



# MLAGB

**eBulletin**

An electronic news bulletin  
Issue 3, November 2003

## Octoberfest



Flintlock musket on Wedgnock's 50m range

The Octoberfest was introduced last year by Pistol Secretary David Spittles and has now been expanded to include musket and rifle disciplines run by the MLAGB Rifle Secretary Allan Whiffin. This event was the last MLAGB open shoot of the year, with the expanded format making for a most enjoyable day of musket, rifle and pistol shooting. The day was used as a fund raiser for the MLAGB Overseas Team Fund (OTF). This fund exists to contribute towards the substantial costs incurred by shooters who represent Great Britain and the MLAGB in international shooting events.

Pistol events were all shot at 25m and the musket and rifle at 50m and 100m.

Despite the informal nature of this event, some shooters were obviously trying! Notable rifle scores were Helen Harper-Smith and Andrew Wike both scoring 95 in the Whitworth (100m free percussion rifle) match only to be later beaten by Helen's husband Jon with an excellent 99. On the 50m range Allan Whiffin demonstrated his mastery of the Japanese Matchlock with a 93 standing and a 94 kneeling, while David Minshall scored 97 in the Vetterli (50m offhand free percussion rifle).

Prizes awarded for the match winners included such useful items as staple guns, wine and a fine selection of T-shirts and baseball caps donated by Pedersoli. Proposals are that next year there will be two such OTF fund raising events, one in spring and one in autumn. These open events will continue in the relaxed manner already established and offer a great opportunity, particularly for new comers to competitive shooting, to take part in a friendly day of muzzle loading shooting.

Winners of the musket and rifle matches were:

### 50m Matches

Matchlock (Standing): A.Whiffin 93

Matchlock (Kneeling): A.Whiffin 94

Minie (Standing): K.Brown 93

Minie (Kneeling): D.Minshall 95

Flint Musket (Standing): T.Asker 76

Flint Rifle (Standing): A.Russell 88

Free Rifle (Standing): D.Minshall 97

### 100m Matches (All Prone)

Flint Rifle: O.Lamont 83

Minie: R.Doyle 87

Free Rifle: J.Harper-Smith 99

## Courses in Muzzle Loading

With winter approaching this perhaps offers an ideal opportunity to attend a course in muzzle loading, either for novices or range officers. The MLAGB currently offers two courses that can be held centrally or in your own club:

- **Appreciation Courses:** A guide to the safe shooting of all forms of muzzle loading arms, including revolvers, single shot percussion and flintlock pistols, and long arms such as muskets, rifles, etc. This is not an assessed course.
- **Range Officers Courses:** For club appointees and for those seeking endorsement of their NRA RCO qualifications. These are assessed courses.

For detailed information write to: MLAGB Courses, PO Box 34, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 8RT (or email [thatpistolbook@ntlworld.com](mailto:thatpistolbook@ntlworld.com))

## Wedgnock

Shooters are reminded that during the Winter months (1 November-31 March) the MLAGB ranges at Wedgnock are closed on the 1st and 2nd Saturdays of the month.

## 2004 World Championships, USA

The dates for the 2004 MLAIC World Muzzle Loading Championships have been set as Sunday, 22 August, through Saturday, 28 August, 2004. They are scheduled to be held at the Tri-County Sportsmen's shooting range outside of Batesville, Indiana, USA. Further details will be available in due course. Watch for news updates on the MLAIC web site at [www.mlaic.org](http://www.mlaic.org) and the MLAGB web site at [www.mlagb.com](http://www.mlagb.com).



Andrew Russell shooting flintlock musket at the 2003 European Championships in Finland

UK muzzle loaders interested in selection should contact the discipline secretaries as soon as possible. Contact details are published in the Blackpowder Newsletter.

## Moving House?

Can members please remember to notify the membership office in good time of changes of address? Each time a Newsletter is issued several are returned marked 'Gone Away'. These are invariably followed by requests from the members concerned for the Newsletter that he didn't receive – frequently with an afterthought "Oh, by the way, I've moved house."

When notifying the membership office of such changes, please try and remember to include telephone and fax numbers together with email address as available. It all helps to improve communications.

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