

Welcome Welkom 2006

We ask our members, no, plead is more like it... please send us photographs of your shoots, events or related stuff for placement in the mag. So, get to it already! Kapiche? Thanks!

Ons vra, nee, pleit eintlik by ons lede om vir ons fotos te stuur om te plaas in die tydskrif. Toenou, maak plan, seblief. Dankie!

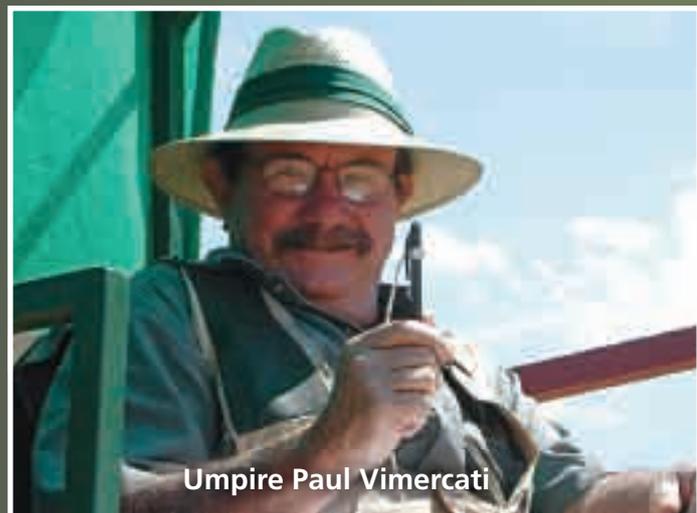
**Muzzle loading shotgun clay shooting at Snake Valley club
— Zap Lupini in action (yes that's him, the old racing driver)**



**Each load is precisely measured:
percussion cap, powder, patch
and lead shot lined up and ready
for the big bang**



The patch-'n'-powder gang in action



Umpire Paul Vimercati

Black Powder *Shooting*

Call them what you will: 'Grey-beards', 'grandfathers', 'old toppies'. The youngest member is a spring chicken of 45. They tell stories and jokes and poke fun at each other. But when the shooting starts, they get dead serious. They become mean competitors, and make no mistake, they know how to shoot straight. They are the patch-'n'-powder gang of Snake Valley!



Members of the Transvaal Muzzle Loaders Shotgun Club, Snake Valley.
Front: Paul Vimercati, Kevin Irland,
Back: Kevin Greenwood, Mike Bailey, Zap Lupini

THEY have seen it all. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt. There is no bravado or swagger; an Olympic Skeet Straight-50 badge or a Springbok pin on the shooting jacket is worn casually, almost by-the-way. They're an affable, story-swapping lot and make a visitor readily feel at home. But when these grand old boys produce their long guns and start competing seriously, you'd best shut up and start looking and learning. They are living proof of the saying that old age and treachery will always beat youth and ability!

The sport of black powder shooting is one of the oldest and at the same time one of the youngest of the shooting disciplines. Newcomers to the club are advised, helped and guided with patience and courtesy. There is none of the superior attitude and arrogance you see at some shooting clubs... these old guys are there to have fun and to help the newcomer have fun too.

And let's face it, when those muzzle loaders go off with a boom like a cannon and spout plumes of white smoke,

it somehow stirs your blood and you can hear the faint echoes of far away battle cries of wars on the fields of the Old World, long ago. This is as close as you can come to the smell and taste and sound and feel of real shooting.

And the fact that muzzle loaders may be purchased off the shelf without any firearm licence is another reason why many serious shooters are looking anew at this sport. Sure it is time-consuming and sure you have to know what you are doing, but the amount of quality in your day is easily equivalent to that of any shooting day with any other type of firearm.

The origins of black powder shooting lie deep in history and it is a sport that has been revived by historical enthusiasts and serious target shooters. Matches are shot to the Muzzle Loaders Association International Committee (MLAIC) rules and are graded so shooters compete equally. There is more information on their website www.mlaic.org. The muzzle loader clay shooting discipline is based on classic Trap, with a straight away clay launched from an automatic machine with automated release mechanism. Only one shot per clay target is permitted (you cannot see the clay through the cloud of smoke after the first shot anyway!).

When the old toppies get going, they don't mess around: a fully functional clay range was financed and built in double quick time on the Defence Clay Club's grounds at Snake Valley, Pretoria — complete with acoustic release mechanisms, a scoring stand, a high tower spotter's stand (to call the result of the shot from the side) and loading stands. A shooting squad can take up to one hour to complete a round of 25 clays per gun. Just imagine the smoke!

If you are interested in this new/old sport, call committee member Paul Vimercati at 082-808.6176. 🐦



Mike Bailey

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Model	Calibre	Sight Grooves	Total	Barrel Length	Overall length	Weight	Ball/Substance
S.225	.45	5	820mm	635mm	1.235m	5.9kg	490 long
S.225	.42	5	455mm	635mm	1.235m	5.9kg	451 long

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If you don't get 20 and over in clay shooting, don't blame the gun!

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• M/L Shotgun Wads: 12-16G over powder & over shot wads - Shotgun shot 7.7 1/2

Paul Vimercati - 35 years of hunting and target experience with muzzleloaders!
DEALER ENQUIRES WELCOME

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