



National Rifle Association of Australia Limited

MEMBER UPDATE #35

Chairman/Competitions – John Fitzgerald

COMMONWEALTH GAMES Australia Cup trials

The NRAA has been advised that Fullbore Target Rifle will be conducted in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow from 23rd July to 3rd August.

The program to date for the Australia Cups is as follow:

NRAA Championships June 25th 2012	Closing Date 25th May 2012
QRA Championships August 19th 2012	Closing Date 20th July 2012
VRA Championships 2013 (Date to be confirmed)	
NRAA Championships 24th June 2013 TBC	Closing date 24th May 2013
SARA Championships Tuesday 8th October 2013 TBC	

Nomination forms are available on the NRAA web page or from the NRAA office, please email your request to executive@nraa.com.au or fax to 07 3398 3515.

Please note entry forms must be received by close of business on the above mentioned closing dates.

The NRAA board is pleased to announce the following team appointments

AUSTRALIAN Rifle Team, Australia Match, Barbados, May 2013.

CAPTAIN: John Baxter
MANAGER: Rod Bickel
MASTER COACH: Rob Rush
COACHES: Rob Cadden
Ken Cooke

SHOOTERS (in alphabetical order):

Angus Bell, Barbara Bell, Tim Berry, George Edser, Ben Emms, Darren Enslin, Gillian Webb-Enslin, David Gardiner, Jim Jeffery, Donna Negus, Andrew Sims, Ron Whalen.

NRAA Open Team, America Match 15 Aug 2012.

CAPTAIN: Ron Whalen
MANAGER: Brain Patsky
MASTER COACH: Owen Henry
COACHES: David Rich
John Maguire

SHOOTERS (in alphabetical order): Angus Bell, Barbara Bell, Mike Chad, Neil Drain, Darren Enslin Gillian Webb-Enslin, Donna Negus, Lewis Ryan, Aubrey Sonnenberg, David Waters.

NRAA F CLASS Good Will Team, Stars and Stripes Match 2012.

The NRAA are pleased to announce our support for the members travelling to Raton this year under the Captancy of Linda Shehan.

Australian F Class Rifle Team, Raton 2013.

The NRAA are pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Shehan as Captain for the F Class Open and F T/R teams. Linda will be appointing a vice captain to assist her in the task of leading Australia to victory. The official Team will be announced in the upcoming month.



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RECALL: AUSTRALIAN Under 25 Rifle Team, Australia Match, Barbados, May 2013

Nominations are being recalled for persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager, Coaches and shooters to compete in the 2013 Australian Under 25 Match in Barbados. Team composition is Captain, Manager/Adjutant, 5 Shooters, 1 Reserve, and 1 Target Coach. The Team will wear the Australian Coat of Arms and will be self funded. Please forward your request for the NRAA Nomination Form to the NRAA office or to executive@nraa.com.au. Nominations close 30th June 2012.

Finance – Gordon Duncan

NRAA Queens

The NRAA have finalised entry fees for the 2012 NRAA Queens. Entries will be as below:

Presidents \$130 and Queens \$150

F Class Teams Match Entry Fee

In view of the correspondence from VRA, the NRAA Board has agreed to review all costs associated with conducting the 2012 event. Once all expenses are collated and if total cost is below received income, a refund will be distributed back to the States and Territories.

Membership – John Harding

The Workshop of Members held last year has further endorsed the need for the NRAA to work with all State and Territory Associations to progress the concept of a National Data Base of members, especially in light of the forthcoming changes to the grading system that will see this become an active tool for the seeding of competitors on a regular, and possibly weekly, basis.

The major challenge with the developments in this area is to ensure adequate and timely supply of information to the NRAA, which will be undertaking the required shooting results input to produce the grading averages.

To date each State and Territory Association has now supplied the basic information for their existing data management systems. Whilst there is a degree of similarity in the structure and nature of the data that is being held by each Association, there is in fact quite an array of different software and operating systems being used. This in itself probably represents the biggest hurdle to achieving a smooth transition to a web based database platform, as each Association will need to accept that there will be a degree of disruption to their current operations as staff and members learn the new system. Ideally it would be simpler to try and replicate existing input screens and reporting structures for each Association, however adopting this approach is likely to have an adverse impact on the budget for this project.

Forgetting the issues of how to structure the management of the data that is being collected at present it is becoming immediately important that each member will have to have a Unique Identifier Number (UIN) if the national database and the national grading systems are to be successful.



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Electronic Targets and Membership

In the middle of last year it was reported that there were approximately 65 Kongsberg Electronic Target sets in use across Australia. This has now grown to 80 with WA increasing its share to 40. A number of Australian based electronic target systems are also known to be making their presence felt on the Eastern seaboard, although actual numbers of installations are not readily known.

Whilst it is apparent that some clubs have been awaiting the results of the NRAA electronic target committee before “taking the leap”, those clubs with electronic targets have reportedly been experiencing a general growth in participation and membership retention rates.

The Swanbourne based clubs in Western Australia will shortly be celebrating their 4th anniversary of electronic targets and with 4 successful Queens Prize Meetings having been conducted on electronic targets the general consensus is that there is no looking back. From a modest start of 10 target sets this is about to increase to 13 or even 14 by the middle of this year.

In addition the WARA has now implemented a state based program of providing 4 State Association owned electronic targets to supplement the regional District Prize Meeting where the host clubs have already moved onto electronic targets for their regular club shooting.

For those that are interested in growing your club both in member numbers, participation and enjoyment, electronic targets certainly offer a 21st century solution.

Ammunition – George Edser

At the February Board meeting the NRAA approved the use of the .224 – 80gn (VDL) JLK projectile in the J4 jacket.

At the Members’ Workshop and associated meetings held in November 2011 the NRAA was asked to consider the approval for use of the Berger range of projectiles (including the 155.5gn Match Fullbore Target) as an additional and alternative projectile to the current list of approved items.

To assist in the Board’s deliberations, you are requested to canvass your members to consider the following matters and advise at your earliest convenience. The next Board meeting will be held on the 26th May 2012.

Berger Projectile:

1. Would you support or recommend the NRAA approve the use of another projectile for Members’ use if that projectile could be supplied to the Members at a price that is comparable to the price that they are presently paying?
2. Do you support the approval for use of the Berger Projectiles if it was priced competitively?
3. If you support the introduction then at what stage would you consider it appropriate to commence its use, i.e. immediately or say from 1st July 2012?
4. Would you like to see the Berger (.308) in a factory round?



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5. Would you prefer to restrict the options to have available say only 2 factory rounds with say BJD-HBC and the Berger?
6. Do you consider that there is a down-side to the proposed approval and, if so, what and how do you perceive that it might affect your Association?

Other Matters:

7. Would you recommend the approval of “pointing” or “meplating” of projectiles?
8. If you do not support this proposal then please list the reasons why.

You are requested to canvass your Members and advise in relation to the above matters at your earliest convenience.

Rules – Bob Pedersen

Uniform Grading Rules

1. At the November Annual Meeting of the Delegates from each S&TA, the Members approved the adoption of the Draft Grading Rules as proposed by the VRA.
2. However, it was decided that the NRAA should be responsible for the complete administration of the NATIONAL GRADING SYSTEM, with grades being processed nationally by the NRAA, followed by updated information being placed on the NRAA Web Site.
3. Because of this, I rewrote the Draft of Chapter 12, to reflect the change to a nationally administered system, rather than a State administered one.
4. Therefore I have circulated the revised Chapter 12 to all S&TA's and asked them to circulate it to all their members plus place it on their web sites. I would welcome comments or suggestions for improvement.
5. My timetable is now to process this Draft and present it at the May Board meeting, after which it will be incorporated in the SSR's. This has also been placed on the NRAA Web Site.
6. As soon as I am able and have time, I will be in touch with all State and Territory Associations to begin organizing a system whereby results from ALL OPEN COMPETITIONS can be forwarded direct to the NRAA, who will be responsible for the calculating of averages and placing the results on the NRAA Grading page. I intend for the results to be forwarded directly to the NRAA from each individual Open Competition, rather than through State Associations.
7. Eventually, the Grading process will be contained within the National Database System which Director John Harding is developing, but that is not expected to be in place for some time.
8. For the system to work, IT IS ESSENTIAL that each registered member have a UIN (Unique Identifier Number). This applies to both the Grading System and the National Database.
9. S&TA's are asked that they make sure that their members are assigned a UIN, which can be done through the NRAA web site.
10. Victoria and Tasmania have led the way here by registering each of their members and putting the UIN on their shooters' Membership Cards. (Note that Grades should not be put on these cards).



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CHANGES TO NRAA SSR'S

The following Standard Shooting Rules have been added/alterd at the February 2012 NRAA Board Meeting

- (a) These rules come into force as of Monday 27th February 2012.
- (b) They have been placed on the NRAA web site and advertised in the next available edition of the NRAA Magazine.
- (c) They have been circulated to all States and Territories who were asked to place them on their respective web sites and to circulate this document as widely as possible amongst their members.
- (d) The Electronic Copy on the NRAA web site will be updated ASAP.
- (e) The Written Copy of the Rules will not be updated at this time. A number of changes to Grading Rules and additions because of Electronic Targets are being contemplated and it makes sense to wait until all these are finalised.

CHANGES / ADDITIONS TO SSR's as of 27th FEBRUARY, 2012

3.1.5.6 A single "multifocal" lens with no magnification may be included with the rear sight of a rifle. It may be used in conjunction with an "Eagle-eye" in the foresight. It may be used with a variable dioptrre as per Rule 3.5.1.3, in which case no magnification such as an "Eagle-eye" is permitted in the front sight. Any individual prescription lens intended to correct a shooter's vision may be used on the rear sight or simply as glasses worn by the shooter.

Comment:-

A new type of rear lens, broadly described as a "multifocal lens" has been developed. It is described as being able to focus both on the foresight and the aiming mark. It has been allowed in other countries and under ICFRA Rules as well, being used by shooters at the recent world championships. Whilst it is not available directly yet in Australia it can be easily imported individually. If you research "MicroSight Technology" on the Internet you will find it.

4.2.1.16 No radio devices may be used between coaches and/or team officials. Only a communication system that uses wires is permitted provided it is restricted to those on the firing point. No one in the communications loop may sit so far behind the shooters and coaches that he can receive outside advice from sources other than his team.

Comment:-

Traditionally this has always been allowed, but has not actually been in the rules. It will also be inserted in the Competitions Manual. Obviously radio or other wireless devices have been barred for a multitude of reasons.



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- 12.5.5 If Competition Organisers intend to split Grades on some type of Divisional basis to suit their own purpose (E.G. 50/50 for F Class), then this must be clearly indicated and advertised on the Program. If this is not done, then the normal Grading of A, B or C must be applied.

Comment:-

Competitors have the right to know under which system they may be divided before they are entering, as this may influence their decision to enter or not. There have been cases where, when a divisional system has been used to divide entries equally into 2 grades, that the top few entries in "Division 2" would have been classified as A Grade under the normal Grading split. Conversely, there have been cases when the bottom few entries in "Division 1" have been B Graders, thereby having to compete against the top A Grade shooters.

F Class Standard Rule 20.9.3 has been discussed by the F Standard Rules Committee and altered to read:-

- 20.9.3 The stock may be of any material and be shaped or modified to the shooter's requirement with a maximum width of 76.2mm (3 inches).

Comment:-

This allows a very broad interpretation of especially the forend on an F Class Standard Rifle. It removes the reference to "A flat plate not exceeding 76.2mm in width and 10mm in thickness may be fixed to the underside of the rifle's forend" – however let it be understood that under the new wording "Plates" are still allowed. Many shooters have "scalloped" the underside of their forends where it comes in contact with the front bag, usually leaving two "rails" on the forend in contact with the bag in an attempt to reduce friction. Quite a few commercially made stocks also come with these "scalloped" forends already.

This rule change is an attempt to say that flat plates are OK, scalloped plates are OK, flat forends are OK, scalloped flat forends are OK, round forends are OK.

HOWEVER – We must always take note of the ultimate test described by Rule 20.10 (f) which says the rifle must be able to be lifted clear of the rest, without disturbing any part of the rest in any way.

This rule prevents the forend being "clamped" in any way by the front bag or rest, whatever its shape or design.

ELECTRONIC TARGETS

The Electronic Targets Committee has completed its major Draft of the "User Requirements Document, pertaining to requirements for Electronic Targets. This Draft has been sent to all S&T's and to every potential Supplier we can find worldwide. Comments and suggestions have been invited from all and sundry. Once this process has been finalised then the document will be presented to the NRAA to be adopted as policy.

The Electronic Target Committee is also working on a set of alterations and inclusions to the SSR's to help govern and regulate the use of Electronic Targets on our ranges. When the Draft is ready; it will be circulated as widely as possible for feedback, comment and suggestions.



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NRAA Administration

NRAA Annual General Meeting Date 2012

Please be advised the NRAA AGM will be held on Friday November 30th 2012.

Many Thanks
Catherine Berry
Executive Officer