



# SCOTTISH CYCLING ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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CYCLING**



**SCOTTISH  
CYCLING**

1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2024 - 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

## **Forewords**

### **Sandy Gilchrist, Scottish Cycling President**

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as President for my first year. My background in cycling spans many roles—rider at the national and international level, bike shop owner, coach and manager, and mechanic —travelling the world to championships and Olympic Games. Yet stepping into the world of governance was something new, and I am especially grateful for Kathy's invaluable guidance throughout this past year.

Reflecting on my journey in the sport, I am struck by the extraordinary changes in cycling technology that I have witnessed. From the simplicity of 5-speed steel bikes to the sophistication of today's 12- and 13-speed wireless electronic systems, the evolution has been remarkable. What once demanded sheer grit on heavy frames is now complemented by the precision and ease of lightweight carbon machines. These advances give me great optimism for the future of our sport and a deep appreciation for having experienced such progress first-hand.

Scottish Cycling has also grown and matured over the years. Today, a dedicated professional staff supports our clubs and event organisers, while our coaches provide the foundation for the next generation of riders. Where once we were proud to see one or two Scots competing on the international stage, we now celebrate nearly a dozen or more who consistently perform at the highest level. The achievements of our young cyclists, both at home and abroad, are a source of immense pride and inspiration.

Who would have imagined that the Tour de France would one day begin in Scotland? Yet, in just two years, we will again have the privilege of welcoming the cycling world to our country.

Oscar Onley, finishing fourth in the Tour, the young Erin Boothman winning three world titles, plus a world record, and Charlie Aldridge winning a MTB World Cup. On the home front, at the British Road Race Championships, Callum Thornley won the U23 TT, and Kate Richardson and Cam Mason claimed the National Criterium Championships. Grant Ferguson, representing Shetland, revisited the top podium step again in his career at the Island Games in Orkney. Congratulations to all of the Scots bringing home lots of medals from the Roubaix Master World Championships!

Considering the energy, determination, and talent of our young riders (and the Masters), I am confident that the future of Scottish cycling is brighter than ever.

### **John Watt, Scottish Cycling Chair**

Last year I began my comments by thanking Kathy Gilchrist as she came to the end of her term as President of Scottish Cycling. Kathy being Kathy has continued to support us as one of the leading trustees of the Scottish Cycling Charitable Foundation that has been established to support the objectives of Scottish Cycling and, by the time of reading this, will have held its first annual dinner. We hope the Foundation will grow its funding to support the work we do and look forward to working with Kathy and her co-trustees to facilitate this.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank Paula Ward, one of our appointed board members, who stepped down from her role on the board last year due to work pressures. Paula made a significant contribution to the board discussions given her work on cycling infrastructure and economic development in the south of Scotland.

With Kathy stepping down as President nominations were sought for a new President and it was good to have Sandy Gilchrist, a former multiple Scottish national champion, be elected as President. He brings invaluable experience of, and enthusiasm for, cycle racing across multiple disciplines. He has already attended multiple events across the country and I am sure will continue to do so.

With the departures of Kathy and Paula we took the decision to go out by advertisement for new board members and had a very gratifying response with some 35 expressions of interest. In considering these responses we were conscious of the skills we required on the board as well as individuals' exposure to cycling in Scotland and the insights they could bring. We all agreed on two excellent candidates and I am delighted that Diane Cooper and Michelle Borland have joined the board, and in the short time since they joined both have made significant contributions. Diane has also taken a role as trustee of the Scottish Cycling Charitable Foundation and Michelle will chair our newly formed Women and Girls group that will be focused on delivering our strategy and action plan.

The big announcement this year was that the Tour de France Grand Depart will be in Edinburgh in July 2027. Clearly this is a significant opportunity for us to promote cycling activity in Scotland. We will be working with Scottish Government and British Cycling on a social impact programme that will start before the Tour and continue afterwards. We will be looking to work with our clubs and local authorities to deliver some exciting opportunities for the public to embrace the joy of cycling.

This year we held our first commercial event jointly with British Cycling. The event was sponsored by Brodies LLP and Livingston James and my thanks to them for that support and the work put in by their teams to deliver a very enjoyable evening. The event was attended by 90 representatives of various commercial organisations. Aside from presentations by Jon Dutton from British Cycling and our own Nick Rennie the highlight was a Q&A session with Katie Archibald MBE and Stephen Park CBE, Performance Director of British Cycling. We intend to run more of these sessions with the aim of securing more commercial revenue to support our activities and those of the Foundation.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the effort put in by those who work for and with Scottish Cycling, from the volunteers at clubs and events, commissaires, staff team and board members; it is clear how much effort and enthusiasm is committed to deliver for the sport. My thanks to all.

### **Nick Rennie, Scottish Cycling Chief Executive**

It is with great pride that we present the Annual Report for 2024–25, a year marked by significant progress and exciting developments for cycling in Scotland.

Across the country, we've seen encouraging growth in club membership, event participation, and the development of new cycling facilities. This momentum is a testament to the passion, commitment and resilience of our cycling community, especially in a challenging climate shaped by rising costs and evolving governance requirements. We remain dedicated to supporting our clubs and event organisers through these changes, including navigating the complexities of new PVG legislation for volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults.

Our ambitions for women & girls in cycling continue to drive us forward. While we acknowledge we haven't yet reached the high standards we've set, we've made meaningful

strides through increased investment for clubs and the establishment of a dedicated Women & Girls Board Sub-Committee. This renewed focus will help us build a more inclusive and equitable future for our sport.

Scottish riders continue to shine on the global stage, laying the groundwork for landmark events ahead, most notably Glasgow 2026 and the Tour de France Grand Départ in Edinburgh in 2027. This historic announcement marks the first time the world's biggest bike race will begin in Scotland, and we are working closely with the Scottish Government and British Cycling to ensure it leaves a lasting impact.

We've also made strong progress on our business plan targets, enhancing our financial stability and strengthening partnerships with **sportscotland**, the Scottish Government, British Cycling, Transport Scotland, and Regional Transport Partnerships. A highlight of the year was hosting our first Parliamentary reception in January, which saw an excellent turnout from ministers, MSPs, and key partners. We continue to explore the opportunities for increased partnerships with commercial organisations and successfully held a business event in April and are planning to repeat this type of event in the run up to Glasgow 2026 and the Tour de France Grand depart.

At the heart of everything we do are the thousands of volunteers whose dedication keeps cycle sport thriving. We extend our deepest thanks to each of you and look forward to continuing our collaboration to grow and develop cycling in Scotland.

## **Performance**

### **International Success**

The period from 1st October 2024 to 30 September 2025 has once again seen Scottish riders reach new heights, with our established stars breaking new ground, and a number of our developing riders stepping up a level.

Given the significant public interest this summer, it would be remiss not to start with Oscar Onley's record equalling fourth place finish at the Tour de France – equalling the effort of Pippa York (then Robert Millar) at the 1984 TdF. This was a significant step forward in Oscar's career, and at just 22 years of age, the future is very bright. 2025 also saw further General Classification top 10s at the Tour de Suisse (3<sup>rd</sup>), where he also won a stage, Tour Down Under and Tour of Britain (4<sup>th</sup>), UAE Tour (5<sup>th</sup>) and Tour of the Basque Country (9<sup>th</sup>). Oscar was supported by teammate Sean Flynn at the TdF making it two Scots at the biggest bike race on the planet, which bodes well ahead of Edinburgh's Grand Depart in two years.

Oscar would go on to ride the UCI Road World Championships, one of five Scots on the British team, which we believe to be a new high. Callum Thornley and Erin Boothman produced the standout results with 5<sup>th</sup> place apiece in the U23 and Junior Time Trials respectively, whilst Arabella Blackburn and Eilidh Shaw played key support roles in the road races.

Thornley would enjoy a remarkably consistent season, which included third in the TT at the Giro d'Italia Next Gen, and victory at the U23 Il Lombardia – his efforts would earn him promotion to the World Tour for 2026. Joining him at this level are Boothman, who will ride for Liv Alula Jayco (via a year on their development team) and Lauren Dickson, who impressed on her full debut international season with Handsling Alba with victory at the Lincoln Grand Prix, second at Pointe du Raz Ladies Classic and sixth on GC at the Tour of Norway; she'll ride for world number one team FDJ-Suez.

At home there were road successes including Cameron Mason and Kate Richardson's British Criterium Championship wins, a memorable night in Wales, whilst Thornley would win the U23 TT and come second in the road race, with Elliot Rowe joining him on the TT podium. Finally, special mention to Melanie Rowe who won bronze at the European Youth Olympic Festival.

On the Mountain Bike, Charlie Aldridge produced best-ever results for himself and Scotland on the UCI World Cup stage, winning the XCC in Haute Savoie and the XCO at the final round in Mont-Sainte-Anne. He enjoyed multiple other visits to the podium in both disciplines across the season as he established himself as one of the world's best; second at the European Championships and a British double completed his season. Notable mention to Isla Short too who enjoyed a return to her very best level, a maiden British title and seventh at Leogang the highlights. As well as that duo, Corran Carrick-Anderson and Freya Mowbray also earned World Championship selection.

On the Downhill bikes, Louise-Anna Ferguson become the first female in history to complete a Red Bull Hardline final run; it was great season for her that included the British title at Fort William, World Cup top 10s and 13<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships. Phoebe Gale would take 11<sup>th</sup> at the Worlds, with Mikayla Parton 18<sup>th</sup> and Emily Carrick Anderson 25<sup>th</sup> on debut. Heather Wilson and Megan Horne were 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Women's race, with Stan Nisbet 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Junior Men.

In Enduro, Ella Connolly would take the overall World Cup crown after winning three rounds in a sensational breakthrough year. She would also take second at the World Championships, as well as taking the British title.

Sticking with the muddy disciplines, Cameron Mason defended his British CX title once again, a fifth place at the Hulst World Cup his top result on the continent. There was success for our young BMX racers too, notably Eilidh Watson taking the U15 Female British title, and Ruby Warren taking the U13 Female British Series crown.

On the track it has been a slightly quieter year post Paris, with the World Championships not coming until October in South America. That being said, Erin Boothman and Arabella Blackburn became World Junior Champions in the Team Pursuit, with Boothman adding the Madison to her ever growing palmares. At the European equivalent that duo would win the TP again, this time in a world record; Boothman would add a second record to win the Kilo, as well as the Madison, whilst Blackburn would bag bronze in the IP. At U23 level Iona Moir underlined her rising trajectory with gold in the Sprint and Team Sprint, as well as third in the Keirin, whilst Elliot Rowe took TP gold and bronze in the Points race.

On to the senior European Championship, where GB sent a development team with one eye on LA 2028, it was Michael Gill who made the most of the opportunity with silver in the Team Pursuit and bronze in the Individual Pursuit. Lauren Bell bounced back to her best with silver in the Team Sprint, whilst Neah Evans was part of the bronze medal winning TP squad.

Last but certainly not least, our para-cyclists continue to do us proud – Fin Graham took his third consecutive C3 road world title in Belgium, a monumental achievement. Fin backed that up with bronze in the time trial, whilst Jenny Holl and stoker Sophie Unwin would win bronze and silver in those two disciplines.

Closer to home, the aforementioned duo would take the British road title, with Graham taking that and the TT, whilst newcomer Calum Deboys would impress with silver in the C2 TT. Deboys started his year with a trio of medals at the British Para-Track Champs, where Holl would also win a trio – all gold – and Graham would take the IP title.

## **Pathway**

Scottish riders' success is not possible without a well-functioning Scottish Cycling pathway. The support of the Scottish Cycling clubs, coaches, and wider community is crucial to the success of our pathway, so a big thank you to everyone who plays their part.

The cornerstone of our pathway is the RACE programme, as well as additional opportunities via cluster sessions for younger riders. The RACE programme has been successful delivered across Track Sprint, Track Endurance, MTB XC, BMX SX, Cyclocross & BMX Freestyle this year, with additional gateway opportunities created through bespoke programmes such as Girls Aloud & Sprint Start. Gie It A Go, our new grassroots racing opportunity has also been a real success story this year, with the return of dirt crits at Glentress among the highlights.

Fundamentally though our pathway is built on the work clubs do on weekly basis. Ongoing work at weekly clusters held at West Lothian Cycle Circuit, SCHV, Fife Cycle Park and soon to be Clyde Cycle Park are vital and provide the necessary stepping stone. There is also growing support provided by race teams - Alba Road Team, SORT, Solas, West Lothian Race Team, Vanelli-Project Go and soon the return of Spokes Race Team.

As we all know, the financial climate remains challenging for a lot of people, and both ourselves and our riders are extremely grateful to be backed by families, clubs and external

supporters such as the Braveheart Fund, the Commonwealth Games Scotland Youth Trust, Winning Students, Sports Aid among others.

Finally, it was fantastic to see Johnstone Jets once again hosting the British Cycling Youth Track Inter Regional Championships, where Scotland finished third on home boards.

## Coaching

The British Cycling Coaching Framework has continued to see increased roll out across Scotland over the last year with 31 courses successfully delivered in the last 12 months featuring 222 learners, 22% up on last year. The base level "Introduction to Coaching" courses have engaged 195 new coaches in their first step on the coaching journey across all 7 disciplines which the framework covers.

2025 has also seen the subsequent course level of the framework, Coaching in Context, delivered for the first time in Scotland with 12 learners in the MTB XC discipline taking that next step. With further Coaching in Context courses in both the Cyclocross & Track disciplines already underway and due for completion in late 2025, and courses in MTB Gravity, Road, BMX Freestyle, BMX Race & Cycle Speedway in development for 2026 it is an exciting time for coach education.

Much of the above learning has been supported through the coaching subsidy that has been developed in partnership with **sportscotland**. 125 coaches and leaders from rural, SIMD, disability, young and female demographic groups have benefitted from significantly lower course costs over this past year as we continue to promote diversity in the coaching workforce in Scotland.

Our coach CPD offering has also continued to grow over the past 12 months with significant numbers of coaches engaging in our face-to-face masterclasses and expert led online webinars. Particularly pleasing in our push to better support young female riders is the engagement of more than 50 coaches, male and female, in the Supporting Female Riders sessions that have been facilitated by Shani Davidov.

The first iteration of the Scottish cycling VERTICAL coach development programme reached its conclusion in the autumn of 2025 with coaches reporting at the wrap up session that the opportunities that they received through the CPD programme have increased their competence, confidence & connection in their coaching. Encouragingly, coaches also reported that their development has constructively impacted on other areas of their lives, a testament to the value of sport and the positive impact of coaching on not just riders but also the coach themselves. The Vertical cohort identified that the most valued of the CPD offerings were the technical/tactical masterclasses and the facilitation of a community of practice with many coaches expressing a desire for those offerings to continue.

As we digest the learnings from the first iteration of the programme we are also launching Vertical 2.0. This second edition of targeted coach development will specifically focus on two of the major demographics where coaching subsidy is distributed - young coaches and female coaches. Launched in mid-September 2025 and due to start in late October, there has been a fantastic response with 18 young coaches aged 14 to 25 coming forward to note interest in the programme, which will conclude at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games where young coaches have been identified as a legacy pillar for the Games.

Within the 18, there are an encouraging 9 male and 9 female coaches, from across multiple cycling disciplines, which we believe will allow us to facilitate communities of young coaches who can share with, challenge and support each other as they develop their craft.



## **Club Development**

Clubs are at the heart of our sport and everything we do, and we continue to be grateful for the commitment and dedication of all those who volunteer their time in a variety of different roles to make the sport happen locally. Our approach to supporting clubs ensures that everyone has an identified point of contact in Scottish Cycling, and this year, as we refreshed our staffing structure, we hope that you have felt the benefit of this. For those clubs who we work more closely with, our Aspire programme gives us the opportunity to target our support on key areas that can benefit your club's development. In the last year, we've worked closely with 41 clubs, providing targeted support to meet their needs.

In September 2025, we launched the redesigned Scottish Cycling Future Leaders Programme, welcoming our latest cohort. The programme was refreshed following feedback from current and former members of the Young People's Panel, with a renewed emphasis on equipping young people across our community with leadership skills and providing support in areas aligned to their passions and aspirations.

While retaining core elements that have been consistently well received—such as the opportunity to achieve SCQF Level 5 qualifications, training in survey design and delivery, volunteering experience, and participation on Scottish Cycling committees - the programme also introduced several new components designed to further enhance personal and professional development. These include access to external mentors, sessions on creating safe and inclusive environments for new cyclists, and dedicated discussions on mental health and wellbeing.

The annual residential event in Aviemore brought together all 12 Future Leaders for an intensive programme focused on developing a deeper understanding of the cycling landscape in Scotland. During the residential, participants set individual goals for the next two years, reflected on their personal strengths and areas for growth, and identified strategies for development with support from Scottish Cycling staff and mentors.

The Mini Riders programme has continued to build momentum over the past year, demonstrating significant growth in both reach and impact. Over the last 12 months, partnership agreements were established with nine organisations, enabling delivery across clubs, Active Schools, and Local Authority development settings. Importantly, several of these Local Authority partnerships include pathways into local cycling clubs, ensuring participants are supported to continue their cycling journey beyond the programme.

This year also marked an expansion into the Higher Education sector, through a new partnership with Heriot-Watt University. As part of the University's student wellbeing programme, Scottish Cycling is supporting the delivery of Cycling Confidence sessions, broadening the reach of Mini Riders into new environments.

The programme's expansion is reflected in participation and workforce development figures. In 2024/25, Mini Riders recorded 2,042 session attendances and trained 26 deliverers. Already, in the current calendar year (2025/26), the programme has surpassed those numbers, with 2,374 attendances and 21 additional coaches trained.

Alongside delivery, significant progress has been made in developing new resources to enhance programme quality and sustainability. A key development is the creation of an online training course, hosted on Brightspace, designed to provide deliverers with flexible, self-paced learning. The course will feature interactive modules to consolidate learning, supported by a suite of on-demand videos to assist deliverers in preparing and running engaging sessions.



We continued to strengthen and expand our club network by supporting new groups through the affiliation process, offering guidance and advice at each stage. It has been highly encouraging to see such strong interest nationwide, with new clubs emerging in the Highlands to the Borders. Our focused efforts to develop areas previously without affiliated clubs have resulted in new affiliations in Newton Mearns, Barrhead, Inverness, and Aberdeen, while existing clubs in Oban have expanded their provision by introducing youth sections. Our New Clubs Plan is targeting 23 clubs by 2027 – we have affiliated 11 new clubs at the halfway stage.

Alongside this progress, we successfully launched our School Club Network initiative. This programme is designed to support schools in developing their cycling provision, enabling them to access funding, enhance opportunities for both staff and pupils, and contribute to building a wider, more engaged community of regular cyclists across the country. Looking ahead, our ambition is to grow the School Club Network into a nationwide offering that strengthens the pathway from school to community clubs, fosters long-term participation in cycling, and creates sustainable opportunities for young people to discover and enjoy the sport.

In early 2025, we launched the Grassroots Racing Support Package, designed to empower clubs and community organisations to deliver accessible racing opportunities across Closed Circuit (Crit), Dirt Crits, and Pump Track disciplines. The package included two fully funded Introduction to Coaching qualifications, alongside staff support to assist with the delivery of initial grassroots events. To date, the programme has attracted over 1,500 total entries from more than 500 unique participants across grassroots events nationwide. The response has been highly encouraging and it has been particularly rewarding to see new events emerging in areas that have not previously offered opportunities in certain cycling disciplines.

British Cycling's Limitless programme marked its second anniversary in February 2024 and continues to grow across Scotland. To address gaps in rider pathways, access to equipment, and volunteer support, a Scottish Development Group (SDG) is being established with representation from engaged clubs. The SDG will receive joint funding from Limitless and Scottish Cycling to support its set up and ongoing work. A key milestone this year was Scotland hosting a round of the Lloyds National Disability and Para-cycling Road Series for the first time, with Fife Cycle Park welcoming riders on 9–10 August. The weekend featured racing open to Trikes, Handcycles, Tandems, and C1–5 riders, as well as a familiarisation session to help participants prepare.

The Bike and Blether programme continued to grow in 2024/25, with a new cohort of Mental Wellbeing Champions from across Scotland completing their training in partnership with Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) in April 2025. These Champions are now running inclusive rides that help reduce stigma and support mental health. Building on this success, we are now looking to expand the programme further by integrating it into our Rock Up and Ride initiative, broadening its reach to even more communities across Scotland.

Regional Development Groups (RDGs) continue to play a vital role in strengthening local collaboration and supporting the growth of cycling events across Scotland. The North-East Grampian and North groups remain active, with strong local leadership driving progress. This has included the formation of a new off-road subgroup in the North and a volunteer passport being trialled among Grampian clubs to incentivise and encourage volunteering at regional events. More recently, a new RDG was successfully launched in Tayside & Fife, building on the momentum from other regions and further expanding the network of support for clubs and volunteers at a local level.

## **Events**

As we reach the halfway point of our domestic events strategy, we have continued to develop processes to strengthen our working relationships with event organisers, officials, clubs & associations, to help develop a healthy calendar of events in Scotland.

There has been a renewed focus on developing the volunteer workforce, with the delivery of a dedicated officials conference and CPD opportunities, and increased support for officials looking to qualify or upgrade.

The number of entrants across events continues to rise, nearing 2019 numbers. The number of events on the calendar has also risen, but remains lower than pre-Covid levels, meaning there are more entries per event.

In BMX the highlight was the double header rounds of the British Series at Cumbernauld, attracting over 800 competitors across the weekend. The number of entries in the discipline has remained consistent with 2024.

In Cyclo-Cross, there was no British National series event in Scotland last year, and consequently total entries dropped, however, participation in Scottish National, regional and local events remains healthy. 2025/2026 season will see two British CX events in Scotland held for the first time, with Irvine Beach making a welcome return for the first time since the pandemic.

In Closed Circuit, Road and Time Trial, number of entries continues to increase, by 27% in the Female categories and 13% in Open categories on last year. The West Lothian Cycle Circuit Association has developed the midweek racing offer and continues to grow. Gifford Road Race stood out in attracting a strong Female field through a number of initiatives, but female participation continues to fluctuate significantly between events.

Within Mountain Bike, the SDA continue to deliver high-quality sell out events, including the British Championships at Fort William for the first time in 20 years. Despite no World Series event in Scotland, there have been a number of local mini-DH opportunities providing a pathway into the discipline. In MTB XC, entries grew significantly this year thanks to a strong SXC series and the development of grassroots opportunities in Glentress. This year saw the launch of the Scottish Enduro Association, supported by DMBinS and Scottish Cycling, to deliver a four round series, run under British Cycling regulations for the first time. One of these rounds doubled up as the first officially sanctioned Scottish National Championships, which was also the case for Gravel in 2025.

Track again saw an increase in participation numbers, showing the most sustained growth amongst the disciplines, with a strong Track League community and youth focused Monsters of Track events key factors.

Scottish Cycling delivered the 2025 Youth Tour of Scotland in a new, more sustainable format, the event also part of the British Youth Circuit Series for the first time. A stage in Perth City Centre raised the profile of the event and showcased the sport to a new audience.

Finally, Orkney played host to the 2025 International Island Games, the largest multi-sport event in Europe this year, with Orkney Cycling Club delivering five fantastic days of MTB and Road competition with Scottish Cycling's support.

All told, the last 12 months has seen 19 Scottish Championships take place, crowning 199 champions, two British National Championships in Scotland and nine British Series round.

## **Participation**

### **Women and Girls**

In October 2024 we launched our first Women & Girls Strategy, aimed at driving a step change in female participation, above and beyond the slow but steady growth that has been made over the previous few years. Steady progress is being made toward the commitments and outcomes outlined in the strategy, with some highlights including:

- Delivery of a coaching CPD course titled Supporting Female Riders to more than 50 coaches, which aimed to give coaches of all genders practical advice on how to make their sessions more inclusive and appealing to females
- Significant take-up of female subsidies for coaching and mountain bike leadership, with 52 new coaching/leading qualifications completed by women this year
- Testing the innovative pilot project titled Rhythm in Motion, which introduced young dancers to cycling in an environment they're comfortable in. This project spanned a number of partners including KIC Dance Company, Glasgow Caledonia University, Scamp & Dude and Mackie's
- Investment into seven clubs to help grow female membership through tailored programmes. These included Movement Park's Biker Girls sessions for P5–7 girls, Havelo's women's coaching sessions, Edinburgh RC's schools outreach, and Peebles Cycling Club's girls' mountain biking sessions. These projects show how clubs are working to grow female membership by creating welcoming cycling opportunities for women and girls across Scotland
- BlogHer is a monthly article, promoting women and girls in cycling from a diverse range of disciplines and roles within the sport. The Scottish Cycling website and social media channels regularly showcase female-focused content, celebrating and inspiring female engagement

The long-standing Breeze programme of guided rides for women continues to get women on bikes, with 709 rides taking place across 22 local authority areas this year. 96 dedicated volunteers led rides that attracted 2,528 attendances, whilst two recent training courses in Glasgow and Edinburgh have welcomed 11 new Breeze Champions. Encouragingly, three younger volunteers, all under 35, joined the team, helping to broaden the programmes age profile.

In collaboration with Club Development, efforts have been made to strengthen links between Breeze and local cycling clubs, aiming to create a clearer pathway from recreational riding to club membership. This work will continue, and female club members and volunteers are encouraged to consider becoming Breeze Champions to help further our goal of stronger connections between Breeze and local clubs.

Scottish Cycling played an active role in the new volunteer-led initiative She Pedals Scotland, providing guidance, support, and funding to help deliver the event. The aim was to unite the female cycling community through a day of celebration, encouraging every woman and girl to ride their bike – of any type and for any distance – and to join in the festivities on social media.

Cycling clubs, Breeze groups, cycling facilities, and other organisations supported the initiative by offering rides and activities, creating opportunities across Scotland for women and girls to participate. In total, 602 women and girls registered their intention to ride on 14th

June. When the weather threatened to disrupt plans, the event was extended across the weekend, and social media buzzed with stories and images from rides and activities across the country. Plans are already underway for an even bigger and brighter event in 2026, and Scottish Cycling will continue to provide its support.

## **Rock Up and Ride**

Scottish Cycling's Rock Up & Ride programme continues to reduce barriers to cycling for people of all ages, particularly from disadvantaged, underrepresented and marginalised groups. The programme provides access to bikes and supports people to develop their skills, confidence and enjoyment of cycling.

From October 2024 to March 2025, Rock Up & Ride was mainly funded through Transport Scotland's People and Place programme. Funding was administered locally by the seven Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs). Scottish Cycling secured funding from three RTPs: SPT (Strathclyde region), SWestrans (Dumfries & Galloway region) and ZetTrans (Shetland Islands). Additional funding from the Paths for All Community Project Transfer Fund supported ongoing work with established partners Sport Aberdeen and Ythan Cycling Club.

During this period the programme operated through three strands. The Children's strand used a bike gifting model, reaching 498 school-aged children through 10 cycling clubs and groups. For the first time, Rock Up & Ride was delivered in Shetland, adapted to meet the islands' unique needs. The Communities strand used a bike library model focused on participation opportunities, partnering with nine community groups to deliver 1,290 participation opportunities from Aberdeenshire to the Scottish Borders. An Adaptive Bike Library model was delivered with Ythan, providing 92 inclusive participation opportunities.

For FY2025/26, Scottish Cycling has secured continued funding from SPT, ZetTrans, NEstrans (North East) and SEStran (South East). To align with Transport Scotland's updated People and Place priorities, which now fully funds Rock Up & Ride, the programme has consolidated into two strands. The Young People strand aligns with the Active Schools theme, focusing on school-based interventions and active travel for young people and families. The Inclusive Communities strand aligns with the Accessibility and Inclusion theme, providing greater opportunities for underrepresented groups who may not normally cycle.

Both strands now prioritise reaching as many people as possible while ensuring value for money for our funders. Bike gifting remains an option but is now considered on a case-by-case basis. So far in FY2025/26, the Young People programme strand has partnered with seven delivery providers delivering almost 800 participation opportunities, and the Inclusive Communities programme strand has fully partnered with six diverse community groups plus several other partners with a lower level of support and funding, collectively providing over 1200 participation opportunities in the period.

Monitoring and evaluation remains a high priority for Transport Scotland, the RTPs and Scottish Cycling. We continue to partner with the Active Mobility Hub at Strathclyde University to provide independent evaluation. In FY2024/25, 44% of participants were women and girls, and 35% identified as members of a marginalised ethnic group.

As we move into a Scottish Parliamentary election year, Scottish Cycling will continue working closely with the seven RTPs to plan for the next financial year and beyond. Our aim is to sustain and expand the Rock Up & Ride programme so more people can access cycling opportunities across Scotland.

## Facilities

As we enter the fifth year of the Cycling Facilities Fund, the impact of the fund continues to be felt right across Scotland. With our partners **sportscotland**, we committed £1,627,298 in the last year, which has resulted in an investment of £9.5 million into the purpose-built cycling facilities across Scotland in the last 12 months alone.

The biggest project which has begun construction in the last 12 months is Phase 2 of Clyde Cycle Park. A strategic priority for us since the start of the fund, the project will result in the first closed road cycle circuit in the West of Scotland. A fully floodlit and raceable 1km circuit that will have wide-reaching impacts for the cycling community – from club coaching sessions to clusters, grassroots events to national series and a plethora of participation programmes. We're excited to work in partnership with Clyde Cycle Park to unlock the full potential of the site over the coming months and years.

Providing a home for clubs is a key outcome of the fund, and this year we committed £121,618 to Borders Raiders Cycle Speedway club, giving them a competition standard track in Tweedbank that'll elevate their ability to host events and run their regular club sessions.

Pump Tracks have become synonymous with local parks and community spaces, and this year we approved applications for new Pump Tracks in Irvine and Overlee, and supported existing projects in Dalbeattie, Dalgety Bay, Stow and Walkerburn to get over the line.

We've also supported a community project in Dingwall, to develop a new 500m black trail at Knockbain, a site which continues to grow in popularity.

To date, £7 million of funding has been allocated to 48 different facilities, which has unlocked in excess of £23 million when match funding is considered.

A number of projects have also been completed in the last 12 months and are now open for local communities to enjoy, taking the total number of projects completed to 33. These include:

- Auchterarder (Pump Track)
- Clackmannan (Pump Track)
- Comrie Croft (Pump Track, Skills Area and All-Ability Trail)
- Dunbar (Pump Track)
- East End Community Campus, Dundee (Pump Track)
- North Berwick (Pump Track)
- Stow (Pump Track)

## **Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland**

Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS) continues to act as the voice of the Scottish mountain biking community — co-ordinating, influencing and driving forward the strategic vision for the sport and activity across the nation. Working with the Scottish MTB Consortium, whose members include the Scottish Government, Forestry and Land Scotland, tourism and enterprise agencies, and all the national cycling organisations, DMBinS has led delivery of the Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2023–2025.

Through partnership, national coordination, and on-the-ground delivery, DMBinS continues to strengthen Scotland's reputation as a world-class mountain biking nation — delivering economic, health, environmental, transport, and community benefits through mountain biking.

### **National Co-ordination**

Over the last year DMBinS has worked closely with members of the MTB Consortium to begin the process of refreshing the Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2026–2036. This next ten-year strategy will provide a long-term vision for the sustainable growth of mountain biking in Scotland and ensure the country continues to lead the way in innovation, participation, and community development.

The Fresh Cuts programme, delivered with £70,000 of funding from Screen Scotland, proved a huge success. The training programme was led by renowned Scottish content creators Cut Media, with seven emerging filmmakers trained to create exciting content that captured the vibrancy of Scottish mountain biking. The new films and supporting social media campaigns were launched over 2025, with one film selected to appear at the prestigious Kendal Mountain Film Festival. Due to its success, further funding has been secured to run the programme again in 2026.

A Pump Track Interactive Map was launched to wide approval, providing the first comprehensive national map of all pump tracks across Scotland. The launch coincided with the release of Urban Delights, a film by Aimi Kenyon from the Fresh Cuts programme, celebrating the role of pump tracks in creating fun, accessible cycling spaces within communities.

National campaigns have continued to play an important role in engaging riders and land managers, including the publication of new E-Bike Guidance, ongoing promotion of #ThinkWinter, and support for the pan-European Take Care of Your Trails campaign.

The Scottish MTB Conference 2024, themed Think Global, Act Local, was held in the Scottish Borders and proved a major success — bringing together political leaders, businesses, and community organisations to explore how mountain biking can deliver local benefits while enhancing Scotland's global profile. The conference was made possible through the support of partners including the Scottish Borders Council and the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

DMBinS continues to work closely with the Scottish Cycling Foundation (SCF). The Scottish Trail Fund launched a new fundraising initiative this year, with Trek donating a bike for raffle and pledging to match the total community contribution up to £5,000. The Scottish MTB Health Fund has also grown significantly, receiving several large donations that have enabled new programmes to be launched, including the Adaptive MTB Foundations Programme (see Health section).

Political engagement has been a central strand of DMBinS's work. The team continues to influence and advocate for strategic, sustainable development of mountain biking at the highest levels of government — welcoming Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, to open the 2024 conference and co-hosting a Parliamentary Reception with Maree Todd, Minister for Public Health and Sport, and Maree joined us again at Glentress in June to celebrate the announcement of a new funding settlement from the Scottish Government for DMBinS's core operations.

This new Core Funding model represents a significant milestone — with five Scottish Government departments coming together to jointly fund the DMBinS core staff team, ensuring long-term stability and national co-ordination.

DMBinS has also established a new strategic partnership with the Bicycle Association of Great Britain (BA). This partnership will support the formation of a dedicated mountain bike industry sub-group, provide opportunities for DMBinS regional teams in Aberdeenshire and the Scottish Borders to engage directly with local bike shops, and ensure that the industry's perspective is represented within the MTB Consortium.

## **Trails**

At the grassroots level, DMBinS has continued to support a wide range of local trail and facility developments. Over the past year, the DMBinS staff team has supported new projects launched in Inverness, Peterhead, Auchterarder, Dundee, Grantown, Comrie Croft, and Alford. Support is ongoing for projects currently progressing towards launch in Dalbeattie, Balloch, Orkney, Menstrie, Oban, and two separate developments in Aberfoyle. To help community and volunteer trail groups manage risk more effectively, DMBinS developed new risk management documentation designed to help reduce insurance costs for trail associations and project groups.

At a strategic level, DMBinS continues to support the preparation of business cases and funding profiles for major destination projects, including new or redeveloped strategic facilities in the 7stanes (Dalbeattie and Newcastleton), Aberdeenshire, Highlands, Perthshire, the Tweed Valley, and the West of Scotland.

Trail Associations remain central to maintaining and developing Scotland's trail network. DMBinS has provided more consistent support through regular online meetings and the creation of a new Trail Management Guidance suite, which includes practical advice on Community Asset Transfers, Permits and Licences, and Sustainable Trail Plans (STPs). The section on STPs has been developed from the early-stage investigations and partner engagement via NEAT in Aberdeenshire has contributed to new guidance which will be formally launched at the Scottish MTB Gathering 2025.

A total of 33 learners have successfully completed the DIRT Volunteer Trail Dig Leader course, equipping them with the essential skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead safe, effective, and sustainable trail maintenance and building sessions within their communities. Graduates are now contributing to improved trail quality, better safety standards, and enhanced collaboration between land managers, clubs, and local trail associations. Beyond the practical skills, the course has also fostered a sense of ownership and stewardship, ensuring that Scotland's trail network continues to be maintained and developed responsibly for future generations of riders.

An innovative pilot project in the Scottish Borders has demonstrated how mountain biking can re-engage young people who have become disengaged from education. Working with Peebles High School, the DMBinS Regional and Trail Co-ordinators supported a trail



maintenance training programme that helped transform attendance — with some participants moving from 0% to 100% school attendance.

The Borders MTB Trail Co-ordinator has also played a pivotal role in liaising between Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and the Tweed Valley Trails Association, ensuring that forest leisure access was maintained during significant forestry operations. FLS deserve recognition for their outstanding commitment to keeping trail riding areas open despite the operational and financial challenges involved, not only protecting trails but also supporting the trails association with reopening trails through chainsaw work. In addition, through working with FLS, permission was obtained by the TVTA to put in a new 500m section of trail to retire a non-sustainable section.

At a UK level, the UK Trails Project continues to deliver transformative progress. Over the past year:

- Two groups in Wales secured the first-ever permissions for Trail Associations to work with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), alongside a new strategic agreement between NRW and Welsh Cycling.
- In Northern Ireland, collaboration with Outscape, Cycling Ulster, and Cycling Ireland led to the formation of five new community trail groups following successful pilot training sessions.
- A pilot club-based trail development model was tested in the Malverns, involving former world champion Tracy Moseley, local land managers, and British Cycling.

## **Health**

The Adaptive MTB Foundations Programme has achieved major milestones this year. Six leaders successfully completed a redesigned Outdoor First Aid qualification, adapted to ensure wheelchair users could undertake CPR and emergency response tasks effectively. Two leaders attended a week-long advanced training course at Glenmore Lodge to build further confidence and experience, while six riders gained a new Off-Road Leader qualification delivered by Aneela McKenna in September. Three public taster sessions were organised (two completed — in Stirling and Fife — with around ten riders at each).

The Adaptive Riders Collective (ARC) has procured two Ice-Trikes, and secured a new operational base at Wheelz of Callander, providing a hub for future programme delivery. The programme was also accepted to present its progress at the IMBA Europe Summit in Spain, helping to profile Scotland's leadership in adaptive mountain biking. A direct outcome is a coordinated, Europe wide approach to explore the potentials of a better coordinated effort.

The Trail Therapy programme continues to expand nationally, with over 80 sessions delivered across Scotland in 2025. A major new £90,000 Trail Therapy Hub was launched in the Scottish Borders, supported by Outride, who provided both funding and bikes. DMBinS supported the establishment of a new charity to deliver ongoing sessions from the hub, including partnerships with the NHS and new initiatives targeting women over 55, which saw over 15 participants join in the first week. An MRes student from Edinburgh Napier University is supporting evaluation and impact analysis of the programme.

In MTB Leadership, a new naming structure was introduced to simplify and better promote the awards, with a phased rollout during the first half of 2025. DMBinS worked with tutors to adapt to new contractual arrangements under British Cycling, and to streamline the Night Leader award into a single-day course and assessment. Work has also begun on a new Remote Award, which will launch alongside a Fresh Cuts film in 2026.

The Rider2Leader programme continues to empower women and girls to progress through leadership training. During 2025, three cohorts (Comrie Croft, Glenmore Lodge, and a 'Step It Up' group for advanced leaders) successfully completed their courses, supporting 17 women to achieve new qualifications and develop as role models for future riders.

## **Destinations & Innovation**

Enduro racing is a powerful platform to showcase Scotland's mountain biking destinations. DMBinS supported the creation of the Scottish Enduro Association (SEA), which held its first meeting in December 2024. With DMBinS's guidance, the SEA successfully launched a four-round Scottish Enduro Series in 2025, visiting the Tweed Valley, Highlands, Perthshire, and Dumfries & Galloway. Across the four rounds, 601 unique riders took part, and the series is already planning expansion in 2026.

The First Tracks business incubator — the UK's first dedicated entrepreneurship programme for cycling and outdoor businesses — was completed by 20 participants in 2025. The course, delivered by DMBinS with partners South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) and Bright Red Triangle (Edinburgh Napier University's enterprise hub), helped new and early-stage businesses develop innovative products and services. Plans are underway to run a second cohort in 2026.

DMBinS remains a founding partner in the MTB Innovation Centre, alongside the project leads, SOSE and Edinburgh Napier University. The centre has now received planning permission, with construction underway and completion expected in 2027. DMBinS has contributed to the design and operational planning of the building's innovation and enterprise spaces.

Two International Learning Journeys were hosted by DMBinS during 2025 — welcoming delegations from Norway and the Italian Dolomites. These visits strengthened international relationships and encouraged shared learning between world-class mountain biking destinations.

Marketing and media activity has continued to raise Scotland's global profile. DMBinS hosted several journalists during the Scottish MTB Conference, resulting in widespread coverage of the Tweed Valley's trail network. In partnership with North East Adventure Tourism (NEAT), we were able to deliver a promotional campaign across multiple formats and platforms featuring high-profile content creators BKXC and Singletrack Sampler. The partnership produced videos that have been viewed more than 300,000 times, while journalist Tim Wild's associated articles have appeared in a number of global outlets. Working with VisitScotland and NEAT, DMBinS also hosted two major German MTB magazines in the Tweed Valley and Aberdeenshire — with further extensive coverage; NEAT also played a role facilitating and supporting media projects from major brands such as Orbea, Shimano and Scott.

## **Funding**

DMBinS would like to thank the following funders for their support over the last year – the above would not be possible without them; Scottish Government Departments, **sportscotland**, Scottish Cycling, Scottish Borders Council and the UK Governments Shared Prosperity Fund, Opportunity North East, Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Cycling Foundation, Outride and SRAM. While it's not been possible to name everyone within this report, we want to recognise and thank the wide network of organisations, communities, and individuals who work alongside us to deliver and champion projects across the country.

## **Business Operations**

### **Finance**

The annual accounts to 31 March 2025 show a surplus of £99.8k (2024 was a deficit of £35k). Excluding the exceptional item (irrecoverable VAT written back) of £6.2k the results are slightly better than the Board's expectations for the year. The increased surplus has allowed Scottish Cycling to rebuild its reserves following last year's exceptional item of £79.4k for irrecoverable VAT.

Turnover increased again during the year to £3,421k (£3,295k – 2024) an increase of 3.82% as a result of additional grant funding for both existing and new projects. As a result of careful monitoring of costs, these increased by 2.54% to £3,352 (£3,269 – 2024) resulting in an overall surplus before exceptional items of £93.6k (£44.4k – 2024). Careful cash flow control allowed bank interest to increase from £23.1k to £30.3k over the year. With reserves of £422k Scottish Cycling is in a strong financial position.

The Board, Finance and Governance Committee and Senior Leadership Team continue to actively monitor income and expenditure to ensure Scottish Cycling is in the best possible financial position to meet the challenges it will face over the coming years. Scottish Cycling would like to express their gratitude to **sportscotland** for the current four year funding agreement that has provided additional resource to fund a number of key areas across the organisation including work to attract more women and girls into the sport and further improvements to the development pathway for attracting and growing new talent. In addition, the last year has seen a further growth in funding, via Regional Transport Partners, for the Rock Up & Ride programme that aims to work with underrepresented groups to get them interested in and taking part in cycling.

### **Staffing**

As part of the drive to attract and retain the best staff possible Scottish Cycling is constantly looking at ways to ensure it is a great place to work. Staff are encouraged to undertake CPD training appropriate to their roles with each department having an annual CPD budget. All staff have KPIs which align with their department's annual business objectives. These KPIs are reviewed each quarter as part of staff's one to ones with their line managers. The staff handbook and relevant policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they comply with current legislation and best practice. Employees also benefit from a range of additional benefits including a Cycle to Work Scheme, personal accident cover and an additional day of annual leave on their birthday.

### **Membership**

Scottish Cycling membership totalled 16,957 at the time of writing, which is made up of club members across Scotland and British Cycling members (without double counting). This is marginally down in the last year by 0.8% We have seen a 2.4% increase in declared club membership, which stands at 11,442; our target growth areas of females (3010) and U18s (2616) are up 4.2% and 4% respectively. In total there are 10,725 British Cycling members in Scotland, 5,210 of whom are club members. At the time of writing, with 2025 club affiliation underway, early signs are positive for club membership figures for the year ahead.

## **Communications and Marketing**

Our marketing and communications activity continues to improve year on year, with key metrics being a 146% increase in reach across our social channels, a 148% growth in web traffic and our newsletter maintaining an open rate of 56%, above industry average. We continue to push for improvements however, with new sections and functionality added to the website on a quarterly basis.

2024/25 has also seen us enhance our coverage of Scottish National Championships, including a live stream of the Scottish Track Championships in December, plus standout video highlights packages from our BMX, CX, Gravel, MTB and Road Championships. We have also produced significantly more video content than in any other year, providing our audience with better coverage of activity from all areas of the organisation.

Finally, a thank you to those who support our work, namely Andrew Leinster, Ben Fitzhugh, Brand Oath, Connor Macarthur, Euan Duff, Murdo MacGillivray and The Press Room.

## **Business Plan**

The Senior Leadership Team report progress to the Board on a quarterly basis against the 37 objectives set out in the Business Plan, to ensure appropriate progress is being made. In addition, we provide six-month updates to **sportscotland** on progress against their investment areas. At the end of the financial year, out of the 37 business objectives - 33 were met, three had been partially met with good progress and only one not met. For context, in the previous year from the 37 objectives - 26 were met, 10 partial and one not met.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

In May, following extensive work by a small working group of staff and Board, Scottish Cycling presented its initial submission to the **sportscotland** Moving to Inclusion programme and look forward to working through the programme once it launches.

## **Safeguarding**

All clubs affiliated to Scottish Cycling continue to be fully compliant with our minimum operating standards in relation to safeguarding. With the launch of our new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, JustGo, clubs are now able to monitor their compliance in real time to ensure they continue to remain fully compliant. During the year, delivery of **sportscotland**'s Child Wellbeing & Protection courses continued online, allowing for a range of volunteers to meet their training requirements. In addition to the relevant volunteers, all Scottish Cycling staff and Board members must undergo CWPS training to ensure they have basic knowledge of safeguarding.

## **Commercial**

Through a Commercial Agreement, Scottish Cycling continues to aggregate the majority of our rights with British Cycling and Welsh Cycling, on the basis that the whole is greater than the sum of our parts. We do however have flexibility to attract partners, predominantly local to Scotland, in certain categories.

We are delighted to continue our long-term partnership with Digby Brown who have agreed to provide increased support over the coming year for our Conference and Awards, as well as specific projects that don't fall under any of our other funding agreements. Digby Brown also support our members with regular information on their rights as road users, and are available to support members should the worst happen whilst they are out on their bikes.

At the start of 2024 Scottish Cycling agreed a partnership with Pedal Power, the largest independent bike retailer in Scotland, to provide support for our Conference & Awards amongst other things. Latterly, we have also received support from HUPcc, a Peebles based bike brand, in a three-way agreement with the Scottish Cyclocross Association, in an arrangement that will support our cyclocross discipline, through our performance pathway and events. We are extremely grateful for the support of our partners, who allow us to extend our reach further than we would otherwise be able to.

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability is a golden thread throughout our Developing a Nation of Cyclists 2.0 strategy, and this year we produced an initial baseline carbon emission score, with the support of experts from Think Beyond. Think Beyond also made some recommendations to update our Sustainability Action Plan, and targeting reducing our emissions score. This will be done via making operational changes, but also through supporting clubs and events to reduce their carbon footprint.

Support to clubs this year has been two fold; providing guidance on simple, effective changes they can make to reduce their environmental impact, and by signposting and helping them to apply for British Cycling's Sustainability Fund, Accelerate. Ythan Cycle Club put this into practice by using the fund to move their storage closer to their home at Ellon Wheel Park, cutting over 3,200 miles of travel a year, saving fuel, reducing emissions, and freeing up volunteer time. It is a clear example of how small, practical steps can make a real difference at club level.



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