

Southern Tasmanian Badminton Association 2020

Presidents Report

What can I say; what a year it's been!

Operations and Offerings

We entered 2020 by advertising our new Stadium Manager position. This was an exciting step for the STBA; it was a chance for us to take some of the pressure off the committee and to separate out the decision making from the operations of the hall.

Not too soon after this, we got the news that Donna had taken up an opportunity with surfing Tasmania and would be resigning from her position as Development Officer with the STBA. Donna was originally appointed in 2018 and instrumental in promoting our sport with Juniors. Under Donna's guidance we saw the launch of the *Super Smash* competition, the *Badminton Kids* programme in the school holidays and coordinating the *Sporting Schools* programme in Southern Tasmania.

On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank Donna and all of those who assisted her for her service to the Southern Tasmanian Badminton Association over the past few years.

Interviews were held for the Stadium Manager position in February and we were very fortunate to have two ideal candidates for the now two vacant positions of Stadium Manager and Development Officer in Alicia Morgan and Luke Warrener.

Alicia and Luke underwent training in mid-March where they learned the ropes of our club and were ready to start when unfortunately, Covid-19 forced us to close our hall.

The committee made the decision to keep Alicia and Luke employed throughout this period, which was assisted by a State Government grant aimed at retaining employees. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the State Government for their support of our club.

This decision turned out to be fortuitous as Alicia and Luke were able to develop our Covid-SAFE plan, allowing us to safely reopen the hall in June for the highly popular court hire sessions.

We followed this up with the inaugural weeknight Lightning roster. Initially popularised by Eion on a Sunday night, we expanded this to three different formats (doubles, ladies doubles and singles) and held it during the week as an alternative to our regular pennant competitions. This proved to be popular with 122 people playing across the three events.

In early September, we welcomed back our pennant competition, albeit in a slightly different format. Across the four divisions, we have 170 people participating – one of our best results in years. This is encouraging, and our focus for next year will be to build on this and encourage more junior players to participate.

Grants

Over the past twelve months, the STBA has been successful in obtaining over \$85,000 worth of grants. This is a tremendous effort and I would like to thank the committee for their assistance in grant writing. This includes:

Sporting Equipment - \$4,500

This grant allows us to purchase badminton equipment used to promote and develop our sport. I'd like to thank Donna for her work in obtaining this grant.

Court Resurfacing - \$49,000

Earlier this year, we were successful in obtaining a \$49,000 grant for our court resurfacing project. This represents one of the largest grants the STBA has been successful in applying for and I'd like to thank Nathan for his efforts in obtaining this grant.

COVID-19 – Sport and Recreation Grants Program - \$22,000

This grant allowed us to retain Alicia and Luke as employees during the Covid shutdown and associated recovery. I would like Rob Brockman and Badminton Tasmania for their support in helping us obtain this grant.

COVID-19 – Sport and Recreation Grants Program - \$2,200

This grant assisted with the reopening and recovery plan for the STBA by allowing the STBA to purchase additional cleaning supplies as part of our Covid-SAFE plan. I'd like to thank Peter for his efforts in obtaining this grant.

Tasmanian Community Fund – Special Needs Program - \$5,200

We were also successful in obtaining a grant for our Special Needs Group on a Saturday afternoon. For those that don't know, Chloe and Declan run a session on a Saturday afternoon for children with special needs. This grant, worth \$5000 will allow us buy new badminton racquets, reimburse volunteers and hire coaches for the session. This is a fantastic project and I'd like to thank Chloe and Declan for initiating and managing it, Chloe for writing the grant and the Tasmanian Community Fund (the TCF) for their support of the project.

Floor Resurfacing

The committee are still committed to resurfacing our floors. Given the size and magnitude of the project, it's not something we want to rush into. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has disrupted our plans for the resurfacing but we are actively looking into it.

We hope to provide more information to all members about our plans shortly.

Final Comments

Volunteering for the committee can be a thankless and tiring task. We have a number of committee members stepping down this year for various reasons. I would like to take the time to thank Eion, Will, Peter, Nathan, Katrina and Chloe for their service over the past few years. Your contributions to the STBA will not go unnoticed and will be felt for many years to come.

To Alicia and Luke; your professionalism, patience and enthusiasm for our sport and club has not gone unnoticed. It was a difficult start to year, but you both already feel like part of the STBA team. Without you both, I don't think we would be in the position we are today and I'd like to sincerely thank you for your work.

This has been a year unlike any other before it. I look forward to continuing to serve as President next year and working with the committee as we return to normal and build on the successes of the past few years.

I commend this report to the members.

Garion Weller

President

22nd September 2020