

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

My first order of business is to apologize to all of you for not getting a newsletter out for several months. To make what now seems to be a very long story very short, I overturned my all-terrain vehicle onto myself at the end of November during a hunting trip, which began a series of events that kept me in and out of hospitals and doctor's offices for about three months. Nothing was broken during the accident, but I developed pneumonia afterward, then the movement of some kidney stones that triggered other urological problems. Finally, after two surgeries and a recovery period, I am now nearly back to normal. The good news is that virtually all systems were checked throughout this three-month period, ruling out every other possible problem that could arise. So now there should be no good excuse for not accomplishing what I set out to do! The wonderful technology of e-mail has, fortunately, managed to keep everyone apprised of anything truly important in the meantime.

I have a few notes about our recent World Championships at Batesville, Indiana, including the fact that the residents of the town are *still* talking about all of the wonderful people they met from other countries! You have made a lot of new friends here in the USA!

We were all pleased to welcome Malta into the MLAIC at Batesville, and I have now received the news that they will be present in greater numbers to participate in the European Zones in Pforzheim this coming August. Perhaps we will be able to visit their beautiful country sometime in the future for an event.

The last item having to do with the recent World Championship event also apparently pertains to the last two or three World Championships prior to this one. David Bridgen has discovered that there has been an obvious mix-up with regards to the Nagashino and Nobunaga trophies. The mix-up has occurred four times in the past (1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000), with the Nagashino trophy being presented to the individual Tanegashima winner rather than as a team trophy (for which it is intended). David discovered this due to the fact that the Nagashino trophy is in his possession, Great Britain having won the Nobunaga event in Batesville. The trophy should have gone to Germany, and David will take it there in August to exchange it for the correct one. Now being aware of the problem, David has offered to have new name plates made for both trophies that reflect the correct winners and years, and I have authorized him to do so. The MLAIC treasury is adequate to bear the cost of engraving the new plates, since we have saved a great deal of postage money recently by using e-mail transmissions. David has the necessary information for every year except 1990 (event held in Netherlands) and 1994 (event held in Switzerland). If any of you have the correct information for both trophies for those two years, please transmit it to David at your earliest convenience. We owe David a debt of thanks for taking on this important project.

I have been contacted by a representative from Croatia requesting information about becoming a member of the MLAIC and stating their desire to come to Pforzheim to participate in the European Zone Championships in August. Accordingly, I have named them an MLAIC Correspondent nation and Germany has sent them information about participating in Pforzheim. Our organization continues to grow, which is not only one of our ultimate goals but also speaks well for the growing popularity of our sport.

Upcoming Championship events include:

1. 2005 – European Zone Championships in Pforzheim, Germany (August 2005)
2. 2005 – Pacific Zone Championships in Barrie, Ontario, Canada (August 2005)
3. 2005 – 5th Long Range Championships in Bisley, United Kingdom (September 2005)
4. 2006 – 22nd World Muzzle Loading Championships in Bordeaux, France

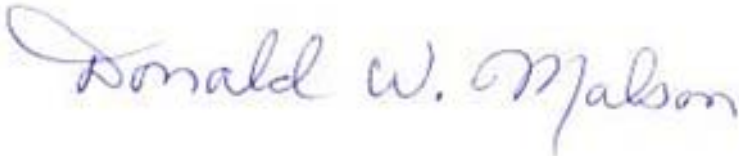
In addition, Italy has requested the privilege of hosting the European Zone Championships in 2007. Still to be determined are the venues and dates for the Pacific Zone Championships in 2007, the Long Range Championships in 2007 and the 23rd World Muzzle Loading Championships in 2008. I would ask that all of you consider these dates and contact me if you have a proposal for hosting any of them. Additionally, if your nation would consider hosting any of these events in the years beyond 2008, into 2010, please let me know. I hope to be able to fill some of the open venues at the Zone Championships this August.

Clay Event Shooting: The high stands used with American Trap Association trap houses are not popular, and are not used in Europe, as you know. I asked earlier that you consider an addition to our rules to cover the situation when such trap houses are used out of necessity (such as in Batesville). I believe there may have been some misunderstanding concerning my request, judging from the few responses I have received. Please understand that I am only referring to events where European-type trap houses are not available for use (primarily in the USA and Canada). A rule addition would not affect trap shooting where European-style trap houses are available, but would hopefully cover situations where they are not available. The addition I recommended will be tried out in Canada at the Pacific Zone Championships in August and I will report back regarding the outcome in a newsletter after that event. In the meantime, if you have any other ideas that might clarify the situation please send them to me. The issue will be on the agenda for discussion in Bordeaux.

My final item concerns the media production (videotapes and DVDs) we filmed in Batesville. I wish to inform all of you that there are two productions currently being sold. Unbeknownst to us, a woman residing in Batesville used her own personal videocam during the World Championships with the intent of selling her product to others for profit. We have only been made aware of this recently, when we began to receive complaints about the quality and content of what people thought was the official product. We have since then received our own production and the last few orders were shipped within the last two weeks. The videos made by Sally Widener of Batesville, which run over four hours in length, are not the official product. If you ordered one from her and are dissatisfied with it, you should contact her personally. If you wish to order one of the official videos, we still have some available and you can contact me personally for further information. I apologize for any confusion that may have occurred, but we were completely unaware of the situation at the time and would have surely corrected it had we known about it.

Spring finally appears to be arriving in the northern hemisphere, and I hope all of you are taking advantage of the improving weather to get out to the shooting range again. Time has a habit of moving very quickly, and the Zone events will be here soon. I hope to see all of you there!

Respectfully,



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