

RACE SUB-COMMITTEE

2025 was a very successful year for the club's open races – the Tay Ten and Brig Bash (BB) – in many ways. It was not a year a change but one of consolidation.

2024 **had** been a year of change at both races. We had:

- altered the Tay Ten course (owing to safety concerns);
- dropped chip timing in favour of our own timing team and a timing/results app (Webscorer) (both races), saving us costs of around £1000 **per race** each year;
- doubled prize money and introduced age category record prizes at (both races);
- added a U20 age category (both races);
- expanded entry numbers (to 350 at TT and 330 at BB);
- altered TT medals to an eco-medal and allowed racers to elect to take (or not) a medal (both races);
- added (overall) winner's trophies to the B; and
- added catering facilities to the TT.

2025 was thus a year to cement/bed in these additions, keeping a close eye on their efficacy. All the changes and additions continued to work well, with the *possible* exception of the eco-medal, which, in the eyes of a *few* entrants, proved a slightly underwhelming alternative to traditional metal medals. As a Committee, we continue to disfavour the wastage (typically 50-100 are unclaimed and go to waste each year) and eco-footprint of metal, but are examining more enduring and appealing options for the 2026 edition.

TT

The 2024 **Tay Ten** took place on the first Sunday of May. This is a slot that - compared with its historic early-April berth - avoids our losing competitors to the popular Scottish Championship Tom Scott 10-miler. Easter also varies in its timing, knocking (in particular) the London Marathon to and fro, to which we also do not wish to lose runners or volunteers. Our emerging intention is to hold the TT on the Sunday a week after the London Marathon each year.

We targeted entry sales of 370, this being an increase on previous years. We believe that we will struggle for space (parking and on the run course) if we venture much above this number. Having opened entries on January 14th and publicised this widely, entries sold out inside 5 days. We were delighted to welcome 285 runners on the day (the event record is 307 in 2017); they left the start line at 11am in perfect running conditions: cool, dry and with a very gentle breeze.

Dundee Road Runners (DRR) swept the field of main awards on the day. Their Marcus Sheridan was first man home in a fine time of 55 mins and 20 seconds. With teammates also placing third and fourth in the field, the Dundee club also secured an emphatic win in the men's team race. They emerged as ladies' team champions, of whom Mairi Littleton – winner also in 2024 - led home in a time of 1:01:28.

Four new event bests were set this year by Alison McNeilly (DRR, F40), Julie Menzies (PH Racing, F50), David Cross (Edinburgh AC, M60) and Ann Reed (PRR, F70). PRR's Duncan Ryan also took the M50 title while the club's Nathan Campbell established a first-time record for the new men's U20 category.

BB

The Sub-Committee then turned its attention to organising the 26th **Brig Bash** (in fact, with entries opening 48 hrs after the TT is held, organisation of the two races very much now overlaps). With very few flat 5 mile races available in Scotland – and with the BB increasingly taking on a 'must-do' image in the Scottish race calendar - we were confident this would be as popular as ever. We were not disappointed: the race sold out (330 places) in 43 *minutes* on the evening that entries opened.

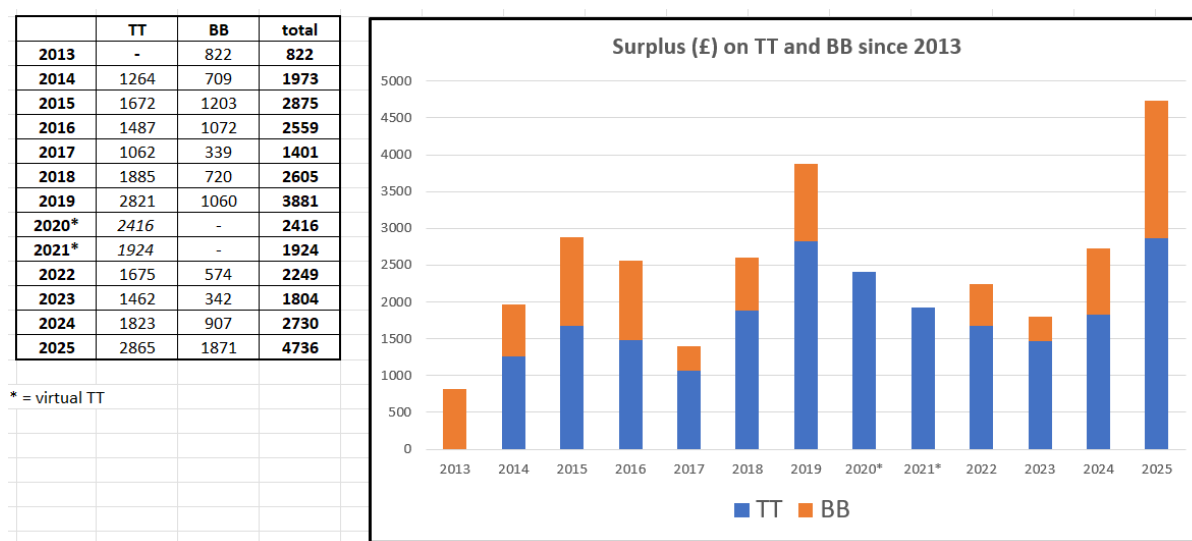
The race took place on Wednesday 2nd July. The 2025 BB start will be long remembered for the sudden and violent storm/deluge that visited itself on runners, organisers and helpers alike. In almost-aquatic conditions, 260 runners went on their way, with numerous rainbows presiding over affairs and sunshine somehow emerging to greet the first finishers on Chaise Road.

The men's race has been won by a Central AC (Stirling) athlete since 2019, with Hamish Hickey adding his name to the teapot trophy this year. His time of 24:03 was the joint-third-fastest performance at the event since its inception in 1998. His Central team-mate (and girlfriend) Grace Whelan took the women's title in 28:46, this representing the fastest ladies' time since 2019. Previous winners James Donald (Dundee Hawkhill Harriers) and Gayle Lindsay (PH Racing) were the second man and lady home respectively.

The team contests have been very close affairs in recent year, and 2025 was no exception. Dundee Hawkhill's men's team and PH Racing's ladies' team both extended their winning streaks to three years through narrow victories over Dundee Roadrunners in both races. Three new age group records were set, and all by Perth athletes. Lucy Ward and Iain Jordan – both of Strathtay Harriers – both improved their records for the U20 categories, while PRR's Ann Reed removed almost three minutes for the over-70 ladies record.

Twenty-five PRRs competed in total; this was as high a participation rate as we have seen in recent years, and would potentially threaten the strength of our volunteer squad, but for the fact that the majority of PRR runners were also helpers before or after the race (course marking, car parking etc).

Financially, the two races provided a major (and perhaps record) boost to PRR club coffers. The Tay Ten provided ~£2850 (*the AGM accounts record this as slightly higher as not all bills from PKC had been received by the accounts cut-off*) and the Brig Bash some £1870. The TT remains our key 'cash cow' for funding wider club activities (especially trophies, internal races, XC entries, track training), but, mainly due to the shedding of chip timing, the Brig Bash is now also making a significant financial contribution. See the chart below.



The Brig Bash has always been – and remains – daftly good value-for money (entry fees in 2025 were £12/£14). This value is made possible, in major part, by the generosity of PRR members in providing the (vast majority of the) 'spread'.

Both events simply would not - and cannot - go ahead without the support of our volunteers. Huge thanks are extended to everyone who helped make both races such a success. As usual, we received very positive feedback from participants about how much they enjoyed the races and plenty of comments about how encouraging and friendly the marshals were. In particular, I would like to thank the members of the Sub-Committee, whose efforts made sure everything went (just about) smoothly: that's Jimmy Fotheringham, Gillian McGuire, Tom Rhodes, Liz Johnston, Rhona Barclay, Claire Douglas, Rhona Younger, Kenny Cairns (co-lead and volunteer manager), Caroline Duffin and Paige Brown. Sadly, we will lose Paige, Liz and Rhona B for the 2026 races, and we thank them for all their efforts. **We continue to seek more PRRs to make this sub-committee even better!** It is excellent that all other members of the sub-committee have elected to return for 2026; all are already engaged in work for the coming races.

The annual **Mob Match** vs Kinross RR has now become a sizeable fixture in our calendar and (at least loosely) falls to the Race Sub-Comm to organise. The 2025 event, hosted by Kinross RR at Crook of Devon, was again a great success and was a credit to KRR (even though PRR very narrowly won!). Participant numbers have grown from 63 in 2022, 95 in 2023, 121 in 2024 and 122 in 2025. PRR will host the 2026 at Kinclaven/Ballathie Bluebell Woods and the Race Sub-Comm will be ensuring that occurs.

The 2026 race dates are: TT – Sun 3rd May BB – Weds 1st July MM – Tues 18th Aug

Mark Crawford, Race Sub-Committee Lead/TT and BB race Director