

ASSOCIATION OF MALTESE ARMS COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS

Founded 12th June 1985
VO 0728

Administrative Offices & Exhibition Halls:
AMACS, Unit 1, Level 2, Clock Tower Block
Tigne Point, Sliema TP01, Malta

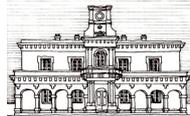


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Website: www.amacs-malta.org

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)

NEWSLETTER

No. 240



10th August 2014

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Eight years on; the Arms Act 2005 and the Arms Licensing Regulations 2006

The Act and Regulations came into force eight years ago on 15 August 2006. Those who lobbied for new legislation over the preceding years and those who supported them to hilt are conscious of the obstacles that had to be overcome. They are proud of our landmark achievement and equally committed to responsible behaviour that guarantees continuity.

It is therefore not surprising that AMACS takes considerable care in vetting its new members and in preparing them to shoulder their responsibilities once they acquire their Police licences to keep, shoot or collect firearms. The Association has been consistent in its efforts and has never succumbed to the temptation of becoming a mere rubber-stamp for persons who want to get a Police licence as fast and cheaply as possible. AMACS has been rewarded by steady growth.

It is indeed heartening to hear new applicants, including persons who are members of other clubs, tell us that the reason that they chose AMACS is because they want to take things seriously. These new members truly deserve to be entrusted with a licence under the Arms Act.

With the passage of years the system has grown lax because of an increase in clubs vying to increase their membership, revenue and influence. Bar a couple, most clubs are processing memberships and dishing out letters of recommendations with frightful abandon. Moreover, gun shops are now vying among themselves to establish their own gun clubs empowering them to issue recommendations to their clients. The all-important separation between the drive to sell and proper, independent vetting is breaking down to the detriment of serious licensees.

The Weapons Board and the Police cannot be unaware of these developments since they come face to face with this reality. Are they contemplating any measures? We strongly recommend the introduction of a mandatory minimum probation across all clubs and a common syllabus for club courses leading up to recommendations for target shooting or collecting licences.

The level of the Weapons Board interview should be cranked up too. Just as it is ludicrous that clubs are running "30 minute" courses, it is equally unwise that applicants are in and out of Weapons Board interviews in under five minutes.

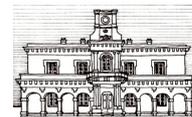
A laissez-fair attitude has no place in our sports and hobby.

Stephen A. Petroni
President AMACS



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Communicating with our members

The Committee carried out an assessment of the media used to communicate with our members. At present members are sent circulars when there are sufficient new items and notices while mobile text messages are sent to advise members of upcoming events.

It was decided to introduce a gradual revamp of our communications:

- a) Our website will be updated regularly in tandem with our Facebook page AMACS.
- b) Upcoming events or urgent notifications will be sent by mobile phone text messages and will include a link to the relevant update on our website. This will allow us greater flexibility in delivering news to our members.
- c) Reports on past AMACS events will be carried in a new bi-annual Journal that will also include articles and features written by our members. An editorial board will be set up and volunteers are invited to contact Franco.

As you may appreciate, it is crucial that we have your correct mobile phone number and email address in our records. If any of your contact details have changed recently please inform us urgently so that we will update your account. This information should be sent by email on info@amacs-malta.org or by calling our office on 2141 1600 during opening hours.

Members are encouraged to visit our website and Facebook page that are regularly updated

Website: <https://www.amacs-malta.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/associationofmaltesearmscollectorsandshooters>

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

Club Hours: 7pm onwards

We shall NOT be open on Friday 15th August as it is a public holiday. However AMACS members will be in attendance at our **World War 1 exhibition that is being held in the lower hall at the Mediterranean Conference Centre as part of the Bieganski Art Festival.**

Friday 15th August

Saturday 16th August

Sunday 17th August

6pm to 9pm

9am to 9pm

9am to 7pm

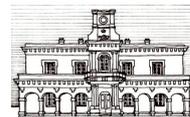
A talk on a rare WWI firearm will be presented Stephen Petroni in the Temi Zammit Hall at 8pm on Saturday 16th August.

Our office will also be closed on Monday 8th September, it being a public holiday.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting was held on Saturday, 21st June. During the meeting the Association's President; Mr Stephen Petroni thanked those present for attending and informed the meeting of plans that AMACS has in the coming year.

The minutes of the previous were approved. The Vice President Vincent Borg read the Administrative report. The Treasurer's report was read by the CEO, Franco Piccinino. All reports were approved by those present. The Association would like to thank members Joseph Schembri No. 1000 and John Scerri No. 1417 for auditing its accounts.

17th MAY: FIRST AMACS VINTAGE MILITARY FIREARMS SHOOT



AMACS held this first event of its kind at the Gun Blast Shooting Range in Nadur, Gozo on Saturday 17th May. Participation was open to original and unmodified military handguns and rifles designed before 1964 (50 years ago). Response was very encouraging and a considerable number of members took part. A second event will take place before the end of the year.

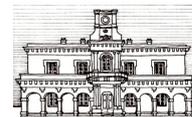
Thanks to the February amendments to the regulations, persons who are in possession of both a TSL-A and a CL-A may take to the range and shoot any Schedule II firearms that are listed on any of their two licences. With this event AMACS established another first for Malta after it successfully lobbied for further improvements in legislation.





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TARGET SHOOTING LICENSES

We would like to underscore the legal point that Target Shooter Licences are only issued to persons who regularly participate in shooting events at licensed ranges.

Renewal is NOT an automatic right and the police intend to refuse renewals if the licensee does not use the range in the preceding year.

To avoid finding yourself in such a situation please ensure that you sign the range book when shooting and that you keep proper records.

PRESENTATIONS DURING CLUB HOURS

A series of talks have recently been presented by members.

The first two presentations were delivered by Dr Jean Karl Soler; in the first one he delved into the proper cleaning of firearms while his second presentation treated the interesting topic of different systems of automatic loading firearms.

Stephen Petroni held a talk on the Second Expo-Campeonato Nacional de Pistola Historico Militar that was held in Valencia, Spain on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th July. Attendees enjoyed the slide show of photos taken at the event, particularly pictures of rare collectible firearms that were on display (see report in following section).

Members willing to present talks on topics related to our sport and hobby may book Wednesday or Friday evenings after discussing details with the CEO.

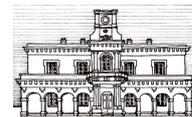
The next talk will be presented by our Shooting Director, Mr Vincent Borg on Friday 12th September at 8pm. Topic will be "Principles and Practical Fundamentals of Shooting".

AMACS Annual Summer BBQ



The AMACS annual summer BBQ was held on Friday, 11th July at the AMACS premises in Tigne' Point. The event was fully booked a week before. Members and guests had a fine time in very pleasant surroundings.

The AMACS BBQ set will be available for use by AMACS members and their guests every Friday during Club Hours. Members are invited to bring their own food. Burgers and hotdogs are available to purchase while drinks are available from the bar.



7TH JUNE : FESAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, HELSINKI, FINLAND

FESAC delegates from fifteen member countries visited the Finnish Parliament and met Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen.



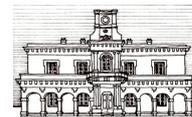
The party of Board Members and observers were led by Foundation Chairman Stephen A. Petroni and conference hosts Jari Mäkinen (President Suomen Asehistoriallinen Seura r.y.) and Jukka Sassi (President Asehistorian Liitto r.y).

A discussion took place on various aspects of EU firearms legislation and its implementation by EU Member States as well as prevailing laws in Finland.

FESAC has been instrumental in protecting the European firearms collector's role in the conservation and research of historical artefacts through its ongoing collaboration with the EU institutions. Moreover it has on various occasions communicated with national authorities to resolve issues affecting its members' activity.

Malta was represented by AMACS Vice-President Vincent Borg. The 2015 conference shall be held in Switzerland towards the end of May.





6TH JULY : SECONDO EXPO-CAMPEONATO NACIONAL DE PISTOLA HISTORICO MILITAR, RIBARROJA, SPAIN

The collection, study and preservation of firearms is enhanced by the experience of shooting them. This is the aim of the Exhibition and Shoot of Historical Military Pistols that is held annually in Spain.



Naturally collectors will keep specific firearms for this purpose if they intended to shoot them regularly – it would not be advisable to subject fine and rare pieces to regular use.

The second edition of this popular event took place in the shooting range at Ribarroja, a few kilometres away from Valencia. Spanish enthusiasts turned out in good numbers and four international guests were also present.

Presentations by well-known authors such as Mauro Baudino and Leonardo Antaris complimented the display of fine and rare military pistols.

Stephen Petroni attended the event and was honoured with a presentation plaque in recognition of his contribution of his efforts in defence of collectors and shooters in Europe.

This event is open to AMACS members. We plan that our own historic shoots will lead to Maltese participants being in a position to represent us at the next edition.



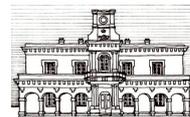
The competition featured an array of WWI and WWII pistols with Luger pistols and Spanish Astra pistols being among the most popular.

In this photograph we see Antonio Fernandez, a General de Brigada of the Guardia Civil, competing with his WWII Luger P08 9x19 pistol.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

15TH TO 17TH AUGUST: AMACS & BATTLEFRONT WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION AT THE MCC, VALLETTA



AMACS will be commemorating the start of World War One with an exhibition to be held from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th August.

We have been invited by the Bieganski Foundation to set up this display as part of its month-long WWI art exhibition at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

Our display will be set up in the beautiful basement hall in collaboration with BATTLEFRONT Living History Group.

The exhibition will include a rich selection of WWI firearms including some very rare pieces of historical interest,

Friday 15th August

6pm to 9pm

Saturday 16th August

9am to 9pm

Sunday 17th August

9am to 7pm

A talk on a rare WWI firearm will be presented Stephen Petroni in the Temi Zammit Hall at the Mediterranean Conference Centre at 8pm on Saturday 16th August.

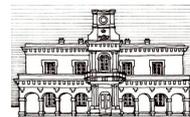
FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER : "PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL FUNDAMENTALS OF SHOOTING"

Another in a series of club presentations will be delivered by our Shooting Director, Mr Vincent Borg on Friday 12th September at 8pm. Topic will be "Principles and Practical Fundamentals of Shooting".



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**SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER : DYNAMIC SHOOTING COMPETITION
LENTINI, SICILY**

Accademia di Tiro Catania & AMACS



Dynamic Shooting Competition

Lentini, Sicily

Saturday 27th September, 2014

Registration €15.00, Minimum round count 150. Barbecue available at the range for an extra cost. Sleeping under canvas on the range for an extra fee, stay in a B&B can be organised

On Sunday 28th we will be able to use the 100 metre bay for rifle shooting as well as dynamic rifle drills (Cost: €15.00)

Divisions: Open – Standard – Production – Classic – Revolver

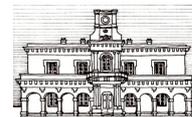
Maltese shooters must register by the 31st August 2014, specifying name, surname, division, minor/major power factor and I.D./Passport numbers

Contacts:

accademiaditirocatania@gmail.com (Italia)

cbrock@maltanet.net (Malta)

Mobile: 0039 3476226686 (Italia), 00356 99467873 (Malta)



CLUB NOTICES



Historical re-enactment plays an obvious part in Malta's cultural calendar thanks to the islands' rich history as strategic location. Over the past five years, Battlefront Living History Group's re-enactors have participated in

numerous events in Malta and Gozo. BLHG has been invited to perform in both public and private events. This exposure has led to more recruits for the German and British squads.

BLHG was established with core objectives in mind. Notable among these is our mission to bring history to the general public's doorstep in the most authentic way possible. Members voluntarily immerse themselves in the conditions of the units and wartime action that they portray.



Malta's role in WWII was mainly confined to defence from aerial attack and eventually as a base for naval and aerial action into enemy territory. However plans for an invasion were at an advanced stage in 1942 while THE Allied and Axis powers faced each other in North Africa. In 1943 Allied troops based in Malta were deployed in the attacks on the Sicily.

This historical background gives our group ample scope to re-enact the events that could have happened in Malta and those that actually took place in the Mediterranean theatre. Our members have been appropriately equipped and trained with utmost attention to detail to be in a position to take part in events whenever called to.

Consequently as from this year BLHG has accepted invitations from established European groups and attended a number of overseas events in Sicily and the Italian mainland. Our members immersed themselves in the portrayals with confidence and pride.

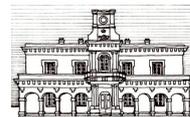
One such event will live on in our members' memories; the German Brigade Ramcke and DAK teams took part in the *Associazione Culturale Feldgrau* re-enactment of an Africa campaign scenario that was organised in Aprilia, Italy.





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The set up featured a large trench system with defensive positions that was constructed by the Association members. It provided the background for the authentic portrayal of the Afrika soldier's daily life. The portrayal was a challenge since it was conducted in the scorching sun.

Feldgrau is the oldest WW2 German re-enactment group in Italy. It participates in key events and productions in continental Europe, mainly in Italy, Slovakia and Germany.

BLHG established another close working relationship with the Associazione Culturale "Lamba Doria" from Siracuse, Sicily. Our members attended the inauguration of a WWII with a mix of German and Italian units operating in the area as well as a commemoration of the Battle of Troina. The latter was a multi-day event organised by the town council at Troina. Participants were housed in a military barracks close by.



Our participation in overseas events is a new experience that unleashes opportunities for building up close ties with re-enactment groups from Europe and the USA. These yearly events offer our members a challenge to constantly improve their impressions and widen their experience.

impression. If you are an enthusiast of WW2 military history, weapons or uniforms you will find the good company of persons with a common interest. You will find our support in assisting you to build your impression.

BLHG welcomes prospective recruits, both men and women, who are up for the challenge of being authentic in their

Feel free to visit our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/battlefrontmalta) or get in touch with us via battlefrontmalta@gmail.com.

Christian De' Bono

MALTA ARMS & MILITARIA SOCIETY



COURSES FOR COLLECTOR LICENCE "A"

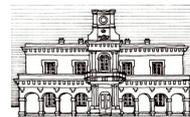
MAMS organises courses for members who wish to apply for a Collector Licence A. The courses are run by Stephen Petroni who besides being the Association President is also Chairman of the Foundation for European Societies of Arms Collectors (FESAC). Past courses were well attended and very informative. Anyone interested in attending the next course should send an email to on info@amacs-malta.org or call on 2141 1600 during office. The fee is € 15.00.





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MALTA RIFLE & PISTOL SHOOTING CLUB

Fellow shooters,

Cooler temperatures will soon be upon us to herald the beginning of comfortable shooting times: Also refreshing to consider is that the Victoria Shooting Range will soon provide 25-meter facilities. Finally, at long last, we can begin to practice precision shooting at the standard distance. I am sure that many have been waiting eagerly for this new development, just as I have been. It will therefore be useful to take stock of what approaches and how it will help us improve our standards. To this end, AMACS will be hosting a short seminar that deals with the various aspects of Handgun Shooting, This will be held at the AMACS Club House at 8pm on Friday 12th September.

Topics covered will include principles and practical fundamentals of shooting; the rules of the various disciplines; scoring and targets, the essential tools (guns and ammunition) and last but not least physical and mental preparation. This seminar will open to all shooters, both members and non-members. We encourage you to bring guests who have an interest in sports shooting.

Vincent Borg

AMACS Vice President & Shooting Director

MRPSC Shooting Course



The next firearms safe handling course will be run in English and held on Saturday, 23 August from 9am to 4pm. This is for members who wish to obtain a Target Shooter license "A" (revolver/pistol/rifle) and Target Shooter license B (tactical shotgun). **This and future courses will include a visit to the range on a separate day and shooting under supervision to ensure that our members acquire a full experience of safe shooting procedures.**

The new rate is € 50.00 which includes the course fee, range use, RCO, gun rental, ammunition and insurance. 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

AMACS conducts regular Pin Shooting events every weekend at the Victoria Shooting Range. These are open to all licensed shooters from all Clubs. For information and schedule visit:

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



IPSC Shooting



IPSC shooting is also held every weekend at Victoria Shooting Range in Handaq. This is open to all licensed shooters from all Clubs. For information and schedule visit:

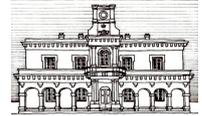
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IPSCMalta/>

Besides our regular IPSC and Pin Shooting held every weekend, AMACS also opens the Victoria Shooting Range on Tuesday from 4pm to 7pm and Thursday 4:30pm to 7:30pm. All are welcome.



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MALTA CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING CLUB

A course for members that wish to obtain a Target Shooter licence B Clay Pigeon is being planned. Bookings can be done by contacting our office. Fee: € 15.00

MALTA AIRGUN SHOOTING CLUB



A Basic Airgun Induction Course for members that wish to obtain a Target Shooter licence B (airguns) shall be held next month. Please contact the office to book. Fee: € 15.00

MALTA TACTICAL AIRSOFT CLUB



Our Airsoft Club continues to grow and is increasing in popularity. Regular activities are held at the White Rocks Complex in Bahar ic-Caghaq. New members are welcome.

MALTA CROSSBOW SHOOTING CLUB



Members who wish to obtain a Crossbow target shooter licence 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 licence "B" Muzzle Loader and wish to participate should contact our office to register your interest.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTS AT THE CLUB HOUSE

AMACS offers the use of two screens located in the Club House for advertising in the form of a power point presentation, a video or a combination of both that 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.

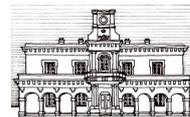
COMMERCIAL ADVERTS BY SMS

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 € 50.00. Fee for non-AMACS members is € 100.00. Your message will reach over 850 members. Send an email to info@amacs-malta.org for more information.



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE Nagant Revolver produced in Sweden very high quality late 1890's. Virtually brand new, never fired. €850.00. Original MP40 (Steyr, bnz42) in top condition, €3,300.00. Contact Glenn on 79425291 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!

LOCK, STOCK & BARREL GUN SHOP HAS MOVED BACK TO STA. VENERA



Enjoy our new outlet's comfortable atmosphere to appreciate our variety of modern sporting firearms and accessories and the unique offering of fine collectible arms. We will guide you through the best options to meet your budget while also offering sound advice to enjoy your investment.

LSB offers top firearm brands such as SIG Sauer and Carl Walther and guarantees prices that are equivalent to the selling prices in Germany – you will not pay a cent more!

**SPECIAL OFFER VALID UNTIL SATURDAY 16th AUGUST OR UNTIL STOCKS LAST:
BRAND NEW CUGIR AK RIFLE 7.62x39 WITH CHROMED BARREL FOR € 399!**



LOCK, STOCK & BARREL

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Facebook: Lock, Stock & Barrel – Armoury

Opening hours:

Mon to Fri : 10:00 to 12:30 & 15:30 to 19:00; Sat: 09:30 to 12:30

