

**NESTA Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 4th June 2025
Woodside Sports Complex**



Chairperson: Leon Chan
Note taker: Rowan Craik

Attendees:

Alasdair Matheson	Matthew Sharkey
Allan Lilly	Owen Black
Christina Farr	Rowan Craik
Craig McCoy	Ryan Black
Gemma Campbell	Scott Griffiths
June Johnstone	Steph Coull
Kenneth Black	
Kirsty Wheeler	<u>Apologies:</u>
Leon Chan	Robin Williamson

Proposed Agenda:

Confirmation of Previous Minutes of AGM

Treasurer's Report

President's Report

Election of Office Bearers

- President (currently Leon Chan)
- Treasurer (currently Christina Farr)
- Secretary (currently Rowan Craik)
- Referee Co-ordinator (currently Matthew Sharkey)
- Club Representatives (currently Craig McCoy, Kenneth Black and Scott Griffiths)
- ATR Representative (Allan Lilly)
- Ordinary Committee Members
- Non constituted executive positions (do not require to be filled and can be allocated at any time):
 - Development Officer (currently Robin Williamson)
 - Coaching Co-ordinator
 - Communications Officer

A.O.B. which may include:

- International Tournaments
- Home Tournaments
- Winter Training
- Scottish Touch Academy/Youth Development
- Social Touch
- Coaching courses
- Refereeing courses
- STA Memberships
- ATR representation
- PVG requirements
- AOB

Treasurer's Report

The evening was started with Christina distributing minutes from the last meeting in May 2024 which were accepted by the attendees.

Christina then ran through the income and expenditure since the last meeting. There was a decrease in the bank balance of £865.13.

There are 3 cheques still to be cashed by ASV for indoor training and the spring tournament totalling £1620.65. The current bank balance is £5330.90 but will be £3710.25 once those cheques are cashed.

There has also been no invoice issued from ASV for the Level 1 referee course.

Although NESTA have paid out large sums for winter training (the contributions by attendees only partly covered costs) it was felt that this was a suitable use of NESTA funds to encourage touch in the North East and the success of the good attendance of Juniors and their selection into the Scotland squads.

The main expenses were:

Development

- Indoor tournament (net expense = £398.19)
- Winter training (net expense = £336)
- Coaching course (net expense = £131)
- Referee courses (net income = £80 but there is unbilled ASV room hire of £51.67)

Social/Regional

- Donation for raffle/quiz prize for Scotland Youth Academy 2024 = £50

Although the bank balance has fallen (if cheques are cashed) NESTA still has a good balance but will run out of funds in 3 to 4 years' time if the spending continues at the same rate.

It was discussed how we get a cross-over of players from the indoor sessions to outdoor sessions.

It was also queried whether we could get funds from STA but Kirsty said there was little funds within STA and to contact Suzanne Brownie who looks at revenue generation.

President's Report

This was read by Leon Chan.

Leon thanked committee members, volunteers, referees, coaches and players for their contribution over the year.

His highlights were:

- Referee development (Level 1 and Level 2 courses run plus online refreshers)
- Coaching development (6 delegates attended the introduction to coaching course)
- Regional training
- Tournaments and leagues (entries still being accepted for 21 June)
- Social touch

Leon thanked those helping with social media efforts and to Robin for his efforts with Deeside RFC touch evenings.

The main challenges continue to be the player count and increasing costs. We will look to improve our marketing and youth development opportunities.

Points were raised over funds going to the STA but getting nothing back in terms of funding, coaching, development, etc. Leon is to discuss revenue generation with Sooz.

The indoor March tournament did not have good attendance from outside of Aberdeen (a few Stirling players came up but no teams). Kirsty mentioned that players felt that they had several training sessions up north and it was too far.

Issues are being noted with Sportmember in that Events are only being partly seen and settings need to be correct when events are added to ensure visibility.

Allan queried whether NESTA had paid £15 per team to STA for the indoor tournament but as each player had paid £6 each this was considered to be the STA payment.

Development Report

This was in the form of an email from Robin who was unable to attend.

He praised those organising social sessions and clubs restarting training.

The indoor sessions were popular and have been a good pathway to juniors playing for Scotland.

The indoor tournament was a success but disappointing to see only local teams.

Social touch continues to be popular and is also attracting new players.

The commencement of Deeside touch has been popular so far and hopes that it will be popular with the ladies section who have had issues with concussions so touch may be a good alternative for them.

Robin hoped that the ASV sessions would continue this winter.

Sportmember looks to be a good platform albeit has some teething problems to go through.

Robin raised a concern that the core player base is ageing and we all need to encourage new players.

Election of Office Bearers

- President - Leon Chan to continue (agreed by Christina, seconded by Ken)
- Treasurer - **Christina Farr** happy to continue (agreed by Leon and Craig)
- Secretary – Rowan Craik stepped down. **Craig McCoy** voted by Ken as new Secretary.
- Referee Co-ordinator - Matthew Sharkey to continue
- Club Representatives
 - **Scott Griffiths** for **Guerillas**
 - **Ken Black** for **Leopards**
 - **Gemma Campbell** for **Hoodlums**
- ATR Representative – not an official post. Allan Lilly to continue to run leagues but not be on the committee
- Ordinary Committee Members
- Non constituted executive positions (do not require to be filled and can be allocated at any time):
 - Development Officer - **Robin Williamson** to continue.
 - Coaching Co-ordinator – None found at meeting
 - Communications Officer - None found at meeting
 - Youth Development – **Steph Coull**

A.O.B. included:

- Ryan Black agreed to update the website
- Steph gave a report on youth sessions
Being run by Karen Blanc at Ferryhill Primary School. Steph's friend Alice works with Active Schools. Steph said where Active Schools run sessions they promote the activities to the kids, sort pitches, arrange PVG checks, etc so it is really easy to get set up. Currently their session is P4 & P5 but it was felt that it is better for older children and that early senior school as a pathway to Scottish Touch Academy would be a good age category to look at. Jamie Gordon and Audrey have said they are keen to look at sessions where they live.
It was felt that P4 may also be a good age to start as that is when contact rugby starts and that is when many who were keen at a young age can be put off by the contact element.
If we did want to expand to coaching primary and secondary age pupils then we will need a lot of coaching volunteers. Gemma volunteered Kenny to assist Steph and Sharkey, Scott and Craig indicated they were willing to help.
- PVG requirements
This is changing and more roles require PVG clearance. This relates to vulnerable adults as well as children so this would need to be considered.
It was suggested that all committee members get PVG clearance and as costs are coming in this should be considered sooner rather than later.
- ATR payments – can these go directly to NESTA rather than STA? This is to be queried with STA as it covers insurance, etc.
- Corporate Touch – this is not running this year but it was felt that there was no benefit to NESTA as many hours were volunteered but information was not being passed on to teams by ASV. Scott suggested we did an event similar to the corporate rowing where we coach for 6 weeks and then have a tournament. This could be a cheap alternative to companies and would be mixed, inclusive, etc.
- Winter Training
Successful so plan to continue.
- Scottish Touch Academy/Youth Development
Winter training was positive especially with Juniors being included in games.
- Social Touch – we should encourage social STA membership here.
- Coaching courses
No plans for another this year.
- Refereeing courses
Will look to do again.