



## M.L.A.I.C Muzzle Loader's Associations International Committee

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10 December 2010

Dear Delegate and Friends,

MLAIC Newsletter 139, December 2010

### **World Championships Barcelos, Portugal**

I have just watched the DVD from Barcelos and am reminded of a great championship; in particular I am reminded of the number of World Records that were either broken or equalled. I have competed in all MLAIC World Championships since 1985, with the exception of 1987 in Canada and cannot recall an event where so many records were achieved. There were no less than twenty three new records and eight records equalled

I am sure that you will want to join me in congratulating the following competitors who achieved excellence in either breaking or equalling individual World Records:

Nick Harvey. Two new records  
Stephan Ernst. Two new records  
Johan Karlsson and 1 equalled  
Thomas Baumhakl x 2 and 2 equalled  
Alfred Bailer  
David Elvin  
Giner Garcia  
Eric Fonaney  
Martin Crix  
Miroslav Malus  
Mathieu Ducelier  
Rita Pamer x 2

There is absolutely no doubt that this rate of success was in part due to the venue and organisation of the event. I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to the following people:

First must go to Eduardo Gaio for the use of his splendid range, there is no doubt that without his generosity the Championships would never have taken place in Portugal. He is a true friend of the MLAIC.

I must also thank Luis Moura and his staff for the efficient organisation prior to and during the event, they did a truly outstanding job. Alois and Susan deserve thank for their time spent in ensuring that the scores were recorded which enabled the presentations to run on time. Thanks is also due to those Delegates who assisted with arbitration and other duties, this certainly made my job a lot easier.

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And finally to all the young volunteers whose cheerful faces made it a real pleasure to be in Barcelos. Well done to you all.

### **Committee Meeting Barcelos**

The meeting took place in the restaurant at the clubhouse in Barcelos and was well attended. The main item of business was the acceptance of the new constitution but as the Delegates had insufficient time to discuss this with their various organisations it was deferred until 2012. In some respects this was fortunate as there were a number of occurrences at the Championships that has resulted in changes. Also, I had a number of conversations with some Delegates that has given me cause to reconsider some of the content.

Upon my return home I re-wrote the relevant sections and sent it to the Commission and various committees to check, this was on 7 November. I am very Grateful to Gary Crawford for very carefully examining the document, as a number of errors, omissions and suggestions were found. Most of these have been incorporated but there is still some clarification required so it is back with the various committees to resolve these matters.

Louis van Greunen will make the final check and the document will be with the Delegates and various committees at the beginning of January.

This document is substantially changed and it is not possible for the changes to be highlighted as requested at the Committee Meeting.

Other matters raised at the Committee Meeting are contained in the Minutes which follow:

### **M.L.A.I.C.**

### **Minutes of Annual Delegates Meeting**

**15 August 2010**

1. Meeting commenced with the introduction of special guests Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo Gaio, owners of the shooting range, followed by a welcome to all by Luis Moura, the delegate from Portugal. Luis' remarks included introductions of the Chief Range Officer and the Chief of Staff for the World Championship event.
2. Apologies were given by David Brigden, Secretary-General, for those nations unable to attend, which included Jaroslaw Kowalski of Poland, Jan Svetlik of Slovak Republic and Michel Leider of Venezuela.
3. Nancy Crouse was appointed Minutes Secretary for the meeting.
4. The legitimacy of the business meeting was then challenged by Veli-Pekka Karvinen of Finland, on the basis that nothing could be approved or signed, because the meeting "does not constitute a quorum." The opinion of the delegates was requested by the Secretary-General as to whether to proceed with the meeting agenda. After clarification by a

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number of delegates and the Secretary-General and lengthy discussion, a vote was taken with no one voting against proceeding with the meeting.

5. Minutes from the previous meeting were briefly discussed and adopted per motion Kim Atkinson of Australia and second Merwe van Rensburg of South Africa.
6. Business Arising:
  - a. Secretary-General reported that it was impossible to have completed the new Constitution any sooner. He explained that the goal was to make the document as legal as possible; thus the length of preparation. It was sent to the Commission in January, but not to the delegates. However, most items of change have been mentioned in the newsletters.
7. Correspondence:
  - a. Letters of thanks for their service were sent to immediate past delegates Erich Illing of Germany, Ron Lovchik of Switzerland and Jose Luis Perez Pastor of Spain, who was present at this event as Chief Scrutineer.
  - b. It was announced that Piet Hoogeveen of Netherlands is retiring after this World Championship, having provided 35 years of service and seeing their new range being built to 300 meters.
  - c. It was announced that Frank Thibault of Great Britain is also retiring after this event, and will be replaced by Nick Harvey. Frank presented at this time the new trophy provided by Great Britain for the Egg team competition.
  - d. The letter received earlier this year from Alexander Eichener, a reporter for the South African Weekly Mail & Guardian, inquiring whether the MLAIC has a drug enforcement policy, was discussed and it was noted that our Constitution now addresses this question.
  - e. Letter from ATAX regarding replica matchlock pistols was addressed, noting that such firearms must be a true copy of a valid original.
  - f. Italy has been in contact with Croatia and will work with them over the winter to become active again after the recent death of their delegate.
  - g. A letter of condolence from the MLAIC has been sent to Janet Hepsworth, the widow of Joe Hepsworth.
8. Financial Report:
  - a. Gareth Callan was introduced as our new appointed Treasurer and reported a total in our bank account, after itemized expenses, of £ 2,863,49 as of June 5, 2010. A float of £ 250.00 is being held by the Secretary-General, which brings the total in our MLAIC account, as of August 5, 2010 to £ 2,613.49.

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- b. Frank Thibault questioned which nations are not up-to-date with their dues, and the Secretary-General addressed the specifics. In answer to the question as to whether the dues are to be in dollars or pounds sterling, it was noted that they should now be in Euros.

### 9. Agenda Items:

- a. Motion 1 on the agenda was to discuss and accept the new constitution. Lengthy discussion ensued concerning whether or not the new proposed constitution be considered at this meeting, with the following points being made:
  - (1) Louise Van Greunen explained in detail the process going into the constitution preparation and stated that the document under consideration is not the final one, but rather the beginning of finalizing it. Issues need to be discussed and loose ends tied up; the document must now be streamlined so that all will be comfortable with it.
  - (2) Ed Martin spoke briefly clarifying the question about quorum requirements.
  - (3) Antonio Ferrerio agreed with Louise's statement that we do not need the new constitution finalized at this meeting, while Kim Atkinson expressed the opinion that we needed to move forward at the meeting towards the new constitution.
  - (4) The Secretary-General urged the delegates to vote on accepting the new constitution at this meeting, noting that nothing else can be done with it for two years unless it is accepted now.
  - (5) Louise Van Greunen suggested that, instead, we adopt a way of going forward with the constitution with the goal of accepting it in 2012.
  - (6) Veli-Pekka Karvinen reiterated his earlier objection and then moved that the delegate vote should be deferred in order to review and rewrite the rules, so that they can be discussed and recommendations can be made. His motion was seconded by Antonio Ferrerio. The present document is to be sent immediately, and it was suggested by Merwe van Rensburg that it be published on the MLAIC website as a "draft". It was further suggested that the changes in the document be highlighted for ease of identification. The delegates are to review the present document and refer any errors, corrections or additions to the constitution committee. The constitution committee is then to send the document with its revisions to the delegates two additional times, the first being by 31 March 2011 and the second by 31 July 2011. The final document is then to be presented to the delegates by 31 March 2012 and voted upon at the meeting in Germany. Gary Crawford requested and received clarification that the document presented each time will be the entire document, rather than just the changes.
  - (7) The above motion was carried unanimously.

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- (8) The Secretary-General stated that he wishes to receive feedback on any contentious issues so that they could be discussed via e-mail.
8. Motion 2, Australia's motion to allow all firearms that have been sleeved to be shot in the replica class, was withdrawn.
  9. Motion 3 was presented by Balasz Nemeth on behalf of the Hungarian Muzzleloaders Association, a proposal that a new team event be accepted for the Pennsylvania match. The name for the competition would be Lajos Kossuth and it would consist of a team of three (3) shooters. Firearms to be used would be both original and replica. Lajos Kossuth was a well-known freedom fighter and politician of the Hungarian revolution in 1848-1849 and later was a supporter of the national freedom movements of Europe. The motion was seconded by Kim Atkinson and the motion was carried by a vote of 19 in favor and 1 against. Balasz also presented the trophy donated by the Hungarian Muzzleloaders Association that is to be used for the event.
  10. Motion 4 was also presented by Balasz Nemeth on behalf of Poland, who was unable to attend. The proposal was for the approval of a new event for Kuchenreuter at 50 meters, which would be named Pulaski. The Secretary-General explained that in the future it is possible that competition will begin on Tuesday rather than Wednesday, and Balasz stated that it wouldn't take extra time from the schedule. Luis Moura noted that the 50 meter line is getting crowded. Frank Thibault asked, and received, clarification that the new event would be for original and replicas, mixed. Veli-Pekka Karvinen noted that if the event is accepted, it cannot be shot until 2012. The motion was seconded by Kim Atkinson and, after discussion concluding that there were too many events being added, the voted failed by 4 in favor and 13 against.
  11. Motion 5, a proposal from the Netherlands for a new team event for Hizadai replica named Hinawa (hi meaning cord and nowa meaning fire), was seconded by Antonio Ferrerio and approved by a vote of 18 in favor and none against. Netherlands will donate the trophy for this event. Sig Sugawa stated that Japan will also give a trophy for a team event for Hizadai original, which will be named Hibuta.
  12. Motion 6 to accept Austria as a venue for the Euro Zone Championships in 2013 was accepted after clarification that the program can be completed within the time allotted and some discussion regarding import permits. Issues needing resolution will be discussed with the delegate from Austria.
  13. Motion 7 to approve change of the MLAIC calendar of events in preparation for 2021 was discussed, with no objection to changing it so that there would be Zone Championships in both 2019 and 2020, so that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MLAIC could be held as a special event as well as a world championship in 2021. It was suggested that this might be a "Festival of Muzzle Loading Shooting". Delegates

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were asked to give the event some thought and make suggestions for the special celebration.

14. With no further motions, the meeting was directed to General Business:
  - a. The 14<sup>th</sup> European Championships will be held in Finland in 2011. Finland presented some information about the event, as well as about insurance in that country. It was noted that every shooter attending must carry his/her own liability insurance. Further information about insurance in Finland, and possible cost increases, will be discussed by e-mail. The recommended event schedule was also presented.
15. David Brigden was nominated for re-election as Secretary-General by Antonio Ferrerio, with Gary Crawford seconding, and he was re-elected by unanimous vote.
16. Frank Thibault nominated Kim Atkinson for election as Deputy Secretary-General, with Antonio Ferrerio seconding. Gary Crawford nominated Nancy Crouse for the position, as well, with Ed Martin seconding. The vote was held, resulting in Nancy being re-elected by a vote of 14 to 6 with 2 abstentions.
17. Ed Martin nominated that Gareth Callan be elected to the position of Treasurer, with Louise Van Greunen seconding and a vote of 21 in favor.
18. Merwe van Rensburg proposed that the five (5) remaining members of the Commission (Gary Crawford, Gerda Lejeune, Antonio Ferrerio, Shigeo Sugawa and Kim Atkinson) stand for re-election to the Commission. The proposal was seconded by Ed Martin, and the vote to accept was 17 in favor and none against. Candidates for the sixth position, being vacated by Frank Thibaux, were Ramon Selles of Spain and Jean Bordeaux of France. The vote resulted in Jean Bordeaux being elected by 13 to 7, with 2 abstentions.
19. Final matters brought before the delegates included:
  - a. Stale Helland reported from the Black Powder Committee that much information has been gathered, but the work is still incomplete. Each country should send their information to Stale. He noted that the problems reported chiefly involve powder storage.
  - b. Luis Moura invited the delegates to lunch on Monday and presented each delegate and team captain with a book titled "The Perfect Gun" and a statuette representing Barcelos.



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Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Crouse  
Minutes Secretary, MLAIC Dep. Secretary-General

I am very grateful to Nancy for once again producing an excellent set of minutes.

Just to bring you up to date with the European Zone Championship in Finland 2011. I have received e-mails from Paavo Raukko [paavo.raukko@kolumbus.fi] who is organising things at the moment. He assures me that all is going well and information will be released in December, he also informs me that a web site will be available before the end of the year.

Thanks go to Frank Thibault on behalf of the MLAGB and to Balázs Nemeth for the Hungarian Muzzleloaders Association, for the excellent trophies. The Egg and Kossuth respectively.

### **Commission News**

#### *Hunting World Championships:*

The Delegate for Spain, Ramon Selles, conveyed a request from one of our Honorary Members, Jorge Shiling. Mr Shiling asked us to explore the possibilities of hosting a Hunting World Championship. I asked the Commission to look at this and so that we had a broad opinion I also asked the Delegates and all of the ML shooters that I had contact details for. The replies were overwhelmingly against the proposal.

I informed Ramon that the MLAIC will not be hosting such an event.

*Ramon pointed out that he was only the messenger and was not involved with the proposal*

#### *Historic Events*

As you are aware, the historic events have not been shot for some time at our championships. Balázs suggested that a separate 'Historic World Championships' might be a good idea. To find out I posted the question on the MLAIC email group and also on the newly formed MLAIC Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/mlaic>. Whilst most comments were generally in favour, they pointed out the extra cost that this would place on our competitors – and that this would limit attendance.

The number of replies was very low considering the number of people canvassed which indicates to me that there is a general lack of interest in historic events. Of course I could be wrong and would be pleased to hear further debate on the future of these events.

#### *Retention of top six targets at championships*

Place yourself in the position of a competitor who has just broken a world record or who has just won a medal with a personal best score; I am sure that you would wish to retain your target – I know I would!

Our rules currently prevent this. The rules state that the top six targets should be retained for two years and competitors can only ask for their targets at this time. This also means that the host country has to hold nearly 200 targets for that duration.

The Commission agree that it is acceptable to hold high definition photographs of the targets in future. The new constitution will reflect this change. This will also mean that

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competitors may collect their targets on the Saturday after all presentations have been made.

As I said in my opening words, I have just finished watching the DVD from the World Championships in Barcelos and very good it is too. Every delegate should have also received their copies by now (providing they requested a copy) so you should ask them for a copy.

What really surprises me is that the DVD, including postage, has been provided free of charge. Once again my thanks go out to Luis for providing excellent after service to the championships.

There are many ways in which our members and competitors can keep in touch with what is going on within the MLAIC.

The MLAIC email group has been running for some time, this is a good place to ask questions and get expert answers. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mlaic>.

The MLAIC Facebook Page previously mentioned

The MLAIC Facebook group, primarily for social chat amongst MALIC members

And of course the MLAIC web site, the official site for MLAIC News <http://www.mlaic.org/>

Not forgetting that you can always email me at [david.brigden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:david.brigden@yahoo.co.uk).

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful festive season and a happy healthy and prosperous new year.

Yours sincerely

David Brigden  
Secretary-General