

YONEX Volunteer of the Year Award Winners 2019

Amid the excitement and spotlight of the world class action on show at badminton's greatest show – the YONEX All England - Badminton England took time out to unveil the two winners of 2019 YONEX Volunteer of the Year awards.

Thousands of committed volunteers across the country work tirelessly each week to make badminton happen nationwide – and whilst they may not get the headlines, they produce badminton magic that, each month, makes badminton the most played racket sport in England.

Volunteers are pivotal in growing our sport; whether they give up a few hours a month to lend a hand at club nights, or volunteer on a daily basis, we are so proud of each and every single volunteer we have. They really are the life and soul of badminton.

To recognise the phenomenal work of our voluntary workforce, Badminton England present two awards annually; the YONEX Young Volunteer of the Year and YONEX Volunteer of the Year.

These prestigious titles are awarded to two volunteers who have stood out in demonstrating undoubted passion, commitment and dedication to badminton across 2018, and had a positive impact and influence on others' experience within our sport.

For 2019, the prestigious accolades go to:

2019 YONEX Young Volunteer of the Year: Imogen Eagles

Aged only 14, Imogen is a truly inspiring young lady, who has shown huge potential as a volunteer at the North Wiltshire Badminton Project.

After her passion for volunteering began through starting her Duke of Edinburgh Award at school, Imogen has transitioned from a shy player to a confident young leader who is widely respected by her peers and fellow club players. Alongside playing 3-4 times a week, she also has taken on several officiating roles at local junior tournaments, and recently attended the Badminton England Young Leader Academy in Milton Keynes. She has also taken on the responsibility to captain her team, both for the club and for the school in the Wiltshire School Games event.

She is trusted and relied upon by her Senior Club coaches to deliver engaging sessions to groups of very young Juniors (both at recreational and competitive standards), and by doing so has helped the Junior club expand to more than 100 Badminton England members in one season alone. Although a few years away yet, she aspires to complete her Level 1 coaching award, as she continues to refine her delivery within micro-sessions at the North Wiltshire Badminton Project and also has aspirations to go into officiating.



2019 YONEX Volunteer of the Year Award: Phil Jones

A fantastic role model for other volunteers, Phil devotes every weekend to organising, and running, a comprehensive Tournament Calendar for all ages and abilities across Kent and the rest of the country in his spare time; adding 5 new events for Kent in 2018.

He is a committed referee having refereed at the regional rounds of the National Schools Championships and for National tournaments across various age bands. He also finds time to sit on the Kent Badminton Association committee offering his financial expertise, and has received several National Umpiring selections.

His personal leadership qualities are second to none, always leading by example and encouraging inclusive participation.

Kent Badminton Association are thrilled to have his knowledge and expertise within the County, and are extremely proud of his achievements to date.

