

MLAIC

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

The 22nd World Championship held in Bordeaux, France last month are now part of our MLAIC history, but the magnificent manner in which they were hosted will last in our memories for many years to come. A record number of 26 nations participated this year, including new members Argentina and Poland and the return of Venezuela to active membership. Participants numbered well over 400, greater than any year to date. The MLAIC is growing!

We all enjoyed the Opening Ceremony with its impressively uniformed color guard leading the Parade of Nations onto the field. The firing of the cannons provided an exciting climax to the day. Then competitions began, and we saw a number of world records either broken or tied. Competitors with these achievements were awarded World Record Certificates at the Closing Dinner, where everyone was treated to the wonderful French cuisine for which they are so famous. We were certainly not disappointed!

Congratulations for a job well-done to our French organizers! I would like to add my personal note of appreciation to the following:

...Alain Joly, who not only served as a highly efficient Match Director, but also was omnipresent in nearly every situation, always smiling and always handling the situation quickly and to everyone's satisfaction;
...Jean Bourdeaux, our new delegate from France, who stepped up to the position well into the planning stages of the event and handled it in an exceptional manner;
...Michel Batonneau, President of FFT and a true gentleman who was present for the entire week capably handling his responsibilities and overseeing the event.

The Delegates Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 8 with an extremely full agenda. In lieu of the time required for the length of the agenda and the amount of discussion necessary for many of the items, it would be my recommendation that future meetings be held on the premises of the shooting range, as was the case in Lucca in 2000. This would eliminate the transport time and add significantly to the available meeting time, thus not causing us to have to hurry through any part of the agenda. While the ambience provided by a lovely setting such as the one we had in Bordeaux might not be there, I believe holding the meeting at the shooting range may be more practical, particularly as our organization continues to grow.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting the Secretary-General included introduced Mr. Michel Batonneau, FFTir President, who spoke briefly to the delegates of France's pride in hosting this event and of the support of their organization for shooting sports. Further introductory remarks by the Secretary-General included the following:

1. Prior to the collection of 2006 dues, the MLAIC treasury had a balance of \$1,880.00 U.S.
2. Following a question arising from Long Range shooting events involving ricochets, it has been determined that a ricochet is to be declared a hit if it hits the target.

Match Director Alain Joly presented a sample of a possible logo for the MLAIC, which will be considered along with those that additional countries stated they wished to submit. These will be sent out to all delegates when they are received by the Secretary-General.

Agenda item #1 was a proposal from Switzerland for using a very simple test to identify substitutes for black powder when it is suspected they are being used in MLAIC competition. Ron Lovchik explained the test and

demonstrated it for the delegates, showing its simplicity and accuracy. In the future, if there is a protest regarding the illegal use of black powder substitutes this test may be used. It is anticipated that this will eliminate the possibility of anyone choosing to use black powder substitutes in our competitions.

During further discussion regarding uranium-treated steel barrels, which are illegal for MLAIC use, Ron has printed information that he will bring to both the Zone Championships and the next World Championship for the use of Firearms Inspectors.

Agenda item #2 involved the meaning and intent of the word "mixed" in MLAIC team events. There had been considerable previous controversy and discussion as to whether this term meant that at least one original firearm must be included, or whether the events could be shot with only one classification of firearm. After lengthy discussion, the final decision of the delegates was that the intended meaning is that the events be "open" with regard to classification: they may be shot with either a mixture of replicas and originals, or with originals only or replicas only. Therefore, the wording for the involved team events will be changed to "O and/or R, Open". The appropriate areas of the Constitution have been changed accordingly.

The proposal from Switzerland, which was Agenda item #3, after brief discussion, was not acted upon as needing further clarification as to what is specifically meant by "a handicapped person" and what kinds of "handicaps" would be involved.

Agenda item #4, New Zealand's proposal for a new team discipline for the matchlock pistol using No. 28/Tanzutsu rules was accepted. This event, named "Kunitomo" and given number 38, has been added to the Constitution with the appropriate rules and specifications.

Agenda item #5, approved unanimously, includes amendments to the Rules and Competition Conditions for Long Range Rifle Shooting Championships, and the changes adopted have been placed into Appendix 4 of the Constitution. Rule 1.12 in that section has been amended with regard to the awarding of medals and diplomas in those events. Rule 212 of the Constitution and 3.01 of the Long Range section have been amended with regard to the number of competitors permitted to enter long range individual and team events. The final item affecting Long Range competition rotates the venue for Long Range World Championship events among the three nations now having ranges able to host them (Great Britain, South Africa and the U.S.A.). It allows the option for additional nations to join the rotation when they are able to host such events.

Agenda item #6, a proposal from Italy to change Rule 411(c) - Manton discipline to be shot exactly as the Lorenzoni discipline is shot, was narrowly approved after lengthy and controversial discussion and has been changed in the appropriate sections of the Constitution. Since the meeting I have been sent a petition signed by 42 shotgun shooters from 9 nations registering their objections to this change and stating the belief that they "believe the rule change was voted for by delegates from non-clay pigeon shooting countries and does not meet the wishes of those competitors taking part in the event." Because of the controversial nature of the issue from its inception, I have sent the question to the Commission as to how this situation may be resolved and will report back to all delegates the responses when they are all returned. It appears certain that, at the very least, this issue will once again be put before the delegates in Australia in 2008.

Agenda item #7, accepted to be in effect only when electronic targets are used in MLAIC events, adds to our present rules Rule 314(a), Rule 337 and 341(a).

Agenda item #8 stemmed from a question about whether or not slings should be permitted on matchlock long arms. After extensive research and consultation with experts in the field of Japanese matchlocks, it was determined that slings were never used with these firearms and should not be permitted in MLAIC competitions. A definitive statement to that effect has been placed in the Constitution as Rule 354(C).

An additional item involving the use of slings in rifle events was also addressed in Agenda item #9, which resulted in amendments being added to Rule 357(2) allowing slings only to be attached to proper original sling swivels, and Rule 375(3), which added the word "target" between "original" and "rifle." These changes have been made in the Constitution.

The discussion of agenda item #10, whether or not to allow the use of Cream of Wheat or cornmeal as a filler in military rifles, resulted in the acceptance of their use. This change has been added to the Constitution as Rule 351(b)(8).

Agenda item #11, a request to allow the use of steel shot in addition to the lead shot already permitted in MLAIC clay events, was posed by Netherlands due to their no longer being permitted to use lead shot in their country. The decision of the delegates was to modify our rules to allow this, so as to accommodate any nation in the future that might find itself in similar circumstances. Therefore, Rule 419(b) has been amended to read "Lead (or non-toxic lead substitutes of single metals only) shot size must not exceed 2.55 mm diameter." Rule 419(f) has similarly been modified to read "Loading of lead (or non-toxic lead substitutes of single metals only) shot must be from prepacked single charge containers."

Agenda item #12, a request to re-examine Rule 354(C)(2) regarding large-bore European-style matchlock pistols, was not discussed, as extensive research has determined that there is no available example of such a firearms, nor have we been able to successfully document their existence. Therefore, Rule 354(C)(2) shall read "Large bore European style matchlock pistols are not acceptable."

A new individual event for flint rifle was proposed and accepted in agenda item #13, and will be named the Pennsylvania event. The event will be shot at 50 meters, standing, and the target used will be the B-17. This has been added to our Constitution as Individual Rifle Event #36.

Agenda item #14 was a proposal from Italy for a new individual military rifle event. This was approved, and the new event will be named "Lamarmora." It is to be shot at 50 meters, standing, and the target used will be the B-17. The event has been added to our Constitution as Individual Rifle Event #37.

Agenda item #15, a suggestion that Regional Championships be added to the events sanctioned by the MLAIC, was approved, and it was determined that these events would be called "MLAIC Grand Prix" events. These will give additional opportunities for international competition and are intended to also contribute to the growth of our organization. Appendix 3 – MLAIC Approved Championships has been modified to include 3) MLAIC Grand Prix, described as follows: "MLAIC Grand Prix Championships may be held each year in addition to Zone and World Championships, to include two (2) to ten (10) nations (ideally two to four within a specific geographic area). These events must be conducted under MLAIC rules and the program must be approved by the Secretary-General prior to its being designated "sanctioned" or "approved." Any or all of the events included in a full MLAIC program of competition may be included in the Championships, and regional records shall be kept, separate from Zone and World records.

Rules for Youth Events were adopted under agenda item #16, and have been added to our Constitution as Appendix 7.

Agenda item #17 was a request that Rule 411(G)) be added, for use only when it is necessary that ATA trap ranges be used in MLAIC competition. The addition states that (in the event of ATA trap houses being used) all shooting stands for flint and percussion must be at the same elevation as the ATA station number, which places the trap shooter standing with his feet at the same height as the trap machine throwing arm. This was accepted, and has been placed in our Constitution.

A modification to Rule No. 50 – Leipzig in Addendum 2 – Historical Shooting Events changes the wording of ...“left elbow far from body...” to “...the elbow of the supporting arm” and was made to accommodate shooters of this event who are left-handed to comply with the rules.

Once again the controversy involving prohibited clothing in MLAIC competition arose as agenda item #19, submitted by Italy. Particularly in question was the use of heavy shooting trousers that give additional support to the shooter. Lengthy discussion on the subject resulted in the decision that the existing rules disallowing the use of this type of clothing must be enforced. An explanation further clarifying the meaning of the rule and based on ISSF regulations governing trousers has been placed at the end of Rule 357(E)(1), and it is hoped that this will assist in resolving any disputes that may arise in the future.

Agenda item #20, Italy’s proposal concerning clay pigeon competitions, was withdrawn by that country.

Agenda item #21 set the venues for upcoming MLAIC events, as follows:

1. European Zone Championship 2007 – August 5 through 12 - Parma, Italy (Italy offered a presentation regarding the Championship, including materials about the location)
2. Pacific Zone Championship 2007 – USA (location to be announced)
3. World Long Range Championship 2007 – September 1 through 8 – Cape Town, South Africa (South Africa presented their written bid package to each delegate)
4. 23rd World Championship 2008 – Monarto Range, Adelaide, Australia (dates in August to be confirmed)
5. European Zone Championship 2009 – Valencia, Spain
6. Pacific Zone Championship 2009 – Open
7. World Long Range Championship 2009 – USA (location to be announced)
8. 24th World Championship 2010 – Portugal (northern)
9. European Zone Championship 2011 – Open
10. Pacific Zone Championship 2011 – Open
11. World Long Range Championship 2011 – Great Britain
12. 25th World Championship 2012 – Germany

Agenda item #22 requested descriptions for our new events. Finland was asked to submit a description for the Halikko event, Italy for the Magenta event, New Zealand for the Forsyth event and the USA for the Batesville event. (Note: Italy has already supplied the description for the Magenta event and it has been included in the Constitution.) We will now also need descriptions for the new events adopted at this Delegates Meeting, which include the Pennsylvania, Lamarmorata individual events and the Kunitomo team event. I would welcome volunteers who might be willing to assume the responsibility for submitting these descriptions to me for inclusion in the Constitution.

Members of the Commission for the next two-year term were elected as agenda item #23, and include the following: Kim Atkinson (Australia), Ron Lovchik (Switzerland), Jose Luis Perez-Pastor (Spain), Birgitta Hillvarn (Sweden), Frank Thibault (Great Britain) and Erich Illing (Germany).

The final agenda item, #24, re-elected Donald Malson as Secretary-General for the next two-year term.

Before closing, Mr. Onoo, our long-time friend from Japan then spoke briefly of the fact that this year marked the 30th anniversary of Japan’s participation in MLAIC.

Finally, I wish to announce the following changes in delegates from a number of countries, as well as the addition of delegates from Poland and Argentina and the return of Venezuela to active MLAIC membership. We welcome all to our organization and look forward to years of camaraderie and fine shooting with them.

Changes and additions to the MLAIC Membership page in our Constitution include the following. As soon as contact information has been confirmed, the website will be updated with this information.

Argentina – Mr. Eduardo Mantineo

Belgium – Mr. Rene Lauwers

Norway – Mr. Dag Magne Vinge

Poland – Dr. Waldemar Gorzawski

Portugal – Mr. Luis Moura

Venezuela – Mr. Michel Leider

Best regards to all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald W. Malson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald W. Malson, Secretary-General
Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee (MLAIC)