

MLAIC DELEGATES MEETING

30th MLAIC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Valeggio sul Mincio – ITALY

AUGUST 25th, 2024

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

1. Appointment of minutes' secretary

The secretary should be a native English-speaker.

Bernard Collot was appointed to take the minutes.

2. Registration and accreditation of delegates

Welcoming the new delegates:

- Mr. Arvid Buckard (Sweden)
- Mr. Josef Forman (Czech Republic)
- Mr. Jukka Päärnä (Finland)
- Mr. Gunther Kunz (Germany) - Temporary replacement for the German delegate.

In attendance :

- Mr. Gerhard Lang, Secretary General
- Members:
Steve Nicholas (Australia), Robert Szuppin (Austria), René Lauwers (Belgium), Alvaro Libran (Brazil), Ed Martin (Canada), Josef Forman (Czech Republic), Jukka Päärnä (Finland), Bernard Collot (France), Guenter Kunz (Germany), Nick Harvey (United Kingdom), Balasz Nemeth (Hungary), Antonio Ferrerio (Italy), Gerda HM Lejeune (Netherlands), Per Ljøgodt (Norway), Tomasz Kroczac (Poland), José Sevivas Marracho (Portugal), Jan Svetlik (Slovak Republic), Dr Corena de Beer (South Africa), Xavier Fau (Spain), Arvid Buckard (Sweden), Louise van Greunen (Switzerland), Eugene Kinnel (USA).

3. Apologies for absence

Ramon Selles, for personal problems,
Australia, Brazil, Finland and Portugal joined the meeting later.

Absentees:

- Argentina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Luxemburg.

Transfer of voting rights:

- Luxemburg's rights to vote transferred to Josef Forman (Czech Republic).
- Argentina's rights to vote transferred to Alvaro Libran (Brazil).

4. Adoption of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2022 (Pforzheim, Germany) have been sent to all delegates and were **approved by all member countries involved via electronic vote.**

The previous minutes are available on the MLAIC website.

5. Financial report

Presented by the Treasurer, Mr. Antonio Ferrerio (Italy).

Due to a computer issue, an oral report was given. A paper report will be distributed later to the delegates.

- € 20.423,66 available.
- Investment in the long range system was outlined and presented as a significant asset for MLAIC.
- Balasz Nemeth contact person for this matter.

Vote : FOR 20, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 0, motion carried.

6. Appointment of tellers

- Damian Gamma and Pieter Truter were appointed.

7. Business arising / agenda items

7-a. Proposals for changes to the Constitution

(see Constitution version 2016 on the website)

- No amendment to the Constitution needed.

7-a.I Setting of MLAIC membership fees for 2025 and 2026

(Currently € 120,-- per country per year)

- Although the expenditure of MLAIC was limited, there was arguably a need to build up a reserve.

Proposal: increase the membership fee to € 150,-- starting in 2025, proposed by Poland and seconded by Hungary.

Vote : FOR 17, AGAINST 1, ABSTENTIONS 2, motion carried

7-a.II Payment frequency

- In terms of the MLAIC Constitution, member countries are obliged to make annual contributions in January. Although seemingly more convenient for some countries to pay biannually, it was agreed that annual payments facilitated financial reports to Swiss Tax Authorities.
- The treasurer will send an annual invoice and payment can be made via bank transfer or cash.
Proposal: Confirmation of yearly payment. Proposed by Switzerland and seconded by Italy.

Vote : FOR 20, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0, motion carried

7-a.III Subscription fees - payments - delays

(Mr. Antonio Ferrerio, Treasurer)

- Late payments might impact the right to vote and should therefore be monitored meticulously.
- Argentina and Luxembourg were in arrears with annual contributions, by 5 and 3 years respectively.
- The situation of Luxembourg's federation and delegate had to be clarified, to ensure compliance with the principle of only one governing body per country.
- Postscript: Argentina has paid in full.

7-b.Proposals for changes of the Rules (see Rules version 2022 on the website)

7-b.I Questions/clarifications on slings used - (see Appendix A)

Extension of MLAIC rule 4.9.a)viii) and 4.9.a)x) See enclosed Appendix A.

The extension of the rule was approved by the Small Arms Committee (the SAC).

Vote : FOR 22, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 0, motion carried

7-b.II Proposal on rule extension clay target rule no. 5.12.s) – refer Appendix B

- Addition: A shooter shoots after pull but has no bird, no clay being launched, shall be considered as no bird. Proposed by the UK, seconded by Australia.

Vote : FOR 21, AGAINST 1, ABSTENTION 0, motion carried

7-b.III Proposals for the extension of rule 4.11.C nos. 7, 12, 23 - refer Appendix C

Cleaning of revolvers:

- *Original proposal:* Revolvers may only be cleaned when unloaded and uncapped.
- *Second proposal:* Cleaning permitted only when all the chambers are empty in revolver events - Mariette Colt and Malson.
Proposed by the UK, seconded by Italy and Poland

Vote : FOR 21, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 1, motion carried for the second proposal.

7-b.IV Proposal for extension to rule no. 4.5 Markings of shooting lanes - additional point “g” – refer Appendix D

- Proposal amended to read: *“Lanes shall be identified with numbers, (minimum size A4, figures size 180mm, alternating black on white and white on black).”*

Vote : FOR 22, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 02, Motion carried

7-b.V Discussion about rifling length etc. on military firearms - refer Appendix E

- Proposal to suspend gun control on Minié and Lamarmora rifles, for rank 1 to 6, measure twist rates. Proposed by Germany, seconded by Switzerland

Vote : FOR 8, AGAINST 10, ABSTENTIONS 4, motion rejected

7-b.VI Differentiation between O and R - refer Appendix G

- *A result in a team event can only be counted once, except for Remington and Grand Prix de Versailles events. Proposed by the UK, seconded by France.*
Addition to rule 2.3.e)v).

Vote : FOR 20, AGAINST 1, ABSTENTION 2, Motion carried

7-b.VII Kuchenreuter O and R – clarification of rule – refer Appendix J

- Addition to the rules:
Recall of proposal in 2022 by USA: *“A shooter can only shoot either Kuchenreuter O or R. When shooting R, he must choose between S and U.”*
- Additional proposal
“maximum entries per country should maximum 8 reproductions, S and U added”.
Proposed by USA, seconded by Poland

Vote : FOR 18, AGAINST 4, ABSTENTIONS 0, Motion carried

7-b.VIII Long Range matters – refer Appendix K

- 2025 Long range world championship: located in NRA Whittington Centre, Raton, New Mexico. Closest airport: DENVER , CO.

Vote : FOR 23, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 0, Motion carried

- Add to the rule 4.7A)g) “Folding sight on long range rifle, tipping forward and backward”, purpose being avoid accident, proposed by France, seconded by Germany.

Vote : FOR 21, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 2, Motion carried

- Proposal of the LRC; they asked that the final sentence in Rule 7.4.g)i) should be changed to "Timing shall permit the completion of at least one individual event at mid range and long range before the respective teams are named." The actual changes to the sentence are the addition "of at least one" and removal of the (s) on the word events.

Vote : FOR 23, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 0, Motion carried

- Proposal on team coaching, coach shall be of the same nation as the team.

Vote : FOR 22, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 0, Motion carried

7-c. General

7-c.I Updated information on the proposed lead ban by ECHA as well as other issues (concerning our sport) raised by ECHA (by Mr. Balázs Nemeth)

7-c.II Short reports of the Small Arms Committee (the SAC)

(Mr. Bernard Collot, Chairman of SAC)

- INFORMATION : report on SAC activity for 2024.

7-c.III Short report on the Pacific Zone Championships.

(Dr. Corena de Beer)

- INFORMATION ; about the Pacific Zone Championships.

7-c.IV Short report on the European Zone Championships

- INFORMATION by Gerhard LANG : expressed satisfaction

7-c.V Who will be hosting the 2026 and 2028 World Championships?

- Proposals, discussion, and decisions.

INFORMATION: **2026: Austria Eisenstadt** – to be confirmed.

Postscript: **confirmed.**

2028: France – to be confirmed.

- Who will be hosting the 2027 European Championships

2027: Hungary – to be confirmed.

7-c.VI Portugal will be hosting the 2025 European Championships

- A short presentation - first week of august 2025.
Postscript: **confirmed - 3 until 10 of August 2025.**

7-c.VII Planning for 2025 - LR WC

- The USIMLA did apply. Presentation.
Postscript: **confirmed - 11 until 19 of October 2025.**

7-c.VIII Hungary might want to introduce in 2025 a Mid and/or Long Range European or World Cup.

- **2027 World Championships Long Range: United Kingdom Bisley – to be confirmed.**

8. Any other business (not on the agenda)

- Bernard Collot read the speech sent by Ramon Selles.

9. Election of the new Secretary General

- Mr. Gerhard Lang (Germany) Secretary General since 2016, stood down due to personal reasons.
- Two candidates were presented and each had the opportunity to present themselves with a short speech.
 - Mr. Nick Harvey (UK)
 - Mrs. Gerda Lejeune (The Netherlands)

Vote : Nick HARVEY 4 votes / Gerda LEJEUNE 20 votes

Gerda Lejeune was elected as the new Secretary General.

10. Election of a new MLAIC Commission Member

As Mrs. Gerda Lejeune was elected as new Secretary General, an election of one new MLAIC Commission Member was necessary.

- Louise van Greunen (Switzerland) was proposed by Switzerland and seconded by the UK.

Vote : FOR 23, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 1, Motion carried
Louise van Greunen elected to the Commission

11. Election of a MLAIC patron

- M. Gerhard Lang, proposed as Patron by France and seconded by the MLAIC Commission

Vote : FOR 23, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTION 0, Motion carried

12. Election of Honorary Members

- No proposals for Honorary Members.

13. Closing speeches

- Deputy Secretary General.
- Gerhard Lang (former Secretary General) gave a short speech, thanking everyone for their cooperation.
- Gerda Lejeune (new Secretary General) gave a short speech, expressing her gratitude and commitment.

End of the meeting: approx. 16:30

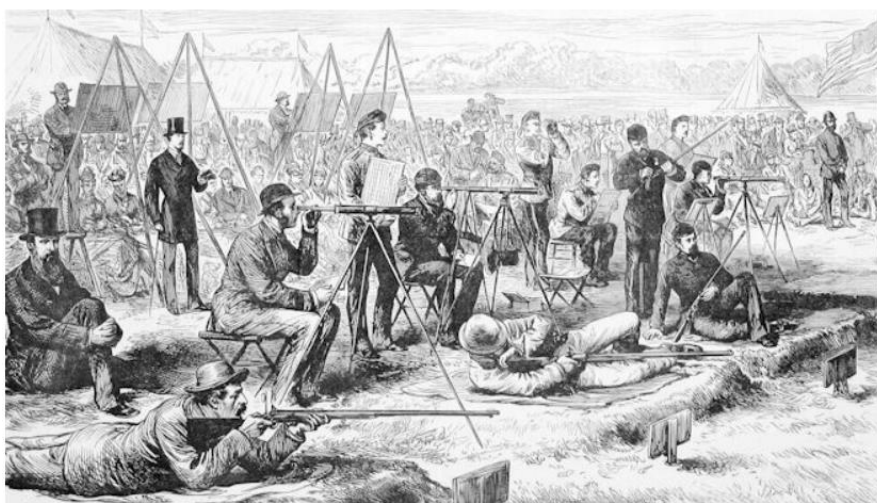
Appendix A

Matter raised on slings, from French arbitration committee

1 – Historical evidences

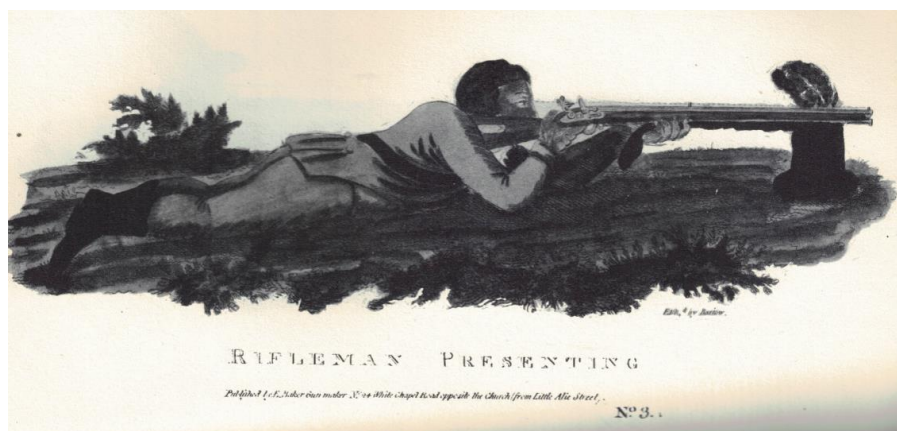
Here is a picture, no sling is shown on this picture in this 1875 competition.

This explains very well the advantage of back position, compared with prone shooting with no support.



*The International Rifle Match Between American and Irish Teams, at Dollymount, near Dublin
(Illustrated London News, 10 July 1875)*

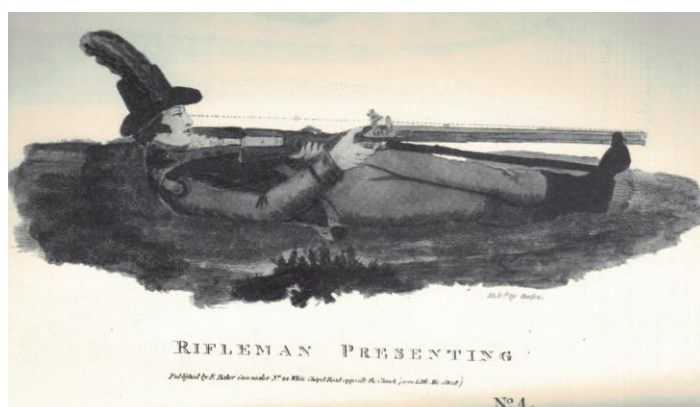
Another source, book by Ezechiel Baker in 1823, displays the following picture, bringing evidence of prone position being with a sling of the period.



Same source, when kneeling



Same source, prone position, and supine position.



Watching these pictures, it is difficult to establish why we do not find any picture of people shooting in competitions (i.e. match rifles like n°4 event) in 1860's is using this technical advantage whereas it seems to be identified in a 1823 book.

Forgotten skill, or admitted to be too easy ?

Meanwhile, from other sources,

1. In 1876 the NRA(UK) changed their Regulations and permitted the use of slings in limited capacity. "Slings may be used as an assistance in shooting for all prizes restricted to military breech-loaders, provided they are of Government length and pattern, and are attached to the

rifle as in Government arms." (Proceedings of the National Rifle Association, 1876)

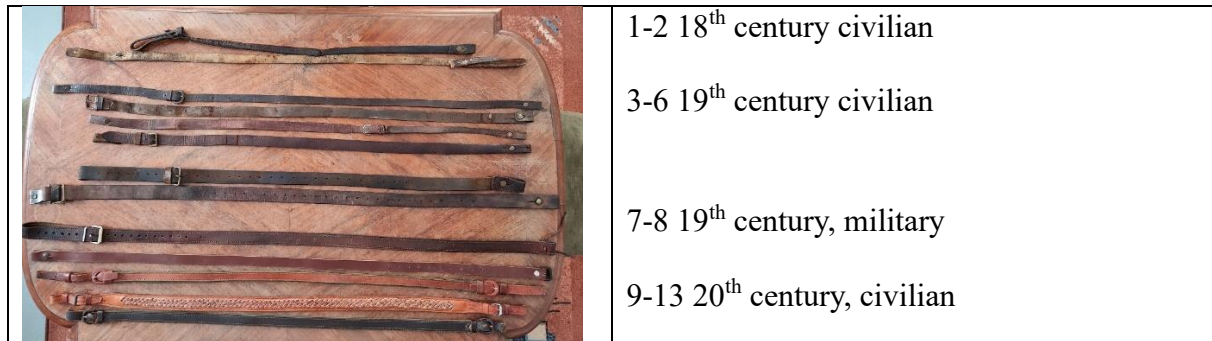
2. This rule was updated the following year to expand the use of slings to all prizes. "Slings may be used as an assistance in shooting for all prizes, but where the competition is restricted to military breech-loaders the slings must be of the Government length and pattern, and attached to the rifle as in Government arms." (Proceedings of the National Rifle Association, 1877)
3. Insofar as the NRA(UK) rule with regards to slings, that introduced in 1877 was still in place in 1896. That year can be taken as the cut-off for black powder match rifle in the UK. In 1897 NRA(UK) restricted bore size to not exceed .315 in.
4. In NRA regulations in 1897, 'Any Rifle' became 'Match Rifle'. Such rifles had a list of conditions with which they must comply, which included that the stock be "fitted with swivels for a sling." Slings were also permitted as "an assistance in shooting for all prizes". (NRA(UK) Bisley Common, 1897. Programme.)

No other evidence of sling use was found.

From this, we can conclude the legitimate use of slings when shooting free rifle events, such as 02, 04, 08 or 15.

2 - Shape of slings

From a personal collection (not mine), here are a few pictures:



Slings encountered in competitions in 2023 :



Third one from the top looks like a 19th century, others seem off period. Off course, our cut off date excludes 20th century, these pictures are only here to show examples.

Here a few pictures of slings to be accepted, non exhaustive list. (addition to V03)



Left picture, from top :

- 1 – parallel shape, constant, loops in slots, adjustable by ardillon and buckle
- 2 – parallel shape, constant, hooks and swivels, adjusted by reversed ardillon/buckle, barrel piece

3 – parallel shape, thinner at the ends to meet hooks, hooks and swivels, adjusted by artillery button.

4 – parallel shape, loops in enlarged ends, adjustable by artillery buttons.

Right picture :

volunteers rifle sling, canvas, fitted on rifle swivels, adjustable with sliding buckle

- 1- Slings were made to be fitted on swivels or loops if the rifle has no swivels.
- 2- When adjustable it was realized with buckles and ardillons, artillery buttons, or sliding buckle.
- 3- General shape is parallel, ends can be sloped to adapt for buckles or loops.