



**Waikato Badminton**  
ASSOCIATION

# Annual Awards



**Waikato Badminton**  
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# Administrator of the Year

Nominees are

**Aloha  
Sison**

As the organiser of the Waikato Division 3 team and captain of the Filipino interclub teams, she has been instrumental in fostering team spirit and ensuring smooth participation in competitions. Her role as President of the Filipino Badminton Club further highlights her commitment to community engagement and development. Additionally, her service on the WBA board showcases her valuable contributions to the governance and strategic direction of the sport in the region.

**Michelle  
Njoman**

Her contributions include helping WBA coordinate the Waikato Open, refereeing both the Waikato U19 and U15 Opens, and supporting the Filipino Badminton Club with their club tournament. Additionally, her involvement in match control at various WBA events has ensured seamless and efficient tournament operations.

**Philip  
Paterson**

His volunteer hours towards his club, providing Waikato Badminton support both as our patron and when needed for events

**Tina  
Skinner**

One of the friendly faces at Cambridge badminton club welcoming everyone as they come and join their club night. Supporting the club junior shuttletime programme and works with them to ensure they reach their badges and building junior numbers.



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Tina Skinner



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# Club / Team of the Year

Nominees are

**Cambridge  
Badminton  
Club**

Welcoming of all people at all skill levels. A positive influence for sport in the community. Works hard on providing everyone at their club an opportunity to play from their junior base achieving their shuttletime badges through to their senior members

**Waikato  
Filipino  
Badminton  
Club**

This club has had an exceptional year, winning three out of four WBA interclub competitions and maintaining consistently high attendance across two weekly club nights. Their commitment to fostering a thriving badminton community is evident in the success of their well-organised club tournament, which attracted many participants. Additionally, the club has contributed significantly to the Waikato region by having many of its players represent the association in representative teams.

**Waikato  
Slazenger  
Team**

This team delivered an outstanding performance at the Slazenger Cup, achieving a commendable third place and earning the title of the ninth-best team in New Zealand. Their determination, teamwork, and skill throughout the competition showcased their excellence and dedication to the sport.

**Waikato Vets  
Division  
3 Team**

This veteran team showcased their experience, skill, and enduring passion for badminton by winning the North Island Veterans Division 3. Their remarkable achievement is a testament to their dedication and the strong bond they share as a team.



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# Cambridge Badminton Club



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# Coach of the Year

Nominees are



**Kelly Hoyt**

Kelly has undertaken a lot in 2024 – Coaching Shuttletime to 10+ different schools, always being available, and has great patience with the kids. Giving them a positive experience playing badminton.

**Kenneth  
Yew**

Ken successfully achieved his BWF Level 3 certification, showcasing his dedication to professional growth and coaching excellence. Throughout the year, he has been a valuable support to Sherry, contributing significantly to the success of training sessions with his expertise and enthusiasm.

**Linda  
Nielsen**

Linda won/achieved the student coach award at Dio for coaching badminton to her many school teams. As well as doing a great job coaching Shuttletime to many other schools this year leaving kids with a positive experience with badminton.

**Michael  
Zhang**

Michael coached Shuttletime to many schools this year as well as helping with WBA junior trainings, continuing to do a great job leading with energy and a positive attitude.



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**Kenneth Yew**



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# Technical Official of the Year

Nominees are

**Brian Wang**

Line judging at Waikato Open (NZ Tour) events.

**Michelle Njoman**

Her achievements this year include refereeing the Canterbury Open and Waikato U15 and U19 Opens, umpiring the Waikato Open, and assisting the referee team at the North Harbour International. Her professionalism and commitment to ensuring fair and efficient tournament operations have been vital to the success of these events.

**Andrew Chan**

Umpired at Waikato Open (NZ Tour).

**William van  
Kloppen**

Umpired at Waikato Open (NZ Tour).



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Michelle Njoman



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# Volunteer of the Year

Nominees are

## **Brian Wang**

This nominee has gone above and beyond in supporting Waikato Badminton Association (WBA) events throughout the year. He consistently showed up early to assist with setting up, including vacuuming courts to ensure the best playing conditions. At the Waikato Open, when he wasn't busy playing, he took on the vital role of player marshal, ensuring the smooth flow of matches.

## **Daniel Owen**

This nominee has been the driving force behind the Te Awamutu junior badminton program, consistently showing up every Wednesday with unwavering dedication to bring the sport to local youth. Single-handedly managing the program, he has grown participation numbers from just 5-6 players to over 20. Dan achieved this remarkable growth by creating engaging sessions and delivering positive, memorable experiences that keep the children coming back each week.

## **John Metcalfe**

This nominee has demonstrated exceptional dedication and flexibility by assisting throughout all three days of the Waikato Open. He was always willing to take on any task that came up, ensuring the event ran smoothly and efficiently.

## **Kenzo Ferrer**

This nominee has shown remarkable dedication by assisting at all non-rep tournaments, helping to set up and maintain match flow throughout the events. He also volunteered his time to umpire games when needed, offering valuable support to the younger players. His willingness to contribute in various roles has made a significant impact on the smooth running of these tournaments and has helped foster a positive and supportive environment for emerging talent.

## **Linda Nielsen**

This nominee has shown exceptional dedication to volunteering, both within the Waikato Badminton Association and beyond. She has provided valuable support at numerous non-rep tournaments, assisting with match control at various WBA events, and has also volunteered at badminton events for her school.



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**Daniel Owen**





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# Most Improved Junior Player

Nominees are

**Josie Lee**

Achieved excellent results in tournaments, crowned as the A Grade Champion in Women's Singles. This victory reflects their hard work, talent, and determination.

**Kenzo Ferrer**

Displayed significant improvement throughout the year, particularly in badminton tactics. Their enhanced strategic approach has greatly elevated their overall gameplay and match performance.

**Lucas Qin**

Achieved outstanding results in tournaments, notably securing the title of A Grade Champion in Men's Singles. This accomplishment highlights their dedication, skill, and competitive spirit.

**Olivia Yew**

Demonstrated remarkable progress over the year, showcasing significant improvements in physical agility and speed on the badminton court. This enhanced performance has positively impacted their gameplay, allowing for quicker reactions and better court coverage.



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**Olivia Yew**



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# Most Improved Senior Player

Nominees are

## **Cesar Calawan**

After recovering from an injury, he displayed remarkable resilience, using the time to refine his skills and enhance his gameplay. His determination, focus, and always arriving on time, led to him to return to form and perform at an even higher level.

## **Samuel Smith**

Picking the racket up for the first time this year, his performance was inconsistent, with limited confidence and adaptability in his gameplay. However, through dedication and focused effort, he developed into a skilled and versatile player, excelling across multiple disciplines. This remarkable progress was highlighted by their achievement as a multi-disciplined semi-finalist at ABC Champs.

## **Sopheat Mao**

Through consistent training, he worked diligently to develop a deeper understanding of badminton tactics. His focused approach has greatly enhanced his strategic play, allowing them to elevate his game to a higher level.

## **Toby Smith**

He demonstrated great determination and commitment to improving his game. The experience in China allowed him to gain valuable insights and skills, and with continued effort, he is on the path to growth and improvement.



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# Samuel Smith





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# Junior Recognition Trophy

Nominees are

**Ellen Liu**

Her friendly attitude and unwavering willingness to help have made her a standout member of the badminton community. Whether assisting in coaching, volunteering her time, or helping with match control, she consistently goes above and beyond to contribute. Her positive influence and commitment to supporting others make her a deserving recipient of this recognition.

**Josie Lee**

She has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication as captain of her team at the Palmy tournament. She took initiative by leading team warm-ups and assisting the coach and manager in setting lineups, showcasing her commitment to her team's success. Always eager to train and improve, she consistently represents Waikato with pride and determination.

**Kenzo Ferrer**

Always arriving early to training, he sets a positive example for his peers and goes out of his way to assist younger players in their development. His willingness to volunteer his time and his supportive nature make him a cherished member of the badminton community. Beloved by his teammates, he truly deserves recognition for his contributions on and off the court.

**Michael Zhang**

Michael is a constant presence at the courts, embodying dedication and enthusiasm for badminton. Whether he's training, coaching others, or bringing energy to the sidelines with his loud and spirited conversations, he contributes to the vibrant atmosphere of the badminton community.





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# Kenzo Ferrer





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# Senior Recognition Trophy

Nominees are

**Aloha  
Sison**

Aloha is a beloved member of the badminton community, known for her bubbly personality and ability to connect with everyone around her. A dedicated player for the Division 3 seniors and master's team, she is always involved in WBA competitions, achieving success and contributing to her teams' accomplishments. Off the court, she plays a key role in organising the Division 3 team and acts as a leader, bringing the group together with her commitment and enthusiasm.

**Cesar  
Calawan**

Cesar is a hard-working player who brings a competitive spirit to every game, constantly raising the level of those around him. His dedication to improving himself and inspiring his teammates is evident in everything he does. Despite his fierce competitiveness, he is always smiling and laughing, creating a positive and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone.

**Kenneth  
Yew**

Ken has consistently stepped up in times of need, providing invaluable support through his coaching and leadership within the group. Younger players admire and look up to him for his guidance and example, and his approachable nature makes him a trusted figure among his peers. Always willing to help, he embodies the qualities of a dedicated team player and a genuine good guy.

**Philipp  
Doehn**

Philipp is consistently one of the hardest workers in the team, always pushing himself and those around him to improve. His dedication and drive inspire others to give their best. Along with his strong work ethic, he creates a fun and positive environment, ensuring that training and competitions are both productive and enjoyable.

**Toby  
Smith**

Toby is consistently one of the hardest workers in the team, setting a high standard for himself and those around him. His commitment to excellence is matched by his willingness to lend a helping hand, always offering support to teammates without being asked. He creates an approachable atmosphere, making it easy for junior players to seek guidance and look up to him as a role model.



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# Aloha Sison





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# Master/Vets Player of the Year

Nominees are



Aloha Sison

Sherry Lin

Michael Downs

Eugene Yew

Stu Morgan

# Stu Morgan

Valued member and captain of Waikato Vets 2 and Super Vets  
Teams

Won 35 inter-association games in 2024

Led Vets 2 team to winning their division and holds the title of the  
most wins from any player on the team



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# Junior Player of the Year

Nominees are



**Hannah Shang**

**Josie Lee**

**Lucas Qin**

**Michael Zhang**

**Raphael Chris Deloy**

# Raphael Chris Deloy

Member of New Zealand Under 19 Performance Squad

Member of New Zealand World Junior Team Championships Team

New Zealand U19 National Championships MD Winner, XD Winner

Waikato U19 Open MD Winner

New Zealand Secondary Schools Championship Winner

Junior New Zealand Badminton League Winner

Slovakia Junior International MD Winner



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# Senior Player of the Year

Nominees are



Aloha Sison

Cici Guo

Jayanth Gowda

Raphael Chris Deloy

Sherry Lin

# Raphael Chris Deloy

Member of New Zealand Oceania Team Championships team

Member of Waikato Slazenger Cup team

Waikato ABC Championships MD Winner, XD Winner

North Island Waikato Open MD Winner

Manawatu Open MS Winner, MD Winner, XD Runner Up



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**Congratulations to all our  
winners!**