



Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation

Newsletter no. 148 - February, 2023

Dear Delegates,

As always at the beginning of a New Year, let me, also this year, wish all of you a happy, a successful and a healthy New Year 2023.

Sorry for being a little bit late this year, however, various unforeseen as well as unpredictable events did postpone this year's circular letter by some days.

Nevertheless, let us now have a look at last year with all its events - good ones and bad ones.

Although 2022 was not dominated any more by Covid, it was, nevertheless, a rather difficult year. The international medical services apparently managed to get Corona "under control" and we are nowadays not speaking about a pandemic any more. But whilst pushing back this life-threatening disease, another dangerous situation did appear - the Russian-Ukrainian War.

Last year, I wrote: "let us hope that this pandemic will soon be over" - this year I must say: "let us hope that this insane war will soon be over". And let us also hope that it will not continue to expand.

Although, we always hope that our lives will return to normal, it will be difficult after such long lasting and crucial events. Let us therefore hope that we shall sooner or later return to a situation which is "close to what we called normal" in the past.

Let me, at this point, remind you about the losses we; i.e. our "black powder community"; had to mourn within the last twelve months. Certainly, there are even more shooters or officials who passed away within the last year; let me, however, name a few of them exemplarily.

Mark Hambleton † July, 2022

Mark (MLAGB) was a member of the MLAIC Small Arms Committee for several year.

Erich Illing † October, 2022

Erich (DSB) was a member of the MLAIC Commission for many years. He was in that "business" for approx.. 40 years.

Juan Esteban Verastegui † January, 2023

Juan (RFEDETO) was the Spanish delegate and a highly knowledgeable specialist in the field of historical arms.

Paul Marchand † 2020

In 2022 we were also informed that our former MLAIC Patron, Mr. Paul Marchand passed away already in 2020.



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May they all rest in peace.

Let me now come to the official MLAIC sports events of the year 2022.

The originally planned long range world championship in Hungary had been "downgraded" to a world cup. The reason for that was the fact that a new camera system had been tested and it was used for the first time in MLAIC events. This camera system shows the impacts of the bullets and transfers them via WLAN to a "receiver" which again transfers the data to a tablet. On this tablet, which is operated by a supervisor, the shots can be seen and a scorer is defining the value of the shot which is finally noted on the score sheet.

As this system has never before been used in our championships, there were also no defined rules in our rule book. It was only decided in 2018 that such electronic or optical systems may be used in long range shooting events, however, not defining the exact way how to operate it. In order to eliminate claims which might have come in using such new devices, we decided to downgrade this event to a world cup. In this case, we didn't need official rules and could test, how the rules in our MLAIC rule book should be amended afterwards. During the long range world cup in Hungary it turned out that this system works and we can use it for world championships as well.

The result of this decision can now be seen in our minutes of the delegates' meeting 2022. The new rules are taken over in our new rule book 2022 (draft of which you will find in the annex).

These additional rules have been worked out by the responsible people of the long range committee (LRC), who are highly specialized shooters in the field of long range shooting.

At this point, let us express our sincere thanks to the Hungarian Black Powder Shooting Federation who made innumerable tests before we made the official "trial run" in August last year.

One aspect should, however, not be forgotten.

The Hungarian team paid all the camera systems and made all the tests on a private basis as their federation is not big (rich) enough to pay such expenses from the federation's account. During the delegates' meeting, it was therefore decided that the MLAIC Commission will find a way how to compensate this big investment (at least to a certain extend). Proposals of the Commission will follow at a later stage, as for the 2023 Long Range World Championships, which will be carried out in Hungary again, some more of these systems must be purchased and we cannot leave the costs to our Hungarian friends entirely.

A few days after the long range world cup in Hungary, we met in Pforzheim/Germany for the short range world championships.

Unfortunately, it was not really the "big 50th birthday party" which had been discussed in 2016 when the decision was made in favour of Pforzheim. In the second year of COVID, many shooters decided not to travel to Germany and so only roughly 300 shooters (instead of the



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planned 400 to 420) met in Pforzheim. Besides that, Pforzheim had also quite some other cancellations such as exhibitors etc. and a lot of volunteer helpers did withdraw their commitments until the very last moment. Due to all these circumstances, it was not clear, whether or not the world championship will take place. Finally, the German Shooting Federation (DSB) decided to run the world championship never mind the expense.

At the end of the day, this championship (usually minimum a breakeven should be reached) created an enormous loss.

That is all I have to say as regards finances.

I believe, the championship itself was quite successful and people (shooters and attendants) were really happy, especially as it was not clear, if the event could be carried out at all. Minor problems in the beginning (mainly during the training sessions) could be sorted out rather quickly and the championship itself could be held without any major problems.

The fact that there was only one official protest during the entire championship speaks volumes.

After one week, the shooters returned (as far as I know safely) to their home countries.

Well, let us now have a look towards the near future, where the following championships are planned:

European Championships short range	2023		France
Pacific Zone Championships short range	2023	organized by	South Africa
World Championships long range	2023		Hungary
World Championships short range	2024		Italy
European Championships short range	2025		Portugal
Pacific Zone Championships short range	2025	organized by	South Africa
World Championships long range	2025		USA (not yet confirmed)

Other championship SR and LR after 2025 are not yet planned and, so far, there are no host countries. Proposals are highly appreciated!

Exact data of the championships mentioned above will be published on our website.

At present, we are also composing the various committees such as:

Small **A**rms **C**ommittee,

Long **R**ange **C**ommittee,

Shot **G**un **C**ommittee.

The **A**nti **D**oping **C**ommittee is not necessary at present.

Therefore it will only be "activated" in case of need.

The **L**ead **B**an **C**ommittee will remain as it is.



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In a few days, the members of the various Committees will be published on our website. In case of special proposals, please let us know.

The committees, especially the SAC, will have a lot of work in the near future, as there were quite some good proposals which were made during the delegates' meeting.

In the past, the procedure was as follows:

Enquiries come in and will be channelled towards the SAC (SAC chairman is Leo Mertens).

The SAC will discuss the issues, will make a decision and will propose a wording to be published on our website.

Once, the SAC members found an agreement, they will send the data sheet (with the respective wording) to the S.G.

The S.G. will pass this proposal on to the MLAIC Commission members and ask for their approval.

Once this approval is given by the Commission members (simple majority is enough) it will be decided by the S.G. to publish it on the MLAIC website. Now the decision is valid!

Now, we have changed the procedure and the last two steps will be changed; i.e. the S.G. will send the SAC decisions, proposal and wordings to both, the Commission members as well as to the delegates of the member countries/federations.

This is similar to an electronic vote. The S.G. will send it around, fix a deadline for the delegates' replies and, after receipt of the same, count the votes of the delegates (not the commission members!) - (simple majority is enough, same as in delegates' meetings!) and publish the result on the website.

It is clear that such decisions made by the delegates must be based on historical data and not on "political" reasons.

We hope that, by doing so, we shall have a broader basis for the technical decisions which must be made during the period in between the two delegates' meetings which only take place every two years.

Let me, already at this stage, thank all of you for your cooperation and your support in these very important issues.

Well, that is it for the moment.

Let me, once again, wish all of you a happy, healthy and successful year 2022.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ramón or the members of the MLAIC Commission at any time.

My best wishes to all of you!

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "G. Lang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "G" and a long, sweeping "L".

Gerhard Lang

Secretary General of the:

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation