RACE SUB-COMMITTEE

2026 was another very successful year for the club's open races, the Tay Ten (TT) and Brig Bash (BB), in almost every regard. The Tay Ten was largely unchanged in its arrangements, but the Brig Bash saw a significant (and overdue) safety upgrade, as described below.

Tay Ten

The 2026 **Tay Ten** again 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 about (in particular) the London Marathon, to which we also do not wish to lose runners or volunteers. Our continued intention is to hold the TT on the Sunday a week after the London Marathon each year (as will be the case in 2027).

We targeted entry sales of 375, this being the same as 2025. We believe that we will struggle for space (both 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. Entry fees remained at £13/£16 (with an optional wooden medal available for an extra £5; 51% of entrants opted for one). We were delighted to welcome 293 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. 288 runners completed the event.

Dundee Road Runners (DRR) won both team events: comfortably in the ladies' race and by a narrow margin from PH Racing in the men's. PH's Luke McNeil - bizarrely injured (while in the leading pack) by a stray North Inch golf ball in 2025 - was first man home in a fine time of 53:54. Central AC's Jennifer Wetton became only the second lady to 'break the hour' (in a time of 59:52) to win the ladies' race.

A bundle of new age category event records were set (since 2024, there are cash prizes for these): MU20 (Nathan Campbell, PRR); M50 (Andrew Wright, PH Racing); M60 (Graeme Parker, PRR); FU20 (Eilidh Hearn, PSH); F40, Kristin Lownie (also PH); and F50 (Julie Menzies, also PH).

There was an excellent (and perhaps record) turnout of volunteers at the 2026 TT.

Brig Bash

The Sub-Committee then rapidly turned its attention to organising the 27th **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 adopting a 'must-do' status 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 barely an hour on the evening that entries opened.

The BB saw a major logistical/safety upgrade in 2026. The course is increasingly busy with traffic, and we have already made significant changes to risk assessment, marshalling and a signage on the 'Country Loop' beyond Kilgraston. However, the 'Fast Straight' of the A935, west of Bridge of Earn (BoE), has continued to be a concern as more cars travel faster directly towards the runners. Accordingly, we investigated road closures there this year with PKC and Police Scotland; a *full* closure here, whilst possible, would cause major access/diversion problems for BoE and was swiftly discounted. Instead, that 900m section was 'neutralised' with a 20mph speed limit that runners greatly appreciated. One disgruntled driver sought to make our lives difficult, but the overall outturn was hugely positive. These measures carry a cost of ~£1500, leading to a £5 per entrant increase in BB entry fees to £17/£20 *(see also note below in finances).*

We made the decision to end the Brig Bash Mile this year; it was invariably being won by the overall victor in each race and was seeing no 'targeted' attempts.

The race took place on Wednesday 1st July. Conditions were wet and blustery but (luckily) not the violent storm/deluge of 2025. 252 runners started the race, 251 finished.

The men's race has been won by a Central AC (Stirling) athlete since 2019; 2026 saw that run extended. Jamie Crowe – the emphatic winner here in 2023 and 2024 and already the course record holder – shattered the course best again, reducing it by a huge 32 seconds and narrowly missing the Scottish record (by just 10 seconds). We hope to see him return to take down that mark in 2027! PRR member Gayle Lindsay – albeit running in the colours of PH Racing – won the ladies' race in a time of 29:59.

PH Racing were the ladies' team winners, while Dundee Roadrunners finally broke the stranglehold of their city rivals to win the men's contest.

Beyond Jamie Crowe's course record, two new age group records were set. Iain Jordan - once of PSH and (fleetingly) PRR - set a new men's U20 best while Fife AC's Margaret Martin lowered the F70 record by almost 2 minutes.

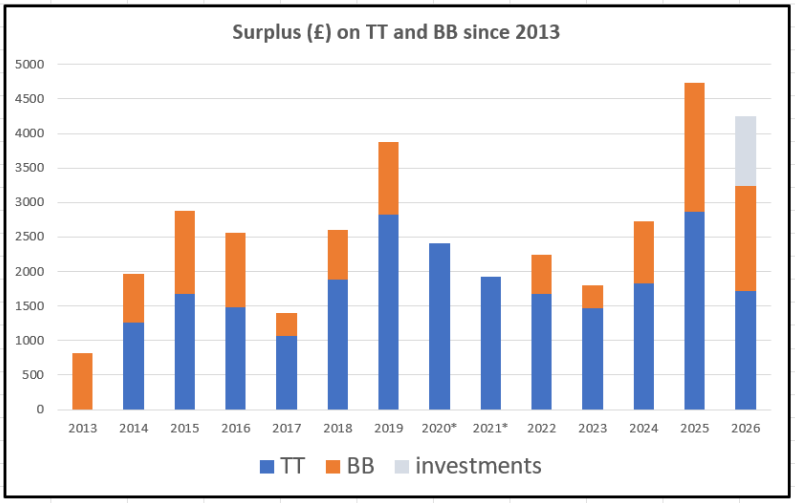
The most noteworthy event of the evening was a new **world** best F65 time, set by FVH's Fiona Matheson (holder of all of the Brig Bash's F40, F50 and F60 bests). Her performance saw a wonderful. packed and very long ovation to close the awards ceremony.

Nineteen PRRs competed in total; it is excellent that the majority of PRR runners are/were also helpers before or after the race (course marking, car parking etc).

Financially, the two races again provided a major boost to PRR club coffers. In overall 'profitability' terms, only the 2025 races returned a better income (see chart and table below). The Tay Ten provided ~£1720 *(the* and the Brig Bash just over £1500 (*these figures differ slightly from the overall club accounts; the figures here are unaffected by delayed BB/TT bills*). Notably this year, we made over £1000 of investments in new TT/BB equipment: a race PA system, a large digital clock, new marshalling bibs and a new tea urn. We chose to freeze TT prices this year after the large returns of 2025. 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 again also making a significant financial contribution.

	TT	BB	investments	total (TT+BB)
2013	-	822		**822**
2014	1264	709		**1973**
2015	1672	1203		**2875**
2016	1487	1072		**2559**
2017	1062	339		**1401**
2018	1885	720		**2605**
2019	2821	1060		**3881**
2020*	*2416*	-		**2416**
2021*	*1924*	-		**1924**
2022	1675	574		**2249**
2023	1462	342		**1804**
2024	1823	907		**2730**
2025	2865	1871		**4736**
2026	1720	1522	1013	**3241**

* = virtual TT



Even with the safety-drive price uplift mentioned above, the Brig Bash remains daftly good value-for money. This value is made possible, in major part, by the generosity of PRR members in providing the majority of the 'spread'/buffet.

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 Gillian McGuire, Tom Rhodes, Duncan Ryan, Jill Garvie (who bravely took on running the entries this year), Ros Bryce, Claire Douglas (i/c catering), Rhona Younger, Kenny Cairns (co-lead and volunteer manager) and Caroline Duffin. Sadly, we lose a few of them for the 2027 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 2027; all are already engaged in work for the coming races.

Additionally, 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. We hosted the 2026 event at Kinclaven Bluebell Woods, with PRR teams recording triumphs on both M and F race. The Match(es) was/were again a great success and were a credit to PRR, with so many volunteers (including even some DRRs!) attending to help.

2027 dates: TT – Sun 2nd May; BB – Weds 7th July; MM vs Kinross – TBC, MM vs DRR – Sat 27th Feb

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