

MLAIC

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

I first have the sad duty of informing all of you of the news just received from New Zealand telling me of the death on the 2nd of November of our good friend, and former delegate from that nation, Peter Watson. Peter served both at a local and national level at home and was delegate to the MLAIC from New Zealand for over twenty years. He served for a number of years on the MLAIC Commission, always being one of the first to respond to questions, and always offering well-thought-out answers. In private life, Peter taught at University until his recent retirement and will also be remembered for the fine rifle sights he crafted. His sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him, as will the ever-present captions at the end of each of his e-mails. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Peter's wife Cheryl and their family. If you wish to extend your personal condolences, Cheryl's e-mail address is cheryl@petryl.gen.nz.

Other news at this time includes the following items.

Changes in Delegates: We have some changes within our listing of Delegates, some of which you are most probably aware and others that you may not have knowledge of at this time. The changes include the following:

1. With the recent retirement of Peter Watson of New Zealand from MLAIC, there has been no official delegate appointed from that nation at this time. However, we have been informed that the Secretary-Treasurer of the NZBPSF, David Bagnall, will be acting as their contact and all communication will go through him.
2. David Brigden has tendered his resignation to the MLAGB as Delegate from Great Britain, and we have been notified that Frank Thibault, whom many of you know, has been named as the new Delegate.
3. Many of you have been aware of the ongoing illness of our friend from Hungary, Gabor Kaldi, who was highly instrumental in the acceptance of muzzle loading on a national level in his country and in gaining their status as full members of the MLAIC. Mr. Kaldi, being unable to continue with his duties as Delegate, has been replaced by our friend Balasz Nemeth.

Venezuela: I also have some good news to report. After ten years of silence from Venezuela, I have finally heard from Michel Leider, the original Delegate to MLAIC from that country. Unfortunately, Michel stopped shooting after the sudden death of his son, and without his leadership the muzzle loading group slowly lost momentum. Subsequently, a new government in Venezuela has also stopped issuing firearms permits, and the shooting sports there, in general, are nearly nonexistent. However, I have offered some suggestions to Michel as to ways in which Venezuela may become active again within our organization, and it is my hope that this may be accomplished.

Malta: I am also happy to report that Malta has notified me that the government plans to build a national shooting range, 100 meters by 300 meters, for the use of both ISSF and MLAIC disciplines. They have asked for any pertinent advice and suggestions that would assist in making the range viable for either a Zone or World MLAIC Championship, with the hope of playing host to one of our events in the near future at this new range. I have given the Delegate from Malta, Alfred Cuschieri, data as to what would be necessary for the range to meet minimum MLAIC standards and suggested that perhaps hosting a Zone event first would be

good practice for a future World event. I would urge any of you who have suggestions or information you feel might be useful to him to send them to him in an e-mail. If nothing else, perhaps you can let him know that you share his excitement at the prospect of shooting in Malta one day soon. His e-mail address is danka@maltanet.net.

Correspondent Nations' Status: Three nations now listed as "Correspondents" are working toward full membership at our next World Championship, which we would welcome. The information I have concerning these three nations follows:

1. We have received correspondence from Greece affirming that they are most interested in becoming a full member of the MLAIC. The Correspondent from Greece is Dr. Paul Kanellakis, who is also President of their national shooting body, the Hellenic Shooting Federation. He plans to try to organize a team to participate at Bordeaux in August, and I will keep him updated regarding that event.

2. We had expected that Croatia would be in attendance at the European Zone Championships in Pforzheim this past August, but were informed that this was, at the last minute, impossible. However, Mr. Branko Nikolic has notified me that the national muzzle loading organization created there, which is open to all citizens of the country, is doing well, and that he hopes to bring a team from that country to Bordeaux.

3. Poland is also a strong possibility for full membership in the MLAIC at this time. Dr. Waldemar Gorzawski, with whom I have been corresponding to assist that nation in this goal, has been working with muzzle loading shooters there with the purpose of organizing so that they can participate at Bordeaux.

MLAIC Website: I have received a number of inquiries regarding the status of the updating of our MLAIC website. As you know, David Brigden has been acting as webmaster, and he has informed me that he has been experiencing ongoing problems with his computer. He has been working to correct this, but at the moment is able to use only his laptop. We will, however, work on getting this corrected and the website up-to-date as soon as possible. In the meantime, please feel free to convey any items of pertinence or particular interest from this Secretary-General's Newsletter or any of the previous ones to others who may make inquiries and to contact me with any questions regarding our rules, etc.

World & Zone Record Certificates: By now all Delegates whose nations held World Records have received the appropriate certificates to be distributed, which was our fall project. I have received some very positive comments about them, and am happy we have now set in motion an ongoing award certificate program for the shooters so deserving of that recognition. I have a supply of these certificates adequate to cover many years into the future, and we will now be able to present these certificates to anyone setting a new world record during the award ceremonies or closing dinner each year. Our project for this winter and spring is to complete a similar project for Zone Records, and that is now in motion.

Rule 354.C.2 ("Large bore European style matchlock pistols are acceptable."): This is a rule that we must re-examine and remedy, due to the fact that we have been unable to find an example of a single shot European matchlock pistol or to successfully document their existence. Please give this some thought, and I will place this issue on the agenda for our meeting in Bordeaux.

Best regards to all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald W. Malson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald W. Malson, Secretary-General
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