

Our award winners for 2017

OUR Volunteers of the Year and Young Climber of the Year both came from the world of competition climbing. And underlining how climbing is a sport for all the family, our volunteering award went not to one person but to three – father, mother and son – the Donaldsons.

The judges were impressed by the family's dedication and hard work over many years to support the organisation of our climbing competitions and academies – whether in terms of planning, route-setting, admin, registration, scoring, coaching and all the other logistical necessities that make these events possible. Their citation said: "You are all recognised and respected faces within Scotland's climbing community, and have made a real difference to our mission to inspire young climbers to achieve their best."

Taking the ClimbScotland Young Climber of the Year Award was another well-known face, William Bosi from Edinburgh. The judges told William: "The combination of your achievements in competition climbing, both in Scotland and on an international stage, some awesome rock climbing feats and your willingness to use your climbing talent to help inspire other young climbers to achieve their best, impressed us and we all felt you have made an outstanding contribution to the Scottish climbing community in the last year."

The Donaldsons

The Donaldson family are John, Elaine and son Scott, who have acted as a team in the Scottish competition scene.

John was taken on as our Area Youth Coordinator (now re-named as Competitions Coordinator) in 2011. Every year since he has helped organise and run every youth competition in Scotland. He has also helped on all IFSC competitions held at EICA Ratho during this time, and attended and helped on occasional British championships held in England.

At each of these competitions Elaine helped with registration and general organisational work on the day. Son Scott initially competed himself but when he was no longer eligible, he too volunteered and has attended and volunteered in a number of roles in every competition since.

Both John and Scott were instrumental in setting up the Speed Climbing Competition as part of the Climbing Championships, operating the timing system and scoring, and Scott has also helped with the operation of the scoring system for the other competitions, and has occasionally helped route setting.

The family also volunteered at several events, including a come-and-try event in Aberdeen and two Climbing Festivals at Ratho. As a family, they have volunteered on a total of nearly 100



weekends, alongside contributing a substantial amount of planning time and liaison with the ClimbScotland team and other organisers.

John's expertise in IT has also been of benefit as he designed a scoring spreadsheet for the competitions, and set up the scoring system used for the Scottish Schools competition. He has been instrumental in updating competition rules each year in line with international and British changes, and, outside, helped deliver REALrock sessions in the Aberdeen area for several years.

Sport Development Officer Kevin Howett said: "In my 28 years with Mountaineering Scotland I have rarely seen anyone volunteer so much of their free time to help our work with young climbers."

William Bosi

William is totally dedicated to climbing. Training six times a week, he has been a member of the GB Climbing Team since 2011 and has achieved many international podium places in competitions. Outdoors he has climbed many inspiring

routes, such as Rainshadow, 9a, at Malham and Hubble, 9a, at Raven Tor. He has also bouldered 8B+ (Monk Life).

William has been inspired by Scottish climbers, Dave McLeod and Malcolm Smith, and hopefully, in turn, will be able to inspire younger climbers. He already supports and helps the younger climbers in both the GB development squad and at his local walls. He recently helped with the Speed Development Squad at EICA Ratho and has also helped coach a local school's climbing club (ESMS Junior School). The children were thrilled to have a 'real climber' as a coach.

William helps promote his sport through social media, especially Instagram. He has also attended and supported the opening of Perth College climbing wall,

where he climbed a route and was interviewed for television. William has made many international friendships through climbing, including members from the Slovenian, Austrian and Israeli teams, which has led to reciprocal visits and climbing trips. He especially values this aspect of the sport of climbing.

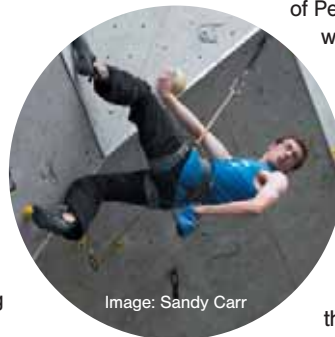


Image: Sandy Carr