

Club Membership Discussion Paper

Club membership should be the one item discussed at club AGM's. If you do not get new members coming along to your club and joining your club has no future. Getting potential members along is easy, keeping them coming along is the hard bit.

1. Create a club website and/or a Facebook page. Both can be set up for zero costs, but you need to keep it up to date and current. Club scores and some photos are easily uploaded. It takes 1-2 hours when you get home from the range to create, once done that is it for the week.
2. If you are the contact person, answer and return calls if messages are left, get new potential members interested and out to the range. Meet them at the dairy down the road from the range and then take them out to the range. Ask questions about what they want to do, TR, F Class or Hunter class. Let them use their gear, see if they can hit the target with it. Most clubs have ex members selling gear and reloading equipment, these new members are a great place to move gear onto and keep it in the club and the sport.
3. NRA Brochures are available to use in local gun shops or with the Licencing Vetting Officers, ask them to display them or hand out to interested potential members. Phone numbers are required of someone who will answer messages and get back to them.
4. Local Newspapers will publish articles and photos on your club and members. Open days advertised at the start of the season in local papers are a way of starting the season underway.
5. Clubs need to have newsletters letting members know what is going on and upcoming events. Weekly emails also let all know what is happening with the club. Lots of information from the NRA, Club member's activities, upcoming events needs to be sent out to your membership. Once members move on, keep them on the email list, they may come back to the club.
6. Mentor new members out to experienced members, both will learn a lot off each other. Assistance is needed to get new members on target with their gear or the clubs, discuss reloading, positions, wind, what's expected of them. Have a club briefing sheet explaining club rules, where toilets are, marking, time limits, club gear, cleaning, etc. Encourage to show up to put up flags and targets, also to stay and help put everything away.
7. A club needs to decide that new members are important, most clubs cannot cope with more than 2-3 new prospective members showing up, but your club needs them more than they need us so, be friendly and make an effort, remember back to the day you fronted up to the club, was it pleasant? F Class shooting is the easiest class to get started with, if they have come from smallbore they will be easy to fit into slings and jackets to shoot TR. Get club members to bring out ammo and use their gear that will hit the target straight off.

8. There are plenty of 2nd hand rifles, reloading equipment and gear around, sell it to keep it in the club and being used.
9. Have a barbeque and refreshments after shooting. Use this time to socialise, talk about the club and sport, upcoming events. Explain pathways to club champs, regionals Champs, National Championships, Inter National shooting to Comm Games or World Championships, there are plenty of opportunities within the sport. See that they enjoy the experience so they will come back next week.
10. Do not push them into club positions too quickly, it can put them off quickly.
11. Join the local smallbore club, great practise in the winter when you can't shoot outdoors, also a great recruiting place with people who know how to shoot.