

scottishathletics Club Together Annual Report 2025 - 26



24

scottishathletics affiliated clubs are involved in Club Together

7547

athlete members across the 24 clubs involved

5%

growth in club membership over the last 12 months



CLUB TOGETHER OVERVIEW

The **scottishathletics** Club Together Project, established in 2011, continues to be a key part of the **scottishathletics** National Club Development Programme.

Club Together is recognised as one of the most successful club development programmes across the Scottish sporting sector which has resulted in significant increases in participation numbers and club membership alongside strengthening club infrastructure and club operations.

The concept remains a simple one which involves the club, **scottishathletics** and where possible local & national partners jointly investing to fund and employ a Club Together project post(s) to help the club develop and improve. The aims of each post are determined by the needs of each individual club.

The role of the vast volunteer workforce working alongside the paid officers continues to be critical.

The headline numbers highlighted on this page across the last 12 months once again show the continued strength of the Club Together project and the individual clubs.

35

professional officers across the 24 clubs involved delivering a diverse range of roles to support club development

455

hours of paid club development work per week alongside dedicated club volunteer workforce

93%

retention rate of new members over the last 12 months

Club Together Overview 2025- 26



The number of clubs involved in the Club Together Project is 24 athletics clubs with 35 different posts across the club network.

In 2025 -26 there has been:

- a 5% increase in athlete membership numbers across the 24 clubs to 7547 members.
- over 900 new members recruited in participating clubs.
- a 93% retention rate of new members.
- a increase in the overall annual investment into the programme which stands at £407k (a 40% increase in two years)
- 455 delivery hours per week of club development delivery time
- based on affiliation data 35% of all **scottish**athletics membership is made up from clubs involved in Club Together.

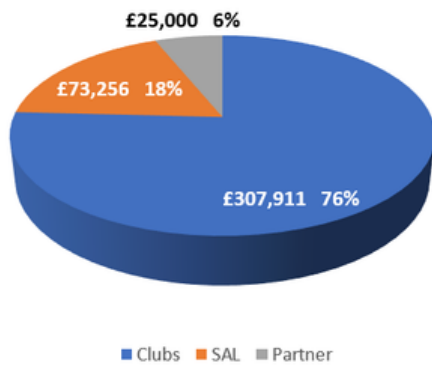
In the last 12 months the programme has remained steady. The table below highlights the evolution of club together since 2012.

	2012-13	2019 - 20	2021 -22	2022 - 23	2023 - 24	2024 - 25	2025 - 26
No. of Clubs	17	22	23	23	22	24	24
No. of roles	17	30	33	33	30	34	35
Hours per week	185	490	500	530	424	467	455
Annual Investment	£185k	£270k	£309k	£328k	£291k	£334k	£407k
Membership Growth	-	+ 4%	+5%	+6%	+3%	+8%	+5%
New members recruited	-	1000	1074	1104	1144	1064	910



Club Together Finance Overview

Total Club Together Investment: 2025 - 2026

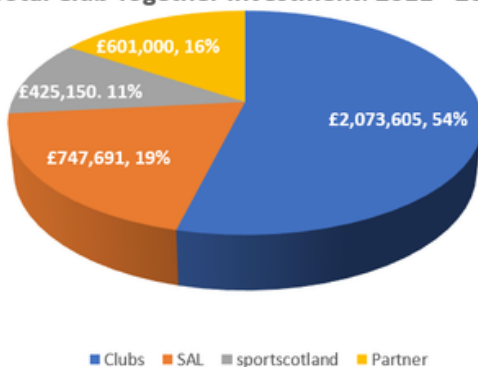


CLUB TOGETHER FINANCE 2025 - 2026

In the last 12 months the total investment in the Club Together programme was £407k (40% increase in two years, 22% in 12 months). The annual investment by clubs has increased to over £308k per annum, clubs now finance 76% of the overall programme. **scottishathletics** funding has increased to 18% (£74k) of the total as more clubs have joined the programme.

Funding streams from local partners (6% of total investment) continues to be increasingly challenging to source, as local government/leisure trust funding becomes more stretched. From 2026/27 there will be a welcome investment from **sportscotland** through the new Club Support Programme. This will ensure new clubs can join the programme and existing clubs can enhance their delivery. Although excellent investment the fund will not be able to meet all demand.

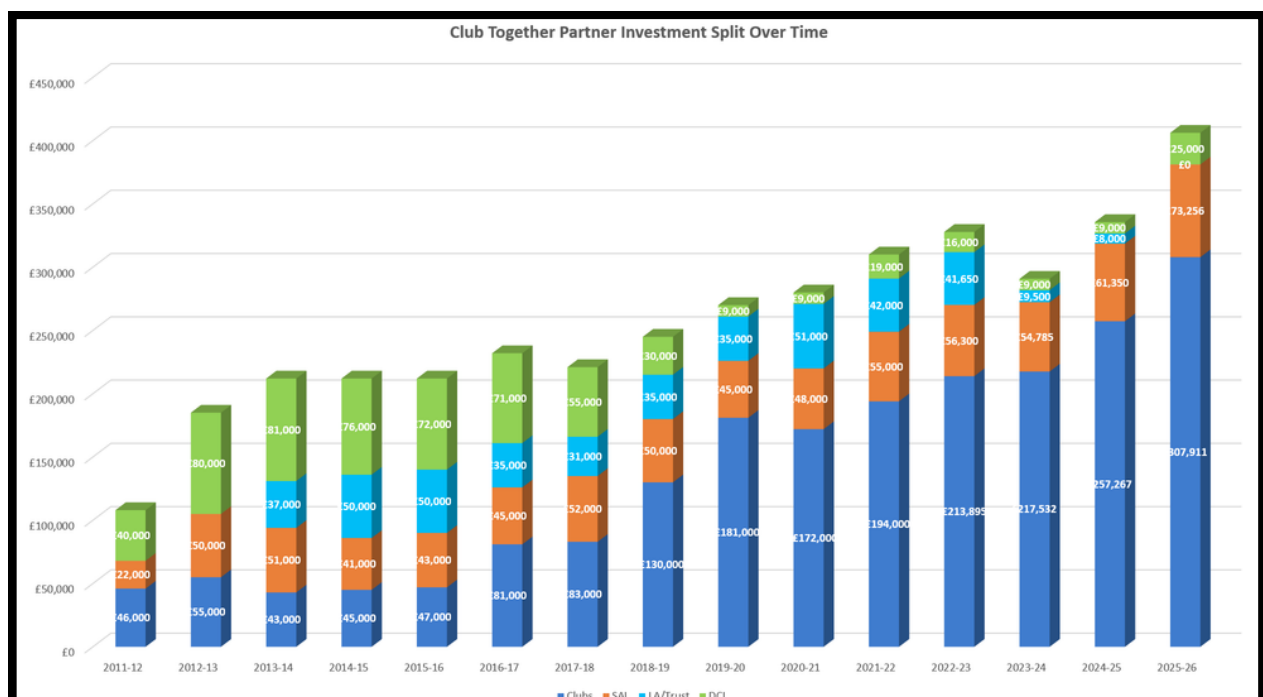
Total Club Together Investment: 2011 - 2026



CLUB TOGETHER FINANCE 15 YEARS

Since the Club Together programme was first introduced, 15 years ago, the overall investment in the programme totals over £3.84 million. Athletics clubs have contributed, over half at £2.07 million, and **scottishathletics** over £748k. The chart below shows the changing investment patterns by partners over the last 15 years.

Additionally increases in the real National Living Wage and national insurance rises means that the costs for clubs and partners has, in some cases, increased significantly. Although there has been a considerable increase in investment the number of officers hours delivered has actually declined since 2022/23 due to the rising costs. Despite this Athletics clubs continue to increase their investment highlighting the value clubs place on the programme, the sustainability of clubs and the increased strength of the clubs business and operational models.



Club Together clubs and club roles 2025 - 26

The 24 athletics clubs involved in the Club Together project operate across 22 local authority areas of Scotland (see table below for full list of clubs involved and new clubs in 2025/2026 are highlighted by *).

As clubs have developed the range of club roles and job descriptions has also evolved to meet clubs changing needs. Roles can be broadly categorised as follows:

- general growth and development,
- business operations,
- coaching,
- working with underrepresented groups, and
- clubs with multiple roles in the above categories.

Although **scottish**athletics continue to employ roles in partnership with clubs, we are increasingly encouraging clubs to set up employment and payroll services to employ staff directly. There is external agency support through our partners, AAB People. Seven clubs in the Club Together project have set up payroll or engage individuals directly.



Additionally clubs are engaging additional paid staff (over and above club together roles) with particular focus on administration and coaching roles now across 35 athletics clubs in Scotland.

CLUB TOGETHER GATHERING

In March 2026 Scottish Athletics hosted, in Stirling, a club together gathering for club officers and club leaders to network. This year's gathering involved 15 clubs and 26 delegates with presentations from North Ayrshire AC, Kilmarnock Harrier & AC, Springburn Harriers and Harry Baird (on his 14 year club together journey) with the topics of capacity building and workforce.

Grampian/ Highland & Islands	Central/ Tayside & Fife	East	West
Aberdeen AAC (Aberdeen)	Central AC (Stirling and Clackmannanshire)	Lasswade AC (Midlothian)	Springburn Harriers (East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow)
Inverness Harriers (Highland)	Pitreavie AAC (Fife)	Gala Harriers AC (Scottish Borders)	Shettleston Harriers (Glasgow)
	Fife AC (Fife)	Livingston AC (West Lothian)	Kilbarchan AAC (Renfrewshire)
	Falkirk Victoria Harriers* (Falkirk)	Corstorphine AAC (Edinburgh)	Kilmarnock Harrier & AC (East Ayrshire)
		Harmony AC (Edinburgh)	Law and District AAC (South & North Lanarkshire)
		Team East Lothian AC* (East Lothian)	Victoria Park City of Glasgow AC (Glasgow)
			North Ayrshire AC (North Ayrshire)
			Ayr Seaforth AC (South Ayrshire)
			Helensburgh AAC (Argyll and Bute)
			Motherwell AC (North Lanarkshire)
			Giffnock North AC* (East Renfrewshire and Glasgow)
			Inverclyde AC * (Inverclyde)

Club Together Impact 2025 - 26



Alongside the growth in membership and high new membership retention rates clubs in 2025 - 2026 have reported a range of wider club development progression and improvements across an array of club business operations (see table below). The impact areas have been categorised against the areas outlined in the **scottishathletics** National Club framework.

Alongside the one to one support offered to clubs by the **scottishathletics** development team and support available from the wider **scottishathletics** staff team there is dedicated external one to one expert support available in club business areas such as legal status set up & compliance, gift aid and employment/payroll services.

Our Organisation	• annual reporting to OSCR and legal status compliance • constitution review • policy and procedure enhancements • financial management and analysis • new club strategy • employment and payroll set up • new club board structure • club leadership • board role delegation • developing club vision • implementation of gift aid procedures • grant funding • development of online membership systems • review and research to help inform club decision making	Our Community	• growing diverse opportunities into new communities • holiday programme delivery • health week delivery • offering school to clubs links • free coaching in schools and communities • clubs leading on new and growing existing junior activity for 3 – 12 year olds • recreational running (inactive to active), • delivering activity to underrepresented groups including people living in poverty and low income • new satellite sections in new communities, • disability athletics provision and training of coaches • development of partnerships with Further Education establishments • All of this work often delivered through multi agency partnership working
Our Team	• developing club coaching structures and quality of coaching • providing coach development opportunities • coach coordination • recruitment and education of more coaches, volunteers and officials • increasing number of young people involved in coaching including young leadership programmes • enhancing paid staff structures	Our Members	• improvements to athlete pathways, athlete support and athlete experience • growing number of training evenings/times • building athlete capacity • providing competition through local, regional and national events • delivery of more local level introductory club competition for members • delivery of local, league, district and national competition • engaging with parent/carers through parents evenings • improving new membership journey • inducting new members • developing a 'care team' of support for members
Our Home	• exploration of facility ownership and supporting facility developments/enhancements • facility improvements and access agreements, often in partnership with local leisure trusts • clubhouse improvements	Our Communication	• communication sub groups • enhance communication internally to members • improvements to website and social media. • utilising multiple and new communication methods including Tiktok, WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and X. • local press coverage

Club Together future commitment

Through the **scottishathletics** strategy Building a Culture of Success (2023 - 2027) and moving forward Club Together will continue to be a pivotal club development programme for the Governing Body.

scottishathletics are committed to:

- continuing to financially invest directly into clubs.
- supporting existing clubs to grow or sustain their involvement in Club Together.
- supporting new clubs to join the programme.
- continuing to deliver networking events for clubs involved in the project to share best practice and work together.
- supporting clubs on a 1-2-1 basis by a designated National Club Manager.
- enhancing the HR support to club officers and clubs involved who have posts employed by **scottishathletics**.
- providing bespoke external support, to clubs to employ their own staff.
- seeking opportunities to work with national and local partner agencies to enhance club together.
- continuing to be flexible to meet clubs needs as the programme evolves and develops.

A comprehensive club together guidance document has been produced to support new and existing clubs with a step by step guide with club case studies included.

THANK YOU

scottishathletics would like to take this opportunity to thank all clubs, officers, club leaders and volunteers who have contributed to the programme and continue to take club and athletics development to the next level. Your dedication and commitment to the programme has a huge impact.

We would also like to thank the ongoing support and contribution of National and Local partners - either through direct investment or ongoing support.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the club together project and/or wider club development support available from **scottishathletics**:

Email: development@scottishathletics.org.uk

Website: <https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/clubs/>

