

A scenic view of a lake with rowers on a dock under a blue sky with white clouds. The foreground shows dark, mossy rocks. The middle ground features a wooden dock with several people, some standing and some in rowing boats. The background shows a line of trees and distant hills.

2024 - 2025 SCOTTISH ROWING ANNUAL REVIEW



SCOTTISH
ROWING

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President's Report

The 2024/25 season has been positive for rowing in Scotland, with a rise in membership and increased participation at major events like the Scottish Championships. Notably, more competitors from North of England clubs and Ireland joined these regattas, hinting at growing cross-border interest.

Despite planned refurbishments at Strathclyde Park's main buildings and boatsheds, rowing activities and regattas have continued, though future events at the venue remain uncertain due to upcoming construction. The rowing community is being kept informed, and contingency plans are being considered.

Scottish crews had strong performances at major UK races, across school, club and university events. The Junior Inter-Regional Regatta, in its second year for us, saw over 60 Scottish participants perform brilliantly amassing points and winning two team trophies. There was also success at the international level: two girls from ASRA represented GB in the J16 GB-France match at London Docks, winning the JW16 pairs and contributing to the team trophy win for GB. The Scotland HIR team achieved 5 wins this year at Dorney in July. Scottish representation was strong at Henley, with 3 trophies won at Henley Women's and EUBC's men's 4+ reaching Sunday's final of Henley Royal. The SR lunch at Henley was also well attended and appreciated.

Scotland's presence in Beach Sprint Racing is growing, with the St Andrews base being recognised as a GB Olympic Beach Sprint Training Venue and Performance Development Academy. Two Scottish athletes are now part of the centralised GB Beach Sprints Funded programme, with another close to selection, demonstrating the positive impact of ongoing investment and a strong partnership between Scottish Rowing and St Andrews University.



The HIR Beach Sprint team secured two wins at the event in Ireland in September, and a Scotland team is set to participate in the Commonwealth Beach Sprints Regatta in Barbados this November, while Scottish athletes are involved as part of the GB team racing at the European and World Beach Sprint Championships. Good luck to them.

Other developments include the successful launch of the Rowing Outreach programme in Inverness and secured funding for the 'Row the Rhythm' initiative, which introduces blind and partially sighted participants to rowing. Early results are positive, with participants and coaches finding the experience highly rewarding.

All this could not be possible without the hard work, dedication, commitment and expertise of the staff team at SR, led admirably by Lee who is now well into his second year in post. This year has not been without challenge and it has been a busy year for the board, most of whom are new to the role this year. A huge thanks from me to all my fellow Board members who volunteer their time and experience in support of Rowing in Scotland, and particularly to Laura Graham as Chair. They are a fine bunch and a great asset.

Rowing in Scotland would not be possible without the contribution of volunteers. Whether as a coach, committee member, fund-raiser, regatta organisers, trailer driver, welfare officer, umpire, being in charge of the tearoom at the clubhouse, or cutting the grass and maintaining the facilities, the time and effort you put into the sport is vital. On behalf of all who row in Scotland, thank you for all you do. Please keep doing it and having fun in our great sport.

Mike Martin
President
Scottish Rowing

Image: Mike Martin. Mike enjoying the sun in his sunglasses.



A man wearing a blue jacket, dark trousers, and a black beanie is standing on a sandy beach, holding a large Scottish flag. The background shows a beach with some dunes and a cloudy sky. In the distance, there are banners for 'ENGLAND ROWING' and 'SCOTTISH ROWING'.

CEO Welcome

It is my privilege to present the 2024–25 Annual Review of Scottish Rowing. This has been a year of both challenge and achievement.

Safeguarding has been a central focus, with complex cases managed with care and diligence. The appointment of a Safe Sport Case Officer and the forthcoming Independent Safeguarding Review strengthen our capacity and ensure our practices remain robust, transparent and tailored to the needs of our community.

One of the most encouraging signs of progress has been the 25.6% growth in membership, with 358 new members joining our community. This reflects the tireless work of clubs, volunteers and coaches in collaboration with Scottish Rowing, to make rowing more visible, welcoming and inclusive across Scotland.

Scottish athletes have excelled in representing Great Britain at every level - from the GB France J16 Match through to the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai. In the exciting new Olympic discipline of Beach Sprints, seven Scottish athletes will compete at the 2025 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, underlining our potential as we look ahead to Los Angeles 2028. Our performance pathway has been further strengthened by a new long-term partnership with British Rowing, securing investment until 2029, and separately by St Andrews being named a GB Olympic Beach Sprint Training Venue and Performance Development Academy.

Closer to home, our Scotland junior inter-regional team delivered an outstanding performance at the British Junior Inter-Regional Regatta, bringing home two trophies. At the other end of the spectrum, our Masters community made a huge impact at the World Rowing Masters Regatta in Banyoles, where Aberdeen Boat Club fielded the largest British entry and their women finished third in the overall points table. Our domestic events programme has also developed positively, with the Scottish Rowing Championships in June boosted by strong entries from outside Scotland. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, whose commitment underpins every success we celebrate.



This year also saw the launch of our first Young People's Panel, giving younger voices a direct role in shaping the future of our sport. We remain committed to ensuring rowing in Scotland is a sport for everybody, with equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at the heart of our growth. To benchmark our progress, we are working towards the Moving to Inclusion framework, the new UK-wide standard for EDI in sport.

On the staffing side, we completed a restructure and welcomed two new appointments to our Senior Leadership Team, strengthening our capacity to support clubs and deliver events. Financially, while our accounts show a deficit, this was a better-than-budget outcome in a challenging economic climate. We remain committed to returning to surplus, with a clear focus on income generation and sustainability at the Scottish Rowing Centre.

The recent Strategy Consultation Club Roadshow gave members a vital platform to shape our new strategic plan with more than 150 members participating across nine venues. We look forward to continuing this dialogue and co-creating a shared vision for the future of rowing in Scotland.

In this year of challenge, I want to acknowledge the unwavering support I have received from our Board, our staff team and the many volunteers across the rowing community. In particular, I want to thank our staff team for their professionalism, resilience and commitment in navigating a demanding year with dedication and care. Their efforts, alongside those of our volunteers, are a reminder that the strength of Scottish Rowing lies not only in results and numbers but in the people who give their time, energy and passion.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the foundations we have laid - through growth in membership, pathway success and stronger governance - will allow us to build a sport that is both resilient and inspiring. By working together, we can ensure that rowing in Scotland continues to thrive, offering opportunity, enjoyment and excellence for everyone who takes part.

Lee Boucher
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Rowing

Scottish Rowing Awards



Image: Scottish Rowing
Winners of Crew of the Year 2024 & W2- Scottish Champions 2025

Award Winners 2023-24

Young Volunteer of the Year
William Coalter - HWUBC

Volunteer of the Year
Gary Bain - ABC

Club Coach of the Year
Skye Ballance - CARC

Performance Coach of the Year
Holly Reid - ASRA

Initiative of the Year
Glasgow Univ. BC Sustainability

Junior Athlete of the Year
Sophie Sinclair - ASRA

Senior Athlete of the Year
Cameron Buchan - USTA

Crew of the Year
Maia Hely & Anna Fisher - SABC

Club of the Year
St Andrew Boat Club

[Read more about our award winners by clicking here](#)

Lifetime Achievement Award Ron Wallace

For 50 years, Ron Wallace has been the driving force behind the Aberdeen rowing community as secretary of the Committee of the Dee, organising over 200 events and fostering unity among local clubs. A dedicated Scottish Rowing Umpire and frequent event doctor, he has ensured competitions run safely and smoothly, earning widespread respect across the sport.

Known also as 'Snapper Ron', he has captured thousands of striking photos that document Scottish rowing life. Alongside these contributions, Ron has remained an active competitor, racing, even competing at Henley Masters. His lifelong commitment and remarkable service make him truly deserving of Scottish Rowing's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Images provided by Ron Wallace.

Top: Outside Aberdeen BC boathouse, 1977
Mid Left: Ron competing at World Masters, 2008
Mid Right: European Championships, 2018
Bottom Left: Vesta Vets Head, 2001
Bottom Right: Ron aged 15 on the Dee, circa 1970

Left: Ron being presented his award by Scottish Rowing CEO, Lee Boucher, 2024

Dame Katherine Grainger Inducted into the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame

Dame Katherine Grainger was inducted into the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame during the Scottish Sports Awards on 4 December 2024, recognising her outstanding contributions to sport. Born in Glasgow, Grainger began rowing at the University of Edinburgh and went on to become Britain's most decorated female Olympian, earning eight World Championship medals and winning medals at five consecutive Olympic Games, including a gold at London 2012.

Beyond her athletic achievements, Grainger has played a significant role in sports leadership. She became Chair of UK Sport in 2017 and was re-elected in 2021. She also served as Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University and is currently the first female Chancellor of the University of Glasgow. Her honours include an MBE (2006), CBE (2013), and DBE (2017) for services to sport and charity.

As Honorary President of Scottish Rowing, Grainger's influence extends deeply into the rowing community. Her induction makes her only the second rower to receive this honour, joining William Kinnear, inducted in 2002.

“From giving me great enjoyment at a young age, to a long career and happy as an athlete on the world stage and now in my role as chair of UK Sport, the impact it has had on me is momentous. I am incredibly thankful to be recognised in this way and to share the Hall of Fame with so many sporting heroes and iconic individuals that I deeply admire.

Dame Katherine Grainger

”

Image: Peter Spurrier
Katherine and 2x partner with their Gold Medals at London 2012



Image: sportscotland & Team Scotland
Katherine and her Hall of Fame Award at the Scottish Sports Awards 2024



Image: Scottish Rowing
Katherine christening her namesake boat at Spring Regatta 2023



Development



Image: Scottish Rowing
Sports Minister, Maree Todd MSP being taught to row at Inverness RC 10

Outreach Update

River Ayr

The River Ayr Project has opened up new opportunities for young people who often face barriers to physical activity. Targeting communities in South Ayrshire, where many families live in areas of high deprivation, the project has used rowing as a tool for inclusion, wellbeing and personal growth.

Across 40 days between April and October, the programme delivered four sessions per day, introducing rowing to the River Ayr for the very first time. Demand quickly overtook capacity, with more and more groups eager to take part. To date, participants have included 34 care-experienced young people, 22 young carers, 4 autistic young people, and several Ukrainian refugee families.

The impact has been profound. For some, it has been their first experience of organised sport; for others, rowing has provided a sense of connection, calm and belonging. One parent of a 12-year-old autistic participant reflected:

"From the outset the team created a welcoming and inclusive environment that allowed him to participate at his own pace. The low sensory, outdoor setting and rhythmic nature of rowing has had a calming effect in addition to all the mental and physical benefits of exercise."

With a new focus now linking the project to the South Ayrshire Employability Programme, the River Ayr initiative is not only thriving—it is proving life-changing.

Images

Top: Clinton Jackson. River Ayr coaches and participants chatting

Left: Clinton Jackson. River Ayr participants in glide boats

Right: David Collie. Clyde Gateway participant being in training single

Bottom: David Collie. Clyde Gateway pupils posing with sculling oars.



Outreach Update

Clyde Gateway

Following the success of its 2024/25 partnership, Clyde Gateway has extended its collaboration with Scottish Rowing and Clydesdale Amateur Rowing Club for another year, ensuring more young people in South Lanarkshire can experience the benefits of rowing.

Since April 2025, Clydesdale ARC has delivered a six-week Learn to Row programme for pupils from Stonelaw and Trinity High Schools, taking complete beginners through to confidently sculling solo and rowing as part of a crew. Sessions, led by qualified coaches, focus on progression, safety, teamwork and building confidence. When conditions prevent water sessions, indoor rowing and gym work ensure continued engagement.

Between April and June, 32 pupils (14 girls, 18 boys) took part, with teachers highlighting increased confidence, self-esteem and stronger school engagement. A highlight was the mini-regatta on 28 May, where pupils enjoyed both on-water races and indoor rowing competitions, celebrating their progress with peers, staff and Clyde Gateway representatives.

Firhill Youth Project

The Firhill Youth Project & Community Sports Hub SCIO continues to make a meaningful impact in the local community, offering young people a safe, inclusive, and active environment to grow and thrive. Over the recent period, the project welcomed 73 young participants across a diverse programme of 28 sessions, including 15 core sessions, 10 outreach events and 3 summer camp activities.

This consistent delivery reflects the organisation's commitment to accessibility and engagement, ensuring that young people from all backgrounds have the opportunity to take part in sport, build confidence, and develop valuable life skills. The outreach sessions, in particular, demonstrate a proactive approach to reaching those who may not otherwise engage, while the summer camp offerings provide a fun and structured way to stay active during the holidays.

Firhill's work is a shining example of community-led youth development, blending sport with social impact. As the project continues to grow, its dedication to empowering young people remains at the heart of everything it does - fostering not just athletes, but people.

Outreach Update

Strathclyde Park RC

During the 2024/25 season, the Strathclyde Park Rowing Club community outreach project successfully delivered 41 free rowing sessions to 371 participants from primary and secondary schools across North Lanarkshire.

A key highlight was working with two groups of pupils with additional support needs, where one group progressed from being fearful of the water to rowing confidently in a training crew boat, while the other incorporated rowing into their PE curriculum over six weeks.

The project also engaged young people excluded from mainstream education, who showed strong commitment over five weeks and developed impressive basic rowing skills. In addition, rowing machines were taken into two primary schools during health week, introducing pupils to the sport in an engaging setting. Secondary school groups advanced enough to form two fine shell racing quad crews, a first for the initiative.

Supported by 405 volunteer hours, the project has been nominated for Community Organisation of the Year at the 2025 North Lanarkshire Council Sport and Volunteer Awards.



541

participants across all
outreach programmes in
2024-25

Images

Top: Firhill Youth Project. Participants in Glide boats on the canal.

Middle: Strathclyde Park Outreach. Participants on ergs and sliders.

Bottom: Strathclyde Park Outreach. Participants in Glide boats at Strathclyde Park.

People Update

Umpires

Scottish Rowing currently boasts a strong team of 33 qualified umpires, including 2 World Rowing Umpires and 14 Multi-lane Umpires, 4 of whom qualified in 2025. Additionally, there are 19 National Umpires, with 2 newly qualified this year. Supporting this group are 11 individuals actively engaged in the training programme, with hopes that several will complete their assessments before the end of the year.

In 2025, several umpires have expanded their experience by officiating at beach sprint events, including the Saints Coastal Regatta and the Scottish Rowing Beach Sprint and Offshore Championships. These opportunities have helped broaden their skills and support the growth of coastal rowing in Scotland.

Looking ahead, a new round of umpire recruitment will begin this autumn. The goal is to bring fresh faces into the training programme, aiming for assessment readiness by late summer 2026. This initiative is part of Scottish Rowing's ongoing commitment to developing officiating talent across all levels of the sport.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our qualified and trainee umpires. Your dedication and countless volunteer hours are vital to the success of rowing events across the country. Scottish Rowing deeply appreciates your continued commitment and enthusiasm.



Top: Scottish Rowing. Umpire in launch post-race with an 8+ in the background
Middle Left: Scottish Rowing Head Umpire waving from the window in the finish tower at Strathclyde Park.
Middle Right: Scottish Rowing. Umpire in launch signalling with the white flag.
Bottom: Ron Wallace. Umpire on the beach instructing through a megaphone.



Young People's Panel

For the first time, Scottish Rowing has launched a Young People's Panel (YPP), giving young voices a central role in shaping the future of the sport.

In September, ten passionate individuals from four clubs across Scotland came together at **sportscotland's** National Training Centre in Largs to connect, share ideas, and begin their journey as youth ambassadors.

The panel quickly demonstrated a strong commitment to making rowing more inclusive, engaging and accessible, not just for themselves, but for their wider communities.

Dividing into three focus groups: Inclusion, Events, and Communications, they explored key areas for improvement.

This exciting development ensures that the future of Scottish Rowing is not only guided by its Board, but also by the energy, insight and creativity of its young members.

Image: Scottish Rowing
The YPP and support team on the stairs at Inverclyde

Coaching

2024–25 marked a year of growth for the Scottish Rowing Coach Academy, with an encouraging increase in participant numbers.

While staffing changes meant the project couldn't be delivered in full, this transition has opened the door for reflection and improvement. With a new Head of Development and Coaching in place and an updated strategic plan on the horizon, we're excited to relaunch the Coach Academy in 2026—designed to be more supportive, inclusive, and coach-centred than ever before.

This season also brought significant developments in coach education, with British Rowing introducing the new Assistant Coach Training (ACT). Launched in spring 2025, this accessible entry-level course includes three online modules followed by a practical training day with a BR tutor. We're working closely with British Rowing to assess demand and prepare for our first delivery of the practical module.

Looking ahead, our 2026 British Rowing Coach Education dates will be live soon!

Keep an eye on our competition and event calendar for details and visit the British Rowing website to book your course.

[Scottish Rowing
Events Calendar](#)

[British Rowing
Coach Education
website](#)

Performance Development



Image: Scottish Rowing
PDA Athletes receiving coaching 16

Junior Inter-Regional Regatta

The Scotland region team delivered an outstanding performance at the 2025 Junior Inter-Regional Regatta on 26th April in Nottingham, fielding their largest-ever team of 74 athletes from nine clubs. In only their second year at the event, Scotland entered every eligible category and finished an impressive second overall in the Victor Ludorum standings. Two trophies were brought home with the girls' squad dominating to win the Victrix Ludorum title and the Margaret Marshall Cup.

The boys' team placed a strong fourth, narrowly missing third by just one point, while Scottish single scullers excelled to win the Barbara Wilson Cup. Scottish Rowing President Mike Martin praised the athletes for their many finals and medals, calling it a joyful showcase of talent from across the country. With this strong showing at the JIRR, Scotland has set a high benchmark for future competitions. The team's success is a testament to the dedication of the athletes, coaches, and parents.



Junior Performance Development Programmes

The Scottish Rowing Junior Performance Programmes have continued to excel this year, with strong cohorts in both the Junior Academy and Scottish Argonauts Tideway projects. The Junior Academy featured eight rowers and two coxes from a range of clubs, who benefited from four training camps and went on to achieve excellent results throughout the regatta season.

The Scottish Argonauts also enjoyed notable successes at the Tideway Head events. At the Women's Eights Head of the River, the girls delivered a fantastic performance, finishing 99th overall from a starting position of 287th. Meanwhile, the boys impressed as the only junior entry from Scotland at the Head of the River Race, finishing 10th in the Junior category and showcasing their determination and talent.

A group of Scottish Argonauts travelled south in June to compete at Marlow Regatta and Henley Women's Regatta, gaining valuable experience at two of the UK's top domestic events. The J18 4x crew at Marlow took on the best quad sculls in the country (junior & senior), racing four times across two events in the blistering heat at Dorney Lake, learning race by race how to get the most of a new combination. Meanwhile at Henley Women's Regatta, the predominantly J16 girls' crew raced strongly in a challenging field of 41 crews, placing 20th and gaining important race experience in a highly competitive category.

50%

of Academy Athletes
on the Scotland Rowing Team

6

athletes on took part
in both Academy & Argonauts



Images: Scottish Rowing
Top Right: Argonauts at HWR, 2025
Top Left: Argonauts at WeHoRR, 2025
Middle Right: Argonauts at HoRR, 2025
Bottom Left: Junior Academy at the Oriam, 2025
Bottom Right: Argonauts at Marlow, 2025



Performance Development Academy

Over the past year, the Performance Development Academy (PDA) has continued to grow, establishing a more consistent training group and strengthening links across the wider Scottish rowing community. The squad now consists of 12 athletes from Glasgow University Boat Club, Heriot-Watt University Boat Club, Strathclyde Park Rowing Club, and University of St Andrews Boat Club, with some athletes fully integrated into the programme and others training alongside the group.

Working closely with the Scottish Rowing Performance Programme, in January, the athletes attended a ten-day land training camp at Oriam, Edinburgh, where they benefitted from intensive training supported by physiologists, coaches, and a large cohort of athletes, pushing themselves physically and mentally.

Over Easter, the squad travelled alongside GB triallists from Scotland to Hazewinkel, Belgium, for a water-based camp, joining other British Rowing PDAs to develop crew boat skills and refine race strategies ahead of the regatta season.

Regular attendance at National Development Camps at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, provided further opportunities for the athletes to test themselves and work closely with the British Rowing Pathway system, an opportunity that was shared with an additional 10 athletes from programmes across Scotland last season.

Throughout the season, PDA athletes raced alongside peers from other centres and across Scottish Rowing, building resilience and gaining essential competition exposure. This approach led to several notable successes: Polly Swaile (GUBC) and Ella Gildert (SPRC) won the Aspirational Quadruple Sculls at Henley Women's Regatta; Polly Swaile (GUBC) and Kloe Hunter (SPRC) were selected to represent Scotland at the Home International Regatta; and Scott MacCallum (SPRC) and Nathaniel Fishburn (HWUBC) won silver in the Open double sculls at the Scottish Rowing Championships.

Overall, the season showcased the squad's progress, commitment, and growing impact within Scottish Rowing.



Top: Scottish Rowing. PDA athletes at the Hazewinkel Camp.
 Top Left: Ella Gildert. On-water training at Strathclyde Park.
 Middle Left: Scottish Rowing. Ella & Polly at Henley Women's
 Middle Right: Scottish Rowing. PDA athletes posing with tankards won at
 Bottom Left: Ella Gildert. Sunset training in the quad.

Performance Update



Image: All Mark One
Edinburgh Univ. competing at Henley Royal Regatta 2025

Performance Partners

Scottish Rowing's commitment to developing world-class athletes was further reinforced in 2025 through the expansion and renewal of several key partnerships across higher education and national governing bodies.

This year saw extensions to all three Partnership Agreements within our established Performance Partner Programmes, involving the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, and the joint programme with the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University. These agreements ensure athletes can continue to access high-performance coaching, facilities, and academic support, enabling them to thrive both on the water and in their studies.

In addition, Scottish Rowing extended its collaboration with Strathclyde Park Rowing Club and British Rowing, continuing to host the British Rowing Performance Development Academy. This programme plays a crucial role in recruiting and preparing aspiring athletes for the transition to elite competition, bridging the gap between grassroots and international rowing.

A particularly exciting development in 2025 has been the launch of a new three-way partnership with the University of St Andrews and British Rowing. Together, we have established a Beach Sprint Performance Development Academy, as well as one of only two designated Olympic beach sprint satellite training centres in the UK. This pioneering initiative strengthens Scotland's position at the forefront of coastal rowing and the emerging Olympic discipline of Beach Sprints.

Our work with the **sportscotland** institute of sport and Winning Students 100 continues to be a cornerstone of our performance strategy. Rowing remains a priority sport thanks to ongoing strategic investment at the higher education level, including the introduction of the new Talent ID pilot scholarship. This initiative is designed to identify and nurture new talent, broadening the base of athletes capable of progressing into performance pathways.

Through these strengthened partnerships, Scottish Rowing is proud to be building the next generation of rowing talent, ensuring Scotland remains a driving force in the sport nationally and internationally.



UKAD
Protecting Sport

Anti-Doping

Scottish Rowing remains fully committed to Clean Sport, working closely with British Rowing and Welsh Rowing to align strategies and deliver effective education. The current Clean Sport Strategy is set for review in 2026, with collaborative planning already underway to ensure continued alignment across Home Nations.

In July 2024, Jonny Logan was appointed Board Lead for Anti-Doping, following Dot Roberts' resignation. Jonny will support the development of the updated Clean Sport Strategy, helping guide Scottish Rowing's approach over the coming year.

Clean Sport education was delivered to athletes and coaches at the Winter Training Camp in January 2025, with further sessions provided ahead of the Home International Regatta and through British Rowing's iRowClean series. Key updates, including the 2025 Prohibited List, were shared with staff, athletes, and partners to ensure awareness and compliance.

Scottish Rowing remains fully compliant with the UKAD Assurance Framework, having completed its 2025 submission successfully. We continue to actively promote Clean Sport through our website, social media, and during Clean Sport Week.

No anti-doping rule violations were reported in the past year.

Image: Lee Boucher
Sarah from UKAD promoting Clean Sport
at Scottish Rowing Championships 2025

Scottish Rowing Performance Programme

At the heart of the Scottish Rowing Performance Programme (SRPP) is a commitment to enabling athletes to reach their international aspirations. In 2025, 31 athletes across the Classic, Beach Sprint and Paralympic disciplines are benefitting from structured support, expert coaching and access to world-class training opportunities.

This programme is further strengthened by the continued partnership with the **sportscotland** institute of sport, ensuring that SRPP athletes have access to a comprehensive range of high-performance services. These include physiology, physical preparation, physiotherapy, psychology, performance lifestyle support and medical expertise, alongside other specialist disciplines.

Scottish Rowing has refreshed its approach to performance governance with the creation of a new Performance Advisory Group in 2025. This group has been established to provide expert guidance on both programme activity and the wider strategic direction of performance rowing in Scotland. The addition of two independent Performance Advisors, alongside a newly appointed Board Director with responsibility for Performance, brings fresh insight and experience to ensure Scotland's athletes and coaches are best supported for success.

By combining strong leadership with expert multidisciplinary support, the SRPP is helping Scotland's most talented athletes maximise their potential and continue progressing towards international success.

Image: Christian Taylor
SRPP athlete boat handling at the SR Beach Sprint Championships



Scotland Rowing Team

HIR Regatta

Scotland delivered a strong performance at the Home International Regatta at Eton Dorney, with 61 athletes from 19 clubs, including 13 Scottish clubs, proudly representing the nation. The team showcased depth and quality across both classic and para-rowing events, bringing home an impressive seven event wins.

Highlights included Oliver Main (Trentham RC) claiming victory in the JM1x A and Ben Parsonage (Clydesdale ARC) powering to gold in the Men's Single. In the crew boats, the Edinburgh University BC quartet of Henry Blackwell, Murray Bone, Josh Matthews and Ben Nussey, coxed by Georgia Douglas (OUBC), stormed to victory in the Men's coxed four, while their clubmates also struck gold in the Women's Pair, and joined forces with Strathclyde Park RC to take victory in the Women's Coxless Four.

Adding further success, Jake Woods (Strathclyde Park RC) impressed in the PR1 Men's Single, securing wins in both the standard and sprint formats.

A fantastic showing highlighted Scotland's rising talent and competitive spirit.

HIR Beach Sprints

The fourth edition of the Home International Rowing (HIR) Beach Sprints took place on the scenic shores of Ireland, bringing together top talent from across the UK. Scotland delivered a strong performance, finishing third in the overall points table with 15 points, behind Wales (24) and England (18), and ahead of hosts Ireland (12).

Scottish athletes claimed two impressive victories: Megan Hewison triumphed in the CW1x, while Tom Mitchell and Hansine Marshall secured gold in the CMix2x. A full team of 10 athletes represented Scotland from eight clubs, including University of St Andrews BC, Strathclyde Park RC, Edinburgh University BC, George Heriot's School RC, and Glasgow University BC. Notably, Isla MacCallum marked her fifth consecutive HIR appearance, having competed in both classic and beach sprint formats since 2023. Zoe Cochrane also continued her streak, representing Scotland as a junior for the third year in a row across four events.

With growing momentum, Scotland looks poised for even greater success in future HIR competitions as we get ready to welcome a home event in 2026.

International Performances



Image: BUCS
GB Women's 8+ after winning Gold at the World University Games

GB Trials

Classic

Scottish athletes once again showcased their depth of talent across the GB Rowing Team Trials process in 2024/25, with representation at U23/Senior, U19 and Para events.

In November, 16 Scots entered the U23/Senior trials. Eleven travelled from Scotland, representing five clubs. Notable results at the April Trial included Archie Drummond and Miles Beeson placing 1st and 3rd in the Men's Pair, while Edinburgh University BC's Murray Bone & Freddy Foxwell secured a top-10 finish in the Men's Double. In the Women's Pair, Irvine & Robertson (Edinburgh University BC) finished 11th overall, while Sophia Issberner (University of St Andrews BC) finished 15th. The U19 trials saw six Scottish athletes from five clubs compete in November, with Ezra Ferguson (George Watson's College BC) progressing to a 6th place finish in the JM1x at April trials.

At the Para Trials, Jake Woods (Strathclyde Park RC) placed 4th overall in November and 5th in April in the PR1 M1x, with Colin Wallace (University of St Andrews BC) finishing 7th overall in his PR3 1x.

Beach Sprints

In 2025 GB Rowing Team hopefuls competed across the '4 Nations' series to earn their right for an invitation to the closed Beach Sprint Trials events held in July & August. Eight Scottish athletes earned such an invitation with seven converting these into international selections.

Laura McKenzie (Glasgow University BC) won the women's trial to earn her seat as the Women's Solo at the World Beach Sprint Finals and European Championships. Cam Buchan (University of St Andrews BC) earned his seat in the Mixed Double at the same events following his strong performances at the trials. Isabel Soyinka (Clydesdale ARC) earned her first international honours as she took the top spot in the Junior Women's Solo trial and was selected to race the under-19 Women's Solo at the two Championship Events.

Gregor Hall (Stirling RC) and Heather Gordon (Inverness RC) continued to impress for the Scotland at the trials and will be looking to retain the World Championship title in the Mixed Quadruple Scull, coxed by University of St Andrews BC graduate, Ryan Glymond. Colin Wallace (University of St Andrews BC) was again selected for the PR3 mixed double sculls to defend his Worlds title, this time he will be joined by fellow Scot, Megan Hewison (Molesey BC) who will also be the nominated women's spare for the championship events.

Image: Christian Taylor
Beach athlete competing at a '4 Nations' event.

International Competitions

Scottish athletes made their mark at the **2025 European Rowing Championships** in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, with Miles Beeson (ASRA) and Archie Drummond powering to gold in the Men's Eight, while Eleanor Brinkhoff (Dundee University BC) impressed on debut by claiming bronze in the Women's Pair and a further gold in the Women's Eight. Adding to the Scottish presence, Edinburgh University BC's Izzy Clements made her international debut for Ireland, finishing fourth in the Lightweight Women's Single.

Image: Benedict Tuffnell | British Rowing
Miles Beeson cheering at the camera.



At the **FISU World University Games** in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany, Sophia Issberner (University of St Andrews BC) made history on her international debut, powering to gold in the GB Women's Eight. Her selection marked the first-ever GB vest for a St Andrews student in the classic discipline, a proud milestone for both athlete and club.

Image: World University Games
W8+ receiving their Gold medal on the podium



At the **GB-France J16 Match** in London Docklands, Lottie Meakins and Ines De Kock (Aberdeen Schools RA) rose to the occasion in the Women's Pair. Supported by coach, Holly Reid, the young duo not only won their race in style but also played a key role in securing overall victory for GB at the 43rd staging of this prestigious international fixture.

Image: Holly Reid
GB W2- in their boat at the pontoon with their medals on



At the **U19 World Championships** in Trakai, Lithuania, Scottish Junior Academy athlete Lara Bone (Godolphin & Latymer BC) delivered a standout performance, stroking the GB Junior Women's Eight to gold. Their triumph was one of four championship titles for GB, with Bone at the heart of one of the team's most dominant displays.

Image: Benedict Tuffnell | British Rowing
U19 W8+ receiving their Gold medal on the podium

2025 World Rowing Championships

There was plenty of Scottish representation at the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, with six athletes delivering standout performances on the global stage.

Stood atop the podium was James Robson, who alongside his crew stormed to gold in the Men's Four, leading from the start in a commanding display of strength and strategy.

The Men's Eight saw Aberdonian Miles Beeson and Archie Drummond power through a nail-biting final 500 metres, surging past the United States to clinch silver with just 0.16 seconds separating the crews.

In the Women's Eight, Dundee Uni alumna Eleanor Brinkhoff helped secure a hard-fought bronze, edging out Germany by a razor-thin 0.17 seconds.

Lucy Glover (Edinburgh University BC) placed 5th in the B Final of the Women's Double Sculls, showing grit in a competitive field. Meanwhile, James Doran (former Edinburgh University BC) supported the squad as the men's reserve athlete.

With medals, close finishes, and fierce determination, Scotland's rowers proved their prowess on the world stage.

Upcoming Competitions

The flat-water season may be over but the Beach racing is in full swing. Keep an eye out on these upcoming events to see how our athletes progress on the world stage.

European Beach Sprint Championships
Antalya, Turkey
8-12 October 2025

World Beach Sprint Finals
Antalya, Turkey
6-9 November 2025

Commonwealth Rowing Association
Beach Sprint Championships
Bridgetown, Barbados
21-23 November 2025

Competitions & Events



Image: World Rowing
Mixed 8+ crews racing at World Rowing Masters Championships 2025

Domestic Round-Up

This year, the Scottish rowing community came together to deliver an outstanding 18 domestic races across the country, hosted by 8 dedicated clubs alongside 4 events hosted by Scottish Rowing.

The calendar was packed with variety, featuring 7 exciting head races, 8 vibrant regattas, 2 innovative beach sprints, and 1 inspiring indoor event, each showcasing the talent and spirit of our athletes. These events not only highlighted competition but also celebrated the strength of our rowing community.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless commitment of clubs, athletes, volunteers, and umpires whose hard work and passion continue to drive Scottish Rowing forward.

A fantastic year of rowing achievement. We can't wait to see what next season brings!



[Check out the 2025/26 events calendar here!](#)

Image: Scottish Rowing
4+ racing at Inverness

Domestic Events 2024/25

North East Regatta, 31 Aug-1 Sep

Clydesdale Scullers Head 5 Oct

Clyde 3 Heads, 26 Oct

Caley Marina Fours and Small Boats Head, 9-10 Nov

Aberdeen Head, 16-17 Nov

Scottish Rowing Schools Indoor Championships, 22 Nov

Strathclyde University Head, 1 Feb

Aberdeen 8s and Small Boats Head Weekend, 15-16 Feb

Caley Marina Winter Head, 1-2 Mar

Saints Coastal Regatta, 12-13 April

Scottish Rowing Spring Regatta, 19-20 Apr

Clyde Power Sprint, 3 May

North-East Regatta, 10-11 May

Castle Semple Regatta, 17 May

Scottish Rowing Championships, 7-8 Jun

Nithsdale Regatta, 14 June

Scottish Rowing Beach Sprint Championships, 16-17 Aug

Aberdeen Sprint Regatta, 23 Aug

Schools League and Schools Indoor Champs 2024

The 2024 Schools Indoor Rowing League ran from September to November, featuring three online rounds followed by the in-person Schools Indoor Rowing Championships.

This year saw 377 individuals from 12 schools take part in the league, with 83 completing all four rounds. The championships brought together 213 competitors, creating an exciting and competitive atmosphere as students pushed themselves to achieve their best performances.

George Watson's College claimed the overall league title, showing consistency and strength across the season. Competition was tight in many categories, reflecting the commitment and determination shown by all involved.

A highlight of the league was the support of GB Olympic bronze medallist, Rowan McKellar, who filmed motivational videos and attended the in-person final to encourage and inspire participants. Her words provided a boost throughout the competition, offering insight from an elite perspective.

Congratulations go to every rower who took part—whether in a single round or throughout the series. A special thank you goes to Fettes College for their continued support and excellent hosting of the final. With such strong participation and enthusiasm, the league continues to thrive and inspire future rowing talent.



Images: Scottish Rowing
Top: Pupils racing with supporters cheering. Left: Rowan McKellar OLY on the rowing machine. Middle: Pupils supporting celebrating their teacher winning. Right: Pupil admiring McKellar's Bronze Olympic Medal

Scottish Rowing Championships

The Scottish Rowing Championships delivered a weekend of exciting racing and strong competition across all categories. This year's event saw another increase in entries, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for the sport across Scotland and beyond.

A total of 664 competitors took to the water, filling 1,630 seats across multiple events. Participation rose across the board, with the Open, Women's, Junior, Senior and Masters categories all experiencing notable growth. This diverse entry list brought together athletes from a wide range of clubs and experience levels, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere throughout the regatta.

The Championships once again demonstrated the depth of talent and dedication within Scottish rowing. With strong performances and increased participation, the 2025 edition further cements the event's status as a highlight of the rowing calendar.

[Check out the results here!](#)

Image: Morgan Cleland
Crews marshalling at the start

Scottish Rowing Beach Sprint and Offshore Championships

The 2025 Championships were held in Ayr for the first time, with support from South Ayrshire Council, Swift, St Andrews University and Edinburgh University. The event also marked the debut of Scotland's first offshore rowing competition, expanding opportunities for athletes across multiple disciplines.

The Beach Sprint Championships featured 95 crews, including 28 doubles and 67 singles, across categories from J16s, U19s, Seniors, and Masters, representing 34 clubs, of which 23 were non-Scottish. Meanwhile, the Offshore Championships saw 63 crews compete - 25 singles, 27 doubles and 11 quads - in U19, Senior and Masters categories, with 15 of 18 clubs coming from outside Scotland.

The Championships successfully brought together a diverse range of athletes and clubs, creating a vibrant and inclusive competition while establishing Scotland as a growing hub for both Beach Sprint and Offshore rowing.

[Check out the results here!](#)

Image: Christian Taylor
Coastal doubles lining up for the start of the Offshore event.

World Rowing Masters Regatta

The picturesque waters of Banyoles, Spain, played host to the 2025 World Rowing Masters Regatta and Scottish rowers held a powerful presence. With 209 crews representing nine Scottish clubs, this year marked the largest Scottish turnout since 2017, showcasing the depth, passion and resilience of the nation's masters rowing community.

From seasoned veterans to rising stars, Scotland's presence was felt across the regatta. A remarkable 19 gold medals were brought home, a testament to the dedication and grit of the athletes and their coaches.

One of the standout stories came from Aberdeen Boat Club, whose women's squad, under the expert guidance of coach Gary Bain, clinched third place in the Women's Team Trophy, a phenomenal achievement that highlights the club's growing strength and unity.

The championships also celebrated the incredible age range of Scottish competitors. The oldest athlete, a 79-year-old rower from Aberdeen, proved that passion for the sport knows no age limit. On the other end of the spectrum, the youngest Scottish participant, an 18-year-old cox/coach from Strathclyde Park, demonstrated the bright future ahead for Scottish rowing.

This year's event wasn't just about medals - it was about community, legacy and inspiration. The camaraderie among clubs, the roar of support from the banks, and the shared joy of competition made Banyoles a memorable chapter in Scottish rowing history.

Whether you're a seasoned rower or someone curious to dip an oar in the water, the 2025 World Masters proved that rowing is a sport for everyone.

[Check out the results here!](#)

Henley Royal Regatta

Scottish crews delivered a standout performance at the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta, showcasing depth and talent across all levels. A total of 12 full Scottish crews competed in Junior, Student, Club and Intermediate events, representing clubs including St Andrew BC, Edinburgh University BC, University of St Andrews BC, Clydesdale ARC and George Watson's College BC. With Scottish representation in Intermediate and Elite events from Strathclyde Park RC (Bridge) and Edinburgh University BC (Stonor).

Of those entrants, 10 full Scottish crews successfully qualified to race at the regatta, an impressive achievement. Notably, the often misquoted, University of St Andrews BC and St Andrew BC successfully qualified their first-ever full female crews, marking a significant milestone in both clubs' history.

St Andrew BC's Wyfold four showed their strength by winning two rounds and reaching the quarterfinals, where they faced the eventual champions, London RC A. Meanwhile, Edinburgh University BC's Prince Albert four battled through to a Sunday final, finishing a close second to University of London in a thrilling race decided by just three-quarters of a length.

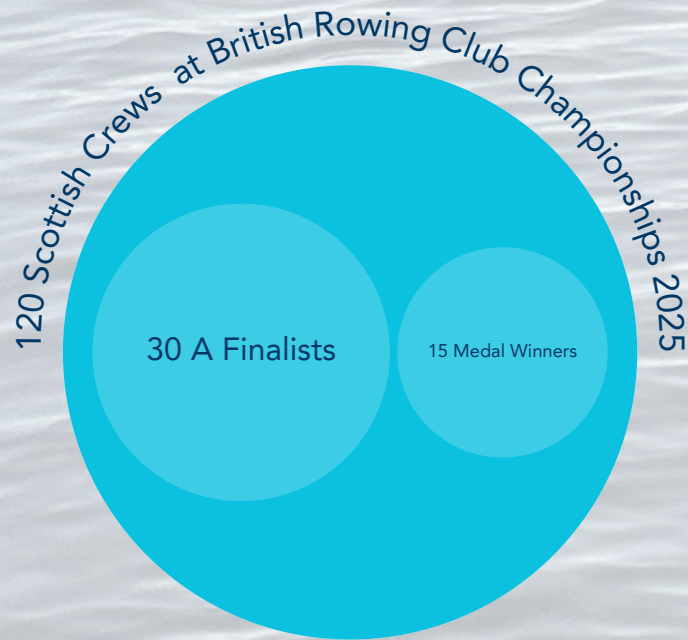
Henley Women's Regatta

Scottish clubs enjoyed another outstanding Henley Women's Regatta, winning three trophies for the second year running.

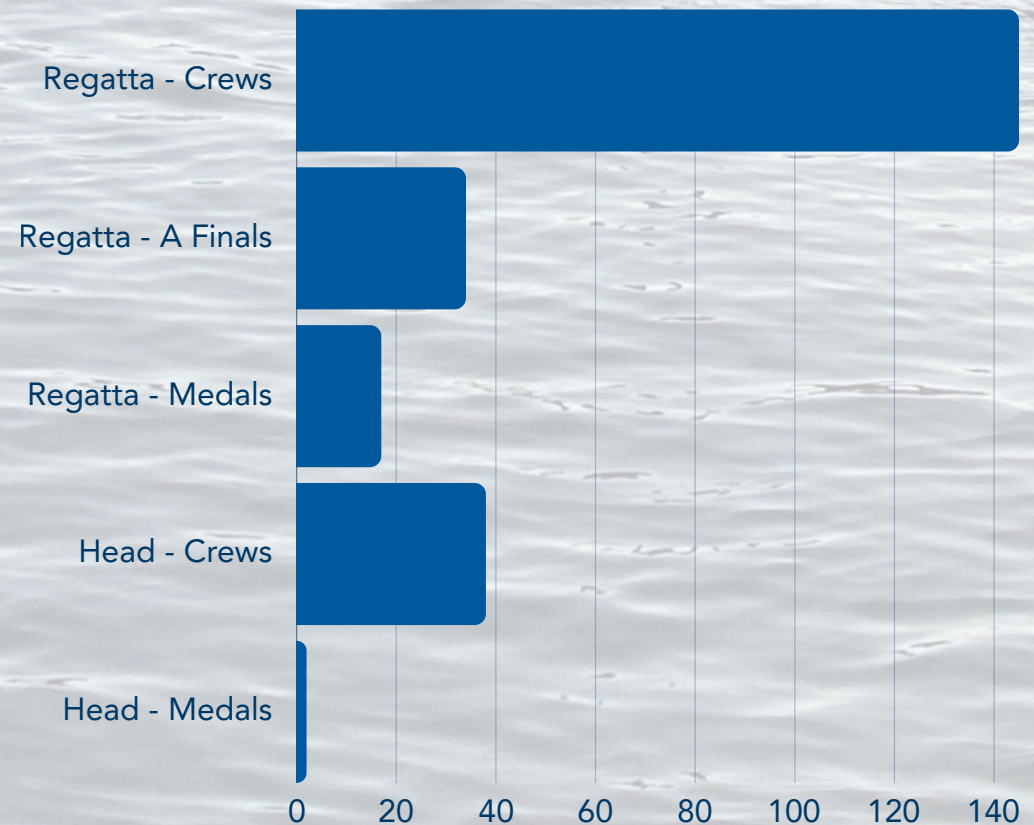
The first came in the Chairman's Trophy for Aspirational Quadruple Sculls, where the PDA crew of Ella Gildert (Strathclyde Park RC), Polly Swaile (Glasgow University BC), Louise Brooks and Ursie Flemming, coached by Perri McCluskey (Scottish Rowing) and Matt Mole, overcame a strong Clydesdale ARC crew in a rematch of the Scottish Championships final. Minutes later, Edinburgh University BC claimed the Frank V Harry Cup for Development Coxed Fours for the third year in a row, edging Surrey University BC by half a length. Finally, The Bernard & Pauline Churcher Cup for Aspirational Single Sculls went to the University of St Andrews BC's Hansine Marshall—securing the club's first Henley Women's title under coach Lewis McCue.

Other highlights included Abigail Topp winning the Ron Needs Challenge Cup for Championship Eights in a Leander, Durham, and University of London composite, and finals appearances for Sam Gough (PR3 Singles), Heather Taylor (Championship Quads) and Ava Robertson (Aspirational Lightweight Singles). St Andrew BC also reached two semi-finals in Championship Pairs and Aspirational Club Eights.

Other Event Statistics



BUCS Regatta & Head



British Rowing Masters Championships 2025

8 Medals

21 Crews ft Scottish Athletes

Image: Scottish Rowing
The gym at the Scottish Rowing Centre

Scottish Rowing Centre Update

Centre Update

In 2024/25, Scottish Rowing made the difficult but necessary decision to permanently close the Indoor Rowing Tank at the Scottish Rowing Centre. While the facility had served as a valuable training and development resource for athletes over many years, ongoing and increasingly complex maintenance issues meant that it was no longer sustainable to operate.

The Centre itself remains an essential hub for the sport in Scotland - providing a daily training environment for our performance programme athletes, supporting regular camp-based activity including the Junior Academy and the Scotland Rowing Team, hosting outreach programme activities such as Row the Rhythm, enabling delivery of the national events programme at Strathclyde Park, and hosting the Scottish Rowing office and meeting spaces.

We remain committed to safeguarding the Scottish Rowing Centre's long-term future and ensuring it continues to serve as a vibrant home for Scottish Rowing. Work is under way to explore how the former tank space can be repurposed to meet the evolving needs of the sport, while also assessing a range of cost-saving and income-generating opportunities. This includes investigating energy security measures such as installing solar panels, alongside expanding both sporting and non-traditional uses of the venue. These steps will help strengthen the Centre's financial and environmental sustainability, protecting the space for athletes, coaches, volunteers and the wider community.



External Users

Over the past year, the Scottish Rowing Centre has proudly welcomed a vibrant mix of external groups, each bringing their own energy and enthusiasm to our facilities. This diversity has not only enriched our community but also showcased the Centre as a true hub for sport, development and positive impact.

The Caledonian Braves Football Club have become a familiar sight, holding their weekly training sessions in our gym. Making use of our free weights section and circuit space, we're delighted to support their ongoing journey. Motherwell Athletic has made the Centre their home for several years. Using the meeting space for weekly registrations, committee meetings, and even a successful charity fundraiser, further strengthening local ties.

We've also hosted RYA Scotland for monthly bookings since January 2025, supporting their mission to develop sailing talent across the country. Paddle Scotland has brought high-performance camps to our venue, nurturing the next generation of paddlers in a supportive environment.

Scottish Cycling's development team enjoyed a dedicated day at the Centre, while Children First held an important meeting, highlighting our role as a venue for both sport and community wellbeing.

We were also thrilled to welcome The King's School, Chester for their Easter Training camp, adding some additional fun to our calendar. It is always a pleasure to host training camps and to welcome coaches and athletes from the wider rowing community.

Of course, the centre also acts as a hub for our home clubs of Strathclyde Park RC, Heriot-Watt University BC and Edinburgh University BC and for our performance athletes and development camps. Including the Performance Development Academy, Junior Academy, Junior Technical Camps and SR Performance Programme.

These partnerships reflect the Scottish Rowing Centre's commitment to inclusivity, growth, and community engagement. We look forward to another year of collaboration, achievement and shared success with all our valued external users and are excited to grow the centre into a hub for all.



[Get in touch to
book the rowing
centre](#)

A scenic view from a bridge over a body of water, looking towards a rowing event field under a bright sun. The bridge has a wooden deck and metal railings. The sun is high in the sky, creating a lens flare effect. The water reflects the sunlight. In the background, there are trees, a parking lot with cars, and some white tents or structures. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

Membership

Image: Scottish Rowing
The event field from the bridge to the finish tower.

Member Numbers

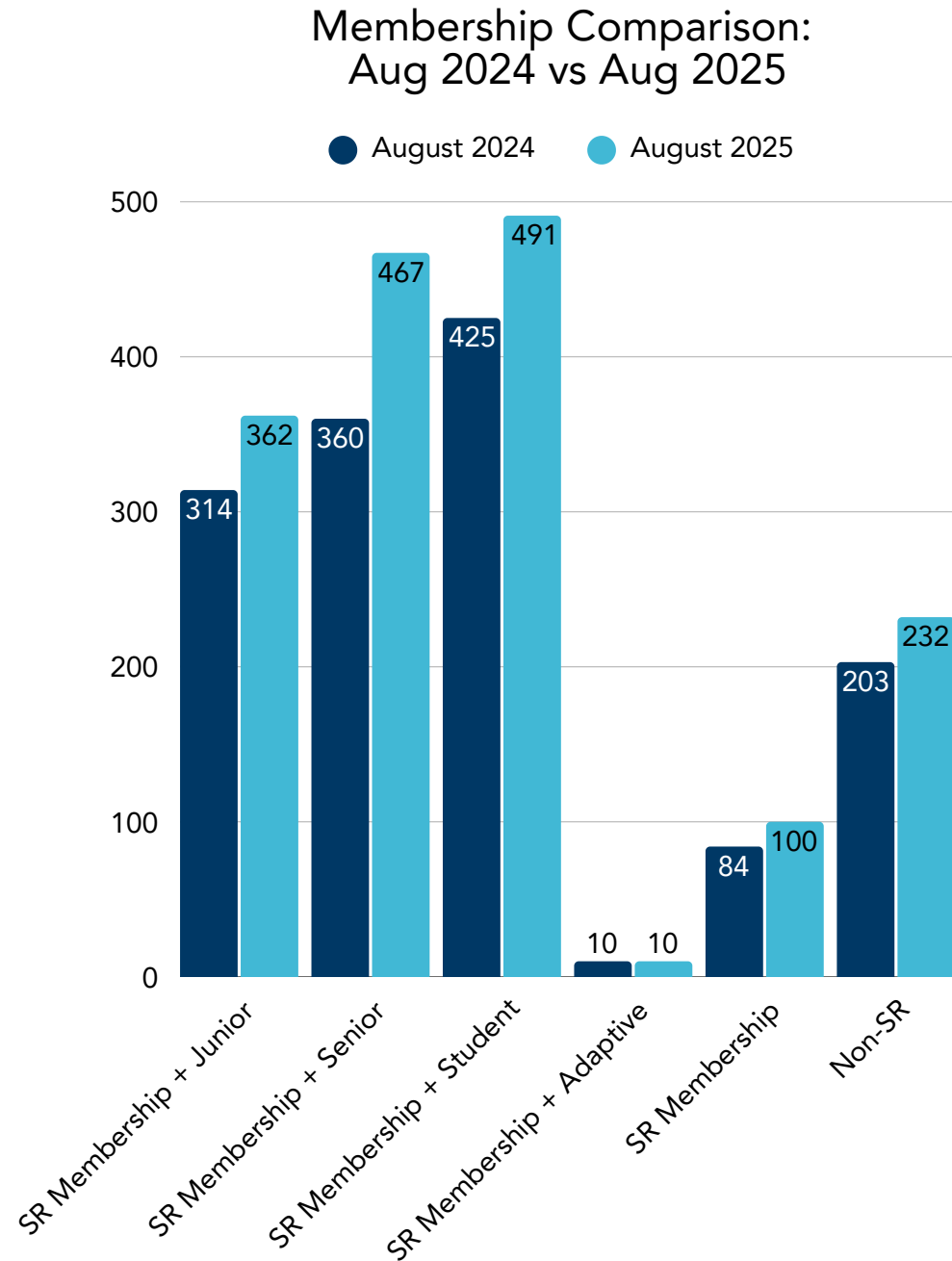
The below graph presents a comparison of Scottish Rowing membership figures between August 2024 and August 2025 across six key categories. It highlights growth in most categories with Adaptive membership remaining stable. The most notable increases are seen in Senior (29.7% increase) and Student (15.5% increase) categories, reflecting strong engagement among these groups.

Overall, the total membership rose from **1,396** in August 2024 to **1,754*** in August 2025, marking a **25.6% increase**.

This significant growth is a positive indicator of the sport's development and outreach efforts, suggesting increased participation and retention across the board. Increased membership strengthens the Scottish rowing community by boosting club sustainability, enhancing event participation and supporting long-term growth and national representation.

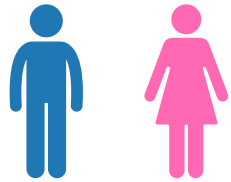
We are pleased to see a continued growth year-on-year and would like to thank all of our members for their constant support.

*Includes individuals without paid memberships.



Current Membership (Aug 2025)

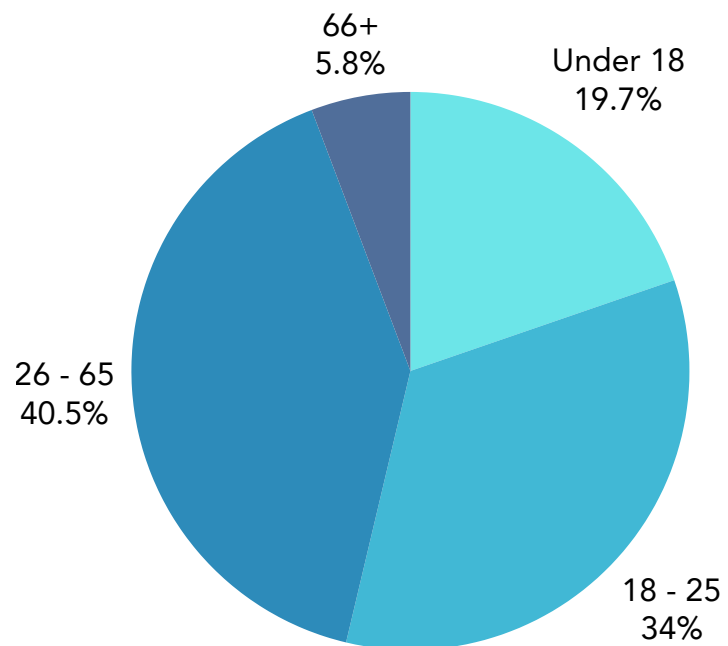
Gender Split



45.6%
Male

54.4%
Female

Age Distribution



Regional Split



N/B: All data has been collected via the Scottish Rowing JustGo platform of those with active memberships of Scottish Rowing.

Finance

Image: Scottish Rowing
Coxed four boat on trestles

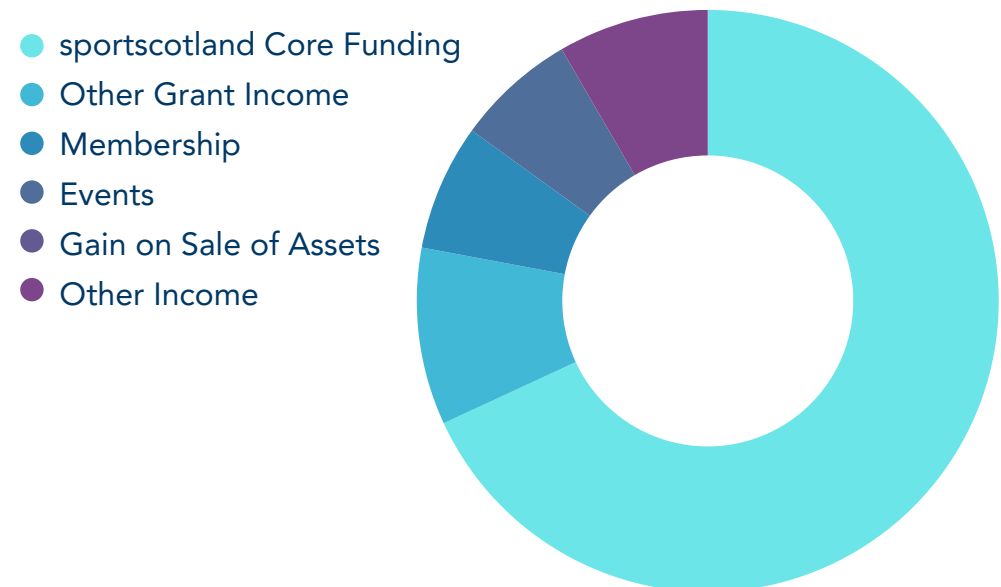
Finance Report

In the financial year ended 31 March 2025, Scottish Rowing reported a deficit of £30,710 (2023/24: £11,759). Income generated was £883.6k (2023/24: £892.5k).

A lack of profit from the sale of assets and reduced event income, offset by an increase in **sportscotland** funding and a 12.7% increase in membership income, resulted in a small decrease in overall income.

Other grant income was gratefully received from Clyde Gateway and Love Rowing, amongst others. Membership income, which is made up of club affiliation fees and individual memberships, represented 7.0% of Scottish Rowing's 2024/25 income.

Income (£'000)	2023	2024	2025
sportscotland Core Funding	465	587	602
Other Grant Income	64	88	87
Membership	55	55	62
Events	47	78	59
Gain on Sale of Assets	37	29	0
Other Income	78	56	74
Total Income	746	893	884
Expenditure (£'000)			
Performance	251	431	377
Governance & Member Services	276	285	310
Sport Development & Pathways	197	189	228
Total Expenditure	724	904	914



Thank you to all of our partners!

