



AMRA President's Update

NRAA Update.

I was pleased to have been invited to the May NRAA Board meeting in Brisbane. This was a valuable opportunity for me to meet the various Board members and to get to grips with the relationship between the NRAA and Match Rifle/Long Range F class. I was also able to discuss with the Board how we see the future of our sport over the next few years. Among other things, we discussed the problem of how to encourage new shooters to take up target shooting disciplines and perhaps not surprisingly, this has exercised the NRAA Board for some time. Sadly, there are no easy fixes.



There was agreement that there was benefit all round from closer integration of AMRA with the NRAA and the AMRA committee has already started to consolidate the shooting rules for all our MR and Long Range F class competitions. These will be submitted to the NRAA and published on the website.

Although not a magic solution to all our shooting wishes, both powder and bullet accessibility was discussed and there may be a possibility for bulk ordering of bullets through the NRAA in the future.

To return to the question of the long-term future of target rifle shooting, especially MR, if we do not achieve a significant increase in new (younger) shooters the sport is at risk. We have to be proactive. I am surprised that having spoken to a few people about the sport several have come to the range and tried shooting at 1200 yards. Have they converted to MR? Not yet, but if we don't try nothing will change. The Tasmanian Rifle Association is planning to hold a 'Come and Try' day in the spring. How about your range/State doing the same? This is not a case of 'it's someone else's job'. We all have to get involved.

Woomera Match 2019.

The NRA of Great Britain has written to the NRAA inviting an Australian Match Rifle team to compete at Bisley in July 2019. The NRAA Board is to consider the invitation at their August meeting and will hopefully call for nominations soon after. This will give the team a good length of time to train and develop before the actual match.

Special General Meeting.

Although the Long Range Match in Coonabarabran in October is not an AMRA event, it was decided in Tasmania earlier this year to hold a Special General Meeting of AMRA at this event. The reason for this is that there are a few changes that need to be made to the AMRA constitution sooner rather than later. This will also give us an opportunity to discuss a couple of issues including the choice of a standard target for 1500 yard shooting.

Australian Match Rifle Association
2016/17 Fees (\$20)

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.

Paul Monaghan
AMRA President



For The Diary

<p><u>4 September 2016</u></p> <p>South Australian Club Day <i>Lower Light</i></p>	<p><u>7 October 2016</u></p> <p>Wind Reading Masterclass <i>Coonabarabran</i></p>
<p><u>8-10 October 2016</u></p> <p>Ultra Long Range Challenge <i>Coonabarabran</i></p>	<p><u>5-6 November 2016</u></p> <p>Victorian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships <i>Stawell</i></p>
<p><u>7 November 2016</u></p> <p>Long Range F Class State Teams <i>Stawell</i></p>	<p><u>4 December 2016</u></p> <p>South Australian Club Day <i>Lower Light</i></p>

Thinking About Long Range Shooting?

We talk to some people who have recently taken the challenge.

Ben Goodwin – F Class



Ben shoots most Saturday's at Explorers Rifle Club in Lockhart and shot in the NSW Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships for the first time at Ungarie in May.

What rifle and ammunition did you use?

My F-Open rifle is chambered in 6.5x47L. It is built on a Barnard Action, Maddco 8 twist Barrel, Ken Noye MBR style stock. My scope is a March 8-80 x 56 and I use Berger 130gr VLD's, Lapua Brass and ADI 2208 powder

What did you have to do to shoot the distances past 1000 yards?

I needed to do very little to my F-open rifle in order to stretch it out to 1200 yards. The first thing I did was run some numbers through my ballistics program to see how much elevation above my 1000yard setting I needed, I had plenty of elevation left in my scope so no modification was required thankfully.

Myself and a few club members then shot 1000 yards every Saturday morning for the month before Ungarie, I used this to try bumping my loads up a little which actually turned out to be a waste of time, the best elevation at 1000 yards was right in the middle of my usual velocity node which is around 2900fps.



What advice would you give anyone shooting the long ranges for the first time?

For those thinking of giving long range F-class a go, I would say if you have enough elevation in your setup then just go for it and have a crack, it is a lot of fun!!

In two days I learned a lot about light, mirage and mysterious elevation changes at this extended range. No one was immune to the wind or sudden elevation shifts.

There were a few 308's there shooting 155gr F-standard loads, a 6mm BR and a 6Dasher. You don't need a 7mm Magnum just to have a go. Shooting a 6mm or a 6.5mm at that range teaches you a lot about wind reading!

I will be trying my best to get to the next long range event and I encourage anyone who shoots the regular f-class distance's out to 1000 yards to get out and have a go. My regular shooting at 900 and 1000 yards at home has definitely improved since shooting at Ungarie.

Alan Forbes – FTR

Alan is from Concord Rifle Club and shot FTR in the NSW Match Rifle & Long Range F Class championships in May at Ungarie.

What rifle and ammunition did you use?

I used a Barnard action with a benchmark barrel fitted and chambered by Brian Patsky. This sits in an AGFA aluminium stock made by myself. I have a Sightron 10-50x60 scope. I used the 155 Berger hybrid projectiles in lapua cases with 08 powder.



What did you have to do to shoot the distances past 1000 yards?

I didn't have much time to change from this load or projectile as we didn't decide to go until a few weeks before the comp. This load and projectile worked fine at 1000yards but was at a bit of a disadvantage at the longer distances.

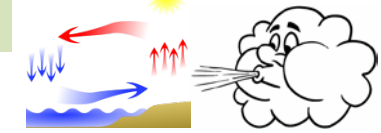
What advice would you give anyone shooting the long ranges for the first time?

I would highly recommend anybody who is interested in shooting to give the longer ranges a go as it's a lot different and all the competitors I encountered that weekend (some who I had meet before and hope to meet all again) were a very helpful and friendly group. I am looking forward to the next long range event I will attend hopefully with a little more time to prepare and work up a load and projectile (using the knowledge I received from fellow shooters over the weekend at Ungarie) that will work better at the longer ranges.



Wind Reading Masterclass

Ever wished you could read the wind better?



Well here's your chance to better understand the vagaries of the elements!

In conjunction with the Ultra Long Range Challenge at Coonabarabran, AMRA has organised a Wind Reading Masterclass on **Friday 7 October 2016** to be conducted by **Stuart Collings**.



Stuart is a world renowned coach having coached both Australian and Great Britain Match Rifle & Target Rifle Teams.

The Masterclass will help you unlock the secrets of:

- Reading Flags
- Understanding Mirage
- Range Geography
- Using Plot Sheets

Cost: AMRA Members - **\$30**
Non-Members - **\$45**

Cost includes lunch, morning & afternoon tea/coffee and markers as the day will involve both theory and practical sessions.

For further details including how to Register go to matchrifle.org - but hurry as numbers are limited!

2016 Queensland Match Rifle Championship at Raglan

It had been hoped that 2016 would see a revitalisation of the Championships in QLD. Two F/TR shooters were to come down from Townsville, the same number of F Open shooters from Bundaberg & another couple of people from Brisbane were expected to shoot either F/TR or Match Rifle – but in the end, they all had last minute changes of plan. That left the Championships with seven shooters, just enough to fill all four categories.

Match Rifle Open was where the action was on the first day with Graham Mincham & John Kielly experimenting with Berger 215s & Peter Rix swapping between old & new Hornady 208s, the honours being shared among them. Terry Hancock kept his nerve to win the MR Reserve daily while Peter Hill & Mackay's John Smith were in classes of their own in F/TR & FO.

John Kielly hit his straps on day two, taking all three ranges, albeit with a less than impressive 1100 meter result. Ross Atherton revived to take MR Reserve day two & the championship while Peter & John rounded out their clean sweeps.

Go Further With Long Range Shooting
Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class
www.matchrifle.org



The question unanswered was whether 215s could be managed in 10 twist barrels. Raglan is a cruel range, mirage wise so there was no way to determine if the sloppy 1100 yard results were a fault of conditions or equipment selection. Stay tuned for Stawell.

OPEN		900m	1000m	1100m	Day 1 Agg	900m	1000m	1100m	Day 2 Agg	Grand Agg
John Kielly	Pheasant Creek	75.10	75.07	92.04	242.21	75.08	74.05	71.03	220.16	462.37
Graham Mincham	Bundaberg	75.09	72.05	91.03	238.17	74.09	72.03	68.05	214.17	452.34
Peter Rix	Kaniva	73.04	73.04	94.03	240.11	72.02	69.03	66.00	207.05	447.16
Viv Hunt	CQTS	72.07	68.06	76.04	216.17	72.08	70.06	70.04	212.18	428.35
Rodney Prayle	Maryborough	70.05	67.01	74.02	211.08	70.03	63.00	61.03	194.06	405.14
RESERVE		900m	1000m	1100m	Day 1 Agg	900m	1000m	1100m	Day 2 Agg	Grand Agg
Ross Atherton	CQTS	71.01	59.02	84.00	214.03	70.02	70.05	64.03	204.10	418.13
Terry Hancock	CQTS	71.05	66.02	79.02	216.09	72.05	69.02	47.02	188.09	404.18
F OPEN		900m	1000m	1100m	Day 1 Agg	900m	1000m	1100m	Day 2 Agg	Grand Agg
John Smith	Mackay	89.03	83.01	102.02	274.06	88.03	84.02	82.01	254.06	528.12
FTR		900m	1000m	1100m	Day 1 Agg	900m	1000m	1100m	Day 2 Agg	Grand Agg
Peter Hill	CQTS	76.01	78.03	94.00	248.04	83.01	80.01	76.01	239.03	487.07

Queensland is hoping to have the 2017 shoot early in the year – after Campbell Town but before Ungarie or Lower Light & expects to decide on a date within the next few weeks.



News From Bisley

For the second year in a row, Mike Baillie-Hamilton (Scotland) was the winner of the Hopton at the recent Imperial Meeting in the UK for Match Rifle. An impressive 1002.127 aggregate from the four days of competition saw Mike 3 clear points ahead of 2014 winner Rob Lygoe (England) on 999.114 with Nick Tremlett (England) in third place on 994.101.



The Match Rifle events were marked by cold and blustery conditions which challenged most competitors as scores demonstrate but Mike seemed untroubled by the conditions taking out most of the major trophies on offer as demonstrated!

In the Elcho, England set a record high score of 1755.203 to take the Elcho Shield by an impressive 42 points from Scotland on 1713.166 only 1 point ahead of Ireland in third place on 1712.171 with Wales in fourth place on 1671.143.



The day itself was variable to say the least with wintry weather at 1100 forcing the abandonment of the firing points for a time – to be followed by ‘finer’ weather but very tricky wind conditions at 1200 yards. The bottom right hand corner of the English scoreboard probably summed up the day.



ENGLAND		1000	1100	1200	TOTAL
2016	1200 YARDS				
BRASIER	4VV4554455VV5VV	75 ⁹	75 ⁹	71 ⁶	221 23
BARNARD	44445V5555V5VVV	75 ⁹	72 ⁸	71 ⁵	218 22
FRIEND	5V54VV45554445V	74 ⁹	72 ⁵	70 ⁴	216 18
LYGDE	V55VVV5V55V4V4	75 ¹⁰	75 ⁸	73 ⁷	223 25
PECK	VVV5VVV55V5VVV	74 ¹³	74 ¹¹	75 ¹⁰	223 34
ABRAHAMS	34V5VV55555V5V5	75 ¹¹	72 ⁹	72 ⁵	219 25
DASHWOOD	VV55VV535VVV455	75 ¹³	74 ¹¹	72 ⁷	221 31
TREMLETT	55VV5V434544V45	71 ⁹	75 ¹²	68 ⁴	214 25
CAPTAIN	TREMLETT	594 ⁸²	589 ⁷³	572 ⁴⁸	1755 203
COACH	RICHARDS CARGILL THOMPSON LOWE ADJ LINDSAY III	WON BY A COUNTRY MILE			

The weather then decided to fine up (and warm up) for the target rifle events where 16 Australians were competing.



A stunning effort by Jim Corbett saw him take the TR Grand Aggregate (for the second time) with a record high score.

Congratulations also go to the five Australians who made it through to the Queens Final which was held in warm and windy conditions where most competitors ‘hit a bird’ at some stage. Jim Bailey was the best of the Australians coming 5th – only 2 points behind the winner, David Calvert, and with a higher centre count! Steve Negus at 21st was the next placed Australian with Jim Corbett (28th), Geoff Grosskeutz (35th) and Donna Negus (36th) all finishing well in the top half of the competition.

The Australian NRAA team to Bisley also had success in winning both the Overseas Trophy and the Dominion Prize.





Vale Michael Davis

On a sadder note, we mark the passing of Michael Davis (England) who passed away in May. Michael was known to many Australian Match Rifle shooters. In 1993, along with Philip Saul, he made the long trip from the UK to participate in the first ever Australian Match Rifle championships which was held at Woomera. A report on their experiences in these Championships makes for interesting reading and can be found on the website at http://www.matchrifle.org/Results_Australia/Nationals_1993_Report.htm.



Many Australians visiting Bisley over the years have experienced Michael's friendship and hospitality – as well as his noted affection for a dram or two of the finest Scotch Whisky. His lifelong friendship with many Scots saw him made an honorary Scotsman in 2007 (Michael McDavis) and come to Australia as part of Scotland's "Holidaying With Match Rifle" goodwill team that competed at Corryong and Stawell.

In tribute to Michael many of his friends and family gathered for a memorial wake on the first night of the Hopton.

Victorian Match Rifle and Long Range F-Class Championship

Stawell, 5 & 6 November 2016



Friday 4th : Practice from 10:00 AM
 Saturday 5th : 3 sighters + 15 shots at 1000 & 1100 yds.
 3 sighters + 20 shots at 1200yds.
 Sunday 6th : 2 sighters + 15 shots at 1000, 1100 & 1200 yds.

3 badges for Match Rifle Open
 2 badges for F Class Open
 2 badges for F/TR

Trophies include gold bullion for the best 100 in Match Rifle at 1200yds

Shot under Standard Shooting Rules although all competitors will be re-qualified prior to the final 1200yd match on 6th. Nov.
 On Monday 7th. November the long range F-Class State teams will compete.

Entry: \$70 for Saturday and Sunday.

Paid markers
 Free camping on range with shower and toilets

Contact: Lew Horwood (03)5356 2532 or email lewhorwood@tpg.com.au

Ultra-Long Range Challenge

Coonabarabran Rifle Range

Friday 7th to Monday 10th October 2016

Match Rifle - FTR - F Open

ENTRY FEES \$120 for the 3 Day event or \$40.00 per day

Friday 7th

Morning Program to be advised. Afternoon program is an open practice session from 12 pm at 1,000 & 1,200 yards. Cost per person is \$10.00

Saturday 8th start time 8.30am

Match 1: 1,000 yds. -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Match 2: 1,100 yds. -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Match 3: 1,200 yds. -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Daily Aggregate Winner Prize for each Range and Divisions

Sunday 9th start time 8.30am

Match 4: 1,000 yds. -2 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Match 5: 1,100 yds. -2 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Match 6: 1,200 yds. -2 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Daily Aggregate Winner Prize for each Range and Divisions

Time permitting a zeroing practise will be held for 1,500 yards after the conclusion of the last range of the day. The practise rule is that once you are in the "black" you have an elevation setting for the range.

Monday 10th start time 8.30am

A zeroing practise will be held for 1,500 yards if required and at the discretion of the prize shoot executive. The practise rule is that once you are in the "black" you have an elevation setting for the range.

Match 7: 1,500 yds. -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Match 8: 1,500 yds. -2 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots

Daily Aggregate Winner Prize for each Range and Divisions

GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZES

*Trophy and Badge for each of the 1st place Winners,
2nd & 3rd Place Winners Badges (for each Division)*

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

www.matchrifle.org



AMRA Who's Who

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*)

Secretary/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

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

- Next edition will be November/December 2016.