



International Police Association
IPAPC Pistol Club
Newsletter



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Event 1/2012 – E.C.S.C, Wicklow

By: Noel Horgan, Chairman IPAPC

A warm welcome to everyone for 2012. The first shoot of the new year seen the IPAPC off to the EAST COAST SHOOTING CLUB in Co. Wicklow. The club is close to Roundwood off the N11. This club is developed to cover the use of pistol, rifle, and shotgun. It is chaired by Sean McElwain who with his fellow club members has built the grounds up to accommodate rifle, pistol, and shotgun.



The rifle and pistol ranges have indoor firing points and the pistol goes out to 25 metres. Our shoot was on the 15th January with a start time of 11 am. We had seventeen attending the shoot. On the day, Sean was there to give us a welcome and show the layout to all. Over a cup of tea and a biscuit (supplied by the IPAPC) all got signed in. The usual things being covered in relation to insurance and licence.

Our club had the use of the pistol range for the day with our own range officers. The local club members gave us this concession which was fantastic for us. Next it's off into the pistol range. The firing points have individual bays each covered from the next, there being eight in all. There is an added safety associated with this range in that it had fitted warning lights and a buzzer. These are put into operation when a ceasefire is called. No handling of the firearm while the lights are flashing.

The covered firing points came in handy on the day what with the weather being a little cold. As usual all firearms came boxed and were cleared on the line. The COURSE OF FIRE for the day was the T&P1, we incorporated three runs of this for the competition.

The groups for the scoring being the usual Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. This spreads out the scores and makes for a better balance. The day went along nicely with all getting through the three runs of the practice during the day. We finished up at about 3 pm or so.

Then it was the clearing down of all firearms before the official BACK IN THE BOX. Not to be left out was the cleanup of the range. Then it was into the ceremony of the flashing camera and the giving of the medals. The scores brought to the fore the different groups.

The Alpha group bringing in scores of 280 out of 300. The usual suspects appeared here with Sean Dixon, Neil O'Malley, and Alan Lynch running first second third.

The Bravo Group a little behind with scores in the 259 out of 300 the top three here were Alan Clarke, Pat Donnelly and John McNamara.

The Charlie Class were in the average of the 250's with Stephen Byrne, Jason McCourtney, Michael Brennan in the frame here .

The Delta s brought Des Curry, Miriam Kelly, Zanett Luzar to the fore.

Again I wish to thank all who attended for their support being there when you can is what it's all about. Until the next time CHEERS.

For a full list of Results log onto www.ipapistolclub.com



WEST FLORIDA BOY CRITICALLY WOUNDED BY CELEBRATORY GUNFIRE

A west Florida boy is in critical condition after a bullet apparently fired skyward during a New Year's celebration went into his head, authorities said Sunday.

The 12-year-old boy was sitting in the front yard of his Ruskin, Florida, home watching fireworks around 1 a.m. Sunday when he fell to the ground, bleeding from the nose and eyes, Larry McKinnon of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office said Sunday in a statement.

The victim's mother drove him to South Bay Hospital in Sun City Centre, where doctors determined that a gunshot had gone through the top of the boy's head. The child was then transported to Tampa General Hospital, where he was in critical condition Sunday afternoon with the bullet still lodged in his head, McKinnon said.

No one in the immediate area around the victim's house was firing a gun, the boy's relatives and neighbours told detectives. Police believe that celebratory gunfire, possibly shot from miles away, wounded the boy.

If true, this would not be the first time that a child was inadvertently shot in the Southeast on New Year's Eve and in the hours after midnight. In 2009, 4-year-old Marquel Peters died after a bullet went through the roof a suburban Atlanta church and hit him.

The boy's mother, Nathalie Peters, has since launched an online effort -- called Marquel's Pledge -- to urge people not to shoot into the air in celebration. It's one of several such campaigns nationwide, including one in Miami called, "One bullet kills the party."

MORE THAN 1,400 GUNS STOLEN IN IRELAND IN LAST FIVE YEARS

MORE than 1,400 guns have been stolen in Ireland in the past five years. Figures just released by Justice Minister Alan Shatter show that 1,451 firearms were recorded as stolen on the Garda PULSE computer system in the years 2007 to December 12, 2011. He said the figures for the individual years were 205 in 2011; 249 in 2010; 350 in 2009; 298 in 2008 and 349 in 2007.

The number of licensed firearms in Ireland is more than 233,000, with most of them being 12-gauge shotguns and .22 rifles.

Many of the shotguns are used by farmers for vermin control, but they are also used by clay pigeon shooters and game bird hunters. Such guns are by far the most common firearms licensed in Ireland, but the minister did not give a breakdown in the types of guns stolen.

Mr Shatter also revealed that 443 Restricted Firearms Certificates had been issued up to December 12 for handguns above .22 calibres. Semi-automatic pistols in 9mm, .40 and .45 calibre, and revolvers in .38 Special, are used for target shooting by civilian marksmen.

In 2008, then Justice Minister Dermot Ahern moved to limit the ownership of semi- automatic pistols, with nearly 2,000 legally held handguns licensed in the State. He made a clear distinction between

pistols such as the 9mm Glock, used in many gangland murders, and .22 pistols used in Olympic-style pistol competitions.

The number of legally held pistols has declined drastically since then, but there are many challenges before the courts involving different aspects of the law governing firearms.

Criminals

Court decisions on several licensing issues are currently pending and could have a major impact on the way civilian guns are licensed by Gardai. While organised criminals are believed to be behind several large raids targeting licensed gun dealers, many of the thefts are opportunistic burglaries, Gardai believe.

Some of the legally held shotguns stolen by burglars end up in the hands of criminal gangs. According to gunpolicy.org, the rate of civilian ownership of firearms puts Ireland at number 70 in a table of 179 countries.

VICTORIA POLICE GUN CHANGE BIGGEST YET

A CENTRAL Victorian police sergeant has described the transition to a semi-automatic pistol as one of the biggest changes the force has experienced during her service. Sergeant Robyn Hodge has been instructing officers how to use the new gun, which replaces the revolver. She said 150 officers would undergo a training course.

“It is a big change, it is like everything, but this is one of the biggest changes I have been involved with in the police force,” Sergeant Hodge said. “It is demanding. You have got more instructors that had to be trained and there are about 20 venues state-wide that are being utilised for the training. It is big, but we are getting through it. “It is all about the stations planning ahead. They know what to expect and how many members need to come here.”



Up to 10 officers undergo a week’s training in Bendigo each time the program is on. Victoria Police started rolling out the training earlier this year and expects to finish by the middle of next year. “Officers walk in a bit apprehensive, but at the end of the five days of training they walk out confident and proud of themselves and their self-esteem is way up, which is great to see,” Sergeant Hodge said.

Former Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon decided in 2008 that the police force would change to semi-automatic pistols after 35 years of revolvers. The Police Association, under former secretary Paul Mullet, led a long and vocal campaign for police to receive the pistols.

The new gun is a Smith and Wesson M&P .40 calibre semi-automatic and features a tactical lighting system, a 15-round magazine, adjustable grip sizes, ambidextrous fittings and is suitable for marine and alpine environments.

Sergeant Hodge said officers could carry the pistol once they’d completed the training. She said they would receive ongoing training for the new gun. “When police qualify, they come back after 90 days for training again with the semi-automatic and again after 180 days for more training for the semi-automatic,” Sergeant Hodge said.

“So the training is ongoing.”

GVSU POLICE OFFICERS CONTINUED GUN TRAINING AFTER NEIGHBOUR COMPLAINED GRAND HAVEN TOWNSHIP HOUSE WAS HIT



GRAND HAVEN TOWNSHIP – A handful of Grand Valley State University police officers were midway through a firearms training session when a car sped into the North Ottawa Rod & Gun Club and an irate man emerged. He said his house had just been struck by two errant bullets.

The commanding officer on scene called GVSU Police Capt. Brandon DeHaan to report the problem. After deciding to relocate the training from the gun club's rifle range to the adjacent pistol range, DeHaan gave the OK to keep firing, according to documents obtained by The Press.

Police later would learn that bullets fired during their training session not only hit the angry man's home (picture above), one struck and injured a contractor working in the nearby Cutter Park neighborhood a half-mile away.

And it wasn't the first time bullets had escaped the confines of the gun club, authorities found.

Nearly six weeks after that Sept. 29 incident, police reports released under the Freedom of Information Act are providing more information on that day – from how officers trained at the range to how nearly a dozen homeowners found bullet holes and damage to their houses in the subsequent days.

10-YEAR-OLD DRAWS A PISTOL TO PROTECT HIS HALLOWEEN CANDY

A 10-year-old trick-or-treater in South Carolina pulled a pistol on a neighbour who teased that she was going to take his candy on Halloween, *The Aiken Standard* reports.

An Aiken, S.C., police report says the 28-year-old woman told authorities she recognized a group of boys making the rounds on Halloween and jokingly threatened to take away their candy.

According to the report, one 10-year-old responded by saying, "No you're not ..." and then pointed a 9mm handgun at her, *The Augusta Chronicle* reports.



***The Chronicle* quotes police Lt. David Turno as saying there was no clip in the gun, but that the boy had one in his possession. His brother, police say, was also armed.**

The gunman was turned over to the custody of his parents, the *Standard* says. Turno says the boys got their weapons from their grandfather without permission, the newspaper reports.

BELGIAN POLICE ORDER S&W PISTOLS

The Belgium federal police will soon be carrying 9mm pistols from Massachusetts gun maker Smith and Wesson. Smith and Wesson Holding Corp., parent company of Smith and Wesson Corp., said the Belgium federal police ordered 20,000 of its Military and Police 9mm polymer pistols.

The police agency has received an initial shipment of 2,500 pistols. Smith and Wesson said the pistol was selected for its performance, reliability, interchangeable grips sizes and low perceived recoil.



Features of the pistol include luminescent sights, a manual thumb safety with on/off red dot indicator and a raised loaded chamber indicator on top of the slide that can be felt by hand. In addition to duty pistols, the Belgium federal police placed orders for non-lethal simunition training rounds and dedicated training firearms/pistols based on the M&P platform which resemble the pistol.

"We are pleased to support the long-term needs of the Belgium federal police with our M&P pistols, which have become a sidearm of choice for law enforcement agencies in both the United States and around the globe," said Mario Pasantes, Smith and Wesson's senior vice president of Marketing and Global Professional Sales. "Our M&P line includes a full range of calibers and is designed to meet the exacting standards and tough test criteria used by professionals, such as the Belgium federal police."

STOLEN PISTOL CASE ADJOURNED

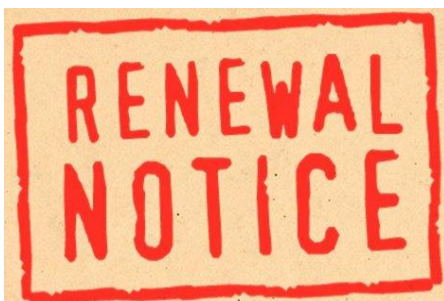
A police constable who stole a semi-automatic police pistol from Cessnock police station and fired it in the air at the Watagans State Forest lookout is expected to appear in Newcastle District Court in December.

Christopher James Burgess, of George Street, Bellbird, did not appear in Maitland Local Court yesterday but his solicitor indicated he was likely to plead guilty to three firearms offences, including stealing a firearm, discharging it in a public place and using a firearm while under the influence of alcohol.



It is alleged Burgess stole the gun from the police station between 10am and 11am on July 14 before driving toward Quorrobolong, where he drank bourbon in his car.

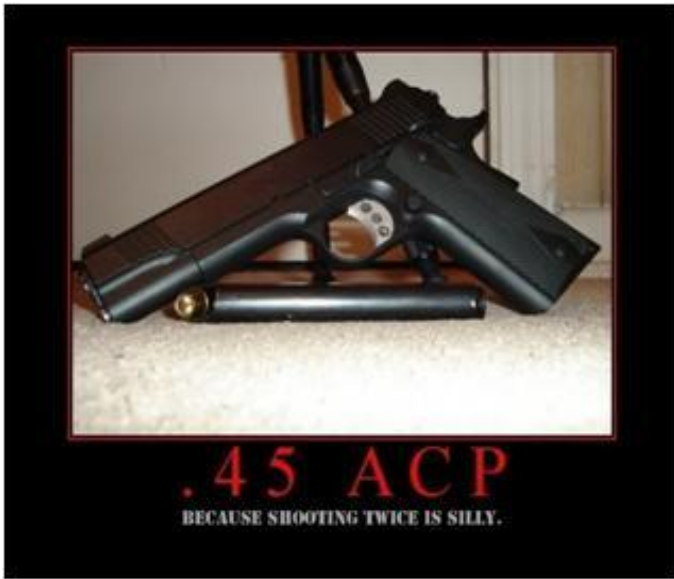
The 27-year-old could face up to 14 years imprisonment, which is the maximum sentence for the charge of stealing a firearm.



IPA Pistol Club Renewals

Reminder: Have you renewed your membership to the IPAPC? Renewals need to be returned as soon as possible. If you have lost your renewal letter, please let us know and we will send another one.

Funnies



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IPA PISTOL CLUB NOTICE BOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY PISTOL SHOOTING EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES ETC THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SELL - WHY NOT SEND SOME DETAILS TO US AND WE CAN ADVERTISE THEM ON OUR NOTICE BOARD.

UPCOMING EVENT:

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28TH - LOUGH BO SHOOTING GROUNDS, SLIGO
TUESDAY APRIL 10TH - HILLTOP SHOOTING GROUNDS, WICKLOW

CALLS FOR PROBE AFTER TOP GARDA ALTERED GUN LICENCE FORMS

PRESSURE is mounting on the Government to launch an inquiry after one of the country's most senior Gardai admitted altering application forms for firearms licences. The alterations by Crumlin Chief Superintendent John Manley, described as "disturbing" by a High Court judge, took place after legal action was brought by almost 200 shooting enthusiasts who were refused firearms licences.

Another Senior Garda responsible for issuing gun licences has admitted, in a series of test cases brought by three sports enthusiasts, that he failed to complete mandatory sections on statutory application forms. Chief Superintendent Gerard Phillips, of Ballymun Garda Station, explained to Mr Justice John Hedigan that the failure to fill in mandatory sections on the official forms and to accurately record the outcome of the applications was an oversight.

Chief Supt Phillips, who presides over policing in the Garda's Dublin Metropolitan North region, has been approved by Justice Minister Alan Shatter for promotion to the ranks of Assistant Commissioner. The admissions by the two Dublin chief superintendents could have major implications for the operation, by Gardai, of the national gun licensing system.

And the State may move to settle the legal action today after the case was dramatically adjourned to allow the authorities to decide whether it could stand over the current system. Ireland's firearms laws were changed in 2009 to make it more difficult, on public safety and security grounds, to obtain a licence.

But shooting enthusiasts have complained that their applications have been refused on a blanket basis by Gardai without adequate reasons. The Gardai have denied claims by the licence applicants that there is a fixed policy of refusing licences. However, it has emerged that there are potential problems in up to 17 Garda districts throughout the country where there are high refusal rates.

Last Friday, Mr Justice Hedigan invited the authorities to consider whether they would stand over the Garda Síochána's firearms licensing system after hearing evidence that a number of application forms were altered after the legal action began. The judge found that the evidence in two of the three test cases so far showed that the recording process had not been correctly followed.

The judge said that the licensing of powerful handguns and rifles was a matter of "the gravest nature" and noted that it had been admitted that a substantial number of application forms had been altered, after having been previously signed and finalised. "The system which refuses restricted licences is the same system which grants them. If the system put in place is not being followed, then both the granting and refusing process is clearly flawed," he said.

Under the current system, the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána is responsible for issuing gun licences. This power, in turn, is delegated to chief superintendents who decide whether a gun license should be approved or revoked.

Some 200 cases are pending the outcome of the gun-licensing test cases, which are being supported by the National Association of Regional Game Councils.