

Malabar Historic Training Rifle Group (MHTRG)
Draft Rules of Shooting
(amended 30/6/09)

Introduction

The MHTRG is a loose federation of fullbore service shooters who wish to shoot Enfield, Martini or other military .22 rimfire training rifles under the auspices of Military Rifle Clubs Association (MRCA) to fulfil the following aims:

- 1) To actively preserve history by shooting events that approximate those traditionally used in miniature rifle clubs and Defence Force branches of British Commonwealth countries until recent times.
- 2) To have fun.

Ethics

In all events, the overriding principle of fairness, generosity of spirit to fellow shooters and like shooting against like are to be applied. Those who:

- 1) wish to gain advantage by using highly modified setups which demonstrably advantage their performance against their fellow shooters or
- 2) are found not to be competing within the spirit of the discipline outlined above

will be encouraged to exercise their competitive urges elsewhere.

Classes of Rifle

The classes of rifle used will roughly conform to those in use by the NRAA of UK Historical Arms Resource Centre. These classes aim to provide categories for fair competition across a span of historic rifles that have quite different inherent performance characteristics. They are:

- 1) *Class A*- All Rimfire Service Trainers with open sights as issued and where local safety arrangements allow, original centrefire Martini Cadet rifles.
- 2) *Class B* -All Rimfire Service Trainers with as issued aperture sights or added commercial aperture sights.
- 3) *Class C*- Veteran target rifles of pre 1966 manufacture made on service type actions eg Martinis with aperture rear and tunnel foresights. **See Attachment 1 for explanation of classes.**

Notes:

Shooters may use all adjustments on their sights at any time throughout any shoot.

Although the Group's emphasis is training rifles and early target rifles as per the above classifications, we can provide for any legal .22 rimfire sporting rifle configuration on the understanding that

those shooters who wish to continue commit to the discipline by acquisition of an appropriate rifle in future.

Targets / Courses of Fire

The basic course of fire is the Mini Methuen as shot by the Hertfordshire and Essex Miniature Rifle Association in the UK.

Briefly, the course of fire is on a single card at **25 yards range** and is shot in three positions.

In future we may shoot other events like the Skirmish dependent upon the wishes of the members.

Program of Events

Subject to range use approvals, the Mini Methuen, unless otherwise advised, will be shot on the mornings of regular 100 metre MRCA shoots.

Sighting setups

In view of the age demographic of the majority of the participants, it is anticipated that many competitors will opt to use aperture sights.

Due to the glare prevalent in Australian outdoor shooting ranges, filters and/or optical correction lenses and variable irises may be fitted to commercial or target rear aperture sights if so desired. It is up to the competitor to determine their own needs in this regard.

Lens / sighting setups which magnify the target's image, however, are not permitted in any class pertaining to postal shoots and, although permitted to shoot, will post a "not to score" for the purposes of the postal competition.

Modification of Rifles

Apart from the addition of rear aperture sights, the rifles, particularly in classes 1 and 2 should be as issued in appearance and no substantial modification of bedding, except in the case of amelioration of old shrinking or split stockwork is acceptable. Pursuant to the paragraph on ethics, regulation in this matter is one of the individual competitor's conscience.

Clothing and Aids

- 1) The jacket - for all classes of rifle, a basic shooting jacket of the "tenex" variety or marine corps shooting jacket is an acceptable maximum; it is suffice to say that jackets acceptable under the Standard Shooting Rules of the NRAA for service shooting is a good guide ie padding at any point should not exceed 10 mm compressed.
- 2) Shooting Mat - due to the nature of the mound, a fullbore, padded shooting mat is permissible.
- 3) The sling - a basic service pattern two point web or leather sling of maximum width 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Leather US pattern 07 slings are permitted.

- 4) Gloves - no gloves permitted.
- 5) Hat - a hat may be worn for shade but may not be of the fullbore variety with "flaps down".
- 6) Disabilities - any competitor, who, in the opinion of the range officer, is disabled to the extent that prone shooting is impracticable, may shoot seated at a table provided no part of the rifle is rested on the table or rests of any types eg bipods, benchrests, are used. This rule may be relaxed further in the case of those of advanced age or infirmity in the interests of equity and inclusiveness.

Handicapping

It is anticipated that a grading system within classes shall be implemented with a view 'to allowing equitable dispersal of wins and "trophies", however, at this early stage, this is seen as a development depending on participant numbers and performance in each rifle class. Suffice to say, it is a work in progress.

Safety

- 1) Range Safety - all shooters must make themselves aware of the range standing orders for the ranges at which they shoot and obey the commands of their appointed practice range officer and the range control officer from the host club.

At no times are bolts to be inserted in rifles unless on the firing point and martini actioned rifles must be open and have a clearly visible breach flag in place when not on the firing point.

- 2) Personal Safety - at all times when in the vicinity of the firing point, hearing protection must be worn.

When firing, it is recommended that all shooters wear some form of spectacles, whether prescription or protective.

Responsibilities

In order to progress the business of the MHTRG, it will be necessary to divest some responsibilities from the initiator of the concept to some of the keener participants.

The following responsibilities are anticipated:

- 1) Honorary Treasurer - collection of fees and disbursement to host club, excess to be allocated for target making, target frame maintenance and administrative costs. Simple statements available on request.
- 2) Honorary Target maker / photocopier.
- 3) Honorary Secretary / statistician - responsible for correspondence with HARC, LERA etc. Compilation of scores / results.

- 4) Group administrator - responsible for liaison with host club, setting and promulgating calendar and other tasks as necessary.

Finances

The MHTRG was set up originally with the assistance of the Hertfordshire and Essex Miniature Rifle Association who did not ask for payment, but rather that the surplus monies from the MHTRG be donated to our branch of Legacy. As such, the following fees will be charged to shooters:

Individual shooters fee	7.50
Pensioner /concession	4.00
Target levy (all shooters)	0.50
Legacy Donation (all shooters)	1.00
Total individual fee	\$9.00
Total concession / pensioner	\$6.00

If conducted at Malabar and the shooter is to compete in the afternoon with the MRCA, the only fees payable are the Target levy and Legacy donation, the two of which total \$1.50.

A reminder

For this to work, we need everybody's goodwill, good intentions and deeds. We are not shooting for sheep stations or plasma screen TVs so the motivation to continue will come from a generosity of spirit and intrinsic interest in shooting these marvellous old rifles, not what you can take away from the "discipline".

Please keep this uppermost in your mind when you commit to the MHTRG and good shooting.

CLASSIFICATION OF FIREARMS
for use in
MALABAR HISTORIC TRAINING RIFLE GROUP

The purpose of the classification system outlined below is to have as fair a basis for competitive shooting as possible without delving into minutiae. It is based on two determining factors which are balanced against each other to give a workable system. Those factors are:

- 1) Sighting System **ie aperture vs tangent** and
- 2) **Sophistication and inherent accuracy** of the rifle itself or its grouping potential.

This system is designed around what service rifle shooters in Sydney are likely to currently have in their possession ie availability and practicality and the emphasis is on simple service rifle conversions as opposed to target riflery, although target rifles are catered for.

In the event that we shoot against our brethren in the UK in postal competition, we abide by the classification system in use there, which has a bias toward target rifles, because of their comparative easy availability.

Class A

Class 1 includes all rimfire military trainers with open sights as issued and is typified by early open sighted Martini trainers, Enfield long and short rifle trainers like the No1 Pattern 14 or No 2 Mk 4 or other military trainers of similar vintages and sight setups eg War Office Pattern Trainers and various Mauser trainers and any other arcane tangent sighted service pattern .22 rimfires. Depending on the range templates and local safety arrangements, Martini Cadets in original or close to original calibres fall into this class.

Class B

Class 2 includes all rimfire service trainers with issued aperture sights eg Enfield Nos 5, 7, 8 & 9. In addition, class two includes all rifles in class I which have an after market aperture sight (eg Central or Parker Hale) fitted.

Class C

Class 3 includes any category of legal rimfire rifle which does not fit into categories 1 & 2 above and is designed primarily for early to later target rifles eg Vickers Empire and Standard, BSA Mod 12 and 12/15, International and sophisticated bolt rifles like the Winchester Mod 52 etc manufactured up until 1966. As well, any other iron sighted .22 rimfire falls into this class. Tunnel foresights and foresight rings permitted, if desired. Scope sighted rifles, if they appear, will have an opportunity to see their fall of shot after sighters, where this is not permitted in the standard course of fire. For this reason, they will shoot in class three but scores will not be to count. If enough scope shooters wish to participate, a class may develop later for them.

Note.

If confusion arises as to appropriate classification of rifles, the range officer will determine, based on the information above, which class those rifles will adopt pursuant with the principle that, *when in doubt, adopt the higher classification.*