garda Siochana to discuss matters pertaining to the Club. At this meeting we will be giving the position on membership, (current and lapsed) so it is advisable to renew all membership fees now.

To assist in keeping our records up to date please supply us with your present mobile number and e-mail address. Please supply to fermoyrifleclub@eircom.net .

Many thanks and look forward to meeting at the range.

Kieran Barry, Hon. Secretary.

On behalf of FRC Committee.