



1908  
2008

*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
A CENTURY OF ORGANISED  
SHOOTING SPORT IN MALTA



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION



MINISTRY  
OF FINANCE



MALTESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



MALTA SPORTS COUNCIL



## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS PROGRAMME

31st JANUARY 2008 ARRIVAL OF DELEGATIONS



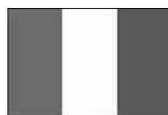
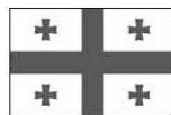
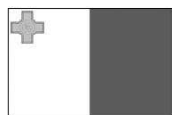
1st FEBRUARY 2008 18.30 hrs THANKSGIVING MASS at ATTARD PARISH  
CHURCH 19.45 hrs RECEPTION at ATTARD PARISH HALL

2nd FEBRUARY 2008 20.00 hrs 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER at Suncrest Hotel .

### SHOOTING PROGRAMME

	Bidnija		B'Bugia	Qormi
	Range A	Range B		
Fri. 01-Feb	Skeet - training	Double Trap - training	Trap - training	Trap - training
Sat. 02-Feb	Skeet - training	Double Trap - Off. training	Trap - training	Trap - training
Sun. 03-Feb	Skeet - training	Double Trap - Comp & Final	Trap - training	Trap - training
Mon. 04-Feb	Skeet - Off. training	Trap - training	Trap - training	Trap - training
Tues. 05-Feb	Skeet - Comp 75 targets	Trap - training	Trap - training	Trap - training
Wed. 06-Feb	Skeet - Comp 50 targets & Final	Trap - training	Trap - training	Trap - training
Thur. 07-Feb	Trap - Off. training	Trap - Off. training	Trap - Off. Training	Trap - Off. Training
Fri. 08-Feb			Trap - Comp 25 targets	Trap - Comp 25 targets
Sat. 09-Feb	Trap - Comp 25 targets	Trap - Comp 25 targets		
Sun. 10-Feb	Trap - Comp 25 targets & Final	Trap - Comp 25 targets		

11th FEBRUARY 2008 DEPARTURE OF DELEGATIONS



# Message from the President & Secretary General of the MSSF

It is with great pleasure that we have to express our thoughts on the achievement of this mile stone by the Malta Shooting Sport Federation. Very few other local associations have preceded our federation in celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of organized sport.

It all started in 1908 as the Malta Shooting Club, when the pioneers of our beloved sport organized shooting competitions on their premises in Attard. From the records it transpires that shooting slowly evolved from live birds to clay targets and eventually to the various Olympic disciplines and other shooting activities that we practice to day. It is not our intention to discuss the origins of our Federation, as this can be revealed in the various other articles in this publication, however we feel that it is our duty to thank all those members and others who contributed to the well being of the Malta Sport Shooting Federation during its 100 years of existence.

It is evident that primary tribute should go to the pioneers of the MSSF who in 1908 founded the Malta Shooting Club under the direction of Col. Louis Francia MVO. KOMM. as its first President. Our gratitude should also be addressed towards the other Committee members who followed throughout this century under the leadership of respective Presidents that helmed our Federation namely, G. Cassar Torregiani, Profs. JV Zammit Maemle MD MRCP., Mr. Tony Caruana, Mr. Tonio Paris, and Mr. Saviour Portelli.

Our appreciation also goes to a number of members that though the years supported the Federation by their sponsorships, grants and loans so that various capital projects could be realized. Our thoughts go also to those members of the federation who passed away during these 100 years.

It is also our duty to thank the various clubs and associations affiliated to our Federation and finally all our members, who are the grass roots of our sport, for their constant support throughout the years. Through practicing their favorite sport these people contributed immensely towards our standing to-day.

Our appreciation should also be directed towards our athletes who through the years represented our country in international events, Games, and other tournaments, for their efforts, sportsmanship and fair play, especially those who managed to sound our national anthem. To day our sport managed to provide our country with the best results ever achieved in Olympic Games, medals and records in the Games of the Small States of Europe, Commonwealth Games and Championships, Mediterranean Games and World Cups and European Championships. These achievements brought other honors to our athletes such as platinum, gold, silver and bronze awards at the MOC Awards and the National Sportsmen and Sportswomen Awards held annually by Sports Writers Association. It's a feather in one's cap to mention that since 1994 these awards have been won by our top athletes, once as a team and nine times individual placings, six of which in the last five years.

All the above makes shooting sport the primary sport in Malta, and thus our country expects shooting to provide the first Olympic medal. This is a big responsibility that we, altogether as a Council, affiliated clubs, athletes and members have to carry with determination and commitment.

Another goal of the Federation is to have a new shooting complex for all disciplines where we can organize international events, and hold training camps for foreign international teams during winter time. Such requests, to date are rejected due to facility restrictions. We have done our part in this respect and we expect that the Maltese authorities reciprocate our efforts and provide their assistance. After all if we attract foreign participation in sport shooting we will be contributing towards enhancing Sport Tourism in Malta.

We thank and appreciate the support extended throughout the years from the International Olympic Committee, the International Shooting Sport Federation, the European Shooting Federation, the Commonwealth Shooting Federation, the Commonwealth Shooting Federation (E.D.), the M.L.A.I.C., the Italian Shooting Federation - F.I.T.A.V. and the Italian Olympic Committee.

Last but not least we would like to thank the various government authorities departments and bodies for the assistance extended throughout the years, the various politicians and ministers, the Maltese Olympic Committee, the Malta Sports Council, the Commissioner of Police, the Commander Armed Forces of Malta, the Controller of Customs and the Weapons Board.



Saviour Portelli  
President



Rennie Grech  
Secretary General

## Affiliations to the Malta Shooting Sports Federation

Southern Shooting Club  
Qormi Clay Shooting Club  
Victoria Shooters Club  
The Malta Rifle & Pistol Club  
The Malta Air Rifle / Air Pistol Club  
The Arms Collectors Association  
Association of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters



### Malta Shooting Sport Federation

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# Message from the President of the International Olympic Committee

Jacques Rogge



Jacques Rogge Beijing Games.

On behalf of the Olympic Movement, I am very pleased to convey my best wishes to the Malta Shooting Sport Federation on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Such an anniversary deserves the recognition of our Movement, in which Maltese sport plays an important role.

For many years, shooting has been one the most successful sports in Malta. Its athletes – men and women – have shone on the International stage during World and European Championships, the Commonwealth Games and the Small States of Europe. In these Games, Maltese shooters won 3 gold and 5 silver and 4 bronze medals.

I sincerely congratulate all your athletes, coaches and officials who made this success possible.

No doubt that Malta is now looking forward to the Beijing Games. We hope to see your athletes being part of the greatest festival of youth and sport in the world. I wish Maltese sport the best of luck in Beijing next August!

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Malta Shooting Sport Federation and in particular its President, Savior Portelli and all his colleagues from all the sports clubs, as well as their thousands of volunteers who give their time and energy to promoting sport and its values among the youth of Malta. As the Malta Shooting Shoot Federation enters its second century, I wish you all every success for the future!

Have an enjoyable 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration!

# 100 year-anniversary of Malta Shooting Sport Federation

The Malta Shooting Sport Federation is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year. They look back and count 100 years of growth and achievement which have to be celebrated. Their accomplishments are too numerous to count. The Malta Shooting Sport Federation has been a faithful member of ISSF since 1959.

Malta is a small country but over the years, the Malta Shooting Sport Federation has developed a team of well experienced shooters who have succeeded to win precious medals for their country.

We want to express our congratulations to the Malta Shooting Sport Federation for this 100-year-anniversary and look forward to a continuous fruitful cooperation between the Malta Shooting Sport Federation and the world wide shooting sport family under the umbrella of ISSF.



Olegario Vazquez Rana  
ISSF President



Horst G. Schreiber  
ISSF Secretary General



*Saviour Portelli MSSF President presenting a memento to Vladimir Lisin,  
President of the Russia Shooting Union on their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary*



*Saviour Portelli MSSF  
President presenting a  
memento to ISSF on the  
100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISSF*

# A message from the ESC President

Unni Nicolaysen



Unni Nicolaysen  
the influence

The history of a federation is a systematic account of the origin and the progress during a period of years. History books reports of shooting competitions in some European Countries as early as in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but the modern concept began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when several of the present days national federations were formed and development of shooting equipment started.

Although shooting has always been among the most popular sports and the participants the friendliest rivals in international competitions, it is logical but sad, to reflect, that many national federations were formed to promote skill at arms for their national armies.

The transformation from prevailing international aggression in some federations to international amateur sport must surely establish a tribute to the work and of today's ISSF, which started with the first modern Olympic games in 1896.

12 years later organised shooting was established in Malta and in these days the establishment is celebrated with an international Shotgun competition and an anniversary program.

I was pleased to be invited for the celebration and I am anxious to socialize with the shooters and old and new friends of the Federation!

HAPPY Anniversary!

# Message by Maltese Olympic Committee President

Mr Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco

It is indeed a great honour for a Federation to celebrate the fact that it has been one hundred years in existence. It is even greater when it can boast of so many achievements during these hundred years.

I would like to mention the great achievement in 1993 when Shooter Manwel Abela landed Malta with its first Bronze Medal in the Mediterranean Games. Whilst Manwel excelled in Trap, William Chetcuti won the Bronze Medal again for Malta in the Mediterranean Games in Almeria in 2005.

The Commonwealth Games were perhaps an even greater success – William Chetcuti won the Bronze Medal in 2002 in Manchester and again another Bronze Medal in Melbourne in the Double Trap. Rebecca Madyson achieved an enormous success by placing second in the Ladies' Trap.

Though William did not win a medal in the Athens Olympics in 2004 his 9<sup>th</sup> placing is definitely another landmark in the annals of the Shooting Federation.

In the Games of Small States of Europe the Maltese Shooters can boast of a huge medal haul of medals – three Gold medals, five Silver medals and four Bronze Medals. The winners were Manwel Abela, Philip Busuttil, Frans Pace, William Chetcuti, Paul Vella and Emmanuel Grima.

I was lucky enough to have been the Chef de Mission in charge of the Maltese contingent in Agde in 1993 and the President of the MOC when all the other Medals were won.

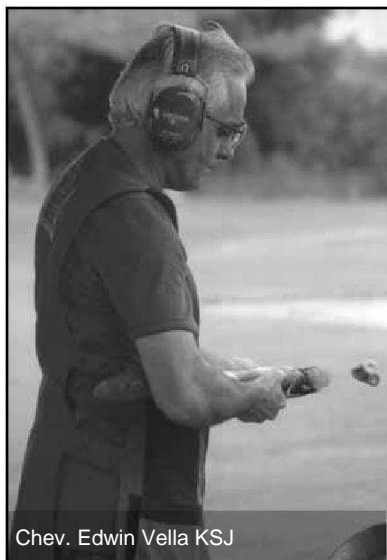
Other achievements were the Federation International Championships, which one can find listed in this Souvenir Programme. Indeed the Federation, its shooters and officials have won GOLD for their performance throughout the years. May I wish you even greater achievements.



Mr Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco

# Message from the author of this publication

The Malta Shooting Sport Federation Public Relations Officer  
Chev. Edwin Vella KSJ



Chev. Edwin Vella KSJ

When The Malta Shooting Sport Federation council were preparing for the century celebrations it was decided that the 100 years of Shooting sport history must be documented on a special publication to mark the century. (1908 – 2008).

I accepted to take up this challenge and make the necessary research with the collaboration of the shooters themselves and with the help of the ex MSF PRO Mr. John Rizzo.

Writing this publication became natural for me as I have lived surrounded by shooters during the glorious years of shooting sport in Malta.

When I look back and see what the shooting sport had achieved in Malta, I see a bright future for the sport especially with the introduction of our Junior shooters.



*The Lazio Shooting Team representing Italy at the  
MSSF 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

# MSSF Presidents

1908

Col. J. Louis Francia MVO. KOMM.

1955

G. Cassar Torregiani

1960

Profs Zammit Maempel JV MD MRCP

1973

Tony Caruana

1997

Tonio Paris

2000

Salvu Portelli



***Col. J. Louis Francia***



***G. Cassar Torregiani***



***Left to right: Ex. MSSF President Mr. Anthony Caruana, President Emeritus Profs. Guido de Marco, ISSF Secretary General Horst. G. Schreiber, MSSF President Saviour Portelli, Ex. MSSF President Tonio Paris, Ex. MSSF President Profs. Zammit Maempel JUMD HRCP***



## Organisation Profile

The Shooting Sport Federation is undoubtedly one of the first sports organisation in Malta with its origins dating back to 1908. Sport shooting, still in its infancy, had always fascinated to the Maltese and shooters from all over the country used to meet on organised shoots and shoot on a variety of targets. As days went by, clay pigeons were the only targets allowed for sport shooting so much so that up to some time ago the only firearm licensed by the authorities was the shotgun.

As days went by, the Council of the Malta Shooting Federation together with the assistance of a number of members felt it necessary to move their range from Attard to a more suitable location to allow for adequate practice of Olympic Trap. Financing the project was not an easy task, however the constant support of Mr. Paddy Stubbs together with the determination and financial assistance of the members, in 1977 the Malta Shooting Federation inaugurated a new Olympic Range in Bidnija, limits of Mosta, a location which nowadays is synonymous with the sport of shooting.

During these years, the Federation went through radical changes, obtaining numerous successes to the extent that it can safely be said that shooting is the most successful sport in the Maltese Islands. These achievements in the shooting disciplines immensely augmented the profile of the Malta Shooting Federation, and sport shooting evolved to the extent that today Malta has no less than 6 Olympic Trap ranges including 1 in Gozo.

By way of this rapid progress, Malta earned the respect of international shooting bodies and the Malta Shooting Sport Federation is today affiliated as a full active member to the UIT which later became to be known as the International Shooting Sport Federation. This earned the Maltese athletes the right to participate in shooting competitions overseas besides giving Malta the right to organise international shoots.

Maltese Shooters had the honour of participating in the Mediterranean Games of 1958 held at Beirut, and in 1960 in Rome for the Olympic Games. These Games served to spur the Council and its members to look into the possibility of organising international level games at the Bidnija Range. The first games to be organized successfully were the Games of the Small States of Europe, made up of the five states namely, Luxembourg, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino and Malta. This competition provided a model of the way such games should be organized and today although the number of states have been enlarged with the introduction of Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Iceland the model is still valid.

The GSSE games of 1993 were held in Malta, so the Government laid the layout for another Olympic Trap range and a skeet layout. On the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 3 months before the opening of the Games the work on the new ranges was complete.

Nowadays competition shoots in the Olympic disciplines of Trap, Skeet, Double Trap and 10 mtrs air weapons together with the popular compact sporting and down the line, occupy practically every weekend. The Bidnija ranges offer a number of amenities to its members, including modern computerized range management facilities, monitors outside and inside the clubhouse, restaurant, parking facilities and others. The latest addition to the complex was the 11 Lane Air Weapons Range which was inaugurated in October 1996. With the enactment of the new Arms Act 2005, to which the MSSF gave an active contribution, the Federation is looking into the possibility of expanding further to provide for other shooting disciplines.

The Malta Shooting Federation is the sole governing body for shooting sport in Malta . Affiliated members are the Qormi Clay Shooting Club in Handaq, the Southern Shooting Club in Hal Far l/o Birzebbugia, the Association of Arms Collectors and Target Shooting, the Victoria Shooting Club of Qormi, the Malta Arms Collectors Association, the Malta Air Rifle and Air Pistol Shooting Club and the Malta Pistol and Rifle Shooting Club. The first 3 clubs have a permanent member on the MSSF Council. The Federation also has very close relations with the Gozo Shooting Assosiation who has a modern range in Zebbug. The Federation itself is affiliated to the International Shooting Sport Federation, the European Shooting Confederation, the Commonwealth Shooting Federation, the Commonwealth Shooting Federation (European Division), the Muzzle Loading Association International Committee and the Maltese Olympic Committee.

# The History of the Malta Shooting Club

## Founded – 1908

Live pigeons and later on clay pigeon competitive shooting knows its origin in Malta since the late nineteenth century. High rank British personnel used to organize competitions to accommodate the shooters for a weekend of competition. The Malta Garrison Gun Club also held such events at the Fort Tigne glacis this was in 1884.

A group of Maltese shooters, who during the April-May game season were used to meet in such places as G'allis Rocks where they had their game reserves for quails and turtledove shooting. Way back in 1908 they leased a garden, originally built in the nineteenth century for senior British military personnel to have a ready supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. This place was on the outskirts of the village of Attard and was decided to form a kind of shooting club. In between the shooting seasons, they could meet on weekends and relate to each other the ever-long stories of past catches.

This was the beginning of what in later years became the Malta Shooting Club until 1977. In Europe this kind of sport was heavily gaining with the perfection of shotguns and equipment. On the other hand, hunting had been a very popular sport on our small islands from time immemorial.

One of those who had the idea of forming this club was the young Lieutenant Alfred Falzon Sant Manduca, an officer of the Royal Malta Artillery. Not less an enthusiast was Mr. P. Muscat of 270, Strada Reale (today Republic Street) in Valletta. A grateful recognition, from all those who seek another source of congenial diversion and amusement is owed to these two gentlemen.

The first general meeting was held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 1908 at the committee room of The Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Strada Teatro, (Old Theatre Street) Valletta. It was attended by almost the one hundred new enrolled members. The following were elected:

**President:** Colonel J. L. Francia, M.V.O., K.O.M.M.  
**Vice President:** Mr. V. Degaetano  
**Honorary Secretary:** Mr. A. Falzon Sant Manduca R.M.A.  
**Honorary Treasurer:** Mr. Alfred Muscat  
**Chief Referee:** Dr. Stagno, L.L.D.  
**Members:** Mr. Alex Gauci, Dr. F. Mifsud L.L.D.,  
Mr. C. Smith, Mr. L. Gauci Forno

The premises and club house were at 127, Archbishop Street in Valletta, a general club specially organised for those who devote themselves to the sport of shooting.

An ideal place at the Marsa Sports Ground was also available for practice shooting and competitions. Sport with gun and pistol was also available on daily basis.

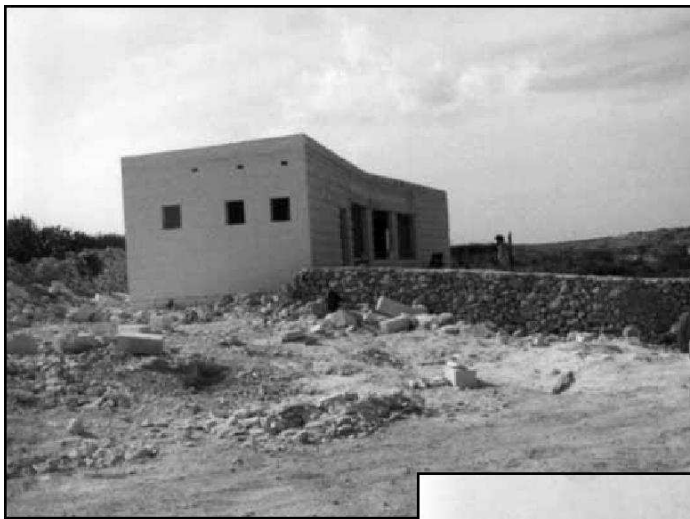
The committee of the shooting club decided to hold a weekly competition for the bringing down of live pigeons, partridges and doves and for the less begging clay pigeons which too often elude the lead with as much success as their fluttering fellows.

A set of General Laws and Regulations was drafted at the cost of 6d (sixpence) while subscription was 24s (shillings) per annum paid quarterly in advance. A fee of 10s (shillings) was charged for registration upon entrance.

The club was provided with all sorts of literature.

Several sporting firms from England offered to the nascent Shooting Club in Malta prizes for competitions of considerable value. They consisted of silver cups and other articles which sporting men love to display in testimony of their skill and successful rivalry.

The following prizes were exhibited at the new premises: Silver cup from Messrs Greener from Curtis & Harvey, Messrs Nobel from The Gun Powder Company, Daily Malta Chronicle (newspaper in English) which also was the club's official paper and Mr. Alfred Muscat who also promised to present other prizes during competitions. The latter, who ran a departmental store and who probably supplied them with most of their guns and ammunition, gave them the most prestigious trophy: a huge goblet with ivory handles. Since 1909 up to this day it has been known as the Muscat Cup and on it there are all the names of the various members who won it in fair competition throughout the years. Some members have been successful in inscribing their name even three times or more. The first winner was a C.W. Smith on the 11<sup>th</sup> July of 1909, the first anniversary of the foundation of the Malta Shooting Club.



*The Bidnija Shooting range under construction in 1977.*

The first targets in their competitions must have been either turtledoves, bought from the many prosperous trappers, or sparrows in the hot days of summer. At one time they also tried their luck at a sort of very primitive clay pigeon made of local burnt clay.

It was only in the years after the last war that clay pigeons began to be used diffusely, against the outcry of cruelty to birds.





*Skeet Competitors in Wheelus*





*Joseph (Tarzan) Grech being  
presented with a trophy.*

During the second World War (1939-1945), the premises were used for the practice shooting, as Malta at that time was very likely to be attacked from the air by means of parachutes. After the war, our islands saw the Americans stationed at what that time was called Óal Far barracks. They were also shooting enthusiasts and in 1949 Civilian Skeet was introduced by warrant officer Tony Telebo of the United States Navy, then serving at the mentioned station.

The locals started to organize friendly shoots also with those serving in the American Naval fleet which became so very popular in the years to follow. Such events took the Maltese shooters also to Libya, where the Americans had the base with the name of Wheelus.

In 1955 the shooting club premises at Attard were leased for a period of 4 years starting from January at the cost of 15 pounds per 4 years.

But the use of clay pigeons and modern machinery instilled greater ambition in the members of the Malta Shooting Club. The Mediterranean Games in 1958 saw our first two Maltese shooters, Joseph Grech (*it-tarzan*) and Wenzu Vella (*Ta' Bormla*) both from Mosta, in Beirut and later in the Olympic Games in Rome 1960 competing with the rest of the world.

Since then, it has been the main ambition of the club to send its members to match their skill with other shooters in the world.



**Maltese  
Contingent  
in Rome  
Olympics,  
1960**

During the Attard ranges era, the most busy period was the sixties among shooters who were showing more enthusiasm as time went on even in the fields, where attendance was quite a numerous one when a Down the Line was going to take place.

The All Malta Competition also started in 1960.

**In 1961:** A postal Competition for trap shooting was organised by the Israeli Shooting Union who sent an invitation to The Malta Shooting Club as well as other European clubs to participate in a trap shooting competition by post, that is, each club chooses five shooters – the best four to count, for a total of 100 clays and gets some local authority to authenticate the score as well as the shoot. Results with photos of shooters, range etc. are then exchanged and published in each country taking part.

**In 1963:** Saw the end of live pigeon shooting in competitions, the Malta Shooting Club was a member since 1959 of the UIT International Shooting Union and up till now is still in conform what today is known as ISSF, (International Shooting Sport Federation)

**In 1965:** This year saw the beginning of competitions with Americans Service personnel. Such events came so popular and interesting. Our Attard range saw the youngest competitor ever, Ron Mc Cartney who at the age of fourteen really made his presence felt in the skeet discipline. Peppi Grech remembers the day when he tied Jnr. Mc Cartney who eventually later finished second in the individual honour.

**In 1968:** Saw under the spotlight Peppi Grech once again, and with the introduction of the skeet discipline during the Mexico Olympics, with Mr. Grech taking part there. In the same year The Malta Shooting Club was celebrating her Diamond Jubilee (60 years on).

But one can not remember the 60's at the Attard range and leave out the one and only



***Small Nations  
Championship  
1979, Malta***

shooter monk of the century. He was Father Peter Muscat commonly known as Patri Piet, and at that time serving in the church of Sacro Cour in Sliema. Patri Piet was a regular shooter even when disability took its toll on him, he remained a loyal clubman.

When the club President Profs. J.V. Zammit Maempel could not pick him up for a shoot



***Profs. Maempel presenting the  
prize to Frans Chetcuti***

***Raphael Toledo and Larry Vella  
presenting medals***



***Small Nations  
Championships  
1979, Malta***

on the Sundays, without any hesitation he used to carry his side by side shotgun by, putting the barrels inside the wide sleeve and holding the other end with the palm of his hand, the chip and trigger part held by the trousers' belt going through the trigger guard, while cartridges in the hood of his cassock.

Whenever it was his turn to do the trophies presentation to the winners after a shoot, than those present had to hear a long panegyric from him.

With the need to conform to more sophisticated methods of this sport, the former site at



***Norbert Abela,  
Victor Galea,  
Alfred Farrugia***



***J.M. Galea being greeted by Anthony Caruana***

Attard used by the Malta Shooting Club had been superseded by that of the Bidnija present site at Mosta, this was done in 1977. In the same year the name Malta Shooting Club was changed to Malta Shooting Federation. Skeet shooting also came to Bidnija in 1977 and shooters like Norbert Abela, Victor Galea, Frans Chetcuti, Alfred Farrugia, Larry Vella, Rafael Toledo and Anthony Caruana among others also represented our country in international shoots. This discipline was slowly but surely getting less popular with its gunshots echoing away until when the promising talented Paul Vella who hails from St. Paul's Bay started his long and fruitful career in skeet shooting. Malta also saw the achievement of honours from Europe and beyond, thanks to his determination, will and capability. We are glad to say that today we still hold the flag high thanks to our young shooters like Darren Vella and Clive Farrugia. In 1993 the Bidnija facilities were improved to two ranges in order to accommodate for trap, skeet and double trap and an indoor air weapons range. With the new facilities the 1993 GSSE were organised in Bidnija, where shooters Philip Busuttil and Emmanuel Abela won Bronze medals.

Other successes by those who left indelible marks in the history of shooting during the 100 years cannot be forgotten. Such as:

**Joseph Grech**, commonly known as *it-Tarzan*, who was the first Maltese athlete to take part in 3 Olympics, 1960 Rome, 1968 Mexico and 1972 Munich.

**Lawrence (Larry) Vella**, was the shooter with the best ranking for our country when in 1980 in Moscow Olympics achieved 11th place in trap shooting, what even today is still considered as a memorable placing.

The Vella's (*Ta' Bormla*) surname has been synonymous with clay shooting for at least half a century, starting from Lawrence, the father, Larry his son, Frans Pace and Adam Vella, winner of highest awards in trap shooting, who lives in Australia.



*The modernising of the facilities in 1992*



**Emmanuel Abela &  
John Rizzo  
Med Games 1993,  
Bronze Medals  
Roussillon, France.**



Horace Micallef of Gudja is also a name that goes down in the history of Maltese clay shooting with golden letters. He managed a record score during the Commonwealth Championships held in New Delhi, India. This successful event took place during the Games held in 1995. Along with Frans Pace they also teamed up to win the Gold medal in the Trap Team event. The latter made history of his own with the so many positive achievements during his trap shooting career.

With the latest introduction in trap shooting discipline – The Double Trap, Malta saw the birth of a new star, the young talented William Chetcuti. He is from the small village of Manikata. During his teens he gave shooting inspiration a new step forward when he held the first world record in double trap shooting followed by an array of other positive results. Without a shadow of doubt, he is the athlete to make Malta's dream come true during the next Olympics in Beijing, China.

Let us hope that the new name 'The Malta Shooting Sport Federation' brings more International meetings once we have a long waiting desired ranges to meet International demands and standards where we will be able to achieve the fullest potential of our shooters and gain more honourable placing which will enhance the name of our fair land.

Somehow the Mighty God always kept his eyes on the long 100 years of shooting as through these years never an accident happened and thanks are also due to the Club presidents who over the years kept order in the premises amongst members and in return the latter shown respect and discipline to each committee member and among themselves.



*Mr. Anthony Caruana presenting prizes in 1<sup>st</sup> Bidnija Shoot*

### **Interview with Mr. Anthony Caruana, Ex MSF President 1973-1997**

Mr. Anthony Caruana was born in 1928 and he was a founder member of the Malta Shooting Club when it was revived again in the late forties.

Mr. Caruana was instrumental in organizing the move from Attard to Bidnija and helped in the raising of funds to build the new range.

He took part in the first Small Nations Shooting Championship in 1978 and 1979 in Bidnija.

Mr. Caruana introduced the idea of foreign coaches and results were improving. This was possible through the financial help from the Malta Olympic Committee.

Mr. Caruana was elected president of the Malta Shooting Federation in 1973 until 1997. He represented the Federation in MOC meetings and was the flag bearer during the Munich Olympic Games in 1972. He represented Malta in Skeet Shooting in the Mediterranean Games in Izmir, Turkey in 1971.

*MSSF PRO  
Edwin Vella*



**Mr. Anthony Caruana  
presenting medals in  
Milazzo**

## **Interview with Baskal Muscat**

Baskal Muscat is considered as one of the eldest shooters at the age of 78 years.

He had been shooting for the last 60 years. He remembers the years after World War II when the Malta Shooting Club in Attard was reopened. During these years, shoots used to be organized between members of the American Air Force, stationed in Óal Far and local shooters in Attard. These were the days when skeet shooting was introduced in Attard.

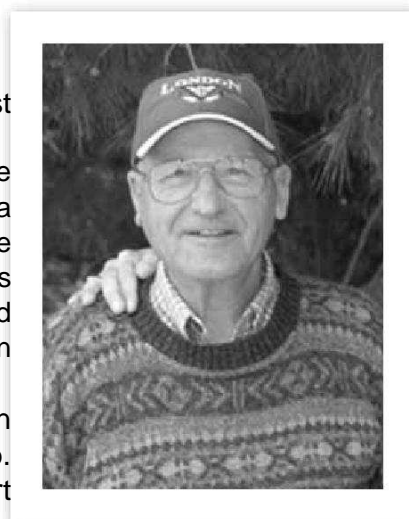
Baskal started shooting down the line mostly in Űebbu© and Qormi and later in Attard Shooting Club. He has been a member of the Malta Shooting Sport Federation for 50 years.

In 1975 Baskal won the All Malta Competition in Attard and later took part in friendly shoots in Milazzo together with Emmanuel Attard, George Micallef, Joe Bonello and Victor Bugeja.

Later in Andorra he won the first medal for the MSF as the Best Veteran Shooter in 1985. In 1982 he won a Bronze medal during the Small Nations Shooting Championship.

In 1988 he won a silver medal in the Small Nations Shooting Championships organised in Bidnija.

When Baskal Muscat retired from shooting, he took the initiative to instruct beginner shooters in Olympic Trap.



**Baskal Muscat**

*MSSF PRO  
Edwin Vella*

## Double Trap Shooter – William Chetcuti

William Chetcuti was born on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1985. He lives with his parents Joe and Carmen Chetcuti in Manikata, a hamlet in the north of Malta.

William was attracted to shooting as his favourite sport through generations. His talent in Double Trap was discovered at an early age by the president of the Malta Shooting Sport Federation, Saviour Portelli, who embarked him on an intensive training programme. The Double Trap seemed to be the right discipline for William. He proved this by his achievements as years gone by.

Locally he kept winning all the Double Trap competitions organised in Malta to become Malta's Top Double Trap Shooter under the surveillance of his Coach, Jimmy Bugeja.

In 2001, he had his debut overseas at the Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) in San Marino where he won his first Silver medal in senior for Malta. In September of the same year William won his first Gold medal in senior, during the Mediterranean Shooting Championships organised in Malta.

In 2002 he participated in the Commonwealth Games at Bisley, UK. He surprised most of the participants by finishing on the podium with a Bronze medal, in seniors. Since then he never looked back and went on to shoot in the European Championships in Lonato, Italy. He made another further step by being presented the Silver medal, in juniors.

In 2003 it was Malta's turn to organise the GSSE. This was the right place for William to win a Gold medal in seniors, in front of the Maltese supporters. In the same year he competed in the European Championships at Byrno, Czech Republic where he placed 4<sup>th</sup> among senior shooters.

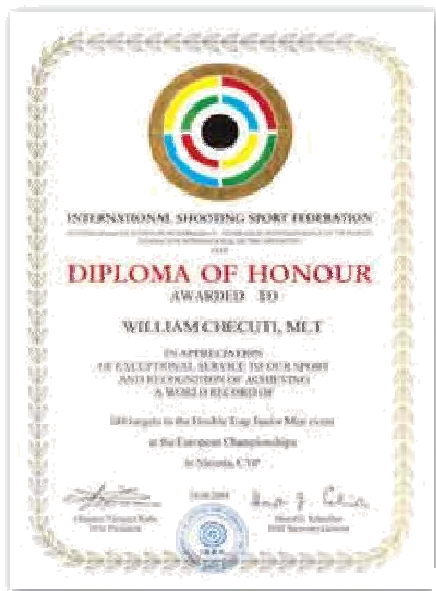
In 2004 William excelled all his previous scores when in Nicosia, Cyprus; during the European Championships he broke a world record of 146/150 and a European record of 192/200 winning the Gold medal in juniors. In a matter of weeks he went to shoot at an International Junior Grand Prix in the Czech Republic where he achieved another Gold medal.



*William Chetcuti with the Sports man of the year awards*



*William Chetcuti & Philip Busuttil in Malta Med Championship, 2001*



In August 2004, it was William's turn to represent Malta in the 2004 Olympics in Athens. This must have been the most prestigious event so far for William. Out of all nations taking part, William made all Maltese proud by ending in a shoot off for the sixth place and finishing in the ninth position overall. This was a remarkable position for such a young shooter (19 years of age) in the Olympics.

In 2005 William retained his position where in Suhl, Germany; he won another Gold medal in the World Junior Championships. In the same year William represented Malta during the 2005 GSSE in Andorra, and apart from being the flag bearer, he showed all those present that he was a class of his own by winning the Gold medal in seniors. A few weeks later the Maltese Olympic Committee chose him again for the Almeria

2005 Mediterranean Games where he kept his position by winning the Bronze medal in seniors. In July 2005 the European Championships were organised in Belgrade. William kept well onto track to achieve a Silver medal in the junior event.

In a matter of days following all these successes, it was time for World Cups. In Belgrade as well the 2005 ISSF World Cup was organised. William smashed 141/150 clays. With this score he had to go for a shoot-off for a place in the finals. He made it through and hit 47 in the finals. After another shoot-off for bronze or silver he smashed another three pairs to win the Silver medal in the seniors category. This made him the second best double trap shooter in the world, with only Mohammed Al-Maktum, Olympic Gold medallist beating him so far.

In August William took part in the ISSF World Cup seniors in Brazil. In November 2005 William qualified to shoot in the ISSF World Cup finals in Dubai, where he placed 4<sup>th</sup> among the best double trap shooters in the world.

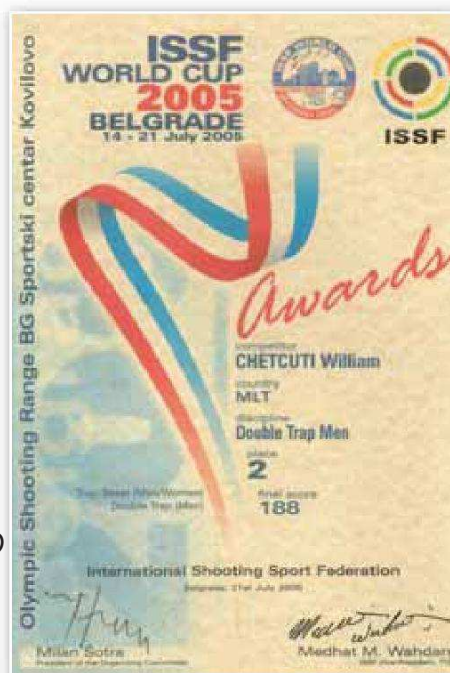
In 2006, during the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, William won the Bronze medal.

He took part in all ISSF World Cups, World Championships and European Championships in 2006 and 2007.

William is considered as the only sport athlete that won the Sportsman of the Year honour for 4 consecutive years in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.

He also won the Platinum Award by the MOC in 2005.

*MSSF PRO  
Edwin Vella*



## Shooting Silver – Rebecca Madyson

Tuesday 21 March 2006, Rebecca Madyson kept her promise and made Malta proud in a big-scale event after finishing second in the women's Trap competition in the Commonwealth Games at the Melbourne Gun Club.

So far, this is the most outstanding result ever for Malta in the Commonwealths.

Madyson's medal also consolidates the claim of the local shooting fraternity that their sport has given the country the best results ever on the international stage.

Madyson, 26, is the daughter of Maltese parents who migrated to Australia. Before marrying Husband Jamie, Rebecca's family name was Attard.

Her husband and her parents were at the ranges to support her.

Rebecca has a three-year-old daughter, and a 17 month old son. She lives in Morwell and last year she visited Malta.

Madyson's performance was simply superb and despite her pregnant condition, showed a great level of concentration. She was second after the first 75 clays and targeted the only 25-straight of the day in the third round after scores of 23 and 22.

The gold medal went to South Africa's Diane Swanton. She hit 20 in the barrage for an overall score of 92.

Malta Shooting Federation president Saviour Portelli said, "When Rebecca was asked to shoot for Malta last year she immediately accepted our invitation. Before, she had competed for Australia in the Oceania Games but was overlooked for further selections."

Rebecca Madyson won the MOC Platinum Award in 2006 and The Sportswoman of The Year in 2006.



Picture: Jamie Madyson



*Rebecca Madyson, with the silver medal and the Malta flag draped over her shoulders, with Malta Olympic Committee president Lino Farrugia Sacco (left) and shooting federation president Saviour Portelli.*



*William  
Chetcuti and  
Emmanuel  
Grima*

## **Double Trap Shooter – Emmanuel Grima**

Emmanuel Grima was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1959. He took part in the Malta GSSE 2003 where he won a bronze medal in Double Trap with  $130+41 = 171/200$ . In Andorra GSSE 2005 Emmanuel Grima managed  $41, 41, 39 = 121 + 40 = 161/200$  to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> place winning the Silver medal in Double Trap.

Also in 2005 Emmanuel Grima represented the MSSF in the Almeria Mediterranean Games where he managed  $109/150$ , finishing 11<sup>th</sup> place overall. During his career Emmanuel was always a shooting companion to William Chetcuti.

Emmanuel took part in ISSF European Championships in Czech Republic, ISSF World Cup in Croatia, Cyprus and Barcellona.

## **Frans Pace – Trap Shooter**

Frans Pace was born in Mosta on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1962.

He took his Primary education at the Mosta Primary School, later on he underwent for his Secondary education at the St. Augustine's College at Pieta where he studied for his 'O' Levels. He has been working in the Food Processing Industry for a long number of years. Infact, today he holds the post of Director at Jolly Limited. Frans is married to Roseanne neè Vella from Naxxar and they have three children, Rebecca aged 13 and Adam aged 10 and Anneka aged 5.

Frans started practising the Sport of Trap Shooting in 1989 and from 1993 to date is Malta's number one trap shooter (Malta Champion). In fact he won all local honours including 6 Gold medals, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze medal in the International Malta Grand Prix, a competition where foreign participants of very high standard take part. Also 9 times "All Malta Championship".

He participated in various International events where he obtained very respectable results including :-

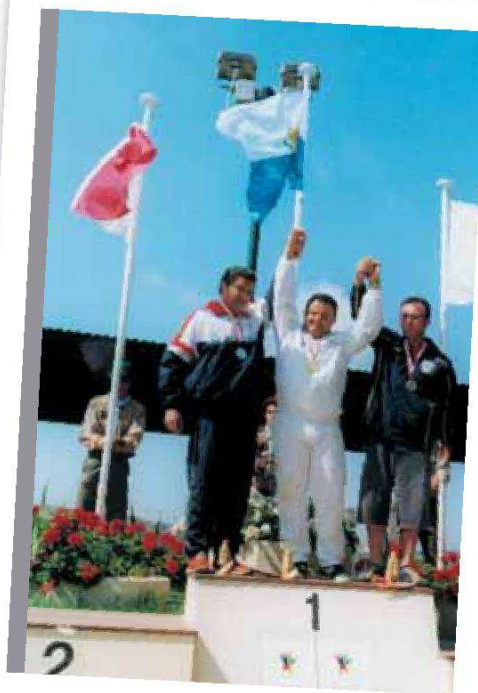
Commonwealth Games - Victoria - Canada –1994 - 6th Placing.  
 Commonwealth Shooting Championships - India -1995 – Gold in pairs event.  
 Olympic Games – Atlanta USA – 1996 – 17<sup>th</sup> Placing.  
 Nations Cup – Italy – 1997 – 4th Placing out of 167 participants.  
 Commonwealth Games – 1998 - Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia 8th Placing.  
 World Shooting Cup – 1999 - Cyprus – 7<sup>th</sup> Place out of 134 participants.  
 World Shooting Championships- Finland- 11<sup>th</sup> Place out of 187 participants.  
 Australia Pre Olympic Games – 2000 - 8<sup>th</sup> Place out of 97 participants.  
 Sydney Olympic Games – 34<sup>th</sup> Place out of 50 participants.  
 Small State Games San Marino 2001 Silver Medal.  
 Small State Games Malta 2003 Silver Medal. International Grand Prix 2003 Gold Medal . **Small State Games Andorra 2005 Bronze Medal.**  
 International Grand Prix 2005 Gold Medal.  
 European Shooting Championships 2006 – 14<sup>th</sup> placing.  
 International Grand Prix 2007 Gold Medal.  
 European Shooting Championships 2007 in Spain – 16<sup>th</sup> placing.

Frans won the most prestigious National Award of the Sportsman of the Year in 1994. He won the Team Award in 1995 and runner-up in the Sportsman of the Year Award for years 1996 & 1999. In 2004 he was honoured with “lġie` il-Mosta” by the Mosta Local Council for his Sporting achievements.

Certainly, Frans Pace is considered by many as the Best Ever Trap Shooter, Malta has produced.



*Frans Pace*



*Frans Pace GSSE 2003.*



*Horace Micallef*

## **Trap Shooter – Horace Micallef**

Horace started his shooting career in 1987. The following year in 1988 he took part on the World Shooting Championships in Montecatini.

He won the All Malta Trap Championships in 1990, 1991, 1992.

In 1995, during the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in India Horace won the Gold medal in the Trap Team Event together with Frans Pace. He also won the Bronze medal in the Individual Trap Event with the best ever score in Trap by Maltese shooter of 123/125.

After achieving such results, Horace managed to win The Sportsman of The Year award in 1995. Together with trap shooter Frans Pace, Horace also won The Team Of The year award in 1995.

Lately in Lonato ISSF World Cup 2007 Horace managed 117/125 (MQS).

## Skeet Shooter – Paul Vella

Paul Vella started his shooting career at the age of 23 in 1984. Paul is considered as Malta's top skeet shooter from 1993 till 2006. Paul took part in many ISSF World Cups, European and World Championships.

Paul Vella represented Malta in all GSSE since 1993.

In Malta GSSE 1993 Paul was in the finals and placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall. He got the same result in Luxemburg GSSE in 1995.

In Iceland GSSE in 1997 Paul represented Malta in Skeet and in Trap where in both disciplines he placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

In San Marino GSSE 2001 Paul Vella placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Skeet. It was in Malta GSSE 2005 that Paul managed his first ever Silver medal in Skeet. This was not easy, considering that he had to compete with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> World ranked shooters.

In Andorra GSSE in 2005 Paul

managed 4<sup>th</sup> place again.

In 1994 Paul Vella took part in San Marino Shooting Tournament where he placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Skeet and took the Bronze Medal in Trap.

Paul represented Malta in skeet during the Commonwealth Games 1994 Victoria, Canada. He placed 14<sup>th</sup> with a score of 115 (MQS). He also took part in 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In 2007 he took part in skeet in Manchester, UK Commonwealth Games where he place 19<sup>th</sup> with 100/125.

Paul Vella is synonymous in the Skeet discipline as he revived the Skeet shooting in his era of two decades of shooting. Paul also served in the MSSF council till 2005.



*Paul Vella*

## Junior Trap Shooter – Ryan Bugeja

Ryan Bugeja is considered as one of the best Junior Trap Shooters in Malta. His passion for trap shooting started at a very young age and he has already won several trophies in Bidnija, Qormi and Hal Far ranges. He placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2005 Malta Trap Grand Prix. His first encounter overseas was in Fulignio in 2004. A year later, he took part in the European Junior Shooting Championships in 2005 and in 2006 he ended up in the 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 72 shooters. In 2007 he was part of the Malta Trap Junior team which won the Bronze medal in the Team Event amongst 7 nations and won the Gold medal as the Best Foreign Shooter.

Ryan is aspiring to shoot in the Junior Commonwealth Games in India in October 2008.



*Ryan Bugeja Best Foreign Trap Shooter 2007  
Grand Prix International Juniors Sabbia D'Oro.*

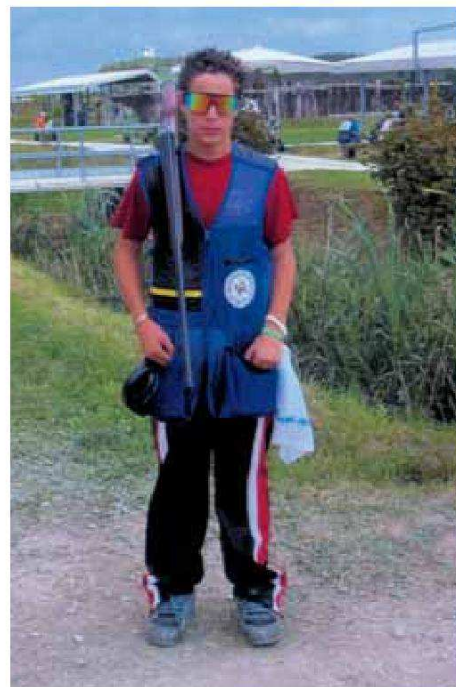
## Junior Skeet Shooter – Clive Farrugia

Clive Farrugia is considered as one of the best Junior Skeet Shooters in Malta. Clive took up Skeet Shooting at a very early age. He owns the beginning of his shooting to his instructors Steve Mock and Joe Genovese.

Although he is still in his teens, Clive already won a list of trophies among the Skeet Shooters in Bidnija. He won 7 trophies in 2006 and 4 in 2007. His first encounter overseas was in Suhl, in Germany, where he took part in the Junior European Championships. His first medal came on 2005 in Sabbia D'Oro when he won the Gold medal in u/14 skeet. In 2006 he qualified for the Barage Final and finished 5<sup>th</sup> and in 2007 also in Venice he finished in the 7<sup>th</sup> place.

In 2006 he was part of the Malta Skeet Team in the European Commonwealth Shooting Championships organised in Malta, where they won the Gold medal in the Team Event.

Clive is also aspiring to shoot in the Junior Commonwealth Games in India.



*Clive Farrugia*

# The Muscat Cup 1909



The Muscat Cup is the most prestigious trophy in the history of a century of shooting sports in Malta.

It was donated by Mr. Alfred Muscat of 270, Strada Reale, Valletta.

The first winner of this trophy was C. W. Smith on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1909,



# The Malta Shooting Club Log Book

No. 1		MALTA SHOOTING CLUB									
Date 28 <sup>th</sup> February 1909.		Competition 2 <sup>d</sup> Handicap									
DISTANCE	NAME	BIRDS SHOT AT								KILLED	REMARKS
20 yds	Mr. H. C. Mordimer	1	0							1	1 <sup>st</sup> Match
-	T. Dapartano	1	1	1	1	1	1			6	Divided stakes
-	John D. Gance Forno	1	1	0						2	
-	Mr. C. Smith	0								0	
-	Jos. Hamaux	1	0							1	
-	C. Kuperud	1	1	1	1	1	1			6	— 50 —
-	Ant. Dapartano	1	1	1	1	1	1			6	— 50 —
26 -	S. A. Skayno	1	0							1	
28 -	Mr. Alex. Gance	0	1							1	
26 -	Mr. Dom. Cassar	1	1	1	0					3	
28 -	Thurmonds	1	0	0						1	
26 -	Henille	1	1	1	1	1	1			6	— 50 —
28 -	Aug. Cassar	1	1	1	0					3	
-	Rob. Beck	0								0	
-	Andersen	1	1	1	1	1	0			5	
-	G. Borg	1	1	1	0					3	
-	Col. J. A. Gancia	1	1	1	1	1	0			5	
Register Keeper M. Passallo											

This Log Book was used to keep the records of shoots organized by The Malta Shooting Club in Attard since 1908. It was donated to The Malta Shooting Sport Federation by the family of Alfred Falzon Sant Manduca.

No. 2		MALTA SHOOTING CLUB									
Date 28 <sup>th</sup> February 1909		Competition 2 <sup>d</sup> Handicap									
DISTANCE	NAME	BIRDS SHOT AT								KILLED	REMARKS
30 yds	Mr. T. Dapartano	0								0	2 <sup>nd</sup> Match
28 -	John D. Gance Forno	1	0							1	
-	Mr. C. Smith	0								0	
-	Jos. Hamaux	1	0							1	
30 yds	C. Kuperud	1	1	0						2	
-	Ant. Dapartano	0								0	
26 -	S. A. Skayno	1	1	1	1	1				5	Divided stakes
28 -	Mr. Alex. Gance	1	1	0						2	
26 -	D. Cassar	1	1	1	0					3	
28 -	Thurmonds	0								0	
26 -	Henille	0								0	
28 -	L. Cassar	0								0	
-	R. Beck	1	1	1	1	0				4	
-	Andersen	1	0							1	
-	G. Borg	1	1	1	1	1				5	— 50 —
-	Col. J. A. Gancia	1	1	1	1	1				5	— 50 —
-	Mr. M. Camilleri	1	1	1	1	1				5	— 50 —
Register Keeper M. Passallo											

# Skeet

Civilian skeet was introduced in Malta between 1949 and 1950 by warrant officer Tony Telebo of the United States Navy than serving at Óal Far.

The picture below shows a Maltese team ready to challenge the ones from the United States Air Force in the newly organised skeet layout.

Friendly shoots became very popular with the Americans and took place also at Wheelus Air Base in Libya reaching their peak in the Sixties.

Attard shooting range, skeet competition between U.S.A.F. Óal Far and Maltese competitors on 50 clay targets.



*Left to right: U.S.A.F. Member; U.S.A.F. Capt. Aillis Comm. H.M.S. Falcon Óal Far; Prof. J. V. Zammit Maempel; U.S.A.F. Member; Major George Curmi; U.S.A.F. Member; Mr. C. Cassar Torregiani; U.S.A.F. Member; U.S.A.F. Member; Major Austin Cassar Torregiani.*

*The above picture was taken in 1949.*



*MSSF President Saviour Portelli presenting mementos to Coni President Giovanni Petrucci and FITAV President Luciano Rossi at the Lonato World Cup opening ceremony*

## Summer 1949



***Standing Left to right: Carmelo Zammit Gauci; U.S.A.F. member; U.S.A.F. member; Prof. J. V. Zammit Maempel, Capt. Ronnie Smith; Major Austin Cassar Torregiani; Major George Curmi; Wenzu Vella (Mosta); Carm. Cassar Torregiani; U.S.A.F. member; Reggie Cassar Torregiani; U.S.A.F. member. Squatting: U.S.A.F. member; Jimmy Galea (Mosta), U.S.A.F. member; U.S.A.F. member, Eddie Conti (Sliema); U.S.A.F. member.***

# Malta Shooting Federation Participation in Olympics



*Wenzu Vella & Peppi Grech before leaving for Rome Olympics 1960*

## XVII Rome Olympics 1960

It was the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1960 that the Maltese Contingent left for Rome Olympics. Mr. V.J. Pace was the MOC representative. Major A. Briffa, *Chef de Mission*, Wenzu Vella and Peppi Grech were the shooters representing Malta among other athletes.

During the first day of shooting Peppi Grech finished 39<sup>th</sup> with 41/50 and Wenzu Vella 55<sup>th</sup> amongst 61 shooters. In the second day Grech managed 37/50 and Vella 35/50. Grech finished 43<sup>rd</sup> and Vella 56<sup>th</sup>.

## XIX Mexico Olympics 1968

In 1968 Peppi Grech was the only Maltese athlete to take part in Mexico Olympics. This time Grech took part in Skeet where he was accompanied with MOC official Louis Grasso. The shooting competition took place in Vincente Suarez Range. Peppi Grech finished 46<sup>th</sup> out of 52 shooters with 173/200. The Russian, Petrov won Gold with 198/200.



*Peppi Grech in Mexico Olympics, 1968.*

## **XX Munich Olympics 1972**

In 1972 Peppi Grech was also the Maltese representative in Shooting with Mr. Anthony Caruana as the Malta Shooting Federation Official. These Olympics were stained with the terrorist attack on the 5<sup>th</sup> September where the games were suspended for 24 hours.

Peppi Grech managed 170/200 in Skeet and finished 56<sup>th</sup> out of 62 shooters.

## **XXII Moscow Olympics 1980**

Lawrence Vella – 11<sup>th</sup> Place in Trap

The Moscow Olympics will be remembered by the Malta Shooting Federation for the prestigious results of Trap Shooter Lawrence Vella.

Lawrence Vella, the son of Wenzu Vella who took part in the Rome 1960 Olympics, finished 11<sup>th</sup> place overall. Lawrence Vella managed 20-23-23 and 25-25-25, 3 consecutive straights, and 24-24 for a total of 189/200. 9 clays away from the Gold Medalist.

Frans Chetcuti, who also took part in Moscow managed 179/200 to finish 28<sup>th</sup> out of 34 shooters. Mr. Norbert Abela was the MSF official in Moscow.



*Larry Vella training in Bidnija.*

## **XXIII Los Angeles Olympics 1984**

In Los Angeles 1984, the Malta Shooting Federation was represented by Michael Gauci which finished in the 48<sup>th</sup> place and Frans Chetcuti which finished in the 51<sup>st</sup> place out of 71 competitors.

## **XXV Barcellona Olympics 1992**

Horace Micallef represented the Malta Shooting Federation in Trap in the XXV Barcellona Olympics in 1992 where in the first day he managed 69/75 and 68/75 in the second day for a total of 137/150 finishing 39<sup>th</sup> out of 54 Trap Shooters.

## **XXVI Atlanta Olympics 1996**

Frans Pace – 119/125

In Atlanta Olympics 1996 Frans Pace managed 119 out of 125 clays Trap. On the first day Frans done very well with 24-24-24. On the second day, he strated with a straight of 25/25 and 22 for a total of 119 out of 125.

He finished 20<sup>th</sup> place together with another 10 shooters out of 52 competitors. This score meant 95.2%, the best percentage in trap for Malta.

Frans also took part in DoubleTrap and managed 37-41-43 for a total of 121/150, finishing 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 35 shooters.

## **XXVII Sydney Olympics 2000**

In Sydney 2000 Olympics Frans Pace was also the MSF representative but after so much preparation, he fell ill during the competition and managed 18, 20, 22, 22, 24 for a total of 106 out of 125 to finish 32<sup>nd</sup>, that is 84.8%.

## **XVIII Athens Olympics 2004**

William Chetcuti 9<sup>th</sup> in Double Trap

William Chetcuti at 19 years of age represented Malta in Athens Olympics 2004.

In Athens he took part in Double Trap with another 25 shooters. William managed 43/50 in the first round, 44/50 in the second round and 47/50 in the third for a total of 134/150. He stood a chance to be in the Barage finals but after a shoot off with another 4 shooters he finished 9<sup>th</sup> overall.

The Gold medal was won by Ahmed Al. Maktom (UAE) with 189/200. Silver was won by Singh Rathore of India with 179/200 and the Bronze winner was Zan Zheng from China with 178/200.

This was the best ever placing for Maltese athletes at Olympic history.

William was accompanied by his couch Jimmy Bugeja and MSSF President Saviour Portelli.

# Commonwealth Games

## 1982 – Brisbane, Australia

The Malta Shooting Federation took part in the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia. Raphael Toledo managed 168 targets in trap to finish in the 19<sup>th</sup> place. Whilst Frans Chetcuti and Raphael Toledo finished the 9<sup>th</sup> place in pairs with 170 targets.

## 1986 – Edinburgh, Scotland

In 1986 the MSF took part in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games with George Micallef in Trap which placed the 12<sup>th</sup> with 182/200 and Raphael Toledo the 17<sup>th</sup> with 175/200.

In the Team Event, Malta placed 9<sup>th</sup> with 168 targets from George Micallef and Raphael Toledo.

## 1990 – Auckland, New Zealand

In 1990 it was Joe Attard and Silvio Attard's turn to represent Malta in Trap. Joe Attard managed 175/200 finishing in the 8<sup>th</sup> place and Silvio Attard managed 159/200 finishing in the 21<sup>st</sup> place. The Malta Trap Team finished 7<sup>th</sup> place with 171 targets out of 200.

## 1994 – Victoria, Canada

During the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, the MSF was represented by Frans Pace and Charles Grech. Frans Pace managed the 6<sup>th</sup> place with 134/150 and Charles Grech finished the 23<sup>rd</sup> with 106. Frans Pace and Charles Grech finished the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Teams Event with 182 targets.

Also in 1994 Commonwealth Games Paul Vella was the only Skeet Shooter from the MSF. Paul Vella finished in the 14<sup>th</sup> place with 115 clays.

Saviour Portelli was team manager.

## 1998 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In 1998 the Commonwealth Games were organised in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The MSF was represented by Frans Pace, Joe Attard in Trap and Paul Vella and Saviour Portelli in Skeet.

Frans Pace finished in the 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Frans Pace and Joe Attard finished 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Teams Event with 184 clays. Mr. S. Portelli was also team manager and Peter Croft was coach.

## 2002 – Manchester, UK

The 2002 Commonwealth Games were organised in Manchester, UK. The MSF was represented by a large contingent in Manchester. William Chetcuti won the first Bronze medal in Double Trap with 189 clays out of 200. In air pistol, Ray Cacciattolo managed 535 points, finishing in the 30<sup>th</sup> place.

In air rifle William Vella managed 562 points, finishing in the 22<sup>nd</sup> place. William Vella and

Mario Abela finished both in the 10<sup>th</sup> place in Air Rifle Teams Event with 1122 points.

Joe Attard finished 10<sup>th</sup> place in Trap with 115/125. Nicky Carabott finished 27<sup>th</sup> place in Trap with 99/125. Joe Attard and Nicky Carabott finished 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Trap Team Event with 177 clays.

Paul Vella placed 19<sup>th</sup> in Skeet with 100 clays out of 125 and Joe Genovese 23<sup>rd</sup> with 107 out of 125. Paul Vella and Joe Genovese finished 11<sup>th</sup> with 171 clays in the Teams Event.

Mr. S. Portelli was team manager, and Lamberto Castellani was coach.

## 2006 – Melbourne, Australia

In 2006 the Malta Shooting Sport Federation was represented by William Chetcuti and Rodney Micallef in Double Trap.

In Double Trap William Chetcuti managed 47, 45, 47 = 139 + 40 = 179, winning the Bronze medal. Rodney Micallef managed 40, 42, 42 = 124, finishing in the 15<sup>th</sup> place.

In Double Trap Pairs William Chetcuti managed 97/100 and Rodney Micallef managed 76/100 for a total of 173 finishing in the 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Frans Pace, Stanley Cardona and Rebecca Madyson were the Trap shooters. Frans Pace managed 111/125 finishing in the 20<sup>th</sup> place and Stanley Cardona managed 100/125 finishing the 30<sup>th</sup> place.

In Trap pairs Frans Pace managed 83/100 and Stanley Cardona 83/100 for a total of 166/200 to finish in the 13<sup>th</sup> place.

In women's Trap Rebecca Madyson managed 23, 22, 25 = 70 + 16 = 86 to finish the 2<sup>nd</sup> place and winning the first ever Silver medal for Malta in Commonwealth Games.

Mr. S. Portelli was team manager and Jimmy Bugeja was coach.



# The Mediterranean Games

The Mediterranean Games are multi-sport games held every four years for nations bordering the Mediterranean sea. The games were inaugurated on October 1951 in Alexandria, Egypt in honour of Muhammed Taher Pasha. Ever since they took place every 4 years without any interruption. The Mediterranean Games, stand as the greatest sport event of the Mediterranean region, attracting interest of the maritime countries, where Europe, Africa and Asia meet.

The Mediterranean Games are held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee.

The Logo of the games also called the Mediterranean Olympics is composed of three white rings, symbolically representing Africa, Asia and Europe. The three continents that have coast on the Mediterranean sea reflecting themselves in the blue colour of the sea.

The 1959 Beirut (Lebanon), Mediterranean Games were the first games to be represented by the maltese shooters. In these games Wenzu Vella and Peppi Grech were local shooters for these games with Major AP. Briffa as the Chef de Mission for the Malta Olympic Committee.

1971, Izmir (Turkey) Mediterranean Games. The Malta Shooting Federation was represented by shooters: Mr. Anthony Caruana and Norbert Abela. B.Cilia was the MSF official.

1975, Algiers (Algeria) Mediterranean Games. The Malta Shooting Federation was represented by Skeet shooter Silvio Bonello and MSF official K.Borg.

1978, Split (Yugoslavia) Mediterranean Games. The MSF was represented by shooters: J. Aguis, E. Ciappara, P. Porthanier, L. Portelli and J. Schembri and MSF officials R. Paliniott and T. Cauchi.

1987, Lattakia (Syria) Mediterranean Games. The Malta Shooting Federation was represented by shooters: George Micallef and Joe Attard. Gejtu Micallef was MSF official.

1991, Athens (Greece) Mediterranean Games. The Malta Shooting Federation was represented by shooters: Lawrence Vella and George Cassar.

1993, Languedoc Roussillon (France) Mediterranean Games. Trap shooter Emmanuel Abela won the first ever Bronze medal in Mediterranean Games. Mr. John Rizzo was the MSF official.

2001, Tunis (Tunisia) Mediterranean Games. Anton Camilleri took part in the 10m Air Rifle and Paul Vella was the MSF official.

2005, Almeria (Spain) Mediterranean Games. The Malta Shooting Federation was represented by Double Trap shooters: William Chetcuti and Emanuel Grima.

William Chetcuti managed 186/200 finishing 3rd, winning the Bronze medal while Emanuel Grima managed 109/150 finishing 11th place. Saviour Portelli was MSF official and Jimmy Bugeja was the Double Trap coach.

The next Mediterranean Games will be held in Pescara (Italy) in 2009.

# The Games of the Small States of Europe

The GSSE provide the ideal opportunity to bring together a number of sporting disciplines, where dedicated athletes together can prosper and reach success.

These games are of a National concern as they provide a historical and memorable event, generating national pride and enthusiasm in the community.

The member states are Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino and Malta.

			Gold	Silver	Bronze
1 <sup>st</sup> edition	San Marino	1985			
2 <sup>nd</sup> edition	Monaco	1987			
3 <sup>rd</sup> edition	Cyprus	1989			
4 <sup>th</sup> edition	Andorra	1991			
5 <sup>th</sup> edition	Malta	1993			2
6 <sup>th</sup> edition	Luxembourg	1995			
7 <sup>th</sup> edition	Iceland	1997			
8 <sup>th</sup> edition	Liechtenstein	1999	No shotgun events		
9 <sup>th</sup> edition	San Marino	2001	1	2	
10 <sup>th</sup> edition	Malta	2003	1	2	1
11 <sup>th</sup> edition	Andorra	2005	1	1	1
12 <sup>th</sup> edition	Monaco	2007	No shotgun events		

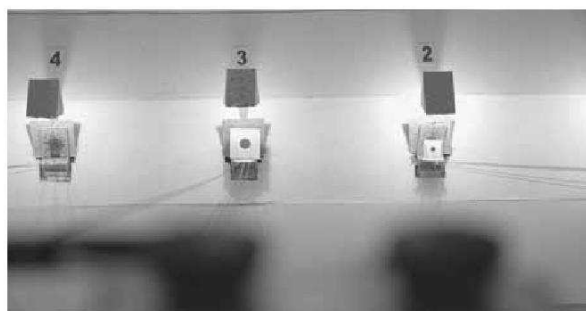
The Malta Shooting Sport Federation took part in most of the Games of Small States of Europe.

In the Malta Games 1993 Trap shooter Emmanuel Abela won the Bronze medal and Double Trap shooter, Philip Busuttil won Bronze as well.

In 2001 in San Marino, Philip Busuttil managed Gold in Double Trap and William Chetcuti managed Silver in Double Trap while Frans Pace managed Silver in Trap.

In Malta 2003, William Chetcuti managed Gold in Double Trap and Frans Pace managed Silver in Trap. Paul Vella won Silver in skeeted Emmanuel Grima won bronze in Double Trap.

In Andorra 2005, William Chetcuti managed Gold in Double Trap and Emmanuel Grima managed Silver also in Double Trap. Frans Pace managed Bronze in Trap.



*Indoor 10m range*

# AACTS

## Association of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters

AACTS, The Association of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters, was founded on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The Association's main objective is the promotion of all forms of target shooting and arms collecting on the Maltese islands. The members of AACTS specialise in Black Powder revolver and Muskat shooting, collections of Arms and Militaria. AACTS is also a member of the Malta Shooting Sport Federation, MLAIC, Muzzle Loaders Association International Committee. AACTS also organizes facilities for training purposes, competitions, seminars, educational programmes and courses in all aspects of target shooting, whether for leisure or competition as also arms collecting exhibitions and furnish any logistic support that may be required. The association's aims include the promotion of awareness on issues relating to arms ownership amongst its members and the general public.

Members of the AACTS have participated in the MLAIC World Championships 2004, the MLAIC European Zone Championships 2005 and MLAIC World Championships in Bordeaux.



*Saviour Portelli near ESC Prseident Uni Nicolaysen and other delegates  
at the Red Square, Moscow, during the 110th Anniversary of the  
Russian Shooting Union*