

Dear Delegate,

This is a follow up to my recent Newsletter, No' 136.

I am pleased to tell you that Nancy has offered to stand for Deputy Secretary General once again. Nancy Married Bob Crouse in 2008 and will be moving very soon and her new address is: 429 Gregg Street, Washington C.H., Ohio 43160, USA. Tel (740) 335-1567. It is likely that Bob will accompany Nancy in Portugal

I am also pleased to tell you that Kim Atkinson, Frank Thibault, Gary Crawford, Balázs Nemeth and Antonio Ferrerio have offered themselves for re-election the MLAIC Commission. I am pleased to support their nomination. I am also pleased to tell you that we have three candidates for the vacant position on the commission; they are:

Jean Bourdeaux, Delegate France
Ramon Selles, Delegate, Spain
Gerda Legeune, Team Captain Netherlands

I would like to use all of the commission members as arbitrators on separate days during the championships, as per my recently published rota. It would therefore help if the vacant post was filled prior to then. If it is agreeable to you I would like to hold an email ballot for the vacant post on 1 March 2010. This will give you enough time to consider the matter and make a valid judgement. By doing this it will also save time at the Committee meeting, which I fear may be quite long due to the new constitution.

Twenty of the twenty three active countries replied and the results for the three questions I asked you are as follows:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Training on Sunday | Unanimous |
| Committee Meeting on Sunday | 13:00hrs. 19 yes 1 no |
| Cancel Buffet | Unanimous |

All countries were in favour of having the committee meeting on Sunday, however, three of them will not be arriving in Barcelos until Sunday afternoon, and all three of them suggested 17:00hrs as an alternative.

It is very important that as many delegates as possible attend the meeting and I think moving the meeting to later in the afternoon than suggested is necessary. However, having attended several meetings in the past which were normally scheduled for about four hours, I have found that they normally over run the allocated time or the meeting is rushed in order to comply with the schedule.

I will ask Luis to arrange the meeting for 16:00hrs with time limit of four hours with the possibility of a one hour's (maximum) extension if necessary, I hope this meets with your approval.

Therefore training will take place on Sunday, the buffet is cancelled and the meeting will be on Sunday afternoon at the revised time.

You may have read in recent correspondence the suggestion that we should move closer to the ISSF Rules. As your Secretary General would like to explain my reasons why I think we should not.

When the MLAIC was first formed it could easily have been under the umbrella of one of the other international organisations that were there at that time but they were purely about skill of arms and international competition. Our forefathers wanted an organisation where those interested in fine antiques could come together in a spirit of friendship; admire the number of excellent antique firearms that were there to see and compete in a friendly nature. I believe that this ideal is still at the heart of the competitors in our events, even though competing for our trophies has become more intense.

It was suggested to me in Valencia that we were unprofessional in our approach to firearms inspection and I have to agree that there is some truth in this. RFETO President Rodrigo de Mesa suggested that we use a similar inspection regime that they do in the ISSF, I pointed out to him that the ISSF only has a very small number of firearms to deal with and they are all of the same standard; whereas we have hundreds of different models and it takes a great deal of experience and skill to be able to undertake the duties of a firearms inspector.

Having said all that, we could select and train some inspectors; this would of course involve setting up a training program and employing trainers. Then of course we would need a more comprehensive rule book in order to describe all the differences between the firearms. The ISSF rule book is over 430 pages.

In order to manage the training program and the writing of the rule book you would need a paid executive (The ISSF has many and a huge budget) it could not be done under the current arrangements. I will be suggesting that the MLAIC fees be raised to 100 Euros, if you wanted a paid executive 1000€ would not cover their fees.

My belief is that the Delegates are there to represent their competitors and, having competed in almost all of our championships since 1984, I am fairly certain that they enjoy the friendly atmosphere in which we compete. This would not be the same if we were to compete under ISSF conditions. If our competitors want to compete in ISSF competitions they can always do so, many of them certainly have the skill but I do not believe it should be in the name of the MLAIC.

I intend to see that our inspectors are of a required standard, I have already asked Shigeo Sugawa if he will inspect all the Japanese Matchlocks, muskets and pistols, originals and repro's and he has agreed. I also intend to see that there are more inspectors available and that inspection starts at the appropriate time.

At our meeting in Valencia Hungary proposed a team event for Pennsylvania called Kossuth in order to commemorate 500 years of sport shooting in Hungary. This will be competed for as a special event in Barcelos.

Additionally the Netherlands has made a proposal for a new team event for Hizadai original and replica named Hinawa (hi means cord and nawa, fire).

I know that some delegates are opposed to additional events but with the revised time table and presentations each evening after shooting, I believe that these events will not seriously extend the time. Naturally both events will have to be decided by vote at our meeting before they are added to our list of events.

I would be grateful if delegates would be guided by their shooters wishes and not necessarily by their governing body when voting.

Thank you



David Brigden
Secretary General
Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee