

NRANZ NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

The new season is upon us. This season will be a lot quieter after the heights of the World Long Range Championships earlier this year. Having been in Brisbane and Bisley shooting during the winter, the positive comments about how the Worlds were run still keep coming. Many of those internationals enjoyed their time here so much that they are keen to come back and try to tame Trentham, as well as enjoy more of your hospitality.

With the new season and refreshed energy comes the opportunity to grow your club membership. I would like to think that all clubs have, or will set up a recruitment plan at their AGM.

Once you get a prospective new shooter on the range, look after them. Don't leave them alone. The best thing is to assign a member to look after a new person, show them the ropes, explain the safety rules, the flags, the firearms and the various classes of shooting, and introduce them to all of the club generally. Basically become their mentor. This is not just for the first day.

Assign a different person to each prospect to ensure the personal touch, and not to overload any one person. The best way to learn is to teach.

Ensure that your club gear is up to the mark and in a condition that will encourage the prospect to take up the sport. Back in the 90s my club got a very good club rifle, better than what many members had, and every new shooter that shot with that rifle joined up.

Although firearms and people that use them have been getting some bad press, there are still people out there that want to shoot. Some of those that formerly shot using now prohibited firearms may well be looking for a new shooting sport.

The National Rifle Association of Australia has a series of very good articles on their website about recruitment and getting new members, including many case studies of successful programmes.

During the off season we had an F Class team compete against Australia in Brisbane at the Australian Nationals. It was a mixed team with two F Open and four FTR.

On the first day, the team of six shooters and a coach shot a 20 shot match at 1000 yards with Aussie winning by 7 points. The next day we had a 15 shot 800, 900 and 1000 yards match. The Aussies won 800 by 8 points, NZ won 900 by a point and then Australia ran away a bit at the final 1000. A good even contest up to the final range. Full reports on the NRANZ website.

At Bisley in July John MacLaren won the Match Rifle GGG Aggregate.

In a field of over 850 competitors, John Snowden won the Daily Telegraph match with 75.12. Brian Carter won the Times Match in a four way shoot off after qualifying with a 50.10, and Rob Johansen finished in 10th place in the Grand Aggregate.

At the Queensland Queens in August Clinton Whyte won the B grade championship.

The Long Range World Championships have returned a healthy profit to the organisation.

Our NRANZ subs for 2019/20 are unchanged.

The entry fees for the Nationals are also unchanged.

The \$30 / member / year levy which was paid to help fund the world championships has been returned to clubs where that has been requested, and as promised. If not contact the office.

The National Championship in 2020 are back to their old time slot starting with 300 metre on January 10 and finishing with the championship finals on the 18th.

We have an Australian Ladies Team coming to contest the Collinson Shield vs NZ Ladies. A call for nominations for the Captain and for team members is on the webpage.

There will possibly be a junior team from Sydney as well.

The World F Class Championships are being held in South Africa in April 2021. NRANZ want to get teams to this event. With that goal in mind, an open training weekend for any F Class shooters is being held at Trentham on the 5th and 6th of October. Even if you don't intend to nominate for the teams you are most welcome to attend. Full details on the website.

After this training weekend there will be a call for nominations for the team captain, with the captain to be named at the Nationals. The call for team member nominations will not be until after the Nationals, with the team to be announced later in the season.

Rifle safety. At the world championships there was an incident where a bullet went off outside the chamber when being extracted. There was also a similar incident a month later at a club range.

In each of these cases, the firing pin was moved from the cocked to uncocked position following light contact with the cheek piece when extracting the live round from the chamber. Two different types of action were involved, an RPA which has the same setup as a Millennium and a Barnard.

You need to do a simple check to see if your, or your clubs rifles are at risk.

Do the following check. With the bolt cocked out of the rifle, see if you can easily push the firing pin from the cocked to uncocked position by pushing against the side of the pin which engages the trigger. If you can uncock the bolt doing this you need to get it fixed. The shoulder which stops it uncocking is worn. For further information or if you are unsure contact Mike Collings at collingsguns@kinect.co.nz or phone 073078336. Mike has put up a Youtube clip of it happening. There is a full report on the website by our Chief Range Officer headed "Palma Match Incident".

Two Councillors that are Delegates at Large retire by rotation this year, Brent Read and Graham Piper. The call for nominations has gone out to clubs. If you want to nominate some one, ensure that you have their approval. The closing date for nominations is the 30th of September with the Secretary.

COLFO and Nicole McKee in particular have been doing a great job of getting the positive firearms message out. The next lot of legislation is in the pipeline and there will be a lot of work to do. Please consider a personal financial donation to COLFO as the legal costs will ramp up in soon with a submission process on these proposed regulations. Hopefully it will this time be a considered process with time and due process be given to the proposals. Unlike the first lot of changes which have had unintended consequences way beyond the military style semi automatics.

The NRANZ secretary works 20 hours per week for us. During the run up to the worlds those hours were increased. With Helen now back to 20 hours, she is only working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Don't expect her to be available outside of these days or expect email replies outside of these days. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Malcolm Dodson
NRANZ President