



# MLAGB

## eBulletin

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### The New Year

The MLAGB's calendar for 2006 has, once again, a very full schedule of events for the shooter and collector.

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. In addition to these regular 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, in addition the annual re-entry postal competition caters for most musket and rifle disciplines.



Long range muzzle loading is a popular discipline. Photo courtesy A.Keating

Commencing in March is the annual round of mid and long range National Rifle Championship matches. Events, completing at the end of May, 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 August. With the exception of the Schutzenfest, which is held at Bisley, all competitions are 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 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.

Not only do the shotgunners have their regular training sessions at Sywell, but the regional competition initiative of 2005 introduced a wider variety of sporting shoots to be hosted in different parts of the country. The DTL shooters are kept busy with two National Championships, flintlock and percussion competitions, in October.

The MLAGB international team will be competing in the 22nd World Championships at Bordeaux, France 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 2007 European Championships in Italy and the World Long Range Championships in South Africa.

Competition entry forms are distributed to those that attended events in recent years, are available for download from the Association web site or can be obtained by contacting the membership office.

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 holds an arms 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.



Viewing lots at the OTF Auction in 2005

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.

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](http://www.mlagb.com). The site also hosts a lively discussion forum where knowledge can be shared and information sought.

MLAGB Membership Office, 82A High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4HJ.  
Tel: 01223 830665  
Fax: 01223 839804  
Email: [membership@mlagb.com](mailto:membership@mlagb.com)

David Minshall - [publicity@mlagb.com](mailto:publicity@mlagb.com)  
Publicity Officer, MLAGB