

The Shuttle Feed

December 2019 No. 43



Upcoming Events

13th of December – South Hobart Badminton Centre Closes

14th of December –Final Super Smash of the Year

21st of December – Final Vets Sessions of the Year

13th of January – South Hobart Badminton Centre Opens

17th – 19th of January – Under 13 Carnival, Altona, Victoria

Message from the President

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of 2019 – where has the year gone? At the start of the year, the STBA adopted a new approach to membership and I'd proud to say that we now have over 1100 registered members. As a committee, it is our duty to ensure that we continue to offer something for all of our members.

Early in November, the committee held a planning day to discuss the operational structure of the STBA and what it would look like moving into 2020. We spent a considerable amount of time discussing our current offerings (pennants, tournaments, coaching and public sessions) and came to realise two key items:

1. Whilst our pennants were once our flagship offering, it's no longer the case and these days we have more people playing casually via our court bookings or public sessions
2. We lacked proper pathways and options for our adult and junior players

Ultimately, we realised that we needed to change our offerings if we wanted to attract new players. Which is why starting next year, our pennants will be shorter in length (8 to 10 weeks) with different styles of competitions played in between (4-5 weeks). Furthermore, we hope to line our competitions up with school terms and university semesters to better support our younger players.

This also meant we needed to restructure our registration and match fees. We've abolished our pennant registration fee (which used to be \$40 a pennant or \$110 a year) in favour of increased match fees (from \$8 to \$10 a night). Ultimately, this works out to be cheaper for all of our players and reduces the confusion around our membership fee, registration fee and match fee.

The survey which was recently distributed to all members will play a large part in what our future rosters will look like. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to complete it – your valuable feedback will not go ignored.

In other news, the Hobart Ladies Badminton Association recently hosted the annual Atlanta Jamboree. I had an opportunity to visit the hall on the day of the finals and it was absolutely amazing to see so many people in our hall. I can't remember a time when I had seen it so busy! Congratulations must go out to the HLBA for organising such a well-run event and to STBA members Jenny Grundy and Jenny Badger for taking out the individual doubles event and the five Tasmanian teams who took out their respective divisions.

On behalf of the STBA committee, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday's and hope to see you all back on the court in mid-January.

Garion Weller

From the Committee

The Committee is pleased to announce that a number of changes have been implemented over the course of this year with a view to improving our finances and the general operation of the centre. We announced at the AGM that the finances of the association have been reversed over the last 12 months and we are operating 'in the black' again. We are very conscious that, as we look to open the centre up more to members and offer more services, the costs associated increase. We continue to seek ways to generate revenue to offset these costs, typically through more availability and hire of courts (our biggest asset and revenue stream) but also through grants where available and other activities (quiz nights, fund raising etc. will be considered for 2020). The STBA has a big ticket item in new floors to plan and action for next Christmas (2021) and a large part of our planning has been to ensure we can fund this activity. We currently believe we are in a position to achieve this. As part of this planning we will continue seeking (and have applied already) applicable grants to assist further and will continue to drive towards this and provide regular updates over the course of 2020.



It is a pleasure to introduce **Tara Thiessen** to our STBA community as one of our new session and canteen managers. Tara has commenced working in our canteen on a Wednesday night when our division one players are on court. On the weekends Tara can be found at the session manager desk, assisting our members and the general public when they arrive at one of our public sessions.

Tara is one of our many talented junior players and has enjoyed a very successful two years, being selected in the U17 state team that competed in the Australasian under-17 championships in Invercargill, New Zealand in 2018 and this year being chosen in our U19 Tasmanian team who competed in Perth, Western Australia.

We welcome Tara to the team!

Our association is lucky to have people behind the scenes volunteering to help in many ways. One of those talented people is **Haydon Dennison**. Did you know that Haydon assists Division reps and the Committee to put together the teams at the beginning of our rosters?

Haydon also enters all the scores for Divisions 3 and 4 into Scorekeeper and analyses player performance statistics to see if people should move Divisions. Haydon is crucial to assisting with the week-to-week running of Division 4, including finding fill-ins and answering any questions from new players about how the roster works and dealing with any issues that arise on the night. All of this whilst also playing a mean game in Division 3.

Thank you Haydon for all the work you do for the STBA, it is much appreciated.



Maria Shelverton has been part of the STBA community since starting to play badminton at school in 1993 in Grade 5. Not only is Maria one of our most talented players, having represented Tasmania in Badminton numerous times, she has also represented the State in Softball and Hockey!

Maria is well known to many around the centre currently playing in our Division 1 roster, having been playing in our night rosters since 2003. Maria has assisted Greg Meaghan in the past with the coaching and development of our juniors, passing on her knowledge and skills to the next generation of players and now volunteers in the canteen. It's always a pleasure to see her lovely smile around the centre as she continues to happily give back in any way she can to the badminton community who have supported her over many years.

Coaching

This year has seen quite a few changes around the centre as the committee moves forwards with streamlining the way we operate and attempting to make the overall centre run more smoothly, with less reliance on volunteers. Alongside this we have had a focus on increasing access to courts for members and have realised a much greater demand for court access than previously expected. For example, more than 16,000 hours of private bookings were made in November alone – this excludes our STBA public sessions, veterans' sessions, HLBA etc.

With this has come challenges in changing the existing manual and informal booking process and implementing a standard booking approach; potentially this has impacted coaches the most. Over the duration of the year, the STBA has met with coaches and sought feedback on the changes and whilst we have not been able to achieve satisfaction from all coaches, the majority of responses have been positive. Ultimately any change has its challenges and we thank the coaches for working with us on this and we will continue to review and seek to finetune this where we can.

Over this year we have received questions from members on potential impacts to coaches and whether their sessions would continue. In short, the STBA has sought to ensure that times/days have been set aside for coaches, and through the use of the online system more days and time slots have become available to book online. Coaches have access to courts at a substantially discounted rate, reflecting our recognition of their importance and contribution to our sport, association and members.

There has been, and possibly will always be a challenge balancing coaches' need for courts with the requests of our members for more court booking and open public session times and we will seek to continue balancing and reviewing this aspect.

Based on member feedback further consultation with individuals and coaches has been undertaken and we feel we are at a point where the STBA needs to take a greater part in offering coaching & training with focus on development of player pathways, for all players. A player development sub-committee was identified during our November STBA planning session and has progressed through several meetings to consider this further and develop an approach.

In 2020, we intend to introduce STBA branded coaching and training sessions to cater for a wide range of players. This will be done based on our player pathways planning, and we will be engaging with all of our coaches to offer opportunities to participate in these as the official STBA coach for those sessions. It is envisioned this will use multiple and potentially (at their discretion) all coaches to allow our players exposure to a broader range of coaching skills and experience.

The STBA will continue to offer discounted courts to coaches to facilitate coaching in whatever capacity and format they wish, whether for targeted groups, individuals or something else. We believe there will always be a place for both STBA coaching, and private coaching, and we see the two providing a rounded offering to our members for 2020 and beyond.

STBA Interview

Kara Neil-Shaw, who has played in our Under 19 state team and is also a participant of Super Smash, interviewed Donna Meghan, our development officer of the STBA.

Kara: Why did you start Super Smash?

Donna: To give juniors the opportunity to play badminton together, to provide a challenging and fun environment for them to enjoy their badminton, for them to improve and to set them off on their pathway.

Kara: What are your plans for Super Smash in 2020 and beyond?

Donna: Super Smash continues to evolve as we've been here for 2 years. Our first term started with 20 with now about 75 juniors registered to play. As it continues to grow, we'll continue to evolve it just to meet the changing needs of our players that are also continuing to improve. But also, to look after our new players coming in at different levels.

Kara: How would you describe the atmosphere at Super Smash?

Donna: The atmosphere at Super Smash is awesome! I think it's the best place to be on a Saturday afternoon; the juniors always bring their best energy and their best vibe and it's just a terrific day for badminton.

Kara: For how long have you been playing badminton?

Donna: I started playing badminton at the age of 6 and I pretty much went through to about 25. In that time, I represented the State on many occasions. In all of the programs we have now, I played in our Kids roster, through to our State teams (State Juniors and Seniors) with an Australian under-age ranking as well. So, there was a lot of badminton with my parents, introduced me to the sport at a young age.

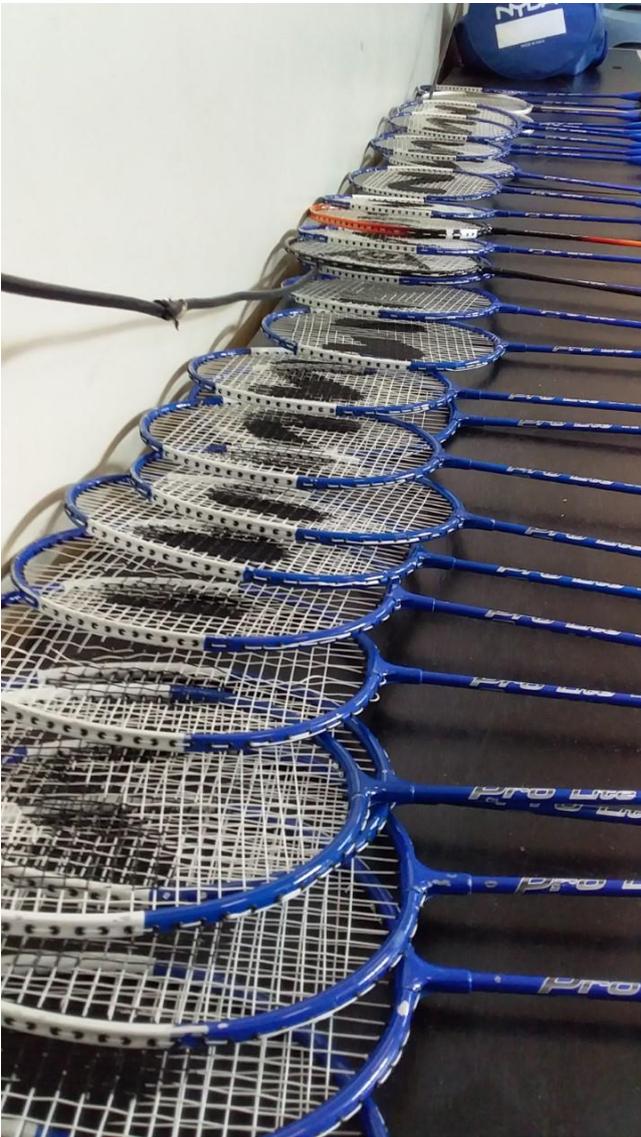
Kara: What is your proudest achievement in badminton?

Donna: My Australian ranking as a junior and also to be the development officer here at badminton so that I can actually give back and provide opportunities to the new juniors to love badminton as much as I did.

Kara: What do you do outside of badminton (e.g. hobbies etc.)?

Donna: If I'm not at badminton, you'll usually find me in the surf; surfing waves. Also, yoga. I love yoga for many different reasons from the stretch, to the flexibility, to the agility and to also the calmness that it brings. Walking the dog, bike riding and spending quality and fun time with my young children and family.





STBA'S DEVELOPMENT FUTURE SHINING CONFIDENTLY WITH A GRANT FROM THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT RECEIVED

The STBA Committee are really proud and excited to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Tasmanian Government to continue our remarkable development work in schools and community as providers and Co-ordinator of the Federally funded National Sporting School Program in Southern Tasmania.

The receipt of this grant highlights the Tasmanian Government's confidence they have in our Association and our development work to continue to develop, co-ordinate and expand our professional work in schools through the National Sporting Schools Program and to the greater community in Southern Tasmania based on very impressive data and information we were able to provide over the last year.

The funds will be utilised for the purchase of much needed resources to enable us to continue to meet the demand in schools and community as well as assisting our Development Officer to provide the very best and most enjoyable badminton experience to all we connect with.



What a fantastic way for the STBA to close out this year's highly successful and wonderful development work in receiving this big tick of confidence, acknowledgement, and grant from the State government. We are ready for 2020 and Southern Tasmania is ready for us!

Please contact me, Donna Meaghan, STBA Development Officer for all your inquiries about Sporting Schools and Development Programs and let's get out there and play Badminton!

E: development@southerntasbadminton.com.au

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Centre Closure

It's that time of year again when everyone is looking forward to enjoying some downtime with family and friends over the holiday period.

The centre closes next Friday night the 13th of December and re-opens again on Sunday the 12th of January 2020.

The last Super Smash session will be held on Saturday the 14th of December and the last session for members that play in the Vets competition will be held on Saturday the 21st of December between 5-7pm.

We would like to wish all members a safe and enjoyable break.



Car Park

Whilst we are closed for the Christmas/New Year break, the City of Hobart have advised that they will be finishing the last part of the car park upgrade works by installing dot markers and freshly painted lines where required. Thank you to the Council for finishing this work for us.



Tasmanian Tourism Awards

Our congratulations to STBA members Jenny Grundy and Mark Grundy after their recent win at the Tasmanian Tourism Awards. Jenny and Mark operate local business Roaring 40s Kayaking, who were awarded Gold for Adventure Tourism and were also inducted into the Hall of Fame. Well done Jenny and Mark on your success!



Badminton Tasmania

Congratulations to STBA member Matt Stewart who was recently appointed to the board of Badminton Tasmania. Matt's energy and enthusiasm will be wonderful assets he brings to this position and we wish him all the best as he begins his new role.

Under 13 Tasmanian Team and Individuals Entries

The 2020 Under 13 carnival will be played over three days at Altona from Friday 17th January to Sunday 19th January 2020. This is the 14th year that the event has been run. The team events will be played all day Friday with finals to be played on Saturday morning the 18th of January. Individual events will be played from Saturday afternoon and finish on Sunday the 19th of January. For the first time, we will be offering mixed doubles in the individual events. Please note that team events will NOT include mixed doubles.

This year, we are again offering three team events

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Interstate Series | Minimum 3 boys and 3 girls |
| 2. Regional Mixed Teams Challenge | Minimum 3 boys and 3 girls |
| 3. Regional boys Team Challenge | Minimum 3 boys |

All entries for the team event and the individual events should be completed online.

The link to the online team entry is

<http://www.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=BC7277F4-4AE8-461F-945F-822B41435C91>

The link to the online individual entry is

<http://www.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament?id=42E1C826-4221-4230-AACE-7C2ECB1FA19B>



Did you know we are on Instagram? Follow us on @badmintonsoutherntas

Contact the STBA

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