

ASSOCIATION OF MALTESE ARMS COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS

Founded 12th June 1985

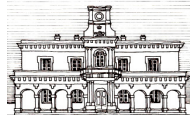
Administrative Offices & Exhibition Halls:
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Affiliations: Federation of European Societies of Arms Collectors (FESAC); International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC); International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union (IMSSU); Association Européenne 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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CHRISTMAS EDITION



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,



AMACS is an ongoing project that now involves over eight hundred members. It remains the driving force for positive change in all aspects of firearms collection and sports shooting. AMACS has been responsible for proposing, drafting and improving arms legislation. Moreover we have set higher standards in the way our members approach their sports and hobby.

2013 has been an extraordinary year. In February we saw the introduction of improvements to legislation in the form of Legal Notices 75 and 76. These were the result of several months of hard work and lobbying in the Weapons Board.

However over the past months we have witnessed the introduction of several Police measures aimed at limiting and, in some cases, reversing the gains that were attained in February. The newly-constituted Weapons Board is doing its part in defending the provisions of Legal Notice 75.

AMACS will continue to defend the gains that were made for the good of the entire shooting and collecting community while always showing a disposition for considering the authorities' proposals for improvements. After all we have always embraced change and used it as an occasion to renew ourselves. Thankfully our administration harbours a positive mindset.

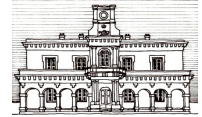
AMACS firmly believes that the community's interests are best served if all shooting and collecting organisations coordinate their effort and, in a spirit of solidarity, present the authorities with common proposals. I am sure that this is what the authorities expect of us. A perfect occasion presented itself to us when the Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Hon. Stefan Buontempo, invited all organisations to present their proposals for a national range project. AMACS wrote to AACTS and MSSF proposing that a meeting between the three would be held prior to meeting the Parliamentary Secretary. Unfortunately this proposal was turned down.

However the organisations' discussion with Dr. Buontempo was kept on track and there is a positive feeling that the common aim for the establishment of a range complex will bind us



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together and make it simpler for the authorities to help us get there. AMACS has already contributed its know-how to the project and will continue to do so to ensure that our dream is realised. This is now the prime objective for 2014.

Moreover, during this meeting with Dr. Buontempo, all the organisations spoke in defence of the Legal Notices that were published last February. This common position was certainly not lost on the Parliamentary Secretary and we are sure that he is playing a part in defending our position.

Another objective that we want to reach in 2014 is the Tigne' 10m range and exhibition hall project. Much effort has been put into this project by the Secretary and Treasurer in order to acquire MEPA permits as well as substantial funding towards the project's realisation. Positive results are expected in early 2014.

Participation in sports shooting events organised by IPSC Regional Director Clive Brockdorff as well as the pin shooting events organised by Christopher Vella continues at a steady pace. A calendar of sporting and cultural events is being prepared for 2014.

I take the opportunity to wish you and you loved ones a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stephen A. Petroni

AMACS CHRISTMAS DINNER



We shall be holding our annual Christmas dinner on Saturday, 14 December starting at 7:30pm at the Haywharf Restaurant in Floriana.

Those who wish to attend should book immediately to avoid disappointment. The booking form attached to this newsletter should be filled in and preferably handed over to us with payment by not later than Wednesday 11 December.

AMACS OFFICE HOURS

Our normal opening hours are as follows:

Office: Mondays 2pm to 7pm

Office: Wednesdays 2pm to 7pm

Office: Fridays 2pm to 7pm

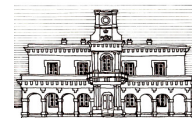
Club Hours: 7pm onwards

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We will not be open on 13th and 25th December and 1st January.

OBITUARY

AMACS has lost a member and great friend. It is with great sadness that we announce that member Frankie Attard of Nadur, Gozo has passed away. May he rest in peace.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - 2014

Membership renewals for 2014 are being processed as from this month. The form that is included with this newsletter is to be filled in and returned to us by post along with the corresponding payment. Your 2014 card and insurance will be delivered to you by post. Alternatively you may wish to visit us at our Tigne' offices during our opening hours.

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.

COMMITTEE POST ELECTION - FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2013

Mr. Stephen Barbara has resigned from the Committee due to personal commitments. In terms of Section 21 of the AMACS Statute an EGM is being called at our Tigne' Premises at 8pm on Friday, 20 December in order to elect a member to the vacant post. Members interested in contesting this election should fill in the nomination form that is attached to this newsletter and hand it in to the CEO by not later than Wednesday 18 December. To be eligible for candidature one must have been a member of AMACS for at least three consecutive years (probation period excluded).

TALKS DURING CLUB HOURS

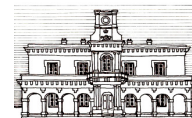
Members are invited deliver talks on well-researched topics during Wednesday and Friday evening Club Hours at our premises. If you have a particular knowledge on subjects related to Arms and Militaria Collecting or Sports Shooting please contact our office to discuss the details in order to schedule a date. AMACS will provide the required facilities.

FESAC NEWS



Kick Koster

I start this report with the sad news that FESAC founder and former Chairman Kick Koster passed away on 6 December at the age of 69 years. Kick also served as honorary member, co-founder and former chairman of NVBIW Edouard de Beaumont. He was a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau. AMACS was accepted as a FESAC affiliate during Kick's tenure as Chairman in 2006. It was he who later expressed his wish that I should lead FESAC and proposed me for the post of Chairman. He was my mentor and guide in my initial years at the helm and continued to offer his support and advice till the end. Farewell my friend - you will be missed.



NEWS FROM BRUSSELS - DG HOME WANTS TO REOPEN THE ARMS DIRECTIVE

The Commission's Home Affairs Directorate General has launched a strong bid to amend the existing Firearms Directive and make far-reaching changes. They have gone as far as quoting unfounded figures (such as the notorious half a million firearms that have been-diverted from legal ownership to the black market - what they are not saying is that the majority were from Government-controlled stocks!) as a pretext. They have also ignored the overwhelming majority (80% +) that responded negatively to a questionnaire that they themselves commissioned.

FESAC coordinates its EU policies and actions through the European Sports Shooting Forum (ESSF) that brings together sports shooters, collectors, hunters, industry and trade. The ESSF issued its Common Position paper last June and distributed it to EU and national officials. The forum partners that collectively represent over ten million responsible and law-abiding citizens strongly oppose the reopening of the Directive, stating that what is required is proper enforcement at Member State level.

On 21 October DG Home issued a communication entitled "Firearms and the internal security of the EU: protecting citizens and disrupting illegal trafficking". It will now be circulated among Member States for their approval. Malta has to state its opinion; we must lobby our leaders to take a similar position as the German Federal Council (Bundesrat) which adopted a resolution expressing doubts exist concerning the Commission's proposal in view of the conservation of the Principles of Subsidiarity (art. 5, para. 3 European Union Treaty) and Proportionality (art. 5, para. 4 European Union Treaty). It adds that "The maintenance of public security and order as well as the protection of internal security involves the Member States' office (art. 72 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and remain in their sole responsibility (art. 4, para. 2, phr. 3 European Union Treaty)."

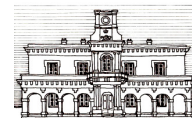
Enthusiasts often fall into the trap of ignoring what is happening in the world around them. As sports shooters and arms collectors we have no option but to be well-informed and well prepared. Do not delude yourselves that we live in isolated bliss. Your first line of defence is in the EU where FESAC keeps a constant watch.

FESAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014



The next FESAC Annual Conference shall be held in Helsinki, Finland in June 2014. Details will soon be posted on the FESAC website www.fesac-eu.

Stephen A. Petroni
Chairman FESAC & ESSF



CLUB NOTICES



BLHG has ended a very successful year full of public and private events with the production of a short promotional movie that was directed by member John Peel.

Mark Doneo and Bryan Muscat directed the photography. The movie will be screened at the club premises during the forthcoming club evenings.

The Group recently held its committee elections. The elected members that will take BLHG forward over the next year are Terry Arpa, Daniel Casingena, Jonathan Cuschieri, Christian De' Bono, Kurt Degabriele and John Peel.



MALTA ARMS & MILITARIA SOCIETY

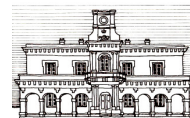


COURSES FOR COLLECTOR LICENCE



MAMS is organising courses for members who wish to apply for a Collector Licence A. 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). Past courses were well attended and very informative.

The next course is scheduled for Wednesday 8 January from 7.30pm onwards and the assessment will follow on Friday 10 January from 7.30pm onwards. The fee is € 15.00. Those interested in attending should send an email to on info@amacs-malta.org or call on 2141 1600 during office.



MALTA RIFLE & PISTOL SHOOTING CLUB



MRPSC Shooting Course



The next firearms safe handling course will be run in English and held on Saturday, 8 February 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.

Pin Shooting Competition

AMACS will be holding a Bulls Eye competition on Sunday, 8th December starting at 1pm at the Victoria Shooting Range in Handaq. This is open to all licensed shooters from all Clubs. Entry fee is € 15.00. Trophies will be presented to the top three scorers. This is open to all licensed shooters from all Clubs.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pinshootingmalta/>

IPSC Competition



An IPSC Competition will be held in Saturday, 14th December at Victoria Shooting Range in Handaq starting at 8:30am. Bookings can be done at the AMACS office. This is open to all licensed shooters from all Clubs.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IPSCMalta/>

A message from the IPSC Malta Regional Director

IPSC in Malta in 2013

Now that 2013 is drawing to a close, I thought that it would be a good idea to look back on what we achieved in this discipline over the past year.

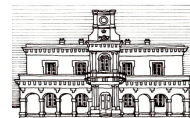
I am happy to say that IPSC is probably one of the fastest-growing disciplines in Malta and that the feedback from those who join us (from all clubs) is always very positive.

From the records we keep, we can see that the number of regular shooters has grown, as have the skill levels of the participants. We held a series of well-attended events, both in



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Malta and Gozo (including Malta's first-ever rifle competition) and managed to meet at the range practically every weekend – rain or shine. While sometimes it was tough to be on the range with the rain pouring down or with the sun roasting away, it was still worth it for the adrenalin rush that comes as soon as the beeper goes off.

We have also invested substantial sums in various pieces of range equipment such as props and targets in order to run our events more professionally.

A few rough figures help give a clearer idea of what we have done:

- Number of stages run: Over 250
- Number of rounds fired: over 36,000 (!)
- Number of jokes told/laughs had: Countless!

We shall be wrapping up this year's programme with a competition on the 14th December. As for next year, we hope to keep working on promoting this great discipline as well as looking beyond our shores for new adventures with our IPSC colleagues from other parts of the world.

Clive Brockdorff

IPSC Regional Director, Malta

Day trip to Sicily on Sunday, 26th January 2014.



We are planning a trip to the Pedalino Sniper Range in Sicily on Sunday, 26 January 2014. The ferry leaves Malta at 06:30 hrs and arrives back at 21:15 hrs. The fee for this trip shall be € 150.00 per person covering the cost of the ferry, transport in Sicily, use of range, lunch and police port fees.

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

MALTA CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING CLUB

A course for members that wish to obtain a Target Shooter license B Clay Pigeon will be held on Saturday, 14 December from 9am to 11:30am. Please contact the office to book.

Fee: € 15.00





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MALTA AIRGUN SHOOTING CLUB

A Basic Airgun Induction Course for members that wish to obtain a Target Shooter licence B (airguns) shall be held on Saturday, 14 December at 11:30am. Bookings can be done by contacting our office. Fee: € 15.00

MALTA TACTICAL AIRSOFT CLUB



One no longer requires a TSL-B (or a CL-A) to own airsoft firearms provided these are registered and kept at home. **However in order to participate in airsoft activities the owner must be a member of an Airsoft 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.

MALTA CROSSBOW SHOOTING CLUB



Members who wish to obtain a Crossbow target shooter licence A should contact our office so that we will book you for the next course.

MALTA MUZZLE LOADING SHOOTING CLUB



We are planning a shoot with black powder firearms. Members that have a Target Shooter license "B" Muzzle Loader and wish to participate should contact our office to register your interest.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified ads will be accepted for future newsletters. Ads will be accepted for inclusion under the following two captions: "ITEMS FOR SALE" and "ITEMS WANTED". The fee is € 5.00 per ad and may contain up to 50 words. Classified ads should be sent to the CEO by email on info@amacs-malta.org

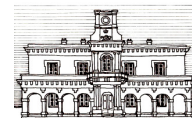
COMMERCIAL ADVERTS AT THE CLUB HOUSE

We shall start to run paid adverts on the 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.



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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!

AMACS - Unit 1, First Floor, Clock Tower Block, Tigne' Point, Sliema, TP 01

EGM for Election of one Committee post 20th December 2013.

NOMINATION FORM

Form is to reach the C.E.O. by Wednesday, 18th December 2013

We the undersigned submit this nomination for the post of Committee member for the year 2013-14

Nominee: _____ Memb No. _____ Signature: _____

Proposer: _____ Memb No. _____ Signature: _____

Seconder: _____ Memb No. _____ Signature: _____

Received by the CEO on: _____

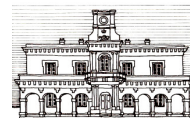
Signature: _____





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Unit 1, First Floor, Clock Tower Block, Sliema, TP 01

AMACS CHRISTMAS DINNER BOOKING FORM



Haywharf Restaurant, Floriana - 14th December 2013, 19:30 hrs

Member: _____ Membership No. _____

_____ adults attending including member submitting this form, at € 25.00 each: € _____

_____ children (up to 11 years old) attending, at € 12.00 each: € _____

Payment included (cash/ cheque no. _____): € _____

Choice of Menu - write the quantity for each menu item

STARTERS

1. **Fresh Soup of the Day** _____
2. **Mushrooms & Walnut Risotto** *Risotto Carnaroli with porcini mushroom, walnuts, truffles cream and parmesan cheeses* _____
3. **Penne al Salmone** *Fresh Norwegian salmon flamed with vodka, garlic, cream and a touch of tomato sauce* _____

MAIN COURSE

1. **Char-grilled Sw ordfish** *Served with sweet bell peppers and caper sauce* _____
2. **BBQ Spare Ribs** *Full rack of pork loin ribs, glazed with homemade BBQ sauce and accompanied with coleslaw & potato wedges* _____
3. **Char-grilled Chicken Breast** *Topped with Gorgonzola dolce, pancetta and finished with a creamy mushroom sauce* _____

DESSERTS

1. Selection of cakes or ice cream
2. Coffee

 **MERRY CHRISTMAS** 