

NESTA

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 26 August 2026

Present: 17 members

• Leon Chan	• Christina Farr	• Craig McCoy
• Kenneth Black	• Matthew Sharkey	• Rowan Craik
• Ellis Craik	• Scott Griffiths	• Steph Coull
• Alastair Gossip	• Nick Wood	• Calum Davies
• Hamish Forsyth	• Kirsty Wheeler	• Andrew Gordon
• Allan Lilly	• Iain MacKenzie	

Apologies: Mon Wallace, Robin Williamson, Iain Craik, Lynne Dunn

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Christina Farr noted a correction required to the minutes of the previous meeting concerning Steph Coull's committee role. For the record, Steph Coull's role is that of an Ordinary Member with a particular focus on Youth development

2. Treasurer's Report (Christina Farr)

- The opening balance was higher than expected, owing to a number of cheques not yet having been cashed.
- The closing balance stood at approximately £4,500.
- The largest single item of expenditure was the hire of ASV for winter training, at approximately £2,000. Further costs were incurred for Steeden balls, referee tops, and pitch-marking pylons.
- The largest source of income was winter training fees, totalling £1,763.
- Not all of this income has yet been received into the NESTA account, as winter training payments were processed at that time through Sportmember and paid directly to the Scottish Touch Association (STA)- NESTA is awaiting the transfer of these funds. Payment from the Aberdeenshire Leopards club has already been transferred to the NESTA account to cover winter training fees for Leopards club members who attended.
- Winter training at ASV has not generated a profit; however, the Committee considers it worthwhile for the purpose of maintaining player engagement.
- There are currently no plans to replace the regional team kits.
- NESTA remains in a reasonably sound financial position, though at the current rate of expenditure, funds would be exhausted within three to four years.

3. President's Report (Leon Chan)

- This has been the first year of using Sportmember. Some teething issues have been experienced, and further functionality is expected to be introduced in future.
- Leagues and competitions: the Solstice Touch tournament was reasonably well attended. Overall league playing numbers have declined, though it is encouraging that existing players continue to show appetite for organised competition.
- The STA youth taster session held at AWRFC (Aberdeen Wanderers) was well attended, and a corresponding increase in young players attending ASV and Woodside training has been observed.

- Regional representation in national squads has been strong and continues to grow, underlining the North East's importance to the sport in Scotland.
- A reduced rate has been successfully negotiated at ASV.
- Looking ahead, the aim is to increase player numbers and youth engagement, and to secure additional funding streams.
- The President thanked members for their contributions over the year and offered congratulations to the incoming committee.

4. Election of Office Bearers

All positions were uncontested and were confirmed as follows:

Position	Officer
President	Iain MacKenzie
Treasurer	Nick Wood
Secretary	Scott Griffiths
Referee Coordinator	Matthew Sharkey
Club representative - Guerillas	Kirsty Wheeler
Club representative - Hoodlums	Calum Davies
Club representative - Leopards	Kenneth Black
Non constituted team representative - Firebirds	Andrew Gordon
Development Officer	Robin Williamson
Coaching Co-ordinator	Craig McCoy
Ordinary Members	Steph Coull, Fayona Gordon
Communications Officer	Affiliated to the STA

5. Any Other Business

Upcoming Fixtures/Trips

- Limerick – Youth
- Stirling – Open
- Portugal – Seniors

There remain no plans for an inter-region tournament at present; it is hoped this can be progressed next year.

6. NESTA Winter Training

- Dates have been booked for 8 weeks in Q4 2026 and 10 weeks in Q1 2027, with sessions running on Thursdays from 20:30 to 21:30:
 - 29 October 2026 – 8-week block
 - 14 January 2027 – 10-week block
- A half-price rate has been negotiated in recognition of the significant number of youth players involved.
- Should pricing remain unchanged, and similar numbers attend, NESTA should break even or make a small profit on the training for winter 2026-2027
- Matthew Sharkey offered to deliver a Level 1 rules/referee refresher session around the beginning of each block.
- A Level 3 referee course will be held in Belgium in January, open to any Level 2 referees.
- A Level 2 referee course in Scotland is still to be arranged.

It was noted that all new committee members are required to hold a PVG, as must all coaches involved with youth players.

7. Youth Development Update (Steph Coull)

Steph Coull summarised progress made in working with Active Schools to introduce Touch at Ferryhill School (P4–P7). This has since been extended city-wide to P6–P7, requiring a volunteer-to-child ratio of 1:10; further volunteers are needed to support this.

A gap has been identified from P7 through to academy age, which NESTA needs to address in order to avoid losing players at this stage.

Concerns were raised regarding the Child Protection policy, the Child Protection Lead, and ensuring PVGs are in place for all coaches. It was agreed that, for future training sessions, under-18s must be signed in and out, and a named responsible adult holding a valid PVG must take responsibility for each session.

8. Sportmember

Christina Farr proposed the creation of a new team within Sportmember for youth players, to be named “NESTA Youth”, rather than continuing to group them under the Northern Lights banner.

9. Social Touch

A new kit supplier has been identified, and updated kit is expected to become available in due course.

10. ATR

Aberdeen Touch Rugby did not organise leagues this year, owing to STA insurance requirements. Leagues were run by Aberdeenshire Leopards Touch Rugby, as an STA affiliated club. However, the associated ATR Facebook closed group will remain active for the purpose of information sharing.

11. Leagues

The incoming committee will determine NESTA’s approach to leagues going forward.

12. Coaching Course

Mon Wallace has offered to organise an introduction to coaching course, subject to sufficient interest.

13. Funding

Details of the ALDI Sport Fund are available via the NESTA email; applications for the fund is next due to open in May 2027.

14. Other Business

NESTA’s website requires updating.