



AMRA Update



Firstly, I must thank the outgoing members of the AMRA executive, and especially Jim Freebairn and John Kielly, for all their efforts over the years. I am pleased to have Nick Simms as Vice President

and Phil Bain as Secretary/Treasurer. I believe we can bring new ideas to the Association members to ensure Match Rifle and Long Range F class shooting develop and grow together.

The recent visit by the GB Woomera squad brought into focus the difference in ages of our two MR communities and developing initiatives to encourage new, younger shooters to join MR will be a major focus of the Association. These initiatives and other ideas to help safeguard our sport, including increased membership of the AMRA, will be outlined in a discussion document which will shortly be sent to all members. We will welcome comments and suggestions on these proposals as your input will be vital to their success.

There will be a Special General Meeting at Coonabarabran in October which will provide an opportunity for the membership to discuss these proposals.

Keep an eye on the 'Match Rifle Australia' page on the matchrifle.org website for all AMRA news. The Constitution, AMRA Newsletter and the Minutes of meetings are now on this page.

Paul Monaghan
AMRA President

Woomera Highlights

Honours went to Great Britain in the international Woomera Match held in Campbell Town on March 8th. Conditions were fine (for Campbell Town) meaning an absence of rain and a 'modest' but fishtailing wind.

Great Britain took the first range at 1000 yards by 11 points but Australia managed better at 1100 yards to keep in touch. An outstanding performance by the British team at 1200 yards saw them the eventual winners by 31 points. Encouraging for the Aussie team was the close centre count with 167 Australian Centres to 177 for the GB team.

Of interest were the 215g projectiles being used by most of the GB team. These projectiles have been difficult to come by in Australia along with the Reloader 17 powder the Brits are using. *Some things for us to be working on for the rematch – expected to be in the UK in 2019!*



Australian and GB Team Members

Competition, interspersed with some great social gatherings, meant there was a fantastic spirit of camaraderie between the Great Britain and Australian Teams – an experience many will be looking to repeat at the next opportunity.

Australian Match Rifle Association
2015/16 Fees (\$10)

Now Due

Payment can be made by cheque payable to the Australian Match Rifle Association and sent to PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650 or phone 0401 835 006 for Bpay details.

2016/17 fees (\$20) will be due on 1 July 2016

*Go Further With Long Range Shooting
Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class*

www.matchrifle.org



Back Gunners Take The Honours

Back gunning is rarely seen in Australia and only a small number of UK shooters use the back gun position.

Back gunners were to the fore in the recent Australian Match Rifle Championships in Tasmania with Alex Cargill-Thompson (England), a back gunner, taking the Australian Championship Grand Aggregate by 3 points. There were 3 back gunners that finished in the top 10 at the Championship.



Alex Cargill-Thompson coached by Nick Tremlett in the Woomera

Julien Peck (another English back gunner!) teamed up with Australian Barry Southern to take out the Coolibah pairs trophy and Hannah Fisher (Scotland & Yes another back gunner!) Captained her team of Barry Southern (Vic), Nigel Paul (Tas) and David Rich (Vic) to an 8 point win in the Freebairn Teams competition.

Not to be outdone a traditional prone shooter took the honours in the Tasmanian Championships with Ashley Abrahams (England) edging Willy Schaffner (SA) out by a single point.

The Australian Championships proved a great success and thanks go to the Tasmanian Rifle Association for their great effort in hosting the event. Particular thanks to Gil & Dawne Walker, John Collis, Andrew Cowrick. Special thanks to Noelene and Brian for the

organisation of catering and the butts. We send "Compliments To the Markers"

Check the website for all results www.matchrifle.org

For The Diary

30th April & 1st May

NSW Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships – Ungarie

2 & 3 May

South Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships – Lower Light

4th Sept

South Australian Club Day – Lower Light

7 -10th October

Ultra Long Range Challenge – including 1500 yards – Coonabarabran NSW

5 & 6th Nov

Victorian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships – Stawell

4th Dec

South Australian Club Day

Going Further!

Where traditional Target Rifle and F Class finish is where Match Rifle and Long Range F Class (MR&LRF) start.

Historically MR&LRF have been shot over 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards and these distances are used for International, National and State championships.

In recent times Australian MR&LRF has expanded the horizons with 1500 yard ranges and competitions now part of the Calendar in Tasmania and Coonabarabran.

All competitions are shot on the 610mm bulls eye target with Super X's being used for LRF.

Getting started is easier than you may think as many target rifles can convert to MR with the addition of a scope and research on loads and projectiles.



There are 8 ranges in Australia that cater for MR&LRF – Campbell Town in Tasmania, Lower Light in SA, Stawell and Corryong in Victoria, Ungarie and Coonabarabran in NSW and Belmont and Raglan in QLD.

Recent news from the Queensland Rifle Association is the construction of a new range at Toowomba which will go back to 1200 yds.

Five Australian States hold MR&LRF State Championships annually and the National Australian MR&LRF Championships are held every 18 months (approx) rotating around the States. The Nationals include individual and State teams' events.

In addition there is an Official Australian Team selected for the Woomera Match against Great Britain. Held every 3 years on average this competition alternates between Australia and Bisley in the United Kingdom.

Joining MR&LRF further develops shooting and wind reading skills which are transferable to other TR, FTR and F Class distances. It also provides good State and National representative opportunities.

To get started contact
info@matchrifle.org

We can put you in touch with someone locally.

Merton Vale World Championship 1500

Tasmania has introduced a new competition to the MR&LRF class shooting Calendar with two x 15 shot ranges at 1500 yards for the Merton Vale Trophy.



On a somewhat bleak and blustery day in Campbell Town, the best of the Australian and GB shooters gathered to take on the extra-long range. Those members of the GB and

Aussie teams who had spent the previous evening celebrating/commiserating the results of Woomera Match were struggling a bit to see those far away targets and some were quicker than others in doing the necessary mental calculations!

A friendly range officer and the provision of up to 5 sighters was a help. At the commencement of firing an intrepid shot rang out and watched by many, the target went down and came up with a 9 o'clock inner 4 to great cheers from the spectators.



Most people only needed a couple of sighters to find their range despite blustery wind which ranged between 12 & 16 mph. With angle changes and only 5 flags visible – 4 of which were within 500yds of the target - it was a test of wind reading skills to keep on target which most did admirably.

Gary Alexander (GB) with a score of 130.2 out of a possible 150 was the aggregate winner by 3 points from Simon Whitby (GB)

The Merton Vale Trophy, designed by Anita Dineen and donated by Paul and Chris Monaghan, is named after the property on which the Campbell Town Rifle Range sits. The font used on the title plate is commonly used in branding wool bales which is fitting as the owner of Merton Vale, Henry Foster, is a superfine merino breeder. He is also patron of the Tasmanian Rifle Association.

The next 1500 yard event is the Ultra Long Range Challenge to be held at Coonabarabran 7-10 October which will include 1000, 1100, 1200 and 1500 yard ranges. Don't miss it!



Comments Wanted On New Rule for MR Rests In the UK

The Shooting Committee of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain has recently changed the rules in the UK in relation to Match Rifle Rests as indicated below.

Part of paragraph 156 of the NRA GB Handbook 2016

Positions: Rifles may be fired in any position, subject to the constraints of Range Regulations, provided that the weight of the rifle is entirely supported by the firer's person. Flexible padding may be placed between rifle and firer.

*An adjustable rest to support the forward hand/wrist (previously said **hand or forearm**) in the prone position, or the foot/ankle (previously said **or the leg or foot**) in the supine position, is permitted. **The dimensions of the area of contact must not exceed 145mm x 102mm (the area of the 'Bisley Bible' book laid flat)**. There must be no contact whatsoever between rifle and any such rest or the ground. The butt may be supported in the shoulder but must not rest on the ground or any artificial support. In the supine position, whilst the firer is in the aim, the breech-end of the barrel must remain behind the line of pegs; the firer's legs may, however, be in front of the line of the pegs.*

*Competitors with disabilities which prevent them from shooting prone or supine, may, on application to the Shooting Committee, with suitable evidence, be permitted to shoot seated at a table. The weight of the rifle must be borne fully by the body, but a rest, which must not touch the rifle, may be used to support the forward hand as above (previously said **forward hand or forearm**). The butt may be supported in the shoulder but must not rest on the table or on an artificial support of any kind. The proposed design of the table must be submitted to the Shooting Committee for approval prior to being used. The competitor, table and other equipment together, must not take up more than their allotted space on the firing point. The table must be of conventional design and be capable of being moved and erected by a single person.*

The above will be in the 2016 Bisley Bible and in effect for the Imperial Meeting.

The amended rule is on the Agenda for further discussion at their Shooting Committee meeting in September and it is believed that there might be some scope for increasing the allowable area in light of observation/discussion this season. It is thought that the current wording based on size of Bisley Bible was a conveniently applied starting point.

AMRA has been asked for comment on the amended rule and in particular on what the size of the 'contact area' should be.

If you have any comments on the new UK rule,
please send these via email to info@matchrifle.org or bring them (preferably in writing) to Ungarie.
Comments should be submitted by **31st May 2016**.

Note. The current rule in Australia relating to the use of Rests is given in Section 18.4.3.1 of the NRAA Standard Shooting Rules. This states that "A rest may be used to support the forward hand **or** forearm. The rest must not touch the rifle. The butt must not rest on the ground."

A discussion on this rule and whether or not to adopt the UK rule will be listed for discussion at the AMRA Special General Meeting to be held in Coonabarabran in October.



AMRA Who's Who

At the recent General Meeting of AMRA there was a change of office bearers. Feel free to contact any of the Committee or Zone Delegates if you have suggestions for the Association

Executive Committee

President	Paul Monaghan (Tas)
Vice President	Nick Simms (Vic)
Sec/Treasurer	Philip Bain (NSW)

Zone Delegates

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| • F Class | Bill Siegloff |
| • New South Wales | Rob Halloran |
| • Queensland | Kerod Lindley |
| • South Australia | Bill Freebairn |
| • Tasmania | Gil Walker |
| • Victoria | Lew Horwood |
| • Western Australia | David Martin |
| • ACT | Jim Clifford |



More Scenes From Tasmania



Contributions to the AMRA Newsletter are greatly appreciated and can be emailed to info@matchrifle.org.

Next edition will be August/September 2016.