



MLAGB

eBulletin

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The MLAGB's calendar for 2008 has, once again, a very full schedule of events for the shooter and collector.

Shotgun

For the shotgun enthusiast there are fortnightly DTL training sessions at Sywell Ranges, situated on the A43 Northampton/Wellington Road. Sywell offers excellent facilities and new shooters are welcomed and encouraged. Full training or coaching can be given by members of the DTL International team including current and former World and European Champions.

Not only do the shotgunners have their regular training sessions at Sywell, but the regional competition initiative introduced a wider variety of sporting shoots that are hosted in different parts of the country. The DTL shooters also have two National Championships, flintlock and percussion competitions, in October.

In addition to the regular shotgun sessions there are monthly practice shoots held at Bisley for rifle and pistol. For those that like to add a competitive edge to their training, postal leagues are run for pistol shooters, while the annual re-entry postal competition caters for most musket and rifle disciplines.

Musket & Rifle

Commencing in March at Bisley is the annual round of mid and long range National Rifle Championship matches. Events run through until September and are held for military and target rifles at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards, with additional matches for target rifle at 900 and 1000 yards. Mid and long range target rifle shooting has seen the most rapid growth in muzzle loading disciplines in recent years. There are plenty of experienced riflemen on hand to offer the novice assistance in this challenging and rewarding sport.

For the short range (50m and 100m) musket and rifle enthusiasts there are four open competitions; the two Overseas Team Fund matches in April and October, the Schutzenfest in May and Pedersoli Challenge in July. In addition the MLAGB's National Short Range Championships is held in September. All short range competitions will be held at the Association ranges at

Wedgnoek, near Warwick. Sited in the centre of England with easy road links these spacious ranges are an ideal location for hosting competitions.

Pistol

Pistol shooters are equally well catered for with six established events during the year; three national competitions, one open competition and two fund raisers. The National Pistol Championships are held at Bisley and the remainder of events at Wedgnoek. Disciplines cater for matchlock, flintlock and percussion pistol, plus percussion revolver. While most events cater for originals or reproduction firearms 'in the spirit of the original', free pistol competitions cater for black powder handguns of modern design.

International

The MLAGB international team will be competing in the 23rd MLAIC World Championships at Adelaide, Australia in August. In addition, the MLAGB matches held throughout the year for musket, rifle, pistol and shotgun will be used as the basis for team selection to the 2009 European (Short Range) Championships and the World Long Range Championships. For those with an interest in shooting abroad there is a contingent of shooters who regularly travel to Continental Europe to compete in open competitions there. These are used by some members of the GB Squad as a training match for the later internationals, but also allows others to sample shooting abroad and gain valuable experience if aspiring to the national team or just wish compete overseas in a friendly shooting environment.



Collectors

Two events of interest to both collectors and shooters are being held in the first part of the year. Both events present

opportunity to acquire new guns and associated accoutrements to add to ones collection or perhaps to take up a new 'classic arms' discipline. In March the Association will hold a trade fair at its Bisley club house, the Exhibition Hut. The following month the Association Auction in aid of the Overseas Team Fund will be held, again at Bisley. A third collector's event, an arms fair, is held in November.

Many members of the MLAGB are collectors and the Association has a Collector's Secretary, Ken Hocking, who writes a regular column in the Association magazine, *Black Powder*. The quarterly magazine offers a means of communication between members, permitting information queries to be published and encouraging the sharing of information. Authoritative articles on aspects of muzzle loading interest to collectors and shooters, sale room reports, competition reports, Association and Branch news make for a lively magazine offering sufficiently diverse content to appeal to all interests.

MLAGB Membership Office

The Branch structure of the MLAGB allows for those new to muzzle loading to make contact and share knowledge with other enthusiasts in their area. Local Branch (or Affiliated Club) details can be obtained by contacting the membership office.

Current news, MLAGB calendar, membership application and competition entry forms, etc are available via the MLAGB web site at www.mlagb.com. The site also hosts a lively discussion forum where knowledge can be shared and information sought.

MLAGB membership office contact details are:

MLAGB Membership Office
Goodform Ltd, 7 Olympus Court,
Tachbrook Park, Warwick CV34 6RZ

Membership Manager:
Gareth Renowden
Telephone: 01926 458198
Email: membership@mlagb.com

Or for further information contact:

David Minshall - publicity@mlagb.com
Publicity Officer, MLAGB