



Great Britain Match Rifle Team to compete in the Woomera Match 2022



Coonabarabran range, NSW

The NRA has honoured me with the captancy of the GB Match Rifle Team, which will be travelling to Australia in 2022, to compete in the Woomera Match. Currently, it is anticipated the match will take place at Coonabarabran, New South Wales, in October 2022.

Dates and other details of the tour are yet to be decided, but I anticipate the tour to be of 2-3 weeks duration, and include a couple of days shooting at another location, prior to the main event. Coonabarabran will be hosting the Australian MR Championships prior to the Woomera Match, and it is hoped there will also be an opportunity to shoot at 1500 yards, for which the range has the capability. Coonabarabran is about 5 hours drive north west of Sydney, the range being about 20km to the south east of the town.

I intend to select the final team after the Hopton next year, in 2021. However, with such a long lead in time I would like to appoint a 'squad' in the interim, to give a wider group of promising MR shooters and coaches the opportunity to train together and develop their skills in the company of those at the top of the sport. With that in mind, there will be a couple of training sessions during 2021 (covid willing!). These sessions will combine range time with tutorials on topics such as the nuances of handloading. Further training sessions will then take place in 2022, prior to the tour, for the team and reserves.

The Australian Match Rifle community is very dedicated and enthusiastic, but faces a number of challenges, not least of which is the substantial geographic separation of the various small clubs and state associations. Visits by the GB team are not frequent, occurring about every 7 years, and provide a significant boost to MR shooting in Australia. To foster this as much as possible, I intend to include a visit to another range, prior to travelling to Coonabarabran. However, I am aware of the difficulties this may present to some members of the GB team, and so, while encouraged, this element of the tour will not be compulsory. In addition, I am keen other GB shooters, not on the team, can have the

opportunity to shoot in Australia. So, providing the event can accommodate extra entrants, GB individuals will be able to attend the Australian MR Championships. I must make it clear, at this stage, that any individuals doing so will not be eligible for selection for the Woomera Match team, irrespective of their performance!

I invite any GB match rifle shooter, with aspirations of representing Great Britain in the Woomera Match in 2022, to contact me at captgbmrt22@gmail.com, in the first instance. The closing date for applications is 30th November 2020.

Nick Tremlett

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