



ON TARGET

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 46 April/May 2018

Mixed Match held at Nioka

Courtesy of Gavin Dignam aka JB Books

Well the weather held for us and has become the norm of recent months... no rain interfered with the shoot. With one or two ill, some overseas and others away celebrating birthdays, initial lead up numbers for the weekend were looking fairly slim so it was always planned to be a practice or 'blow the cobwebs out' weekend. Some of us...who will remain nameless for now...certainly could do with removing some cobwebs! Fancy trying to use up old powder, three different weights of bullets and throw in a few paper patch for good measure? What a goose.... anyway... sigh.... I digress.

With the shoot held in April this year, a few members and indeed the Nioka management were caught on the hop at the last minute but thankfully were able to reschedule the group that were slotted to attend and we were allowed to use the range.

Range Changes

For those that haven't been to or enquired about Nioka since last September, there are a number of new range mounds leading up the hill behind the existing 1000 m plate. They go right back to 1 mile now (1762 yd). Food for thought?

There is also a new mound at 400 m from the firing line and this, while convenient on one level, has made the already difficult to sight from, 800 yd point, even more difficult to see. We did manage to shoot this distance but placement of ones shooting position is even more important than before. Shots hitting below the plate will be hard to spot. Or should that read 'harder' to spot?

Being the ad hoc captain for the day we put together a shoot schedule of sorts. Taps (Dan MacDonald) was generous enough to bring along his swinging silhouette targets and with two each of these we decided to kick the Saturday off with a silhouette match. As we are half blind and have the shakes "real bad"... Dan conceded that we would probably like to shoot the chickens off sticks.

Did I mention ..that it didn't make any difference to my score? Bah

We had seven potential shooters but Charlie Siringo (Eric Johnston) - making a welcome come back appearance—opted to spot for the silhouette. Allowing for ammo supplies the whole weekend was run with 3 sighters and 7 for score so the maximum for both the silhouette and long range match was 28.

A real eye opener for most shooting this I think. No one broke the half way mark and the top score for the metal animals went to Luke Dignam with 14. Chris Madsen (Gary Vandersluis) followed with 12 and J.B. & Taps with 7 (Dan did shoot offhand though). (Banjo Bill Jackson (Peter Tooley) had a rifle malfunction which put his rifle out for the weekend but still managed a shot here and there with borrowed equipment. "He'll be back"! Brody MacDonald put in some shoots over the weekend but took pity on us and didn't complete the rounds.

The plan had been to shoot a 600 & 700 yds on the large plate but only score the black centre...but some miscommunication caused some confusion. It was also found that we could shoot 550 yds (beside the existing 600 yd mound) and 650 yds if we shot from the top of the new 400 mtr mound. Its still fairly new and without rain has not yet consolidated ..but we persevered. At the end of the 550 we were losing light and despite the fairly mild conditions were ready to call it a day.

Guns cleaned and locked away, a few ales were consumed and courtesy of some firewood sourced by Dan and Brody, were able to enjoy a social fire.

Whilst there is no catering any more, there was ample water and a three burner (once Paul found the other burner arm) bbq to cook our meals on. Some portable gas burners and van stoves kept the brew water coming. There is no generator in place at the range but we stole 'el Presidente's' ...a nice, barely used Honda and put it to work. Fancy a generator that starts 1st or 2nd pull..without any war dance or barrage of words? Go figure!

.....Over

Nioka Continued....

Sunday dawned another lovely day with mild conditions and the typical slight...but oh so testing Nioka winds ever present. We were joined on Sunday by Happy Hanns (Havilah Hanns), Rob and Cheryl Jones and set to work on the 650, 800 & 900 yd ranges.

Whilst no prizes were on offer...not even glory really... I've left the Saturday results off to allow most a mention.

Top result went to Charlie with 16/21, followed by Taps, Luke & Jonesy on 14/21, Happy- 12, Cheryl - 9 and yours truly on 6. Perhaps catering is more my game? Incidentally the scores from 550 on Saturday afternoon were 7/7 for Taps and Charlie, 6 for Luke & Peter T and 5 for J.B. I'm noticing a pattern here!

All in all a relaxed and fun weekend and after saying our goodbyes to the Meigels we all made tracks for home. Good weather, good friends, great passtime.

See you when my sights are down.

Garin Dignam aka JB Books

For Sale



CSharps 1874 45/90 Hartford with MVA rear sight. In v good condition with 32" Badger barrel. Part octagonal. Part round. **\$2650**

Call Bill Sherman on 0418 257330

Clarification of Rule 8.5

As you will be aware the SSAA Rules for Long Range Black Powder Cartridge Rifle 2104, which we shoot under, allows shooters to use low stools to shoot from. However, prohibits prone shooting.

It also allows shooters with a physical problem eg bad back, to shoot from seats with back rests at the RO's discretion. There is no requirement for a medical certificates or the like. The Member's word is sufficient.

However, your Committee has agreed that if a shooter wants to shoot prone they can do so but their result will not be included in the Match Results.

Also, any Member can shoot standing up using X Sticks (except for an offhand stage, of course) and their results will be included in the Match.

Alice Springs Masters Games

13—20 October 2018

These games are the longest running Masters Games in Australia and they include a number of shooting events that may interest BRAA Members.

These include Black Powder Cartridge Rifle, Muzzle Loading Rifle (and pistol) plus Western Action and Lever competitions. Full details are on:

<https://alicespringmastersgames.com.au>

May Match

Cooyal Range

26/27 May 2018

Range open for practice from pm on 25th

Lots of space for vans or camping

Toilets and showers

BBQ facilities available.

Four distances + side match. Details later

New Chums, contact Secretary for directions and info