

## SEPTEMBER 2020

What a year!! I have to admit that I have not touched a gun since March and am beginning to wonder if I will actually have a chance to shoot again this year. Living in Melbourne has its drawbacks at the moment 😊.

However, I have not been idle. Quite apart from a large number of computer generated jigsaw puzzles I have spent my time developing an online training course for Level 1 Range Officers – theory only of course.

Online training is something I have wanted to get involved in for some time – if only I had realized sooner how easy it is to get started. With the full support of Management I subscribed to an online learning platform and spent the next few weeks learning more than I expected to regarding audio recording, video editing and online training.

The advantages of online learning are many but the main ones that I see in the short term are

- An instructor, once the “class” is set up, can monitor a candidate’s progress through the software – it will be apparent if anyone is struggling or needs help
- The instructor can plan a day (or weekend, depending on the number of candidates) that concentrates on practical work and assessment – the vital part of the RO training.
- The candidate can learn in his/her own time- some will fly through it and others will not but it does not matter so long as they all learn and retain the necessary knowledge
- If a candidate is struggling he/she can contact the instructor, and if necessary they can set up a one on one Zoom session or phone call to discuss the problems.
- In some cases an instructor may only need to attend for one day instead of a full weekend – a saving in both time and money for the State Association and the instructor

OK, so there must be disadvantages. Well, not everyone likes learning online but there are ways around this. For instance if there was more than one candidate for a club they could get together to work through the course together – although they would each need to do the tests of course. The course is also available via an app – on both Apple and android – so the work can be done anywhere. As a last resort the material – minus the audio and video of course – will be available in print.

All I need now is someone prepared to give it a go – so if you are ready to conduct a Level 1 RO course I would really like you to try doing the theory sections online with your candidates 😊

I am available to step instructors through the software and “train” you in how to set up your course and how to monitor progress – although if you are at all computer literate you will have no trouble at all.

Since I am still in lockdown I will be starting on the Judge C workshop next – since there is no on range work, and I have a couple of candidates waiting to get started, this is the logical next step.

## AUGUST 2020

### Still in Lockdown

Well, here in Melbourne we are in Stage 4 lockdown which not only means no shooting, it also means being restricted to a radius of 5kms from home, a maximum of an hour each day for exercise, masks all of the time – and, horror of horrors, no haircut! I have to wonder what is going to happen when they relax these rules – will it all start up again?

Despite all these things have been happening in the NRC world. WA and NT are almost back to normal and NT has been running RO courses. Also NT now has 2 new Black Powder judges

Chris Harding – added BP to his Judge B accreditation

Glen Frew – upgraded from C to B for BP

Currently I have been putting the Level 1 RO course onto an online training platform. The intention is that candidates can work through the theory of the course online and once that is passed the instructor will be able to organize a day for practical work and assessment. Why?

1. The candidates can work at their own pace – with referral back to the instructor if they get stuck.
2. The instructor can get a much better handle on the candidate's knowledge
3. The instructor will be able to concentrate on practical experience and assessment at the level 1 seminar, rather than having to cram in theory and practical
4. Material can be made available for download so the candidate has a permanent reference  
Sorry – not much this time around but hopefully we will all be back shooting soon.

## **MAY 2020**

### **Isolation Blues**

I hope all of you are keeping well during this crazy period of lockdown and isolation. I was enjoying retirement until they told me it meant not going out – my biggest excitement each week is the trip to the supermarket. During normal hours I might add – not so exciting that I want to get up early!

Pistol Australia has been working hard keeping us all informed and engaged through webinars and the fortnightly Range Report. There will also be an e-bulletin coming out very soon and this is planned to be monthly. You can access all this via the PA website ([www.pistol.org.au](http://www.pistol.org.au))

Obviously the ISSF is also in isolation and the hierarchy are taking this time to look at the way ISSF competitions are structured; the emphasis appears to be on Finals. We can all expect some seemingly strange courses of fire and timings as things are nipped out. The aim is to make the whole thing more exciting for spectators (forget the poor old Jury who never get the same thing twice!).

Just prior to the lockdown we ran a successful Judge C training day in Albury. While the newly minted judges have not had an opportunity to put their skills into practice as yet I am sure they – like the rest of us – will soon be back on the range and looking to hone their skills. They are

- Kristy Gillman – Vic (ISSF)
- Lisa Wilson – ACT (ISSF)
- Brady White – NT (ISSF)
- Cameron Perkins – Vic (Service/WA1500)
- Bob Maddocks – Vic (ISSF)
- Helen Lord – NSW (ISSF)
- Max Hogg – NSW (ISSF)

As you can see there is a preponderance of potential ISSF judges here – I would love to see more from the other PA disciplines. I do know there are one or two candidates for Action Pistol but at this stage that is all I know of.

I have just realized that the link to the rules on the PA website in my last newsletter were missing so here it is again <https://pistol.org.au/rules/> . I am still unable to update the PA website and am just waiting for the developers to provide some guidelines – I would hate to be responsible for crashing the whole site!

The Zoom software developers must be rubbing their hands with glee as it seems to be the ‘go to’ for meetings and family gatherings at the moment. Great though it is at the moment I am not a fan – my ISSF Committee meeting will be at 3:00am on Tuesday!! The joys of living in the ‘other half’ of the world. Seriously, it has allowed us to all keep in touch and to keep working. Our NRC meeting this year will likely be a Zoom meeting – if you have any officiating type issues you would like the Council to discuss NOW is the time to make your state referee director aware of them – you can also email me directly if you prefer ([nrc@pistol.org.au](mailto:nrc@pistol.org.au)).

Hopefully ranges will start to open up soon (I believe NT is already open) and we can all get back to shooting. Meanwhile keep smiling and I hope to catch up with some of you on a range soon.

#### **APRIL 2020**

I cannot remember when I last wrote something for this column – oops! It must be going on for 12 months so I should have plenty to waffle on about – I haven’t.

I suppose I can’t really claim I don’t have time to write!! You’d think being basically confined to the house that I would have time to spare – funny how work expands to fill the time available!! I was meant to be in India at the moment so I was super organized for the Nationals – and when the World Cup was cancelled I had nothing much left to do. Then, when the Nationals were postponed, I was left wondering what on earth one does when home at Easter!! I cannot even catch up on attendances and participations because the club is closed and competitions cancelled.

Hopefully you have all caught up with the rule changes for Service matches – if not you can find them here ..... You do not have to download the whole book as I have formatted it in a way that allows you to paste over the current paragraph where there are changes. As usual there will not be any infringement notices issued until after the 2020 Nationals (that is assuming we can have them in September as planned – fingers and toes all firmly crossed).

Unfortunately when the new Pistol Australia website was launched I had to remove the link to [this website](#)>. Hopefully it will return in the future but for now you need to bookmark a direct link to this site. Anything that I put up on the PA website will also be able to be found on this site – possibly as a link back to PA.

By now you would realize that the Olympic Games have been postponed for a year so those of you expecting a new ISSF rule book in 2021 will probably be waiting for 2022. This is my guess – based on knowing that they will not change the rules just before an Olympic Games as it would not be fair on the athletes.

The NRC has been encouraging qualified people to take the next step and start PA Judge training. We currently have about 12 trainees around the country – with 4 or 5 ready to be upgraded to Judge

B. The review panel was supposed to meet in Brisbane – we will now be meeting on Skype (a new experience for all of us!).

With the proviso that this all depends on Covid-19 and government directives – we have quite a bit to look forward to this year.

The Action Match Nationals are due to be held at Yarra PC (Vic) in August. The Organizing Committee is well ahead with their preparations and the range is looking good – of course, it is actually closed at the moment but.....!

Then in September we should be in Brisbane for the postponed PA/ISSF Nationals and in October Pistol Australia is hosting the Action Match World Championships at Toowoomba Qld. Let's just hope they all are able to go ahead.

Meanwhile, him indoors is working outside on painting the house (very slowly!) and her indoors is playing computer games in between spring cleaning and going for a daily walk. I think we are all mourning the loss of normal daily life at the moment but it will end – don't know when but I am reliably informed that nothing last forever!! Keep fit and stay safe.

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