



MLAGB

eBulletin

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2007

The MLAGB's calendar for 2007 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 and the opening competition events of the year

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 Wedgcock, 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 Wedgcock.

Not only do the shotgunners have their regular training sessions at Sywell, but the regional competition initiative 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 an international team will be competing in the 12th European Championships at Parma, Italy in August. The following month a second team will be travelling to Cape Town, South Africa to compete in the 6th World Long Range Championships. 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 2008 World Championships in Australia. For those with an interest in shooting abroad there is a contingent of shooters who regularly travel to France to compete in the Grand Prix Bordeaux. This is an open competition and used by some members of the GB Squad as a training match for the later internationals. It also allows others to sample shooting abroad and gain valuable experience if aspiring to the national team or just to compete overseas in a friendly shooting environment.

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.

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. The site also hosts a lively discussion forum where knowledge can be shared and information sought.

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