



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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NRANZ Newsletter March 2019

I was absolutely sickened by the massacre in the Christchurch Mosques on Friday 15 March as I am sure were all of our members.

Starting on that afternoon, and since then, our office and officers have had a lot of requests from media in New Zealand and around the world for comment and opinion. There have also been a lot of comments and emails directed at us from the extremes on either side of the law changes that have come as an "Order in Council", and of other proposed changes. Most are from the point of view that we are like the NRA of America and are the political voice in New Zealand of firearms users.

Our comments throughout all of this is that:

- we are a small target shooting sporting organisation, and in fact one of New Zealand's oldest sporting organisations
- we are only one of quite a number of shooting sport organisations in New Zealand
- Our members shoot with single shot bolt action rifles at paper targets
- we can not, and do not, speak on behalf of the other shooting organisations or for individual firearms owners in New Zealand, we can only speak on behalf of our members
- we might have the name the National Rifle Association of New Zealand, but that is an historical name which has been part of our organisation for over 100 years
- we are not part of, or affiliated to the NRA of America
- we are members of COLFO and have referred those that want comment on gun laws in New Zealand, the changes in place and proposed, to Nicole McKee as the Secretary of COLFO. I would like to thank Nicole for the work she has done as a reasoned spokesperson during the height of the emotional responses and requests.

There are more changes to firearms law coming in the near future and we will be involved if there is a submission process.

The World Championships have come and gone. It was a great event with 380 shooting our Nationals and 330 shooting the Long Range World Championships. It was a fantastic sight seeing all 50 targets up and in use on Seddon Range. The weather played the game and there were no disruptions with rain or storm winds.

The very positive unsolicited feed back about the organisation of the event from so many of our international visitors is a true testimony to the work put into the organisation by Rob Morgan and the committee. They had not just done the big things but the little things had been thought of and done too. This effort was really well appreciated by our visitors. The organising committee had put in hundreds of hours in preparing the range and getting everything ready.

The committee members were, Rob and Helen Morgan, Jan and Kevin Win, Ross and Kris Mason, Coby Snowden, Anita Benbrook, Kim Whiteman, Karen Flanagan, Geoff Smith, John McLaren, Andre Doyle, Ray Vine, Alan Whiteman and Bill Aitchison.

The "Wednesday Gang", our group of retired workers, did a great job preparing all of the targets and the range preparation work.

The office staff of Helen Morgan, Kris Mason, Jan Win, Deb Deane and Jo Benbrook did a sterling job of the results and administration.

A special thanks goes to the members that gave up their own shooting to mark targets or be one of the many volunteers that did a lot of the work during the event.

A special mention to the Wellington Clubs and their members for the work they did hosting everyone and keeping the courtyard area clean and tidy. We even had a group of Aussies come over to mark targets, be Butts and Range Officers, Match Referees or just general volunteers. Their help, assistance and knowledge was greatly appreciated.

As an organisation we owe a huge vote of thanks to those that did the work to produce a truly world class event.

The NZ Under 21 Team were the stand out performers amongst the NZ teams, winning their World Championship match. Going into the 1000 yard distance, after shooting 300, 600 and 900 yards, the Australians held a one point lead. The NZ team dominated 1000 to only drop 20 points over the five shooters to the Australian's 35 points. The final result was New Zealand winning by 14 points to claim our first ever Teams World Championship gold medal. Australia were second and USA third. Callum Beardslee was our top scorer with 195.15 and only centres behind the overall top scorer. Samantha Riddle and Rob May both shot 191 with 16 and 11 centres respectively.

All of the other World Championship Teams Matches went the way of the Australian teams.

In the **Veterans Match** the Australian's scored 1932.181 to Great Britain's 1924.155 and NZ third with 1919.150 for the bronze medal. The top NZ scorers were Mike Collings and John Miller, both on 197 with 19 and 12 centres respectively. They were only one point behind the top scorer.

In the **Under 25 Match** the Australians had really thrown down the gauntlet with a 44 point win in the preliminary match 6 days earlier. The World Championship match was a lot closer although they still won scoring 975.114, but only by 10 points from Great Britain with 965.87. NZ were only 2 points further back to claim the bronze medal on 963.78. Charlotte Flanagan and Brad Palatchie were our top scorers both shooting 196 with 18 and 17 centres respectively.

The final teams match on the programme was the Palma Match. The Australian's were a team on a mission to end the Great Britain dominance of this match. Great Britain were unbeaten since 2003. At the end of day one the Australian's held a 22 point lead from the USA, who were 12 points ahead of Great Britain. The flags hung down the poles at 800 the next morning and the Australian's fired their 240 counters without dropping a point, 16 scores of 75. By the end of the day they had won the Palma match scoring 7028.773. Great Britain shot well at the final 1000 yard distance to get in front of the USA to finish with 6951.608 to the USA's 6932.676. NZ finished in fifth with 6827.55.

The **Ballinger Belt** final saw Jim Bailey from Australia win for the second time in three years. He went into the final with a five point lead which was a big lead with the class and size of the field. He held his lead to win from John Snowden, with Nate Guernsey from the USA third. Apart from John, Rick Fincham was the only other New Zealander to make the 20 strong final.

The FTR was won by Graham Piper with 613.27 from Karyn Flanagan on 609.29 and Michael Shearer on 606.20. The leader going into the final, Paul Nielson, had issues with his scope and could not get on the target and had to retire.

The F Open went to Rob Kerridge on 642.32 from Ian Hughes on 625.38 in a repeat of the 2018 final result. Mike Chui was third on 606.20.

The Veterans, Under 21 and Under 25 Individual World Championships were held concurrently with the Ballinger Belt qualifying series.

Charlotte Flanagan was the best New Zealander with third place in the Under 25 with 474.35. The top two placings went to Australian's Chris Schwebel on 481.49 and Mitch Bailey on 475.46. The next New Zealander was Brad Palatchie in 15th with 457.44.

In the Under 21 our top shooter was Callum Beardslee in fourth with 465.27. The U21 title went to USA's Luke Rettmer on 476.41 and Australian Nick Sims on 466.34. The next New Zealander was Kiriahi McKee in 16th with 446.27.

The Veterans title went to Mark Buchanan from Australia on 480.48 from Great Britain's Nigel Ball on 480.39. Malcolm Dodson was fourth on 478.48 and Murray Steele was fifth on 476.42. Ross Mason and Mike Collings were in the top 15 in the 113 strong field.

The World Long Range Individual was a real test of wind picking skills with very few scores over 70 being shot in the three 1000 yard matches. Even the 800 yard matches were not easy with only 19 possibles shot over the 900 scores posted there. The final result saw Steve Negus from Australia take out the title with 703.43 from country man Mitch Bailey on 702.65 and David Luckman from Great Britain on 702.55. Seven New Zealanders made the top 25 in the 330 strong field. John Snowden 9th, Malcolm Dodson 10th, Alan White 11th, Graeme Bolland 17th, Brian Carter 19th, Mike Collings 21st and Irene Cameron 24th.

The NRANZ AGM held during the championships saw all of the current officers re-elected. The remit to change the name was left on the table until the next AGM. The 2020 National Championships revert to the earlier time in January, with the 300 metre championship on Friday 10 January, finishing with the Ballinger Belt final on Saturday 18 January.

F Class Team to Australia. We have received an invitation to send F Class Teams to compete against Australia at the Belmont Range, Brisbane, on the 17 – 18 June 2019. The competition is held in conjunction with the Australian National Championships. There is a call for nominations on the NRANZ website. The time frame is short to get things in place so if you want to be involved an early response would help.

F Class World Championships 2021 South Africa. The next F Class World Championships are to be held in South Africa in April 2021. It would be really good if New Zealand was represented in the Teams Matches. If we are going to get teams there, the training and preparation will need to start by next season if not sooner.

Secondary Schools Competition. We have got a schools competition for both Target Rifle and F Class teams of 3 shooters. The match course of fire is 7 shots at 300, 500 and 600 yards. Entry is free. We have some sponsorship of this competition which is \$600 worth of factory 308 ammunition. The ammunition is divided up amongst those clubs that have a team shoot the competition. Smallbore and Clay Target both have a very big and well supported schools competition. Young people want to shoot and our sport is one that does hook them when they try it. Most clubs have someone involved with smallbore, get them to ask if there are 3 from a school that want to have a go at fullbore.

The winter Council meeting is to be held on the 8 & 9 June 2019. If you have any remits that you wish to submit for consideration on changes to the rules, then this is the time to get them in to the Secretary. Constitutional remits are done at the AGM held during the National Championships.

Malcolm Dodson

NRANZ President