



International Police Association  
**IPA Pistol Club**  
**Newsletter**



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**BY: ALAN LYNCH, IPA PISTOL CLUB**



Brian Murphy  
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**T**hursday 7th of April saw the International police Association Pistol Club return to the Ballyhoura Rifle and Pistol Club in county Limerick not far from the Cork border.

The fourteen strong party was, as usual, warmly welcomed by our hosts Tom and Dave O'Dea for the second event of the year, which was kindly sponsored by St. Pauls Garda Credit Union, Cork.

The international credentials of our club was highlighted by the attendance of Kai Koziarowski of Blackrock Garda Station a native of Poland.

Since our last visit, the range has been divided into two lanes which afforded the opportunity to run each stage in groups of up to five thus allowing plenty of time for the obligatory critique of each shooter's performance, a hard time for those of a sensitive disposition as compliments seem to be a no-no between mules.

Following a safety briefing the 100 shot competition, based on the NARPC gallery and timed & precision disciplines, was started with a healthy mix of new and more familiar faces occupying the firing points.

The morning started with timed stages shot over distances of 7, 10 and 15 metres. After lunch and with a change of target pattern the second half of the competition was a 30 shot course and comprised of 3 stages shot over the 25, 15 and 10 metre distances.

The results returned high scores overall with some surprises as most shooters found their own particular strengths and weaknesses within the event (Scores on page 9).

The afternoon finished with prize giving and photographs as well as discussion of initial plans for the year's eagerly anticipated third event, details of which will be posted on the IPAPC web site ([WWW.IPAPISTOLCLUB.COM](http://WWW.IPAPISTOLCLUB.COM)). Hope to see you all there soon and remember,

**"Safe Shooting Is Our Target"**

# AER LINGUS POLICY ON FIREARMS

Recently, the IPA Pistol Club have received a number of invites from Pistol Clubs across Europe for our members to compete at competitions held at their grounds. With this in mind, this is the policy of Aer Lingus on the transportation of firearms on their planes.



## Sports Guns

*Aer Lingus will carry sports guns and ammunition cartridges subject to the following:*

- *Sport Guns are to be dismantled.*
- *Sports Guns when dismantled are to be loaded with checked baggage.*
- *Sport Guns, ammunition and cartridges must be packed separately from other baggage.*
- *Sport Guns, ammunition and cartridges must be available for inspection by security.*
- *Ammunition is limited to 5kg per passenger and must be packed in containers of wood, metal, or fireboard with the contents protected against any movement.*
- *Subject to an extra charge for flights within Europe.*



*Note: Sports Weapons/Firearms/Ammunition cannot be carried on Aer Lingus regional flights.*

## Fees for Sports Guns And Ammunition

*€40/£32 or equivalent for all flights within Europe. (£37 for flights departing London Heathrow). This fee is payable at the airport on the day of departure. For flights to/from North America sports guns and ammunition may be carried under the normal baggage allowance.*

*If your booking was made on aerlingus.com you can book bags in advance by clicking on the appropriate one on their website: Book Bag in Advance. You will need to know your Booking Reference as well as the Departure Airport, Arrival Airport and the email address used to make your booking.*

*Note: If you did not book online you will need to contact our Reservations Department in order to book your bags in advance.*

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The IPA Pistol Club has launched their Facebook page. If you search for IPA Pistol and request to be friends, your request will be accepted. You can then look at details about the club, details of upcoming events, photographs from past events and much more. Request friendship and join us now.

# FIREARM STORAGE AND SAFETY AT HOME

Storing your guns in a safe manner will help keep you and your family members from accidentally firing a gun. Gun ownership is a giant responsibility and maintaining the proper storage will ensure that the gun is not stolen or handled by a small child or an adult who is not familiar with gun safety rules.



## Function

Proper gun storage will play a vital role in preventing the gun from accidentally going off while in the wrong hands. Children are very curious about firearms and will play with a gun and show it off to their friends if they know where it is. A locked gun safe or other secure storage container will prevent a gun from falling into the wrong hands and guard against the theft of your firearms.

## Facts

You are 43 times more likely to be shot or accidentally killed by a gun in your home than by an intruder, according to the SafetyED website. More than 50 percent of Americans have a firearm in the household. Proper gun storage is mandatory if you have a gun.

## Types

You can purchase fireproof gun safes with a combination lock. Less expensive models are not fireproof and you must have a key to open them. You do not have to have a large, bulky safe that houses many guns. Some people only own one pistol for recreation and sporting use. A wall safe is a secure place to keep just one or two pistols and it is handy to keep your other valuables, such as jewellery, cash or important papers. This type of safe can be hidden behind a wall picture, mirror or a painting. Smaller portable safes are not recommended unless they are bolted to the floor. Lightweight safes can be easily carried out of the home by a burglar. Often, you only need an axe or a bolt cutter opens such safes.



## Prevention

Children see gun use depicted every day on TV, video games, movies and computer games. It is hard for them to grasp how playing with a gun that they unwittingly encounter can do any real harm. It is vital that you keep your gun locked for this reason. Even if you don't have small children of your own, most people do have unexpected guests who bring youngsters along and they could easily wander off and find an improperly stored firearm. Tell your children and any you are close to **that if they see a gun, they should stop, not touch it, leave the area and tell an adult**, according to the Kids Health website.

## Warning

You can get a false sense of security if a gun is in the top of a closet or behind a closed door. Instead, get a safe and keep it locked and keep the key with you at all times. Putting your gun in a proper storage safe or cabinet is only effective if you correctly lock the cabinet with a key or by securing a combination lock.

**REMEMBER: Your Firearms Safe must comply with BS 7578. For more information on storage of firearms visit: <http://www.garda.ie/Documents/User/cp%20info%20sheet%20-firearm%20security%20-%20english.pdf>**

# News From Around The Globe

## TEEN'S LOADED GUN WENT OFF IN BACKPACK

LOS ANGELES (AP) – A loaded gun inside a high school student's backpack went off when he dropped it in class, firing off a bullet that injured two nearby teens, police say. The 17-year-old student was negligent in bringing the 9 mm semiautomatic pistol to Gardena High School, but it's "plausible" that the shooting was an accident, said Police Capt. Bill Hayes.

"He literally dropped his knapsack on the desk, and it went off," said John Deasy, incoming superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Detectives are trying to figure out where the boy got the pistol, which was recovered. Authorities said the teen took his backpack and ran to another classroom after the gun went off, but the bag has not been found.

Two 15-year-olds were hit with the same bullet, deputy Police Chief Patrick Gannon said. A girl was in critical condition after it grazed her skull, said Dr. James Ausman, a neurosurgeon at Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. A boy was in fair condition after being shot in the neck.



The 10th-grader was in custody at a juvenile detention centre after police interviewed him and his mother, Hayes said. The boy expressed remorse, and his mother was concerned about the two victims.

The teenager was on probation for a fight at school last year, Hayes said. He could be charged with assault with a deadly weapon, he said. The shooting occurred in a classroom at the school, where Principal Rudy Mendoza said students were on a break at the time. The campus, about 15 miles south of downtown, was locked down after the incident.

Shedric Porter, 14, said he was walking past the classroom at the time. "I didn't see anything, but I heard the shot, and it was really loud," he said. "I stopped. I was scared. Then I thought it was just a book or something hitting the ground, but it was too loud for that."

It was not immediately unclear how the student got in with the gun in his backpack, school district spokeswoman Gayle Pollard-Terry said. Students are checked with security wands on a random basis at Gardena High, she said. No district school is equipped with walkthrough metal detectors.

The 2,400-student school is no stranger to gun violence. Two students were shot at the school in February 2002, when three assailants tried to hold up them in an outdoor area. In the past five years, two students have been expelled for firearms violations. The school ranks among the district's lowest-performing high schools, with roughly 35 percent of its students dropping out.

Five years ago, more than 2,000 students were suspended, and 15 students were expelled. Those figures remained high until last year when the number of suspensions dropped to 300 and expulsions to two. But parents still found the incident Tuesday to be surprising. They rushed to the school after hearing about the shooting, pacing nervously as they waited behind police tape for word from their children.

"I've never heard of anything like this before," said Thomas Hill, whose 16-year-old and 18-year-old children attend the school.

## TRANSPORT POLICE TO BE ARMED

Sky News has learned that the growing threat of terrorism has prompted British Transport Police (BTP) to draw up plans for its own firearms division.

A formal decision has not yet been made, but an announcement is expected within weeks. The force's 4,500 police and support staff are responsible for guarding the UK's rail network along with London Underground and other Metro systems. But British Transport Police have to call in specialist armed officers from local forces to respond to terrorist threats and other armed incidents at stations.



Sky News understands the move is not in response to any specific terrorist threat, but is part of ongoing improvements to the UK's terrorism resilience. Late last year, reports surfaced of a potential plot to carry out a Mumbai-style terror attack in the UK and other European cities.

The Mumbai attack in November 2008 left almost 200 people dead after gunmen targeted a railway station and hotels in the city with machine guns and grenades. A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The Government has said that its number one priority is the protection of its citizens.

"We are continually reviewing how we go about our work to prevent terrorist attacks and are discussing a range of security options around crowded places. These include railway stations and the underground. It would not be appropriate to comment further at this point."

Sky sources suggest that BTP management have drawn up initial plans for around 100 BTP officers in London to be trained to carry guns. If given the go ahead, the new firearms division would be responsible for crewing a fleet of armed response vehicles, able to attend emergencies and take part in pre-planned operations.

The London pilot would then be rolled out to other places around the country. However, Sky News understands the new BTP firearms officers might not receive their training alongside the Metropolitan Police's firearms division, CO19. Instead, their training may be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Defence police, the force responsible for guarding around 100 MoD buildings and military bases around the UK.

Security analyst Crispin Black said the move would be a sensible development and long overdue. He said: "It was always an anomaly that British Transport Police didn't have its own armed officers. "Given the security services fear there's a real possibility of a Mumbai-type terror attack, this move should simplify command and control procedures and reaction times, which would be crucial in responding to such an attack."

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## SHOOTING ISN'T A MERE PASTIME IN BARBADOS

Pistol director of the Barbados Rifle Association (BRA) Rickey McConney has dispelled the widespread notion that rifle and pistol shooting are not legitimate sports based on the perceived lack of physical activity. Speaking to MIDWEEK SPORT, McConney reasoned that the sport has been overlooked too long at the local level despite the fact that rifling is contested at the Olympic Games.



"We don't get media coverage and major corporate support here [so] people don't recognise shooting as a sport," said McConney in a recent interview. "They look at it as a pastime but it is a very competitive sport . . . just look at our meets."

McConney was speaking against the background of the just concluded pistol nationals, where 26 shooters contested three disciplines – combo shoot, static shoot and steel challenge – in three separate categories over the weekend at Paragon. "The meet was a very successful meet. The competition was very keen and it was very competitive among the classes," said McConney, who won the steel challenge in C Class.

"The guys were getting individual trophies for first place among the classes so you know second place wouldn't have been good enough. "[And] it was still well attended, we even had some members we hadn't seen in a while come and compete," he added.

But the BRA is in preparation to go a step further than putting on local events as they are currently in discussions about the possibility of hosting a Level 3 International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) match.

However, McConney said the move was a massive undertaking, estimating the bill to be around \$100,000 just to bring the range up to scratch and to build up the height of the course's terms to IPSC level three regulation standard. "You have shooters from all over the world that would be interested in coming to Barbados, especially in the winter period. And there will also be shooters who never heard of Barbados but will learn of the country through the website postings," McConney said.

"We're really hoping to host that Level 3 IPSC match but pulling off matches is not a cheap venture." In spite of the cost, McConney figures hosting such an even could only bolster the level of the sport, which would also be bolstered by having its members start at an earlier age.

"If we can get persons starting younger, from around 21, then when it comes to international competitions we can get a lot further," McConney said. "But because of the nature of the sport, we don't go around and advertise saying we want shooters. It's very difficult to go out there and canvas."

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## SWITZERLAND REJECTS TIGHTER GUN CONTROLS



**Swiss voters have rejected proposed tighter controls on gun ownership, final results show.**

Twenty of the 26 cantons and 56.3% of voters rejected the plan, meaning the current system allowing army-issue weapons to be kept at home will remain.

Supporters of the tighter curbs wanted to have weapons kept in armouries and were demanding stricter checks on gun owners.

Opponents said the move would have undermined trust in the army. For the proposal to succeed, it required the support of the majority of both citizens and cantons. Geneva and Basel both bucked the trend by approving it, according to the Swissinfo website. But German- and Italian-speaking cantons outvoted the plan's supporters in the French-speaking west. The result is a blow to gun-control groups in Switzerland.

Swiss People's Party statement

"We achieved a great deal by launching the initiative... There is a growing awareness of the risks of firearms," leading women's organisation Alliance F said in a statement quoted by Swissinfo. The right wing Swiss People's Party, which opposed the move, described the result as "the Swiss people's affirmation of their proud shooting tradition". "A disarmed army is a weakened army. The Swiss people have recognised this. With today's 'no' on the weapons initiative, they have clearly rejected those army abolitionists," it said in a statement.

There are an estimated two to three million guns circulating in Switzerland. No-one knows the exact number because there is no national firearms register. In addition to the semi-automatic assault rifle that all those serving in the army can opt to store at home, there are thousands of hunting rifles and pistols. Serving and former soldiers have been allowed to keep their weapons at home since World War II.

The proposal to end that custom was backed by a coalition of doctors, women's groups and police associations. Although Switzerland's overall crime rate is low by European standards, the country has the highest rate of gun suicide in Europe.

The proposal's backers had argued that keeping soldiers' firearms locked up in armouries would reduce the suicide rate.

A number of high-profile killings in recent years - such as the shooting of ski star Corinne Rey-Bellet by her estranged husband in 2006 - have also boosted support for greater gun control.

But the Swiss army is a national institution, and changing anything about it is controversial. Opponents of the proposals said taking soldiers' guns away would undermine the military and could open the door to abolishing Switzerland's citizen army all together.

The debate over its future will continue, with another referendum in the pipeline aimed at abolishing military service.

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## ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING AT GARY GUN SHOW

The Washington County, Tennessee Sheriff's Department says a man was slightly injured when he accidentally shot himself at a gun show.

Officers say the man had just purchased a laser attachment for his 9mm Glock pistol inside the show at the Appalachian Fairgrounds Saturday. When he returned to his vehicle, he attempted to attached the laser to the gun.



Officers say that's when the gun accidentally fired striking the man in the leg. His injuries were not severe. No charges were filed.

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT HOST PISTOL COMPETITION



The Fulton Police Department recently hosted its annual community pistol shoot. Thirty-five shooters competed in three classes with both revolver and semi-auto pistols.

The first-place finishers of each weapons class competed with each other for the Top Gun trophy. At the end of the match, the turkey shoot was opened to all interested shooters.

The competitors for the Top Gun slot were challenged with having to shoot five small steel squares from a distance of 15 yards. The shooters were only allowed five rounds. The shooter who knocked down the most squares in the fastest time would be the winner of the event.

The runner-up submitted the fastest time with 7.47 seconds but only knocked down four squares. The winner claimed the Top Gun slot by knocking down five squares with a time of 10.81 seconds.

The turkey shoot competition consisted of each shooter putting \$5 in a pot and the winner of the event claiming the pot. The shooting course was kept confidential from all the shooters and was only explained prior to starting the event. In the past, shooters had to shoot bowling pins, pie plates and even apples.



This year, the shooters were challenged with shooting playing cards in an event called the Deadman's Hand. This consisted of five playing cards, which included two eights and three aces. The five cards were placed on a target at various locations. The shooters were allotted five rounds. The shooters had to place one round in each card at a distance of 12 yards. The shooter that placed a round in the most cards with the fastest time would claim the event. The winner here won the turkey shoot event by hitting three cards in 5.41 seconds.

At the completion of the events, the shooters were rewarded with trophies and door prizes. Area merchants supported the event by donating the door prizes. The event also gave away one firearm – a New England in-line muzzleloader with a stainless steel barrel and a camo stock.

The Fulton Police Department expressed its appreciation to all area businesses that supported this year's event, as well as the employees of the City of Fulton who donated many hours of their time and the many shooters who participated.

The event has been hosted by the police department for about 20 years, according to Fulton Police Department public information officer.

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## **RETIRED MARINE AND FORMER PAN AM/DELTA PILOT, JOHN LOVELL IS TOP GUN AT SUBWAY SANDWICH SHOP..I**

Police were called to investigate an attempted armed robbery: The 71-year-old retired Marine who opened fire on two robbers at a Plantation, Florida, Subway shop - killing one and critically wounding the other, is described as John Lovell, a former helicopter pilot for two presidents. He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, and he works out every day. Mr. Lovell was a man of action that night.



According to Plantation police, two masked gunmen came into the Subway at 1949 N. Pine Rd. just after 11 p.m. There was a lone diner, Mr. Lovell, who was finishing his meal. After robbing the cashier, the two men attempted to shove Mr. Lovell into a bathroom and rob him as well. They got his money, but then Mr. Lovell pulled his handgun and opened fire. He shot one of the thieves in the head and chest and the other in the head.

When police arrived, they found one of the men in the shop, K-9 Units found the other in the bushes of a nearby business. They also found cash strewn around the front of the sandwich shop according to Detective Robert Rettig of the Plantation Police Department.

Both men were taken to the Broward General Medical Centre, where one died. The other 21-year-old would be thief was in critical but stable condition.

A long-time friend of Lovell was not surprised to hear what happened. The friend said, "He'd give you the shirt off his back, but he'd be mad as hell if someone tried to take the shirt off his back." Mr. Lovell was a pilot in the Marine Corps, flying former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. He later worked as a pilot for Pan Am and Delta Airlines.

He is not expected to be charged authorities said. "He was in fear for his life" Detective Rettig said, "These criminals ought to realize that most men in their 70's have military backgrounds and aren't intimidated by idiots." Something tells me this old Marine wasn't 'in fear for his life', even though his life was definitely at risk.

The only thing he could be charged with is participating in an unfair fight. One 71- year young Marine against two punks. Two head shots and one centre body mass shot... Outstanding shooting! That'll teach them not to get between a Marine and his meal. Florida law allows eligible citizens to carry a concealed weapon. Don't you just love a story with a happy ending?

# Event 2 - 2011 Prize Winner

Results for this event held at Ballyhoura Shooting Grounds can be found on our website at [www.ipapistolclub.com](http://www.ipapistolclub.com). There was a centre-fire and rim-fire competition and the top 3 in each category were:

## Centre Fire

Shooter	Position	Score	Percentage
Sean Dixon	1 <sup>st</sup>	931/1000	93.10%
Alan Clarke	2 <sup>nd</sup>	894/1000	89.40%
Diarmuid Halligan	3 <sup>rd</sup>	745/1000	74.50%

## Rim Fire

Shooter	Position	Score	Percentage
Neil O'Malley	1 <sup>st</sup>	964/1000	96.40%
Brian Murphy	2 <sup>nd</sup>	923/1000	92.30%
Alan Lynch	3 <sup>rd</sup>	912/1000	90.90%

The International Police Association Pistol Club would like to thank Ballyhoura Shooting Grounds for the use of their facility and St. Pauls Garda Credit Union for sponsoring the event and prizes.



## IPA Pistol Club Merchandise



The Club have recently purchased a new number of newly designed t-shirts, polo shirts and grandfather collar rugby style shirts. The shirts have the club logo and our club motto printed on the front and has the club name and an Irish flag on the rear. The cost the shirts are €20 and range in size from M to XXL. If you would like one of the shirts, make contact with the club and purchase can be posted to buyers.