



Chairman's Report

It has been a while since the last newsletter and the shooting world has, to a large extent, managed to get over the Covid cloud hanging over travel and getting together for competitions. We have reports of two competitions in this issue: Tasmania in March this year and New South Wales at Ungarie in May. The NSW meeting in particular was well attended by both Match Rifle and F class shooters.

I have been pondering various accuracy matters recently and in an ideal world, it is clear that to do well, particularly at the longer distances, you need perfect ammunition and be able to shoot perfect shots. It's not an ideal world, so the question is, which is the most important factor? Check the internet and it seems that to make as near perfect ammunition as possible involves a huge number of stages, and many of these are of uncertain value. You can also spend a fortune on 'essential' tools and measuring devices. If you want to improve your scores, the hard part is knowing where to put your time, effort and cash. The difference between good ammo and the best may help your scores a little bit, but it cannot overcome inconsistencies in shooting. That said, having ammunition made to the best standard that you can manage may act as a confidence-booster.

It seems only a few weeks ago that we hosted the Brits for the 2022 Woomera Match at Stawell but already we have to start thinking about the next Woomera at Bisley in 2025. We managed to give them a bit of a fright at Stawell and hopefully, we can build on that performance in 2025. Details of the NRAA call for Captain, Manager and Shooters are in this newsletter. I don't want to pre-empt whoever is selected for Captain, but looking at the timetable, it looks pretty clear that there will have to be a Woomera Squad practice at Stawell this November, and this will almost certainly be on the Friday before the VIC Championships. You have been warned!

AMRA Membership Fees

A reminder that membership to AMRA is due on the 1st July 2023.

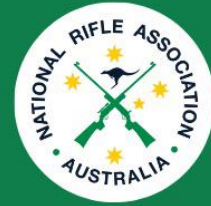
Payment of \$20 can be made via direct deposit into the AMRA account.

Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

BSB: 633-000

Acc: 140420423

NRAA TEAM ALERT



The NRAA will be sending an Australian Match Rifle Team to Bisley UK in 2025, which will participate in The Hopton and The Woomera matches.

Nominations for Captain and Manager will open on Monday 19 June 2023 and close on Monday 31 July 2023.

Nominations for Wind Coaches and Shooters will open on Monday 21 August 2023 and close on Monday 2 October 2023.



Tasmanian Match Rifle Championships

After the usual practice on Friday, Saturday started a bit cool but sunny and soon warmed up to the low 20's for the rest of the day. The 1000-yard detail was met by very little wind, but it still managed to drift a minute or so either way from zero – enough to catch you out if you were not concentrating. Shane Courtney made the best job of it with a nice 75:12 and Peter Fox won the F Open with 84.2.

The 1100 was a different matter with left wind of about 4 or 5 minutes, but doing the Campbell Town Range thing of sudden drop-offs, or angle changes. A bit of luck was needed here, or just good wind-reading such as that by Shane Courtney who shot an excellent 74.5. Peter Fox won F Open with 83.1.

1200 yards was quite pleasant with it sunny and warm. Unfortunately, the wind was not so kind, coming from the left, but rapidly shifting direction and speed with one shooter reporting a wind bracket of 7 minutes.

The stress of trying to read the wind clearly showed. There were at least 6 shots on the wrong target during the shoot. This must be a record, although one the TAS Championships is not proud to own. One shooter was lucky – a shot on the wrong target for sighter number three, followed by a bull for 1st to count (Phew!). If there is anything to learn from this, it is 'try not to get a wind number in your head (eg 6 minutes) and then shoot on target 6. Paul Monaghan managed 71:4 in Match Rifle, and Peter Fox F Open with 82.3. Overall honours for the

day went to Nick Cock, who got his name on the CM trophy for the day 1 aggregate with 217.15, followed by Paul Monaghan with 216.20 and Shane Courtney with 215.21. F Open was won by Peter Fox with 249.6 followed by Bill Ballantyne 222.2.

Sunday was warm and humid following the overnight shower. Winds were again quite calm for the 1000 yards which was won by Paul Monaghan (75.11) with Peter Fox winning F-Open.

The wind picked up during the 1100 but was never more than about 5 minutes from the right.

After lunch, the 1200 yard detail was horrid! The wind was from the right and changing strength and direction – fast. Few managed to top 90 ex 100 with Nick Cock leading the MR with 92.4, and Peter Fox with an excellent 98.1 in F Open.

Tony McGuigan won the Day 2 Agg (240.18) and got his name on the PM Trophy, with Nick Cock second (239.16) and Paul Monaghan third (238.20). However, it was Nick Cock who took the Grand Aggregate with 456.31, followed by Paul Monaghan with 454.40 and Lew Horwood with 449.37. Peter Fox won the F Open with 515.17 followed by Bill Ballantyne with 471.5.

Thanks are due to all those who made the TAS MR Championships possible, as well as the stalwarts who turned up from interstate to compete. Special mention must go to Ted Holden for running the electronic targets with skill and enthusiasm. We were uneasy about using the Shotmarkers for our first major event and having Ted's experience really helped. Another Victorian who came to support us was Anna Dyson who generously carried out the scoring duties as well as lunches. Thanks to both as well as Peter Fox for doing a great job behind the scenes with all the organisation, and Steve Clark who worked hard to get the targets sorted.



Tasmanian MR champion 2023

Nick Cock



Peter Fox – F-Open Champion receiving the trophy from John Collis

Merton Vale Trophy

The 1500 competition for the Merton Vale Trophy was shot the day after the Tasmanian Championships and after overnight rain which cleared just in time, we assembled on the 1500 yard mound in what felt like a roaring gale. Despite the flags looking as if they were trying to escape, the mean wind was only around 12 minutes. Detail 1 was won by Paul Monaghan with a 63.3 and James Freeman won FTR with a 57. The second detail was windier still with Paul Monaghan being the only one to crack 60 squeaking in with a 60.0. James Freeman got close with 59.0 in FTR. After lunch it was even windier, and to make things worse the wind got stronger through the shoot. The final shooter got up with 23 minutes needed for the final shot. It was agreed that this was the windiest Merton Vale competition ever, but despite this, the number of shots missing the target were less than expected. The final tally showed Paul Monaghan in front by an impressive 25 points, with 188.5 ex 225 followed by Nick Cock with 163.6 with Andrew Burgess third with 156.3. James Freeman won the FTR on 174.



Merton Vale Trophy Winner 2023

Paul Monaghan

NSW State Championships

The NSW State Championships were held at Ungarie on the 6th and 7th of May with 19 Match Rifle, 14 F-Open and 11 FTR shooters resulting in the best ever attendance for a state event at Ungarie.

Saturday saw good conditions, cool and sunny with light northerly winds that swung around to the south during the day and were tricky enough to send the unwary down the scoreboard. The combination of that and the high number of competitors saw the 1200 yard match reduced to 15 shots to ensure everyone finished before dark. At the end of day one match rifle saw Tony McGuigan take the daily aggregate with 221-23 and lead into the second day by one point from Lew Horwood with another six shooters within three points. Richard Bailey in F-Open finished with 265-16 to take the day, eight points in front of Pete Cascone with Darren Bradley nine points behind.

FTR saw Gary Faulkner on 254.9 and five points in front of Marty Kelly.

Sunday saw more challenging conditions with a ten degree air temperature with a two degree wind chill due to the gusting southerly winds that strengthened through the day.

With the prediction of conditions worsening through the day and wishing to finish at a reasonable time so people could attend the presentation and get away before dark, it was decided by the match organisers to reduce the 1000 yard match to a 10-shot match and try and get 15 shots in at 1100 and 1200 yards.

In conditions that turned out to be the gentlest of the day there were a number of possibles shot at 1000 yards in all disciplines and very little movement on the leaderboard.

The 1100 yard match was kept to 15 shots and in conditions that could only be described as brutal saw plenty of dropped points and some large swings on the leaderboards. A brilliant 88 by Darren Bradley saw him take a two point lead into the last range in F-open ahead of Richard Bailey and steady scores from Marty Kelly saw him

enter the last range only four points down from Gary Faulkner. Match Rifle was the most open of all with any of the top 7 or 8 shooters able to win.

1200 yards was reduced back to a 10 shot match and in very gusty winds that saw match rifle shooters with anywhere between 12 to 15 minutes of right wind on Lew Horwood shot a brilliant 50-5 to take the lead halfway through the match and have a nervous wait as Paul Monaghan, Nick Cock and Shaun Wingrove all had opportunity to win with Paul's 48-1 seeing Lew win on centres.

F-Open also went down to the wire with Darren Bradley managing to hold off Richard Bailey for a one point win, as did FTR with Gary Faulkner holding off Marty Kelly for a two point win.

A big thanks to all those who attended, particularly those who were shooting match rifle or long range F-class for the first time. Hopefully you enjoyed the weekend and we hope to see you all back again next year.



Paul Monaghan, Peter Cascone, Richard Bailey, Darren Bradley, Lew Horwood, Gary Faulkner, Marty Kelly, Dennis Formiatti, Nick Cock



LONG RANGE CELEBRATION! 3 Days – 3 Events!

Match Rifle – F Open - FTR

Shoot one or shoot them all!

Coonabarabran 30 Sep – 2 Oct 2023

- **Long Range Challenge** (1000, 1100 & 1200 yards - 7 ranges over 2 ½ days)
- **Ultra Long Range Challenge (ULRC)** (+ the 1500 range each day)
- **1500 yard Aggregate** (aggregate of the 3 x 1500 ranges)

ENTRY FEES

\$175 (Juniors \$75)

Practice Session (for range elevations) – Friday 29 October commencing at 12 noon \$15

Visit the website www.matchrifle.org for further information