



Australian Match Rifle Association
Encompassing Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Disciplines

Discussion Paper

1.0 Introduction

The Australian Match Rifle Association (AMRA) is the overarching Association for Match Rifle & Long Range F Class shooting in Australia. AMRA is a registered as an incorporated association in the State of South Australia.

The purpose of AMRA as outlined in Section 3 of the Rules of AMRA is:

- i. To promote and encourage Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia*
- ii. To oversee and coordinate Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia*
- iii. To encourage team shooting in Match Rifle and compatible F Class disciplines*

At the recent Australian Championships and Annual General Meeting of the Australian Match Rifle Association (AMRA) there were various discussions about the need to promote AMRA and the long range shooting disciplines of Match Rifle and Long Range F Class incorporating F Open and FTR.

Key issues identified for AMRA to address are the:

- Aging participant base
- Static participant rates, particularly in Match Rifle
- Need for long range F Class to be actively embraced as part of the Association
- Development of match rifle and long range F class training programs to bring new participants into the disciplines and ensure Australia is competitive at an international level
- Keeping costs of events and programs to an affordable level.

The AMRA Executive is seeking input from Members on the options and strategies identified within this discussion paper. At the AGM in March it was proposed that a Special General Meeting would be held in October at Coonabarabran to consider changes to the Constitution to separate the positions of Secretary and Treasurer and change of office titles from President to Chairman and Vice President to Vice Chairman.

It is hoped that following feedback from members on this document, agreed strategies from this discussion paper can also be ratified by the Membership at the Special General Meeting.

Accordingly Members are asked to provide their comments on this document and any additional suggestions by 8th May 2016 through either their zone delegate or via email to info@matchrifle.org.

Zone Delegates

F Class	Bill Siegloff
NSW	Rob Halloran
Queensland	Kerod Lindley
South Australia	William Freebairn
Tasmania	Gil Walker
Victoria	Lew Horwood
ACT	Jim Clifford
WA	David Martin

2.0 AMRA Communication & Marketing Strategy

The Executive has identified a range of strategies to further increase the profile of AMRA and communication with the AMRA Membership with intended flow on to increased membership .

2.1 AMRA Newsletter – to be produced a minimum of 3 times per year (March/April, August/Sept and Nov/December) to keep Members informed on activities of the Executive, events and as a forum for ideas/input. The Newsletter would be circulated via email to all members. In addition it would be circulated to the NRAA and to the State Rifle Associations with a request that it be circulated to all local clubs and placed on match rifle website.

2.2 Social Media – Continue with the use of the Match Rifle website and establish a presence for AMRA on Facebook.

2.3 Promotional Materials – Investigate the development of promotional materials e.g.

- *AMRA Polo/Range* shirts for Members to purchase and wear locally e.g.

Front



Match Rifle – FTR – F Open

Back - individual choice of:

Go Further

Australian Match Rifle
Or
Go Further
Australian Long Range

- *Promotional Flyers* – 1 page coloured promotional brochure on long range shooting, AMRA and contacts to be circulated via State Associations to all Clubs for their noticeboards.

4.4 AMRA Liaison – strengthen liaison and communication with the National and State Governing bodies and also with other disciplines e.g. F Class, Veterans, FTR as well as Match Rifle State Associations and Zone delegates.

3.0 Growing Match Rifle & Long Range F Class

The issue of our aging participant base and static numbers is well known. In discussions on range at Tasmania a number of suggestions have come forward which the AMRA Executive is looking to pursue with the support of the Membership and the respective State MR Associations.

3.1 New Gen Development Program

Each State to identify 1 new match rifle shooter from within their State who has the potential to develop to the international level over the next 3 – 6 years with mentoring and support.

These people would be offered:

- Participation in the MR Development Program (*see 4.1 below*)
- **½ price** entry to all State Championships
- A Mentor from their local State to assist them with advice on equipment, ammunition etc.

To be part of this program, the nominees would need to be under the age of 50 and prepared to commit to attending at least 2 State Championships or National competitions each year.

Subject to performance, enrollees would be eligible for selection in the 2019 team to UK.

3.2 U 30 Program

All Members and State Associations encouraged to identify persons under 30, assist them in getting started in the discipline by giving them access to a reasonable rifle and ammunition capable of shooting accurately at the long ranges.

States and AMRA to provide **free** entry to State & National Championships for anyone under 30 years.

As above and subject to performance, there is a good opportunity for new shooters to quickly advance to International Representative level and this can be a significant selling point for younger shooters.

3.3 Linkages with Other Australian Teams

Through the NRAA and those responsible for the NRAA development program, AMRA could encourage greater collaboration with Australian Teams in other disciplines e.g. Palma Development Squad or U25 National and State Teams.

AMRA can offer them the opportunity and some expertise in shooting at longer ranges – in all disciplines it is generally at the longest ranges that matches are won and lost. Most long range shooters who have crossed over from the shorter target rifle ranges, will have been through the mental transition from thinking 1000 yards is hard to now viewing 1000 yards as the easiest of ranges!

Possibly having some joint training days (aligned with a Development day/State Championship) where members of some of these other teams are invited to try out the longer ranges would be mutually beneficial.

3.4 Come Try Days

Encourage all State Match Rifle & Long Range Associations/Clubs to hold at least 1 “Come Try” day per year. This can be done by open publicity or by personal invitation to other clubs.

4.0 Support For International Teams

The formation of an International Team for Match Rifle has many logistical and financial considerations. Teams are self-funded and members of the Australian Match Rifle team have shown fantastic dedication and commitment over many years to enable Australia to have a team competing at the international level.

The cost and complexity of putting together a team is well known, particularly in years when overseas travel is required.

Australia has top level shooters & coaches who can be competitive at the highest elite level. However to consistently achieve this potential requires a long term strategy, access to latest equipment and components, fundraising and sponsorship.

Preparation for the next Woomera Team expected to be in the UK in 2019 needs to commence now.

4.1 Development Program

AMRA Executive is proposing that there be a planned development program to support match rifle shooters and coaches to operate at an elite level. Currently all State Championships have a ‘Practice Day / Afternoon’ set aside the day before each of the State Championships. Shooters generally use this to fire a few shots to get correct elevations for the following day.

It is suggested that this existing capacity could be utilized as part of planned development program with specific development activities planned for each day. It would be open to any Match Rifle shooters who wished to participate and those potentially looking towards Woomera selection would be particularly encouraged to attend. The development program would encompass both Coaches and Shooters and we would look to draft in skilled people from the Membership or other disciplines to assist in the training program.

Possible examples of different days:

- Ammunition – Getting shooters to attach a base to their rifle for the day and shoot off a rest with chronographing etc and a discussion forum on reloading and making the best ammunition
- Wind Coaching – Accessing Palma and Coaches from other disciplines to share their knowledge and experience. Training more shooters to do detailed plotting and assisting in coaching so coaches are well supported on the mound.
- Accuracy & Position –using computer analysis (e.g. Rika or Scatt), assessing individual shooting positions and undertaking activities aimed at improving group sizes
- Equipment Analysis – organized forums to discuss rifle actions, barrels, scopes, gunsmithing.

4.2 Equipment Access

In the recent Woomera Match, most if not all of the GB team were utilizing 215g bullets, Reloader 17 powder and 9 or 9.5 twist barrels. Most of these are hard to get in Australia either because there is not sufficient demand for importers to supply or because of international shortages.

There is a role for AMRA to play in possibly coordinating bulk purchases of these through the NRAA or other suppliers if there is sufficient interest in this from the Membership.

In addition the AMRT needs to have a Coaching communication system to enable effective communication between all coaches on the mound. This is seen as standard for elite teams throughout the world and needs to be adopted for Match Rifle. AMRA will investigate how best this can be provided for future teams and training programs need to incorporate its use.

4.3 Sponsorship and Fundraising

The 2019 team will involve considerable costs for team members in getting equipment etc to the UK. The financial commitment shooters are required to make to be part of overseas travelling team is well known and for some shooters may be prohibitive and therefore they elect not to participate. Australia needs to be able to select its best team and therefore all steps need to be taken to reduce the financial barrier.

At the recent AGM it was agreed to establish a Bank Account specifically for the Australian Match Rifle Team and it is proposed that fundraising and seeking of sponsorship for the next AMRT commence immediately.

AMRA is looking to write to a range of major international companies seeking sponsorship from them for the next AMRT. These would include companies that Match Rifle utilizes e.g. Hornady, Winchester, Leopold or Nightforce, ADI etc.

It is proposed that Major Sponsors would be asked for \$6,000 contribution to the team. Given the lead time they could spread this as 3 x \$2,000 contributions (i.e. over three financial years). For their sponsorship they would get front page acknowledgement of their sponsorship in the AMRA Newsletter (*see 2.1 above*) and on the Website for the next three years, a feature ad in the Team booklet when produced and their names embroidered on the range shirts of the AMRT when produced.

In addition it is hoped that at each State Championship, the host club will run one raffle with proceeds of this to go to the next AMRT.

If we can secure 2 or 3 major sponsors for the team along with local fundraising over three years, it would significantly reduce the individual costs team members have incurred with previous teams.

An option that can be considered as well is to arrange for loading of ammunition to be done (to individual shooters' specifications) in the UK rather than shipping the ammunition. This would eliminate the need to use a Dangerous Goods Carrier which has been one of the major costs for teams. The AMRA Executive will continue to investigate this as an option.

4.4 Increase International Competition Opportunities

To date there is no international Long Range F Open or FTR team competitions so Members in these disciplines do not have the opportunity to compete at an international level.

If there is sufficient interest from the Membership, AMRA in consultation with the NRAA, could explore with other countries e.g. GB, USA, Canada or New Zealand the introduction of such a competition.

As well to date the Match Rifle international competition is limited to Great Britain. It is known that a few Canadian shooters have competed at Bisley. Increasing international opportunities may encourage uptake within Australia of Match Rifle. The possibility of getting fledgling 'Goodwill' teams to Australia from places such as Canada or New Zealand could be explored.

5.0 Match Rifle Reserve

Currently where Match Rifle Reserve is used in a competition, the shooters selected for Reserve are those shooters who Grade Points are in the lower third of those people attending the event. Reserve Grade shooters also compete in Match Rifle Open and based on their scores are eligible to win both Reserve and Open trophies and prizes at an event. The intent of Reserve was to encourage all shooters to come to an event with the view that lower level shooters would still have the opportunity to take home a prize.

The use of Reserve was meant to be optional with organisers of an event being able to elect whether or not to run a Reserve category. The original draft version of the Grade Point system indicated that organisers may run a Reserve category. Somewhere the version that the NRAA approved in the Standard Shooting Rules changed the wording to shall run a Reserve category (ref 18.3.2 of SSR).

Under the current system, whether a shooter is placed in Reserve depends on who else is attending the event. The situation has arisen where shooters selected for the Australian Team would be in Reserve because all the top shooters are in attendance at the event. This would have been the case at the 2015 NSW Championships and at the 2016 National Championships. In the case of NSW, after consultation with the relevant competitors who did not wish to shoot Reserve, Reserve was abandoned for the event and prizes reassigned to the other disciplines. In the case of the National Championships, the decision was made not to put any Australian Team Members in Reserve.

For a number of years Tasmania has run Match Rifle Reserve as separate to Match Open for their State Championships - meaning competitors placed in Reserve at the start of the competition are not eligible for Match Open trophies or badges.

When there are small numbers at an event, organisers can be running Reserve with only 1, 2 or 3 people. On a number of occasions over the years, shooters eligible for Reserve at an event have elected not to compete in Reserve and only competed in the Open competition further reducing the numbers in Reserve.

The key questions are therefore:

- *Does having a Reserve section achieve what it was designed to do?*
- *Will Reserve level shooters stop coming if this is removed from the prize list?*

Given the above, Members' views on possible options for Reserve are sought. These options are outlined below.

Option 1 – Cessation of Match Rifle Reserve

Given the relatively small number of participants at this time, one option is to cease the use of Reserve at all events including the National Championships.

Option 2 – Fixed Level for Reserve Category

Define a cutoff Grade Point for Reserve and run Reserve separate to Open. Under this option the Grade Point for Reserve would be fixed and shooters below this point are in Reserve and above are in Open.

The Cut Off point will be reviewed and changed as necessary at each General Meeting of the Association.

Members of the current Australian Team are ineligible to shoot in Reserve Grade.

In case of new competitors or previous competitors without a Grade Point in the grading period, then the executive of the Australian Match Rifle Association Inc or relevant State Match Rifle Association/Club hosting the event will decide whether the competitor is suitable for Reserve Grade based on an assessment of the deemed ability of the competitor.

Winners of Reserve Grade with a score that exceeds the Cut Off point for Reserve Grade in either a State or National Championship will be automatically promoted to Open for their **next two** competitions and thereafter their eligibility for Reserve Grade be based on their current Grade Point and determined Cut Off point for Reserve Grade.

Option 3 – Status Quo

Maintain the current Reserve system as is, with each State Association/Group able to determine whether or not to run a Reserve section of the Competition, (noting that if advertised for the event, a Reserve competition must proceed unless all those eligible to shoot in this section at the event elect not to). Under this option the National Championships would continue to have a Reserve section.

6.0 National Championships

6.1 Trophies & Prizes

Currently there are a considerable number of prizes and medallions awarded in the National Individual and Teams events of the National Championships across the four disciplines of Match Rifle Open, Match Rifle Reserve, F Open and FTR. Many of these require engraving etc. A summary of what is provided is given in the table below.

AMRA	
Gold Medallions	18
Silver Medallions	39
Bronze Medallions	30
	<u>87</u>
Glasses	48
Host State	
Prize Gifts	20
NRAA	
Badges - Various	29
Gold Medals	22
Freebairns	
Silver Trays	4

The cost to the AMRA for 2016 for only the Match Rifle component of these was ~ \$1400. This cost and the cost of other prizes provided by the Host state is met from the entry fees of the competition.

A number of Members have indicated that they feel the number of AMRA medallions could be reduced. The table below of proposed allocations is based on:

- Keeping glasses (or similar) and prize gifts for winners of ranges and daily aggregates
- Ceasing provision of AMRA gold, silver and bronze medallions for daily aggregates
- Retaining the number of NRAA badges and Gold Medals in all disciplines
- Providing silver AMRA medallions for the Grand Agg Team events only i.e. the Mincham (Match Rifle) and SA grand agg (F Open)
- Ceasing the awarding of AMRA Bronze medallions for team matches (given the small number of teams competing in each discipline)
- Ceasing awarding of silver and bronze AMRA medallions for the Freebairn Teams and Sieglhoff/Simms Pairs match.

The above changes are summarized below.

AMRA	
Gold Medallions	4
Silver Medallions	11
Bronze Medallions	0
	<u>15</u>
Glasses	48
 Host State	
Prize Gifts	20
 NRAA	
Badges - Various	29
Gold Medals	22
 Freebairns	
Silver Trays	4

The above includes the retention of the Match Rifle Reserve competition. Input on the Reserve category is listed in Section 5 of this discussion paper for consideration.

Full details of the current and proposed trophy lists are provided in Appendix 1 and 2

Appendix 1 – Current Trophy Listing

Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships									
Events and Trophy List									
Individual Events									
Match	Event	Shots	Place	Trophy	Supplier	MR Open	MR Reserv	F Open	FTR
1	Day 1 1000	3 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Day 1 1100	3 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Day 1 1200	3 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Day 1 Agg		1	Gold Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2	Silver Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
			3	Bronze Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	
5	Day 2 1200	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Day 2 1100	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Day 2 1000	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Day 2 Agg		1	Gold Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2	Silver Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
			3	Bronze Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	
9	Day 3 1000	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Day 3 1100	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Day 3 1200	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Day 3 Agg		1	Gold Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2	Silver Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
			3	Bronze Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	
13	Day 4 1200	2 & 15	1	Gold Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2	Silver Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
			3	Bronze Medallion	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	
Cross Aggregates									
14	1000 yards	3 ranges	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	1100 yds	3 ranges	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	1200 yds	4 ranges	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grand Aggregate									
17			1	Badge	NRAA	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	✓			
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2	Badge	NRAA	✓	✓	✓	✓
			3	Badge	NRAA	✓	✓	✓	
			4	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			5	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			6	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			7	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			8	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			9	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			10	Badge	NRAA	✓			

Team Events					
Match Rifle Teams					
Match	Range	Shots	Trophies	Supplier	
Maloney Match	1200	0 & 16	6 x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			6xSilver medallions	AMRA	
			6xBronze medallio	AMRA	
Rowlands Match	All	2 & 15	6 x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			6xSilver medallions	AMRA	
			6xBronze medallio	AMRA	
Micham Grand Agg			6 x Badges	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
President's Trophy			2 x Gold Medallion	AMRA	Presentation Boxed. For highest scoring shooter and coach in the Rowlands
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
Freebairn Teams	1200	2 & 15	4 x Silver Trays	Freebairn Famil	Teams chosen from placings at end of Day 3 of Nationals. Highest with lowest - 4 person teams
			4xSilver Medallions	AMRA	
			4xBronze Medallio	AMRA	
F Open Teams					
Victoria Match	1200	0 & 16	5 x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
NSW Match	All	2 & 15	5x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			5xSilver Medallions	AMRA	
Sth Australia Grand Agg			5 x Badges	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
President's Trophy			2 x Gold Medallion	AMRA	Presentation Boxed. For highest scoring shooter and coach in the NSW Match
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
Siegloff/Simms Pairs	1200	2 & 15	Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			2 x Silver Medallion	AMRA	
			2 x Bronze Medalli	AMRA	

Appendix 2 – Proposed Trophy Listing

Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships									
PROPOSED Events and Trophy List									
Individual Events									
Match	Event	Shots	Place	Trophy	Supplier	MR Open	MR Reserv	F Open	FTR
1	Day 1 1000	3 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Day 1 1100	3 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Day 1 1200	3 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Day 1 Agg		1						
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2						
			3						
5	Day 2 1200	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Day 2 1100	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Day 2 1000	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Day 2 Agg		1						
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2						
			3						
9	Day 3 1000	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Day 3 1100	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Day 3 1200	2 & 15	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Day 3 Agg		1						
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2						
			3						
13	Day 4 1200	2 & 15	1						
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2						
			3						
Cross Aggregates									
14	1000 yards	3 ranges	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	1100 yds	3 ranges	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	1200 yds	4 ranges	1	Glass	AMRA	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grand Aggregate									
17			1	Badge	NRAA	✓	✓	✓	✓
				Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	✓			
				Prize Gift	Host State	✓	✓	✓	✓
			2	Badge	NRAA	✓	✓	✓	✓
			3	Badge	NRAA	✓	✓	✓	
			4	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			5	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			6	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			7	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			8	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			9	Badge	NRAA	✓			
			10	Badge	NRAA	✓			

Match Rifle Teams					
<i>Match</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Shots</i>	<i>Trophies</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	
Maloney Match	1200	0& 16	6 x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
Rowlands Match	All	2 & 15	6 x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			6xSilver medallions	AMRA	
Micham Grand Agg			6 x Badges	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			6 x silver medallion	AMRA	
President's Trophy			2 x Gold Medallion	AMRA	Presentation Boxed. For highest scoring shooter and coach in the Rowlands
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
Freebairn Teams	1200	2 & 15	4 x Silver Trays	Freebairn Famil	Teams chosen from placings at end of Day 3 of Nationals. Highest with lowest - 4 person teams
F Open Teams					
Victoria Match	1200	0& 16	5 x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
NSW Match	All	2 & 15	5x Gold Medals	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
Sth Australia Grand Agg			5 x Badges	NRAA	
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
			5xsilver medallions	AMRA	
President's Trophy			2 x Gold Medallion	AMRA	Presentation Boxed. For highest scoring shooter and coach in the NSW Match
			Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	
Siegloff/Simms Pairs	1200	2 & 15	Perpetual Trophy	AMRA	