



National Rifle Association of Australia Limited

MEMBER UPDATE #34

Chairman/ Competitions - John Fitzgerald

Certainly 2011 has been a most eventful year for the NRAA and our member States and Territories.

On the bright side the ICFRA World Long Range Championships, some four years or so in the planning have come and gone. And without doubt the time in planning this event produced “The Best World Championships Ever” as stated by the President of ICFRA Tony Loughnan in his address to all present at the Closing Ceremony and Palma Dinner on Saturday evening the 22nd October last. It was a privilege and honour to have been part of this amazing two weeks in October and to have had the pleasure to share such an experience with such a dedicated team that worked so hard to put Australia and the NRAA at the forefront of organizing this most successful international event and creating a “Bench Mark” for future host countries to come.

On a not so bright note the impending closure of the Anzac Rifle Range in Sydney, the headquarters of the New South Wales Rifle Association, if enforced as the Commonwealth intends, will have a marked effect throughout the rifle shooting fraternity. There is absolutely no doubt this decision by the Dept of Finance and Deregulation (DOFAD) acting on behalf of the Gillard Labor Government is politically motivated. With my ‘other’ hat as Chairman of NSWRA I can advise that at this stage talks between the Commonwealth and NSWRA as late as Thursday 17th November have broken down and subsequent to this stalemate NSWRA have instructed our lawyers to file for an injunction for a stay of proceedings pending a challenge in the Federal Court to the Commonwealth’s serving of a Termination Notice effective 31st January 2012 to vacate as invalid, on certain grounds included within the License Agreement between both parties.

May I recognise in this report the outstanding effort of our Executive Officer Catherine Berry. Together with her normal duties in running the affairs of the company on a daily basis she has also had to contend over the past years of putting together the 2011 Planning Committee’s vision – thoughts and dreams, for the successful running of the World Championships. She performed well and truly over and above the call of duty and deserves a big “Thank You” and we all owe her a very big debt of gratitude for her contribution.

Nominations - WORLD F CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS- America 2013

Nominations are being called for interested persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager, Coaches and shooter to compete in the 2013 F Class World Championships for F/O and F/TR. Positions for each team are Captain, Manager/Adjutant, 1 Main Coach, 2 Coaches, 1 Armourer and 10 shooters. Please forward nominations to the NRAA office or to executive@nraa.com.au by COB 31st December 2011.

Expression of interest- NRAA F Class Team- South Africa 5th-13th April 2013

Expression of interests is being called for persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager, Coaches and shooter to compete in the 2013 F Class team matches at General de Wet Rifle Range, Bloemfontein. Please forward your expression of interest to the NRAA office or to executive@nraa.com.au by COB 31st December 2011.



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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 23 July – 3rd August.

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

Victoria March/April 2012 Closing Date 1st March 2012

NRAA Championships June 25th 2012 Closing Date 25 May 2012

Nomination forms will be available from the NRAA office from 18th December, 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

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

Nominations are being called for persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager , Coaches and shooters to compete in the 2013 Australia Match in Barbados . Team composition is Captain, Manager/Adjutant, 10 Shooters, 2 Reserves, 1 Main Coach, Two Target Coaches. 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 . Nomination Close 31st January 2012.

Nominations- NRAA Open Team- America Match 15 Aug 2012

Nominations are being called for persons to fill the positions of Coaches and shooter to compete in the 2012 America Match at Camp Perry. The America Match is an 8-person team match at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards. Positions called for are , 1 Main Coach, 2 Coaches and 10 shooters. The team will wear the NRAA uniform and will be self funded. Please forward nominations to the NRAA office or to executive@nraa.com.au by COB 31st January 2012. Please note: Those who have expressed interest will need to confirm their nominations.

Nominations- AUSTRALIAN Under 25 Rifle Team, Australia Match , Barbados, May 2013.

Nominations are being called 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 Reserves, one Target Coaches. 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 . Nomination Close 31st January 2012.

John Fitzgerald
Chairman



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Finance- Gordon Duncan

Affiliation Fees

The fees for 2012-2013 were set at the Annual General Meeting held in November 2011. We are pleased to announce there will be no increase in Membership or Magazine Fees.

Affiliations

Senior Forty (40) dollars Inc GST.
Junior Twenty (20) dollars Inc GST

ATR Magazine

Thirty Seven (37) dollars Inc GST

New member fees will now be a one off annual charge as stated below. This will replace the Pro Rata scheduled fees.

Affiliation

Senior Twenty (20) dollars Inc GST
Junior Ten (10) dollars Inc GST

ATR Magazine

Eighteen (18) dollars Inc GST.

Membership – John Harding

My Board activities over the past year were split over my previous area of responsibility, Ammunition, up to February 2011, and current area of Membership & Marketing. In addition to the specific activities within these two areas, a supportive role was provided to the Rules Director, Mr. Bob Pederson, in proof reading of the complete recompilation of the NRAA's Standard Shooting Rules. The details set out below are limited to the Membership and Marketing portfolio:

Coaching:

National Coaching Coordinator, Mr. Alex Timms, in cooperation with Ms. Tricia van Nus had completed the Club Level Coaching Manual in the latter part of the 2009-2010 period. Subsequent to the final approval, CD copies were eventually produced at AISL's Adelaide offices and distributed to all State and Territory Association offices and registered State Coaching Coordinators.

The next level, the Competition Coaching Manual is still a work in progress and at present it is currently not possible to provide an accurate timeline for its completion, submission to AISL for review and approval, subsequent production, and ultimate distribution. The reasons for the delay in delivery are numerous not the least being the drawn out AISL process.



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Membership Data Requirements:

The previous initial work in this area which was undertaken by George Wittorff concluded that reliance on members themselves to actually provide their basic details to build a National Database of Members was not going to be satisfactory.

To move forward in this area the 2010 Workshop of Members concluded that an appropriately structured web platform data base program that would be updated by each State & Territory office could meet the required objectives for management of members' issues, improved electronic communication with members and provide an avenue to implement modification of National grading and rankings systems based on members' shooting performances.

The key element to the success of implementing the required database hinges on the general use of the current Universal Identification Number (UIN) and spreading the work load of data loading and maintenance across all of the State and Territory administrative offices.

A general plan of attack has been prepared and circulated to the sub-committee members Frank Metzke (VRA), Eric Christie (NQRA), and Paul Gale (SARA) for consideration and input. The follow up enquiry to each State & Territory office to obtain details of their existing database and / or other methods of handling membership information has only been recently circulated, with some replies forthcoming in November 2011. Detailed consideration of these replies to compile a "Functional Specification" for the tendering process for the selection of an industry experienced supplier is yet to be undertaken.

If all matters proceed at a reasonable pace it is possible that the NRAA will be in a good position to launch the National Database by the second quarter of 2012.

Membership Data 2010 - 2011:

Membership numbers and magazine subscriptions for 2010 – 2011 are tabulated below along with previous years for comparative purposes. The data is unaudited and may not be 100% accurate relative to each S&TA's own statistics as it has been interpolated from payments made to NRAA. The numbers for WA have been adjusted downwards based on personal information provided directly from WARA.

STATE	2006-07	2006-07 Mag	2007-08	2007-08 Mag	2008-09	2008-09 Mag	2009-10	2009-10 Mag	2010-11	2010-11 Mag
ACT	126	89	121	89	114	77	116	69	122	70
NSW	2431	711	2510	735	2372	698	2319	706	2393	682
NQLD	292	138	331	148	325	147	296	114	275	106
NT	54	55	57	57	62	53	64	54	56	46
QLD	864	506	886	444	1068	472	1085	488	1148	480
SA	470	272	457	253	450	239	472	253	485	231
TAS	125	54	132	46	115	41	107	41	115	40
VIC	787	528	886	491	891	497	886	560	893	456
WA	1008	405	1109	380	1108	382	1121	383	1143	390
OTHER								10		7
TOTAL	6157	2758	6489	2643	6505	2606	6466	2678	6630	2508



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Despite the possible rubbery nature of the figures a number of conclusions can be drawn from the data. Firstly, the NRAA continues to enjoy modest growth of its total membership, 2.5% in the last year and with an overall trend in membership growth of around 1.5% PA. Conversely, the magazine subscriptions continue to languish at around 40% of total membership and in fact have a reducing take up trend of around -1.8% per year.

The resultant -7.2% reduction in subscriptions over the last 4 to 5 years maybe an indicator that it is loosing its appeal to members, or they are cancelling their subscriptions as a result of tighter monetary circumstances. Another possibility is that it could be the result of an increase in single household subscriptions.

Regardless of the reasons, the question as to the long term viability of the magazine as it currently stands will need some serious consideration as it barely meets the target of being a National Magazine with less than 40% of total members bothering to subscribe.

Membership Participation 2010 - 2011:

While membership numbers have grown, the participation rate (PR), as defined by amount of ammunition and projectiles consumed per member per year has actually fallen 23%. On a State by State analysis, all areas have returned lower participation rates with the exception of Queensland (up 3%) and North Queensland (up 36%).

The National PR figure for 2010-2011 stands at 327 projectiles per member, which is a significant reduction from the 424 achieved during 2009-2010, and is in fact the lowest recorded amount in the last 5 years. This may be explained by the usual fluctuations and balancing of the S&TAs' ammunition ordering requirements through the reporting period driven in part by lessening members' demand and general tightening of monetary circumstances nationally.

Whatever the particular reason or reasons the low PR is of general concern when compared to the likely figure for a full time active club member consuming approximately 1000 rounds per year. This suggests that the bulk of our members have low attendance rates at ranges, but that they are generally loyal to the movement by maintaining their memberships.

This in itself is encouraging, however it also does suggest that with the ageing of the membership there could be a rapid decline to our membership numbers should there be a significant change in circumstances both at the level of the individuals and nationally should there be continued escalation in the cost of living with the inevitable reduction in discretionary expenditure of disposable income.

John R Harding
Membership Director 2011.



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Ammunition – George Edser

The summary of ammunition and projectile usage for the States and Territories for the financial year ending 30th June 2011 appears in the table at the end of this report.

The supply problems with the 80 gm Sierra Projectile were finally overcome following a meeting with the Australian Distributor early in 2011 which resulted in the supply being resumed to the States and Territories in about June 2011.

Demand for the various projectiles and ammunition continues to be met in a timely manner and there exists no current stock issues which might have an affect on the States and Territories' requirements.

There was some impact on extra requirements as a result of individual and team practices leading up to the World Championships that were held in October 2011.

In an endeavour to be able to offer shooters a variety of ammunition, the Winchester factory was commissioned to load rounds with a Nosler Projectile. This product has been accepted widely and the use of the Nosler projectile (in the form of both the 80 gm and 155gm) to hand loaders continues to hold a market share.

The HBC projectile and the Winchester factory loaded rounds using the HBC projectiles continue to be a popular choice showing strong demand.

It was expected, with some degree of anticipation, that the exchange rate of the \$AUS to \$US would filter through to reduce the cost of the Sierra MK2 and 80 gm projectile but unfortunately this did not eventuate by the end of the financial year.

We continue to investigate ways and means to be able to provide a diverse range of product that caters for all consumer needs.

Rules – Bob Pedersen

Electronic Target Committee

The Committee has had its first meeting at Belmont on 22 and 23rd August. Its work will be ongoing and we hope to hold our next meeting early in the new year once the 3 sub-committees formed are further advanced with their work. An reporting article has been posted on the NRAA web site and will be published in the Magazine. A number of follow-up articles are also planned.

Revised SSR's – August 2011

The Revised SSR's have now been posted on the NRAA web site for some time. Hard Copies have also been printed and should be available from State Associations at a nominal price. It is interesting to note that a number of people have downloaded the web version PDF file of the SSR's onto their Smart Phones. There's nothing like having the rules at your fingertips I guess.



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Uniform Grading Proposal

At the Annual Meeting of Member States and Territories the motion by Victoria that the NRAA adopt the Uniform Grading System used by Victoria was accepted by all the States and Territories. However, rather than each State administering the system it was decided that the NRAA be responsible for administering it nationally, calculating and displaying all Gradings for both Target and F Class on the NRAA web site. I will be rewording the set of Draft Rules to set the system up for National administration. After that, I will be contacting all States and Territories to set up systems to gather data and scores from all open competitions, both Prize Meetings and Queens Prizes. This data will be collected and processed by the NRAA on a continuing basis, and will at first be put on the web site as a trial to work out any bugs. Once it is running satisfactorily, we will set a date for the official start and adoption of the Grading system. In the meantime all States should continue with the present grading system. We are hoping to have the first draft ready by 1st July 2012.

Bob Pedersen – Rules Director - NRAA

OFFICE

NRAA BOARD MEETING DATES 2012

Saturday 18th February

Saturday 26 May

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Merry Christmas

Many Thanks

Catherine Berry

Executive Officer