



National Rifle Association of Australia Limited

MEMBER UPDATE #44

Chairman/ Finance – Gordon Duncan

Recently I mentioned that change happens and when it does it is necessary to cope with the effects. Maybe the latest event has fallen upon us from an unexpected source which will necessitate quite a change in our thinking.

One of our suppliers – Optimus projectiles- has chosen to make their product available direct from their premises rather than through the NRAA/State Association channels.

The sale of projectiles and ammunition has been the cornerstone of the finances of the target shooting operations. If that is undermined – and the NRAA is to maintain its function in parallel with State Associations – then a shift will need to be made to an increase in affiliation fees to compensate for the shortfall in revenue raised from the sale of ammunition and components. As an estimate such fees may need to rise by \$20 per shooter. This would be offset by the supposedly lower ammunition costs.

Should we be forced down this path it is my prediction that the cost of projectiles and ammunition will rise in price as perhaps other suppliers follow the Optimus example. At present both projectiles and ammunition are purchased in large quantities enabling a reduction in price. A similar move for an expansion in the range of propellants may have a similar untoward effect. Rifle shooting will continue; we wont be “rooned” as Hanrahan would predict. Please be aware that after providing Optimus with a financially rewarding contract for a year, that organisation has chosen to bite the hand that feeds it. There is three major projectile suppliers especially for target rifle shooters and not all shooters purchase a projectile based on price. Performance is high on the requirements of shooters.

Recently the NRAA received an outstanding submission in relation to the encouragement and conduct of Under 25 teams from Andrew Sims. He is prepared to drive the concept including all aspects of team shooting. In time this may extend to F Class teams as well.

The Under 25 team recently returned from competition in South Africa showed its mettle by winning the Junior Australia Match at Bloemfontein.

The final elimination to enable selection of the two competitors in the Commonwealth Games in 2018 will precede the NRAA Championships. After two full series of matches the initial 30 competitors has been reduced to 10 shooters.. After the two day series the top five names will be presented to Shooting Australia for final selection purposes.

Rifle shooting remains a safe and enjoyable sport in which we can all compete. Enjoy the opportunities you have to do so at any level.



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Rules – Reg Cunningham

An update of the Standard Shooting Rules version 5.0(d) was published on the 10th March 2017. The updated version included the addition of a new rule and the modification of three rules.

1. Chapter 22 1000yds International Benchrest rules, new rules were included to formalize competition in 600yds Benchrest shooting.
2. Chapter 16 Service Rifle Target Shooting, these rules were modified to allow the use of Muzzle Brakes under strict conditions, if they come as standard equipment on rifles that are being used.
3. Range Officer Rules 2.2.3.1 and 5.1.1 were reworded to be more specific and give better clarification on the use of qualified NRAA Range Officers for club competition.
4. Rule 8.2.1.11 was reworded to allow Metplating and Pointing.

Rule Interpretation

I have been requested to clarify the interpretation of two rules 2.1.10 and 2.2.3 regarding rifles on the mound during a marker change. My interpretation is that rule 2.1.10 is used at the start of a shoot before anyone is allowed on the mound. Rule 2.2.3 is used once shooting has started, for example a marker change or similar. Hope this clarifies the confusion.

Determination regarding the use of a variable focus rear iris.

I have been requested to make a determination on the use of a Gehmann rear iris part number 50300-0 to use in combination with an eagle eye in TR competition. I have researched the product in question; essentially it is a variable focus rear iris that has NO magnification properties, described as zero magnification. Basically it enables a shooter to get their focal length correct without the use of shooting glasses or fixed lenses.

Due to its zero magnification, I believe it to be no different to using a correction lens in the rear sight. I consider that it DOES NOT contravene the SSR's and is legal to use in combination with an eagle eye in competition.

Membership – George Wittorff

As part of my brief to address membership issues facing the movement at a national level I have approached membership from a range of strategies.

These include:

Publications:

- ATR 128: This article was the sixth of a series relating to Membership and ways in which Associations and clubs can adopt strategies to improve membership. Article No 6 dealt primarily with strategies aimed at positively marketing the sport via the media, especially at the local level. It also offered research based best practice ways to approach and deal with the media for maximum effect.



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- ATR 129 will be the online edition and will include the seventh article, which is in effect an executive summary of the preceding six articles, but drawing particular attention to the need for clubs to focus on ways to arrest the decline in membership by Future Planning, looking at diversifying the scope and nature of shooting programs as well as developing a co-operative culture within each club.

Additional research-based articles will appear in subsequent editions of the ATR, but a review of the 2017/18 membership numbers will be an effective evaluation of whether the Membership Director's efforts have been taken up by the membership in general.

- Membership Toolbox: Subsequent to the Members' Workshop in December, the range of Membership articles which have, and will continue to appear in the ATR are being held on the NRAA website under the Menu "Membership Toolbox". In addition, a template for a Membership Plan for Clubs plus a pro forma flyer to clubs to use to advertise their club shoots are also available.

Junior Advisory Group (JAG): Responsibility for the implementation of this group now falls under the Membership Directorate. Once this Director has been briefed on progress so far, further reports will be possible. A concept paper prepared by Bruce Scott has now been accessed, and will be the starting point for this project's advancement.

Strategic Planning: The Membership Directorate has taken on the tasks of:

- Preparing a document showing the Mission, Purpose, Objectives, Scope and Activities of the NRAA which will be posted on the NRAA website.
- Developing Position Papers on subjects such as:
 - Rifle Range Tenure issues
 - Firearm Legislation
 - Firearm Safety, etc.. as the need arises.

In order to do this, advice and assistance will be sought from suitably qualified and experienced members.

IT – Bob Pedersen

A National Members Database

The NRAA hopes to establish a National Members Database that will be used and controlled and updated by all the individual States. Before the National Grading System the NRAA had no lists of its members which were held by the States only. With the advent of the National Grading System we do have State Member lists but keeping them up-to-date is a major task that does not work very well.

The Annual Members Workshop have agreed that the NRAA should work towards one National Database that is administered and controlled by the States rather than the 9 separate databases run by the States. This database will help us control and list all sorts of information such as current memberships, insurance, non-current memberships, deceased personnel and a large range of other information that will make the operation much more efficient.



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The cost this will be substantial and we need the support of all the States plus some financial help to make it work. I have written to all the States asking if they are willing to support this concept, both in principle and also hopefully with financial support.

Hexta Target Systems and The Grading System

Those of us that have competed at the QRA Championships in 2016 could not help but be impressed with the extensive software reporting system displayed by the Hexta System. Online live individual results were available and a comprehensive final results system was supplied. The only thing left to do at the end of it all was to manually enter the results into the NRAA Grading System.

I am writing to The Hexta People to see if they would be interested and if it would be possible to automate this final part and enter the results into the National Grading System Automatically.

NRAA Supplies – Online Ordering System

Included in the IT Upgrading the NRAA wished to achieve is an Online Ordering System. Stats place orders either by phone or email at the moment. These can easily be missed and problems often crop up. If we can implement an Online Ordering System which is only available to accredited State Administrators we are hoping that this will help reduce supply problems.

The National Grading System and Electronic Databases

The NRAA wants to encourage the various Electronic Target Manufacturers to use the NRAA Grading System Identification System of SIDs (Shooter ID Number). If they all adopt this it will make everything much simpler for everyone and also any future electronic linking to the National Grading System much more likely. I will write to them and encourage this.