



Mid and Long Range Shooting



March sees the commencement of the mid (200-600 yards) and long (900/1000 yards) range match series for military and target rifles at Bisley. Changing demands on range space at Bisley ranges have this year necessitated a change from the usual programme. The first event will be the National 200 yard Rifle Championship on 9 March, with the National 300 yard, 500 yard and 600 yard Championships following in April, May and June respectively. At mid range there are competitions for both Enfield rifle and free rifle. The concluding long range events for free rifle are fired at 900 and 1000 yards and will be held at Bisley on the weekend of 30/31 August.

The trend for growth in these disciplines set in recent years continued in 2007 and it is hoped will continue this year. The introduction of the Pedersoli Gibbs match rifle has played no small part in this. Whilst the Parker-Hale 'Volunteer' and 'Whitworth' rifles were long the mainstay of entry-level rifles to the discipline, the 'Gibbs' now enables the rifle enthusiast to purchase a rifle fully equipped for 1000 yard target shooting out-of-the-box. Of course, having the right equipment is only the first step and 1000 yard muzzle loading is a challenging discipline. However, the mid-range MLAGB matches (200-600 yards) offer opportunity to gain valuable experience in shooting on open ranges at progressively greater distances, prior to the long-range matches (900 and 1000 yards). Besides knowing how to get the best from the rifle, learning how to cope with the prevailing atmospheric conditions plays a significant part; light, temperature, humidity and of course wind all conspire to make the bulls-eye at 1000 yards rather elusive at times!

Mid-range military rifle shooting within the MLAGB continues with a small but enthusiastic number of competitors. This

is a great shame as the Enfield rifle typically used is shot by many at short range, and no more equipment is necessary to compete in the MLAGB mid-range match series. The discipline has much to offer in acquiring skills in coping with changeable conditions, and for those with an historical interest, using these rifles at ranges beyond 50m/100m gives a greater understanding of the capabilities of the Enfield and the great advance in military technology that it was over its forerunners. Above all, it is a rifle that is easy to load and fun to shoot. Surely there must be more within the Association that would like to try this sport?

Course of fire for the 200, 300 and 500 yard matches is three convertible sighting shots and ten match shots. At 600, 900 and 1000 yards course of fire is three convertible sighting shots and fifteen match shots. For matches out to 600 yards shooting is from the prone position, with a two-point sling for support. Beyond 600 yards rules allow for the use of the back position or riflemen may shoot prone and make use of a wrist rest.

Newcomers to mid and long range shooting are encouraged. Anyone who shoots short range rifle has the necessary equipment to compete at least to 600 yards. Why not come along in 2008? If you are not on the 'rifle mailing list' and wish to be sent entry forms contact the mid and long range rifle secretary, Jerry Womble (rifle.ml@mlagb.com), or download the forms from the MLAGB web site at www.mlagb.com.

Spring Trade Fair and Auction

Both collectors and shooters are reminded of the MLAGB trade fair to be held at the Association Club House, the Exhibition Hut, at Bisley on Saturday 8 March. Doors open about 9:00am. There will be a table available free to Association members but the limit is two items only per person. Enquiries and table bookings should be addressed to: John Marsh, tel. 07714 960816.

Eastern Counties Shotgunning



The Lakenheath Muzzle Loaders are pleased to announce that they are now a new branch of the MLAGB.

Formed in May 2007, after an extensive but fruitless search for muzzle loading shotgunning in the Eastern Counties, they have been very fortunate to establish themselves as the Lakenheath Muzzle Loaders based at Lakenheath Clay Target Centre, in West Suffolk. This shooting ground is one of the best clay shooting grounds in the country and the facilities include 19 sporting stands, 4 skeet ranges, sport trap, DTL, restaurant, bar and proper toilet facilities. The A14 and M11 provide excellent road access from the Midlands, Eastern Counties and Hertfordshire.

The Lakenheath Muzzle Loaders hold monthly sporting shoots, 30 birds single barrel, 40 birds double barrel. The shoots are held on a Sunday and start at 10.00am. The targets are varied and may include midi's, mini's, rabbits and battues. It is their aim to put on shoots that cater for everyone, experienced and novices alike. All muzzle loading and black powder breech loading hammer gun shotgunners are welcome to join them for these shoots.

Following the success of the first National Muzzle Loading Skeet Shoot in 2007 as reported in the last issue of the MLAGBs Black Powder magazine, they will be hosting this event again on 14th September 2008.

For more information go to their web site www.lctc.co.uk, or contact the Branch Secretary, Martin Crix, on 01394 386999 or email martin.crix@tesco.net. The web site also offers advice on how to get started in muzzle loading shotgunning.

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