

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

WAIKATO
BADMINTON
ASSOCIATION



Waikato Badminton
ASSOCIATION



OFFICERS

PATRON	Phil Paterson
PRESIDENT	Stu Morgan
BOARD MEMBERS	Kate Whitten, Karyn Walter, Dominic Buckell, Andy Liu
LIFE MEMBERS	Carol Leydon-Davis, Phil Paterson, Maureen Sherborne, Jocelyn Silvester, Doreen Wood, Maurice Smith, Malcolm Brown, Bill Bartels, Alicia Ulrich Pat Dallinger MBE †, Peter Icke †, Joyce Musk †
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Thomas Walther
COACHING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	Jonas Kramer-Jessen
COMMUNITY & EVENTS MANAGER	Samuel Smith
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	Joseph Webber
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER	Blair Astwood

WBA AFFILIATED CLUBS

21st Badminton Club	Let's Glow Badminton Club
Cambridge Badminton Club	Novice Badminton Club
Code D	Putaruru Badminton Club
Formosa Badminton Club	Saturday Badminton Club
Hamilton Badminton Club	Tamil Society Waikato
Hamilton Junior Training Club	Te Awamutu Badminton Club
Hamilton Korean Badminton Club	Te Rapa Badminton Club
Hamilton Malayalee Badminton Club	Thozhar Badminton Club
Happy Family Club	Waikato Filipino Association
Horsham Downs Badminton Club	Waikato Masters Badminton Club
	Waikato Punjabi Badminton Club

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I am proud to present you with my report for Waikato Badminton Association (WBA) for this 2023 year.

I think the best word to describe the last year for WBA is 'change'. Change is a good thing, it keeps us relevant, fresh and most of all it makes review the way we do things.

Our new CEO Thomas Walther, his wife, Neda, and sons William and Victor arrived in NZ the day before our 2022 AGM (Dec 2). Despite being in temporary accommodation in a new country Thomas and his family wanted to attend the AGM. This level of commitment gave some insight into the way Thomas works and reassured me we were on the right track for WBA.

Early in the new year Megan Bramley (Events and community programmes manager) and Tracey Hallum (head coach) resigned. I acknowledge the fantastic contribution both Tracey and Megan made to WBA. During the absence of a CEO, Megan in particular stepped up and gave her all to keep the doors to the stadium open and managed to keep things running very well. Megan's dedication and commitment to ensure WBA functioned as well as possible is well appreciated and Megan will always have WBA's gratitude.

Thomas was just settling into the CEO role and Loloma Foster, our long time admin support person decided it was time she retired which just left Thomas and Joe to run the show. Needless to say Thomas needed to surround himself with more good people quite quickly, he found them in the form of Jonas (our new coach) and Sam (our new Community and Events Manager). Joe Webber is now a permanent fixture on the coaching team.



With our new people now in place it was important for Thomas (as a new CEO) to review the way things are done, what we can leave the same and what can be improved. It is fair to say Thomas has done both of those things several times over in every area of WBA. Our board meetings are full of ideas from Thomas on improvements needed to the point where he has two lists. One list is a 'must have', the other is a 'wish' list. I have learned a two-hour timeslot for a WBA board meeting is seldom long enough!



I do acknowledge and appreciate the contribution our WBA board make. We have a diverse group of people who are willing to give up their time on a regular basis to make their thoughts and opinions known. We have good discussions and I am very grateful to be surrounded and supported by such good people.

We have; vice president Rupinder Virk (recently resigned), Kate Whitten, Xiaocui Zhou (Cui) (recently resigned), Karyn Walter (independent: CEO Waikato/BOP football), Dominic Buckell, and Andy Liu

To conclude, I would like to thank sincerely Thomas for his dedication and effort he has put into WBA during the past 12 months. WBA is the public service area of the workforce, which is not an easy gig and at times can be quite challenging. We are entering a period of additional growth, and I am looking forward to seeing what can be achieved.

Thomas now understands the size of the beast and is slowly taming it, something that we will all benefit from.



Stu Morgan
WBA President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



What. a. year.

My first day of work was at the AGM last year. I recognised early that WBA was facing some very real financial challenges that were threatening our very existence. Although I was very fresh 'off the boat' some changes needed to be made - and quite quickly. Prior to the AGM was 5-6 months of struggle getting my work visa sorted after agreeing to the job, which made me, and my family, almost give up a few times before even arriving.

In my first week of work, I realised I was in for waaaay more than what was agreed on during job interviews. No staff left except the legendary Loloma, a WBA board missing four members, and Eastlink Badminton board missing three members, an unclear sense of direction and purpose for WBA and me with some ambitious ideas, optimism and unlimited challenges and projects.

We have come a long long way since then. I believe a lot longer than what anyone could have reasonably asked or hoped for.

We have thoroughly and continuously cleaned and fixed the Eastlink Badminton stadium inside and out so it's more presentable and welcoming. We opened the meeting room for all to enjoy. We are repurposing the room upstairs into a fitness room for our community to enjoy. After the AGM we will have new court mats. I believe that the environment is important to set the tone for the community and in my opinion, we have one of the best facilities in New Zealand in the Eastlink Badminton Stadium.

One of the most drastic things that we have done this year, is to change how people (juniors especially) are able to participate in our beautiful sport. We have taken a big step away from the "high performance" focus that generally existed in WBA and NZ towards a more development focus. I call it "the Danish way" because I spent the last 30 years in badminton thinking about what makes players good. Danish badminton stand out and how I and my friends were brought up in badminton in Denmark and who succeeded, why, and how:



1: Because it's what I believe is best for players and our sport.

2: It's a more fun approach.

3: You can't have performance groups when there's no one playing. We had less than 30 juniors and seniors throughout all age groups.

4: It's scientifically proven that the development path leads to better results.

Try-outs were quickly cancelled, and our development programs have seen tremendous growth since. I'm confident that WBA will show the way forward on how development & performance should be done for the rest of New Zealand. Results at the top level will not show for another 10-15 years as our junior department was very light on numbers (we couldn't put a full team towards nationals in u15/17/19 without moving juniors around in age group and borrowing from other associations). So, we are currently rebuilding.

This development philosophy has also carried over in our efforts at Slazenger Cup, senior teams, masters, and vets where only those attending daily/weekly trainings within WBA were included in our teams. We will always give the opportunity to our own players, and we are proud how they all represented themselves and WBA well throughout the season.

Another example of development over performance is that for juniors we sent two equally strong U13 teams to Palmerston North, instead of an A/B team. We are trying to make the sport interesting for our youngsters and keep them engaged for life. Hopefully we will see numbers/teams continue to grow.



Our player turnover has slowed considerably, our retention rate is around 97% for those starting in our programs. I am sure this is due to the different approach that we have applied.

My goal is to have well rounded whole human beings first with the right attitude. Focusing on (high) performance alone almost never leads to overall performance, but often to people who detest the sport, have injuries, or low self-esteem because they "failed". It's a long process, we have to focus on creating better people instead of focusing on the results. If we win something along the way – that's cool, but it is not the main purpose.

We found a quality coach to lead WBA development programs forward in Jonas. Jonas has already helped rebuild clubs in Denmark, coached at the highest levels in Denmark. Jonas has come here with a positive let's go/can-do attitude. He came highly recommend and he hasn't disappointed and is a huge part of why we are seeing strong improvement across the board technically, strategically and movement wise in our players and strong growth in participation numbers. Thank you, Jonas!

Joe Webber has also been an integral part of our development and has grown tremendously as a coach. Joe has helped both on court, in recruiting more assistant coaches and helping out at the office. Joe has developed into a quality coach, and he is very good at going out to new schools and communities and starting badminton interest from scratch.

We also had to get a new Community Manager and I couldn't have asked for a better one in super Samuel Smith. Samuel started eight days prior to Waikato Open and was able to run it flawlessly. Since then, he's been an integral part of our growth, as he's promoting badminton to schools in our region. He plans, promotes, organises, and runs our tournaments including interclub, interschool, individually and regionally also.

We have managed to find some quality board members who are all giving up their time to help improve our organisation, sport, and stadium, they deserve thanks and appreciation. I'm thankful for the chance to come here and try improving the badminton experience and for the support, criticism, and learnings throughout the year.

Loloma Foster had her 25th year anniversary working at WBA in early March and was celebrated in style. Loloma was hard working, helpful and diligent until her last day of work before her well-deserved retirement in April. Loloma has been a WBA staple and a part of keeping WBA financially stable and taking care of enormous amounts of admin work. My time with Loloma was obviously limited but I can't say enough good things about her and her contribution, both to WBA but also as a volunteer for Eastlink Badminton Society and athletics.

After Loloma retired, WBA has managed to: change every single member of the staff in five months, recruit seven board members, and change the way we develop players.



As part of improving the organisation and administration, this year we have introduced a new booking system in Hello Club, despite some initial issues, it will provide a lot of benefits to our community. E.g., easier booking for members, lower fees, increased safety around the stadium, and a lot less admin work for the back-office staff. We will be adding more features in the future and appreciate that all the clubs and its members have been so fast to embrace and adapt to the new software.

We have also managed to make WBA financially stable again. WBA is here to make badminton possible, accessible, and better for all, not to make profit. Nothing runs without being financially sound though, so having turned it around is a big milestone for us.

I believe we are coming out of 22/23 stronger in every imaginable way. Cleaner and improved facilities, financially sound, more streamlined organisation, better and more players in juniors and seniors, better booking software, better environment, onsite gym, and soon court mats (they are on their way during writing and will be installed after the AGM).

This year have mainly been focused "internally". Cleaning up the stadium, organisation, development programs and finances. Hopefully in the future we will be able to be and do more for our clubs around the mighty Waikato. The bigger and better clubs we have - the more fun it will be for everyone. With more people involved, both fun and skill levels will rise.

Going forward, our main aspiration is to find courts around Hamilton and Waikato in a way that align with our financial position. We are already nearly 100% capacity at the Eastlink Badminton Stadium - so for obvious reasons it's difficult to continue to grow badminton in Waikato further. Our new software allows us to already help facilities/clubs to use it and create income/supply courts where available, so hopefully we can get some more courts available soon - we are working on it. We intend to reach out to clubs/societies in the region so we can start growing hubs. More hubs, more players, more fun, more competitions - will have more people enjoying the sport which will lead to improved sporting results.

We need to be better at explaining what we are doing and reaching out to our membership clubs. We need to have more coaches that have the training and skills to create better experiences at schools, trainings, clubs etc. We should be able to hire overseas coaches to help improve players and communities.

We need to get better at applying for sponsorships and funding so we can have a financial buffer to manage unforeseen costs.

The longer-term ambitions are expanding the stadium and controlling buildings/facilities around the region. Hopefully we can continue to provide a better, safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment that people want to take part in, send their kids to and spend time at. In 10 years, we should be competitive in all national competitions. In 15 years, we will dominate.

Throughout the year I enjoyed meeting a lot of you. I'm sorry to not have met all, as you can see it's been a busy year. Apart from

WBA we have also been an integral part of the Eastlink Sports Hub, Eastlink Badminton Society, Badminton New Zealand, Sport NZ and Sport Waikato meetings, development, seminars etc. which contributes to the development of badminton in both our region and nationally. It's been giving as well as tiring for a small organisation such as WBA.

A big thanks to all our sponsors and helpers, your efforts and support are fundamental to keep the wheels turning.

Thanks to all the volunteers young and old. We cannot make tournaments, trainings, and camps without you. Some have showed up almost every time we asked for help and sometimes without asking, some came for a few, some for one - it's all appreciated, noticed, and valued. Thank you. It's insanely important to help create a safe and growing environment that everyone helps take responsibility. I hope in the future we can see a wider variety of people helping out.



I'd like to especially thank Stu Morgan, the chair of WBA board for continuous support and sparring before arriving, during lots of meetings and for helping to translate my clumsy and direct way into a more palatable version that people can better accept. Stu has in my opinion gone above and beyond what anyone can expect from a volunteer. Apart from chairing the WBA board, he generously gives his time volunteering at tournaments, helping to organise vets/super vets training/competition but is also always available for advice and input if needed.

I like to thank my fantastic staff (Jonas, Samuel, and Joe) for helping to create a fun environment to work in. We are trying our hardest to improve everything for everyone and while at times it may seem to be not well received, I can assure everyone we are doing this for the betterment of badminton. We must keep reminding each other of how far we have come and how much the organisations and our programs have improved.



Sport Waikato has been a tremendous help - supporting both with surveys, in applying for grants, moral support, networking possibilities and with data that supports the "Danish way" of coaching (similar to balance is better as presented by sport New Zealand <https://balanceisbetter.org.nz>).

Maurice Smith has been a big help and moral support throughout the year. Apart from having had a hand in building, fixing, and maintaining a lot of the stadium throughout the years, training numerous players, and running the Master Club and the Eastlink Badminton Society Board, he never shies away from giving a helping hand around the stadium. Maurice is happy talking badminton, tracking down sponsors and telling stories from the last 20-50-80 years of badminton in New Zealand. Feedback and constructive criticism are never far away with Maurice - the straight talking is appreciated. A nice, knowledgeable guy to be around, and an integral part of WBA and Eastlink Badminton Stadium history. His help and presence have made the year more enjoyable.

Our previous patron Alicia Ulrich also deserves mentioning. She has generously and continuously helped WBA and individual players with donations allowing us to move forward a lot faster than we otherwise would have. She is also one of the few people who has mentioned to me that the hard work we have put in is visible and appreciated. A small gesture that I personally appreciated greatly. While Alicia has retired as patron for Philip Paterson, we hope she keeps her spirit high and visit us as much as possible.

At the end but most importantly I'd like to thank my wonderful family for having the courage to travel to the (nicest and most beautiful) end of the world, the patience for waiting for me during too many late nights and long weekends spent on a sport that I thoroughly enjoy. The love they give me, the room to allow me to build something unique, and their support, are things that I don't take for granted and I am very grateful for.

LET'S GO WAIKATO!

Thomas Walther
Chief Executive Officer

COACHING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT



As the new coaching and development manager in Waikato badminton, I think 2023 has been a great and very exciting year. For the junior section, trainings were open this year to all who were interested which resulted in a lot of new players for the youth department of Waikato Badminton. With a lot of new players signing up, the junior squads have really grown, and this have brought a lot of life and energy into the training sessions.

Apart from the regular training sessions we also had badminton camps during the holidays between school terms. This has been a great opportunity to introduce badminton to a lot of children from the Waikato community. This has also served as an opportunity to bring in some of our oldest juniors with interest in coaching badminton. They have helped coaching during the camps and they have all showed great promise as future badminton coaches. Some of them are already included as coaches for the beginner squads and some of them are introducing badminton around Waikato as they are coaching schools.

This year we started reaching out to different associations with hopes of cooperation regarding development of our junior players. The hope with this was to give our juniors more opportunities to compete, play and learn from players outside of Waikato. This season we had an exchange with Counties Manukau which gave the junior players a great experience and at the same time served as a preparation for the junior team's national championship in Palmerston North. Hopefully in the coming season we will be able to make even more exchanges as more associations have showed interest in this possibility.



As a new coach I had my first experience with the big annual event of the Junior teams' national championships in Palmerston North this year. This was truly a great experience as the children had a great time during this event. It was a pleasure to see the players bonding and making friendships across the associations and even more so to experience the support Waikato players showed each other regardless of age. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Waikato parents who helped at this event. We had parents joining us as team leaders, team helpers, drivers, and supporters. Without you this wouldn't be possible.

Apart from having a great time the players also did very well on the courts. Our U15 team came in third at the event and our U13 division two brought home the gold even though most of the players never played at this event before. Our U13 division one put up a lot of good fight and had a lot of great games. The U17 team unfortunately struggled with sickness in the squad but still managed to keep a great spirit throughout the event.

Outside of team events our juniors have done a great job representing Waikato Badminton throughout the season. They always show a great attitude and support towards each other. Throughout the season multiple players have showed great development and some have claimed titles all over New Zealand including multiple national championships. We also had multiple players selected to take part in the national squads training camps and even to players going to the World Junior Championships. A huge congratulations to all the players with both development and results.



For the senior department, 2023 has been an interesting year as well. The senior squad was opened to more players in the teams and this year the senior rep squad includes more junior players who shows great promise and commitment to training. It is a big step transitioning from junior to senior player, but the squad has done a great job of taking new players into the group.

Early in the season Waikato took part in the annual Slazenger cup in Auckland. The team this year included some of our young players who competed at this level for the very first time. The team put up a great fight and showed great team spirit throughout the event. The team gained a lot of experience as we got to measure ourselves against some of the best teams and players in the country.

Other than the Slazenger team Waikato was also represented with senior squads in division three and four and teams in masters, vets and super vets. All teams had a lot of great games during the season and fought well during the ties. Likewise, a great experience for all these teams which showed us that we can compete on equal level with the other associations but that we also need to develop even more to compete for top spots in some of the divisions. I would like to congratulate our super vets division two who won their division with an unbeaten run this season. I would also like to thank the team managers from all the squads for taking charge when representing Waikato badminton at matches throughout the season.

Regarding the senior squads I would also like to thank Joe who has been in charge of coaching the senior squad and running the division four this season. He has done a great job developing the skills of the seniors and lining up the team for competing in division four. Furthermore, he has done a good job including new senior players into the group. We have seen a decent number of new players added to this group and hopefully we can continue this in the coming season and get even more life and energy into the stadium for this training squad.

For individual tournaments we have had multiple senior players representing Waikato Badminton during this season. A lot of players have competed all over New Zealand making great results in both local tournaments and New Zealand open events. The results in the New Zealand open events means that we have multiple players competing at the tour finals in the end of the season which only include the eight bests in each category. A huge congratulations to all players for their results. (??) As this is my first year of coaching, I would like to thank all players and the staff in Waikato for making me feel welcome. I know that change and different approaches are inevitable with a new coach, but I think that players have done a good job of keeping an open mind.

Jonas Kramer-Jessen
Coaching and Development Manager

COMMUNITY & EVENTS MANAGER'S REPORT



The beginning of my tenure as Community and Events Manager at Waikato Badminton Association was tumultuous. I arrived on my first day after just moving to the Waikato days beforehand to find out the biggest event in the Waikato Badminton calendar, is coming up in eight days. Waikato Open, first tournament of the New Zealand tour is next weekend. I hadn't even been to a badminton tournament before. The role here is my first permanent full-time role following my studies in Dunedin and after growing up in Tauranga. So, I was new to the region and to the working life. I was not fortunate enough to be eased into the working life. Thomas lent a great deal of help leading up to the event as we ploughed through the work and then, I could breathe a bit.

This year we have continued and improved the schools coaching program and networks. In the summer terms (one and four), we delivered coaching to 15 schools. In the winter season, we coached at 24 schools across term 2 and 3. Jonas has done a great job of developing and supplying quality coaches for me to deploy across all these schools in the extended region.

Relative to the rest of the country, Waikato has a large area with sparse population. In terms of area size, Waikato compares with Bay of Plenty and Northland combined. Yet, Waikato has only one city. I have wanted to place an emphasis on introducing the sport of badminton to more rural schools and operating and extending Waikato Badminton Association's reach around the region. I have found from speaking with teachers, principals, and even students that these rural schools can easily become isolated when it comes to sporting options. This is due to the lack of competition and resources such as coaching and equipment. It is not uncommon to find a school who only offers rugby and netball. For some of these areas, even basketball and football are luxuries that their neighbour school may not have. Many of these students wouldn't even know what a badminton racquet looks like.

We have managed to get some badminton into (some) of these schools through our coaching programmes. Prime examples of this are out to schools such as Pukeatua School and Glen Massey School. Jonas will travel 50 minutes north and south to enable these students to play badminton. These schools were able to send students over the Kaimais to play badminton at AIMS Games this year. Likely something these children wouldn't have been able to experience otherwise. Reports back say these kids are always enthusiastic and eager to learn and wanting more badminton by the end.



The alternative route to engage students who wouldn't typically play badminton is games and competition. We have continued to run several different schools competitions for Waikato students to play in. Previously, WBA had run a weekly competition for Hamilton secondary schools throughout term 2, and one for intermediate schools throughout term 3. Due to the imbalance of a high number of secondary teams and dearth of intermediate teams, we decided to just run both competitions throughout both term 2 and term 3. Instead of requiring schools to host home games, we also established a satellite venue for all games to be played at. This was at St Peter's Cambridge where they boast eight courts and high-quality facilities including an elevated seating area for parents. The idea was to create more of an 'event' where players can meet more of their peers and watch more badminton, ultimately creating somewhat of a high school badminton community. Ideally, we would like to host it at home at Eastlink Badminton Stadium, but this just isn't feasible with the lack of courts available. We encountered some resistance to moving games out to Cambridge from Hamilton schools. This was of course understandable. However, with our goals of extending Waikato Badminton Association's reach, it felt like a worthy compromise to create better opportunities for schools from Cambridge and Te Awamutu, for example. All while, still being accessible for Hamilton schools. Ultimately, we added a second venue in Fraser High School where Hamilton schools got to play at when playing other Hamilton schools. Intermediate teams were again limited this year, and all intermediate teams ended up opting into playing in the secondary girls' division.

Satellite events were also run for Thames Valley, South Waikato, and King Country regions. These events were run within the corresponding region with more emphasis placed on creating a fun and engaging competition as opposed to figuring out who the best school is. It is important to give these students an opportunity to represent their school and compete against others. As stated earlier, sporting options are lacking, and therefore competitions are lacking.

After the schools' badminton season had (mostly) concluded, at Eastlink Badminton Stadium, we invited all Waikato schools to come and play in a one-day event in a relay format. This was something that Waikato Badminton Association had done in the past. The event was successful, blending Hamilton schools that competed in the weekly competition, schools not previously involved, and rural schools who had received our coaching into one event of fun. This is likely to be something we will continue to do on a more regular basis going forward.

To complement what I do in the schools' realm, we run quarterly Non-Rep Tournaments. This is presented as the introductory junior tournament for juniors to gain competitive exposure before representing Waikato at nationals or competing in regional tournaments. These tournaments combine players from our Junior 2 programme, schools coaching, schools' competitions, with some non-rep players coming down from Auckland or over from Whakatane. Everyone is welcome. One exception: you've played at the New Zealand Junior Team Championships.



These tournaments have been huge with over 300 players at the first three of the four tournaments. Following the fourth tournament, Werder Rackets have kindly sponsored badminton rackets to some of the best performers of the series of tournaments to continue these juniors looking to progress their badminton game and become regional representatives!

Going back to the Waikato Open, it was the first event on the calendar for Waikato Badminton Association. The Waikato Open set a pretty stressful couple of weeks for Thomas and I. The event went smoothly, and I don't believe it was overtly apparent that I had no idea what I was doing! I am not sure the event would have been so smooth without the help from Sam Paterson from Badminton New Zealand, so huge thanks to both Sam and Badminton New Zealand. It was eye-opening to see the best players in the country and the talent New Zealand had. My exposure to badminton before this was minimal and I wasn't exactly sure what to expect from New Zealand badminton as it is not exactly our national sport.

Only two weeks later we had to go again and host the Waikato U17 Open which was sanctioned by Badminton New Zealand. This event was also a good early introduction to junior badminton. I had been in the job for three weeks, and already run an event for New Zealand's premier players, and New Zealand's best under 17 junior players. Our last Badminton New Zealand sanctioned event was the Waikato U13 Open. After being thrown into the fire at the beginning of the year, this one was a lot easier to plan and run on the day too.



The biggest tournament of the year, as always, was the Waikato ABC Championships. It was a great event and was fun to gather (almost) all of Waikato's players at all A, B, and C grade levels. We also ran two rounds of Interclub this year. Interclub will always be a staple fixture in the Waikato Badminton Association calendar. I think it is an important event for the general community. Bringing clubs together to play friendly but competitive badminton is a big plus. Particularly, since many of our interclub players probably wouldn't play competitive badminton or play outside their usual circles if it wasn't for interclub. It is also positive to see not just juniors, but adult also making progress in their game with many C graders developing into B graders in just a year. Between the two interclub rounds, we also had four weeks of singles ladder. We had two ladders for differing levels of play so our best players and our young juniors (and everyone in between) could all play.

First in a series of thanks goes to Thomas and Stu for giving me a chance to wear Waikato colours. They have placed a lot of faith in me as someone entirely new to the sport and with minimal experience coming into the job. They have both guided me through the role and helped me with all the support I've needed integrating into both badminton and Waikato Badminton Association.

Also, to both Jonas and Joe for helping me and lending a hand whenever required with tournaments and badminton rules and of course Joe's local knowledge of Waikato badminton. Michelle Njoman has been a humongous help and has carried all my events on her back. She has served as an invaluable referee and match control aide. Waikato Badminton is especially lucky to have her. Lastly, a big thank you to Linda Nielsen for helping at literally every tournament and all the volunteers that have come early to help set up, stayed late to help pack down, umpired when no one else wants to, and relieved me of tournament software duties when the match control room starts to make me sweat.

Samuel Smith
Community and Events Manager

LOLOMA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY AT WBA



WAIKATO BADMINTON ASSOCIATION TEAMS

WAIKATO U13 RED

JAYSON YANG
ALEX ZHANG
ANGELA DIAO
MEIHAN LIU
HANNAH SHANG

COACH: JOSEPH WEBBER

WAIKATO U13 YELLOW

DAVID AGHUZUMTSYAN
PRANAV REJESH
GRACE QIN
OLIVIA YEW
SAMANTHA NICOLE CABALIT

COACH: JASMANJOT VIRK

WAIKATO U15

LIAM BOSCH
DAVID NGUYEN
KENZO FERRER
LUCAS QIN
KAYSIE FONG
ZIWEN GUO
MOQI ZHANG
SHAYLA CHERIE ROBERTS-PA'U

COACH: AMREEN VIRK

WAIKATO U17

RAPHAEL CHRIS DELOY
MIKE SUN
SAMUEL XIA
MICHAEL ZHANG
KAYLIN FONG
CICI GUO
JOSIE LEE
ELLEN LIU

COACH: JONAS KRAMER-JESSEN

WAIKATO SLAZENGER CUP TEAM

JASMANJOT VIRK
PHILIPP DOEHRN
BEN PERKINSON
SCOTT ORMOND
KENNETH YEW
VICTORIA GUO
AMREEN VIRK
CICI GUO
JOANNA LI

WAIKATO DIVISION THREE TEAM

RAPHAEL CHRIS DELOY
JONAS KRAMER-JESSEN
DANIEL MCMILLAN
MATTHEW OCONNOR
JAYANTHGOUDA SHIVA
TOBY SMITH
AVEER VIRK
JOSEPH WEBBER
MICHAEL ZHANG
REGINA AUSTRIA
CICI GUO
SHERRY LIN
ELLEN LIU
ALOHA SISON
KAREN YANG

WAIKATO DIVISION FOUR TEAM

JORDAN DUAN
EGI GIANTARA
CHUN YI LIM
RAMAN NANUA
JEERAJ RAJKUMAR
COREY STERLING
SHAWN YANG
EUGENE YEW
MISHAL ARORA
CHRISTINA BABY
CYMONE JACOB
GINA LI
MICHELLE NJOMAN
HONG WANG
SUSIE XIA

WAIKATO MASTERS TEAM

DOMINIC BUCKELL
TOM CHANG
MICHAEL DOWNS
JORDAN DUAN
ALAN LU
CORRIE ROBINSON
RUPINDER VIRK
JAMES WAN
PAM BOUMA
MILY DOWNS
SHERRY LIN
MARRIANE LOH
AMANDA LU
MICHELLE NJOMAN
ADELA TRAN
KATE WHITTEN
XIAO CUI ZHOU

WAIKATO VETERANS 1 TEAM

DOMINIC BUCKELL
RAY DOWNS
GENE FLETCHER
ROHIT SINGH
TEJINDER VIRK
CORRIE ROBINSON
RUPINDER VIRK
SUE BROOKS
JACKIE DOWNS
AMANDA STEWART
XIAO CUI ZHOU

WAIKATO VETERANS 2 TEAM

JOHANNES HAYWARD
ANTONY JOLL
PETER KIMBER
STU MORGAN
KENNETH MURRAY ORR
CAROLINE ICKE
WILHELMINA MENTZEL
FAYE POST
RAEWYN WALLACE

WAIKATO SUPER-VETS TEAM

RAY DOWNS
PETER KIMBER
STU MORGAN
ALAN NEAL
KENNETH MURRAY ORR
SUE BROOKS
JACKIE DOWNS
WILHELMINA MENTZEL
FAYE POST
RAEWYN WALLACE

WAIKATO BADMINTON ASSOCIATION TRAINING NUMBERS

2022 WBA Club Members	905
2023 WBA Club Members	1019

2022 Junior 1 Players	27
2022 Junior 2 Players	20
2023 Junior 1 Players	38
2023 Junior 2 Players	66

2022 Players in Senior Training	41
2023 Players in Senior Training	40



WBA HOSTED EVENTS

WAIKATO OPEN - NZ TOUR

MENS SINGLES WINNER - EDWARD LAU
MENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - CHRIS BENZIE

WOMENS SINGLES WINNER - SHAUNNA LI
WOMENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - VICTORIA GUO

MENS DOUBLES WINNERS - ADAM JEFFREY AND DYLAN SOEDJASA
MENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - JOSHUA FENG AND JACK WANG

WOMENS DOUBLES WINNERS - SHAUNNA LI AND ALYSSA TAGLE
WOMENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - GAEA GALVEZ AND KERSARA KOH

MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS - EDWARD LAU AND SHAUNNA LI
MIXED DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - ADAM JEFFREY AND JUSTINE VILLEGAS

WAIKATO U17 OPEN

BOYS SINGLES WINNER - RAPHAEL CHRIS DELOY
BOYS SINGLES RUNNER UP - LEZHI ZHU

GIRLS SINGLES WINNER - JOSEPHINE ZHAO
GIRLS SINGLES RUNNER UP - YANXI LIU

BOYS DOUBLES WINNERS - LEZHI ZHU AND TRISTAN APALISOK
BOYS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - RAPHAEL CHRIS DELOY AND JACK JI

GIRLS DOUBLES WINNERS - LILLIAN CAO AND NANNA SIEGEMUND
GIRLS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - NATALIE TING AND YANXI LIU

MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS - RAPHAEL CHRIS DELOY AND NANNA SIEGEMUND
MIXED DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - LEZHI ZHU AND LILLIAN CAO

WAIKATO U13 OPEN

BOYS SINGLES WINNER - VINCENT XU
BOYS SINGLES RUNNER UP - BEN RAMBAUD

GIRLS SINGLES WINNER - AMY WANG
GIRLS SINGLES RUNNER UP - JENNIE LIANG

BOYS DOUBLES WINNERS - TYLER DREAVAR AND LEO TIANLE XU
BOYS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - YUBEI QI AND PETERSON ZHU

GIRLS DOUBLES WINNERS - SIRUI LU AND AMY WANG
GIRLS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - JENNIE LIANG AND AMY ZHANG

MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS - VINCENT XU AND AMY WANG
MIXED DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - LINGYI ZHU AND SELENA WU

WAIKATO ABC CHAMPIONSHIPS

A GRADE MENS SINGLES WINNER - JASMANJOT VIRK
A GRADE MENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - ALEXANDER COUMBE

A GRADE WOMENS SINGLES WINNER - MAYU MOTOHASHI
A GRADE WOMENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - JOSIE LEE

A GRADE MENS DOUBLES WINNERS - JONAS KRAMER-JESSEN AND JOSEPH WEBBER
A GRADE MENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - KENNETH YEW AND BEN PERKINSON

A GRADE WOMENS DOUBLES WINNERS - MAYU MOTOHASHI AND LAARNI MORENO
A GRADE WOMENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - TEGAN WESTON AND MIEKA MILLER

A GRADE MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS - KENNETH YEW AND LAARNI MORENO
A GRADE MIXED DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - KANE SPIERS AND TEGAN WESTON

B GRADE MENS SINGLES WINNER - LUCAS QIN
B GRADE MENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - CRAIG POST

B GRADE WOMENS SINGLES WINNER - MOQI ZHANG
B GRADE WOMENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - ZIWEN GUO

B GRADE MENS DOUBLES WINNERS - CRAIG POST AND SCOTT LAURIE
B GRADE MENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - JASHWANTHRAAM JANARTHANAN AND KARTHICK SELVARAJ

B GRADE WOMENS DOUBLES WINNERS - MOQI ZHANG AND BECKY LIN
B GRADE WOMENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - MILY DOWNS AND KAREN YANG

B GRADE MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS - CRAIG POST AND KELSI WALLACE
B GRADE MIXED DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - REON MCFARLANE AND MILY DOWNS

C GRADE MENS SINGLES WINNER - AUDRIC TIBUS
C GRADE MENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - DANNY TINKER

C GRADE WOMENS SINGLES WINNER - OLIVIA JOSEPH
C GRADE WOMENS SINGLES RUNNER UP - EMMA LOWE

C GRADE MENS DOUBLES WINNERS - BRIAN JIANG AND WOOSEOK YANG
C GRADE MENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - BASIL JOSE AND ALIAS PETER

C GRADE WOMENS DOUBLES WINNERS - MICHELLE NJOMAN AND ADELA TRAN
C GRADE WOMENS DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - KAYSIE FONG AND ZIWEN GUO

C GRADE MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS - CHENG-AN WANG AND MICHELLE NJOMAN
C GRADE MIXED DOUBLES RUNNER UPS - ROGER LEE AND ZIWEN GUO

WBA INTERCLUB ROUND 1

B GRADE CHAMPIONS- HAPPY FAMILY CLUB
B GRADE RUNNER UPS - WAIKATO MASTERS BADMINTON CLUB

C GRADE CHAMPIONS - TE AWAMUTU BADMINTON CLUB
C GRADE RUNNER UPS - WAIKATO MASTERS BADMINTON CLUB

WBA INTERCLUB ROUND 2

DALLINGER CUP CHAMPIONS- WAIKATO MASTERS BADMINTON CLUB
DALLINGER CUP RUNNER UPS - WAIKATO FILIPINO ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS CUP CHAMPIONS - TE AWAMUTU BADMINTON CLUB
PRESIDENTS CUP RUNNER UPS - HAMILTON MALAYALEE BADMINTON CLUB



WBA SINGLES LADDER

COMPETITIVE LADDER WINNER - RAPHAEL CHRIS DELOY
COMPETITIVE LADDER RUNNER UP- JASMANJOT VIRK

SOCIAL LADDER WINNER - JASON WU
SOCIAL LADDER RUNNER UP- ANDY LIU

WAIKATO SECONDARY SCHOOLS TERM 2

BOYS DIVISION ONE WINNERS - ST PETERS CAMBRIDGE
BOYS DIVISION ONE RUNNER UPS - HAMILTON BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS DIVISION ONE WINNERS - WAIKATO DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
GIRLS DIVISION ONE RUNNER UPS - ST PETERS CAMBRIDGE

BOYS DIVISION TWO WINNERS - ST PETERS CAMBRIDGE
BOYS DIVISION TWO RUNNER UPS - MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS DIVISION TWO WINNERS - ROTOTUNA HIGH SCHOOLS
GIRLS DIVISION TWO RUNNER UPS - MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

WAIKATO SECONDARY SCHOOLS TERM 3

BOYS WINNERS - ST PETERS CAMBRIDGE
BOYS RUNNER UPS - FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS WINNERS - WAIKATO DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
GIRLS RUNNER UPS - ROTOTUNA HIGH SCHOOLS

SOUTH WAIKATO SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

WINNERS - PUTARURU COLLEGE
RUNNER UPS - FOREST VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

KING COUNTRY SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR WINNERS - PIOPIO COLLEGE
SENIOR RUNNER UPS - TE KUITI HIGH SCHOOL

THAMES VALLEY SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR WINNERS - KATIKATI COLLEGE GREEN
SENIOR RUNNER UPS - KATIKATI COLLEGE GOLD

JUNIOR WINNERS - TE KAUWHATA COLLEGE
JUNIOR RUNNER UPS - THAMES HIGH SCHOOL



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A special thank you to our long-time former patron Alicia Urlich who has given generously to Waikato Badminton Association over the years and continues to help the local badminton community and many Waikato badminton players towards achieving their goals.

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Waikato Badminton

ASSOCIATION

