

Newsletter 136

Dear Delegate,

Following the resignation of Jose Luis Perez Pastor I am pleased to inform you that Ramón Sellés Calabuig has been nominated by the Real Federación Española de Tiro Olímpico as the MLAIC Delegate for Spain.



Ramon has been a familiar figure in the Spanish team for a number of years and will be known to many of you.

World Championships Portugal 2010

I spoke to Luis Moura on Sunday evening and arrangements for the forthcoming championships are going well.

However, following the championships in Adelaide and Valencia a number of matters were raised which could improve the event; these will need your approval before they can be implemented.

It is possible to commence training on Sunday PM, with all the new events this will give the competitors a greater opportunity for training. This was done in Valencia and it worked well.

DO YOU AGREE - Yes or no?

It has been suggested that the Delegates Meeting be brought forward to Sunday afternoon, say 13:00hrs. I have received no proposals for inclusion yet but we will be discussing the new constitution and this could well take some time. Having the meeting on Sunday will give us the opportunity to adjourn to another day if necessary and avoid us having to rush to be able to attend the opening ceremony.

DO YOU AGREE - Yes or no?

Many of you have suggested that the 'Shooters Buffet' be cancelled. In Valencia the shooters buffet was carried out during the lunch period on the Wednesday, this worked quite well even though many people did not realise that it was the shooters buffet.

I have suggested to the organisers that they either cancel it or re-arrange it for lunch time on one of the training days; Monday seems to be the most suitable to me. Can you please let me know whether you would wish it to be cancelled or re-scheduled?

This will be the program should you agree:

Proposed Championship Schedule

Sunday afternoon: Arrival, Registration, Firearms Inspection, Committee Meeting.

Monday morning: Arrival, Registration, Firearms Inspection, Shooters' Buffet.

Monday afternoon: Technical Meeting, Firearms Inspection, Practice.

Tuesday: Registration, Firearms Inspection, Practice, Opening Ceremony.

Wednesday: Competitions, Awards Ceremony

Thursday: Competitions, Awards Ceremonies.

Friday: Competitions, Awards Ceremonies.

Saturday morning: Competitions, Clay target shoot-offs.

Saturday evening: Official Banquet, Closing Ceremony.

There will be junior events providing there are sufficient applicants.

Fees for the event will be similar to last year in Spain but not more and the cost of the banquet is likely to be cheaper. There will be no fee for the Remington event.

MLAIC funds and banking

I am pleased to tell you that our treasurer, Mr Gareth Callan has opened the MLAIC bank account, details of which follow:

The account details are as follows:

Lloyds TSB Offshore Limited, St. Helier, Jersey.

Sort Code: 30 94 61

Account number: 55899168

Account Name: MLAIC

Swift: LOYDJES1001

IBAN: GB20LOYD30946155899168

Fees are now due for 2010, I will be issuing receipts for those of you who paid in Valencia. For those of you who have yet to pay I will be sending out individual invoices and you will be able to transfer the funds directly.

The current rate is 50 US Dollars per year. The current rate of exchange can be obtained from here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>. Please send confirmation of payment to both me and Gareth at 'garethcallan@hotmail.com'. When making payments please add MLAIC-XX (substituting XX with your own country code for example MLAIC-USA) as a reference.

Range Safety

At the championships in Valencia a number of incident occurred where lead was able to escape from the confines of the range. At least two cars were damage and one delegate was hit in the arm, sufficient to draw blood. While he was not badly injured, it would have been a different story had he been hit in the eye. The gentleman in question was sitting in the competitors' tent area at the time.

Our sport is generally very safe; I can only recall one other incident in 2000, we need to keep it that way for our own safety and for the benefit of the sport in general.

Match organisers must ensure that ranges are safe when bidding to host an MLAIC Championship; they must also ensure that adequate insurance is in place before the start of the event

Equipment Infringements.

At the World Championships in 2008 a competitor was disqualified for using an illegal sling. The same type of sling was used during the practice in the Long Range world Championships; the adjudicators made a ruling and have written this into the revised Constitution in the LR section.

The sling may not be fixed to the rifle so that it gives support to the shooter similar to that given by a single point sling. This means that both ends of the sling may not be fixed to the barrel or the fore end of the stock. See the following two images:





Both these methods are not acceptable.

The sling must be fixed to two separate parts of the rifle as in the following image:



Alternatively one end may be fixed to the barrel and the other to the fore end of the stock. Both ends of the sling may not be closer than 150mm and may not be joined together at the fixing points

In Valencia it was noted that one pistol shooter was wearing a glove on the shooting hand, this glove, when placed upon the bench was stiff enough to support itself. It also had a Velcro fastening around the cuff, which when fastened gave the shooter considerable support.



Another pistol shooter was seen to be wearing Vetterli type shooting boots, which clearly gave him additional support.



Any item of clothing that gives additional support to the shooter (other than those mentioned in the Rules) is not permitted.

It was also reported to me after the event had closed that one competitor was using a European type matchlock pistol. The constitution is quite clear on this; **THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED!**

I believe it is the duty of the Delegate/Team Captain to ensure their competitors are using the correct equipment but it seems this is not being done.

We need to correct this situation if we want our sport to continue in a sporting manner. The first thing must be to ensure that ALL competitors are made aware of the Constitution, if you have a translation in your language please let me have a copy and I will make it available for download on the MLAIC web site.

Delegates / Team Captains must ensure that their competitors are properly prepared for the event, not just in their shooting ability but more especially that they compete in a fair and sporting way

We must also strengthen the penalties for such infringements. It has been suggested that the whole team should be penalised in the event of an infringement of this nature but I think this is too harsh.

I propose the following change to the Constitution for approval in Portugal:

357 Accessories:

E) Clothing

2) Where there are no specific rules covering clothing the following shall apply:

To maintain the desired spirit of historic competition, the use of any special clothing, including footwear, gloves or other devices which immobilize or unduly reduce the movement of the shooter's legs, arms or body are prohibited. This is in order to ensure that the performance skills of the shooters are not artificially improved.

Zone Championships

I have received notification from both Hungary and Austria that they wish to host the 15th MLAIC European Zone Championships in 2013, Switzerland have also suggested that they might be in a position to hold these championships but have not confirmed yet. These countries will have the opportunity to make a presentation at our meeting in Barcelos

The New MLAIC Constitution and Rules

I am very grateful to Louise Van Greunen, the Delegate for Switzerland, she has worked very hard on the new Constitution. Inconsistencies and inaccuracies have been removed and it is now an effective legal document. The Long Range and Shotgun rules have been rewritten by their respective committees to whom I extremely grateful. This document is in its final stages of editing and I am hoping it will be with you soon.

Commission Discussions

Since the last Newsletter the Commission has discussed the following subjects.

Firearms inspection:

The Commission agreed that we do not have enough qualified inspectors at firearms control, They agreed that there should be some kind of guidance, a book would be ideal for repro's but it would have to be a very big book to cover all the originals. Don't look to the Small Arms Committee for this book, it will never happen; their function is entirely different.

I intend to take the names of 2 inspectors from each attending country and forming a database. This would give me enough names to have at least 6 or 8 different inspectors on each day and they could be notified well in advance of their duties.

There should be spot inspections after each event and before the shooter leaves the range,

Arbitration Committee:

The few who undertake the duties of Arbitration Committee Members are always overburdened, in order to resolve this issue In Portugal I intend to use ALL delegates for the arbitration committee, three different delegates each day – including non shooting days; so that if a problem occurs there are people there to resolve the issue.

A typical rota may be:

MLAIC Arbitration Committee rota

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Sunday: | Switzerland | Australia | Belgium |
| Monday: | Italy | Norway | New Zealand |
| Tuesday: | South Africa | Great Britain | Sweden |
| Wednesday: | Hungary | Spain | Czech |
| Thursday: | USA | Finland | Austria |
| Friday: | France | Slovak | Germany |
| Saturday: | Canada | Netherlands | Poland |

Election of officers

Rule 132 (a) & (b) requires that we elect a new Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General at the end of the Delegates Meeting.

I am now seeking nominations for the above two positions. I am willing to stand again if you are prepared to have me. I am awaiting a reply from Nancy Malson to see if she will be standing again for the post of DSG.

I am very pleased with way the current members of the Commission have carried out their duties, however, they too must be re-elected and I recommend that you re-elected the current members of the Commission, should they be willing to stand. Unfortunately Jose Luis Peres Pastor found it necessary to resign following the championships in Valencia, which leaves one position on the Commission vacant; for which I now seek nominations.

I would be very grateful if you would respond to the above questions as quickly as possible.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Brigden', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Brigden
Secretary General
Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee