

**LEON CHAN
PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**

It is my privilege to deliver the President's Report for NESTA at this year's Annual General Meeting. I would like to begin by thanking all of you—our committee members, volunteers, referees, coaches and of course the players – for your continuing support and dedication to the sport over the past year. Your support is what allows us to achieve what we have and continue making a meaningful and positive impact in our touch community.

Year in Review

The aims of the past year for NESTA were to continue development of players, referees and coaches, stabilise our numbers in area since overall player count has dwindled and optimally growth, both in numbers and individual players. Despite some challenges, we have made some progress in achieving these aims.

Highlights from the year include;

Referee Development was focussed on by delivering a level 1 and level 2 course, which saw some delegates travel from Edinburgh to attend. This was further supported by 2 free online refresher sessions, thanks and credit to Sarah Mason and Matthew Sharkey.

Coaching Development The first introductory to coaching course to be run for some time took place in Q4 and was well attended by 6 delegates.

Regional Training which was largely well attended, with the overall average attendance at 20 players per session. Intended to be a good starting point for new players but also aiming to improve and develop the current player base.

Tournaments and Leagues Summer League, organised by Allan Lilly (ATR), has been running as normal but also a Summer Tournament on the 21st June is taking place and still accepting entries.

NESTA organised and ran an Indoor Tournament in ASV in March which was well attended locally, even unretiring some Rebel PT Tigers, but failed to attract any teams from out with the area bar a handful of keen players.

Social Touch is ongoing at Duthie Park on Saturdays and attracting the occasional new player either passerby or via social media efforts by Steph Coull and Iain Mackenzie. Keeping these new players and possibly getting them along to more than social touch would be beneficial in the long term.

With the aim to provide more opportunities for Touch to be played in the area, Monday and Wednesday Social Touch at Woodside, open to all has also been ongoing, facilities provided by Leopards.

More recently, Robin Williamson has just started up Friday Night Touch at Deeside RFC in Banchory. The first session was well attended so looking to keep this going.



Financial Overview

Our financial position remains stable at the moment, however no new source of funding was identified this past year. The largest expenditure has been facilities hire and with their increasing cost. We have taken steps to try and minimise these costs but will need to address funding concerns to ensure long-term sustainability. A detailed financial report will be presented our Treasurer.

Challenges and Looking Ahead

As intimated before, main challenges we have faced are player count and increasing costs/funding.

Looking to the future, avenues to explore will include:

New or Improved Marketing to get the sport in front of as many people as possible.

Enhancing our member engagement through improved communication, or training opportunities.

Expanding Youth Development initiatives

We are committed to building on our successes and addressing any challenges with dedication and determination.

Acknowledgments

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to the committee, volunteers and the touch community at large. We all work hard to ensure one thing: - Touch is the winner.