



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

General Meeting MINUTES

Date: **3rd October 2018**
Venue: **Coonabarabran Rifle Club**

1.0 PRESENT

P. Monaghan (Chair), P. Bain, T. Smith, C. Austen, S. Clark, S. Courtney, J. Freebairn, W. Freebairn, C. Halloran, M. Halloran, R. Halloran, D. Hillier, L. Horwood, V. Hunt, J. Kielly, P. Maher, G. Mincham, M. Samuels, G. Walker, M. Walters, R. Lenehan, A. Blain, J. Hausler, W. Schaffner, E. Mace, D. Xuereb, N. Lyons, J. Dixon, A. Seaman, M. Kelly, S. Kao, A. Dyson

In Attendance

S. Weisser (Statistician), Ron Aldridge, Ross Aldridge, J. Meldrum, R. Jeffery, D. Dolphin, M. Hancock, C. Hancock

Apologies

G. Phelan, P. Murphy, B. Southern

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES & RECORDS

Resolution

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 11th November 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: J. Freebairn

Seconded: W. Freebairn

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary read correspondence from the Queensland Match Rifle Association regarding the hosting of the next Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships at Raglan in July 2020 and it was noted that this would be discussed further later in the meeting under General Business

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

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

It is pleasing that in 2017/18 we maintained and slightly improved our number of financial members. In 2016/17 we saw an increase of 90% in our membership going from 29 to 55 financial members. For 2017/18 we had a 3.6% increase to a total of 57 members.

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

Also pleasing is the fact that we have significantly improved the finances of the Association which puts us in a good position to be able to talk about how we grow our sport which is an item for general discussion later in this meeting. Both our general AMRA fund account and the account held on behalf of the Australian Match Rifle Team have doubled in the past year thanks to a lot of work in fundraising, some generous donations and our increased membership. My thanks to everyone involved in achieving this result

A new initiative in the last year has been the release of the new Range shirts. Thank you to everyone that purchased one of these. We have had two production runs so far with ~ 80 shirts sold and it is great to see people regularly wearing them on range as they do seem feature prominently in the photos of events.

In the last year we have trialled having a combined Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Calendar of Events advertised regularly in the Australian Target Rifle Magazine for which we were able to negotiate a special rate. The intent was that this would be co-funded by the respective States and the Australian Championships. To date NSW and Queensland have agreed to contribute to continuing this initiative which only costs \$40 for each State, I would ask that the other States please consider making a contribution towards this as we will not be able to continue this without everyone contributing.

Thank you also to everyone that has helped raise the profile of Match Rifle & Long Range F Class through the Australian Target Rifle magazine. This year we have featured prominently in a number of editions:

- Edition 132 (January/ February) – We had a total of 11 pages of coverage s on the Nationals individual event at Stawell, the State Teams, the South Australian Championships, the Victorian Championships and the Ultra Long Range Challenge at Coonabarabran
- Edition 134 (May/June) – A total of 13 pages of coverage –on the Tasmanian Championships, the 1500 yard event at Campbell Town and the 25 Year anniversary of the first Australian Match Rifle Championships.
- Edition 135 - 3 pages on the NSW championships.

We have continued the production of the AMRA electronic Newsletter which is issued 3 times a year. To date 8 newsletters have been produced with a further Newsletter planned for release in November. There are ~ 130 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. Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome and we are also offering advertising space in the Newsletter.

The AMRA website is continuing to provide a vehicle for promotion as will be reported later in the Statistician's report.

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

As I mentioned in the last report, the AMRA Executive has been working on documenting the various Match Rifle & Long Range F Class competitions in Australia. This work is now complete and a copy of the first version of the AMRA Competition Manual is now available on the AMRA page on the website. A couple of things to note in regard to this manual:

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

- This Manual is complementary to the NRAA Competition Manual which is the official Competition Manual for the Woomera Match, the Australian Championships and the State Teams Championships. Currently both the NRAA Competition Manual and the AMRA Competition Manual are identical for these competitions.
- In producing this manual, we gathered together what we could of how the F Class competitions for both the Australian Championships and the State Teams have been conducted in the past and formally documented these for the first time. We then liaised with the NRAA to have them officially included in the NRAA Competition Manual as they had never been included previously.
- The AMRA Manual provides information on other associated competitions such as the McEachran Trophy, Phil Cole Trophy, Coolibah, Freebairn Teams and F Open Pairs. The AMRA manual contains the history of all competitions and trophies, and documents current prize allocations as well as providing a photographic record of the various trophies. It also contains an Event Checklist to assist anyone running an event.

AMRA has continued to make 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. AMRA has again asked that inclusion of these be looked at in any future upgrade of the database but we have had no response to this request to date.

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

At the last General Meeting there was a request from FTR shooters for AMRA to look at including a team's competition in the Australian Championships program. Approval was sought from the NRAA for an FTR Teams event to be included on a trial basis with a view to hopefully growing it over coming years to the stage where we can apply for it to be a recognised as a State Teams event.

With input from some of the FTR shooters, we have started small with teams this year consisting of 2 shooters, so comprising a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 members (including a Captain and Coach). To foster its progression towards a State Teams competition, we sought to have people from each State being in the same team, with provision for States with small numbers to combine with another State to form a team. It is pleasing that we have, I think, 3 teams competing in this inaugural event. To develop it into a State Teams event we probably need to grow the numbers to have at least a 3 shooter team in the future.

Following a request from some F Open shooters, I took on the task of investigating the viability of establishing a Long Range F Class international competition similar to the Woomera Match for Match Rifle. The logical start for such a competition would be with Great Britain and I therefore had discussions with Mik Maksimovic who at the time was the NRA of Great Britain's representative for F Class. A couple of key points came out of my discussions with him:

- The main event for GB F Class shooters is the European Championships rather than the Imperial Meeting.

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

- Great Britain does not have a specialised 'Long Range F class' group and only a handful (~ 4) of F class shooters shoot past 1000 yards or shoot the Hopton. This is probably the biggest problem to face in getting anything organised that will be seen as a credible competition.
- Having a regular F class Team competition conducted at the same time as the Woomera competition would mean match rifle and F Class teams would be competing for sponsorship money and funding which is already difficult to come by. However, running such a competition in the gap years between the Woomera might be a viable option, but it would need people at both ends to be committed to the idea.
- In order to progress a level of interest at the GB end it probably needs several F class shooters to go to GB and shoot the Hopton, meet the F class shooters who do shoot the long ranges and try to get someone in GB fired up by the idea.

In regards to Match Rifle, the 2019 Woomera team has been selected and has had a number of training days including here on Monday and whilst there have been a couple of withdrawals we are still taking a team of 18 people over to the UK. With partners etc the group will be approximately 25 people. There are two more training sessions, in November before the Victorian Championships and next March at Campbell Town. The Woomera Competition will be next July and at this stage the program includes:

- A team of 10 people who are arriving early, going to Blair Atholl in Scotland to shoot both an individual competition and a teams match against Scotland.
- A full Australian Team competition against Ireland and Scotland as a warm up event at Bisley
- Members of the team shooting in the Hopton individual competition
- A match against England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales shot concurrent with the Elcho Match
- The Woomera match against Great Britain

Resolution

That the Chairman's Report be accepted.

Proposed: T. Smith
Seconded: W. Freebairn
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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. The Treasurer reported that the Association accounts continue to flourish with a net worth increase of approximately \$5.0K from \$4.5K to \$9.5K for the last financial period. Of this figure approximately \$2.8K is attributed to the AMRT fund account and which will mostly be transferred to the Woomera Team to Bisley, 2019.

Income from membership fees had decreased slightly although it is noted that some membership fees have been paid after 1st September, 2018. Annual income from membership each year is predicted to be in the

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

region of \$1-1.5K. The Treasurer recommended continuation of the membership fees in their current form (both value and frequency). Members were urged to reconsider the concept of organising automated annual bank transfers to limit the unnecessary administration.

The Treasurer noted that Stawell R.C. had generously donated part of the proceeds of the 2017 Nationals to the Association and Special thanks were given to Lew Horwood acknowledging his work in securing a large amount of sponsorship for the event which was instrumental to the financial success of that event.

It was also noted that income of approximately 1.1k for the AMRT fund had predominantly been derived from fund raising efforts of Susan and Philip Bain.

The Treasurer noted that with the improved financial position of the Association it was timely to consider how best to use the income and assets to promote long range rifle shooting.

In closing the Treasurer noted that the current Accounts Certifier is his wife which is not ideal and it was requested that an independent volunteer from the AMRA membership to certify the accounts when this item of business was discussed later in the meeting

5.2 Approval of Financial Reports & Accounts

Resolution

That the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statements to 1st September 2018 be approved and accepted.

Proposed: M. Walters

Seconded: C. Halloran

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3 Approval of Accounts for Payment

Resolution

That the following accounts be approved for payment

- *Philip Bain - \$65 for Registration of Rule Changes with South Australian Consumer & Business Affairs as approved at November 2017 General Meeting. (Receipt provided)*
- *Philip Bain - \$119.95 for Renewal of matchrifle.org domain name registration for 5 years (to October 2023) with Netregistry. (Receipt provided)*

Proposed: M. Samuels

Seconded: L. Horwood

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6.0 STATISTICAL REPORT

The AMRA Statistician, Susan Weisser, presented the following report.

Results

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

Results from all MR & LR F Class events are posted to the website as soon as possible after receipt and photos to go with them of winners or just taken on the range should be emailed through as well. State championships are used in calculating the Grade Points for the match rifle shooters so prompt submission of results is appreciated.

Match Rifle Gradings

The numbers on the match rifle grading list have dropped slightly to 35, a drop of 5 from this time last year. Currently the highest grade point on the table is 100 which compares to 99.945 as the highest 12 months ago and there are 6 people with a grade point average of 99 or above which attests to the close competitions at a number of events.

It was noted that there is a notice of motion to be considered later in the meeting for the introduction of a Grade Point system similar to that for match rifle to be introduced for F Open and FTR.

Website

Usage of the website has remained at a pleasingly high level

- On average there continues to be just over 800 (unique) people (812) accessing the website per month
- This year there was an average of 2,714 visits per month with an average of 2,602 pages of the website visited. The number of visits per month and the number of pages being accessed has increased from the last report
- The most accessed pages are the Calendar, Results, Match Rifle Australia, AMRA Newsletter and the various range pages.
- Predominantly the users of the website come from Australia (~ 9,000 hits per month and 1500 pages accessed) with next highest being USA (1,500 hits and 584 pages per month) and Great Britain (968 hits and 102 pages per month) .

The Match Rifle Australia page continues to be used to promote AMRA business and this is where all the AMRA related information is located. This includes the Constitution, Minutes of recent meetings, Newsletters and Application for Membership forms. A recent addition to this page is the AMRA Competition Manual which documents all the current long range competitions.

Enquiries through the [info@matchrifle](mailto:info@matchrifle.org) email linked to the website come through sporadically and are directed as appropriate to event organisers if they relate to a specific event, or if they are general enquiries around starting in long range shooting, they are provided with some preliminary information and put in touch with the relevant contact person in their State.

7.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

It was noted that only 1 nomination had been received for each of the vacant positions by the closing date for nominations.

Resolution

That the nominated persons for the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer be declared elected in accordance with the Rules of the Association namely:

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Chairperson | Paul Monaghan |
| Vice Chairperson | Cliff Austen |
| Honorary Secretary | Philip Bain |
| Honorary Treasurer | Tom Smith |

Proposed: J. Freebairn
Seconded: W. Freebairn
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7.5 Confirmation of Zone Delegates

The following were confirmed by the respective States and meeting as the relevant State Zone Delegates:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| • New South Wales | Rob Halloran |
| • Queensland | John Kielly |
| • South Australia | Bill Freebairn |
| • Tasmania | Gil Walker |
| • Victoria | Lew Horwood |
| • Western Australia | David Martin |
| • ACT | Shaun Wingrove |

In regard to the F Class Zone Delegate, Paul Murphy was nominated in his absence for the position. Dave Hillier noted that if Paul Murphy was not willing to take the role he would do it on a temporary basis until the position could be otherwise filled.

Note: Paul Murphy has subsequently confirmed that he is willing to take on the role.

7.6 Appointment of Accounts Certifier

AMRA Member, David Xuereb, was nominated and confirmed as the Accounts Certifier for the Association.

7.7 Appointment of Statistician

Susan Weisser was reappointed as Statistician for the Association.

8.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 F Class Grade Points

Resolution Proposed by NSW Match Rifle Association (Cliff Austen, President)

That AMRA introduce a Grade Point system for long range events for F Class (F Open & FTR) using the same system as for Match Rifle.

James Freebairn spoke for the motion, confirming that the system had worked well for Match Rifle. The Statistician confirmed that it was a relatively easy task to expand the system to include FTR and F Open and circulated the draft work she had done on how Grade Points for these disciplines would currently look.

The Resolution was Seconded by David Hillier and passed unanimously

MOTION CARRIED

8.2 F Class Team Composition

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

Resolution Proposed by Cliff Austen

That AMRA make representation to the NRAA for the rules governing the Long Range F Class State Teams matches to include a provision similar to that for Match Rifle State Teams that where a State is unable to field a full team, they may apply to the NRAA for members from another State or Territory not otherwise represented, to combine to form a team. With the NRAA approval, the combined team will be eligible to win the State Teams' Trophies.

The Resolution was Seconded by Mark Walters and passed unanimously

MOTION CARRIED

8.3 Support For 2019 Woomera Team

Proposed by Philip Bain

That, in line with objective three of the Association to encourage team shooting, AMRA provide funding for the 2019 Woomera team by meeting the cost of the Woomera medallions and placing an advertisement in the AMRT Team Booklet.

Bill Freebairn asked for an idea of the cost of these items and was advised that medallions were ~ \$350 and the advertisement was \$100 so approximately \$500 in total.

The Resolution was Seconded by Bill Freebairn and passed unanimously

MOTION CARRIED

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Fixing of Annual Fees for 2019/2020

Resolution

That the Annual Fees for AMRA remain at \$20 for 2019/20.

Proposed: T. Smith

Seconded: C. Halloran

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Promotion of Match Rifle & Long Range Disciplines

Tom Smith spoke further about the need to promote match rifle and long range F Class to secure the sport in the long term. Some immediate ideas were a link on the Oz F Class website, the creation of a Facebook page and the establishment of a 'shorter range' Postal League shoot possibly including New Zealand and Great Britain shooters with prize money allocated from AMRA funds.

It was agreed that a Working Group, chaired by Tom Smith, would be established to further pursue promotion ideas. The following people offered to be part of the working group: Mike Samuels; Shane Kao; Alan Seaman; Dave Hillier, John Kielly.

9.3 Nationals 2020

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

As per earlier correspondence, it was noted that the next National Championships are scheduled to be held in Queensland in 2020 and the Queensland Match Rifle Association had proposed they be held at Raglan from 15-19 July 2020.

John Kielly suggested that a 1-day Queensland Championship could be held on 14th July as a lead up shoot and this idea was supported by those present.

Resolution

That AMRA approach the NRAA and QRA for approval to hold the next Australian Match Rifle & Long Range Championships at Raglan from 15-19 July 2020

Proposed: P. Bain

Seconded: J. Kielly

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 Life Membership

The Chairperson noted the long and valued contribution that Bill Freebairn had made over the years to the establishment and furtherment of match rifle in Australia including his period as Captain of the Australian Match Rifle Team.

Resolution

That Life Membership of the Australian Match Rifle Association be conferred on William Freebairn in recognition of his many years of service to the Association and match rifle in Australia.

Proposed: P. Monaghan

Seconded: C. Austen

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Vice Chairperson noted that the Statistician, Susan Weisser, had given over 15 years of voluntary service to the Association in this capacity as well as helping with organisation of events and managing the AMRA website

Resolution

That Life Membership of the Australian Match Rifle Association be conferred on Susan Weisser in recognition of her service to the Association.

Proposed: C. Austen

Seconded: W. Freebairn

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 Electronic Targets

David Xuereb noted that prior to the National Championships, the Coonabarabran Prize Meeting had been conducted on the range using electronic targets. Given the frequent difficulty in securing

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org



Australian Match Rifle Association Inc.

(Incorporation No. A40530)

PO Box 535 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

info@matchrifle.org

markers for events, David proposed that the use of portable Silver Mountain electronic targets be tested for match rifle and long range F Class.

A number of people indicated they were interested in participating in a trial of electronic targets and it was agreed that David would further investigate the hire of targets for a trial event with venue and dates to be advised through the Mailing List once known.

9.6 Sights For F Class

Anna Dyson raised the question of F Class having 3 sights when Match Rifle only have 2 sights for ranges after the first day and the confusion this sometimes causes on the range.

It was noted that this had been discussed at the last two meetings with F Class members strongly advocating for the current 3 sights.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.40pm.

Go Further!

Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class

www.matchrifle.org