

# **STBA Life Membership**

## **Matthew Gillie**

### **Player**

#### **Local**

Matt has been a member, and played in the local roster, of the STBA for 28 continuous years. He started out in the Saturday afternoon and schools roster and then progressed to the STBA night roster where he has played continuously for 25 years. Up until last year he ran the Division One roster (in conjunction predominantly with Greg Meaghan and the late Jim Don) for a period of 15 years. Matt has won 10 Division One Winter Premierships.

#### **State**

Matt has been selected to represent, and played for, the Tasmanian State Team at the Australian National Championships over 21 years with three years at the junior level and 18 years at the Open level. During this period he Captained Tasmania over five years.

Matt has won over 60 Tasmanian State Open titles, including 49 Men's Doubles titles, nine Tasmanian Championship titles and 13 STBA Invitational titles. Interstate he has won a South Australian Open title and two Victorian A Grade titles.

Matt is a member of the Tasmanian Team of the Decade for the period from 2000 to 2009 and a member of the Turner Wylie Club having represented Tasmania at the highest level in 18 Australian National Championships.

#### **National**

Matt has competed in 19 Australian National Championships, which incorporates the Ede Clendinnen Shield Team Event. He won a bronze medal in the team event in 2015 and made two semi-finals of the individual event in prior years.

### **Coach**

Matt coached STBA players over a period of nine years, coaching two athletes into Australian Junior teams and one athlete to the World Junior Championships. He coached three Tasmanian State U17 Teams and three Tasmanian State U19 Teams during this period – one of the Tasmanian State U19 Teams finished second in Australia with seven top 10 Australian rankings (including a player ranked number one in Australia).

Matt was instrumental in the introduction of the STBA's very own team (the Southern Sharks) in the U17 Australasian Championships. One of his proudest moments as a coach was coaching the first ever Southern Sharks team in Auckland, New Zealand.

He also, in conjunction with Adele, established the Elizabeth College Athlete Development Badminton Program for STBA junior players.

At a National level Matt has coached two Australian junior teams, one to a gold medal in the Pan Pacific Championships against Singapore and another to a silver medal at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

## **Administrator**

### **Local**

Matt served as a member of the Committee of Management of the STBA for 15 years up until the recent birth of his son Clancy. During this period he served as Vice President of the STBA for two years under President Bob Grundy and was an active member of the Finance and Junior Development Sub-Committees. For a period of two years, during temporary periods of absence by President Bob Grundy, Matt chaired the meetings of the Committee of Management. As a Chartered Accountant Matt has provided mentoring, advice and assistance to the respective Treasurers of the STBA for well over 10 years.

Matt was Treasurer of the organising Committee when the STBA ran the Australian U19 National Championships and an active member of the organising committees when the STBA hosted the Australian National Championships and the U17 Australasian Championships.

More recently, over 4 ½ years ago, Matt established the STBA's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Program which was established to integrate members of the CALD Communities into the local communities through the sport of badminton. This program has been recognised Nationally by the Australian Sports Commission who came down to film a vidcast of the program to use as a benchmark for other programs around the country. Matt has obtained generous sponsorship from GOSEN for the STBA CALD Program for over four years and negotiated direct sponsorship for four STBA players. For a period of 4 1/2 years Matt has been solely responsible for the successful delivery of the STBA CALD Program which has included him establishing the GOSEN Australian Malaysian National Badminton Championships and, in conjunction with Brent, the GOSEN Tasmanian Team Championships.

Matt, in conjunction with Ernest, has significantly grown the size of the GOSEN Australian Malaysian National Badminton Championships - in 2015 the Championships attracted the equal highest number of players participating and the most number of matches played compared to all other Tasmanian State Tournaments in 2015.

### **National**

At a National level Matt is a current Director of Badminton Australia (BA) and Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee. He has been in that role for eight years during which time he and his fellow Directors have overseen the successful delivery of two Australian Open Super Series events on the International Calendar (with \$750,000 in prize money – the highest in the World) and a winning bid to host the 2017 Sudirman Cup World Mixed Teams Championship on the Gold Coast.

Matt has previously been an active member of BA's Junior Development Committee and a National Junior Selector.

In 2013 Badminton Australia awarded Matt a Conspicuous Service Award for outstanding service to badminton in Australia.

### **Other Projects**

#### **Tasmanian Badminton Reunion Dinner**

Matt, in conjunction with Brent, established the concept of the Tasmanian Badminton Association Reunion Dinner in 2013 and oversaw the successful delivery of over 300 people attending the biggest ever reunion dinner in Tasmanian badminton history. Six Teams of the Decade (from 1950 to 1959 to 2000 to 2009) were announced on the night together with 15 inductees into the Turner Wylie Club.

#### **Tasmanian State Team Caps**

Matt, together with Brent, established the Tasmanian State Team Caps. They painstakingly went back 86 years to every player that had represented Tasmania at the highest level since 1929 and allocated each player a cap number for the first time they represented Tasmania. Now, each time a new player represents Tasmania they are presented with a playing shirt with their cap number embroidered on the playing shirt. There are 217 players that have represented Tasmania since 1929 and Matt is number 176 – he is the equal second most capped player in the history of Tasmanian badminton alongside the legendary Doug Wylie.

#### **Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants Program**

After Bob Grundy and Alan Gough successfully applied for the HAACS School Grant and commenced the implementation process Matt managed the program for the STBA Committee during the 18 month grant period, a program which was aimed at increasing the number of students in primary schools participating in school badminton and employed a coach and administrator to coach in the primary schools around Southern Tasmania.

#### **Hot Shots**

Matt co-ordinated the implementation of the Hot Shots program in the STBA badminton centre in 2014 with the aim to increase revenue for the STBA and attract young people to the badminton centre.

### **Technical Official**

Matt was a technical official at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games and when he was coach of the Tasmanian State Junior Teams he was passionate about the junior players undertaking the junior umpire course with Peter Cocker to improve their skills and experience.

### **Manager / Selector**

Matt has managed Tasmanian State Open Teams and was a selector for eight years for Tasmanian U17 and U19 State Teams.

### **TBA Delegate**

For the last eight years Matt has been the TBA delegate to both the Australian Commonwealth Games Association – Tasmanian Division and the Tasmanian Olympic

Council. Over the last five years he has been Vice President of the Tasmanian Olympic Council.

### **Conclusion**

Matt has been passionate about badminton and the STBA for over 28 years since he first walked into the badminton centre to play with his Dad. In the early years he received tremendous support from his Mum (Julie) and Dad (Daryl) and he played alongside his younger brother Adam. Over the next 28 years he has been involved in all facets of the game from playing, coaching and administration right from the grass roots level up to the local, state and National level.

If you talk to Matt his simple goal has always been to put more into the sport than he has taken out and he can safely say that he has done just that.

He says he is indebted to the sport because it was through the sport 19 years ago that he met, and later married, his lovely wife Olivia and now they have a beautiful little boy in Clancy.

Matt is the youngest ever person to be awarded life membership of the STBA.