

Newcomer Kerod Lindley wins Australian Match Rifle Challenge Cup

Photographs courtesy
of Ray Sharpe

Are you old enough to remember just how much fun shooting used to be a generation ago? You'd turn up for a shoot, be it the weekend club hit out, or the Queens, or anything in between, knowing that you had done everything you were likely to preparing yourself and your gear and, by gee, this could just be your day to get amongst 'em. You'd watch your mates' shoots with real interest, particularly those who were spotting you in the comp or those you had the goods on - for the moment at least. And on the odd occasion somebody jagged a possible, you all clapped with real appreciation for an outstanding shoot. Some pessimists say that those days are gone forever in our sport, but having watched 38 totally committed souls compete their hearts out in the Match Rifle Championships at Belmont's International Range, I can tell you that, in one discipline at least, the old camaraderie and that almost naive pleasure is still very much alive and well.

You'd know all about the restrictions placed on a Match Rifle competitor, wouldn't you? For a start 1000 yards is their *short* range and they shoot 1100 and 1200 yards as well. They use the .308 Winchester chambering like we do, although it's an awfully puny calibre for the job and their barrel must weight in under 2.5 kilograms, even at the preferred length of 34 inch-

es. They can use any sights they like, metallic or optical and while they shoot like normal rifleman, may steady their front hand (not the rifle) on a rest. *If one was a Pom, one could shoot lying on one's back with the rifle barrel resting on one's legs* - aptly, if unkindly, known as the Irish position. Dyed-in-the-wool Match Rifle shooters use faster twist barrels than we do to get a projectile of 200 to 220 grains out past 1200 yards with enough grunt to get the job done. Notwithstanding that, John Hyndes topped the 20 shot 1200 yard match 2 Vs off the Australian record with 96.5 using his 155 grain Sierras, one of several entrants who got rid of their surplus Queens loads this way. Quite a few more went half way, loading 190 grainers in their fullbore rifles to good effect. Lastly, they compete in two divisions, Open (to all entrants) and Reserve, the latter restricted to shooters with NRAA B and C Gradings.

The fifth Australian Match Rifle Championships and the first for F (*for Free, not Field, Mr Editor*) Class shooters was also the first solid test for the new 1200 yard mantlet and backstop at Brisbane's International Range, built expressly for this event. The facilities survived the test of the variable gusty winds (just), although the State

Aggregate Winners

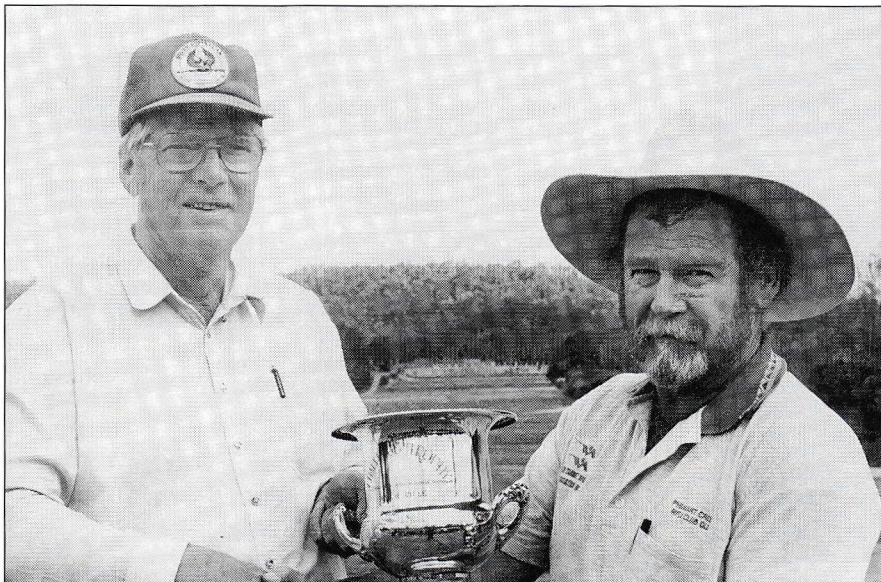
Open		
1.	K. Lindley	729.40
2.	K. Hills	721.45
3.	G. Mincham	717.38
4.	D. Bullen	717.36
5.	P. Bain	716.37
6.	P. Hill	711.44
7.	J. Clifford	709.47
8.	S. East	708.41
9.	S. Dunstall	702.33
10.	B. Dyer	693.40
Reserve		
1.	J. Clifford	709.47
2.	F. Moojen	688.26
3.	R. Atherton	687.24
F Class		
1.	K. Larkin	1214
2.	J. Skinner	1200
3.	A. Larkin	1198

teams match on the last day saw a forced target change as the relentless westerly wind overcame a timber target frame's resilience. QRA, always the affable host, came up trumps as usual, and the shooters shared the spoils and heartbreak of lobbing big slow projectiles over very, very long distances.

The three F Class shooters contested a three day programme, choosing to extend the third day's 1200 yard range to a 20 shot match and forgo Thursday's final individual match. The traditionalists on the other hand rounded off the regulation programme with the Freebairn teams match after their 20 shotter on Thursday morning. Not only are these lads mugs for punishment, but also sticklers for the niceties of balanced competition, teams being chosen by an intricate algorithm that, for example, selects the first and last seed from the individual matches into the same team.

The week closed appropriately with a presentation dinner on Friday night after the State teams match, when all the winners were recognised. As befits the highest ever roll up in this biennial event, gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for the Open class range winners for the first time. The moment of the evening was naturally reserved for Kerod Lindley, outright winner of the Challenge Cup, who has dedicated himself for the last two years to winning this prestigious event. Regular participants also relished the chagrin of the recipients of the "other" awards for less-than-excellence particularly the ironically titled "Woomera Possible" for a score of 50 out of 75. That the name Jim Freebairn saw mention in this context was something of a strange accolade for the organiser of the event.

John Kielly



Kerod Lindley (Right) accepting the Match Rifle trophy from Jim Freebairn

Results:

Monday: Sunny with a right frontal wind.

1000 yards

Open		
Gold	G. Mincham	74.4
Silver	B. Dyer	73.8
Bronze	P. Hill	73.7

Reserve

Gold	R. Atherton	73.3
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F Class

Gold	K. Larkin	140
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1100 yards

Open		
Gold	P. Rix	72.4
Silver	J. Freebairn	71.3
Bronze	S. Dunstall	70.5

Reserve

Gold	R. Atherton	66.1
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F Class

Gold	K. Larkin	129
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1200 yards

Open		
Gold	S. East	70.4
Silver	K. Hills	67.2
Bronze	K. Lindley	67.1

Reserve

Gold	R. Atherton	64.1
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F Class

Gold	J. Skinner	126
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Aggregate

Open		
Gold	S. East	211.15
Silver	K. Lindley	207.09
Bronze	G. Mincham	206.08

Reserve

Gold	R. Atherton	203.05
Silver	J. Clifford	200.09
Bronze	F. Moojen	191.06

F Class

Gold	K. Larkin	391
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Tuesday: Sunny with afternoon tail wind.

1200 yards

Open		
Gold	P. Bain	74.4
Silver	S. East	72.6
Bronze	J. Hausler	72.6

Reserve

Gold	L. Houghton	71.1
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F Class

Gold	K. Larkin	136
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1100 yards

Open		
Gold	K. Hills	74.6
Silver	P. Bain	73.5
Bronze	K. Lindley	73.2

Reserve

Gold	J. Clifford	70.4
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F Class

Gold	A. Larkin	136
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1000 yards

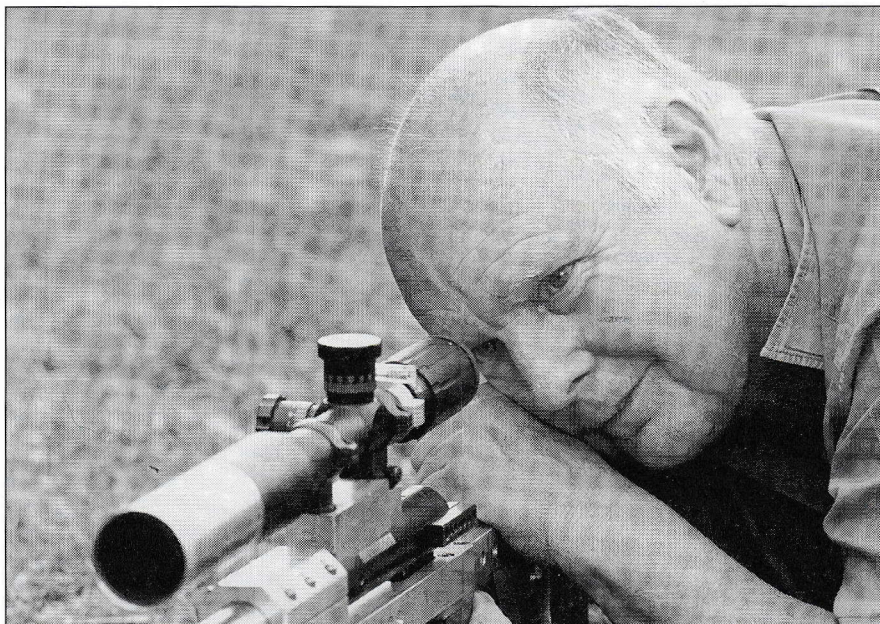
Open		
Gold	D. Bullen	75.7
Silver	G. Warrion	75.6
Bronze	K. Hills	74.7

Reserve

Gold	F. Moojen	73.5
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F Class

Gold	A. Larkin	137
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The consistent Ken Larkin winner of the F Class division

Aggregate

Open		
Gold	K. Hills	216.15
Silver	P. Bain	216.11
Bronze	D. Bullen	215.16

Reserve

Gold	F. Moojen	209.10
Silver	J. Clifford	206.13
Bronze	L. Houghton	204.05

F Class

Gold	A. Larkin	407
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Wednesday: Tail wind and afternoon storm.

1000 yards

Open		
Gold	S. Dunstall	75.5
Silver	L. Horwood	74.10
Bronze	W. Macfarlane	74.6

Reserve

Gold	R. Atherton	74.6
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F Class

Gold	J. Skinner	139
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1100 yards

Open		
Gold	K. Lindley	73.5
Silver	K. Hills	73.4
Bronze	G. Mincham	72.6

Reserve

Gold	J. Clifford	71.8
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F Class

Gold	J. Skinner	139
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1200 yards

Open		
Gold	P. Bain	73.5
Silver	P. Hill	72.7
Bronze	K. Lindley	70.4

Reserve

Gold	J. Clifford	69.4
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F Class

Gold	K. Larkin	165
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Freebairn Teams winners L to R: John Hyndes, Spencer Dunstall, Jim Clifford & James Freebairn



Match Rifle continued

Aggregate

Open		
Gold	K. Lindley	216.16
Silver	P. Bain	215.14
Bronze	J. Clifford	213.19

Reserve

Gold	J. Clifford	213.19
Silver	F. Moojen	202.08
Bronze	R. Atherton	201.13

F Class

Gold	J. Skinner	436
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Thursday: Frontal wind with a hint of fishtail

1200 yards

Open

Gold	J. Hyndes	96.5
Silver	K. Lindley	91.5
Bronze	K. Hills	91.4

Reserve

Gold	J. Clifford	90.6
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1000 yd Aggregate:

Open: B. Dyer 220.18, L. Horwood 219.25, J. Oddy 219.15.

Reserve: F. Moojen 216.16, J. Clifford 215.20, R. Atherton 213.11.

1100 yd Aggregate:

Open: K. Lindley 215.10, K. Hills 212.14, P. Bain 210.14.

Reserve: J. Clifford 206.15, F. Moojen 199.05, R. Atherton 196.07.

1200 yd Aggregate:

Open: K. Lindley 298.14, K. Hills 294.11, P. Hill 293.14.

Reserve: J. Clifford 288.12, R. Atherton 278.06, F. Moojen 273.05.

Freebairn Teams:

Gold

J. Hyndes 65.0, J. Clifford 65.1, J. Freebairn 69.6, S. Dunstall 68.4. **267.11**

Silver

D. Bullen 73.6, B. Dyer 62.2, B. Macfarlane 67.2, N. Lineham 64.1. **266.11**

Bronze

W. Freebairn 69.3, A. Rix 67.4, R. Trindall 64.2, P. Hill 63.3. **263.12**

Rowlands

State Teams:

(Teams of up to 6 members, with best 4 scores at each range to count)

	1000	1100	1200	
ACT	291.22	270.09	247.08	808.39
B Macfarlane	73.5			
K Hills		65.3	59.0	
R Trindall	73.7	66.2	61.3	
J Clifford	75.6	71.3	61.1	
D Bullen	70.4	68.1	66.4	
SA	286.15	264.09	256.08	806.32
P Rix	70.4	66.2	61.1	
A Rix	70.3	61.1	63.2	
G Mincham	75.4	72.4	64.4	
W Freebairn	71.4	65.2	68.1	



The ACT State teams winners L to R: Dave Bullen, Keith Hills, Raeburn Trindall (Standing), Jim Clifford and Bill McFarlane

QLD	285.16	261.06	257.10	803.32	N S W	283.17	250.11	245.09	778.37
J Allen	73.8		68.3		P Bain	72.6	68.4	65.3	
R Atherton		67.3	63.2		F Moojen	71.5	56.1		
J Hausler	69.3	61.2			J Oddy	69.3		56.1	
P Hill	73.3	68.1	59.1		A Abbott		64.4	62.3	
K Lindley	70.2	65.0	67.4		S Dunstall	71.5	62.2	62.2	
VIC	283.18	262.07	238.04	783.29	N T	277.18	244.07	251.07	772.32
G Phelan	68.4	63.2	48.0		M Blake	70.4	61.1	68.2	
L Horwood	73.6	68.1	65.2		J Myles	74.7	62.1	61.0	
N Linehan	71.5	61.1	60.2		G Flemming	61.3	55.2	63.5	
S East	71.3	70.3	65.0		B Dyer	72.4	66.3	59.0	

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