



National Rifle Association of Australia Limited

MEMBER UPDATE #38

Chairman/Competitions – John Fitzgerald

The first NRAA Board of Directors Meeting for 2013 took place at Belmont over the weekend of 16 February. Newly elected Director (AGM Nov 2012) James Corbett was welcomed to the Board. Portfolio appointments were made which resulted in:-

Chairman/Competitions-John Fitzgerald

Ammunition-George Edser

Finance-Gordon Duncan

Membership and Marketing-James Corbett

Rules-Bob Pedersen.

From nominations received of intended Australian competitors at Bisley in July of this year it was agreed that "Official" Australian Team status would be given for a team to represent Australia in "The Kolapore" "The Mackinnon" and "Overseas" Team Matches at the Imperial Meeting. The Board appointed Geoff Grosskreutz as the Australian Team Captain. On behalf of NRAA we wish Geoff and his team success in their campaign "over there" this coming July together with all members of his team – Good Luck!

"The History Project" – Due to a hiccup with the intended publisher Army History Unit (AHU) in the later half of last year when the Federal Government slashed their budget funding by 90%, the delay in publishing of the NRAA History Project was unfortunately put on the back burner. The Board has now agreed to fund the publishing of the book "**THE RIFLEMEN: A History of the National Rifle Association of Australia 1888-1988**" through NRAA resources. The book is now due to be launched and available for purchase at the National Championships at Belmont in June of this year.

NRAA has been alerted to recent change in policy from Dept of Defence in relation to banning hand loads on all Defence Ranges. This has caused considerable concern to NRAA and with the assistance of Brigadier Bruce Scott, Chairman Nth Queensland Rifle Association, has successfully persuaded Defence to "put on hold" such a ban affecting NRAA members until such time as discussion between both parties takes place to substantiate any such decision.

The National Queens is fast approaching! – Wednesday 19 June through to Sunday 23 June at Belmont next – Be There for a wonderful 5 days (3 if you just shoot "The Queens") and enjoy the ambiance and the challenge of participating on "One of the Worlds Great Rifle Ranges!".

Nomination: CAPTAINS- Australian Rifle Team, PALMA MATCH 2015 - OPEN, UNDER 25 and VETERANS.

The NRAA are calling for suitable candidates to fill the positions of CAPTAIN in each of the above teams to represent Australia at the 2015 PALMA MATCH in the USA.

This is a self funded Green Blazer Coat of Arms Team. Please forward your request for the Nomination Form to the NRAA office at nraa@bigpond.com. Nominations close Friday 26th July 2013 .



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Finance – Gordon Duncan

The financial statement presented at the Directors' Meeting on 16 February confirmed the urgent need to increase individual affiliation fees from 1 July 2013 by \$10. The six months' result to December 2012 was a loss of \$40000. Assuming that this is indicative of the result for the full year, the annual loss should be less than the \$90000 as per budget.

A significantly expanded role of the NRAA over the past three years especially with teams' competitions both within Australia and overseas has meant an increase in staffing, as one person is physically unable to handle all expectations of members and shooters.

The long awaited publication of the "History of the National Rifle Association of Australia" will hopefully be completed in readiness for a launch at the annual championships in June this year. Provided there are reasonable sales of the quality book, any further costs will be covered.

Despite perceptions to the contrary, the entry fees for both portions of the National Championships are on par with other State Championships. The costs of conducting any matches now are significant and like all costs in business or at home, continue to increase.

The main financial aim is to ensure a break even at worst or a small profit. The whole programme is conducted on the best shooting facility in the Southern Hemisphere and in excellent weather conditions conducive to high scoring.

Membership – James Corbett

The NRAA board are pleased to announce that James has been allocated the Membership and Marketing portfolio. In just one meeting James has already shown positive prospects for the NRAA to try and assist in reducing the expected fall in revenue.

Ammunition – George Edser

Loaded Ammunition

Winchester currently has 100,000 loaded .223 69gn Ammunition. Unfortunately this may be our last production of this product due to the expenses to manufacture and small quantities ordered. We have now begun the process of reviewing other avenues for a .223 loaded round.

Berger

On the 7th February 2012 a notice was posted on the website news in response to a complaint by a very small number of Victoria Rifle Association members. It was established that the complaint was unsubstantiated and found not to have any validity. There appears to be ample demand and stock for these projectiles. Unfortunately there is no 80gn, 155gn Hybrid or 155gn VLD available, Stock is due to arrive in late April.



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Sierra Projectiles

We currently have sufficient Sierra 2156 projectiles in stock with a further delivery expected in late April.

HBC Projectiles

The demand for the HBC projectiles continues to be strong and supply is not an issue.

Rules – Bob Pedersen

Latest SSR's are Posted and Available

The latest version of the SSR's is now available. They are the Feb 2013 version 2a set, and effective as from the 16th February. The electronic version has been mailed to all S & T Associations for distribution to members. They are also available for download on the NRAA Web Site.

Major Rule Changes in SSR's

- (a) Electronic Targets – There are too many to list here. See Page 2 of the SSR's for a complete list. There are a whole range of additions and alterations to be taken into account when using Electronic Targets.
- (b) New APPENDIX 6. A new appendix named "Scoring Procedures for Electronic Targets" has been added. See Page 126 of the SSR's

Electronic Targets – NRAA Policy and Requirements Documents

The NRAA has now formalised its policy on Electronic Targets and issued three documents. These have been sent to all S & T's who have been asked to circulate them. They are also posted on the NRAA Web Site. We are indebted to all the work of the NRAA Electronic Targets Committee, which was a group of people, one from each State and Territory, who gave a lot of time to come up with the results, policies and documents.

The Documents are:-

- (a) NRAA Policy on Electronic Targets.
- (b) Essential Requirements for Electronic Targets.
- (c) An In-Depth Guide and Discussion Document.

Portable Benches on the Mound.

- (a) Previously there has been no mention of using Portable Benches on the mound. Rule 2.1.2.1 now formally acknowledges their use and the conditions under which they may be used.
- (b) Medical Certificates. Rule 2.1.2.2 mandates that State Associations must require Medical Certificates in order for competitors to be approved to use portable benches in competitions.

Rifle Muzzles Forward of Mound.

We have adopted the ICFRA concept that rifle muzzles should be forward of the front of the mound. This is to prevent competitors shooting so far back on the mound that the muzzle blast upsets other shooters. The rule also defines what "The Front of the Mound" is. This takes into account mounds that slope forwards or are poorly formed.



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Penalty Point Deductions.

Rule 3.5.2.3 defines that all penalty point deductions for TR Class are 5 and for F Class are 6 points.

An addition of Rule 4.1.5.14

Ensures that shooters clear the mound in a safe manner when retiring from the mound after shooting "Bisley Style"

Spotting Disc Sizes.

Rule 13.4.3 redefines Spotting Disc Sizes. Previously, the Spotting Disc sizes used were sometimes nearly as big as the Central Bull and certainly bigger than the Super V in many cases. Note that there is some discretion to use different sizes if conditions such as poor visibility prevail.

New ADI Powder.

The new ADI Benchmark 8208 powder is now allowed as per Appendix 1.

New Projectiles.

A Range of Berger Projectiles and the JLK – VLD 80 Gr. Projectiles have now been allowed as per Appendix 1

NATIONAL GRADING SYSTEM PROGRESS

Most people will now be aware that the NRAA has a new Web Site. We have commissioned a Private Commercial Firm to do this work, which is now up under the usual NRAA web address. The same firm has been commissioned to develop the National Grading System and integrate it into the NRAA web site. Eventually all results from all Open Prize Meetings and Queens around the country will be fed into the system, and everyone will be able to look up current gradings on the web site.

A huge amount of work needs to be done to get this up and going. The first step is to get a National Database of members. The NRAA until now has not had a database or any sort of list of shooting members. These have previously only been held by the states. I am working on getting the lists of members from the States and creating the National Database in readiness for grading scores to be fed into it and Grades calculated.

New SID's – Old UIN's

Unfortunately there was a flaw in the UIN number system. Whenever certain UIN's were fed into databases or spreadsheets, some of them would be corrupted. For example, when the UIN3888 is fed into a spreadsheet or database it would be converted into a date. Another UIN example is JUN2478. It becomes a date. We tried very hard to find a solution to this and keep the UIN's because we know some States have put a lot of work into it. We're sorry but we finally decided to go with a new system entirely for the National Database and Grading program.



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SID's (Shooter ID)

We thought of using Phone Area Codes. But they were too inconsistent. *Parts of regional New South Wales also use the 08 and 03 area codes. Parts of regional Victoria may use the 02 area code. The same with Postcodes. We Finally came up with SID's*

It's a fairly simple list, based on States, with each State having a specific leading number.

Shooters will be allocated a number, which will be displayed next to their details on the Grading Results displayed on the NRAA Web Site. Here's the list.

Allocation Of SID's to States

(Shooter ID Numbers)

STATE	LEADING NUMBER	ACTUAL NUMBERS
ACT	1	11000 to 19999
NSW	2	21000 to 29999
VIC	3	31000 to 39999
QLD	4	41000 to 49999
SA	5	51000 to 59999
WA	6	61000 to 69999
TAS	7	71000 to 79999
NT	8	81000 to 89999
NQLD	9	91000 to 95999

Note – this gives NQLD potentially 4,999 members.

INTERNAT 9 96000 to 99999

Note – this gives International potentially 3,999 members

When Will It All Happen?

- (a) *The NRAA has only one staff member who is working full time on other things.*
- (b) *I need to get all the membership lists from all the States.*
- (c) *I need to allocate a SID to everyone. There were about 3300 people on the old UIN List, but we have approx. 6700 members.*
- (d) *We need to feed the Member data into the new NRAA Database at present being created.*
- (e) *The Programmers are working flat out on creating the Grading System Program, and we are running short of budget.*
- (f) *We need to get hold of as many old scores as we can to feed into the Grading System to give us a starting point for grading.*
- (g) *We're working on a system so that everyone running a competition around the country can process their Prize Meeting or Queens Results and send them to the NRAA for Grading purposes.*
- (h) *I guess it all takes time but it's a work in progress.*

Bob Pedersen - Rules Director - NRAA

Many Thanks
Catherine Berry
Executive Officer