
SCOTTISH
CYCLING
Annual Report
2025-26
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BRITISH
CYCLING

# Forewords

### Sandy Gilchrist, Scottish Cycling President

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as President of Scottish Cycling once again this year. After a lifetime in this wonderful sport, I remain inspired by the talent, dedication, and sense of community that makes Scottish Cycling so special. 2026 has been another remarkable year, with Scottish riders excelling across all disciplines, from road and track to mountain biking, cyclocross and BMX.

For me personally, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow were particularly memorable. Having attended previous Games in various roles, usually with a spanner in my hand, this was my first as President. Our riders delivered some outstanding performances, but I must single out Neil Fachie. I will put my hand up and admit I wondered whether he could deliver yet again on the Commonwealth Games stage - well, he certainly answered that question in true Neil Fachie fashion! The velodrome atmosphere was electric, especially whenever a Scottish rider took to the boards. Our challenge now is to capture that excitement, inspire the next generation, attract new support and, quite simply, get more people on bikes.

Young talent is certainly coming through. The Glasgow Inter-Regional Track Championships showcased some promising riders, while the Youth Tour of Scotland, with its new venue and format, once again produced excellent racing. It remains one of the jewels in Scottish Cycling's crown, with an impressive list of former participants who have gone on to achieve success at the highest level. We must ensure that events like these continue to provide opportunities for future generations.

Of course, none of this happens without our clubs, coaches, officials, event organisers and volunteers. They are the backbone of Scottish cycling, giving countless hours to support riders of all ages and abilities. With rising costs and increasing demands on volunteers, we must keep nurturing our clubs and ensure cycling remains accessible to everyone, from our youngest newcomers to our enthusiastic Masters.

Looking ahead, 2027 promises to be a year to remember, with the Tour de France departing from Edinburgh. Somewhere among the thousands of young people watching could be the next Oscar Onley or Callum Thornley. Our responsibility is to ensure that when inspiration strikes, there is a club to welcome them, a coach to encourage them and a pathway to help them fulfil their dreams.

### John Watt, Scottish Cycling Chair

I want to start this year by complementing our athletes, Performance team and all the staff who supported a successful Commonwealth Games. Sandy has already reflected on this, but it is right to recognise the tremendous effort that went into the event.

During the Games we also managed to build on our relationships with Scottish Government key ministers including Stephen Flynn, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport, and Maree Todd, Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs, as well as a number of our other key stakeholders including British Cycling and **sport**scotland.

During the year we sadly had to accept the resignations from the board of Diane Cooper and Colin Edgar; we will miss the contributions that they have made. We are pleased that Sarah

Wylie has joined the board bringing her legal and governance skills to Scottish Cycling. Sarah has also joined the trustees of the Foundation as one of our appointees, and will be of assistance to that organisation as it looks to expand its activities. The charity has also recruited three additional trustees as it seeks to grow its fundraising capabilities. Iain Gulland as independent chair, Jackie Whalen as a fundraiser and Malcolm Paterson, who was for six years a Scottish Cycling director. If you have not seen the Foundation website a link is attached Scottish Cycling Foundation – Official charity of Scottish Cycling that illustrates the work they do.

I should note that there have been significant changes at British Cycling with the departures of Frank Slevin, Chair and Jon Dutton, Chief Executive. We wish Frank a speedy recovery and Jon all the best in his new role at the British Olympic Association. Nick and I met the new Chair, Chris Pilling, at the Commonwealth Games and we have both spoken to the new CEO, Peter Bonfield who will take up his post in November. We have had very positive discussions with both regarding the way forward for the sport and how we work together and look forward to these continuing.

Having started with the Commonwealth Games our attention is now turning to our next major event with the Grand Depart of the Tour de France next July. Our social impact work is a significant part of this and will continue beyond the Tour for at least two years. The week of the Grand Depart will also offer a number of opportunities for clubs, volunteers and the wider public to experience the joy of cycling and we hope that through this we can generate lasting benefits to cycling in Scotland.

We will shortly be commencing a recruitment process for a Chairperson as I have notified the Board that after eight years as a Director, four as Chair, and a further five years as a committee member, I will step down in November 2027. If you are aware of any suitable candidates please ask them to get in touch with Nick Rennie, Malcolm Gunnyeon or myself.

I'd like to finish by thanking our staff team for their continued efforts. The last 12 months have been both extremely busy and successful, and we look forward to more of the same over the coming year.

**Nick Rennie, Scottish Cycling Chief Executive**

Welcome to Scottish Cycling's Annual Report for 2025–26. It has been another productive year, with positive developments across our sport. At the heart of that progress is our volunteer community: the coaches, club officials, commissaires, event organisers and many others whose dedication makes cycling happen. Many of you fulfil several roles, giving your time and energy to support others. To every one of you, a sincere thank you.

Our role is to support this community as effectively as we can. We want our clubs and volunteers to feel supported, and we remain committed to listening to your experiences and understanding where we can do more.

As the governing body, our core responsibilities are to encourage more people to cycle and join our clubs, provide a varied programme of domestic competition, and support riders with the ability and ambition to succeed on the world stage. This report sets out the progress made in each of these areas. There are challenges to navigate and much still to do, but our focus remains clear on these core responsibilities. We are working to strengthen the support available to clubs so that more people can enjoy high-quality cycling experiences.

The Commonwealth Games provided a welcome opportunity to celebrate our sport in front of a home crowd. Scotland can take pride in its role in saving the Games, while our Performance team created an environment in which our cyclists could deliver outstanding performances. Alongside the Games, Scottish riders produced many other achievements across the cycling disciplines, giving our community much to celebrate.

In the delivery of our vision – to Develop a Nation of Cyclists - we have made significant progress in developing new cycling facilities and creating opportunities for underrepresented communities. Work is also well underway to ensure that the spectacle of the Tour de France Grand Départ leaves a lasting social impact in Scotland.

I hope you enjoy reading about the year's activity and the progress reflected in this report. Please do get in touch to discuss any aspect of our work. Together, we can build on these foundations and make cycling in Scotland even stronger.

## Performance

The period from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026 saw Scottish riders continue to deliver success across road, track, mountain bike, enduro and para-cycling, with both established athletes and emerging talent achieving notable results on the national and international stage.

A major highlight came at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, where Scottish riders secured medals across the track programme. Neil Fachie OBE and Aaron Pope claimed gold in the Men's Tandem B Sprint and 1km Time Trial, while Fin Graham added silver and bronze in the C1-C3 Individual Pursuit and 1km Time Trial. Mark Stewart won silver in the Elimination Race, Erin Boothman secured bronze medals in the Individual Pursuit and Scratch Race, and Lauren Bell, Iona Moir and Maddy Silcock combined to take bronze in the Women's Team Sprint. These results reflected the depth of talent within the Scottish Cycling programme.

In mountain biking, Charlie Aldridge enjoyed a breakthrough season at elite level, winning silver medals in both the XCC and XCO events at the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships. Those performances followed a podium double gold at the European Championships and consistent results throughout the World Cup season, establishing Aldridge among the leading cross-country riders in the world.

In Enduro, Ella Conolly successfully defended her UCI Enduro World Cup overall title. Multiple race victories and consistent podium finishes throughout the season saw her finish more than 200 points clear at the top of the overall standings, securing back-to-back series titles.

On the road, Oscar Onley continued his progression at WorldTour level, finishing sixth overall at the Vuelta a España and winning the Young Rider Classification, before placing 17th in the Elite Men's Road Race at the UCI Road World Championships. Callum Thornley enjoyed an impressive first season with Red Bull-BORA-hansgrohe, recording top-10 finishes in the Individual Time Trial at both the World and European Championships, alongside second place on Stage 18 of the Vuelta a España and third in the final time trial stage of the Tour de Pologne.

In the women's peloton, Lauren Dickson established herself among the leading climbers and stage racers in international cycling. Her season included second overall at the Tour de Suisse Women, third overall at Itzulia Women, eleventh overall at the Giro d'Italia Women and third overall at the Faun Tour Femmes, where she also secured a stage victory. Additional highlights included third at the Giro dell'Emilia Internazionale Donne Elite, victory in the Mountains Classification at the Lloyds Tour of Britain Women and eighth in the European Championship Individual Time Trial.

Further success came through Elliot Rowe, who continued his progression as one of Scotland's most promising young riders. Riding for Team Visma | Lease a Bike Development, Rowe finished sixth overall at the Giro d'Italia Next Gen, sixth overall and winner of the Young Rider Classification at the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men, and claimed a stage victory at the Alpes Isère Tour. He also placed fourth in the British National Road Race Championships and represented Great Britain at the U23 Road World Championships.

**Pathway**

Alongside the performances of Scotland's established international riders, 2026 provided further evidence of the strength of the nation's development pathway. A particular highlight came at the British Cycling Inter-Regional Youth Track Championships, where Team Scotland claimed the overall title. Across road, track, mountain bike and BMX, Scottish riders continued to secure national titles, international selections and significant championship performances.

In mountain bike cross-country, Olivia Poole won the British National MTB Cross-Country Championship (Youth Female), claimed four rounds of the British National XC Series and represented Great Britain at the European Youth Mountain Bike Championships. Fellow mountain biker Gregor McNaught secured the British National MTB Cross-Country Championship (Youth Open), continuing Scotland's strong tradition in the discipline.

On the track, Mairi Nicholson claimed British Youth titles in both the 500m Time Trial and Sprint, while Sam Martin won the British Junior Individual Pursuit title, added bronze medals in the Points Race and Madison, and contributed to Great Britain's bronze medal-winning Team Pursuit squad at the UCI Junior Track World Championships.

Melanie Rowe enjoyed an outstanding season across both road and track. Her results included bronze in the British Junior Road Race Championship, three bronze medals at the British Junior Track Championships, third place at Junior Liège-Bastogne-Liège, sixth at the Junior Tour of Flanders, runner-up finishes at both the ANEXO/CAMS Women's CiCLE Classic and North Yorkshire Women's Grand Prix, and selection for the UCI Junior Road World Championships.

In BMX, Ruby Warren continued her development with a series of strong national-level performances, further establishing herself as one of Scotland's leading young riders in the discipline.

These achievements reflect the contribution of a much wider group of people. Behind every result are parents, coaches, volunteers, officials and event organisers whose commitment creates the opportunities for riders to develop and progress. Development teams and clubs also play a vital role, with organisations such as Spokes Race Team, Solas Race Team and Alba Race Team providing important support and competitive opportunities that help riders transition through the pathway.

Taken together, the successes of established athletes and emerging riders demonstrate both the strength of the current programme and the quality of talent coming through. The performances achieved during 2026 provide strong foundations for continued Scottish success at future Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Coaching**

The continued delivery of the British Cycling Coaching Framework in Scotland saw 43 coach education courses successfully delivered in the period from 1st October 2025 to 30th September 2026. This significant increase in courses delivered, combined with highly effective meeting of demand at 92.5% of capacity, translated into more than 300 coach education learners over the period.

Of these, almost 50 were coaches who completed a "Coaching in Context" course, the second stage of the coaching framework where coaches develop the skills to enable them to develop riders for the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of riding and racing within the specific discipline.

Coaching in Context (CIC) courses were delivered in BMX Race, Cyclocross, MTB-XC, MTB-Gravity, Road & Track disciplines with learning and feedback from courses initially delivered in Scotland being used to refine course content and delivery for the whole of the UK. Scotland has also been utilised as the testing ground for a pilot CIC course that aims to provide a robust REPL (Recognition of Experience & Prior Learning) route into CIC coaching qualifications for those with extensive Off-Road Leadership experience.

The coaching subsidy that has been implemented in partnership with **sport**scotland continued to positively impact learners from target demographics aligned to the Scottish Cycling strategy. An increase in subsidy funding gained through our submission to **sport**scotland saw almost 150 coaches and Off-Road Leaders from SIMD, disability, young and female demographic groups benefit from vastly reduced course costs during the reporting period.

Based on feedback from key sources including the British Cycling "Big Coaching Survey", consultation at the Scottish Cycling conference & feedback from coaching cohorts undertaking targeted CPD programmes, we have shifted our development offering towards the signposting of quality online self-directed learning & the delivery of in person, discipline specific, development days. These development days see a focus on key youth development topic workshops combined wherever possible with practical, on bike, coaching opportunity. This work has been supported by partners at **sport**scotland , Access Sport & Keith Stocker Coaching, and has seen workshops in nutrition for cycling, fundamental physical literacy, RED-S & supporting neurodivergent riders delivered thus far.

Our targeted young coaches development programme, Vertical 2.0, saw young coaches co-design a programme of CPD that included workshops, opportunities to support national pathway programmes, observing and learning from national coaches, formal coach education qualifications & the opportunity for individual mentoring support.
The programme culminated with a workshop delivered at Team Scotland House during 2026 Commonwealth Games. Several of the young coaches who had engaged with the year-long programme have already gone on to have a significant impact on Scottish Cycling projects and pathway squad support in 2026.

## Club Development

2026 has been another strong year for our network of clubs, with overall membership growing by 4.65% versus last year, supported by a 4.25% increase in Women and Girls and 3.21% increase in U18s.

Over the course of this year, we have been undertaking a detailed consultation considering how we support clubs now and in the future. This has been an extensive process, focused on acknowledging how current support is being received, and ensuring that the way in which we provide support in the future better aligns to the ambitions and aspirations of clubs.

We also recognise that clubs are evolving, so a key focus for us heading into 2027 will be on broadening our affiliation offer, to ensure that we can be more relevant to a wider range of clubs and groups. We recognise the substantial opportunities ahead of us and want to ensure that clubs are best equipped to maximise these.

As a result of increased investment into the sport sector this year, over £200k of new money has been secured to support our clubs directly, with £150k of this sustained into the next two years.

Through the **sport**scotland Summer of Sport programme, we launched the Youth Opportunities Fund, enabling clubs to apply for funding to provide free or heavily subsidised cycling opportunities for young people. Since its launch in June 2026, this has supported 18 clubs across 16 different local authorities, with a total of £20,000 awarded to support a range of projects. Funding has contributed towards initiatives including 'Come and Try' sessions, event delivery costs, equipment, and subsidised coach education, helping clubs to reduce barriers to participation and create more opportunities for young people to get involved in cycling.

We were also able to provide financial support to clubs, community groups and local authorities through our 'Pump It Up' programme, which was designed to build on and sustain the activation of pump tracks that had previously received investment through the Cycling Facilities Fund. A total of £27,000 has been committed to 11 clubs, community groups and local authorities to support a range of pump track-related activities; a notable success has been the growth in grassroots pump track racing, with a number of new events being added to the calendar and delivered by new event organisers. These events are designed to provide more young people with the opportunity to experience racing in a fun, welcoming and supportive environment, helping to build confidence and develop an interest in competitive cycling that can continue as they get older.

Through the **sport**scotland Club Support Programme, close to £150k has been secured each year for the next three years. This is focused on clubs working in partnership with the Club Development team to submit applications for funding to support the creation of embedded roles within their clubs. The remit of these roles is focused primarily on developing club structures, and growing membership & volunteer support. It was encouraging to see the breadth of cycling disciplines represented across the clubs coming forward for investment, highlighting the diverse and valuable contribution clubs make across the Scottish Cycling community. Eight of our clubs were successful in securing investment. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have, not only within the individual clubs, but also across the wider Scottish Cycling club network.

We've seen several new clubs this year, addressing clear gaps in provision in diverse parts of Scotland. Abriachan Forest Mountain Bike Club, located south of Inverness, has seen a strong team of Coaches and MTB Leaders trained up and now delivering sessions on a weekly basis to 50+ young people. In Edinburgh, Belle's Angels has been formed as an evolution from a Breeze group, providing a new home for Women to cycle together. In Aberdeenshire, Garioch Road and Gravel Cycling Club has now surpassed 100 members, only a year since forming, and has a wide and varied weekly programme of on and off-road rides to cater for their growing membership. Similarly Cairn Cycling Club has evolved from a Whatsapp community to a club with a clear identity and a regular and varied offering for its members.

With support from the Tour de France Social Impact programme, Mini Riders has been able to reach more children than ever before. Over the last year there has been 4,813 session attendances, with 44 deliverers trained to support the programme. Delivery packages have been offered to several existing and new partners, helping to support both programme delivery costs and subsidised coach education. This investment will help to build capacity and enable sustainable delivery of the programme into the future.

We continue to expand the Mini Riders network, with 12 partnerships currently confirmed for the 2026/27 financial year and further opportunities in the pipeline. It is particularly encouraging to see the programme flourishing with new partners such as Dundee Leisure and Culture and University of St Andrew's, which is delivering Mini Riders sessions as part of its holiday camp provision.

Alongside the growth in partnerships, we have also seen an expansion in the range of people delivering Mini Riders sessions. A number of our Active Schools partners have supported their Sports Leaders to undertake training and deliver sessions within cluster primary schools. This approach not only increases our delivery capacity but also provides young people with valuable leadership and coaching experience, helping to embed cycling and physical activity skills that can be carried forward into later life.

The implementation of our online Brightspace training offer is also continuing to deliver positive results, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from those completing the training. Participants have particularly valued the breadth and quality of the information provided, alongside the extensive video content, which helps to make the training accessible, engaging and practical for deliverers.

Continuing the theme of young people, our Future Leaders programme continues to provide valuable opportunities to develop skills, knowledge, confidence and qualifications required to progress on leadership journeys. A key achievement this year was the successful completion of an SCQF qualification in Communication, delivered in partnership with Scottish Sport Futures and Kelvin College. This recognised the commitment and development of our leaders, while providing them with a valuable qualification to support their future personal and professional development.

Alongside their formal learning, our Future Leaders gained practical experience through a range of leadership opportunities. These included undertaking a SWOT analysis focused on an area they were passionate about, supporting major sporting events such as the National Track Championships, and participating in Youth Leadership events delivered as part of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games programme. These experiences enabled our young

leaders to apply their learning in real-world settings, build confidence and develop their leadership capabilities.

The year also saw the delivery of our Year 2 residential, providing an important opportunity for our Future Leaders to reflect on their progress and achievements during Year 1. The residential focused on reviewing individual goals and targets, celebrating progress, and setting clear ambitions for Year 2. This reflective approach has helped our leaders take greater ownership of their development and establish a clear pathway for their continued growth.

Disability inclusion continues to be a key focus for Scottish Cycling. Our first dedicated Disability Inclusion Officer role, funded through the Tour de France Social Impact Programme and British Cycling's Limitless programme, is strengthening support for clubs, riders and volunteers, whilst helping to identify and reduce barriers to participation and progression.

The Limitless programme continues to grow across Scotland, with three new clubs joining as Focus Clubs this year – Clydesdale Colts, Clyde Cycle Park and Dunfermline Cycling Club - sharing £26,000 of investment between them. This investment will help the clubs develop more inclusive opportunities, build capacity and support greater participation for disabled riders.

Supporting more women and girls to get involved and progress in cycling remains a key priority for Scottish Cycling. This year, 18 further club projects received a total of £15,115 through the Women & Girls Direct Support Fund, supporting initiatives designed to increase participation, build confidence and create more opportunities for women and girls across the sport.

The projects reflect clubs' continued commitment to a more welcoming and inclusive cycling environment, with funding supporting women only sessions, coaching, skills development and outreach. Peebles Cycling Club used its funding to provide subsidised girls only MTB coaching, while Glasgow Gals focused on confidence building sessions to help women develop their skills and become more involved in the club. Other projects supported female coaching and leadership, maintenance skills, equipment and opportunities to progress into racing.

Looking ahead to 2027, our focus will be on building on this growth and ensuring that every club can develop in a way that reflects the needs of its members and local community. This will include implementing the learning from our club support review, broadening our affiliation offer, strengthening the capacity and sustainability of clubs, and continuing to invest in the people who make our clubs successful. As the way people engage with cycling continues to evolve, our ambition is to ensure there is a clear and welcoming home for everyone who wants to be part of the sport.

## Events

2026 has been a challenging year for events in Scotland; whilst there have been 16 more event days, the number of entries has dropped by 5% when compared with 2025. That being said, there have been four British Championships and eight British Series events in Scotland, as well as 16 Scottish Championships, crowning 211 national champions.

This year, a particular effort has been put into supporting MTB XC, and the SXC association, as it transitions to a new operating model. This included the direct delivery of Round 1 of the series at Tarland following venue challenges, and supporting the recruitment of a new committee for 2027. Whilst only three rounds of the series took place in 2026, the response from the community has been positive and planning is well underway for an excellent 2027 XC season.

Scottish Cycling delivered a successful 2026 Youth Tour of Scotland, returning to a three-day programme with a new time trial on Comrie Moor, delivered with the support of Perthshire Zoo. This year's delivery further improved the sustainability of the event, with feedback from volunteers, staff, and participants overwhelmingly positive. Scottish Cycling continues to be extremely grateful for the support of Perth and Kinross Council, who permit use of their roads for this standout event. Additionally, this year, we introduced a day of racing at Fife Cycle Park to conclude the weekend's racing.

Another highlight this year has been the positive impact of interventions in the Scotia Series, the women's national road series. Through engaging with key members of the community, the series format was adapted, and then promoted effectively to see an increase in entries of over 25% with over 70 first time racers. With the support of Santini, we were able to invest in the exposure of the series and introduce leaders and winners' jerseys. We are exploring how key learnings can be applied to support growth in other areas.

Scotland welcomed the first fully sanctioned British Gravel Championships in 2026, building on relationships formed with commercial organisers as we continue to lead the way in integrating the Gravel discipline within British Cycling. The event contributed to an increase of over 500 entries in this discipline through the BC system.

The Mountain Bike Gravity disciplines maintain their stability, with the Scottish Downhill Association selling out events and delivering two high-quality rounds of the British Series. Mini-DH's continue to provide grassroots opportunities for less experienced downhill riders. The Scottish Enduro Series has become well established in its second year, with an increase of over 57% in Female entries and 35% in Open entries – with over 600 unique entries in total, with one round a UCI Class 3 event. This activity has been supported by Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland.

Another focus this year has been on increasing the spread of grassroots competition opportunities. New Dirt Crit and Pump Track series have been established in Aberdeenshire and Strathpeffer, with further Pump Track projects being supported in Clackmannanan, Dalbeattie, Dunbar, Edinburgh, Ellon, Peterhead, Midlothian and across the Scottish Borders. Working closely with local clubs, we coordinated the first series of youth and senior events at Clyde Cycle Park following the phase two expansion, including directly delivering a round of each ourselves. The completion of this work marks a significant moment for cycle sport in the West of Scotland. This first year saw seven events run at the circuit, bringing

with them new organisers, potential new officials and new riders to the start line. We'll continue to work in collaboration across the three cycle circuits to grow participation, trial new event formats, and ensure that they can function in a complimentary way.

Finally, we have supported nine commissaires via a training subsidy, helping them work towards their upgrades with over £1700 committed to covering trainee expenses. Additionally, working with a new NEG coordinator, five further individuals have been supported in their NEG training. We recognise the vital role that both Officials and NEG play in our sport, and we are committed to continual investment in these areas going forward.

# Participation

### Women and Girls

We have continued to build momentum towards our ambition of achieving a step change in female participation and representation across Scottish Cycling. While positive steps have been taken, we recognise that the scale and pace of change required remain significant. Our dedicated strategy represents an important commitment from Scottish Cycling to address the longstanding barriers that women and girls face in accessing, enjoying and progressing with cycling, and that commitment will remain as we refresh our corporate strategy for 2027 onwards.

Over the last year, we have established a new board level Women & Girls sub-committee to strengthen our accountability for the delivery of the strategy. This represents an important step in ensuring that our ambitions are embedded across the organisation and remain a strategic priority.

Additionally, we also became a signatory to the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration on Women and Sport, furthering our commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusion across cycling. This internationally recognized declaration reinforces our commitment to creating a sporting environment where women and girls have equal opportunities to participate, develop, lead and succeed at every level.

In the last 12 months there has been a 4.25% increase in Women and Girls club membership figures, and perhaps more importantly a 13% increase in female coaches and leaders, who inspire more females to participate. To aid growth in female focused activity we delivered a Women & Girls Direct Support Fund supporting initiatives designed to increase participation, build confidence and create more opportunities for women and girls across the sport; in total 18 club projects received a total of £15,115.

Girlz A'LOUD has been a developing programme this year, aiming to engage teenage girls at a critical stage when participation in sport often declines. Established in 2025 the programme aims to create fun, inclusive and supportive environments where girls can build confidence, develop their cycling skills and establish friendships and connections with other young riders. Following an initial pilot at Fife Cycle Park, supported by female coaches and combining cycling skills and wellbeing activities, the programme expanded during 2026 with sessions across four cycling venues. This early delivery model has provided valuable learning, particularly around the importance of strong local partnerships and engaging girls who may not already be connected to cycling clubs. With support from the Summer of Sport funding and our Tour de France Social Impact Programme, we're continuing to develop this programme further.

The Breeze programme has continued to play an important role in providing women with opportunities to cycle, and for those interested in leading the programme, the ability to step up and become Breeze Champions. Over the 12-month reporting period over 600 rides took place, attracting over 2,300 attendances. We continued to provide opportunities for women to develop into Breeze Champions by delivering two courses in Perth and Edinburgh.

The She Pedals Scotland initiative returned for its second year, aiming to unite the female cycling community through a weekend of celebration, encouraging every woman and girl to ride their bike. Growing on the previous year the initiative seen over

700 women & girls take part in a range of initiatives. This year the initiative introduced the role of She Pedals Scotland ambassadors, aiming to raise the profile of the weekend in local communities, groups and clubs. Over 40 ambassadors supported the weekend by providing led riders, coaching sessions or delivering local events to help more women and girls feel connected within cycling. A huge thanks and well done to Diane Maciver and Lorna Breetzke from Elgin CC who spearhead this fantastic activity.

Looking ahead, our priority is to translate this growing activity into measurable and sustainable progress. We are working to move away from isolated women & girls interventions into a more holistic approach to cycling development for women & girls. This means strengthening the connections between introductory participation opportunities, clubs and communities, and competition and pathway opportunities, while continuing to challenge the barriers that can prevent women and girls from participating and progressing.

**Rock Up and Ride**

Scottish Cycling's Rock Up & Ride programme has continued to develop and diversify its reach across the country in 2025/26. Our flagship participation programme aims to remove barriers to cycling participation for those from underrepresented and marginalised groups, the programme driving positive behaviour change through helping participants gain the confidence, motivation and opportunity to choose cycling more often.

Over the last 12 months, the Rock Up & Ride programme continued to be funded through Transport Scotland's People and Place programme. Funding was administered locally by four Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) including SPT (Strathclyde region), SEStran (South East region), ZetTrans (Shetland Islands), and NEstrans (North East Region). A significant budget cut (60% of Revenue) by Transport Scotland in April 2026 meant that the programme had to be adapted at very short notice to ensure that it could feasibly be delivered, whilst still meeting the priorities of the People and Place Programme and achieving the desired impact.

Even with this budget cut, the programme has been able to expand into Edinburgh for the first time thanks to additional funding from SEStran, along with a contribution from the Tour de France Grand Depart Social Impact programme. This has been made possible by a new partnership with the "We Play Together" SCIO, who are based at the Crags Centre in the city and have a wealth of experience in working with their local communities and schools, mostly through their offering of Basketball activities. We greatly value the opportunity to help shape Rock Up & Ride through this partnership as we start to develop a legacy for the Grand Depart in Edinburgh in 2027. Also worthy of note is the new Playmaker coordinator role that we have introduced in the Shetlands along with identifying a dedicated coach, Olympian Grant Ferguson, to provide regular delivery of cycling activity. These new roles will greatly help the continuity and development of the project in the Shetlands.

Based upon the successful delivery of Rock Up & Ride in the previous year, the programme has continued to operate through two outcome-driven strands that align with two of the priority themes in the People and Place Programme; Schools & Young People, and Accessibility & Inclusion. Both delivery models use a combination of bike fleets and associated equipment, as well as offering the discretion to provide bikes to individuals on a case-by-case basis. The projects within these two strands have continued to target young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those people from underrepresented groups,

who wouldn't normally cycle. To help maximise the impact, the cycling activities have been designed to be person centred, to best meet the needs of the individual groups through the delivery of diverse and flexible sessions. Additionally we have provided regular sessions at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, which have proved to be very popular and a unique experience for those taking part.

Monitoring and evaluation remain 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 and expert evaluation. In FY25/26, the programme provided 5478 participation attendances to communities, schools and other groups across the country. Rock Up & Ride continued to successfully engage diverse individuals and communities with 43% of participants being female, 46% belonging to a minority ethnic group and 35% of participants being from the most deprived SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) quintile. For FY26/27, the programme is performing well against KPI targets and up until the end of September provided over 2,500 participation attendances. Most importantly, the programme is continuing to enable more people to enjoy cycling.

Scottish Cycling continue to work closely with the RTPs and Transport Scotland to understand the future opportunities for the Rock Up & Ride programme and secure the vital funding from the People and Place programme in FY27/28.

**Tour de France Grand Départ Social Impact Programme**

The 2027 Tour de France Grand Départ presents a unique opportunity to inspire more people to cycle, strengthen communities and create a lasting impact across Scotland. As a trusted delivery partner, Scottish Cycling was chosen by the Scottish Government to deliver a £1m social impact programme over the next three years. This aligns with the wider UK programme titled 'JOY', which is being delivered by Le Tour GB alongside Scottish Cycling and Beicio Cymru. To deliver this programme we have recruited four new roles to form a dedicated social impact team, and work began in earnest in January 2026.

The work being delivered across both programmes is centred around three key social impact missions:

**Health**: Improving health and wellbeing through cycling
**Place**: Strengthening communities through cycling
**Prosperity**: Developing skills and creating opportunities

Great examples of work so far include the expansion of Girlz A'Loud, a co-designed programme that introduces girls and young women to different cycling disciplines, alongside off-bike activities focused on confidence, wellbeing and personal development.

We have also launched a Park Cycle pilot, which takes inspiration from parkrun, as well as a pump track activation offering called Pump It Up, which has already boosted community usage of 13 pump tracks across Scotland.

All of this work relies and partnership working, and we have established strong working relationships with the four host local authorities (Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway) as well as local authorities beyond the race route, and developed partnerships with schools, Active Schools, cycling clubs, community organisations, national governing bodies and third-sector partners.

As of September 2026, 18 projects are live, with further activity in development. This includes 11 place-based projects and a growing portfolio of national initiatives. During the first reporting quarter, working alongside our network of partners, we engaged 998 unique participants, delivered 138 sessions and recorded 1,107 attendances.

To turbocharge the delivery of the programme, Scottish Cycling has secured a further £288,310 in match funding through programme development and partnerships, alongside significant in-kind support. Additional investment opportunities are being developed to further expand delivery and support longer-term ambitions.

**Facilities**

The Cycling Facilities Fund (CFF) continues to deliver impact across Scotland. In partnership with **sport**scotland, we have now nominally allocated the full funding available from the Cycling Facilities Fund. This funding is now projected to support 55 cycling facilities across Scotland. Once all projects are delivered the £8m CFF will have unlocked over £21m of overall investment.

Between 1 October 2025 and 30 September 2026, the following facilities have been awarded funding from the CFF:

- Socialtrack Wishawhill Wood Pump Track (£150,000)
- Ranking Park MTB Facility (£225,000)
- Lennoxtown Cycling Hub (£150,000)
- Hillend MTB Trails (£175,000)
- Haddington Pump Track (£62,500)
- Lost Shore Cycling Facilities (£80,000)
- Ullapool MTB Trails (£200,000)

Of the facilities supported by the CFF, earlier this year we worked with **sport**scotland to commission an independent evaluation into the impact so far from the fund, focusing on the 33 facilities that were complete and operational.

Two impressive headlines from the evaluation include:

- For every £1 invested = £1.42 in match funding
- A social impact evaluation established that these facilities have delivered a predicted social value of £48m

Earlier this year, we published a new UK-wide facilities plan in partnership with British Cycling and Beicio Cymru, which sets out our work to support a vision for cycling facilities across the UK. As the national governing body, we recognise our role in providing the knowledge base to lead the sport and champion the development of appropriate facilities – helping to deliver the right cycling infrastructure, including purpose-built cycle sport facilities that are accessible, high quality and affordable to all.

Building on this we're continuing to work closely with our home nation partners to explore opportunities to secure additional future capital investment for cycling facilities, particularly with the backdrop of the 2027 Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift coming to the UK.

# Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland

Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS), part of Scottish Cycling, has continued to lead the sustainable growth of mountain biking and off-road cycling across Scotland. Through national leadership, strategic partnerships and practical delivery, DMBinS contributes to Scotland's ambitions for sport, health and wellbeing, sustainable tourism, active travel, economic development and environmental responsibility.

The year has seen significant progress, with new investment secured, community trail development strengthened, innovative participation programmes expanded and Scotland's international reputation enhanced.

A major focus has been developing the Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2026–2036, establishing a shared direction for the next decade. Across its workstreams, DMBinS continues to demonstrate the value of connecting national policy with local delivery, attracting investment and creating opportunities for more people to experience mountain biking.

**National Co-ordination**

DMBinS has continued to provide national leadership, bringing together government, public agencies, industry, communities and the voluntary sector to support sustainable growth.

The development of a new sector strategy, informed by national rider and business surveys and five stakeholder consultation workshops, was launched for public consultation in 2026, the strategy establishing a shared vision encompassing sustainable trails, tourism, innovation, education, participation and sporting success.

Strong relationships with the Scottish Government and national partners helped secure a further £120,000 of core funding for 2026/27, supporting continued coordination while strengthening the case for long-term investment.

Communications delivered exceptional results, generating 7.2 million digital impressions during 2025/26, substantially exceeding targets. The #ThinkWinter campaign alone achieved more than 2.5 million impressions, promoting responsible riding and trail stewardship. Scotland also received the prestigious Best Nation award through the European *Take Care of Your Trails* campaign, recognising the dedication of Trails Associations and DMBinS's coordinating role.

The Fresh Cuts film programme, funded by Screen Scotland, continued to showcase Scotland's mountain biking communities while developing emerging filmmakers. Four films were released, with Innes Graham's *A Brighter Side* selected for Kendal Mountain Festival and Big Bike Film Night. A further cohort received six months of training between January and June 2026, producing films showcasing the breadth of DMBinS's work.

Community fundraising also delivered success, with a Trek partnership raising over £10,000 and the Scottish Trail Fund, part of the Scottish Cycling Foundation, awarding over £10,000 to ten community trail groups.

**Trails**

Developing and sustainably managing Scotland's mountain bike trails remains central to DMBinS' work, with progress across strategic infrastructure, community trail management and workforce development.

DMBinS supported major infrastructure opportunities, including emerging private-sector investments. Representation on project governance and advisory groups helps ensure developments deliver lasting benefits for riders, communities and local economies.

Working alongside Scottish Cycling colleagues and **sport**scotland's facilities team, DMBinS supported new pump tracks and skills facilities in Comrie Croft, Killin, Auchterarder, North Berwick, Dunbar, Dundee, Dalbeattie, Aberfoyle and Eyemouth. These facilities provide accessible opportunities for young people, families and new riders to develop confidence and skills close to home.

Community-led trail management has strengthened through support for Trails Associations, networking, technical guidance and training. New Trail Management Guidance was launched, covering permissions, community asset transfers and sustainable trail planning, alongside direct financial support through the Scottish Trail Fund.

The Developing Inter-European Resources for Trail-building Training (DIRTT) programme trained 54 volunteers across six locations during 2025/26, strengthening community capacity to maintain sustainable trails. DMBinS also secured a contract with Norwegian college Fagskolen Viken to deliver a European Trail Building Manager course, attended by 35 students from 15 nationalities. The programme's international influence has grown through the UK Trails Project, supporting new agreements between land managers and community groups in Wales, establishing trail groups in Northern Ireland and contributing to consistent European trail management standards.

DMBinS also progressed work connecting trails with communities and active travel networks in Fort William, Perthshire, Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders. Funding secured through the Scottish Borders Community Led Local Development programme supports dedicated trail coordination and local infrastructure planning.

The Trail Academy pilot in Kinlochleven introduced seven young people to trail planning, construction and event development, demonstrating the potential to connect mountain biking with education, practical skills and employment.

**Health**

DMBinS has continued to demonstrate mountain biking's contribution to physical and mental health, confidence, inclusion and community wellbeing.

The flagship Trail Therapy programme has expanded, using mountain biking and the natural environment to support mental health and wellbeing. Practitioner training has enabled delivery across Dundee, Perth, Comrie Croft, Aviemore, South Lanarkshire and Moray. A major success was establishing a new £90,000 Trail Therapy Hub in the Scottish Borders, supported by funding and bikes from Outride. A programme for women aged over 55 has proved particularly successful, supporting confidence, wellbeing and social connections. Trail Therapy has also progressed within education, with six teachers delivering sessions in north-

east Scotland extending opportunities for young people. Research with Edinburgh Napier University is strengthening evidence of the programme's impact.

Increasing diversity remains a priority. Rider2Leader supported women progressing into mountain bike leadership, with 18 places taken up across three courses. The Adaptive MTB Foundations programme created inclusive leadership opportunities, while DMBinS helped the Adaptive Riders Collective strengthen its governance, become a Scottish Cycling club and secure over £30,000 in funding.

Mountain bike leadership training engaged 252 learners during 2025, including 134 new to leadership. Women represented 39% of learners, increasing to 48% on the grassroots Off-Road Leader Award.

A significant educational development has been the creation of a new SCQF Level 5 (National 5 equivalent) Customised Award in Mountain Biking, currently being piloted in two Scottish Borders secondary schools. Combining riding, trail inspection and maintenance, the qualification develops practical skills, confidence and teamwork while offering opportunities for young people less engaged in traditional classroom learning, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It provides a pathway into sustained participation, further training and employment.

**Destinations & Innovation**

Scotland's reputation as a world-class mountain biking destination continues to create opportunities for tourism, enterprise, investment and innovation.

DMBinS supported regional destination development across Aberdeenshire, Perthshire, the Highlands, Dumfries & Galloway and the Tweed Valley, strengthening partnerships and identifying opportunities for infrastructure, tourism products and business growth. Fresh Cuts has also supported destination promotion internationally, combining compelling storytelling with opportunities for creative talent and community engagement.

In Aberdeenshire, work through the North East Adventure Tourism partnership has connected agencies, businesses and significant private-sector investment to strengthen the region's mountain biking offer and local economic opportunities.

Innovation remains a distinctive strength. Working with Edinburgh Napier University, South of Scotland Enterprise and industry partners, DMBinS supported the development of the Mountain Bike Innovation Centre in Innerleithen, including industry engagement and opportunities for future collaboration. The First Tracks business launchpad successfully completed its second cohort, supporting emerging cycling businesses and entrepreneurs, with discussions progressing on future delivery.

Relationships with international cycling brands, the Bicycle Association GB and European Cycling Industries have strengthened industry engagement and investment opportunities.

# Business Operations

### Finance

The annual accounts to 31 March 2026 show a deficit of £13,037 (2025 saw a surplus of £99,792). Excluding the exceptional item (irrecoverable VAT written back) of £32,276, the results are broadly in line with the Board's expectations for the year.

Turnover increased again during the year to £3,458,087 (£3,421,045 in 2025) an increase of 1.08%. Despite careful monitoring of costs, these increased by 5.06%, as a result of general inflationary pressures to £3,521,370 (£3,351,925 in 2025) resulting in an overall deficit before exceptional items of £45,313 (surplus of £93,629 in 2025). A need to keep additional funds in the instant access deposit account resulted in bank interest decreasing from £30,258 to £22,186 over the year. Despite the small deficit for the year Scottish Cycling has reserves of £409,081 and remains 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 **sport**scotland 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 supporting talented young riders. In addition, the last year has seen a further growth in funding, via Regional Transport Partners, for the Rock Up & Ride programme, which works with underrepresented groups to help them access cycling. In addition, Scottish Cycling was delighted to receive funding via the Scottish Government to deliver a social impact programme aligned to the 2027 Tour de France Grand Depart taking place in Edinburgh.

### 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 that 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 17,384 (16,957 in 2025) at the time of writing, which is made up of club members across Scotland and British Cycling members (without double counting). We have seen a 4.65% increase in declared club membership, which stands at 11,974; our target growth areas of females (3,138) and U18s (2,700) are up 4.25% and 3.21% respectively. In total there are 10,025 British Cycling members in Scotland, down on the 10,725 last year, with 4,615 of these club members. At the time of writing, with 2027 club affiliation underway, early signs are positive for club membership figures for the year ahead.

**Communications and Marketing**

Our digital presence continues to grow year-on-year. Key metrics show improvements across platforms with our Meta audience now comprising of over 30,000 followers combined, following on from major increases in interactions (34%) and reach (45%) of Scottish Cycling content across Facebook and Instagram. Visits to the Scottish Cycling website have also increased by more than a third in the past 12 months, while our monthly newsletter maintains an open rate of 58% - significantly above industry standards.

Improving our video content has been an area of focus in the past 12 months, with high-level announcement videos for both the competition kit and squad reveals for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games driving engagement on our channels. In addition, both Scottish National Championships in Road Race and Track saw increased investment in video production - with an improved multi-camera live stream for the Track championships and highlights programme published for Road Race Championships on Scottish Cycling's YouTube channel.

**Business Plan**

The Senior Leadership Team continue to report quarterly to the Board of Directors on progress towards targets set out in our Business Plan, as well as providing 6-month updates to **sport**scotland to ensure appropriate progress is being made. In addition, we provide six-month updates to **sport**scotland on progress against their investment areas. At the end of the financial year, out of the 38 business objectives, 31 were met, with seven partially met. Last year we had one unmet objective, so this further evidences the successful delivery of the organisation’s objectives.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

A working group, led by the Safeguarding, and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Manager, are now delivering an EDI Action Plan, based on agreed priorities. Progress will be monitored each quarter by the Finance & Governance committee.

**Safeguarding**

All clubs affiliated to Scottish Cycling continue to be fully compliant with our minimum operating standards in relation to safeguarding. Our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, JustGo, allows clubs to monitor their compliance in real time to ensure they continue to remain fully compliant. During the year, delivery of **sport**scotland’s Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport (CWPS) 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. In addition, **sport**scotland has introduced a new Adult Wellbeing & Protection in Sport course. Scottish Cycling’s online safeguarding resources for clubs continue to be updated as necessary to ensure they remain up to date with current legislation as well as reflecting best practice.

**Commercial**

Through a Commercial Agreement, Scottish Cycling continues to aggregate the majority of its rights with British Cycling and Beicio 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 agreed to increase their support this year linked to the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. 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.

25/26 has also seen us renew our long-term relationship with Impsport after an open process that saw us test the performance of other manufacturers, and the commercial value of the arrangement. We are extremely pleased with the service Impsport provide, and they once again played a part in our successful Commonwealth Games performances. We have also entered into an agreement with Joma to provide off-bike kit to staff, and any clubs who would like to take up a custom kit offering. Finally, thanks to HUPcc for their continued support for cyclocross through the 25/26 winter season.

In addition to our current partners, we also have a number of live conversations with prospective partners, which have come about thanks to the delivery of business events in Edinburgh and Glasgow, so we hope to further diversify our income streams over the next 12 months.

**Sustainability**

We continue to champion cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation, and are supporting clubs and events to look at initiatives that can reduce their carbon footprint. We are also continuing to monitor our annual carbon footprint; we expect to see a reduction for 25/26 once this process is complete.