

ANNUAL REPORT



2004 - 2005

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1. Chairman's report - Executive summary

- General
 - The establishment of Pirates as a new clubs provided new interest in all divisions where they entered a side
 - The Active After School Program has provided an opportunity to establish Touch in the Northern Suburbs
 - Participation numbers in the Summer and Junior competitions continued to grow.
 - Participation numbers in the Winter competition reduced slightly.
 - The spread of elite players amongst the division one teams continues to be of a concern
 - Southern Touch contract work for the TTA and Clarence Council (centre cleaning) provides additional income to the association.
 - Southern Touch continues to dominate the Tasmanian State Cup
- Development
 - The Active After School Program has provided an opportunity to establish contacts in the Northern suburbs. This ongoing relationship will hopefully provide a junior competition at Rugby Park.
 - The development of existing junior Touch players is providing a pathway for players to represent Tasmania and the Crusaders sides.
 - Southern Touch continues to provide quality players for the Tasmanian under 18, 15s and 12 aged division at national competitions
- Competition
 - Competition played at both Wentworth Park and Rugby Park allows Touch to be showcase on both sides of the river.
 - The Clubs reward program was modified to acknowledge an increase in sides participating within Clubs.
 - The establishment of the Pirates Clubs is welcome and provides an opportunity for up and coming players to participate in all divisions.
 - Points cap system reviewed to help developing club sides become more competitive.
 - The introduction of a new player restriction by law in Division one for the Winter competition provided a more even competition.
- Technical
 - Despite a small increase in the number of referees within the Association, Southern Touch suffered the usual referee availability problems throughout the summer season. This occurred due to the small increase in referee numbers being offset by growth in team numbers in the Summer Senior and Junior Competitions.
 - This was not the case during the Winter Season where referee number and quality was a highlight compared with past seasons.
 - There has been a success recruiting junior representative player to refereeing, particularly within the Junior Competition, however the retention rate of these individuals could be improved.
 - Conducting Level 1 courses to increase refereeing numbers was the accreditation focus during the year.
 - At the State Cup, Southern Touch's referees again showed himself or herself to be significantly better in every manner than those from other competitions around Tasmania.

- One level 1 coaching course was held during 2005/06 with six participants attending.
- Southern Touch took out 4 of the 6 divisions at the State Cup to again claim the overall trophy.
- Southern Touch conducted the Austouch Program introduced by the ATA in conjunction with the Sports Commission for the first time in September 2004
- Marketing
 - Continued arrangements with Macquarie Real Estate, J. Boags and Son and Coca Cola Amatil
 - Dilger's Caltex Howrah also continued their strong support of Southern Touch
 - Southern touch's media exposure has continued through T.V. and radio advertising with weekly articles in local newspaper
 - Plans have been made to upgrade our website
- Financial
 - Southern Touch showed positive financial management returning a profit of \$1717.33 for 2004/05.

Colin Thompson
Chairman
Southern Touch



Ben Langford of Condors puts pressure on Tiger #5

2. Financial Report

Southern Touch returned a profit of \$1,717.33 for the 2004/05 financial year. This represents a significant improvement on last year's result that was a loss of \$11,745.94.

Gross income remained constant over the period and the turnaround was due to better margins being achieved on trading activities and decreases in most items of operating expenditure.

Given the income base of over \$200,000 Southern Touch will need in the future to look towards a higher profit percentage (approximately 1% this year) in order to build a reserve for future capital development and to ease the cash flow difficulties often experienced in the winter season.

Southern Touch is also entering a period of financial uncertainty given the decision to disband the Tasmanian Touch Association in favour of dealing directly with the Australian Touch Association. One of the selling points of this change was decrease in affiliation costs but only the operation of this new structure will reveal whether this will in fact be true.

Andrew Fisher
Finance Director



Summer Season 2004/05 Men's Division One Grand Final Referees
From Left: Colin Thompson, Tom Pilkington and Dale Langford

3. General Manager's Report

The 2004/05 season saw growth in most areas. Our junior competition again saw a large jump in numbers and hopefully will continue to grow as we are already receiving entries for the next season. With our work over the last twelve months it appears that a junior competition being started in the Glenorchy area this year will be past on to Southern Touch to run when it has been fully established. At the moment we are providing the expertise to the various schools to get things under way. Southern Touch is also involved with The Active After School Programme that pays the providers to supply coaches. This means we are actually being paid and are getting access to these schools and students who then will hopefully pass into our junior competition.

The 2004/05 Summer Competition also grew in numbers with the introduction of the new club Pirates. Matt Phillips and his committee are to be congratulated for all the hard work they have done in getting this new club up and running, hopefully they will have some on field success to go with the hard work. Apart from the new club there was also an increase in team numbers right across the board.

The Winter Competition saw a fall in numbers but a new competition structure in the men's division made for a more even competition. This was welcomed by most participants who took part, as the scores in the finals indicated there was very little difference between all who took part.

The weather during the winter competition also played its part with favourable conditions for the most nights enabling all games to be played except for one round. Overall competitions were successful and this will hopefully be reflected in team entries in the next season.

The development of the First Division competitions continues to be a problem with the fourth placed team in each comp being along way from the top team in strength and numbers. There is always going to be a problem in developing more teams in first division unless there is a more even spread of players.

A referees course was held mid year and it was good to see so many young players have now formalised their referees accreditation. It was particularly pleasing to see an increase in the number of female participants, as this was an area that needed improved numbers.

Southern Touch continues to provide a high level of service to its members, in the areas of administration facilities and the provision of referees.

Outside income in the form of the administration for the Tasmanian Touch Association, Active After School Care and the contract for cleaning the centre for the Clarence City Council will hopefully enhance our financial situation. This past financial year Southern Touch did return a small profit and with the added income of the cleaning contract and AASC, it maybe that this coming year will see a much larger one.

With the departure of Chris Garrett last year there was a large gap to fill. The arrival of Phil Mascall provided assistance to me and we endeavoured to keep Southern Touch progressing in a similar manner, whilst adding our own direction as well. I

would like to thank Chris for his help through out the year. His assistance was greatly appreciated.

Southern Touch is also lucky to have the current Board members who provided me with assistance through out this last year. Phil Mascall has done a great job this past year and I'm sure with the help again from the Board, will settle in and continue the good work that has been accomplished at Southern Touch for the past 6 or 7 years.

Finally thanks to all those people who have made my time at Southern Touch a pleasant and memorable experience by helping with the refereeing or doing a bit of time behind the bar or any of those small things that have made my job that bit easier.

Mick Best
General Manger

4. Development Officer

First year in the position of Development Officer and it is clearly visible when presenting the game of Touch football to a new class of school kids that it is a game that is growing in interest and developing itself as a part of schools physical education curriculum.

Southern Touch has looked further than just high school and college age groups and this year has aligned itself with Active After Schools Network to conduct 1 hr & ½ primary school sessions targeting the future generation player.

Although these clinics rarely get to game phase it is a great introduction to the sport. Using a number of Austouch skills and modified passing, running & scoring games the primary kids get an early taste for the game. First and second term saw sessions visit Rosetta Primary, Dominic, Dodges Ferry, and Howrah Primary. AASN provide Southern Touch with some funding for conducting these sessions and potentially will encourage players to involve themselves in Touch in the future.

The numbers of Touch clinics conducted this year are of equal to previous years and show promising potential for junior competition numbers for season 2005. The following schools showed great interest in having Touch football sessions conducted on a regular basis, Clarence High, Mackillop College, St Mary's and Ogilvie and the supervising teachers were all keen to organise school teams for season 2005 junior roster.

Junior competition 2004 saw Primary and High School teams jumping from 65 in 2003 to an increase of 24 teams to make a total of 89 teams. It is hard to say whether this will again increase in 2005 however through the interest generated among the schools network by delivering Touch clinics, the likelihood is that it may increase into the 90's.

Development has also taken place through sporting based organisation in Active Schools Australia (ASA). The implementation of a Primary based competition on the Western Shore of Hobart, is currently in development stage. ASA in conjunction with Michael Best originally developed a cluster network of schools being Rosetta Primary, Bowen Road, Moonah Primary and Springfield Gardens. The plan being that for third term 2005 the schools would run a Touch competition with this cluster group and in 2006 would hand the competition over to Southern Touch to manage. The 2006 outlook being that Southern Touch will conduct this competition at Rugby Park prior to senior competition games. Presently clinics are being conducted throughout these schools to introduce the game of Touch in preparation for third term and all clinics are being met with enthusiasm by the kids and should develop into a strong rivalry primary school competition.

Representative Touch again proved successful for Southern Touch with the Boys U20's claiming victory at the 2005 State Cup held in Launceston. The Girls 20's were unlucky not to also grab victory just missing out in a drop off that got down to three on three and created huge spectator interest.

The Southern girl's team had numerous participants from the Southern Touch development team, the Lions, who competed in the summer women's roster and showed great improvement as the season progressed. New talents emerging Lara

Hooper and Christina Parodi who were both subsequently picked in the Tasmanian Girls U18s State Team unfortunately had to withdraw due to injury and other commitments.

Southern Touch is again well represented in Tasmanian State teams for 2005 with 9 Southern reps in the Girls U18s, and the Boys U18s who are scheduled to compete at the U18s Championships held in Coffs Harbour first week in September.

In the U15s & U12s Boys and Girls teams Southern Touch is represented by a total of 16 participants that are all promising talents and will gain a massive amount of experience from there September tour to Darwin.

I would like to make special mention to the great achievement of Ben Langford who at the age of 17 represented Southern Touch and Tasmanian Touch in the Opens Men's Crusaders team that competed at the National Touch League in Coffs Harbour. Ben has developed to be a dominant player for Condors Touch Club and has earned the respect from all that compete against him. For someone at his age this is a great achievement, not least to forget that he finished third in Dale Langford medal count season 2004/05. Well-done Ben!

Special thanks should go out to Deb Button for coaching the Lions women's development team and coaching the U20s girls at State Cup 2005. Michael Best for coaching the Boys U20s to victory at State Cup 2005, and also for his work in the development of a Western Shore competition with a cluster group of schools, that Southern Touch will look forward to managing in the future.

Phil Mascall
Development Officer



Craig Unsworth representing Southern Touch at State Cup 2005 makes a dive for the line.

5. Competition Director's Report

Team numbers for the Summer 2004/2005 have continued to increase. The Women's Competition is almost at capacity for the Wentworth Park Venue and consideration will have to be given to a multi-venue option if further growth is experienced. Friday Night games were trialled for some Division 1 Men and Women's games, providing a valuable opportunity for the Clubs to develop camaraderie between their players, as well as an opportunity to develop the social side of their clubs. To acknowledge the growth within the Clubs, the Association increased the number of teams used to calculate the Club Championship Award.

The use of Rugby Park as an additional venue for Southern Touch Mixed competitions has continued to be accepted by participants. However, feedback from the 2004/2005 season is being acted upon and negotiations have commenced with Tas Rugby to overcome some safety issues identified by summer touch players. The Association has also reviewed the points cap system and has now put in place the First Division New Player restrictions, which will hopefully support the developing teams in their recruitment of players.

The Junior Competitions continued to grow and it is important for the future of Touch, that these players have a defined pathway to other competitions. It is incumbent on the Touch community, particularly the Clubs, to embrace this competition and establish links with the players.

Figures for the past year are as follows:

Summer Senior Competition – Men's 48 teams, Women's 42 teams, Mixed 58 teams

Summer Junior Competition - 86 teams

Winter Senior Competition - Men's 10 teams, Women's 16 teams, Mixed 17 teams

The trialling of a new By-law for the 2005 Winter Men's Competition has successfully separated the competition into two, more even divisions. Whilst only four teams competed in Division One, games were closer and results less predictable. Division Two Men's results have also been close. Though the competition size did not increase, the outcome for the teams competing has been a more enjoyable and positive playing experience. As with all new By-laws, it is important to undertake a review to ascertain its continued viability.

The Association continues to advertise for other age-based competitions, but unfortunately numbers are still too low to warrant the establishment of these rosters.

Wendy Fiddaman
Competition Director

6. Technical Report

Refereeing

Despite a small increase in the number of referees within the Association, Southern Touch suffered the usual referee availability problems throughout the summer season. This occurred due to the small increase in referee numbers being offset by growth in team numbers in the Summer Senior and Junior Competitions. Positively, this was not the case during the Winter Season where referee number and quality was a highlight compared with past seasons.

The number of first division players available to referee, which has traditionally been where most referees are gained, continues to decline forcing Southern Touch to rely more heavily on lower-grade players and juniors becoming referees. There has been a success recruiting junior representative player to refereeing, particularly within the Junior Competition, however the retention rate of these individuals could be improved.

Conducting Level 1 courses to increase refereeing numbers was the accreditation focus during the year. Level 2 and 3 courses will be conducted the 2005/06 season to build on the level 1 base that has been built. Over the next 12-24 months Southern Touch will be offering greater assistance to any referees with the interest and potential to attend national tournaments where they can benefit from further coaching and return to the Southern Touch competitions able to pass their knowledge to the local referees.

At the State Cup, Southern Touch's referees again showed himself or herself to be significantly better in every manner than those from other competitions around Tasmania.

Coaching

One level 1 coaching course was held during 2005/06 with six participants attending. Due to a lack of demand and availability of the clubrooms at Wentworth Park only the one course was conducted. A few Southern Touch coaches are waiting to undertake the level 2 coaching course, however Tasmanian Touch has been unable to commence this course due to a lack of numbers.

The majority of First Division coaches during the Summer Season were at last accredited level 1 coaches, and the number of First Division players becoming involved in the coaching of lower-grade club teams continuing to grow.

State Cup

Southern Touch took out 4 of the 6 divisions at the State Cup to again claim the overall trophy. Unfortunately the State Cup continues to decline as an attractive event for members, and accordingly Southern Touch struggled to find enough available players in some divisions. The long-term future of the State Cup is something that must be addressed by the TTA.

Given the extra-work that had to be undertaken to fill teams this year, performances of the coaches of the sides was again professional and successful. Thanks to the coaches, being Brent Mills, Wendy Fiddaman, Shelley Wyver, Phil Williams, Deb Button and Michael Best.

Austouch

Southern Touch conducted the Austouch Program introduced by the ATA in conjunction with the Sports Commission for the first time in September 2004. The program is an ideal introduction to the sport for junior players and Southern Touch will look to further implement the program during the next year.

7. Marketing Director Report

The 2004/05 year saw our continued success in Marketing/Sponsorship for Southern Touch. Continued arrangements with Macquarie Real Estate, J. Boags and Son and Coca Cola Amatil creates not only a strong sponsorship revenue base but gives our

Overall profile creditability with having famous name product brands supporting our sport in Southern Tasmania can only enhance the profile of Touch. Dilger's Caltex Howrah also continued their strong support of Southern Touch and our three main playing grounds were appropriately named after our major sponsors.

I strongly urge all players to support all of our sponsors. Without their financial and product commitment to our sport, we could not pursue the various facility improvements and keep fees at the affordable levels we have maintained for some years now.

Southern touch's media exposure has continued through T.V. and radio advertising and superb weekly articles that have created great community interest and the combination of these have in no small way contributed to our substantial competition growth. It is also most pleasing to see our successful players and teams at various tournaments recognised as well.

Plans have been made to upgrade our website, which is relied upon for results, referee appointments, game draw information, general touch information and importantly a vehicle to place our sponsors in front of our large player base. It is intended that in the forthcoming year, our website will be available to various sponsors to make their products available to Southern Touch players at special rates.

The school competition continues to succeed with fantastic growth and continued focus on the primary and secondary school competitions, together with a proposed lunchtime business house touch comp, we should see further growth in our overall playing membership.

The weather again played a part in our attempt to promote our summer grand final day, however excellent conditions brought a large crowd to Wentworth Park to witness some close and high standard Winter Touch Grand Finals to finish the season on a great note.

Gary Dawson
Marketing Director

8. Association Awards

Boags SOUTHERN TOUCH Summer Season 2004/05

8.1 Men's Competition:

<u>Men's Division 1</u> Premiers: Condors Runners Up: Tigers	Best & Fairest:	Toby Burgess Craig Unsworth Ben Langford	26 24 19
<u>Men's Division 2</u> Premiers: Hurricanes Runners Up: Marauders	Best & Fairest:	Joel Doyle Jarrod Read	24 24
<u>Men's Division 3</u> Premiers: Tigers Runners Up: Bulldogs	Best & Fairest:	Scott Wilson Jason Samec	21 21
<u>Men's Division 4</u> Premiers: Europcar Runners Up: Pembroke Panthers	Best & Fairest:	Jim Hobden Phil Sargent	26 25
<u>Men's Division 5</u> Premiers: Carebears Runners Up: Gummy Sharks	Best & Fairest:	Justin Veitch Simon McCarthy	39 23
<u>Men's Division 6</u> Premiers: Mures Xtreme Runners Up: Landing Strips	Best & Fairest:	Alex Thompson Stephen Youd	21 19



Pictured: Ben Langford (Men's Open Crusaders)

8.2 Women's Competition:

Women's Division 1

Premiers: Hurricanes
Runners Up: Condors

Best & Fairest:	Carolyn Reid	26
	Fiona Geappen	18
	Joanne Williams	17

Women's Division 2

Premiers: Travellers
Runners Up: Marauders

Best & Fairest:	Emma Robinson	27
	Anna Crabb	25

Women's Division 3

Premiers: Tigers A
Runners Up: Orana House

Best & Fairest:	Kristy Young	27
	Jane Sargent	24

Women's Division 4

26

Premiers: Lauderdale
Runners Up: Marauders

Best & Fairest:	Renee Kerrison	
	Wendy Fiddaman	23
	Erin Perry	23

Women's Division 5

Premiers: Chemmart Cougars
20

Runners Up: Searson Buck

Best & Fairest:	Alyssa Smart	28
	Mel French	



Pictured: Women's Summer Premiers Hurricanes

8.3 Mixed Competition:

<u>Mixed Division 1</u> Premiers: Condors Runners Up: Phantoms	Best & Fairest:	Toby Burgess Craig Unsworth Ben Langford	23 12 11
<u>Mixed Division 2</u> Premiers: Kingston Hotel Runners Up: Marauders	Best & Fairest:	Trent Whitelaw Stewart Edward	25 25
<u>Mixed Division 3</u> Premiers: Hurricanes Runners Up: Westland Warriors	Best & Fairest:	Sam Iles William Campbell	30 21
<u>Mixed Division 4</u> Premiers: Red Backs Runners Up: Tigers	Best & Fairest:	Erin Perry Jay Knibbs	22 21
<u>Mixed Division 5</u> Premiers: Searson Buck Runners Up: Bjam Dfat Smat	Best & Fairest:	Paul Broadby Peter Leary Alyssa Smart	29 18 18
<u>Mixed Division 6</u> Premiers: Rockers Runners Up: Tryhards	Best & Fairest:	Derrick Parry Meagan Daun	27 24



Pictured: Andy Smith (Condors)

8.4 Club Championships:

Winner: Condors
Runners Up: Hurricanes

Referee of the summer:

Toby Burgess

Referee of the winter:

Stuart Gatward

Merit Award:

Bob Stubbs

Referee Incentive Award:

Stuart Gatward

Junior Referee of the season:

Adrian Thompson (Summer)
Trent Cornish (Winter)

Junior Achievement Award:

Ben Langford

8.5 Winter Season 2005:

Men's Division 1

Premiers: Tigers
Runners Up: Thunderbirds

Best & Fairest:	Ben Langford	28
	Chris Cusick	25
	Sean Williams	20

Men's Division 2

Premiers: Marauders
Runners Up: MAIB Magnums

Best & Fairest:	Chris Atkinson	23
	Tim Pain	23
	Jason Little	23

Women's Division 1

Premiers: Condors
Runners Up: Phantoms

Best & Fairest:	Jacinta Pearce	24
	Jessica Moore	19

Women's Division 2

Premiers: Bombers
Runners Up: Pirates Black

Best & Fairest:	Susan Jackson	20
	Heather Bessell	16
	Emily Cripps	16

Women's Division 3

Premiers: Tigers
Runners Up: Pirates

Best & Fairest:	Lindell Mellefont	23
	Mel Davidson	10

Mixed Division 1

Premiers: Condors
Runners Up: Tigers

Best & Fairest:	Ben Langford	29
	Marc Thompson	21

Mixed Division 2

Premiers: Bombers
Runners Up: Searson Buck

Best & Fairest:	Matthew Phillips	28
	Sam Hauser	20

Mixed Division 3

Premiers: UO
Runners UP: Wacko The Chook

Best & Fairest:	Paul Broadby	27
	Mishka Gadja	13
	James Rowbottom	13

9. TASMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES 2004:

Men's

Toby Burgess
Chris Garrett
Tim Geappen
Pete Hampson
Heath Jamieson
Ben Langford
Brent Mills
Marc Thompson
Andy Smith (Coach)
Sean Williams (Ass. Coach)

Boy's 18's

Will Bibby
Matt Cerutti
Ben MacMurray
Aaron Jones
Jason Norman
Dean Alomes

Boy's 15's

Duncan Bain
Tom Brockman
Ben Allanby
Graham Brennan
Adrian Thompson
James Dick
Damien Faulds-Midgley

Boy's 12's

Shane Curtis
Trent Cornish
Charles Archer

Women's

Julia Barry
Geraldine Dare
Claire Dennis
Heidi Granger
Emma Haines
Chante Ling
Carolyn Reid
Chris Garrett (Coach)
Linda Free (Manager)

Girl's 18's

Amy Mourant
Mishka Gadjia
Aleece Giason
Catherine Oliver
Kate Mascall
Jessica Kelly
Angela Dickson
Nicole Parodi

Girl's 15's

Rebecca Downie
Stacey Cornish
Emma Jones
Kate Cowen
Natalie Curtis
Alex Finlayson
Freya Godfrey
Dimity Archer
Rebecca Oliver

Girl's 12's

Rosie Downie
Sarah Jones
Erica Bessell
Katelyn Barry

CRUSADER NTL REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Garrett – Coach
Brent Mills – Men's 30's
Claire Dennis – Women's 20's
Julia Barry – Women's Open
Marc Thompson – Men's 20's (Captain)
Kate Mascall – Women's 20's

Geraldine Dare – Women's Open
Carolyn Reid – Women's Open
Will Bibby – Men's 20's
Ben Langford – Men's Open's
Emma Haines – Women's 20's
Catherine Oliver – Women's 20's

10. Auditors Report