



Pro Patria

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Combined Open Meeting Survey & Recommendations

The Google Forms survey was sent to 61 individuals who have competed in the Meeting over the last 3 years. Of the 61 invited to participate there have been 31 responses of which 7 did not enter in 2018.

A full summary of the Responses and comments, which are worth a read (you can 'scroll down' the comments boxes), can be viewed by following the link:-

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aPSYWLIQI0mlhungCJ6xViXYFvppEXgzGfhC1TclDsM/viewanalytics>

In summary the results showed:-

21 respondents shot both Sat & Sun and 3 just the Sat (By comparison the entries for 2018 were 41 for Saturday and 31 for Sunday)

Of the 21 above, who shot the Sunday, the view on the use of Electronic Targets was:

- 10 - very poor or poor.
- 4 - acceptable
- 7 - good or very good.

Of the 21 who shot the Sunday (plus 1 who did not shoot the Sunday due to electronic targets being used) the result to the question "Would you be happy to have Electronic Targets again for the Long Range Competitions in 2019?" was:-

- 9 - Yes
- 4 - No
- 9 - Maybe with a change of Format

Of the 13 who answered 'No' or 'Maybe with change of format'.

- 10 - Move to date when Standard Marker Targets are available.
- 3 - Keep existing date but amend Long Range competitions to 2 & 10 to speed up details on Electronic Targets.

Of the 10 who answered 'Move to date when Standard Marker Targets are available' chose:-

- 4 - A date at the end of Sept or early Oct.
- 5 - Either before or after the Imperial
- 1 - Before the Imperial.

OPTIONS FOR 2019

Given the results of the survey and comments my plan was to propose 2 options for your consideration this year:-

Option 1:

Keep to the existing dates (7th/8th Sept) and use the 5 Electronic Targets available. (In my conversation with Rick Wells there are no plans for the NRA to increase the number of Electronic targets prior to these dates.)

Amend the format of the Long Range Competitions

- Change from 2 & 15 to 2 & 10. To ensure all competitors complete within timescale.
- Introduce String Shooting. Still squad competitors 3 to a target on 2 details but introduce system were #1 Shoots, #2 Register & times, #3 sets up. Then #3 shoots, #1 Register & Times, #2 sets up etc.

- Introduce strict timing of shooting a string of 2 sighers and 10 to count of 16 minutes (This is in accordance to ICFRA rule T14.12 for string shooting at Long Range).
- This would permit a maximum capacity of 30 competitors for the 2 Long range Competitions (in 2018 we had 31 at 900yd and 29 at 1,000yd)

Advantages:

- Keeps to the same historical dates.
- String shooting would answer many of the issues and comments raised in the survey.

Disadvantages:

- Does not reflect the views of the 10 entrants out of 13 who suggested a move to date to when standard marker targets are available.
- Reduction for 2&15 to 2&10 may not be fully welcomed. Survey indicated only 3 participants chose this option.
- Restricts number who can compete. Based on 2 details of 3 maximum capacity would be 30 and any target/electronic failure (as in 2018) would still potentially create an issue.
- Does not solve the issue of some entrants who found the general use of electronic targets totally unacceptable.

Option 2:

Move the date of the Open Meeting to either a suitable date after the weekend after the LMRA Open or a date prior to Imperial.

Advantages:

- This would allow use of conventional marker targets at all ranges and this date would not conflict with any other major Open meetings.
- Meets the wishes of those who suggested in the survey a move to a date to when standard marker targets are available. (9 out of 10 who suggested a change of date would be happy with this move)
- Would resolve totally all the adverse comments with regard to the use of Electronic Targets.

Disadvantages:

- May prove difficult to find a suitable date that does not conflict with other major open meetings, other events or when sufficient target capacity exists.

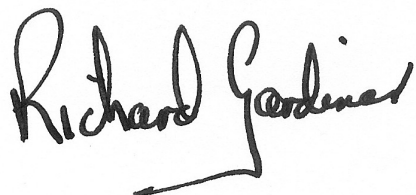
Despite reviewing every possible date with Jodie Gray-Pizza at the NRA, who has been immensely helpful in my review, there is no opportunity to find a suitable alternative date either before or after the Imperial. See details below:-

25 th /27 th May	English XX	Conflict	
1st Jun	Surrey Clubs Match (City Competing), LMRA, RAFTRC	Potential Conflict	No Range Capacity
8 th /9 th June	Surrey Competitions incl. Astor on 23rd, Q Match, Kent CRA Open, LMRA	Potential Conflict	No Range Capacity
15 th /16 th June	NRA Inter-Counties	Conflict	
22 nd /23 June	22nd Hampshire Open, RAFTRC, Epsom, Surrey, English XX, plus MOD	Potential Conflict	No Range Capacity
29 th /30 th June	Cottesloe Heath Challenge	No Range Capacity	
6 th /7 th July	BCRA	Conflict	

25 th /27 th Aug	Welsh RA Open / Jersey Summer meeting	Conflict	
31 st Aug/1st Sep	NLRC Open	Conflict	
7 th /8 th Sept	European F-Class (normal City Open date)		
14 th /15 th Sept	Surrey Open / Northern Ireland Open	Conflict	
22 nd /23 rd Sep	LMRA Open	Conflict	
28 th /29 th Sept	RAF Championships / English Eight	No Range Capacity	
5 th /6 th Oct	Civ SR Sat / Target shotgun	No Range Capacity	
12 th /13 th Oct	Ages Match	Conflict	

Recommendation for 2019:

My recommendation for 2019, given it has proved impossible to find an alternative date that does not either clash with another major event or were range availability permits, is that retain our standard dates and adopt the procedure I have laid out in Option 1 with regard to string shooting on Electronic Targets for the Long Range Competitions & restricting the Long Range Competition Entry to 30.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Gardiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

Richard Gardiner
Chairman