

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

Well, another MLAIC World Championship has come and gone into the annals of our organization's history. The 21st World Muzzle Loading Championship held in Batesville, Indiana, U.S.A. the last week in August was pronounced a great success by virtually all of the attending nations. Participants were treated to true Midwestern hospitality from the Opening Ceremony through the end of the event on the Paddlewheeler Riverboat Cruise. The people of Batesville welcomed their visitors, literally, with open arms and invitations to their homes for dinner!

The Parade of Nations was attended by approximately 4,500 people from Batesville and the surrounding area and was marked by cheering crowd and spectators rushing into the street to shake the hands of foreign competitors. The Batesville High School Band led the competing nations to Liberty Park and onto the ball field, where the local 6th grade choir sang a welcoming musical selection. This was followed by welcomes from Secretary-General Donald Malson, MLAIC President Gary Crawford, Batesville Mayor Rick Fledderman, Indiana State Senator Johnny Nugent and Secretary of the National Rifle Association of America E. James Land, Jr. The 3rd grade choir from Batesville then presented a medley of musical selections, after which the band led everyone out of the ball park and to the Liberty Park Pavilion where everyone shared food prepared by a local vendor and enjoyed "bluegrass" music by two bands, courtesy of Ripley County Tourism.

Wednesday was the first day of competition, with sunshine and very warm temperatures. That evening the competitors and their guests attended the Shooters' Buffet, again in Liberty Park, and enjoyed the live music of Brad Mastin. Thursday arrived with dark and threatening skies, and the rain soon followed. Shooting was delayed briefly but resumed when the skies cleared and new targets could be erected. Friday morning was still a little wet, but shooting went on without difficulties and all competition on the rifle and pistol range was completed by the end of the day. Several countries requested that awards for all of the events already completed be given on Friday evening and, despite a rather long Awards Ceremony, this was accomplished, leaving Saturday free for touring and sightseeing before the final dinner. We were honored at the final awards ceremony by the presence of Pierangelo Pedersoli, who awarded the medals and special awards he had donated to the winners of the special Pedersoli event.

The final dinner and handing-over of the MLAIC flag to France took place aboard an authentic Ohio River paddlewheel boat named the "Belle of Cincinnati." Competitors and guests were treated to an excellent meal and a three-hour cruise up the Ohio River from Covington, Kentucky. There were many photographic opportunities as the boat passed the brightly lit Cincinnati skyline and neighboring towns along the river. It was an experience enjoyed by all, bringing the 21st World Championship to a memorable close.

On behalf of the United States International Muzzle Loading Committee and Team, I would like to thank all of the participating nations for the fine sportsmanship and wonderful camaraderie that accompanied the event. The spirit of friendship that prevailed for the entire week was evident to everyone, and this made the event very special!

I will now report on the proceedings and results of the Delegates' Meeting, which I felt also went forth in an extremely congenial manner. The wonderful setting and fine luncheon at Cricket Ridge Golf Club provided an atmosphere that was conducive to a successful meeting. I feel that much was accomplished and wish to thank all of the Delegates for their cooperation and good will.

1. The Specifications for the Form of Japanese Repro Tanzutusu Pistols, contributed originally by Derek Fuller of Great Britain, and modified by the Delegates, was accepted and will be added to the MLAIC Rules and Regulations as Appendix 6.

2. MLAIC Job Descriptions, submitted originally by the U.S.A. to the Commission and resubmitted with modifications made as suggested, was accepted and will be added to the MLAIC Rules and Regulations as Appendix 5.

3. Item 3 on the Agenda regarding requested clarification for revolver loading procedure was discussed thoroughly. It was decided to leave the rule unchanged, and that loading should be optional as long as 5 balls are loaded on the first and subsequent relays.

4. The Delegates discussed question regarding the use of specific shooting apparel at length. The decision was made to add the following to the MLAIC Rules and Regulations: "Heavy shooting trousers of the type used for ISSF competition is eliminated for use in MLAIC competition."

5. The question regarding the size of the scoring rings on the C200 (MLAIC) target was discussed, and the Commission recommendation was accepted that the outside of the scoring line on this target should be used with consistency at all times in the scoring of this target. This guideline will be added to Rule 342 in the Rules and Regulations.

6. The following venues were accepted for upcoming MLAIC events:

a. 2005 – European Zone Championship will be held in Pforzheim, Germany. Dates: July 31-August 7, 2005. Electronic targets will be used.

b. 2005 – Pacific Zone Championship hosting is undetermined at this time.

c. 2005 – 5th World Long Range Championship will be held in Great Britain at the Bisley Range September 12-17, 2005. David Brigden noted that the Short Range Championships will be held there the week prior to this, and that anyone wishing to participate should contact him.

d. 22nd MLAIC World Championship – will be hosted by France at Bordeaux from August 6 through 12, 2006. Brochures were given to all Delegates and additional information was offered. Plans are in place to use electronic targets for this event, using the same system as will be used in Germany in 2005.

7. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the Commission's report on the disposition of modern or replacement barrels if found on original firearms. The final decision, which will be incorporated into the MLAIC rules and regulations, was as follows: "If an original has major modifications (i.e., relining or replacement of the barrel or replacement of the stock) the firearm may be shot in the replica class, provided it has not been declared as an original prior to the competition. Any lined or modern barrels must be classified as replicas prior to inspection. If declared as an original and found to be a replica, the firearm must be disqualified."

8. Finland's report on a method to evaluate the age or originality of antique firearms was discussed, and the Secretary-General thanked them for their study of this problem. While all agreed that the method had merit, it was suggested that the study be continued and a database acquired for future reference.

9. The following clarifications and additions to the Long Range section of the MLAIC Rules and Regulations were made:

a. Individual events will allow 16 shooters; team events will continue to allow 4 shooters, as before.

b. Long Range competition will now be separated into two classes/categories: Original and Replica.

c. Rule 1.03 is changed to read as follows:

"COACHING. For individual and team events, when shot concurrent, competitors may spot for or coach each other up to the point when their first shot hits the target; from then on there should be no further assistance, and noise must be kept to a minimum so as not to disturb other shooters. No coaching or assistance from others is permitted. For team events, when shot as a team on the same target, coaching is permitted throughout the event. Communications with the butt markers will be through the Range Officer only and limited to queries on standard messages as in section 5.00."

10. The question of possible options for the shooting of the Vetterli event were again discussed, due to the increasing number of perfect scores being attained in each competitive event.

a. Italy's proposal for the use of 3 targets, C50, to be used, with the upper for training and the two lower targets for record score, failed.

b. Finland withdrew its proposal that roundball only be used for the event.

c. Sweden asked the delegates to consider having a shoulder-to-shoulder shoot-off of 5 shots for everyone achieving 100 in order to determine placement. This proposal will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the 22nd World Championship at Bordeaux, France.

11. A discussion took place regarding the government restrictions on black powder among our member nations, and it was agreed that the MLAIC should remain aware of this problem and may need to examine our situation concerning the strict use of black powder only sometime in the future.

12. France proposed that a Kuchenreuter-type event, yet to be named, be added to the events for youth, in addition to the existing Whitworth, Vetterli and Lorenzoni-type events. The rule regarding age eligibility for youth events was also discussed, and the Secretary-General appointed a committee, including Canada, France, Australia and Great Britain to write a set of guidelines for the MLAIC youth program.

13. New events accepted and changes made to existing events include:

- a. A new team competition will be added for Kuchenreuter replica, named Forsyth.
- b. A new team competition will be added for Minie replica, named Magenta.
- c. The current Hawker team competition will be cancelled, and two new shotgun team competitions will be added.
 - c. A new team competition will be added for Manton only with 3 shooters, original and replica mixed, named Hawker.
 - d. A new team competition will be added for Lorenzoni only with 3 shooters, original and replica mixed, named Batesville.
 - e. A new team competition will be added for Miquelet replica, named Halikko.
 - f. Shotgun event rules added include:
 - (1) In the event of ties, a shoot-off of 5 birds will be held, followed by “sudden death” shoot-off if necessary.
 - g. Shooting platform availability proposal submitted by Italy is to be studied and reported on by a committee including Canada, France, Italy and Australia.

14. John Cassar of Malta spoke briefly, representing the Maltese delegate Alfred Cuschieri. Malta, under the national organization Malta Shooting Federation, was then accepted as a full MLAIC member and welcomed as a participating nation.

15. Secretary-General Donald Malson was re-elected unanimously as the last agenda item.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald W. Malson, Secretary-General