

NESTA AGM 2024 – Matthew Sharkey – **President's Report**



It's been 4 years since the last AGM late 2019 and quite a lot has changed in that time, from being shut in our houses to social distancing to playing sport without touching (difficult for a game of touch). A lot of the initial thoughts and programmes for NESTA and Touch were shelved and will require re invigorated. The game of Touch in Aberdeen and the North East has come through a lot and hopefully on to bigger and better things, below is a brief summary of what has been done over the past few years.

Social Touch

This has been growth week on week and year on year and now has become an established part of the Touch picture in the North East, much thanks must go to the Facebook social touch page custodians who weekly send out the "interested" and "its On" posts. This has been greatly responsible for the ad-hoc development of player interest and social cohesion within the touch community. Long may this continue and with its new shirts and taking teams down to the first tournament of the year in Stirling in June '24 (good luck to them all, new players and all)

Winter Training

Started indoor training on a Sunday evenings with great gusto in the ASV on the indoor Astro pitch in Jan 2019 and it was a great success until COVID -19 closed that down in mid March 2020, it was relaunched on Wednesday nights in January 2023 where the touch players and refs could dust down the cobwebs and prepare, learn and encourage themselves. This was a great success and was continued into 2024 where a number of under 18 players attended and have gone on to be selected for representative honours at U-15 and U18 level.

Aberdeen Leagues

With the onset of Covid-19 the league was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 and when it returned there was only a few teams, this year there are more, a thanks goes out to Aberdeen Touch and Allan for the perseverance in the yearly league, this hopefully will return to a flourishing league soon.

Corporate Games

The corporate games started in 2019 and it was 20 teams and an evening of mad Touch chaos this was due to continue in 2020 but was not restarted until 2022, where it was a smaller tournament with 16 team but the enjoyable chaos was the same, this is now the biggest tournament within the north east and it was run in 2023 and will be part of the ASV corporate games in 2024 this time in August. With at least 16 teams of more than 10 players in the squads there is clearly an appetite for Touch in the North East, just need to be able to tap into it better. Again much thanks for the coaches for the training before hand and the volunteers and referees on the day in keeping the tournament running and the games on time even with a 3 min turnaround between games.

Representative Touch

Over the past 2 years we have had the European championship in Nottingham in 2022 and Junior Touch Championship in Vichy France and in 2023 A youth championship called the Atlantic cup in Nottingham and the full European championship in Vichy France. The North East had representation at both the European championships (mostly in the Senior and Masters categories) and also in the Youth Atlantic cup in the U18 Mixed.(a full list of representatives are available in request). NESTA was also represented by the officials at the tournaments with special Sarah Mason leading the tournament referees Panel at the Atlantic Cup.