



**WAIKATO BADMINTON**

Eastlink Badminton Stadium  
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WaikatoBadminton



waikatobadminton

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



## OFFICERS

PATRON	Alicia Urlich
PRESIDENT	Stu Morgan
VICE PRESIDENT	Carol Leydon-Davis
BOARD MEMBERS	Dominic Buckell, Luke Lee, Graham Roberts, Rupinder Virk, Kenneth Yew, Julie Bryan (appointed), Susannah Leydon-Davis (appointed), Meera Bala (co-opted)
LIFE MEMBERS	Carol Leydon-Davis, Phil Paterson, Maureen Sherborne, Jocelyn Silvester, Doreen Wood, Maurice Smith, Malcolm Brown, Bill Bartels, Alicia Urlich  (Pat Dallinger MBE †, Peter Icke †, Joyce Musk †)

## STAFF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Marianne Loh
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER	Loloma Foster
COACHING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	Tracey Hallam
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS MANAGER	Megan Bramley
ACCOUNTANTS	Maisey Harris & Co.  Rose City Accounts Ltd

## AFFILIATED CLUBS

21st Badminton Club	Masters Badminton Club
Badminton Rocks	Novice Badminton Club
Cambridge Badminton Club	Waikato Punjabi Badminton Club
Code D Badminton Club	Putaruru Badminton Club
Waikato Filipino Association	Saturday Badminton Club
Formosa Badminton Club	Tamil Society Badminton Club
Hamilton Badminton Club	Team Harmony Badminton Club
Hamilton Junior Training Club	Te Awamutu Badminton Club
Hamilton Malayalee Badminton Club	Te Rapa Day Badminton Club
Happy Family Club	Tokoroa Badminton Club
Horsham Downs Badminton Club	Trabajador Badminton Club
Korean Badminton Club	Zero Gravity Badminton Club
Let's Glow Badminton Club	WCBA Badminton Club

For more information about clubs: <http://www.waikatobadminton.co.nz/clubs>

# PRESIDENT REPORT



‘Another year of change and challenges’

I am proud to present you with my report for Waikato Badminton Association (WBA) for this year. 2021 has again been a year of change and a year of challenges. Change has been necessary to allow us to function on a day-to-day basis, the challenge is how creative can we be to accommodate the changes.

Badminton has not been insulated from these changes and challenges, but thanks to the creativity of those at the helm the impact has been less than it may have been. There have been many opportunities to keep people motivated on court through the offering of unique events such as the Shuttle Time Junior Non-Rep Tour, Half Court & Full Court Singles Ladders, Business Challenge, and Team Relay. Many competitors were also out in force during Summer League, Interclub and the Craigs investment Partners Waikato Badminton (ABCD) Championships. Players representing across different age-group events and Inter-Association competition should also be very proud of their achievements as we continue to see improved performances and results.

The board would like to acknowledge Marianne and her team on their innovative and effective ways to keep badminton fresh to the well versed and attractive for new players. These actions from our staff align well with the WBA’s purpose ‘to lead enriching badminton experiences for all ages, all abilities, all times, in Waikato’. We are actively delivering an evolving operating model for badminton for the region, inspiring an improved culture for better community health, wellbeing and performance, all of which forms the basis of our strategic plan from 2021-2025.

I am very fortunate to be part of a very effective board of volunteers who put their knowledge and skill sets to good use as we endeavour to provide leadership and direction for the organisation while supporting the WBA staff. The board meets every 2 months with a full agenda where we receive an overview of the Association’s operations and have a good discussion about participant experiences, policies, financial sustainability along with other general business and opportunities. Our board provides strong representation for the badminton community as many are current members and players, while others who are not from a badminton background provide additional perspectives which are just as important. Good governance examples this year included the review of WBA’s Health and Safety policy to include wellbeing considerations, along with an update of WBA’s Child Protection policy to align with up-to-date practices.

This year, Life Member Doreen Wood retired from the position of WBA Patron. We thank for her ongoing passion and encouragement for WBA – her love for the game and its people remains strong as we continue to see her at various events supporting Waikato players during the season. Doreen and the Board welcomed Life Member Alicia Urlich as the new WBA Patron. Alicia has a great reputation in the community and brings a very positive vigour to the organisation.

People continue to be our primary asset and I acknowledge the outstanding role our clubs and their members and volunteers do year on year. These volunteers do the utmost to provide a positive badminton experience to everyone they come into contact with. These clubs are truly the grassroots of our sport. We all have a part to play in attracting and retaining new players to our sport.

We are also grateful to have worked with many funding partners, sponsors, and stakeholders throughout the year. With everyone's support, we are able to be receptive to change and adaptable enough to meet the challenges head on. There is no doubt there shall still be plenty of great challenges for us to address, many of which we shall continue to identify and work through as our country learns to implement and live with new mandates. Most importantly, I look forward to joining you in simply enjoying the game!

Stu Morgan  
President



WBA Board and Life Members come together for a plaque unveiling in memory of Pat Dalling (MBE)

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



Upon reflection of the 2020/2021 year, Waikato Badminton Association has experienced a strong community response and success on court despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Although it has been an immensely difficult time, I acknowledge our clubs, players, coaches, technical officials, caregivers, volunteers, staff, and thank everyone who have had many plans disrupted.

Building on a renewed interest and a more diverse participation base in recent years, we heightened our focus on fostering leadership, better relationships and teaming, along with increasing the quality across our programs, events, people and pathways.

As part of this process, we were privileged to connect with a class studying Management at the University of Waikato to provide research into developing and adapting communications/marketing strategies and tools for targeting certain participant demographics such as women and girls, Maori and Pasifika. Some of the techniques and ideas formed as a result of this research will guide the ongoing work of our team. We also took the opportunity to on-board Jessica Lusby who completed an internship with us, aligned to Massey University's Sport Management practicum. Jessica provided valuable contribution to our Shuttle Time events space, especially by nurturing sponsor relationships who provide prizes for the Junior Non-Rep Tour.

We continue to have great associations with Craigs Investment Partners, Escapist NZ, and Werder Rackets who are supporters of our major events. We have also been fortunate to receive donations from Columbus Coffee Ruakura, Gong Cha Hamilton, Inflatable World, Kiwi Cookie Company, Lilliput Fun Zone, New World Hillcrest, Pay2Play, Scotts Epicurean, Wilson Consumer Products to support a variety of activities. Throughout the year, we engaged with a number of Sport Waikato staff to further cultivate our capability, coaching and development programs, asset plans, and various play ideas. Exchanging feedback, best practices and gaining further connections provided confidence that we can continue to meet the intentions of Tu Manawa funded projects, and complement other major funder priorities listed on this Annual Report.

We are also proud to continue being a key partner of Badminton New Zealand (BNZ) in developing para-badminton, after having a number of players and coaches involved in national camps and events, as seen in the photo on the right.



We appreciate that we were able to run 'as complete as possible' a badminton season, which included the completion of many after-school programs, school-based competitions, BNZ sanctioned tournaments, and new events such as Fitminton and Team Relay. An adapted version of Singles Ladder and an appealing Business Challenge also attracted new and inactive participants during the year. During major events, we offered development opportunities for a new group of technical officials, who were trained and assessed as National Level Line Judges at the New Zealand National Championships. We are also proud of the number of local umpires who supported our events, as well as contributing to other regional and national events throughout the year.

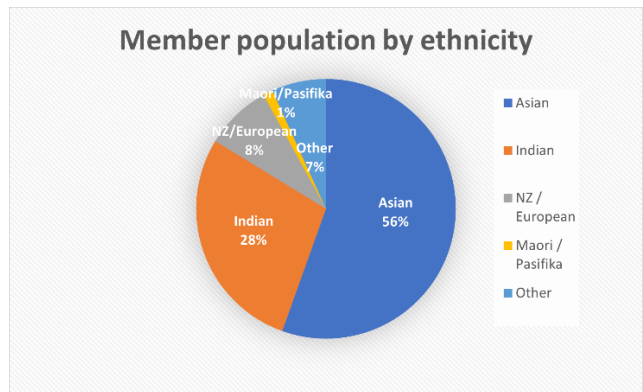
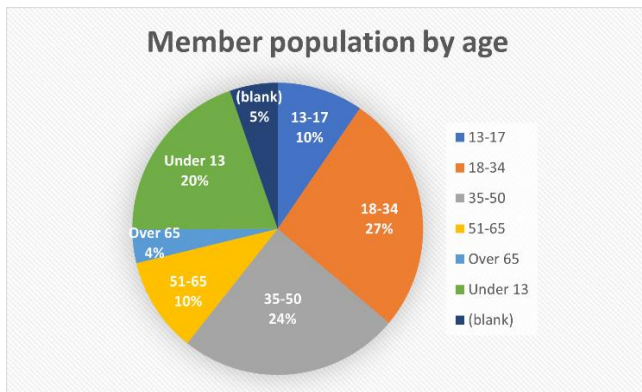


Action from the New Zealand National Championships in Hamilton

In recent times, we have seen an increased value in play, sport and active recreation whilst our Association aims to continue providing an enriching experience to all participants. A Voice of Participant survey completed in Waikato evidenced that over 94% of people were either satisfied, very satisfied or extremely satisfied with our Association. An ongoing challenge remains to secure sustainable funding and resources to create high quality and support the demand for programs and events across our region. Whilst Shuttle Time programs remain in high demand among tamariki and rangatahi, we are actively seeking more qualified and experienced resourcing required to support our goal to deliver these programs. We will continue to offer courses to upskill people interested in coaching and leading such programs, as well as offer the relevant work opportunities in schools and the community.

Sometimes, Clubs are the unseen parts of the badminton ecosystem, but they play a significant part in every participant's experience. For example, with a significant interest from young players at our Talent ID day, we were able to filter players aged between 6-10 to a more relevant development opportunity via the creation of a FUNdamentals program in partnership with Hamilton Malayalee Badminton Club. The Club also has an intake of qualified Shuttle Time Youth Leaders to help with their activities. A new Club & Community Policy developed this year is intended to encourage greater partnerships with Clubs to develop/promote the sport. We hope that many other clubs will seize the opportunity to leverage the many benefits from such partnerships.

Whilst a high number of Affiliated Clubs responded well to Alert Level protocols and sport-specific guidance to ensure we could deliver and play our game in a safe way, we were also able to collate an updated view of our member population. There are no signs of slowing down as our member population reached 1348, with approximately 40% being female and 60% being male. A further breakdown by age and ethnicity is provided in the charts below. In addition, over 1800 registered users continue to enjoy the Pay2Play options available at Eastlink Badminton Stadium in Hamilton.



In terms of player performances, we are proud of the progress that many of our representative players are making as they grow in confidence and develop their ability to also work as a team. A contingent of 53 people represented Waikato at the NZ Junior Team Championships in Palmerston North. Waikato players and coaches also continue to feature prominently in regional development camps and national squads. Most notable performances of the year include having Oliver Leydon-Davis and Victoria Guo winning national titles, as well as having our Slazenger Cup team secure a bronze-medal in the competition. It was an overall good performance from players and a great team effort especially in pressure situations, all of which are good signs for Waikato to work its way back into the highest level of competition in the future, being the Wisden Cup.



WBA junior teams together in Palmerston North

I wish to thank Alicia Urlich, WBA Patron for sharing her infectious energy, generous time and gifts to our team and our badminton community. Huge thanks also to Maurice Smith, Life Member, who provides valuable event-day assistance and asset management support around the Eastlink Badminton Stadium in Hamilton. With the help of other volunteers including Hamilton Badminton Club member Dwayne Irwin, the Eastlink Badminton Society performed minor adjustments to the front entrance door, garden bed, external airvents, and various furniture. We are working towards a timely major resurfacing of the stadium floors to prolong its lifespan and improve user experience, whilst options for matting are considered as the next stage. We have also collaborated with the Board and other members of the Eastlink Community Hub throughout the year to progress strategies and shared services ideas in the hope of strengthening much needed support for our case to upgrade and extend the badminton stadium in the future.

Whilst we have tapped into the Government Wage Subsidy for parts of the year, we are grateful to be continually supported by a range of funders, sponsors, partners and clubs who contribute to WBA's success and our wellbeing. Most importantly, I pay tribute to all WBA staff who show great resilience in navigating through Covid Alert Level changes, continued to engage and support participants to return to badminton positively and safely.

Starting with our Financial Controller, Loloma Foster continues to stay up-to-date with new processes and skills required to help our team function at its best. She shows no sign of slowing down, somewhat in a literal sense, as she is always keen to take on new experiences and more responsibilities. I am thankful for her commitment to WBA as we aim to achieve organisational excellence year-on-year.

In her first year as our Community Programs and Events Manager, Megan Bramley has demonstrated outstanding leadership and initiative. Having to build confidence in learning to play and teach badminton at the same time, Megan has made significant strides in organising and delivering programs and events that provide positive experiences to all participants, and is always prompt and fair in her judgements whilst having to operate under pressure situations. I appreciate her refreshing perspective on various regulations and marketing insights, as well as her agility to re-negotiate and reschedule countless school bookings and tournaments affected by the pandemic.

Likewise, Tracey Hallam, our Coaching and Development Manager, has also faced the difficulty of having to coordinate and communicate shifting of training and tournament schedules as a result of the pandemic. This was expertly done by Tracey, with players and parents across all training squads being kept well informed of our recommendations and plans. I am grateful that Tracey continues to deliver high quality coaching programs and is able to offer valuable mentoring to others including myself. Tracey's engagement with coaches across all parts of our pathway has revealed important opportunities to grow our capacity and capability as a team, exchange learnings, provide relevant knowledge and inspire more confidence in players and coaches.

The past year has shown that continuous progress can be achieved when circumstances require us to pull together and seek innovative solutions to the challenges that present themselves. From increased participation at the grassroots level, to improving representative performances, to new event initiatives, including an increased focus on tamariki, rangatahi and women, I look forward to working with everyone to continue delivering our sport across Waikato to inspire better community health, wellbeing and performance.

Marianne Loh  
Chief Executive Officer



WBA Staff having some fun over a Zoom meeting during lockdown



## COACHING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT



2021 started with a boom, with Camps, Trials, Events. However, in the latter months our squads and programs and events have endured the disruptions of lockdowns, and COVID-19 part deux.....et trois!

Earlier in the year, we ran a Pre-Season Junior Training Camp which again attracted players from outside the region. Building on the success of last year we developed our plan to make 2021 even better. As with last year, the players did a variety of on court technical and tactical sessions, off court fitness, along with fun and educational activities to not only help improve their badminton skills but how to manage their time. We had a couple of external presenters deliver sessions, on topics of nutrition, strength and conditioning. Ideas are constantly flowing to improve the Camp and we have already had a couple of enquires from people outside of the Association.

This year we held our junior Talent ID sessions during the weekdays as per the timeslots that our players would normally be training. This encouraged a better awareness of the requirements for being available during the set schedules for our training squads. We had a number of juniors who displayed a high standard for selection into the Development Squad. Some 8-year-old players were given an opportunity to be part of the Development Squad which is more than what we have had before. The coaches will again consider the effects and impact of selection at such a young age. Whilst it is great to have such young people playing the sport, thought needs to be given if these players could be better accommodated elsewhere, ie. a Shuttle Time feeder program, such as the FUNdamentals squad which we have enabled one of our Clubs to lead for 1 hour once a week.



WBA Development Squad at the beginning of the season

The Junior Rep Squad has had a good group of players, especially the new players who entered the squad this year. Different this year was providing them all with a mid-year report after the New Zealand Junior Team Championships. Since receiving the report on how they are progressing along with areas for them to focus on, we have seen them applying themselves, taking on the feedback, and making more intent changes required to ultimately help themselves improve and therefore build their case for re-selection. We also altered some aspects of training to help raise the intensity by setting groups or pairs to get players pushing each other more often. In order to encourage continuous improvement, we will in future be applying more evidence-based approaches and regular reviews to help players and parents understand their development areas and seek to provide opportunities for more players on waitlists. This also ensures that players are challenging themselves and others at each session to be better.

Work needs to be done in the same way around the development of Elite/Performance Squad players. With the level of playing standards and intensity expected to increase as we navigate and progress up the player pathway, exercise demonstrations have challenged the Elite/Performance Squad members despite them being very capable. Players need to realise that regardless of how easy the exercises are, that they have to consistently apply effort, thought and quality to their performance. We also saw this effort improve after the New Zealand Junior Team Championships. For example, putting in a great warm up to achieve our best level earlier in the session rather than in the latter half of the session meant that we could maximise the session. By working hard either mentally, physically, technically or on a combination of all, players would leave the session like they have achieved something different or have developed a better understanding of our coaching themes.

This year we had record number of women trial for Master's, Vet's and Super Vet teams, so we could accommodate each team and provide all female players with an experience at Inter-Association level. We hope that this trend continues well into the future. Working with players selected into the Senior Rep squad has also gone well. We cater to player requests around areas they wish to be better at on court. Ongoing challenges include having players arrive late to weekday sessions due to their work commitments but we encourage players to ensure they instil good warm-up habits prior to joining the session regardless of how late they may be. Special mention to Helena Walsh and Ying Fei Yew for leading their respective teams through the year. With Inter-Association ties complete for the year, we offered ongoing training for senior players in the lead up to the ABCD Champs to cater for players who appeared motivated to keep hitting shuttles. Overall, players were keen to be exposed to more challenging matches in the future, but due to the August lockdown, we turned to online footwork sessions which resulted in lower attendance. Although a number of players do some kind of physical exercise, we hope more players can raise their level through a variation of training exercises to help win matches in challenging divisions.

Our team for Slazenger Cup was brought together on one occasion prior to the event for training and team building. This was all that we could manage due to events occurring around the time. With that said however, the team managed to pull together for a well earned bronze medal. A lot rode on our first match against North Harbour 2 but some good individual performances got us through. Many players showed grit and determination throughout the event to get the best out of themselves regardless of a win or loss. With many remaining national tournaments being cancelled by Badminton New Zealand for the remainder of the year due to a return to lockdown in October, we have kept things light over the school holidays and organised some fun for our training squads without the pressures of badminton training. This included a fun, educational, badminton-inspired trivia quiz in which many of our junior players participated online, with prizes for our winners!

From a resourcing point of view, we are pleased to be supporting Bao Hoang, Joe Webber, Nayan Wijesekera through a BWF Level 1 Coaching qualification. These coaches have had a tough time completing their coursework due to lockdowns but are still keen to put their learnings into the final weekend of the course. I would like to thank Ganesh Gopal for the structure and discipline he has brought to the Development Squad, as well as leading our Under 13 Bellbirds team during the Northern Region Local Derby and the New Zealand Junior Team Championships. We hope Ganesh will take his coaching to the next level after being offered the opportunity to coach the Junior Rep

squad. I also acknowledge Joe who has been gradually building his coaching experience, from delivering Shuttle Time programs at school to now coaching the Development Squad, as well as leading sessions at our Open Training. He also connected well with our Under 13 Moreporks team very quickly during the Northern Region Local Derby and continued this form at the New Zealand Junior Team Championships. Thanks also to John Jiang and June Jiang who do run squad sessions and support our players at various tournaments when my commitments take me elsewhere on occasion. Huge thanks to Kenneth Yew for also taking on a broad range of coaching responsibilities, including Open Training, Junior Rep and Senior Rep squad sessions, and supporting our Under 15 team through the Northern Region Local Derby and New Zealand Junior Team Championships.

Coach development opportunities have occurred to varying degrees as I mentor Ganesh, Joe and Kenneth to continue growing in their coaching roles. I was also pleased to have observed a couple of club-level junior programs this year and look forward to connecting with more club coaches to understand how we can help provide more confidence to coaches and players. We hope to help increase the capability and capacity at club level to enable them to keep doing the good work they are doing. I welcome more clubs and their coaches to let us know what help and information they might value for further development.

As with last year, a special thanks to Megan, our new Community Programs and Events Manager for managing our response to events during Covid Part Deux et Trois. Perhaps dealing with pandemic interruptions should be on all our future job descriptions! Thanks to Loloma for keeping us on our toes in terms of how she continues to challenge herself to do new things like rafting, jumping off rocks, long biking adventures. Finally, big thanks to Marianne, who is a jack of all trades around the badminton arena, constantly challenging us to be better. With her help and support we will be better as a team but also move the organisation to another level.

Tracey Hallam  
Coaching & Development Manager



2021 was a year focused on building better teams and teamwork

# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS MANAGER REPORT



2021 – what a year it has been! A new job, new city and new sport for me. With much support from Marianne and the team I think it has all turned out quite well with many highlights and accomplishments throughout the Community Programs and Events space.

## Community Programs

We are grateful that Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa provides support for the many activations and programs delivered across schools and community groups throughout the year. The BWF Shuttle Time Program is a popular part of that delivery, with many schools rebooking sessions after fantastic experiences. All up over 2000 individual participants have partaken in Shuttle Time. This number would have been higher had it not been for the disruptions caused by Covid partway through Term 3. We have reached students from as far north as Waerenga to Taupo in the south. This program continues to show its strengths with the feedback from participants, teachers and helpers nothing short of positive. Our junior clubs that support this pathway also face challenges in having enough courts booked for the high number of children who show up to experience Shuttle Time after school. Seeing the smiles on faces as all children manage to succeed and be active is very rewarding.

This year we hosted 2 Shuttle Time Coaches/ Youth Leadership Award (YLA) courses. These have been a great way for interested parties to develop their group management skills and be introduced to basic badminton coaching. Junior club sessions have provided a great place for our newer coaches to practise their skills in delivering to groups. Seeing our Juniors who have completed the YLA go from strength to strength as they gain confidence in teaching and in themselves is a highlight.



Shuttle Time Coach and Youth Leadership Award (YLA) participants in action

The Shuttle Time Junior Non-Rep tournament series was a big hit. Our biggest event of the Tour was in June with 70 players entered. All events have been welcoming environments with each edition attracting first timers. The development of players' skills though the year is quite prominent in these competitions. It is also encouraging to see our older juniors who are now in squads stepping up into

leadership roles to assist in the running of these competitions and encouraging younger players on court. A big thank you to all the sponsors of the Tour including main sponsors Werder Rackets who kindly donated rackets to be given to the players that finish with the most overall points based on participation, results and fair play.



Big numbers at every Shuttle Time Junior Non-Rep Tournament

The Waikato Intermediate Schools Competition had representatives from 6 different schools this year. It is a great way to spend a Tuesday afternoon with all competitors supporting one another both on and off the court. You can never quite be sure when matches are finished as the courts are always full and everyone just wants to play, play, play. With a few adjustments this should be a really exciting competition for the future. The Waikato Secondary Schools Competition was well supported with 51 teams entered across 3 Divisions. This equalled over 250 students competing across the 7-week competition. Unfortunately we were unable to hold a second round in Term 3 due to Covid restrictions.

There were 3 Cluster Competitions scheduled for this year: Thames Valley, South Waikato and King Country. After a bit of a shaky start, we got underway in Te Aroha with the Thames Valley competition. After having not gone ahead last year it was well received by students and staff alike. We had 11 teams from 5 schools compete and reports say that next year there should be more. South Waikato saw 16 teams across 3 schools. This event was well supported by the local clubs with many of their junior players attending. Unfortunately, the King Country Event had to be cancelled for the second year in a row – the disappointment clear from all those that were planning to attend. Fingers crossed that next year goes to plan!

We worked with University of Waikato to deliver an annual Inter-Halls competition with a small format change from previous years to make it more competitive. Some participants hadn't picked up a racket since back in their early high school days, so it was fantastic to see them reconnect with the sport. Another engagement with the University involved me delivering Shuttle Time concepts to a class studying Coaching. A good learning experience if not super nerve racking being evaluated on your coaching style by people studying the theory behind it all!

This year we launched Fitminton – Footwork to music. This is similar to Zumba but instead uses badminton footwork inspired movements. Originally aimed at adult females, we launched in the school holidays and had plenty of tamariki involved too! With positive feedback from the first edition, we made some adjustments before a second edition suitable for anyone from 8 to 88. Plans are to make this a regular program next year, so we can all move graciously around the court.

It is great to have such dedicated coaches delivering our programs to this year. Without their support many of these opportunities would not be available for participants. We are always on the hunt for more people to deliver programs – trust me, no experience required! There are more ideas in store for programs to be run in 2022 so watch this space.

## Events

Tuesday evenings are always very busy at Eastlink Stadium and have been filled with different events every week. Throughout the year there has been something on offer for both social and competitive players with a range of singles and doubles-based events on offer. It's been great to see the wide variety of players participate.

I was lucky enough to experience the end of Escapist Summer League R1 in 2020 with Eric leading before taking over the reins for R2. What a great way to kick off the year, meeting many WBA players, and attempting to learn how to play badminton myself (if so embarrassingly). Congratulations to Tinkerbelle & The Lost Boys who not only took out the league but also had the best team shirts complete with character names!

Following on from lots of doubles on Tuesdays we had a Singles Swiss Ladder. This format allowed players with similar ability to be matched up resulting in very close games played. This ran in two divisions – Half Court (social players) and Full Court (competitive players), with the final matches being taken by Wojtek Czyz (Half Court) and Jasmanjot Virk (Full Court). We hope to hold this event again to provide some match practice for keen singles players ahead of the 2022 badminton season.

One of the biggest events of the year came in the form of the North Island Waikato Open, with 77 entries from around the North Island. It was great to see the support for the Waikato players both at the stadium and online where the Pat Dallinger International Court 8 was live streamed over Facebook for semi-finals and finals. Another big event was the Waikato U17 Open, with 80 players all up, including visitors from the Cook Islands. All Waikato players represented us well, not only while playing their matches but also in the umpire chair. It was an epic event from up in the control room with not a spare minute on hand. A big thank you to all the volunteers including technical officials, match control, kitchen staff and general assistants. These large events could not go ahead without their assistance.

The WBA Business Challenge was another highlight with spots being in hot demand. There was plenty of food, drinks, fun, laughter, and competition across the evening with a bit of badminton in there too for good measure. Great to see some of our regular players bringing along their work colleagues to experience what our sport has to offer. Craigs Investment Partners were once again on board to support the event with prizes, whilst The Cook supplied some food and Scotts Epicurean threw in some coffee vouchers as spot prizes which saw competitors think and move quick on their feet to respond to some trivia. This event draws out some brilliant team spirit and was a big disappointment that Part 2 in September had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Round 1 of Interclub kicked off with competitions in B and C Grade. Over 8 weeks of competition there were 14 teams, 72 players, 53 ties and 318 matches. Te Awamutu 1 were the winners of the C Grade competition on the back of a very strong performance in the round robin stage. Similarly, Code D 2 took out the B grade competition, having also finished top of the round robin stage. Round 2 of Interclub also started strongly with 11 different Clubs represented all up. There have been 9 teams in Presidents Cup (C Grade), 6 Teams in Dallinger Cup (B Grade) and 4 in Russ Proctor (Men's Only). The Women's Only Interclub didn't quite take off but it's encouraging to see all the females becoming involved in the other divisions on offer. There were some very close matches until Covid decided to rear its ugly head again and has put the competition on hold.

A new event for this year that has very quickly cemented itself on the calendar as a regular event was Team Relay. Supported by Gong Cha Hamilton participants were very quickly on a 'high'. Players were placed into teams all named after native New Zealand birds using a very complex mathematical formula. This meant many people were playing alongside players they had never met before. Team comradery was quickly established with team cheers turning the usually calm stadium into a deafening roar. Cowbells, shuttle tubes and all other means of noise making devices were in full use. It seemed that no one wanted the night to end, ask any participant about the 'bubble tea' event and I'm sure they'll recall it fondly.



Players in action at the 2021 Craigs Investment Partners Waikato Badminton (ABCD) Championships

Covid restrictions also resulted in other disappointing cancellations including the Harmonia Jamboree and the Waikato U13 Open. Luckily however in-between our stays at home we were able to host the Waikato Badminton (ABCD) Championships. This event saw stiff competition amongst players and was a huge success, as thanks to Craigs Investment Partners we were able to provide prizemoney across all grades. A great way to round off the main part of the season with well supported entrant numbers reaching over 135 from Waikato and beyond.

We also been host to a number of other events including many Inter Associations, Northern Region Derby and the New Zealand National Championships. I have made many connections throughout these and all happenings this year and hope to be able to capitalise on them going forwards. A big shout to all those who have supported me during my first 12 months in the role. The culture that the players, coaches, volunteers and staff share in the organisation make it an exciting place to be for the future. Finishing up this year I am happy to announce that I shall be hanging up my boots as the WBA 'Rookie' and coming back bigger and better for 2022 as a now WBA 'Proficient'.

Megan Bramley  
Community Programs & Events Manager

# 2021 WAIKATO BADMINTON ASSOCIATION SQUADS

## Junior Development Squad (Coaches: Ganesh Gopal, Joseph Webber, Tracey Hallam)

Aditya Gulla	Anna Zhang
Alex Cui	Elsa Xintong Xu
Andy Truong	Gauri Arun
Asher Hussain	Grace Qin
Flynn Allison	Jiya Dutta
Johan Robin Joseph	Kaysie Fong
Jonathan Jiang	Rehmat Kaur Gaggarpur
Mark Liao	Sissi Wu
Oscar Kosal	Ziwen Guo
Pranav Rejesh	
Thomas Hong	
Yuvvan Aaditya	

## Junior Representative Squad (Coaches: Nayan Wijesekara, Ganesh Gopal, Tracey Hallam)

Aaron Wan	Cici Guo
Andrew Chang	Ellen Liu
Asher Roby Thomas	Josie Li
Chris Baby	Kaylin Fong
David Nguyen	Linda Nielsen
Frank Fu	Ningzi Wang
Jackson Brough	
Jeff Jia	
Jesse Chen	
Lucas Qin	
Michael Zhang	
Pengshen Xu	
Samuel Ma	
Samuel Xia	

## Elite & Performance Squad (Coach: Tracey Hallam)

Alex Liu	Amreen Virk
Aveer Virk	Ayla Strauss
Jasmanjot Virk	Joanna Li
Nithin Perumal	Victoria Guo
Oliver Leydon-Davis (based in Auckland)	
Raphael Deloy	
Toby Stroud Smith	
Wotjek Czyz	



## PLAYERS IN NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL SQUADS

Under 15 National Squad:	Cici Guo, Ellen Liu, Josie Lee, Raphael Deloy
Under 17 National Squad:	Aveer Virk, Victoria Guo
Senior National Squad:	Oliver Leydon-Davis

## 2021 INTER-ASSOCIATION TEAMS

### Waikato 1 (New Zealand Senior Division 2 competition, Slazenger Cup)

Ashish Dangi	Amreen Virk
Jasmanjot Virk	Ella Smith
Jayanthgowda Shiva Boriah	Joanna Li
Kenneth Yew	Tracey Hallam
Oliver Leydon-Davis	Victoria Guo

### Waikato 2 (New Zealand Senior Division 3 competition)

Anthony Boyd Shea	Coco Hsueh
Cesar Calawan	Hansol An
Craig Post	Helena Walsh
Karthick Selvaraj	Karen Yang
Michael Downs	Phoebe Liu
Shawn Yang	

### Waikato 3 (Northern Senior Division 1 competition)

Chris Johnson	Aloha Sison
Corey Sterling	Ayla Strauss
Jason Wu	Ginny Le
Jeeraj Rajkumar	Jumarie Lumiwes
Joseph Webber	Ying Fei Yew
Roger Lee	



Teams 2 & 3 representing Waikato at the 2021 Inter-Association Senior competitions

**Masters 1 (New Zealand Masters Division 1)**

Alastair Gatt	Amanda Lu
Corrie Robinson	Alpha Deloy
Dominic Buckell	Marianne Loh
Michael Downs	Pam Bouma
Scott Laurie	Tracey Hallam

**Masters 2 (New Zealand Masters Division 2)**

Ganesh Gopal	Gina Li
Nallapan Soomu	Kate Whitten
Mike Henson	Rochelle Panting
Rupinder Virk	Tina Skinner
Tejinder Virk	Xiao Cui Zhou
Tom Chang	

**Masters 3 (Northern Masters Division 1)**

Antony Joll	Analiese Young
Daniel Owen	Hong Wang
Dwayne Irwin	Ngaire Teece
Eugene Yew	Sharon Becht
Naveen Eapen	Susie Xia

**Vets 1 (Northern Vets Division 1)**

Alastair Gatt	Amanda Stewart
Dominic Buckell	Jackie Downs
Jeff Stuthridge	Linda Davey
Ray Downs	Sally McFarlane

**Vets 2 (Northern Vets Division 2)**

Alan Neal	Caroline Icke
Antony Joll	Faye Post
Peter Kimber	Wilhelmina Mentzel
Stu Morgan	

**Vets 3 (Northern Vets Division 2)**

Andrew Chan	Lorna Goodin
Maurice Greaney	Sharon Becht
Philip Paterson	Yvonne Ennion

**Super Vets (Division 2)**

Andrew Chan	Carol Leydon-Davis
Paul Stobbs	Carolyn Goodin
Philip Paterson	Lorna Goodin
Steve Lawrence	Wilhelmina Mentzel



Teams representing Waikato at the 2021 Inter-Association Masters, Veterans, Super Vets season

## OTHER 2021 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Individual/Team</i>	<i>2021 Event &amp; Results</i>
Anna Zhang	<u>Auckland U13 Championships</u> GD Plate Winner
Amreen Virk	<u>Waikato Open</u> WD Runner-Up
Aveer Virk	<u>Otago U17 Open</u> BS Winner BD Winner  <u>North Island U17 Wellington North Championships</u> BD Runner-Up
David Nguyen	<u>Wellington U13 Open</u> BS Plate Winner
Joanna Li	<u>Waikato Open</u> WD Winner
Josie Lee	<u>New Zealand Under 13 National Championships</u> Div 2 GS Winner
Lucas Qin	<u>New Zealand Under 13 National Championships</u> Div 3 BD Winner

<b>Individual/Team</b>	<b>2021 Event &amp; Results</b>
Raphael Deloy	<u>Counties Manukau U15 Open</u> BS Winner BD Winner XD Winner  <u>North Island Bay of Plenty U15 Open</u> BS Winner BD Winner XD Winner  <u>Waikato U17 Open</u> BS Plate Winner
Oliver Leydon-Davis	<u>New Zealand National Championships</u> MD Winner
Victoria Guo	<u>Waikato Open</u> WD Runner-Up  <u>Waikato U17 Open</u> GS Winner XD Winner  <u>New Zealand Under 17 National Championships</u> GS Runner-Up GD Winner XD Runner-Up
Ziwen Guo	<u>Auckland U13 Championships</u> GD Plate Winner



Bronze medal achievement for the Waikato Slazenger Cup team

# WAIKATO BADMINTON AWARDS (2021 SEASON)

Administrator of the Year	: Cleo Sagin Tholath
Club / Team of the Year	: Novice Club
Coach of the Year	: Kenneth Yew
Technical Official of the Year	: Gritto Augustine
Volunteer of the Year	: Juanita Strauss
Most Improved Development Squad Players	: Ziwen Guo, Flynn Allison
Most Improved Junior Rep Players	: Ningzi Wang, David Nguyen
Most Improved Elite Squad Player	: Alex Liu
Junior Recognition Trophy	: Cici Guo
Junior Player of the Year	: Victoria Guo
Senior Recognition Trophy	: Helena Walsh
Senior Player of the Year	: Oliver Leydon-Davis
Masters Recognition Trophy	: Wilhelmina Mentzel
Masters Player of the Year	: Stu Morgan



Fantastic team of local technical officials at the New Zealand National Championships

# WBA HOSTED EVENT RESULTS

## WAIKATO UNDER 17 OPEN

Event	Name
<b>Boy's Singles</b>	
Winner	Chris Benzie
Runner-Up	Daniel Hu
Plate Winner	Raphael Deloy
<b>Girl's Singles</b>	
Winner	Victoria Guo
Runner-Up	Smile Li
Plate Winner	Coco Zhu
<b>Boy's Doubles</b>	
Winner	Ethan Chuang Daniel Hu
Runner-Up	Chris Benzie Dylan Naera
Plate Winner	Eric Lu Darren Wee
<b>Girl's Doubles</b>	
Winner	Berry Ng Nanna Siegemund
Runner-Up	Lillian Cao Amanda Ting
Plate Winner	Isabella Chen Nishika Jain
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	
Winner	Chris Benzie Victoria Guo
Runner-Up	Isaac Chan Amanda Ting
Plate Winner	Darren Wee Coco Zhu

## WAIKATO OPEN

Event	Name
<b>Men's Singles</b>	
Winner	Ricky Cheng
Runner-Up	Edward Lau
<b>Women's Singles</b>	
Winner	Sally Fu
Runner-Up	Courtney Trillo
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	
Winner	Jonathan Curtin Dacmen Vong
Runner-Up	Clive Luna Jack Wang
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	
Winner	Joanna Li Courtney Trillo
Runner-Up	Victoria Guo Amreen Virk
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	
Winner	Jack Wang Roanne Apalisok
Runner-Up	Jonathan Curtin Jasmin Ng



Oliver Leydon-Davis and Abhinav Manota (NH) win the New Zealand National Championships in Men's Doubles

## CRAIGS INVESTMENT PARTNERS WAIKATO BADMINTON (ABCD) CHAMPIONSHIPS

A Grade	Name
<b>MS Winner</b>	Jasmanjot Virk
<b>MS Runner-Up</b>	Jayanthgowda Shiva Boraiah
<b>WS Winner</b>	Tracey Hallam
<b>WS Runner-Up</b>	Victoria Guo
<b>MD Winner</b>	Hongbo Jiang Kenneth Yew
<b>MD Runner-Up</b>	Jayanthgowda Shiva Boraiah Jasmanjot Virk
<b>XD Winner</b>	Oliver Leydon-Davis Susannah Leydon-Davis
<b>XD Runner-Up</b>	Kenneth Yew Victoria Guo

B Grade	Name
<b>MS Winner</b>	Scott Ormond
<b>MS Runner-Up</b>	Craig Post
<b>MS Consolation Winner</b>	Cesar Calawan
<b>WS Winner</b>	Victoria Guo
<b>WS Runner-Up</b>	Hansol An
<b>MD Winner</b>	Scott Ormond Kane Spiers
<b>MD Runner-Up</b>	Michael Downs Craig Post
<b>MD Consolation Winner</b>	Shane Espitalier Chris Johnson
<b>WD Winner</b>	Victoria Guo Joanna Li
<b>WD Runner-Up</b>	Hansol An Karen Yang
<b>XD Winner</b>	Craig Post Helena Walsh
<b>XD Runner-Up</b>	Scott Ormond Coco Hsueh
<b>XD Consolation Winner</b>	Kane Spiers Mieka Miller

C Grade	Name
<b>MS Winner</b>	Wayne Wu
<b>MS Runner-Up</b>	Shawn Yang
<b>MS Consolation Winner</b>	Andrew Chang
<b>WS Winner</b>	Josie Lee
<b>WS Runner-Up</b>	Cici Guo
<b>MD Winner</b>	Joseph Webber Shawn Yang
<b>MD Runner-Up</b>	Alastair Luo Cheng-An Wang
<b>MD Consolation Winner</b>	Basil Alias Sarath Sasidharan
<b>WD Winner</b>	Cici Guo Ellen Liu
<b>WD Runner-Up</b>	Talita Clapperton Lalar Quilty
<b>XD Winner</b>	Mike Che Leina Shen
<b>XD Runner-Up</b>	Marcus Louie Mieka Milla
<b>XD Consolation Winner</b>	Ramandeep Nanua Chiharu Tohill

D Grade	Name
<b>MS Winner</b>	Sarath Sasidharan
<b>MS Runner-Up</b>	Basil Jose
<b>WS Winner</b>	Ziwen Guo
<b>WS Runner-Up</b>	Anna Zhang
<b>MD Winner</b>	Jason Nguyen Zhen Qian
<b>MD Runner-Up</b>	Everard Anson Ming Zhang
<b>WD Winner</b>	Ziwen Guo Anna Zhang
<b>WD Runner-Up</b>	Dorothy Anson Liza Hughes
<b>XD Winner</b>	Sarath Sasidharan Shanshan Fu
<b>XD Runner-Up</b>	Michael Zhang Anna Zhang

## WBA INTERCLUB

<i>Event</i>	<i>Winners</i>
<b>Dallinger Cup</b>	Code D Badminton Club
<b>Presidents Cup</b>	Cambridge Badminton Club
<b>Russ Proctor Cup</b>	Hamilton Badminton Club



WBA Interclub Action

## WAIKATO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS COMPETITION

<i>Event</i>	<i>Winners</i>	<i>Runners-Up</i>
<b>Boys Division</b>	Berkley Racquets	HCS Heat
<b>Girls Division</b>	RHS Int Girls A	RHS Int Girls B



## WAIKATO SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMPETITION (HAMILTON)

<i>Event</i>	<i>Winners</i>	<i>Runners-Up</i>
<b>Division 1 Boys</b>	HBHS BETA	HBHS ALPHA
<b>Division 1 Girls</b>	SPC – Div 1 Girls	Dio Team 1
<b>Division 2 Boys</b>	RHS Div 2 Boys A	HBHS COBRA
<b>Division 2 Girls</b>	Dio Team 3	HGHS 1
<b>Division 3 Boys</b>	FFC Tahī	RHS Div 3 Boys B
<b>Division 3 Girls</b>	FFC Silver	SHGC 3

## THAMES VALLEY SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMPETITION

<i>Event</i>	<i>Winners</i>	<i>Runners-Up</i>
<b>Juniors</b>	KKC Black	KKC Green
<b>Seniors</b>	HPC 1	Wahi College Badminton-Slams

## SOUTH WAIKATO SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMPETITION

<i>Event</i>	<i>Winners</i>	<i>Runners-Up</i>
<b>Juniors</b>	Putaruru Omega	Putaruru Alpha
<b>Seniors</b>	Putaruru Lightning	Tokoroa High School Junior B



Players in action at the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Competition

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Waikato Badminton Association works in partnership with a variety of funders and sponsors to deliver a variety of programs, events and activities throughout the year. We acknowledge and thank the following organisations and individuals for their support throughout the year.

### Funding Partners



<https://www.sportwaikato.org.nz>

Sport Waikato managed and distributed Sport New Zealand's Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding to help cover costs associated with WBA Community Outreach and Casual Activation Programs including Shuttle Time, Fitminton and Team Relay.



<https://www.grassrootstrust.co.nz>

The Grassroots Trust supported the WBA Coaching & Development Manager salary.



<http://www.nzct.org.nz>

The New Zealand Community Trust supported the WBA Coaching & Development Manager salary.



<https://lionfoundation.nz>

Lion Foundation supported the costs of administration and delivery of junior development programs.



<https://www.trustwaikato.co.nz>

Trust Waikato supported the costs of administration and delivery of junior development programs.

**TAB**

<https://www.tab.co.nz>

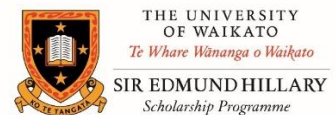
TAB New Zealand supported the accommodation, transport and uniform costs of Waikato teams participating at the New Zealand Junior Team Championships.



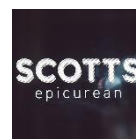
<https://www.dragon.org.nz>

Dragon Community Trust supported the costs of tournament shuttles at the Waikato Open 2021

## Sport Partners



## Program & Event Sponsors & Supporters



## Stadium Sponsors

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ROBBIE SIDHU HARCOURTS HAMILTON

THE COOK

TONY TANG LODGE REAL ESTATE

TOTAL ASSURANCE

ULSTER LODGE MOTEL

URBAN PRINT

YVENNA & CRAIG HARCOURTS HAMILTON

## Other Donations

The Association thanks countless number of individuals, families and other organisations that have donated training fee differences and court hire credits to Waikato Badminton throughout the year.



Participants of all ages, all abilities in action at the launch of WBA's Fitminton program



## WAIKATO BADMINTON

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