

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

I am pleased to report to all of you that excellent progress has been made in behalf of our organization in the short time that has elapsed between the World Championships in Lucca and now. The details of what has taken place follow.

1. Perhaps one of the most impressive things to take place has been the development of the new, official MLAIC web site. David Brigden accepted the challenge of putting the web site together, with his first priority being the publishing of our Constitution. We owe a great debt of gratitude to him for accomplishing this task so nicely, and we also must give credit to Birgitta Hillvarn of Sweden for her valuable input. If you have not already taken a look at the web site, please do so. It can be accessed at www.mlaic.org, and will be updated regularly with any new and pertinent information.
2. I have received thorough answers from all six members of the Commission to the five questions given them for consideration by the Delegates in Lucca. I believe you will agree that our Commission has demonstrated thoughtful concern for the good of the MLAIC as they have deliberated on these questions, and I am most grateful for their hard work on their first assigned tasks. I have studied their responses and summarized them as follows.

Question 1: With regards to the value of the position of International Coordinator, four (4) members voted to eliminate the position entirely, one member voted to retain the position, and one member felt we should either keep the position as an official office within the MLAIC or do away with it entirely. Several of the members did express the feeling that if, or when, needed at a meeting, a temporary interpreter could be appointed for the duration of that meeting only. However, the consensus, or majority, of the Commission members felt that the position of International Coordinator should be eliminated. Our Constitution at present does not have a rule identifying this position as either permanent or official. The suggestion to the delegates, therefore, from the Commission would be to remove any reference to this position from the Constitution. A proposal would be needed for this to occur.

Question 2: With regards to moving the Vetterli event from 50 to 100 meters, the United States has chosen to withdraw the proposal, making no further action necessary by delegates.

Question 3: With regards to the Rule Book changes, one member of the Commission voted to make no changes to the “blue book” version, and the other five members were in agreement with the corrections made and updated on the new official MLAIC web site. The accepted revision is now available on our web site, and we shall officially ratify those rules at the 2004 Delegates’ Meeting. Rather than re-printing another Rule Book, I will make up three-ring binders containing the rules for the 2004 Delegates’ Meeting and will distribute them there. From that point forward, when changes are made in the rules it will be a matter of simply taking out the affected page or pages and replacing them with the new ones.

Question 4: Proposals from France...

- A. Concerning the status of ‘correspondent’ nations, five of the members were in agreement that correspondent nations must participate in an MLAIC competition, as has been the

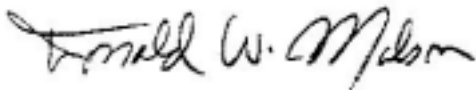
rule in the past, in order to become a full member nation. Therefore, no change to our current rules was recommended, and no further action is necessary by the delegates.

- B. Concerning voting privileges, five members felt that the present rule that only full members are permitted a vote should remain unchanged. No further action is necessary by the delegates, therefore.
 - C. Concerning the proposal that the number of votes given a country increase based on the number of shooters present at a Championship from that country: France has chosen to withdraw this proposal, making no further action by delegates necessary.
 - D. Concerning the proposals that (1) candidates for Secretary-General must be known one month before the Championship, (2) the vote be secret, (3) a 50% +1 vote be necessary on the first voting round, etc.: Five members felt that our present rules and original voting methods are adequate, and that no changes to the procedure is necessary. Therefore, no further action by delegates is necessary regarding this proposal.
 - E. Concerning the proposals that candidates for the Commission must be known one month before the Championship and that a 50% vote would be necessary for membership: France has chosen to withdraw these proposals, making no further action by delegates necessary.
 - F. Concerning the proposal that a replica gun used in a world or zone championship before 1 August 2001 must be automatically accepted: France has chosen to withdraw this proposal, making no further action by delegates necessary.
 - G. Concerning the proposal that delegates must approve 'industrial' replicas: It was accepted that the new Small Arms Committee will be studying such firearms and making recommendations to the MLAIC regarding their acceptance or non-acceptance for competition. The findings of the Small Arms Committee will be given to all delegates for further action at the 2004 Delegates' Meeting.
3. The new Small Arms Committee, as accepted at the 2002 Delegates' Meeting in Lucca, has been activated and given their first set of information concerning replica firearms to consider. Membership on the Committee includes five men, two of whom are former curators of firearms museums, one who is currently the curator of a national firearms museum, and two who are collectors and antique firearms experts. It is hoped that by spring a guidebook of approved replica arms will be ready, and I will bring these with me to Finland in August to distribute.
 4. Work is also being done on a specifications guidebook for firearms inspectors to use in evaluating the acceptability of original firearms. Measurements, photographs, line drawings, etc., will be included to assist inspectors in performing their duties. In this regard, we must thank Jose Luis Perez-Pastor, Pascal Malardot and Takayuki Kikuchi for submitting some excellent photographs of matchlock rifles and pistols for our use. If anyone else has helpful photographs or other information about original firearms that might be useful, we would appreciate receiving them.
 5. I neglected to note in Newsletter 122 that the name for the new flintlock replica rifle team event is 'Lucca.'
 6. In light of the great difficulties many nations experienced in importing and exporting their firearms for the World Championships in Italy, we must be attentive to preventing such problems in the future. As host nation for the 2004 World Championships, the United States has already begun working on this by making contact with the U.S. Customs Bureau, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and various airlines to develop procedures to handle both the arrival and departure of the participating shooters. Thus far, U.S. Customs has agreed to supply to Gary Crawford, U.S. Delegate and MLAIC President, the names and contact numbers of their chief officers in whatever ports will be used. Each of the expected ports of entry will be contacted

several weeks ahead of the scheduled arrivals and departures to reinforce the information that shooters from many nations will be legitimately arriving with firearms, and a follow-up "reminder" three days prior to the arrivals will also be given them. The Customs officials to whom Mr. Crawford has spoken have indicated their willingness to cooperate, as being prepared will make their work much easier. Additionally, detailed information will be requested from each country regarding their arrival airlines in order to have airlines personnel provide special meeting assistance in the arrival halls to shooters. Copies of the Federal regulations governing the importation of muzzle loading firearms will be included in the official invitation package to each nation. The USA will continue to work on the problem as time goes on to ensure that arriving guests in 2004 will be able to come into the country as easily as possible.

7. As all of you know, the European and Pacific Zone Championships are both scheduled for August, 2003. At that time it will be necessary to put together firearms inspection teams and juries for both events. I would request that each country consider, prior to the Zone Championships, a person to nominate for either firearms inspection or jury duty, or both. I will ask each country for the names of these persons in the spring, so that we will be better prepared in advance of the events rather than having to search for people to perform those duties at the last moment.
8. I would ask that any nation having an Agenda proposal or motion they would like to put before the Commission prior to the 2004 Delegates' Meeting send it to me by November 15, 2002. At that time I will send the Commission their second set of questions to consider.
9. I would also request that all delegates re-confirm to me their mailing address (or addresses), phone and fax numbers and e-mail address (or addresses) for correspondence. There are some delegates who wish to have correspondence sent both to their official delegation's office as well as to their private address, and I am most willing to do so if I have all of the correct information.

Sincere regards,



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