



Annual Trustees Report 2025



TVTA Annual Report 2025 Index

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S.1 Chair's Report

This last year has been one where we've really started to build momentum. A key element of this has been the recruitment of 2 paid contractors; Shay Hayton and Wes Fyfe. They have a strong track record of responsible trail building in the Tweed Valley area, including high quality trails around Glentress and Innerleithen. Further detail on their work is noted in S.4 - Review of the Year.

At a strategic level we've continued to maintain our dialogue with key stakeholders, most particularly Forestry & Land Services Scotland (FLS), including initial negotiations with them regarding the possible adoption of two further trails at Caberston.

We have significantly increased our communications and engagement activity via social media resulting in increased donations, supporter numbers and Instagram followers (now in excess of 1000). On the ground, we have agreed the installation of trail-head and -end signage on our adopted trails with FLS, including QR codes linked to Trailforks - this provides riders with access to view trail status and report issues. The QR codes also allow riders to make one-off donations and to sign up as regular Supporters. We have worked with a number of mtb content producers including Street Pigeon, Laura Jane & Wee Tam, Mindful Trail Biker, Mud & No Makeup etc. on Youtube clips highlighting our work. The new DMBinS Fresh Cuts video will also feature the TVTA. As part of this comms upgrade, we are also working on an overhaul of our website.

We have continued to engage with local businesses; a very positive example has been the recent agreement with Tempest Brewing and the Traquair Arms to donate to the TVTA via a 'Support TVTA Beer' initiative. Equally, we really appreciate the recent business sponsorship from Ride Innerleithen, Tempest Brewing and Tweed Valley Bikes on the ongoing Lower Wolves project.

Section 4 provides more detail on our trail related work; highlights include the reopening of Flat White after a 2 year overhaul resulting in over 12,500 riders using the trail in November 2025 according to trail counter data; the reopening of Feed the Pony and Big Baw with a new flow section built on the latter, following FLS harvesting work; and extensive maintenance of 3G, including improved drainage and corner rebuilds.

We appreciate the work of our Dig Leaders who have organised and delivered significant trail maintenance progress; 'work based' volunteer days have also been run with Edinburgh University, BASE Academy and the Hervelo womens cycling club.

Our short AGM will focus on the following key areas:

- Overview: Erik Smolenski, our Chair will provide an overview of the TVTA activity over the last year.
- Finances: Our Treasurer, Ed Shoote, will present our Financial Report and Accounts, for approval.
- TVTA Board & Structure: Fred Bell, our Secretary, will summarise this and lead us through the annual election of Board members.
- Supporters Scheme: Fred will summarise how the numbers look.
- Trail activity: Our DMBinS/TVTA Tweed Valley Trail Co-ordinator, Marc Crowley, will update us on progress in this area and on how our relationship with Forestry & Land Services Scotland has been working.
- Our go-forward Strategy: We will summarise how we are taking the TVTA through 2020/21.

S.2 Financial Report and annual accounts

The TVTA financial year reported here runs from 1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025. It was another fantastic year of support from donors with a surplus of £13,479 despite expenditure on the many great projects and works delivered.

Payments

This financial year saw a number of projects spending charity funds. These included;

- The New Shelter at Cardrona Pump Track was funded by the TVTA for £1,355
- The New Signage at Caberston for TVTA trails cost £1,667
- First Aid Training was £1,000
- New Trail Contractors £2,080 (for only January)

Payments directly related to our dig days totalled £2,110, the main items within this total being PPE, snacks, digging tools and insurance.

Costs related to fundraising include the website and supporter hosting, promotion items and card transaction fees at a total cost of £2,503.

Receipts

As mentioned in S.1, fundraising has been a major focus over the last year and we have sought to broaden our reach wherever possible; for example, a recent Instagram fundraiser raised around £1100 in 2024/25. This campaign funding was not ring fenced but was spent directly on the new contractors first payments as advertised.

Ride Like Rab donated £1,000 which was an honour for the TVTA to be supported as part of Rab's legacy.

This financial year donations totalled £23,014 (£21,071 FY23/24). The bulk of these donations come from our loyal membership supporting the group each year. The larger donations over £150 are shared below. A reclaim for gift aid payment is included for £2,957.

Most donations were via the website totalling £16,192. The trail coordinator role in partnership with Scottish Cycling was secured through the UK Government community renewal funding. No TVTA funds were spent as match funding this year to support this role's work for the TVTA.

Our surplus for the year 2024/25 was £13,479. Including the year-end PayPal and bank balances, the Tweed Valley Trails Association has funds of £85,501 up from £72,023 in the previous financial year. It should be noted that within this the TVTA holds a total of £3,437 of restricted funds for use for the Thinking Box group.

Donations and Grants Over £150 between 1st March 2024 and 28th February 2025

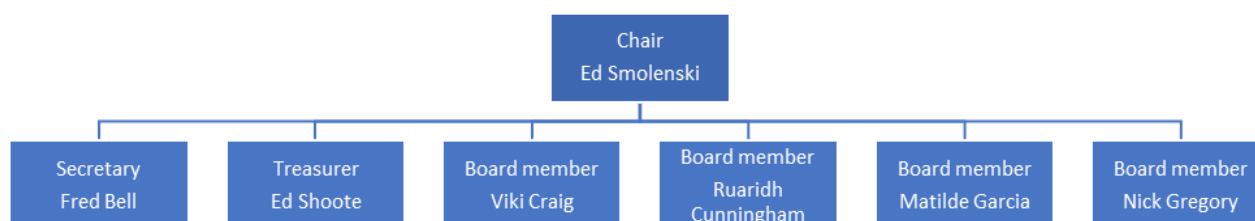
	Unrestricted donation	Restricted donation
	to nearest £	to nearest £
Ride Like Rab	£1000	
Benevity Donations	£712	
Tweedlove Event Donation	£500	
Riders Retreat/Glentress Hotel	£240	

Endless Trails	£150	
Cleikum mill	£180	
Duncan/Rohallion agency	£150	
G. Wilson	£156	
N. Burrows	£156	

S.3 Organisation structure & governance

Structure chart

At the end of our Financial Year (28/2/25) the TVTA Board comprised seven members set up as shown in the following structure chart:



Marc Crowley (our DMBinS / TVTA Trail Co-ordinator) attends the Board with a standing invite, as do our trail contractors, Shay Hayton and Wes Fyfe. We've also benefited from the involvement of Innes Graham who has attended recent meetings, providing particular insight into trail, riding community and social media matters.

Our Trail Committee (a sub-group to the Board) has not sat over recent months; it will be reconvened when the Board believe it can add value and impetus to our trail development and maintenance activity.

Board meetings

The Board met monthly during 2024 and 2025. Meetings covered a wide range of topics including progress on Dig Days, our partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland, our Supporters Scheme, the introduction of our paid contractors roles and the progress being made by our DMBinS/TVTA Trail Co-ordinator. All meetings were formally minuted.

Our Board membership has remained broadly stable over this financial year with only one change; Shay Hayton stepped down as a Board member on taking up a role as one of our two paid trail maintenance contractors.

Under the current TVTA Constitution, all Board members and Trustees retire from their Board duties at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) but can, if they wish, stand for re-election.

All Board members are volunteers and take no payment for their contribution to the TVTA.

Board elections will be held at the AGM.

S.4 Review of the year:

- Supporters update/ overview

As at our year end we had 316 Supporters generating towards £9500 per annum in revenue, all of which is used directly to support our trail activity. Supporter numbers are up from around 300 at the same time last year and on a positive note, they have shown a significant uptick recently following our increased social media activity. We have also benefited from rider donations over the year totalling over £4000. Section 2 on our Finances provides more information on large donations received.

We are truly grateful for all donations and supporter payments received.

- Trail Maintenance & Dig Days

A significant initiative over recent months has been the new Lower Wolves trail diversion aimed at improving safety, and reducing the environmental impact into the previous line which was impacted by poor drainage and water runoff. This ongoing project is a first example of what we believe can provide a model for the future being undertaken in conjunction with local business sponsorship. We are extremely grateful for the support from Ride Innerleithen, Tempest Brewing & Tweed Valley Bikes in this regard. Work teams led by our contractors and using volunteers, including from the BASE Academy continue to work on this project, which is around 50% complete. The project roll out via social media showed a strong desire across the MTB industry to support this type of project and we were delighted to partner with local companies for this first collaboration.

Other trail maintenance work included the completion of Final Fling B-line; extensive maintenance of 3G, including corner rebuild and improved drainage; prompt clearance of storm damage from our trails and work with FLS plant operators to build a new Feed the Pony section from the middle trail to the new forestry road. We would also like to thank FLS for ensuring the contractors held to account on the damage to the exit of Middle Big Baw onto the forest road during harvesting and they were made to return with a hydraulic digger to reinstate the exit onto the road.

Table of Dig Days (Volunteer and Contractors March 2024-Feb 2025)

Dig Sessions	Man Days
38 Public Digs	246 Volunteer days
10 Contractor Maintenance Sessions	19 Contractor Days

We really appreciated the donation by Specialized of two ex-demo e-mtbs to support the increased trail work led by our contractors. A tool trailer was also recently procured.

Evoc kindly provided six Trail Builder Performance packs to enable the dig leaders to more safely ride into dig sites with tools and kit for which we're really appreciative of.

- FLS engagement

Forestry and Land Scotland relationship remains positive: with TVTA continuing stewardship of the adopted trails, by authorisation carrying out safety work on other trails, communicating forest operation restrictions across the Tweed Valley to the wider public. FLS have protected trails during forest works, ensured damage caused during standing sales harvesting has been remedied, directed chainsaw operators into both address stump fields and to clear blocked trails of storm damage.

A big plus has been authorisation to put safety and information posts on the adopted trails. Not only do these inform the public of location, warn riders to slow and give way at the exit of trails and how to request help in an emergency they also include QR codes for Trailforks Reporting and a link to donate to contribute to the cost of the trail maintenance. This has enabled the TVTA to commit to creating 2 contract vacancies for paid trail maintenance.

Authorisation has been given to build a replacement section of trail on Lower Wolves so we can retire the section impacted by groundwater and high consequence fall-zones.

A further line from the summit of Priesthope to the start of 3G and Repeat Offender is currently going through a work planning process with FLS. This will be machine built across the heather, and whilst we have machinery on-site, we'll address the double track that leads up over Kirnie Law to Priesthope, ensuring there is water management in place and the track is less rough as to discourage e-bike riders from riding on the heather, widening the track.

The key to furthering what can be done under the partnership of FLS and TVTA is the completion of, and the findings and recommendations from, the Sustainable Trails Plan Pilot trialled in Aberdeenshire. This should result in a national level model and guidance that can then be rolled out to enable TVTA and FLS to have a Strategic Trails Plan that can be developed and executed to benefit both Parties, and those who use the trail network.

- Trail Co-ordinator Report

Marc, our Trail Development Coordinator has been key to building the relationship with FLS and embedding a sustainable approach to trail maintenance and we are keen to maintain this important role. Future funding of the role is subject to ongoing discussions involving DMBinS, Scottish Borders Council, South of Scotland Enterprise and TVTA with a view to secure the position for another year if an application into the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund is successful.

We have been fortunate enough that Marc has been fully funded by the Scottish Borders Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund since January 2023. Marc provides direct time inspecting the trails, leading digs, addressing maintenance work, supporting the TVTA with training and subsidies to fund tools. In addition, he is the primary interface with FLS. Through developing our working relationship with FLS, working to support their needs and ours, he has secured more support of the TVTA aims and goals from the local team demonstrated by no weekend closures of forests for harvesting and civils work, adopted trails protected and where damage has occurred, remedial action taken, new lines authorised and support with chainsaw operators.

S.5 Looking Forward

In May we will be facilitating the first round of the Scottish Enduro Series. To cover the cost of post event trail maintenance, TVTA will benefit from a £5 per entry donation.

Pending approval from FLS, there are plans to construct a new trail, marked as 5G on Trailforks, closing off the existing boggy route into 3G and improving the main climb to New York New York.

We will continue to extend our communications plans; discussions are underway, for example, for a future feature and interview in Ride Highs & Flows magazine.

We will obtain matched funding from SBC to partially secure the Trail Development Co-Ordinator role and the support it provides our group.

A key focus at the moment and over coming months is work on developing our website and associated payments mechanisms to collect donations and supporter subscriptions. This is likely to involve the migration of our data and payments systems, subject to Board agreement and system testing. We aim to have the refreshed website, new supporters and donations processes live by late summer 2025.

S.6 Thanks to all who support / volunteer/ help the TVTA

We really appreciate the massive efforts made by such a wide range of people who have supported the TVTA over this last year; trails maintenance work has increased and we couldn't have achieved this without the hard work of all our trail builders, diggers and volunteers - so to you all, whether you are 'Regulars', 'Occasionals' or 'On-offs' we say a huge thanks; your efforts have been central to us being able to maintain and enhance our trail network. And a special shout-out too, to Shay and Wes, our contractors who've put so much time, energy and enthusiasm into invigorating our trail maintenance work.

Equally, to all those who have supported us financially, whether personal and business - we simply could not have achieved what we have without your generous contributions, thanks.

With your continuing support we're sure we can build and develop our activity for the benefit of all who ride our trails.

Appendix 1 - Financial Statements

Breakdown of Receipts and Payments

Receipts	
Donations	£21,867.64
Paypal Campaigns	£1,146.15
RBS Bank Interest	£1,169.32
Total Receipts	£24,183.11
Payments	
Charitable Activities	
Dig Day Expenses	£1,667.46
Insurance	£442.94
Pump track Shelter	£1,344.00
Signage at Golfie	£1,667.33
Trail Contractors	£2,080.00
First aid training	£1,000.00
Expenses for Fundraising Activities	
Website costs and fees	£1,526.40
Card and bank fees	£495.48
Admin Expenses	£205.88
Promotional activities	£274.80
Total Payments	£10,704.29
Surplus for 2024/25	£13,478.82