



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

Seddon Rifle Range, cnr Messines Ave and Alexander Road
Trentham, Upper Hutt, New Zealand
PO Box 47-036, Trentham 5143
Email: secretary@nranz.org.nz www.nranz.org.nz
Phone +64 4 528 4843

NRANZ Members Newsletter March 2018

New Zealand shooters got a great result at our National Championships. Ashburton's John Snowden won the Ballinger Belt in a nail biting final, going in in second place to defending champion Jim Bailey from Australia. It was not until Jim got a 3 for his second to last shot that it was decided, with John winning by one centre. Of the 20 shooters in the final, there were at least 6 that will be lining up in Brisbane in April for the Commonwealth Games. The FTR final was a matchup between young Daniel Alexander from Malvern and 2016 champion Michael Shearer from Petone. At one stage they both waited on their rifles for 7-8 minutes without shooting, all of the others having finished. Michael taking out his second title. The F Open went to the defending champion Rob Kerridge from Te Puke, his 3 point lead going in proving insurmountable to his rivals.

There were strong fields in all of the classes. The Australians were over in force with F Open and FTR teams, their Palma squad for 2109, their Veterans team for 2019 and a NSW junior development squad. The Australian F Open team are the current world champions and the FTR team were the runners up in Canada last year. There were also TR shooters in force from the USA with a Veterans and an Open team. A small group from Great Britain and Canada were also represented.

The International teams Target Rifle matches held on the Monday generally went the way of the visiting teams, the exception being the NZ Veterans team winning over Australia and the USA. A New Zealand U21 squad team also beat the NSW junior development team. On the Sunday following the Belt finals a mini Palma match was held with the Australians running out the winners.

For the F Class teams matches on the Monday, the work done in preparation at training weekends by our F Class teams was evident with well-coordinated teams that were in the contest right to the last range against their highly rated Australian rivals. A great job by the F Open team leaders, Nik Chiew and Frank Duckett and the FTR leaders Larry Meredith and Karyn Flanagan, and all of their team members.

This year's Nationals were a good shake down for the preparation work being done for the Long Range World Championships being held here next year. The entries this year were 213, and next year we are expecting over 400 so the Trentham range will be at full capacity with 50 targets in use. There is a lot of work being done to prepare the range for the influx of international shooters. One of the most obvious improvements is the extension to the rear of the 1000 yard mound. The top flat area is now 13 metres deep with fixed seating along the back. The 1000 yard mound is now a great place to conduct individual and team shooting from. Spectators and shooters alike can see what is happening and have a good preparation area. This project was driven by Andre Doyle. For close to 2 months, he watered the new grass every night to get it to grow while Wellington endured one of its driest springs ever.

To cope with the numbers at next year's Nationals the programme has been changed. The Wellington meeting on the Sunday will be 7 shots at 300, 600, 800 and 1000 yards. The Masefield matches on the Tuesday will be 7 shots at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards. The Ballinger Belt series of matches are all 10 shots and will be; Wednesday, 2 x 300 and 2 x 500 yards. Thursday 600, 900 and

1000 yards. Friday 600, 900 and 1000 yards. There will be no Regional teams match. The Club Coached Teams match on Saturday morning remains unchanged.

The final remains the same, 15 shots at 900 yards.

Our Ballinger Belt series of matches up to Friday next year are also the Individual World Championships for U21, U25 and Veterans (over 60). The final is not included.

The Sunday after the Belt finals is the World Teams Championships for U21, U25 and Veterans. Their course of fire is 10 shots at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards for teams of 5 shooters for the Unders and 10 shooters for the Veterans.

Following on from the teams matches, the Monday sees the start of the Individual Long Range World Championships (ILRWC) which runs through to Thursday with a total of 3 times through 15 shots at 800, 900 and 1000 yards with a top 10 final of another 15 shots at 1000 yards on Thursday afternoon. Entry for the ILRWC is only for Target Rifle shooters, the F Class ILRWC was held last year in Canada. There are also some restrictions on entries depending on numbers. As the host nation we may add competitors in the individual if there are sufficient places but they must be from our top 2 grades, A and B. These restrictions do not apply to members of any of our Teams, U21, U25, Veteran or Palma. Entry to the New Zealand Championships remain open to all members.

The final part of the programme is the Palma Match which is the Long Range World Teams Championship. Friday is a practise day with the match held on Saturday and Sunday. The match needs a team of 16 shooters being coached on 4 targets and is 15 shots at 800, 900 and 1000 yards on both days.

The organising committee for next year will have plenty of jobs for those that want to come along and be "volunteers" to help out. If you have the time, please let the NРАНZ secretary know. We also need at least 50 markers. If you know anyone that is capable and able to mark during the championships, please get them to consider doing so. It is a paid job. As these championships overlap the school year we cannot use our normal pool of secondary school pupils.

Graham Piper has been elected, and Brent Read has been returned, as Councillors at Large for the next 2 years. Both were unopposed.

In the Presidents report to the AGM I raised the idea of a change to the name of our organisation. Unfortunately as an organisation the words National Rifle Association have these days got many negative connotations. The main one that is out in the public arena, is that our views are aligned with those that are put forward in America by their NRA, rightly or wrongly. My suggestion is that we need the word Target in our name as we are a target shooting organisation. There will be a remit to AGM next year to this effect. Please make your views known.

At the AGM there was also discussion about the future of the National Championships from 2020, in particular about changing to electronic targets from manual marking. The Council will be making some decisions and planning for the future at their June meeting. Make your views known to your Councillors.

Malcolm Dodson
NРАНZ President