

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

If you define success as being a realisation of your objectives - and as measured by a good many metrics - 2024 has been a success for PRR. More detail appears in the wider report(s), but to summarise...

Our key challenge in late 2023 was one of **participation**, both in our racing series and at our Club Runs and training nights. Neither were in crisis, but showed signs of waning (or of not recovering to pre-COVID levels). As reported in the reports below, numbers have climbed at two of the three series, and especially at our internal races, Club Runs and track training. Indeed, we've seen some of our best numbers for many years on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We made the decision to open PRR to **16- and 17-year-old runners** at our 2023 AGM. This was no small undertaking (after 38 years as an adult club). It was rare among UK running clubs and sends a serious message that we are open to a younger membership. That message has been reinforced by a number of other measures and has also seen our twentysomething and thirtysomething numbers grow noticeably in 2024. Neither effect is huge (we never thought it would be), but is an encouraging step in rejuvenating the club and the activities we pursue.

The addition of those younger members has been part of the boost in **overall membership numbers**. We cleared 200 PRRs for only the third year ever and the first time since 2019, and the trend is clearly upward.

Our **open races** – the Tay Ten (TT) and Brig Bash – were again a great success, despite some significant changes and additions to both. We saw entry numbers return to 350 at the TT and achieved a record number of starters at BB. The TT continues to grow in its fame, while the BB has achieved something of a cult status and is surely Scotland's premier 5-miler. Both races sell out rapidly (the BB ultra-rapidly!) and, combinedly, they made up over 40% of our income this year, allowing us to pursue the activities we do and hold membership fees at our quite-incredible-value levels.

Financially, we fared very well, breaking even – and maintaining our coffers at healthy levels – even in a year when we had committed to some significant investments in the open races and the club generally.

There have been **great individual and team performances** and **records broken**.

And, of course, we finally won a **Mob Match**.

But let us not be too self-congratulatory. There remain challenges to undertake. One such is seeing the race series return to greater health and enthusiasm still, ie that which they enjoyed before COVID. 2025 will see us discuss and pursue this with a view to possible changes and reforms (at the next AGM) that further that aim.

Every Chair writes this line at this point: "*we are only as good as our membership*". It was very true in 2024. Huge thanks are due to this year's Committee: Paige, Ronnie, Clive, Elliot, Dean, Elvis, Richard, Alan and Mike Dales. They have been thoroughly excellent and double-determined to bring about our usual welter of activities and the changes we set ourselves. We alas lose Dean and Elliot at the AGM, and I'd like to thank both for their great efforts this year. The Race

Committee worked tirelessly to produce our excellent races. Our XC Captains (Fabienne and Kevin Riddell), our kit quartermasters (the Dales), our coaches (Richard, Lorraine, Fiona Morrisson, Kev Riddell and Amy Bryson) and our new Coaching Assistants (Stuart, Lucy and Tessa) all deserve huge thanks. And, crucially, big thanks are extended to all our volunteers – at all our events in 2024 – that made it such a fine year. To you all: THANK YOU.

Mark Crawford, Chair 2025