



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: **11th November 2017**

Venue: **Stawell Rifle Club**

1.0 PRESENT

P. Monaghan (Chair), N. Simms, P. Bain, T. Smith, C. Austen, S. Clark, J. Clifford, S. Courtney, J. Freebairn, W. Freebairn, C. Halloran, M. Halloran, R. Halloran, D. Hillier, L. Horwood, V. Hunt, J. Kielly, P. Maher, T. Manning, G. Mincham, R. Nordewier, M. Punturiero, P. Rix, L. Rozsnyai, M. Samuels, L. Shallis, J. Shobbrook, W. Siegloff, N. Simms, S. Smithson, B. Southern, G. Walker, M. Walters, G. Warrian, S. Wingrove, J. Ziersch,.

In Attendance

S. Weisser (Statistician), Ron Aldridge, Ross Aldridge

Apologies

K. Lindley, D. Shallis, N. Roberts, G. Tomerad

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES & RECORDS

Resolution

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 4 March 2016 and the Special General Meeting held 5 November 2016 as well as the Notes of Discussions with Members held 5 November 2016 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: J. Freebairn

Seconded: W. Freebairn

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, Paul Monaghan, provided the following report on AMRA activities in line with the objectives of the Association.

OBJECTIVE 1: To promote and encourage Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia.

- AMRA membership increased by 89% in 2016/17 from the previous year.
- AMRA is reporting an improved financial position which will be outlined in the Treasurer's report.
- AMRA is now producing an electronic Newsletter which is issued 3 times a year. To date we have produced 5 newsletters with a further Newsletter planned for release in November. There are ~ 110 people on the mailing list for the Newsletter and it is also sent to all the State Rifle Associations and the NRAA along with a request for each of the State Rifle Associations to send out via their club mailing lists.
- The AMRA website is continuing to provide a vehicle for promotion with more people accessing the website.

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- The new AMRA Range shirts are now available and it was pleasing that we had 52 shirts initially ordered. The hope is that people will wear these on their local ranges and to other events to promote the long range shooting disciplines to other shooters
- Perpetual Trophies for the winners of the Grand Aggregate at the National Championships for F Open, FTR and Match Rifle Reserve have now been sourced and each trophy will be given a name which appropriately reflects their national status. The current suggestion is
F Open – The Commonwealth Trophy
FTR – The Southern Cross Trophy
MR Reserve – The Aurora Trophy.

OBJECTIVE 2: To oversee and coordinate Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia.

- In May 2016 I was pleased to be invited to attend an NRAA Board meeting which provided a good opportunity to discuss the promotion and support of the long range disciplines with the Board
- Work has been done on documenting the various Match Rifle & Long Range F Class competitions in Australia. Once finalised it is planned to submit to the NRAA for approval and updating of events in the NRAA Competitions Manual.
- AMRA has made representation to the NRAA for inclusion of Match Rifle and Long Range F Class in the NRAA database. Currently the database does not include distances past 1000 yards and nor does it include match rifle as a discipline.
- Earlier this year AMRA was able to negotiate with the Australian Target Rifle magazine to run ads showing all the MR & LRFC events scheduled for the rest of the year over two editions and with the support of the respective States, is looking to do so again for 2018.
- I can advise that there is discussion currently happening in Great Britain regarding moving to ICFRA targets for shooting from 900 to 1200 yards and members views on this for Australia are sought

OBJECTIVE 3: To encourage team shooting in Match Rifle and compatible F Class disciplines.

- Unfortunately, one thing we weren't able to get off the ground last year was the Wind Reading Masterclass which was planned to be held at Coonabarabran prior to the Ultra Long Range Challenge event. Sadly, both events had to be cancelled due to heavy rains and severe flooding in the area. AMRA will continue to look for similar development opportunities for shooters.
- It was pleasing to have the invitation from the NRA of GB to send an Australian Match Rifle team to Bisley in 2019 accepted by the NRAA and pleasing that 23 applications were received for the initial training squad for this team. It is planned that the final Team will be selected in March 2018.
- At the request of some members, some initial contact has been made with GB regarding a Long Range F Class international competition but this will need further work to bring to fruition.

In accepting the Chairman's report, 2 points were noted from the floor:

- The International Long Range F Class competition should be pursued
- Changes to target dimensions in GB, should not necessitate changes to the Australian target dimensions

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5.0 FINANCIAL

5.1 Treasurer's Report

Tom Smith presented the Treasurer's reports and financial statements noting that the Association was showing an improved financial position to 1st September 2017 with Net Worth improving from \$3568.31 to \$4,840.02 over the last reporting period. The main AMRA account had a balance of \$3,993.84 and the Australian Match Rifle Team account a balance of \$1,417.60. It was noted that \$300 wind reading donation was yet to transfer from the AMRA account to the Team account and that nominal values of \$1 each had been placed on items donated – namely a Match Rifle and Headsets.

5.2 Approval of Financial Reports & Accounts

Resolution

That the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statements to 1st September 2017 be approved and accepted.

Proposed: G. Warrian

Seconded: W. Siegloff

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Treasurer was commended on the quality and presentation of the financial report.

5.3 Fixing of Annual Fees

Resolution

That the Annual Fees for AMRA remain at \$20 for 2018/19.

Proposed: G. Warrian

Seconded: W. Siegloff

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution

That Section 5.6 of the AMRA Constitution be amended to reflect the change approved in 2016 to move to the payment of fees annually on 1 July each year

Proposed: G. Warrian

Seconded: W. Siegloff

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5.4 Approval of Accounts for Payment

Resolution

That the following accounts be approved for payment

- Philip Bain - \$321.42 for 2 years domain registration with Smartyhost for matchrifle.org from October 2016 (\$59.00) and 3 years website hosting with Justhost from Oct 2016 for match rifle website (\$262.42)
- Philip Bain - \$20 – Reimbursement of postage expenses.
- Tom Smith for refund of \$30 provided for cancelled Wind Reading Course

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Proposed: J. Kielly

Seconded: V. Hunt

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6.0 STATISTICAL REPORT

Susan Weisser provided the Statistical Report with the key points being:

- All Results from all MR & LR F Class events are posted to the website as soon as possible after receipt
- There are consistently about 40 people in the MR Grade Point table. Currently the highest grade point on the table is 99.945 which compares to 99.659 as the highest 12 months ago.
- In the 10 years since the Match Rifle Grading system the average scores of across all competitors in State Championships have improved by 10.5 points going from 420.8 (out of 475) in 2006 to 431.2 in 2016 and similarly the average winning score across the State Championships has increased by 10 points from 450 to 460.
- Usage of the website is showing an 8% - 12% increase from the last reporting period across all measurements. On average there are now 800 (unique) people accessing the website per month (up from 744 in 2015). For 2016 it averaged just over 1,200 visits per month (total of 14,574 visits) which was an increase of 9.1% on 2015. The number of pages being accessed has increased by 11.9% with a total of 33,442 page views.
- Usage of the website increases in months when there are major events with people accessing information before the event and also viewing results after the event.
- The main upgrade to the website over the past year has been to the Match Rifle Australia page where you can now find all the AMRA related information. This includes the Constitution, Minutes of recent meetings, Newsletters and Application for Membership forms
- The matchrifle.org website was first developed in 2003 and so the technology that it was developed in is quite dated and has transitioned to different service providers a couple of times in order to secure the most cost-effective host for the website. In some of these transitions, the hyperlinkages in some places may have been lost and any such problems should be reported through the website email so that they can be fixed.

7.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

In commencing this section of the meeting the Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed when dealing with Notices of Motion namely:

- A seconder for each motion would be called for. If there is no seconder the motion lapses.
- The mover will then speak to the motion and other speakers for and against the motion taken.
- Any amendments to the motion will need to be consistent with the intent of the motion and will be disallowed if it is felt to be inconsistent with the original intent.

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- Following discussion and amendments the motion will be put to vote.
- Only current financial members may vote

7.1 Rule Change Regarding Match Rifle Rests

The current SSR for Match Rifle relating to Rests and Positions is:

18.4.2 Shooting Position

18.4.2.1 Any shooting position is allowed, subject to the conditions, provided that such position is not considered to be either unsuitable to the firing point and the target arrangements or dangerous. The supine position is permitted.

18.4.3 Support

18.4.3.1 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

Proposed Resolution

That AMRA make representation to the NRAA for a change to the rule governing the dimensions and use of Match Rifle Rests (18.4.3.1) to that adopted by the National Rifle Association of the Great Britain namely:

*An adjustable rest to support the forward hand/wrist in the prone position, or the foot/ankle in the supine position, is permitted. **The dimensions of the area of contact must not exceed 145mm x 102mm.** 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, 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. The butt may be supported in the shoulder but must not rest on the table or on an artificial support of any kind. 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.

Proposed: AMRA Exec

Seconded: W. Siegloff

Barry Southern, Graham Mincham, James Freebairn and John Kielly all spoke against the motion with key points being that the GB rule appeared to have been introduced in haste and would be difficult to enforce and Australia did not have to follow the GB lead in this regard.

The motion was put to a vote with 3 votes for the motion and 33 against the motion.

MOTION NOT CARRIED

7.2 Standard Target for 1500 Yard events

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Resolution Proposed

That AMRA make representation to the NRAA for the "Match Rifle" target as stipulated in the SSR rules for 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards to also be adopted as the standard target dimensions for 1500-yard events.

Proposed: AMRA Exec

Seconded: M. Walters

Greg Warrian spoke against the motion with his view being the proposed target was too small, the size of the aiming mark too small and his experience was that people took a number of shots to hit the target. Bill Siegloff & Les Rozsnyai also spoke against the motion.

Philip Bain & Paul Monaghan spoke for the motion indicating they had been used for a number of competitions to date in Tasmania and NSW and whilst it is a challenge, that is the nature of 1500 yard events. The adoption of the same target as for the other distances meant that there did not have to be a changeover of targets between ranges

Mike Samuels indicated that there may be a legal requirement in some States about the gap between targets which may prevent the use of larger targets.

Bill Freebairn indicated that the proposed 8 x 6 target size was ok but that he would prefer to see a change in the scoring rings for 1500 yards.

The motion was put to a vote with 19 votes for the motion and 12 against the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

7.3 Match Rifle Reserve Grade

Resolution Proposed

That AMRA make representation to the NRAA for a change to the Reserve Grade classification for Match Rifle as below:

- *Match Rifle Reserve competitions are entered separate to Match Rifle Open competitions.*
- *There will be a Reserve Grade Point (RGP) level for Match Rifle shooters with Reserve shooters those with a Grade Point BELOW this RGP. The Reserve Grade Point will approximate the lower third of those regularly competing in Match Rifle Competition and will be reviewed and changed as necessary at each General Meeting of the Australian Match Rifle Association.*
- *Members of the current Australian Team are ineligible to shoot in Reserve Grade.*

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- *In the case of new competitors or previous competitors without a Grade Point in the grading period, then the executive of the Australian Match Rifle Association Inc or relevant State Match Rifle Association/Club hosting the event will decide whether the competitor is suitable for Reserve Grade based on an assessment of the deemed ability of the competitor.*
- *Winners of a Reserve Grade Grand Aggregate in either a State or National Championship with a score that exceeds the current Reserve Grade Point will be automatically promoted to Open for their **next** competition and thereafter their eligibility for Reserve Grade be based on their current Grade Point and the current RGP.*

Proposed: AMRA Exec

Seconded: W. Freebairn

Barry Southern proposed an amendment to the resolution to include that the person with the highest score, regardless of grade should be eligible to win the Number 1 badge in open. The Chair disallowed the amendment as inconsistent with the intent of the motion.

Viv Hunt and Mike Samuels expressed concern with the 4th point indicating that all shooters new to Match Rifle should commence in Reserve, regardless of their known performance in other disciplines.

Mark Walters queried why there was a need for Reserve grade given the relatively small number of shooters in the discipline. Bill Freebairn spoke to the need to keep a Reserve grade to encourage new shooters into the discipline and retain other shooters who are not otherwise competitive in Open grade.

The motion was put to a vote with 8 votes for the motion and 18 against the motion.

MOTION NOT CARRIED

7.4 Notice of Motions

Proposed Resolution

1. *That the Australian Individual Match Rifle event be separated from the State Teams competition.*
2. *That the Australian Match Rifle Individual event (including the Freebairn teams and associated "F" class event) be held annually at Coonabarabran. This event will be organised and run by the AMRA. Easter would be an ideal time.*
3. *That the State teams event rotate between, SA, NSW and Vic. These events will be run by the host state. There will be a practice day, (day 1), a Match Rifle day, (day 2)*

And a separate "F" Class day, (day 3). The host State may run their own individual Championship event in conjunction if they so wish.

In taking this motion, the Chair indicated the need to advise the membership of key legalities and issues that they needed to be aware of in consideration of the proposal

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- AMRA does not run events, does not carry insurance for conduct of events and conduct of events is not part of the Objectives in the Constitution
- AMRA can only make representations to the NRAA regarding National events as the NRAA is in charge of all National events. A section of previous correspondence from the NRAA to this effect was read to the meeting
- In the view of the Chair, the 3 items listed in the Notice were linked. If dealt with separately there was a possibility of different outcomes resulting which would present significant problems. They would therefore be dealt with as a single motion.

Proposed: G. Warrian

Seconded: W. Siegloff

Greg Warrian spoke to the motion indicating then the program was initially developed there were no teams events and these were developed as a "tack on" to the individual championships and that they were now a key event and should be treated seriously rather than being at the end of the individual championships which makes too much shooting.

Jim Freebairn and Bill Freebairn indicated that the State teams had greatly contributed to the numbers attending the individual Championships and that there were benefits in terms of numbers of keeping the individual and teams matches together

Viv Hunt noted that the additional time and cost of travel if the events were separated would be prohibitive for people such as himself. Stephen Clark also noted the difficulty in organising 2 events each year and the difficulty for working people to get time off for 2 events

Bill Siegloff noted that it was not fair to hold all the Championships in one location and Paul Monaghan and Viv Hun both expressed concern at disenfranchising States such as Tasmania and Queensland if they could not hold national events.

Graham Mincham moved that the Resolution be put to a vote

The motion was put to a vote with 1 vote for the motion and 27 against the motion.

MOTION NOT CARRIED

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 2018 Event Calendar

Tasmanian Championships – 3 & 4 March followed by 1500-yard event on 5th March and 2 days of Australian Squad practice

NSW Championships – 5 & 6 May – Ungarie

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Australian Championships and State Teams (Subject to NRAA Approval) proposed by Tues 2nd October to Saturday 6th October and followed by 1500 yd Ultra Long Range Challenge event on Sunday 7th October for those wishing to participate.

Victorian Championships = 3 & 4 November

8.2 Sighters for F Class

Lew Horwood raised the issue of the number of sighters for F Class in the Championships. They prefer 3 sighters for all days, not just day 1. Program was advertised as 2 sighters for all but the first day. The Chair undertook to clarify with the NRAA for future programs.

8.3 Queensland Zone Delegate

It was noted that Kerod Lindley has asked to be replaced as the QLD Zone Delegate as he is not able to shoot at present. John Kielly agreed to take on the QLD Zone Delegate role and was duly appointed.

8.4 FTR Teams Event

Dave Hillier indicated that a number of FTR shooters were interested in having an FTR teams event and requested that AMRA look to developing this. Mick Punti supported this idea. The Chairman invited FTR shooters to discuss what they would like with him during the Championships and he would see what could be progressed.

8.5 Getting Ammunition to Tasmania

The Executive was asked to repeat the information on shipping ammo to Tasmania in the next Newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.45pm.

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