

Welcome:

We are pleased to welcome you to the January edition of the Shuttle Feed, the 51st edition and first of what will hopefully be a fantastic 2021. This month we were open for the first time all the way back on the 4th of January, so it has been an action-packed start to the year.

In this edition we will be bringing you:

- What's on at the STBA?
- President's Report
- Skedda Booking System FAQs
- STBA Junior Offerings
- Junior Holiday Programs Report
- STBA Offerings Announcements
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- Who's Who at the STBA?

What's on at the STBA?

Lightning Roster:

Sunday – Thursday Nights

***Last round beginning 21st February**

Tuesday After Work Session:

Every Tuesday 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Saturday Vets Session:

Every Saturday 5pm – 7pm

Term 1 Junior Programs:

Beginners & Intermediate Coaching 1-2pm

Super Smash Program 2pm-4:30pm

All Abilities Session:

For children of all abilities, who live with a disability. Support workers and carers are also welcome.

Every Saturday 2-3pm (excluding school holidays).

President's Report –

Garion Weller:

Welcome to 2021! I hope you all had a relaxing break and took the time to unwind and recharge. I won't beat around the bush though – let's talk about our new courts!

What is the product?

After extensive consultations and discussions, we've decided to go for a product called *Taraflex Performance* – a new 9mm thick surface which will be installed over the top of our existing 12 courts (yes, all of them!). Our new courts are being manufactured in France right as you're reading this by a company called Gerflor.

As the name suggests, Taraflex Performance is the premium option, with the other options in the same family being 4.5mm, 6mm or 7.5mm thick. We trust that this extra padding will be extra kind on your knees.

Is the hall going to be completely blue?

No, the committee have decided to retain the existing colour scheme – green courts, white lines and a reddish/orange trim. Of course, we can't get the exact shade as what we currently have, but it will be pretty close.

Will I need to get fancy shoes?

When the committee were investigating different options, we looked at multiple installations across Hobart. Taraflex is a popular option in a lot of school halls, and we have heard stories of these halls being used for polling places, community fairs and numerous other events. The courts looked a little scuffed, but otherwise held up extremely well after 12 years.

The short version of this story is no – we'll still encourage and ask you to wear a non-

marking sole shoe when you're on the courts, but one of the really great things about this surface is that it is a forgiving surface.

When are the courts being installed?

In our negotiations with the supplier, we're currently looking at a 2-week period starting mid to late May. As with any major project, there are numerous moving parts and as we all know, Covid-19 can quickly disrupt things.

We will have a much better understanding of the situation later in the year, after the product arrives in Australia/Hobart.

What does this mean for pennant/tournaments?

When designing the calendar of events for 2021, we were conscious of the fact that play will be disrupted for a few weeks in the middle of the year. As such, we purposely opted to open the season with a 6-week lightning roster.

Following on from this, in early March we'll host a pennant event designed to run right up until the date of installation (meaning the last few weeks of competition may be subject to change). Of course, we'll also include our regular break for Easter during this time.

After the courts are installed, we offer the chance for our members to come and have a casual hit before launching into another offering.

What about the posts/umpire chairs?

At this stage, we aren't planning any major changes to the posts or umpires' chairs. We'll continue to use the existing posts, with a slight modification to account for the new surface. Longer term, we'll look to apply for a grant to refresh these posts with something more modern and flexible (to better accommodate para-badminton).

I have further questions

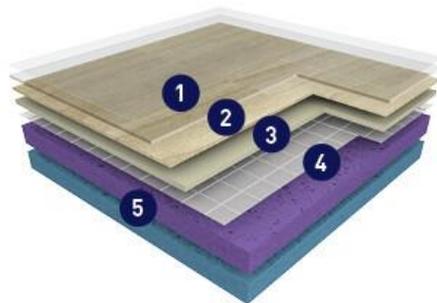
Please don't hesitate to get in touch with someone on the committee or one of our friendly staff members. We may not have the answer on hand, but we'll certainly endeavour to find out for you.

Finally, I just wanted to mention that this has been a *very* long time coming, and I'd like to thank the work of committee members, both past and present for the numerous hours and time that have gone into making this happen. This is will be a very significant undertaking for our club and it's not a decision we made lightly.

We hope that the new surface will be a joy to play on, and will usher in a both a new, and returned generation of badminton players.

There's not long now!

Garion Weller – STBA President



Taraflex Performance example, similar to what the STBA is having installed.

<https://www.gerflor.com.au/professionals-products/floors/taraflex-performance.html>

Skedda Booking

System FAQs:

As of the first of February, we officially returned to the Skedda booking system. If you have not already created your Skedda account, [follow this link to do so!](#) Here are some frequently asked questions that we have been responding to so far!

What do I do if the member price is not displaying on my booking, even though I am a member?

If you have only just registered for Skedda then you must allow up to 48 hours for STBA staff to update your account. If it has been over 48 hours, send us an email at info@stba.net.au.

Can I cancel a booking and receive a refund?

Unfortunately, although Skedda is very reliable when it comes to **online booking** (unlike our previous system SportyHQ), Skedda is less flexible. We are unable to provide cancellation/refunds for court bookings via Skedda at this stage. On this basis unless serious circumstances arise your court booking will be final, so ensure you know that you will be available for the time that you are booking. We thank you for your understanding.

In the meantime, our team is working closely with Skedda and its relevant gateway partner, to investigate the feasibility of an easy and convenient cancellation/refund process for our members. We will advise you as soon as we have an answer.

How do I receive the membership rate on Skedda?

You must sign-up for an STBA membership – this can be done by [following this link!](#)

What if I used Skedda when it was the STBA booking system in the past?

Your old account and password details will still work, so all you will need to do is sign-in!

What if I still had credit in my SportyHQ account?

We will get in touch with players who still have funds in their account. As this will be a big process, we appreciate you having patience with us. We endeavour to have it finalised by the end of March at the latest.

STBA Junior Offerings

Term 1 Super Smash Program & Junior Coaching:

If you ever come into the STBA centre on a Saturday afternoon between 1pm and 4:30pm you will see it, excitingly, overrun with junior baddy players! With almost 70 juniors coming to play every Saturday, we will be watching the sport keenly in the years to come for those who have been part of our junior programs from the beginning!

All Abilities Session:

As initially organised by past Committee Member Chloe Chong, the All Abilities Session is a session for children of all abilities who are living with a disability. This session is a great opportunity for children who would love to learn a new skill or socialise in an hour of fun playing some badminton. This year, we would like to thank Keiko Dalby for taking the lead in managing this session moving forward.

January Junior Holiday Programs Report:

Throughout the month of January the STBA were excited to be running numerous junior programs to kickstart 2021.

These programs included Come & Try Sessions where we had an experienced coach show some enthusiastic participants some basic badminton skills and techniques, Holiday Hit sessions where junior players came to have a social hit with old and new friends, and finally our January Holiday Clinics.

We were incredibly happy to see so many passionate juniors involved in the January Holiday programs. A special mention to all of those juniors who participated in our Holiday Clinics which were a smashing success! These clinics were aimed at providing our junior players with the opportunity to learn and improve in a fun and supportive environment. It was great to see the rate at which the participants were developing their skills, even in a three-day program!



We thank everyone involved in the running and organisation of these programs throughout January, especially all volunteers who gave up their own time including Rose Meaghan, Kara Neil-Shaw, Andre Chua, Tim Shen, Oscar Blackburn and Toby Rayner and our experienced coaches Greg Meaghan and Rowan Henderson.



STBA Offerings

Announcements:

At the STBA we are already numerous sessions, so there are plenty of opportunities for players to get involved, regardless of your skill level or your experience. We have options available for people who want to play competitively but we also have options available for people who want to play socially. Some of the sessions that are returning or have returned already are:

STBA Social Sessions

Tuesday After Work Session

Tuesday from 4:30pm until 6:30pm.

Saturday Vets Session

Saturday from 5pm until 7pm.

Both sessions work on the basis that a player wanting to come to have a social hit without signing up can do so, no matter their level. At a cost of \$15 per person this is perfect for players wanting to have a hit in a social environment!

Roster Competitions

Lightning Roster

This promotion and relegation-based roster will be running until the end of February. It has been great to see so many new and old faces participating in this roster.

Autumn Pennant

The Pennant is to begin after the conclusion of the Lightning Roster which coincides with the start of March and it will run until the new floors are put in through May. Stay tuned over the coming weeks for the registration advertisements.

Tournaments

Excitingly Badminton Tasmania has released their events calendar for 2021 – see below all of the tournaments that have been announced to occur at the STBA in 2021.

July 24th / 25th – STBA Invitational

September 11th / 12th -GOSEN Australian Multicultural Championships

October 16th / 17th – City of Hobart

November 6th / 7th – GOSEN Tasmanian Teams Championships & Bellchambers Cup

From the Umpire's Chair

2. SHUTTLE

2.1 The shuttle shall be made of natural and / or synthetic materials. From whatever material the shuttle is made, the flight characteristics generally shall be similar to those produced by a natural feathered shuttle with a cork base covered by a thin layer of leather.

2.2 Feathered Shuttle

2.2.1 The shuttle shall have 16 feathers fixed in the base.

2.2.2 The feathers shall have a uniform length between 62 mm to 70 mm when measured from the tip to the top of the base.

2.2.3 The tips of the feathers shall lie on a circle with a diameter from 58 mm to 68 mm.

2.2.4 The feathers shall be fastened firmly with thread or other suitable material.

2.2.5 The base shall be 25 mm to 28 mm in diameter and rounded on the bottom.

2.2.6 The shuttle shall weigh from 4.74 to 5.50 grams.

Who's Who at the STBA – Alan Bottomley

Alan Bottomley is a Life Member of the STBA, as awarded in September 2017 and has been a critical part of the STBA community for many years. Alan's self-professed claim to fame is that he has played at the Harry Thompson Centre in South Hobart for every single year since it opened in 1963, seconded only likely by his wife Yvonne, whom he met playing badminton in 1964.

However, Alan's true claim to fame is the dedication and hard work he has put in over this period to help the STBA thrive, improve and develop. You may know Alan now as the organiser and runner of the Tuesday After Work Sessions, however he has filled countless roles at the STBA over time. These include, but are not limited to, Vice President, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster.

Most of Alan's work at the STBA has been on the technical side of things. For example, he is responsible for the design, manufacturing and maintenance of the scoring system on the umpire's chairs,



the design (with input from his business partner) and maintenance of the mobile towers in the centre used to change the fluorescent lights in the centre, the organisation of the painting of the internal walls at the centre, the arranging of significant roof repairs at the centre and the arrangement of the 'action silhouettes' that are found at the entrance to the building. These are only a few of the tasks that Alan has been instrumental in organising at the STBA.

As the STBA has changed over time, Alan has loved the way in which the centre has continued to be able to modernise. In recent times he believes that it has been fantastic to be able to employ staff to continue to help facilitate the growth of the game in Southern Tasmania and the continued integration of technology into many aspects of STBA operating procedures has also been a big plus. In the future, Alan hopes to see the centre extend opening hours even further, similar to some centres in New Zealand where they are able to offer 24-hour access.

In his spare time Alan can be found in his well-equipped workshop, working on his many ongoing projects. Currently his main project is working on an updated version of a previous invention of his.

As a badminton community we have been incredibly lucky to have someone like Alan involved at the STBA, and we truly appreciate his efforts. We look forward to seeing Alan in the centre for many more years to come!

