



Scottish Rowing

Annual Review

2025 - 26

Image: W4x from the 1986 Scotland Team at the Scottish Champs in 2026
Photographer: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing

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President's Welcome

Mike Martin

The 25/26 Scottish Rowing season has been marked by significant successes across various levels of competition. Membership numbers have increased, and regatta and racing entries have also risen. Both the Spring Regatta and Scottish Championships showcased full programmes with high-quality racing. Scottish crews and athletes have demonstrated strong performances nationally and internationally, with representation in numerous regattas, including those for Senior World Championships and European Championships.

Internationally, Scottish athletes have performed with distinction across both classic and coastal disciplines. Domestically, the Scottish rowing team achieved medals at various regattas, including the National Schools' Regatta, BUCS, Henley Women's Regatta, and the Henley Royal Regatta. We welcomed Richard Phelps and Boris Rankov, from HRR, to the Scottish Championships, highlighting the importance of showcasing talent for Henley Royal qualification.

Scottish crews performed well at the Home International Regatta in London Docks, with the adaptive athletes excelling. The junior women won 5 golds and secured the Junior Women's Team Trophy, marking a 28-year milestone.

The Junior Inter-Regional regatta saw a strong turnout of 72 youngsters from across Scotland, demonstrating the growth and strength of junior rowing in the country. Masters rowers also competed successfully at the World Masters regatta in Bled.

Off the water, Scottish Rowing has been proactive in staff development, implementing the Summer of Sport initiative, reviewing governance and management, and collaborating with British and Welsh Rowing on mutually beneficial topics. This has led to a closer working relationship on areas such as coaching, safeguarding and administration. There has also been a review of our Safe Sport processes and procedures undertaken by an external consultant. The recommendations will inform the updated Conduct in Sport guidance, which will be shared with clubs in the coming weeks.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow provided an opportunity to celebrate Scotland's rowing achievements from the 1986 Edinburgh Games, with former rowers Ewan Pearson and David 'CD' Riches attending. A celebration dinner followed, sparking discussions on the future of rowing in the Commonwealth.

Lee and the Scottish Rowing staff team have been instrumental in driving activity on and off the water, reviewing policies,

updating strategies, and encouraging more people to participate in rowing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lee and his team at Scottish Rowing for their dedication, focus and efforts.

Once again, my fellow board members have been kept busy, reviewing and updating policy, directing the implementation of the strategy and working together across the sport to encourage more rowing in more places for more people. Thank you for giving your time so freely and productively. Finally, a huge thank you to all the club members and committees who bring the sport to so many, whether coaching, running learn-to-rows, fixing boats, organising regattas, transporting boats, fund-raising – doing all the things that make a club a club. Well done, thank you – and please keep doing it!



Image: Mix of Mike at events and camps
Photographer: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing



Grow Our Sport

We will grow rowing in Scotland so that everyone - from those already part of our community to those discovering the sport for the first time - can enjoy and benefit from what rowing offers. Growth will mean more people on the water, stronger clubs, better connections through the pathway, and a sport that reflects the people, places and communities that make Scotland unique.

CEO's Report

Lee Boucher

Last year, I wrote about the foundations being laid for Scottish Rowing's future. Over the past 12 months, we have made real progress while continuing to address some significant challenges.

Following extensive consultation across the rowing community, we launched our new strategy for the sport: Rowing in Scotland: The Next Chapter, 2026 and Beyond. It sets out our vision of a safe, welcoming and thriving rowing community. Our focus now is on delivering its commitments and making a positive difference to clubs, members and communities across Scotland.

Average monthly paid membership increased by 5.8%, from 1,330 to 1,407. At a time when participation in sport nationally remains under pressure, that growth is welcome and reflects the work taking place every week within clubs and programmes across Scotland.

There has been much to celebrate on the water. The Scottish Rowing Championships attracted 46 clubs and almost 1,000 athletes, with our new partnership with Henley Royal Regatta helping to broaden the event's reach. A personal highlight was marking 40 years since rowing featured in the 1986 Commonwealth Games and welcoming former athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers back to Strathclyde Park.

The Scotland Rowing Team recorded 12 victories at the Home International Rowing Regatta, with the Junior Women winning their team trophy for the first time since 1998, while Scottish rowers enjoyed further success at World, European and Commonwealth level across Classic and Beach Sprint competition.

Beach Sprints has made significant progress at a high-performance level, supported by our partnership with British Rowing and the University of St Andrews. However, we know that more work is needed to create opportunities for people to experience coastal sculling within their communities and to build wider participation alongside our performance pathway.

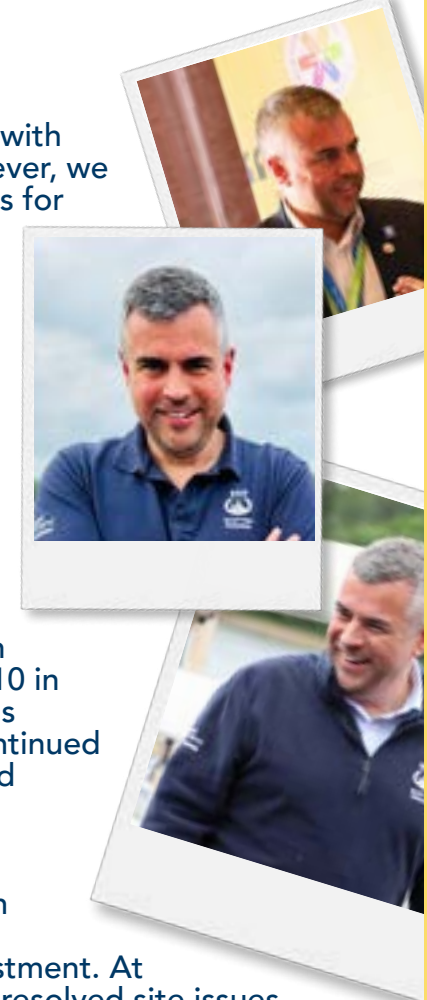
Through the 'Running on Empty' campaign, we joined other Scottish governing bodies in making the case for increased public investment in sport. The subsequent increase in Scottish Government funding has brought £156,500 of confirmed additional **sportscotland** investment into Scottish Rowing for 2026-27, supporting greater financial stability, participation and performance pathways.

Scottish Rowing ended the year to 31 March 2026 with a surplus of £11,830, compared with a deficit of £30,710 in the previous year. Although financial headroom remains limited, this represents welcome progress. We also continued to strengthen our governance, financial procedures and approach to wellbeing and protection.

Facilities remained a considerable challenge. The Watersports Centre redevelopment brought disruption and uncertainty at Strathclyde Park, while the Scottish Rowing Centre required further maintenance and investment. At Glasgow Green, the loss of the East Boathouse and unresolved site issues left three clubs without a permanent home. We continued working with both councils and the affected clubs to find sustainable solutions.

I want to thank our staff team for their professionalism, care and commitment, our Board for its leadership and support, and our partners for their continued investment and collaboration. Most importantly, thank you to the volunteers, coaches, umpires, club committees, parents and supporters who give their time to rowing. None of the progress set out in this review would be possible without their contribution.

I am proud of everything we have achieved together over the past 12 months. However, there is still much to do, and our focus must now be on delivering our new strategy and ensuring that rowing continues to grow and thrive across Scotland.



Strategy 2026 and Beyond

Developed through extensive consultation - with voices from clubs, volunteers, athletes and partners across Scotland - this strategy belongs to our community. It reflects what people told us they value most: a sport that is safe, welcoming, supportive and fun.

Our Strategic Framework sets out the direction for Scottish Rowing. It begins with the single outcome we are working towards, delivered through three strategic pillars, enabled by support for our people and clubs, and grounded in a strong organisational foundation. The framework reflects what our community told us matters most and shows how the parts fit together. It also shows how we will deliver our vision of a safe, welcoming and thriving rowing community.

This year's Annual Review follows the outline of the strategy to reflect our ongoing work in each area.



Investing in the Future

The Scottish Government's 2026-27 Budget brought a significant increase in public investment in sport and physical activity. For Scottish Rowing, this has provided welcome financial stability and new opportunities to grow participation, strengthen our clubs and invest in the development of our pathway.

From advocacy to investment

The announcement followed a sustained campaign by the Scottish Governing Body CEO Forum, with Scottish Rowing playing an active role. Through the 'Running on Empty' campaign, governing bodies came together to highlight the impact of rising costs and years of standstill funding on sport across Scotland. That collective effort helped secure an additional £40 million for sport and physical activity in 2026-27, including a £20 million recurring increase to the core sport budget. This created significant new opportunities for Scottish Rowing and our member clubs.

Turning investment into impact

Scottish Rowing received an additional £49,000 through our core sportscotland investment. This will help meet increased operational costs and has allowed the Board to approve a balanced budget for 2026-27 after three years in which an underlying deficit had been carried. It gives the organisation greater financial stability while we continue to manage our resources carefully and grow our own income. The additional core investment is recurring, subject to future annual budget agreements.

We also secured £35,000 through the Summer of Sport programme, which helped unlock more than £10,000 of additional support from local authority partners during the initial planning stage. The programme has recruited and is developing 12 young coaches who will provide around 1,000 hours of paid coaching support to clubs and community programmes.



£40m

Additional Scottish Government
investment in sport and physical
activity in 2026/27

£156,500

Confirmed additional
sportscotland investment in
Scottish Rowing programmes

£50,000

Indicative new investment
in Scottish Rowing member
clubs

This will create more free and accessible opportunities for children and young people to try rowing, with routes into Learn to Row activity and continued club participation. Delivery will take place across urban, rural and coastal communities, including areas where opportunities are currently more limited.

A further £72,500 was awarded through **sportscotland's** Pathway Investment Fund. This investment will strengthen the support provided by Scottish Rowing to talented athletes across Scotland, help make our junior pathway programmes more accessible by responding to rising costs, and create more opportunities to develop our Beach Sprint pathway as the discipline moves towards its Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028.

The Club Support Programme offers an opportunity to invest directly in our clubs. Scottish Rowing received an indicative allocation of up to £50,000 to support paid roles focused on growing and retaining membership, strengthening volunteer and workforce capacity, and widening participation.

We received 12 expressions of interest and supported five business cases through to the **sportscotland** assessment stage, with our Development team working closely with the clubs to develop their proposals. Several of the proposals also brought clubs together in new partnerships, demonstrating a collaborative approach that has the potential to create stronger and more sustainable outcomes for the sport. The final investment remains subject to **sportscotland** approval, and we look forward to working with the successful clubs to ensure the funding delivers the maximum possible impact for their members, their communities and rowing across Scotland.

Further opportunities are still to come. Scottish Rowing intends to submit applications to **sportscotland's** Growth and Innovation Fund in the autumn, seeking additional investment to strengthen the sport and extend our impact across Scotland.



12

young coaches recruited
and developed through
Summer of Sport investment

1,000

Coaching hours planned
across Scotland



Extending Our Reach

We will make rowing more visible and accessible across Scotland. Through collaboration with clubs, education providers, local authorities and community organisations - including coastal and inland hubs - we will create opportunities for people who might not otherwise have access to the sport.

Outreach Projects

Ayr Rowing Project

The Ayr Rowing Project has delivered a transformational impact across the local community, using rowing as a catalyst for inclusion, personal development, and community cohesion. Through strong partnerships with South Ayrshire Council, local schools, social care services, community organisations, higher education providers, and refugee support groups, the project has successfully reached young carers, care-experienced young people, displaced families, and other underrepresented groups. These partnerships have enabled a coordinated approach to tackling barriers to participation while creating meaningful opportunities for engagement.

3

new instructors
trained and deployed

33

sessions delivered
to 73 participants

108

Summer of Sport participants
across 24 sessions

Firhill Youth Project & Community Sport Hub SCIO

The Firhill Youth Project & Community Sports Hub has had a busy and encouraging 2026 season. Through weekly sessions at Firhill Basin, we have continued to provide local young people with free, regular access to rowing. A key highlight has been the growth of our Core Group. Since restarting in May, we have grown from just one attendee to seven returning attendees by the end of August, alongside other young people joining throughout the season. This aligns with our aim of sustained engagement with local young people, supporting their long-term development through rowing.

We have also expanded our pool of sessional coaches from two to six, providing greater support to our Lead Coach and strengthening our delivery capacity and resilience. Alongside this, we have delivered outreach sessions to local organisations including North United Communities and hosted a Come & Try event with GB Beach Sprints rower Laura McKenzie.



Images: Various pictures from different outreach projects.

Outreach Projects

Clyde Gateway

Clydesdale ARC has delivered a Learn to Row programme funded by Clyde Gateway and Scottish Rowing for pupils from Stonelaw and Trinity High Schools in South Lanarkshire.

Pupils selected by the schools attend the West Boathouse in Glasgow Green. During a six-week block the young people, who had no previous rowing experience, developed their rowing skills and confidence gaining the ability to manoeuvre safely on the river.

The sessions were led by a qualified coach and were progressive week-to-week, encouraging pupils to overcome initial reservations and increase their skill levels to a point where they are able to both scull by themselves in a Glide boat and also to row as part of a crew, further developing their confidence and demonstrating how to work as part of a team.

105 individuals have participated in the programme since September 2025.

"For the 4th year running Stonelaw High School has participated in the Learn to Row initiative run by Clydesdale Rowing Club and supported by Clyde Gateway and Scottish Rowing. This has allowed us to provide an invaluable targeted intervention and support our most vulnerable pupils. This initiative has helped pupils in many ways including increased school engagement, developed confidence, self-esteem and positive relationships for our pupils."
- Stonelaw Teacher

Image: Young person on the water at Clydesdale
Provided by: Clydesdale ARC.

Strathclyde Park

Strathclyde Park continues to be a flagship venue for outreach delivery, providing a highly visible and accessible setting for community engagement. During the 2025-26 period, 30 free rowing sessions were delivered to 174 young people from three primary schools and three secondary schools, including two schools supporting pupils with additional support needs. Feedback from participants, parents, carers and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, with one teacher highlighting the significant improvements in both confidence and ability shown by pupils, alongside the patience and encouragement of staff and volunteers.

The venue's established sporting infrastructure offers an excellent introduction to rowing while creating clear pathways into regular participation. Many young people who first engaged through outreach sessions have since expressed interest in joining clubs, pursuing coaching opportunities or volunteering.

Strathclyde Park also plays an important role in raising awareness of rowing within the wider community. This year, outreach activity expanded to include tree planting with local primary school pupils, supporting the project's Net Zero ambitions and creating a lasting local legacy.

Image: Young person on the water at Strathclyde Park
Provided by: Strathclyde Park RC.

Outreach Projects

Inverness

Throughout the year, the Inverness Rowing Club Outreach Programme delivered a wide range of school and community engagement activities, introducing rowing to new audiences across the Highlands. Funded through multiple revenue streams, with significant support from the Henley Royal Regatta Charitable Trust, the programme engaged 626 individuals across 98 hours of activity.

The engagement within local schools has helped to develop rowing through a variety of indoor and water-based sessions reaching pupils across Inverness, Nairn and surrounding areas. Community outreach has included partnerships with Active Schools, Scouts and Guides, Connected Carers, UHI, Nansen and Home to Highland, creating accessible opportunities for diverse groups including young carers, young people not in mainstream education and asylum seekers.

The programme has successfully increased awareness of rowing, developed new partnerships and supported wellbeing through regular activity. Building on this success, the incredible team in Inverness plan to expand school engagement, develop para-rowing opportunities, introduce coastal sculling in Nairn and strengthen community programmes to reach even more participants.

[Watch the video about the programme here](#)



Image: Outreach session on the Caledonian Canal
Provided by Inverness RC

Schools League

The Junior Indoor League and Junior Indoor Championships continued to grow strongly in 2025, building on the success of the previous Scottish Rowing Schools Indoor League. The rebrand reflected increasing interest from a wider range of organised youth groups and helped open the competition to more schools and clubs. While the name changed, the purpose remained the same: to encourage junior participation in indoor rowing, support improvement across the league rounds, and give young athletes the opportunity to experience live competition among their peers.

The league ran from September to November 2025 and included three rounds followed by the in-person Junior Indoor Championships. Fettes College hosted the championships for the third consecutive year, providing valuable support with the planning and delivery of the final event.

Participation figures were particularly positive. A total of 528 individuals took part in the league, representing a 40% increase from 2024. Participants came from 18 schools and clubs, a 50% increase on the previous year. Across the league, 57% of participants were male and 43% were female, while 232 individuals took part in the championships.

Congratulations go to everyone who took part, and sincere thanks are extended to Fettes College for once again supporting the planning and hosting of the final.

Image: Girls racing in a relay at the Schools Indoor Championships
Photographer: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing.

Young People's Panel

The Scottish Rowing Young People's Panel has continued its hard work this year in promoting youth voices and implementing new ideas across the community. One of the Young People's Panel's major achievements this year was the successful introduction of a J17 category at the Scottish Rowing Championships for single scullers. This project involved the panel members collecting data on past results, compiling a report for staff and recommending its implementation at the regatta in a smaller, pilot format with a view to expanding the number of awards for the age-group in coming years. The winners of the J17 single sculls were awarded a unique Young People's Panel pennant to recognise their efforts and success in their first year of the challenging J18 category. The Panel continues to develop projects through its Inclusion, Events and Communications working groups. The Young People's Panel look forward to sharing these projects with members for this coming season.

Director of the Young People's Panel, Dom McGrory, has represented the YPP at two major events this year. Firstly, Dom hosted a panel of 1986 Commonwealth Games rowers to commemorate 40 years since the inclusion of the sport at the Games. Later in 2026, Dom hosted the Leadership Forum at the Commonwealth Rowing Association's Leadership Breakfast at Team Scotland House in Glasgow during the Games. The opportunity to promote youth leaders and the value of a youth voice in governance was an excellent chance to promote Scottish Rowing's commitment to youth voice in governance and decision-making.

The inaugural cohort has now been in position for its first full season, and is eagerly looking ahead to the 2026/27 season; the Panel members have been thriving as a united team and continue to develop their skills. With months left of their term until the new cohort begins next June, the YPP will continue to serve and represent Scottish Rowing's junior members with pride and resolve.

[Meet our
YPP Members](#)



Images: Various YPP Members at events throughout the country.
Photographer: Scottish Rowing

Scottish Student Sport

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Scottish Student Rowing works as part of Scottish Student Sport, and alongside Scottish Rowing, to support member clubs, provide competition and development opportunities, and represent the student rowing community nationally.

Student rowing remains a significant part of the Scottish rowing community. In 2025/26, our work focused on strengthening competition, listening to student clubs and raising the visibility of student rowing nationally. The first Scottish Student Rowing Victor Ludorum created a season-long ranking across Inverness Head, BUCS Head, the Scottish Spring Regatta and BUCS Regatta. The competition rewarded both participation and performance, giving clubs a shared benchmark and a stronger platform for recognising achievement.

Our Development Survey and annual student meeting identified three recurring priorities: reducing the financial barriers associated with participation, supporting beginner recruitment and retention, and increasing practical coaching capacity within student clubs.

Race-weekend coverage and Victor Ludorum announcements gave student rowing a more consistent national presence. SSR content generated 216,900 views, with 62% coming from non-followers, extending the profile of student clubs and their institutions beyond our existing audience.

2026 Victor Ludorum

1. Edinburgh Uni. BC
2. Glasgow Uni. BC
3. Uni. St Andrews BC
4. Strathclyde Uni. BC
5. Uni. Rowing Aberdeen
6. Heriot-Watt Uni. BC
7. Dundee Uni. BC

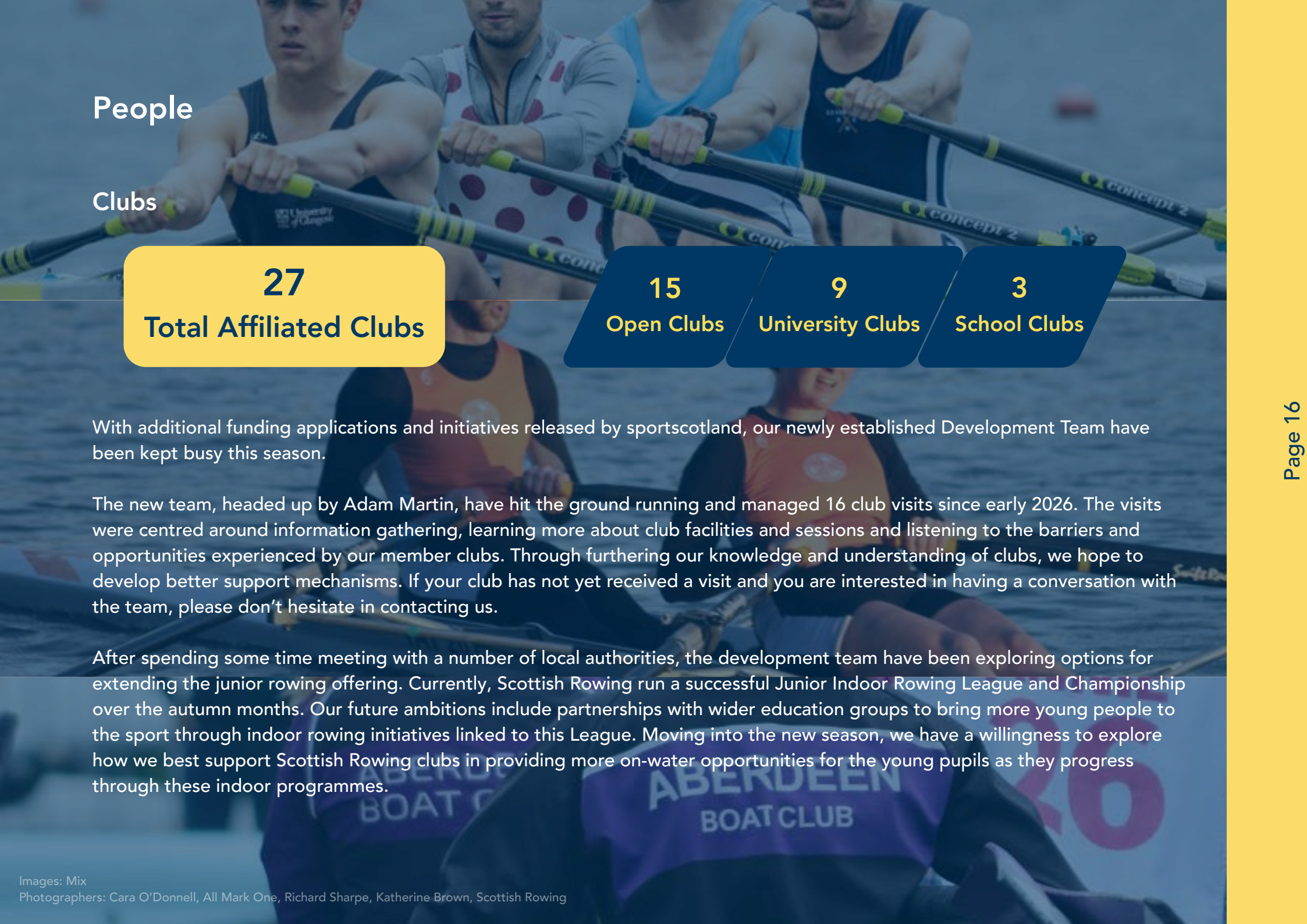


Images: Each image represents one of the university clubs.
Provided by the SSS Rowing Comms Group



Member Engagement

We will strengthen the experience of being part of Scottish rowing. A sense of belonging and connection is what keeps people involved, and we will work with clubs to ensure that every rower - whatever their role, age or stage - feels valued and supported.



People

Clubs

27

Total Affiliated Clubs

15

Open Clubs

9

University Clubs

3

School Clubs

With additional funding applications and initiatives released by sportscotland, our newly established Development Team have been kept busy this season.

The new team, headed up by Adam Martin, have hit the ground running and managed 16 club visits since early 2026. The visits were centred around information gathering, learning more about club facilities and sessions and listening to the barriers and opportunities experienced by our member clubs. Through furthering our knowledge and understanding of clubs, we hope to develop better support mechanisms. If your club has not yet received a visit and you are interested in having a conversation with the team, please don't hesitate in contacting us.

After spending some time meeting with a number of local authorities, the development team have been exploring options for extending the junior rowing offering. Currently, Scottish Rowing run a successful Junior Indoor Rowing League and Championship over the autumn months. Our future ambitions include partnerships with wider education groups to bring more young people to the sport through indoor rowing initiatives linked to this League. Moving into the new season, we have a willingness to explore how we best support Scottish Rowing clubs in providing more on-water opportunities for the young pupils as they progress through these indoor programmes.

Umpires

This year has seen Scottish Rowing continue to engage and develop our excellent Umpire network. There are now 33 Umpires across Scotland, including two World Rowing Umpires, eight Multi-Lane Umpires and 23 National Umpires. Neil MacFarlane and the team are supporting a further 13 Trainee Umpires, who are expected to complete their final assessments by the end of 2026. We are excited to continuing growing this network, allowing more people to become involved in umpiring in the coming years.

In March 2026, Scottish Rowing hosted an Officials Training Day attended by 20 of our Umpires across all levels. This provided them an opportunity to run through race day scenarios, practice start calls and have valuable discussions on the Rules of Racing. They also completed in-house safeguarding training to better prepare them for their role within the Scottish rowing community.

Scottish Rowing would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all Umpires for the time and dedication they give to the community.

Coaching

As part of our commitment to developing our people within the Scottish rowing community, this year we secured £7,000 of additional funding through the **sportscotland** Coach Education Subsidy Fund. To date, this has allowed Scottish Rowing to directly support 22 coaches across Scotland from 9 different clubs to access their qualification with the fund meeting 80% of the course costs helping more qualified coaches to be actively working across our network.

Scottish Rowing has also secured significant investment as part of this year's Summer of Sport funding, allowing the recruitment and upskilling of 11 new young coaches. These coaches will be deployed within Scottish Rowing clubs to expand and develop outreach programmes across the country. The focus of the Summer of Sport initiative is to provide new opportunities for more people to try our sport with a range of sessions at clubs, schools and other organisations.

FUNDED BY **2026
SUMMER
OF SPORT**

Images: Mix

Photographers: Gary Bain, Cara O'Donnell, Richard Sharpe, Katherine Brown, Ron Wallace, Scottish Rowing



27 SEPT Glasgow RC Head	25 OCT Clydesdale Scullers Head	1 NOV Clyde 3 Heads	8/9 NOV Caley Marina 4s & Small Boats Head
15 NOV BUCS Indoor Rowing Champs (EUBC)	21 NOV Scottish Schools Indoor Championships	22/23 NOV Aberdeen Heads	7 FEB Strathclyde Uni. BC Head
28/1 FEB/MAR Caley Cruisers Winter Head	14 MAR Clydesdale 4s & 8s Head	11/12 APR Saints Coastal Regatta	18/19 APR Scottish Rowing Spring Regatta
25 APR Clyde Power Sprints	2/3 MAY North East Regatta	9 MAY Castle Semple Regatta	23 MAY Glasgow RC Regatta
30 MAY Nithsdale Regatta	6/7 JUN Scottish Rowing Championships	13 JUN Clydesdale Regatta	22/23 AUG SR Beach Sprint & Offshore Championships
29 AUG Aberdeen Sprint Regatta			

2025-26 Events Calendar

Domestic Events

The 2025-26 season showcased the strength and vibrancy of rowing across Scotland, with 21 events delivered nationwide. The calendar featured 8 head races, nine regattas, two coastal events and two indoor competitions, providing opportunities for athletes of all ages and abilities to compete and develop throughout the year.

A remarkable 10 clubs hosted events, demonstrating the commitment and capability of the Scottish rowing community, while Scottish Rowing directly delivered a further four events, including the largest-ever Spring Regatta and Scottish Rowing Championships.

These events were made possible through the dedication of clubs, athletes, volunteers, umpires and organisers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to create safe, enjoyable and competitive racing opportunities.

Together, they continue to strengthen the sport and foster a thriving rowing community across the country. We look forward to building on this momentum and welcoming even more success in the season ahead.

Scottish Rowing Championships 2026

On 6-7 June, we celebrated plenty of firsts at our annual Scottish Rowing Championships at Strathclyde Park. Twelve clubs competed at the Championships for the first time, with 46 clubs taking part overall. 24 British Rowing clubs entered, making it the first time Scottish clubs had been outnumbered.

We were delighted to welcome competitors from across the country. With the Championships offering a route to Henley Royal Regatta for the very first time, we had hoped for a strong entry, and the response certainly delivered. Across the two days, 987 individual athletes competed in 834 crews. There was some excellent racing and strong competition across the multi-lane course, and we were extremely grateful for the continued support of our partners, including North Lanarkshire Council and the Cadets.

Medals were awarded across Junior, Senior, Masters, Novice and Intermediate events, with a full programme of racing taking place on both days. Overall, it was a hugely successful Championship and we look forward to the event continuing to grow.

Images: Mix
Photographers: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing

Scottish Rowing Beach Sprint and Offshore Championships 2026

On 22-23 August, nearly 70 athletes took to the beach at the beautiful East Sands in St Andrews for the Scottish Beach and Offshore Championships.

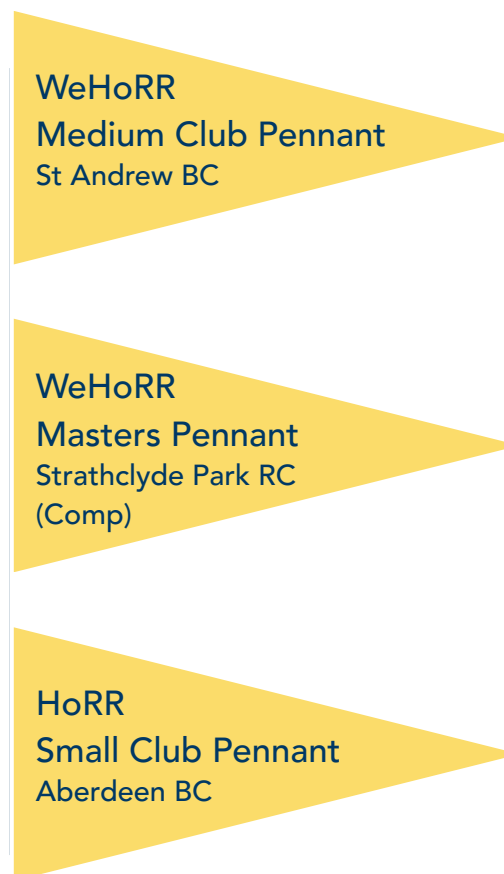
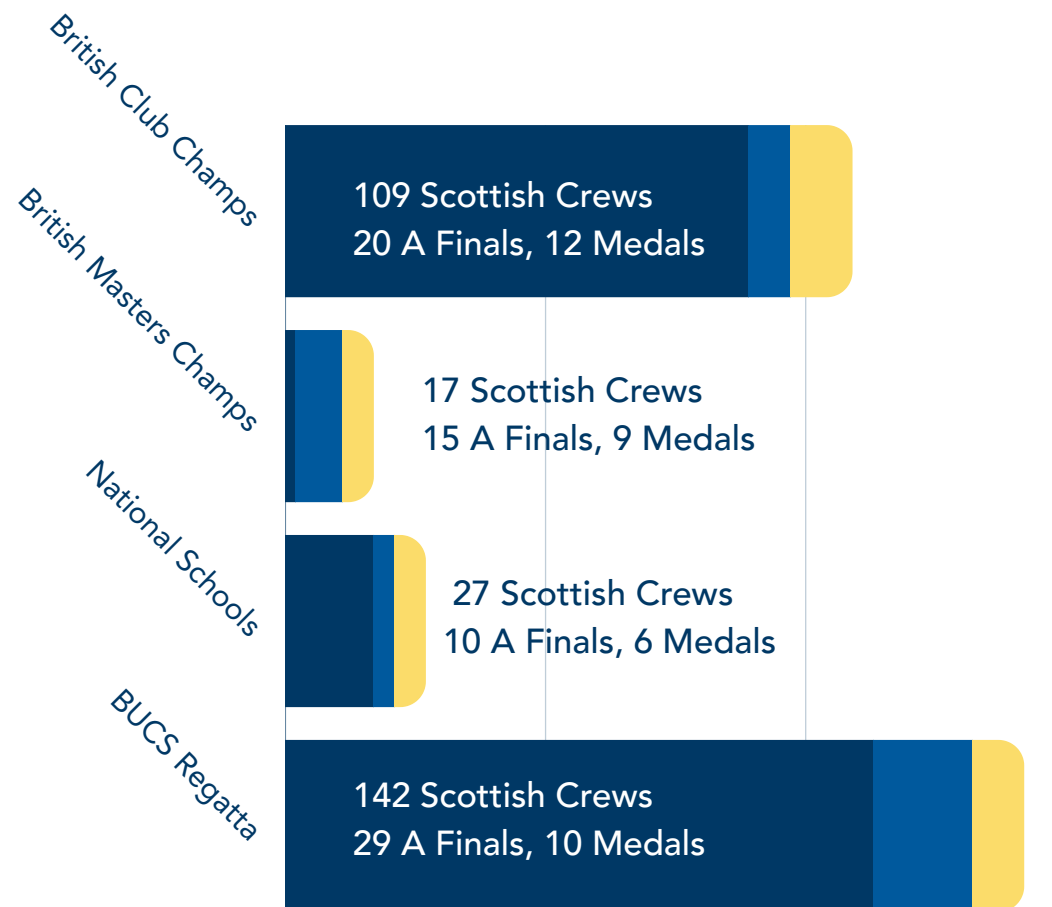
Competitors travelled from as far afield as Eastbourne, and we enjoyed an excellent weekend of racing. Conditions were favourable, with some challenging waves adding an extra element of excitement to the proceedings. We had two different coastal courses, with the quads taking in spectacular views of St Andrews Castle whilst making their way around the headland towards West Sands.

A huge thank you must also go to our fantastic team of volunteers, many of whom were experiencing beach rowing for the first time. Their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment throughout the weekend helped make the event such a success, from boat moving to timing and keeping everything running smoothly.

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend, and particularly encouraging to see so many juniors taking part. Beach rowing is certainly growing in popularity across the country.

Image: Competitors, volunteers and staff at the Beach Champs event
Photographers: Katherine Brown

Other Event Statistics



From first-time competitors to championship medallists, Scottish rowers have demonstrated exceptional commitment and ambition throughout the season. Thank you for representing your clubs and our sport with pride.
Your achievements are helping to drive Scottish rowing forward.

Home International Rowing Regatta

The Scotland Rowing Team recorded 12 victories at the Home International Rowing Regatta in July. Five of those victories belonged to the Junior Women, who secured the Irish Travel Agency Cup, marking Scotland's seventh Junior Women's Match victory and their first since 1998.

Scotland's para rowers completed an unbeaten programme. Wallace and Gough triumphed in the PR3 mixed double scull alongside Woods of Strathclyde Park RC in the PR1 single scull, with both crews winning their 2,000m and 500m races.

Scotland's senior women supplied the remaining three victories in the 2,000m races. With both the under-23 and senior pairs taking home the gold, both crews then joined their teammates in the senior women's eight to secure another win.

The senior women finished second in their team competition, while the senior men placed third. Scotland's junior men finished only one point behind Ireland. The overall team standings saw Scotland place second.

Image: Scotland Rowing Team 2026
Photographers: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing

Home International Rowing Beach Sprint

Scottish Rowing was proud to host this year's Home International Rowing Beach Sprints in Nairn. Against a backdrop of challenging North Sea conditions, the Scotland Rowing Team delivered a strong and determined performance, finishing second overall behind England.

McCluskey produced one of the standout performances of the event, winning two gold medals. Doubling up, she topped the table in the women's solo, before adding a second gold in the mixed double alongside MacCallum. Scotland's third gold came in the junior women's solo, underlining the strength of emerging talent within the team.

The event also marked an important step forward for inclusion, with the introduction of an Inclusion Mixed Double for the first time. All teams entered a crew in the pilot event and, while no points were awarded this year, its addition was a positive development for the programme. We hope to see it become a permanent fixture in future years.

Image: Scotland Rowing Beach Team 2026
Photographers: Scottish Rowing



Developing Talent

We will create clear and inclusive pathways that support our athletes and coaches to develop and achieve their potential in Classic, Coastal and Para rowing disciplines. Working in partnership with schools, universities, clubs, British Rowing and the sportscotland institute of sport, we will provide the coaching, environments and opportunities that enable progress at every level.

Junior Inter-Regional Regatta

At the 2026 British Rowing Junior Inter-Regional Regatta (JIRR) in Nottingham, Scotland's regional team showcased strong performances, resilience and team spirit against an exceptionally competitive field of 16 regions. Representing eight Scottish clubs, a squad of 70 athletes raced in 26 of the 30 events and accumulated 202 points to finish 10th overall.

Scotland secured five medals across the day. Gold came in the WJ16 2x. Silver medals were won in the WJ16 1x and in the OJ16 2-. Bronze medals went to the WJ15 2x and the OJ16 2x. There were several near misses and displays of determination. ASRA's OJ15 4+ narrowly missed a medal with a fourth-place finish, while a SPRC/Inverness composite crew suffered equipment failure during the WJ16 4x final. Despite racing with just three effective rowers after a seat wheel broke, the crew completed the race, demonstrating remarkable resilience and sportsmanship.

Beyond the medal table, the event celebrated the depth of junior rowing across Scotland, with athletes from large and small programmes contributing to the team's success. The performances reflected both the strength of Scotland's developing talent and the positive team culture built across clubs, coaches and athletes.

Image: Scotland Region Team 2026.
Photographer: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing



Junior Development Programme

The Junior Academy continued to grow this year, welcoming 20 athletes and one cox from five clubs. The larger cohort enabled greater use of crew boats and provided athletes with more opportunities to row alongside peers from across the country. Five camps, running from September to April, offered a strong foundation for development, allowing athletes to learn from specialist instructors, coaches and one another. The programme produced several strong performers, with three athletes attending GB trials, 11 competing internationally and multiple national medallists.

The Scottish Argonauts Project also delivered strong performances at the Women's and Men's Head of the River Races in March. The women's crew finished 71st featuring athletes from Inverness Rowing Club, The Glasgow Academy, Strathclyde Park Rowing Club, St Andrew Boat Club and George Heriot's School. Whilst the men's crew – a composite crew featuring athletes from Inverness Rowing Club, George Heriot's School, The Glasgow Academy and Strathclyde Park Rowing Club – produced a solid race to finish 172nd, placing them mid-table within the junior field.

Building on the flatwater Academy, a Junior Academy Beach Sprints programme was launched in February 2026 with an initial cohort of five athletes. Training alongside the Beach Sprint Academy and Performance athletes, the group has benefited from exposure to higher-level environments. We look forward to seeing this programme grow as preparations continue towards the Los Angeles 2028 Games.



Beach Sprint Academy

The 2025-26 season saw Scottish Rowing launch two exciting pilot programmes aimed at introducing talented club scullers to rowing's newest Olympic discipline: Beach Sprints. The Junior Academy Beach Sprints (JABS) and Beach Sprint Academy (BSA) were created to give ambitious young athletes the opportunity to learn new skills, experience coastal rowing environments and explore a pathway towards national and international competition. The programmes targeted competitive scullers aged J16-J18 and 19-25, providing residential camps, educational workshops, technical coaching and regatta support.

Based primarily at the University of St Andrews, the academies focused on developing athleticism, technical skills, performance behaviours and confidence in the coastal environment. With just five athletes in the JABS and six in the BSA, the small cohorts allowed for highly individualised coaching and support. Just as importantly, they created a close-knit learning environment where athletes could share experiences on the water and enjoy insightful discussions around a single dinner table each evening.

The response from athletes exceeded expectations. Many arrived with little or no Beach Sprint experience, but quickly embraced the challenge, energy and unique demands of the discipline. The camps created a fun and supportive atmosphere where athletes from across Scotland could train together, learn from one another and develop a genuine passion for coastal rowing.

That enthusiasm rapidly translated into results. Athletes from the two academy programmes claimed national titles at the Scottish Beach Sprint Championships and produced a range of strong performances throughout the summer racing season. Most significantly, more than 60% of the athletes selected to represent the Scotland Rowing Team at the Home International Regatta Beach Sprints in Nairn progressed through either the JABS or BSA programmes.

The success of these pilot programmes has highlighted both the appetite for Beach Sprints in Scotland and the strength of the pathway being built for future athletes. We are excited to continue supporting these rowers and following their progression over the coming years as they develop within Scottish Rowing's growing Beach Sprint pathway.



Images: Mix of images from JABS\BSA camps & events.
Photographer: Scottish Rowing

Performance Development Academy

Over the past year, the Performance Development Academy (PDA) has continued to grow, establishing a consistent training group while strengthening its connections across the wider Scottish rowing community. The squad now consists of ten athletes from Glasgow Univ. BC, Strathclyde Univ. BC, Strathclyde Park RC and athletes balancing full-time work with their rowing commitments. While some athletes are fully integrated into the programme, others train alongside the squad.

Over the Easter period, the squad travelled to Hazewinkel, Belgium, alongside Scotland-based GB triallists for a water-based training camp. They joined athletes from other British Rowing Performance Development Academies to develop crew boat skills and refine race strategies ahead of the regatta season. Regular attendance at National Development Camps at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, also provided valuable opportunities for athletes to benchmark themselves within the British Rowing Pathway system. These camps also enabled additional Scottish athletes from outside the PDA to access high-quality development opportunities.

Throughout the season, PDA athletes raced alongside peers from other performance centres and across the Scottish Rowing community, gaining valuable racing experience and developing the skills to compete. This collective approach resulted in a number of significant achievements.

At Henley Royal Regatta, Polly Swaile, Ella Gildert, Stevie Gildert and Perri McCluskey (all SPRC) reached the semi-finals of the inaugural Danesfield Cup. Having only joined the squad in April, Nazanin Malaei (SPRC) progressed to the quarter-finals of the Princess Royal Challenge Cup.

Ella Gildert and Scott MacCallum represented Scotland at the Home International Regatta in London Docklands, while Stevie Gildert was selected for GBR for the Coupe de la Jeunesse, where she raced in the Junior Women's Eight and won gold on both days of competition. Jake Woods (SPRC) also delivered an impressive international performance, finishing fourth in the PR1 Men's Single Sculls at World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, representing GBR.

The squad also achieved success at the Scottish Rowing Championships, where Ella Gildert and Perri McCluskey won the Women's Double Sculls, while Scott MacCallum and Nathaniel Fishburn secured the bronze medal in the Open Double Sculls.

Overall, the season demonstrated the continued progress of the Performance Development Academy, highlighting the commitment of its athletes. We look forward to seeing their continued development and success in the season ahead.

Scottish Rowing Performance Programme

The Scottish Rowing Performance Programme (SRPP) continues to provide a clear pathway for athletes with ambitions to compete and succeed at the highest levels of the sport. During 2025-26, the programme supported 36 athletes across the Classic, Beach Sprint and Paralympic disciplines, creating a performance environment that challenged and enabled athletes to progress towards national and international representation. Through a combination of coaching, performance support and athlete-centred development opportunities, the SRPP has continued to strengthen Scotland's contribution to the British Rowing pathway while supporting success for athletes representing Scotland internationally.

The impact of this investment continues to be demonstrated on the international stage. Fifteen SRPP athletes represented Great Britain in major international competition, while a further eleven athletes represented the Scotland Rowing Team at Home International and Commonwealth events. Scottish Rowing athletes achieved success across multiple levels of the pathway, including homegrown medal-winning performances at world championships in U23, FISU and Senior Classic events, alongside Commonwealth medal success in Beach Sprints.

A key strength of the programme remains the partnership with the **sportscotland** institute of sport, ensuring athletes have access to an integrated package of performance services. This includes support across physiology, physical preparation, physiotherapy, psychology, performance lifestyle, nutrition and medical disciplines, helping athletes maximise their potential in both training and competition.

The Performance Advisory Group has continued to provide valuable guidance on programme activity and the long-term strategic direction of performance rowing in Scotland. Through strong partnerships, expert multidisciplinary support and a clear focus on athlete development, the SRPP continues to create opportunities for Scottish athletes to progress and succeed on the international stage.



Images: Mix of images of SRPP Athletes
Photographer: Scottish Rowing, British Rowing, AllMarkOne, Raymond Leinster.

Performance Partners

Scottish Rowing's Performance Partner Programmes continued to play a vital role in supporting athlete development throughout 2025-26. Our partnerships with the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, and the joint programme with the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University remained central to providing athletes with access to high-quality coaching, training environments, academic flexibility and athlete support services.

Our Beach Sprint partnership with British Rowing and the University of St Andrews has gone from strength to strength, with the St Andrews hub continuing to demonstrate that it is the leading collaborative programme for Beach Sprint excellence in the UK. As one of only two designated Olympic Beach Sprint Training venues in the UK, the programme brings together expertise from Scottish Rowing, British Rowing and the University of St Andrews, as well as the sportscotland institute of sport to create a world-class training and development environment. This unique collaboration supports athlete progression across the performance pathway and is helping to establish Scotland at the forefront of this rapidly growing Olympic discipline.

The British Rowing Performance Development Academy, delivered in partnership with Strathclyde Park Rowing Club and British Rowing, continued to provide an important pathway for athletes progressing towards the highest levels of the sport.

Through continued collaboration with the sportscotland institute of sport, Winning Students 100 and our wider performance partners, Scottish Rowing remains committed to delivering sustainable, athlete-centred pathways that support success in both sport and education.

Anti-Doping

Scottish Rowing remains committed to promoting and protecting Clean Sport through education, awareness and strong anti-doping governance. During 2025-26, Clean Sport education workshops were delivered to athletes and coaches across the Beach Sprint Academy, Performance Programme, Performance Development Academy and Scotland Rowing Team, ensuring those progressing through performance pathways had the knowledge and confidence to compete clean. In addition, all athletes reaching the final stages of the Great Britain trials process received formal Clean Sport education as a minimum requirement, while wider learning opportunities continued to be available through British Rowing's iRowClean programme.

Scottish Rowing continued to work in partnership with British Rowing and Welsh Rowing to align Clean Sport strategy and policy, while also ensuring athletes, coaches and support staff were informed of updates to the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

Scottish Rowing successfully met all requirements of the UK Anti-Doping Assurance Framework during its annual submission process and continues to actively promote Clean Sport through member communications, digital channels and support for UKAD's Clean Sport Week. Importantly, there were no Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) reported within Scottish Rowing during 2025-26.

International Representation

At Senior level, familiar names including Miles Beeson, James Robson, Archie Drummond and Eleanor Brinkhoff continued to deliver medals for the GB Rowing Team, while Edinburgh University student Izzy Clements earned medals for Ireland in the LW1x at both World Cup I and III. She was later joined by Edinburgh University graduate James Doran at the World Championships, racing in the W4x and M4- respectively. Jake Woods (Strathclyde Park RC) earned his second GB vest at World Cup III, finishing fourth in the PR1 M1x, while Ben Parsonage (Clydesdale ARC) placed sixth in the LM1x at the European Championships following the return of British lightweight international racing.

At age-group level, Scottish athletes secured ten medals across major international competitions. Highlights include Edinburgh University BC's Josh Matthews becoming U23 World Champion in the M4x, while Grace Dawson claimed silver in the U23 W4x. Alongside three U23 World Championship selections, Scottish athletes brought home two silver medals from the World University Championships, six medals from three athletes at the Coupe de la Jeunesse and a crew selected for the M2- at the GB-France J16 Match.

Scottish athletes also excelled in Beach Sprints. A record eight Scots were selected for the GB team at the 2025 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, where Laura McKenzie won bronze in the CW1x and Colin Wallace, alongside Megan Hewison, became inaugural World Champions in the INMix2x. These successes followed a season that also included European Championship medal-winning performances, underlining Scotland's position as a leading force in the rapidly developing Olympic discipline of Beach Sprint Rowing.

International Medallists

Archie Drummond (Leander RC)

- Silver - M8+ World Cup III
- Silver - M8+ World Championships

Caitlin Warnock (Glasgow RC)

- Silver - W4x Coupe de la Jeunesse
- Bronze - W4x Coupe de la Jeunesse

Colin Wallace (Uni St Andrews BC)

- Gold - Inc CMix2x World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals

Eleanor Brinkhoff (f. Dundee Uni BC)

- Gold - W4- European Rowing Championships
- Bronze - W4- World Cup III

Ezra Ferguson (George Watson's Col)

- Gold - 2x M2x Coupe de la Jeunesse

Grace Dawson (Edinburgh Uni BC)

- Silver - W4x World U23 Championships

Isobel Clements (Edinburgh Uni BC)

- Silver - Lwt W1x World Cup I
- Bronze - Lwt W1x World Cup III

James Robson (Leander RC)

- Gold - M4- World Cup III
- Bronze - M4- World Championships

Josh Matthews (Edinburgh Uni BC)

- Gold - M4x World U23 Championships

Laura McKenzie (Glasgow Uni BC)

- Bronze - CW1x World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals
- Silver - CW1x European Beach Sprint Championships

Maddie Fatani (Edinburgh Uni BC)

- Silver - W8+ FISU World University Championships

Megan Hewison (f. Aberdeen Sch RA)

- Gold - Inc CMix2x World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals
- Silver - CW1x European Coastal Championships

Miles Beeson (f. Aberdeen Sch RA)

- Silver - M8+ World Cup III
- Silver - M8+ World Championships

Penny Irvine (Edinburgh Uni BC)

- Silver - W8+ FISU World University Championships

Stevie Gildert (Strathclyde Park RC)

- Gold - 2x W8+ Coupe de la Jeunesse

Images: World U23 Champions M4x
Photographer: Benedict Tufnell | British Rowing

Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprint Championships

The Scotland Rowing Team enjoyed a successful Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprint Championships. The seven-strong team, comprising four senior and three under-21 athletes, competed against crews from across the Commonwealth. Throughout training and competition, the athletes developed their understanding of how to navigate a Beach Sprint course while managing the tropical climate and demands of international competition. Over the three-day event, Scotland won four medals: two silver and two bronze. This placed Scotland third in the medal table behind Australia and Canada, demonstrating the team's progress in the Beach Sprint discipline.

There were more reasons to celebrate at the 2025 Commonwealth Beach Sprint Championships as Kate O'Sullivan was elected as the new President of the Commonwealth Rowing Association following a joint nomination from Scotland and Wales. We look forward to working closely with and supporting Kate as rowing strives to build a positive case for inclusion in the 2030 Commonwealth Games programme which will be held in Amdavad, India. Scottish Rowing would also like to extend a sincere thanks to outgoing President, Peter Cookson (CAN), for his outstanding contribution to rowing across the Commonwealth nations during his eight years leading the Commonwealth Rowing Association.

Images: Mix of the Scotland Rowing Team at the event in Barbados
Photographer: Scottish Rowing





Supporting our People/Clubs

Rowing in Scotland depends on people - the volunteers, coaches, officials and staff who give their time, energy and expertise to make the sport happen. We will invest in their development, wellbeing and leadership, ensuring they have the training, tools and support to succeed.

Volunteer of the Year

Scottish Rowing recognises Ian ‘Chalky’ White of St Andrew Boat Club as its Volunteer of the Year for 2024-25, celebrating an exceptional contribution to rowing over many years.

The award was presented at the club’s Meggetland boathouse by Scottish Rowing President Mike Martin and Chief Executive Lee Boucher.

Presented as part of Scottish Rowing’s annual awards, the Volunteer of the Year honour recognises individuals whose commitment, time and energy make a lasting difference to their club and the wider rowing community. Chalky’s contribution stands firmly in that category.

At St Andrew Boat Club in Edinburgh, he has been a constant presence - quietly getting on with the work that keeps the club moving. From repairing and maintaining boats to supporting members on and off the water, his impact is both practical and personal. More recently, his role in establishing and leading the club’s ‘Boatshed team’ has helped ensure the growing membership can continue to access the sport.



Images: Misc images of Chalky through the years.
Provided by St Andrew BC

Scottish Rowing Award Winners 2024-25

[Read more about
our winners](#)



Club of the Year
Inverness Rowing Club

Initiative of the Year
Aberdeen BC: World Masters
Rowing Club Initiative

Young Volunteer of the Year
Amy Henderson
(Heriot-Watt Univ. BC)

Junior of the Year
Isabel Soyinka
(Clydesdale ARC)

Senior of the Year
Laura McKenzie
(Glasgow Univ. BC)

Crew of the Year
Edinburgh Univ. Prince Albert
Challenge Cup 4+

Club Coach of the Year
Michel Dearsley
(Aberdeen Schools RA)

Performance Coach of the Year
Lewis McCue
(Univ. St Andrews BC)

Lifetime Achievement Award
George Parsonage
George Lawson & Sandy Walker

Henley Royal Regatta

Henley Royal Regatta 2026 was a landmark event for Scottish rowing, with record representation and several historic achievements. A record 17 Scottish club, school and university crews competed in the main draw, showcasing the growing strength of the sport across the country.

Edinburgh Uni. BC claimed its first Henley title in seven years as Matthews and Foxwell helped a composite crew win the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup, securing only the club's third Henley victory. There was also a historic breakthrough for the University of St Andrews, with Marshall and Phillips becoming the first St Andrews crew to reach a Henley final. The pair finished runners-up in the Stonor Challenge Trophy after an impressive run through the competition.

George Heriot's Sch. and George Watson's Coll. impressed in the junior events, and Strathclyde Park RC reached the semi-finals of the inaugural Danesfield Challenge Cup. There was success in the single sculling events, with notable quarter-final appearances from Malaei (SPRC) and Parsonage (CARC).

Beyond Scottish crews, several athletes with Scottish connections claimed Henley titles. The performances throughout the regatta highlighted the talent, depth and ambition within Scottish rowing, while reinforcing the strength of the clubs, schools, universities, coaches and volunteers who continue to drive the sport forward.

Henley Women's Regatta

Henley Women's Regatta 2026 was a hugely successful event for Scotland's female rowers, with athletes returning home with five victories, an all-Scottish Championship final and a host of other standout performances across the three-day regatta.

One of the highlights came in the George Innes Cup for Championship Women's Single Sculls, where Aldridge (SABC) defeated Marshall (USTABC) in an all-Scottish final to claim one of the regatta's most prestigious titles. Marshall's silver medal capped a remarkable progression, having won the Aspirational Singles title just a year earlier.

Scottish success continued across multiple categories. Robertson (GUBC) won the Aspirational Women's Single Sculls, while Phillips and Searson (USTABC) triumphed in the Aspirational Women's Double Sculls. St Andrews also claimed victory in the Aspirational Academic Coxless Fours, underlining the strength of the university programme. In the PR3 category, Gough (SABC) regained the Grosvenor Cup to add a fifth Scottish victory.

There were strong performances beyond the podium too. Edinburgh Uni. BC reached the final of the Aspirational Academic Eights, while Scottish athletes featured prominently throughout the regatta across Championship, Aspirational and Academic events.

The results highlighted the depth and quality of women's rowing, with athletes from clubs and universities across the country competing successfully against some of the strongest programmes in the UK and internationally.

Images: Misc images of WWR & HRR Competitions
Photographer: Alan Clark

World Rowing Masters Regatta

More than 70 athletes from eight Scottish rowing clubs travelled to Bled, Slovenia, to compete at the World Rowing Masters Regatta, delivering an outstanding performance on the international stage.

Despite challenging conditions throughout the event, Scottish competitors demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination and teamwork. Racing was significantly affected by extreme weather, with heavy rain and storms leading to the cancellation of some events. However, this did little to dampen the spirit or success of the Scottish contingent, who made the most of every opportunity to race and represent their clubs with pride.

Collectively, Scottish clubs achieved an impressive medal haul of 13 gold medals with 12 second places and 18 third places. In an exceptional achievement, all eight Scottish clubs returned home with at least one medal, highlighting both the depth of talent and the strength of masters rowing across Scotland.

The results reflect the commitment and dedication shown by athletes who continue to train and compete at a high level while balancing work, family and other commitments. From close finishes to dominant victories, Scottish rowers showcased their competitive spirit and passion for the sport against some of the best masters athletes from around the world.

Beyond the medals, the regatta provided an opportunity to strengthen friendships, celebrate club communities and demonstrate the inclusive and lifelong nature of rowing. The success achieved in Bled is a testament to the vibrant masters rowing scene in Scotland and the enthusiasm of athletes who continue to inspire others through their participation and achievements.

Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, supporters and clubs involved. Their performances in Bled have provided plenty to celebrate and once again demonstrated Scotland's ability to compete successfully on the world stage.



Images: Misc images of World Masters Competitors
Provided by: World Rowing, Gregor Hall, Adrian Hopkins

1986 Celebration

During the Scottish Rowing Championships we hosted a celebration marking 40 years since rowing featured in the Commonwealth Games. Athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers came together for a ceremonial row past at Strathclyde Park before gathering on the event field to reconnect, reminisce and share stories from the 1986 Games. Members of the Scottish Rowing Young People's Panel also interviewed former athletes, creating a meaningful link between past, present and future generations of the sport.

The celebrations continued into the evening with a special Scottish Rowing event featuring speeches from Mike Martin, President of Scottish Rowing, Kate O'Sullivan, President of the Commonwealth Rowing Association, and Councillor Bob Burgess, Deputy Lord Provost of North Lanarkshire. A discussion panel, hosted by Dominic McGrory, Director of the Young People's Panel, brought together 1986 athletes Karen Barton and CD Riches, alongside Peter Morrison and current GB Beach Sprint athlete, Heather Gordon, to reflect on the legacy of the Games and look ahead to the future of rowing in Scotland.

"Marking 40 years since the 1986 Commonwealth Games added something genuinely special to the weekend. It was a powerful reminder of the people and performances that have shaped rowing in Scotland, and of the role we all have in carrying that forward."

Lee Boucher



Images: Mix of images from the celebration day and evening
Photographer: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing



Thriving Scottish Rowing

For rowing in Scotland to thrive, Scottish Rowing itself must be strong, well-governed and sustainable. We will lead with integrity, care and transparency - embedding Safe Sport, equality, diversity and inclusion through our leadership and culture.

Scottish Rowing Centre

The 2025-26 season brought significant change at Strathclyde Park. As the redevelopment of the neighbouring Watersports Centre progressed, the Scottish Rowing Centre and resident clubs adapted to new operating arrangements while working to keep disruption to rowing activity to a minimum.

The Watersports Centre closed in October 2025 as the redevelopment moved forward, requiring changes to operating arrangements across the site. Scottish Rowing worked closely with North Lanarkshire Council to minimise the impact on rowing activity and the events calendar. Thanks to the support of Council staff, Scottish Rowing staff and event volunteers, Strathclyde Park hosted two record-breaking regattas during the season.

Further changes followed in June 2026 when the boat bays closed. Scottish Rowing helped resident clubs secure alternative storage arrangements, with Head of Performance, Tom Young, working alongside North Lanarkshire Council on the layout of the replacement outdoor compound.

The Centre also required a range of maintenance and improvement works during the year, some of which caused disruption and unplanned expenditure. Essential repairs were progressed, while planning continued around the decommissioning of the indoor rowing tank and the repurposing of the space.

The redevelopment meant that the Centre was unable to host its usual Easter and summer training camps. However, the Centre continued to support Scottish Rowing programmes and played host to a range of external organisations, including The Culture Builders, RYA Scotland, Children First and Caledonian Braves. It also supported the Scotland Rowing Team and Paddle Scotland's high-performance programme, and hosted mental health roadmap training delivered by SAMH for the Scottish Rowing staff team.

Planning for the Centre's future also moved forward. With support from **sportscotland** and North Lanarkshire Council through Business Gateway Lanarkshire, Scottish Rowing began developing a wider project plan to improve the use of space and explore opportunities to reduce the building's energy use and running costs. The aim is to create a more practical and sustainable facility that better meets the needs of athletes, staff, clubs and other users for many years to come.

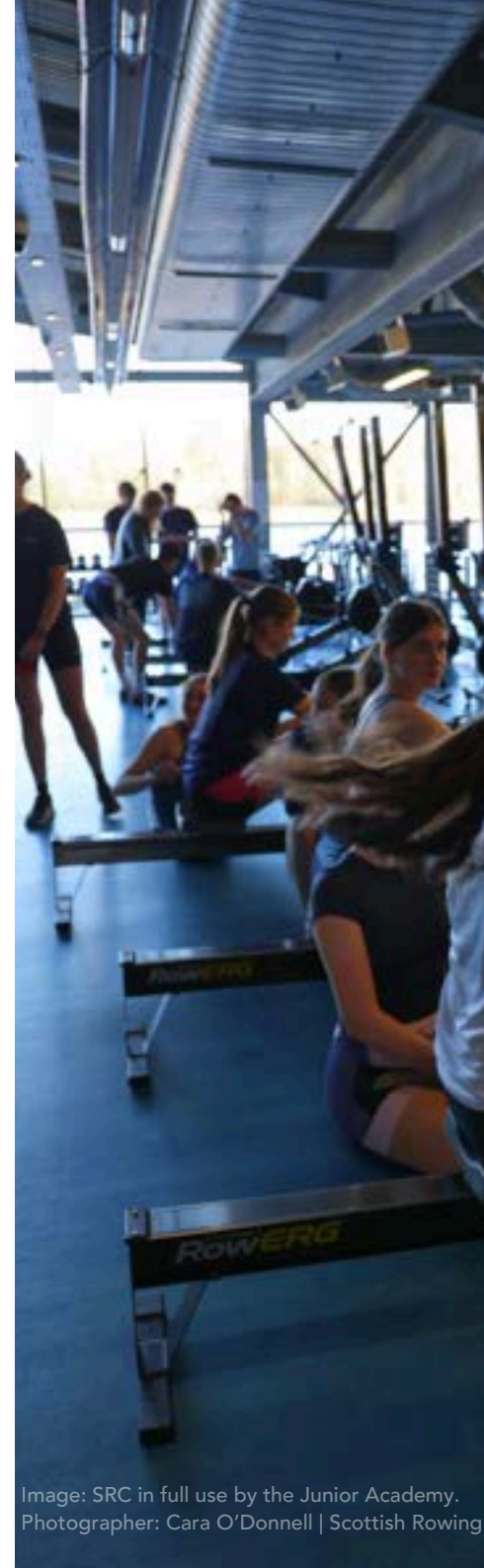


Image: SRC in full use by the Junior Academy.
Photographer: Cara O'Donnell | Scottish Rowing

Membership Update

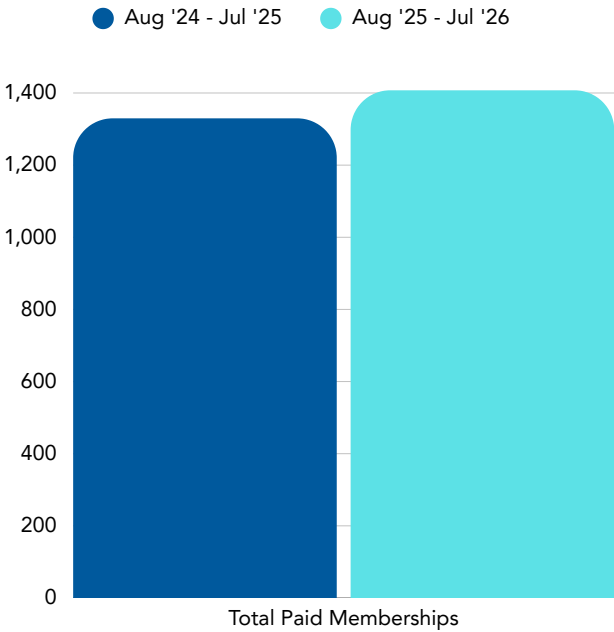
Scottish Rowing has continued to see positive membership growth over the past year. Given that memberships renew at different points throughout the year, the most meaningful measure of performance is average monthly paid membership across a rolling 12-month period.

Between August 2025 and July 2026, average monthly paid membership increased by 5.8%, rising from 1,330 members in the previous rolling 12-month period to 1,407 members. This sustained growth reflects the continued strength of rowing across Scotland and the success of clubs, programmes and events in attracting and retaining participants.

The increase demonstrates the commitment of clubs, volunteers and coaches who provide welcoming environments and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in the sport. It also highlights the growing appeal of rowing and the positive impact of ongoing efforts to support participation and development across the Scottish rowing community.

While membership levels naturally fluctuate throughout the year, the overall trend remains encouraging, with the highest rolling average membership recorded to date. This provides a strong foundation for continued growth and supports Scottish Rowing's aim of making rowing more accessible and sustainable for future generations.

Measure	Aug '24 - Jul '25	Aug '25 - Jul '26	Change
Combined total of 12 monthly snapshots	15,956	16,889	+933
Average monthly paid membership	1,329.7	1,407.4	+5.8%



Gender Split

(as of Jul '26)



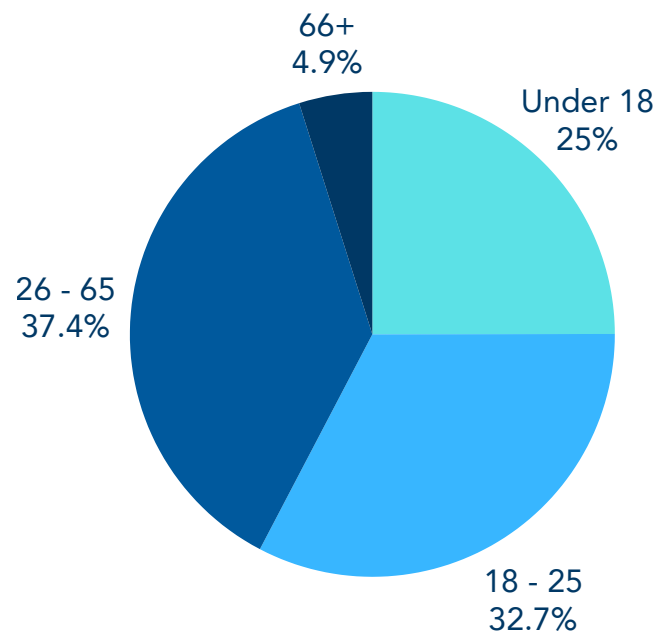
45.5%
Male



54.5%
Female

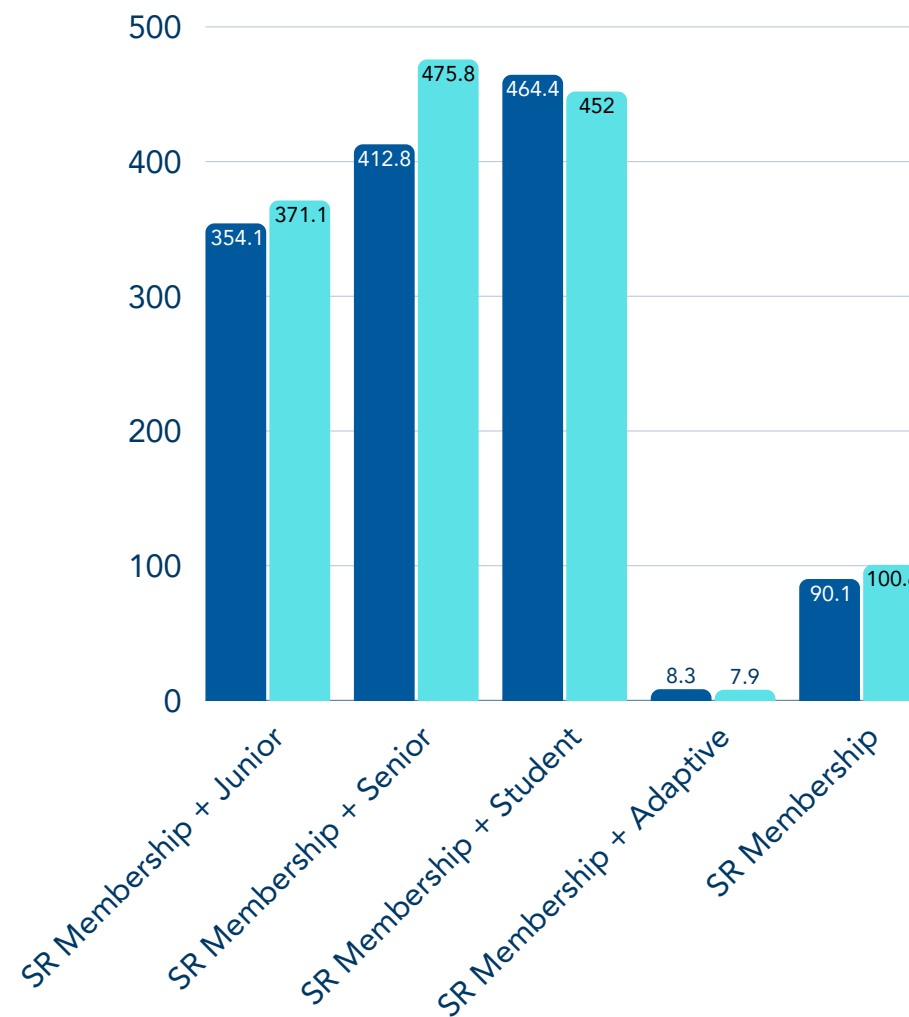
Age Distribution

(as of Jul '26)



Membership Comparison

● Aug '24 - Jul '25 ● Aug '25 - Jul '26



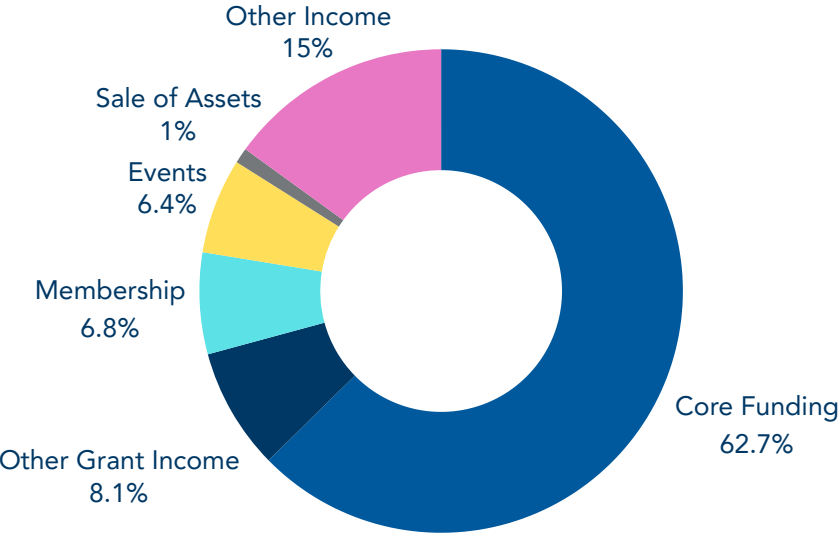
NB: All data is drawn from active Scottish Rowing Memberships recorded on the JustGo platform.

Finance Report

Scottish Rowing ended the financial year to 31 March 2026 with a surplus of £11,830, compared with a deficit of £30,710 in 2024/25. Total income increased to £972.1k, from £883.6k in the previous year.

The increase in total income was mainly driven by higher other income and a gain recognised on the disposal of a boat. Other income included additional contributions received towards increased performance pathway activity delivered during the year, offset by the associated expenditure, as well as interest earned through a new savings account and the release of deferred income from the balance sheet.

Scottish Rowing also gratefully received funding from British Rowing towards the performance pathway, alongside grant income from Clyde Gateway, Love Rowing and others. sportscotland core funding represented 63% of total income, while income from club affiliation fees and individual memberships accounted for 6.8%.



Income (£'000)	2024	2025	2026
sportscotland Core Funding	587	602	609
Other Grant Income	88	87	79
Membership	55	62	66
Events	78	59	62
Gain on Sale of Assets	29	0	10
Other Income	56	74	146
Total Income	893	884	972

Expenditure (£'000)	2024	2025	2026
Performance	404	376	397
Governance & Member Services	315	313	358
Sport Development & Pathways	185	226	206
Total Expenditure	904	914	960



Our Partners

Our partners provide vital support throughout the year, helping us deliver opportunities for athletes, coaches, volunteers and clubs across the country. Together, we build sustainable programmes, create meaningful experiences and strengthen the rowing community. Through collaboration, shared values and a commitment to excellence, our partners help us create a stronger future for rowing in Scotland.



sportscotland
the national agency for sport



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



University of
St Andrews



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN



ROBERT GORDON
UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN



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Clyde Gateway

