

ASSOCIATION OF MALTESE ARMS COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS

Founded 12th June 1985

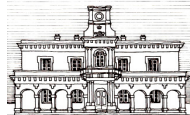
Administrative Offices & Exhibition Halls:
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Affiliations: Federation of European Societies of Arms Collectors (FESAC); International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC); International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union (IMSSU); Association Européenne De Tir Sur Silhouettes Métalliques (AETSM); World Field Target Federation (WFTF); Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain (MLAGB); World Crossbow Shooting Association (WCSA); World Forum on the Future of Sports Shooting Activities (WFSA). Founder-Members: Malta Aviation Museum Foundation (MAMF); Gun Owners Federation of Malta (GOFM)

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear member,

The long anticipated amendments to the Arms Act and the Arms Licensing Regulations were published in today's Malta Government Gazette. Legal Notices 75 and 76 of 2013 come into immediate effect. All the proposals that we submitted through the Weapons Board in collaboration with other stake-holders have been taken on board. The most sensible arms law in the EU has just become better.

Thanks to your support we have done it yet again. We have been around for 28 years yet we are as dynamic as ever. AMACS is your undisputed reference point for the collection of arms and target shooting. It is a guarantee for the future of your investment in both pursuits.

Immediately upon our foundation on 12 June 1985 we successfully lobbied against the introduction of import tax on collectors items, arguing that Government is morally bound not to deter individual collectors from enriching our heritage. Conscious of the taboo attached to arms and private possession thereof, we embarked on a series of exhibitions in which we displayed all forms of arms in their historical context. In a few years we managed to effect a culture change and eventually the collection of arms became socially acceptable.

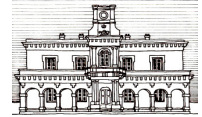
However our sights were also set on the use of firearms in target shooting. Hence in 1989 we organised the first ever target shooting event with original muzzle-loading firearms. Incidentally we also introduced historical re-enactment through this event. We did not stop there. We initiated a concerted lobbying campaign for a change in regulations, leaving no stone unturned (to quote a former Commissioner of Police) to achieve our aims. This resulted in the 1996 policy changes that ushered in the importation of collectible arms, airguns and muzzle-loading firearms.

With yet another feather in our cap we marched on to lobby for a totally new arms law. We felt that the 1931 Arms Ordinance was past its sell-by date as it granted the Police far too much Colonial-like discretion. This was a tough nut to crack. But crack it we did with much effort, negotiations and long hours of hard work. In July 2005 we sat in the Strangers Gallery of Parliament and witnessed both sides of the House unanimously approving the Bill with the proposals that we had conceived and modelled on the EU Arms Directive. This must have been the proudest moment of our lives. Once the Arms Licensing Regulations were drafted and published on 15 August 2006 the new law came into effect. The Weapons Board replaced the pre-Act Weapons Advisory Board and the good work carried on.



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These new gains are there to be enjoyed by all enthusiasts, irrespective of their club membership. Above all, these changes will benefit our country by giving serious collectors and sports shooters greater opportunities, opening up sport shooting tourism and guaranteeing the viability of shooting ranges. We will not stop here of course. There is always room for improvement and AMACS will be at the forefront once again.

Our track record in pioneering legislative change is second to none. However our achievements go beyond this. From a working group of fourteen we have grown to accommodate eight hundred members of all ages and from all walks of life. Perhaps the most significant step in our recent history has been to move back to Tigne' in style by acquiring a prestigious 600 square metre premises in which members and guests may partake in administrative matters, specialised courses, discussions and social interaction. We are now embarking on an exciting and ambitious plan for our Clock Tower site, converting it into an exhibition hall and an Olympic-standard 10 meter indoor range for airguns and rimfire guns. Last week our plans took a decisive turn with generous funding received from Government. This aid is an endorsement of your Association's contribution to the enhancement of sports and culture in Malta.

On behalf of my Committee and members I thank Minister Chris Said who steered these Legal Notices through Cabinet and followed them on to publication just as he promised to. His support was indispensable. I also thank the Weapons Board Chairman and members for endorsing the changes that we proposed.

Stephen A. Petroni

A SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ARMS ACT SCHEDULES AND THE LICENSING REGULATIONS (LN 75/2013 and LN 76/2013)

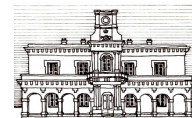
A. SCHEDULES

1. Handguns with barrel lengths less than 9cm have been moved from Schedule I to Schedule II and may henceforth be kept under a Target Shooter Licence A or a Collector Licence A irrespective of their date of manufacture.
2. Alarm or signalling firearms have been moved from Schedule II to Schedule III. They are subject to registration but one no longer requires a licence to acquire or keep them.
3. Airsoft and Paintball guns have been moved from Schedule II to Schedule III. No licence is required to transfer them. They may only be taken outdoors provided the owner is a member of an Airsoft/Paintball club.
4. Blank-firing guns have been introduced into Schedule II as per new EU regulation. A Collector Licence A is required to own them.
5. Edged weapons have been eliminated from the Schedules; no licence or registration is required to acquire and/or possess them.
6. Non-firing imitation firearms have been eliminated from the Schedules; no licence or registration is required to acquire and/or possess them.
7. Harpoon guns have been eliminated from the Schedules; no licence or registration is required to acquire and/or possess them.
8. Sling shots and stun guns have been introduced into Schedule I.
9. Archery Bows with a peak pulling weight over 60 pounds are now classified under Schedule II and hence subject to a licence like Crossbows.



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B. LICENSING REGULATIONS

1. The distinction between pre-1946 and post-1945 Schedule II firearms has been eliminated; collectors may now own an unlimited number of post-1945 Schedule II firearms.
2. Persons who are in possession of BOTH a Collector Licence A and a Target Shooter Licence A may take ANY three Schedule II firearms in their possession to the range; no transfers are required;
3. Non-licensed persons are allowed to shoot on a range provided that they first attend a briefing and are always under the supervision of an RCO.
4. Police "Ad hoc" permits for sports shooting on a non-licensed site may now be issued more than once.
5. Persons in possession of a Target Shooting Licence A and/or B to be issued with a Target Shooting Licence B (Airgun only) without the need for a Weapons Board recommendation.
6. Range Conducting Officers are no longer required to supervise clay pigeon shooting events.
7. Holders of a Target Shooting Licence A, Target Shooting Licence B and a Gunsmith Licence are obliged to be insured for third party risks.
8. A Film Armourer Permit may be granted to a person or group of persons who collectively already hold all the following three licences: Firearms dealer, Target Shooter Licence A and Collector Licence A.

FUNDS FOR CLOCK TOWER BLOCK DEVELOPMENT



Over recent months the Secretary and Treasurer have been applying for various funds in aid of our project. While a number of requests are still under consideration, one of them has already received a favourable response.

The Finance Minister has granted us the generous sum of € 30,000 from the National Lotteries Good Causes Fund. The Commitment letter was presented to our President by the Hon. Robert Arrigo and Mrs. Arrigo during a visit to our club premises on Friday 22 February.

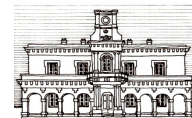
Mr. Arrigo praised the work carried out by AMACS over the years and lauded the professional project plans that were presented to the Ministry. He stated that the Association deserved assistance and wished AMACS success in realising its plans.

The President thanked Mr. Arrigo and asked him to convey our appreciation to the Minister.



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MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee has organised a number of meetings with the representatives of political parties in order to explain its objectives and seek guarantees for the future. Our invitations met with a good response and several representatives visited our premises over the past weeks. All were impressed with our premises and with what AMACS has achieved over the years. They committed themselves to support AMACS initiatives in the years to come.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - 2013

Membership renewals for 2013 are going strong and few are still outstanding. We have seen the return of a good number of former members who had not renewed in previous years. *The value of an AMACS membership is widely recognised for the benefits it offers.*

If you have not yet renewed your membership you can fill out the attached form and send it to us by post or bring it in person to our office in Tigne'. Our office opening hours are:

Mondays: 2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesdays and Fridays: 2:00pm to 10:00pm

Street parking is usually possible in the area. However you may find it more convenient to drive into the Tigne' car park and then collect an exit ticket from our office on your way out to avail yourself of the special AMACS discounted parking rates. The AMACS office will be closed on Monday, 11 March.

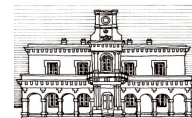
Gozitan members may post their renewal form and payment to our Tigne' office or visit our AMACS office in Nadur on Friday evenings between 6pm and 8pm.

NEW YEAR DINNER HELD ON SATURDAY 12 JANUARY

Our annual Christmas/New Year Dinner was held on Saturday, 12 January at the Exiles Restaurant in Sliema. A considerable number of members attended, filling all available seating. The delicious food and the good company created a perfect atmosphere.

The President announced that our proposals for legislative improvements were soon to be discussed by Cabinet. He also introduced the new MRPSC Committee that was to be led by Christian Stafrace and its plans to implement a busy shooting calendar for all disciplines.





CLUB NOTICES



MALTA ARMS & MILITARIA SOCIETY

NEW COLLECTOR LICENCE A COURSES LAUNCHED



MAMS is organising courses for members who wish to apply for a Collector Licence A. Previously only interviews were conducted. However we felt that a high standard is to be set for collectors with the intention of instilling an academic interest and ensuring full compliance with the Act and Regulations. The courses are run by Stephen Petroni who besides being the Association President is also Chairman of the Foundation for European Societies of Arms Collectors (FESAC). The first two courses were well attended. Should you wish to attend the next course please book through the CEO Franco Piccinino.

MALTA RIFLE & PISTOL SHOOTING CLUB



Day trip to Sicily on Sunday, 24th March.

We are organising another trip to the Sniper Range in Pedalino, Sicily on Sunday, 24 March. The ferry shall leave Malta at 06:45 hrs and arrive back in Malta at 21:00 hrs. The fee for this trip shall be € 160.00 per person covering the cost of the ferry, use of range, lunch and police port fees.

Bookings for shooters shall be on a first come first served.

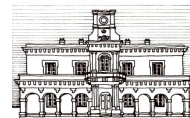
Upon booking you must notify us which firearms you will be taking with you. Please phone 2141 1600 during our office opening hours.





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MRPSC Shooting Course

The next firearms safe handling course will be held on Saturday, 6th April from 9am to 5pm. This is for members who wish to obtain a Target Shooter license A (revolver/pistol/rifle) and Target Shooter license B (tactical shotgun). The fee is € 30.00. Those interested in attending the course should send an email to our administration office on info@amacs-malta.org or call on 2141 1600 during office hours.

On Saturday, 18 January an IPSC competition was held at the Gun Blast Shooting Range in Nadur, Gozo. A large group of shooters from Malta joined shooters from Gozo for the first official IPSC competition in Gozo.



These are the results:

PRODUCTION DIVISION

1. Chris Stafrace. 5.10; 4.21; 5.04; 3.24. Total: 17.59. 100%
2. Pierre Farrugia. 3.52; 3.60; 2.87; 2.27. Total: 12.26. 69.6%
3. Evgeniy Tomashev. 2.57; 3.35; 1.87; 2.52. total: 10.31. 58.6%
4. John Kassar. 4.14; 1.31; 1.08; 1.45. Total: 7.98. 45.3%
5. Andy Szamosy. 2.11; 2.60; 2.89; o. Total: 7.60. 43.2%
6. Dimitry Tomasdhev. 2.25; 1.78; 1.87; 1.64. Total: 7.54. 42.8%
7. Christopher Vella. 2.12; 1.50; 1.07; N/A. Total: 4.69. 26.6%



STANDARD DIVISION

1. Andre' Dimech. 5.39; 4.21; 4.51; 3.37. Total: 17.48. 100%
2. Clive Brockdorff. 6.02; 3.46; 3.76; 3.08. Total: 16.32. 93.3%
3. Mario Vella. 3.53; 3.67; 4.27; 2.31. Total: 13.78. 78.8%
4. Charles Stellini. 4.76; 1.63; 3.70; 3.51. Total: 13.60. 77.8%
5. Sintio Schembri. 4.39; 2.24; 2.40; 3.07. Total: 12.10. 69.2%
6. Clayton Camilleri. 3.73; 3.54; 2.63; 1.65. Total: 11.55. 66%
7. Joseph Attard. 4.63; 2.08; 2.22; 2.27. Total: 11.20. 64%
8. Louis Farrugia. 2.53; 2.91; 3.30; 1.74. Total: 10.48. 59.9%
9. Jason Camilleri. 3.16; 2.09; 2.48; 1.94. Total: 9.67. 55.3%
10. Twan Vella. 2.62; 1.19; 2.51; 2.33. Total: 8.65. 49.4%
11. Mark Scerri. 2.59; 2.65; 1.79; 0.81. Total: 7.84. 44.8%
12. Steven Vella. 2.67; 0.92; 1.46; 2.59. Total: 7.64. 43.7%
13. Charlton Agius. 2.45; 1.64; 1.18; 2.19. Total: 7.46. 42.6%



REVOLVERS

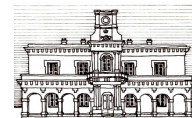
1. Jean Karl Soler. 1.69; 1.62; 1.08; 1.08. Total: 5.47. 100%
2. Stephen Soler. 0.80; 0; 1.40; 0.72. Total: 2.92. 53.3%

Well done to all that participated. The next IPSC event in Gozo will be a rifle competition and will be held on Sunday 26 May 8am to 2pm.



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SHOOTING PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS

- Sunday, 24 February 3pm to 7pm IPSC Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Thurs, 28 February 3pm to 7pm Free Style shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Sunday, 3 March 3pm to 7pm IPSC Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Saturday, 16 March 3pm to 7pm Pin Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Sunday, 17 March 3pm to 7pm IPSC Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Thursday, 21 March 3pm to 7pm Pin Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Sunday, 24 March Day trip Pedalino Sniper Club Range in Comiso, Sicily.
- Saturday, 24 March 3pm to 7pm IPSC Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Saturday, 30 March 3pm to 7pm IPSC Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Saturday, 13 April 3pm to 7pm NRA Bulls eye Shooting at VSR in Handaq.
- Sunday, 26 May 8pm to 2pm IPSC Rifle competition at the Gun Blast Range

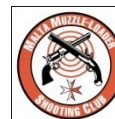
On Saturday, 16 March we shall be introducing PIN Table Top shooting. This should be a fun event and we are sure that it will become very popular.

Starting in April:

Free Style Shooting at VSR in Handaq on first Thursday of every month, 4pm to 8pm.

Call our office on 21411600 to book your participation in of the above events!

MALTA AIRGUN SHOOTING CLUB



Works are in progress to build an Airgun range at our premises located in the Clock Tower block in Tigne Point. The ten meter range should be ready next year. As stated earlier in this newsletter, we have received a substantial grant for this project.

The next Basic Airgun Induction Course for those wishing to obtain a Target Shooter licence B (airguns) will be held on Monday, 26 March starting at 19:30 hours at our Tigne' Premises. It is free for our MASC and MTAC members. Call 2141 1600 or send an email on info@amacs-malta.org to book.

MALTA TACTICAL AIRSOFT CLUB

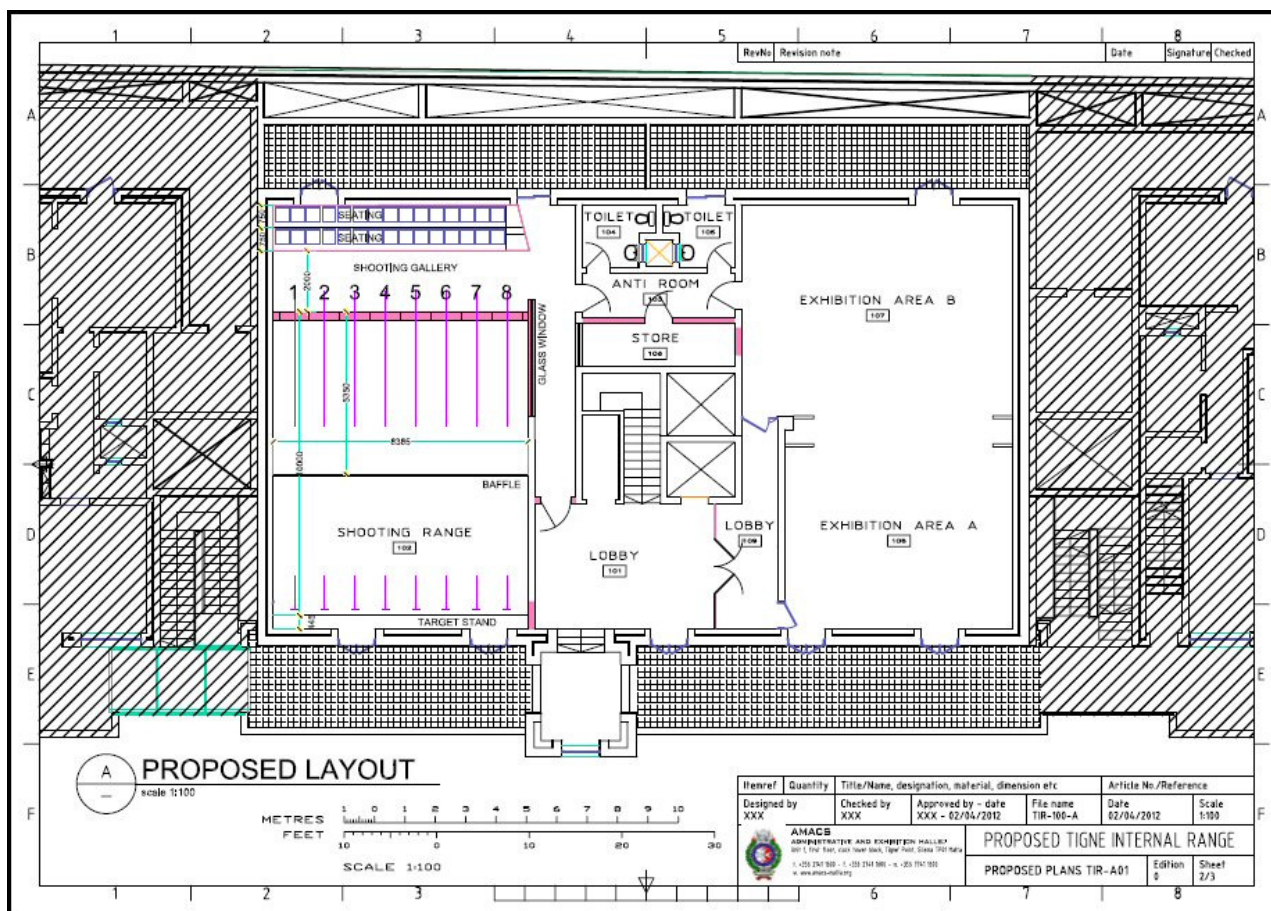
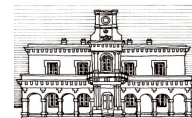


A police license is no longer needed to own airsoft firearms since these are now classified under Schedule III and only subject to registration. However persons who wish to participate are still obliged to be a member of an airsoft/paintball club. AMACS/MTAC will continue to provide courses for airsoft to ensure proper knowledge of the law and safety. Regular activities are held by our Airsoft Club in the White Rocks Complex in Bahar ic-Caghaq. Join our Malta Tactical Airsoft Club (MTAC) to be able to participate in the fun and adventure.



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The plans for the development of our Clock Tower Block halls

COMMERCIAL ADVERTS AT THE CLUB HOUSE

We offer advertising on two televisions located in the members' area of the Club House. The advert may be in the format of a self running power point presentation, a video or a combination of both and may be up to five minutes long. It will be shown at least twice during each Club evening for a period of four weeks against a fee of € 50.00 for members and € 100.00 for non-members. Interested parties are to contact the CEO at the earliest opportunity. Dealers are encouraged to leave catalogues for the attention of the members.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTS BY SMS

We have the facility of sending an SMS to all our members. AMACS members who wish to send an advert to our members may do so for a fee of € 90.00. Fee for non-AMACS members is € 150.00. Your message will reach over 800 members. Send an email to info@amacs-malta.org for more information.

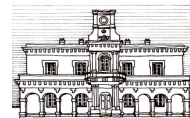
COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising Rates - Members pay € 25.00 for 1/3 of a page, € 30.00 for 1/2 of a page, € 45.00 for a full page. Non-members fee is double the member's rate. Adverts are accepted subject to space availability. Interested parties should e-mail artwork to us at info@amacs-malta.org. Reach our members by advertising your products and services... and support your Newsletter!



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BRINGING YOU THE BEST IN HISTORICAL COLLECTOR FIREARMS SINCE 1996!

EVERY PIECE THAT WE SELL IS GUARANTEED TO BE A PIECE OF HISTORY THAT WE SELECT PERSONALLY FOR ITS GENUINE CONDITION AND COLLECTOR VALUE. NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY IT HAPPENS TO BE OR WHAT HURDLES WE HAVE TO FACE, IN THE END WE WILL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE THE BEST QUALITY ITEMS



LOCK, STOCK & BARREL

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Opening Hours By Appointment Only

Mon to Fri: 16:30 – 19:00 hrs
Sat: 09:30 – 12:30