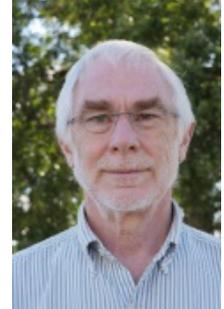




Chairman's Report

The Tasmanian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class championships are over for another year and congratulations to Peter Maher for winning the Match Rifle Championship, John Collis the F (Open) and Mike Halloran (FTR). Peter Maher was also the winner of the Merton Vale 1500 trophy. There is a full report on both events later in the newsletter.



MR, Long-range F class and TR shooter numbers for the Tasmanian State Championships and Queen's Prize meeting are dramatically down this year and this is almost certainly due to the ammunition restrictions imposed by TT Lines. Whilst it is a pain, there are alternatives which include flying rather than using the ferry, loading in Tasmania and shipping by dangerous goods carriers. The cost of the latter is very reasonable if a few people get together and ship all their ammo in one lot as the NSW contingent did (all their ammo for both the MR Championships and Queens events shipped for \$60 per person).

I would encourage all MR and Long-Range F class shooters to try to get to the TAS Championships next year for one reason: Campbell Town Range is one of the trickiest there is for wind and there is no better place to increase your wind-reading skills.

I have written before that the biggest challenge to the long-term future of MR is getting more people shooting it. There is a short report in this newsletter on how we are trying to address this in Tasmania. It would be good to get comments on other region's experiences in this area.

I guess I cannot ignore the Woomera Match 2019. There are more details elsewhere in this newsletter, but I would encourage all MR shooters to nominate for the squad. Woomera practices are already planned for the day before the Ultra Long Range Challenge in Coonabarabran (NSW) and the Nationals at Stawell (Vic). More details as soon as nominations close.

Paul Monaghan
AMRA Chairman



AMRA wishes to thank Winchester Australia for their generous support of the 2019 Australian Match Rifle Team. Winchester Australia have provided **400 rounds of premium loaded Winchester 308 175gr Sierra HPBT Matchking Ammunition** to be used in fundraising for the overseas team.



For The Diary

Please note the South Australian Match Rifle Association has advised that the date for their State Championships has been moved forward by a day and the two-day event now commences on 26th August 2017.

The following dates are correct at time of publishing.

10 & 11th June

Queensland MR & LR F Championships

Raglan

Practice - Friday 9th June

26 & 27th August 2017

Sth Australian MR & LR F Championships

Lower light

7 - 9th October 2017

Ultra Long Range Challenge - REVISITED!

Coonabarabran, NSW

Competition over 1000, 1100, 1200 and 1500 yards

Practice Day - Friday 6th October

10 - 14th November 2017

Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships

Stawell

Match Rifle - FTR - F (Open)

Individual Competition - 10 to 13th Nov.

State Teams for Match Rifle & F Class - 13 & 14th Nov.

9th November 2017

Victorian MR & LR F Championships

Stawell



2019 Australian Match Rifle Team

Hopefully everyone has seen the NRAA *Call for Nominations* for the 2019 Australian Match Rifle Team and I encourage everyone interested in Match Rifle shooting and/or coaching to put in a nomination.

Nominations have been called for shooters and coaches and have to be lodged with the NRAA no later than **Friday 28th April**. The form for nomination is available from the NRAA website or the Match Rifle website at matchrifle.org

2019 in the U.K. marks the 150th time that the Queen's Prize has been contested. So it is going to be a very special year to be in Bisley and fantastic that we can have an Australian Match Rifle team there to be part of their celebrations.



Below is the information from the NRAA website.

I am honoured to have been appointed Captain of the Australian Match Rifle Team to contest the Woomera Match. This will be the 4th time an Australian Match Rifle team has toured the U.K. and I think we now have a good understanding of what is needed to successfully compete over there and I am hoping that we can get a good mix of "seasoned" members and some "new" recruits in the team to support the longer term development program for the discipline at the international level.

It is my intention to form a Woomera Training Squad from the nominations received, with the Team to be selected from the Squad in early 2018. As in the past, Woomera training days will be scheduled just prior to, or immediately after State MR Championships. These training days will include, in addition to coached shooting, a number of development discussions which will cover a range of topics including wind-reading and wind-coaching, fine-tuning equipment and ammunition, shooting 'Bisley-style', and Team psychology. The timetable for 2017 will available shortly.

I am aware of the cost of travelling to Squad and then Team practice days and I intend to organise a small number of more 'regional' sessions based around shooters in either SA, VIC and TAS or NSW and QLD.

I have asked Phil Bain to act as Vice-Captain and I am pleased to say he has accepted the position. I will also be appointing a Team Manager by mid-2017 at the latest, and welcome expressions of interest for this important position.

The trip to Bisley will be focussed on the Woomera Match. Team travel will be organised for arrival in time for jet-lag recovery, sorting equipment and some local sightseeing. Range practice will be followed by the Imperial Meeting MR individual competition (*The Hopton*) followed by the Woomera Match. Partners will be welcome to travel with the Team and Team members may extend their stay either before or after the shooting timetable as outlined above.

Following the difficulties experienced by the GB Team shipping rifles and ammunition to and from Tasmania in 2016 and resultant huge costs, I am considering the options of loading at Bisley or having ammunition prepared to our individual specification in GB. Team members would travel with their rifles with heavy kit shipped beforehand. This should enable costs for team members to be kept as low as possible.



In conjunction with AMRA, I am also exploring opportunities for sponsorship of the team. We have put together an attractive package of advertising and promotion opportunities for Sponsors over a three-year period. If you have suggestions of potential Sponsors to approach please let me know.

I am happy to answer any further questions you may have and can be contacted by email at monaghan308@gmail.com or mobile 0450 562896.

Paul Monaghan
AMRT Captain

2017 National Championships & State Teams Events

The program for the next Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships has been released.

As usual it includes 3 ½ days of individual competition to determine the Australian Champion in each of the long-range disciplines as well as both Match Rifle and Long Range F (Open) State Teams' events.

This year AMRA has taken the initiative to subsidise entry for the individual competition for competitors new to long range shooting:

- **Tyro Green Entry** - A **\$25** discount on entry for anyone that has not shot at the National titles before.
- **Tyro Gold Entry** - A further discount of \$75 (**Total \$100**) on entry for anyone that is 40 & Under that has not shot the National titles before

Please encourage everyone you know to take up this opportunity to give long range shooting a go!

Each of the State Rifle Associations has been invited to send both a Match Rifle and an F (Open) team and we are hoping for good representation from all States. Contact your State Association for further details on their team selection processes.

Join the Australian Match Rifle Association

The purpose of AMRA is:

- To promote and encourage Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia
- To oversee and coordinate Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia
- To encourage team shooting in Match Rifle and compatible F Class disciplines

**Further info on membership available at http://www.matchrifle.org/Match_Rifle_Australia.htm
Membership is only \$20 per annum.**



Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships

10 -14th November 2017, Stawell Rifle Club (Victoria)

Match Rifle (Open) – Match Rifle (Reserve) – FTR – F Open

10 – 13th November Individual Competition for National Champion

(Match Rifle Open & Reserve, FTR and F Open)

- Friday 10th November – 3 sighters & 15 shots at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards
- Saturday 11th November – 2 sighters & 15 shots at 1200, 1100 and 1000 yards
- Sunday 12th November – 2 sighters & 15 shots at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards
- Monday 13th November – 2 sighters & 20 shots at 1200 yards

13th November - Freebairn Teams for Match Rifle & **Siegloff Simms Pairs** for F Open
(4 x 2 sighters & 15 shots at 1200 yds) (2x 0 sighters & 25 shots at 1200 yds)

State Teams Event – Match Rifle (4-6 person teams) & F Class Teams (3-5 person teams)

- **Maloney Match** for State Match Rifle Teams & **VIC Match** for State F Open Teams
(0 sighters and 16 shots for each shooter at 1200 yds)

14th November – State Teams Event

- **Rowlands Match** for State Match Rifle Teams & **NSW Match** for State F Open Teams
(Match Rifle 2 & 15 at 1000, 1100 & 1200 per shooter, F Class 3 & 15 shots at 1000, 1100 & 1200 per shooter)
- **Evening Championship Presentation Dinner** *(Venue and cost to be advised)*

*Range – Daily Aggregate - Grand Aggregate Prizes
Grand Aggregate Badges & Perpetual Trophies*

Never shot the Australian Long Range Championships before?

*The Australian Match Rifle Association is offering a **\$25 discount** on the individual entry fees for anybody that has not previously shot the National Championships **PLUS** a further **\$75 discount if you are 40 years or Under.***

ENTRY FEES

National Championships: **\$210** *(includes entry for Freebairn Teams & Siegloff Simms Pairs)*
- New Championship shooters: **\$185**
- New 40 years & Under Championship shooters **\$110**

Match Rifle State Team: **\$320** *(covers all State Teams events)*

F Open State Team: **\$310** *(covers all State Teams events)*
(Entry for Victorian Championships on 9th Nov is \$35 for 3 & 15 at 1000, 1100 & 1200 yds)

Further information is available from the Match Rifle Website at matchrifle.org or by emailing info@matchrifle.org

*Go Further With Long Range Shooting
Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class
www.matchrifle.org*



2017 Tasmanian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships

Whilst only a small number of shooters made the trip to Tassie for the annual Tasmanian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships, those that came had a great couple of days with Campbell Town turning on some fine and sunny days. Unlike recent years, the winds were a lot kinder but still managed to throw in some tricky flickers along the way.

It was great to see some new faces to Match Rifle & Long Range F Class with Shaun Wingrove (ACT) shooting his first Match Rifle competition. (Pictured right taking his first shot at 1200 yards.) Terry Sheedy travelled from Townsville in Queensland and he was joined by Alan Routledge (Launceston) and Nathan Pearce (Campbell Town) all in their first Long Range F Class competition.



In Match Rifle, Paul Monaghan got the event off to a flying start with a 75.10 at the first 1000-yard range. At 1100 it was Peter Maher (73.5) by 1 centre from Philip Bain (73.4) with roles reversed at the following 1200 yard with Philip (71.5) beating Peter by 1 centre (71.4) – giving Peter Maher the Day 1 Aggregate and the lead by 2 points.

Peter continued his winning ways at 1000 and 1100 yards on Day 2. Philip Bain then threw down the gauntlet shooting 95.4 in conditions that were starting to deteriorate. Peter Maher got down with a handy 5-point lead however dropped a number of early points and with about 5 shots to go, pulled a bullet from a

live round leaving it jammed in the throat. After a brief interlude clearing away the powder, he steadied to finish with a 91.2 – 1 point ahead of Philip Bain in the Grand Aggregate.

Stephen Clark took out Match Rifle Reserve from Shaun Wingrove.

Whilst Range Officer Andrew officially declared conditions as “*Very light zephyrs varying from 9 o’clock to 3 o’clock*” that rating is still being appealed particularly by Paul Monaghan who was last down and saw the worst of the conditions over the 2 days and did a great job in getting up with an 89.5 for his 20 shots.

In Long Range F Class, John Collis had a clean sweep of the Day 1 ranges. On Day 2 however, Terry Sheedy was getting the hang of this long-range business and took the 1000 yard range by 4 points. John came back for the last 2 ranges finishing with 526 and taking the overall Grand Aggregate by 17 points from Terry Sheedy (509) with Alan Routledge third on 455.

In FTR, Mike Halloran made a clean sweep of all events and has challenged all comers to beat him in next year’s event!



Proving Winners are Grinners!

(l to r) John Collis, Peter Maher, Philip Bain, Stephen Clark, Mike Halloran

Many thanks to the TRA for hosting the event once again. The marking was excellent (thanks Noelene, Brian, Lucinda & Melissa). Thanks to Gil, John and Andrew for Range Officering and Andrew for scores, sandwiches and the many myriad of tasks that go towards hosting a happy event.

March is a fantastic time of the year to be in Tassie.

So put the Tasmanian Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Championships in your plans for 2018 if you missed out this year!

2017 Merton Vale Trophy (World 1500 yd Championship)



The Merton Vale Trophy, designed by Anita Dineen and donated by Paul and Chris Monaghan, is named after the property on which the Campbell Town Rifle Range sits. The font used on the title plate is commonly used in branding wool bales which is fitting as the owner of Merton Vale, Henry Foster, is a superfine merino breeder. He is also patron of the Tasmanian Rifle Association.

Known as the World Championship for 1500 yards, 9 shooters lined up for 2 stages of 15 shots at 1500 yards in what was the worst conditions that had been seen over the three days. In starting the event Range Officer, Andrew, declared that the conditions had been formally upgraded (or should that be downgraded?) to "Gentle Zephyrs". For shooters, there was nothing gentle about them!

***Go Further With Long Range Shooting
Match Rifle – FTR – Long Range F Class
www.matchrifle.org***



The vote over dinner on the previous night had been for the star of the previous 2 days, Peter Maher, to be the test pilot and go down first. There was great hilarity when the blind draw for shooting order put Peter up first. (No bribes were taken or given during this process).



With up to 5 sighters available a couple were used in getting elevation and a few more to get the wind right but then things clicked into place.

Peter finished with a 62.4, closely followed by Rob Halloran with 60.0 for the first range.

	S	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PETER MAHER	0	0	0	0	3	4	V				
CHRIS HALLORAN											
PHILIP BAIN											

Scores improved for most on their second range with Gil Walker returning the top score of the day with 65.2 at his second range.

Shooting F Class, Terry Sheedy, had a stunning start to his second range with a 6,5,5,5,4 for his first 5 shots and overall improving by 20 points on his first attempt to finish with an aggregate of 114.



The Merton Vale Trophy was won by Peter Maher with an aggregate score of 126.05 with Gil Walker second on 123.3.

Gary Alexander (Great Britain) holds the match record at 130.2 set in 2016.

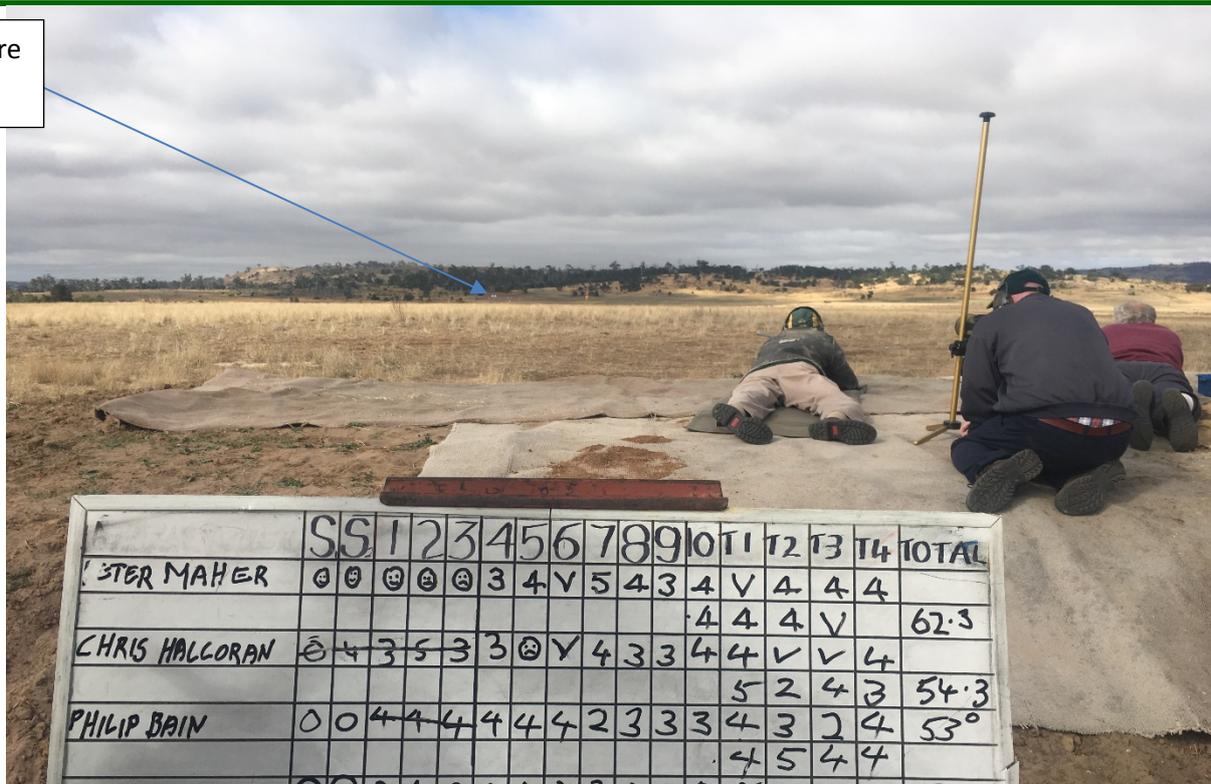
Following a vote of participants, it has been decided to increase the event to 15 shots at 3 ranges for next year.

Target	S	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTAL
TERRYNY	0	3	5	2	2	4	4	3	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	47
SCARK	0	0	0	3	3	4	3	V	4	2	3	2	3	5	4	5	45.1
R. HALLORAN	0	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	60
P. MAHON	0	3	4	3	3	5	4	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	5	54.5
Round 2																	
T. SHEEDY	6	5	5	5	4			3	3	4	4	4	4	6	4	5	67
SCARK	3	3	5	3	5	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	0	49
R. HALLORAN	0	3	5	4	5	3	0	4	4	5	3	4	3	2	0	0	47
P. MAHON	4	V	4	4	4	2	4	5	4	3	5	4	4	4			62

Target	S	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTAL
PETER MAHER	0	0	0	0	3	4	V	5	4	3	4	4	V	4	4	4	62.3
CHRIS HALLORAN	0	4	3	5	3	3	V	4	3	3	4	4	V	V	4	4	54.3
PHILIP BAIN	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	4	3	2	4	4	53
MIKE HALLORAN	0	0	3	4	0	0	4	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
GILBERT WALKER	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	58.1
Round 2																	
PETER MAHER	4	2	5	4	V	4	4	V	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	64.2
CHRIS HALLORAN	0	3	V	4	4	4	V	3	3	4	2	3	3	2	2	3	47.2
PHILIP BAIN	2	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	V	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	64.3
GILBERT WALKER	5	4	4	2	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	65.2



Targets Are Here



Come & Try Match Rifle – Tassie Style!

At the end of last year, the TRA hosted a come-and-try MR day at Campbell Town range. Publicity was via the TRA email list, the SSAA newsletter and posters in gun shops. 15 people requested information and 7 came along on the day. Surprisingly not one had shot at targets before. There will be a report of the day in the ATR so this will be more of a long-term report. Since then we have had three more follow-up days and we still have 6 people at each day. We shoot at 1,200 yds if the wind is kind and 1,000 if not.

So how do we cope? For the first session we provided ammunition and used our rifles. We still do this, but the new shooters happily pay for ammunition. We are also very fortunate that we have Chris Law's rifle that he donated for the development of MR. This will need a new barrel soon and we will then need to charge a 'rental' use for the rifle to recoup that cost over the long term. The next step was to hold a short 'Reloading for MR' session aimed at people with some reloading kit and knowledge. This went well and some of the new shooters will now be loading their own ammunition. The next session will include a short 'Reading the wind' chat. At that point they are on their way. Will they all decide to buy all the gear? Some will, but how many? We don't know.



AMRA Who's Who

Feel free to contact any of the Committee or Zone Delegates if you have suggestions for the Association

Executive Committee

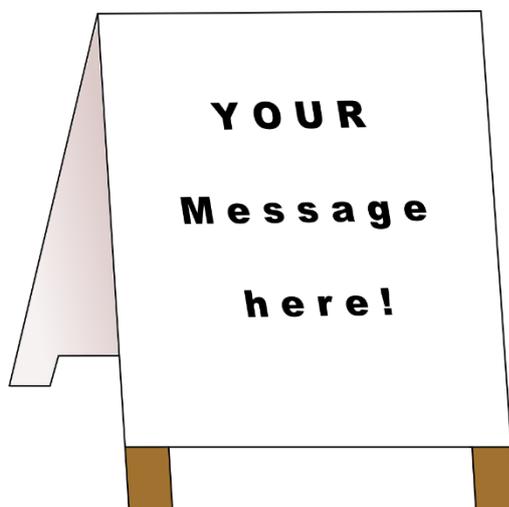
Chairman	Paul Monaghan (<i>Tas</i>)	Vice Chairman	Nick Simms (<i>Vic</i>)
Secretary	Philip Bain (<i>NSW</i>)	Treasurer	Tom Smith (<i>NSW</i>)

Zone Delegates

- F Class Bill Siegloff
- New South Wales Rob Halloran
- Queensland Kerod Lindley
- South Australia Bill Freebairn
- Tasmania Gil Walker
- Victoria Lew Horwood
- Western Australia David Martin
- ACT Jim Clifford

- Contributions to the AMRA Newsletter are greatly appreciated and can be emailed to info@matchrifle.org

- Next edition will be July/August 2017.



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info@matchrifle.org

100% of funds from advertising sponsors goes to AMRA activities & the development of match rifle and long range shooting in Australia