

Mountaineering Scotland and Climb Scotland Awards 2018

Young Climber of the Year Award

Eight-year-old climber Edward Mills was named as the ClimbScotland Young Climber of the Year 2018 at the Mountaineering Scotland AGM in November.

Despite his youth, Edward impressed the judges with his dedication and achievements.

Already a keen and talented climber, after his mum was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he raised over £30,000 for Climbers Against Cancer through challenges which included the amazing achievement of climbing the Old Man of Hoy at age 8.

He came fourth in his category in the BMC Youth Climbing Series 2018, second in the Scottish Youth Climbing Championships, and was selected for the Scottish Squad.

The judges felt that Edward represented the true spirit of the Young Climber of the Year Award. His dedication to climbing together with his support for his mum throughout her illness and feats of fundraising were inspirational to people of all ages.

Unfortunately, Edward's dedication to climbing meant he was unable to attend the AGM for the presentation of his award, as he was attending the BMC Youth Climbing Symposium in England.



Volunteer of the Year Award

The Mountaineering Scotland Volunteer of the Year award went to Scott Forsyth, a recognised and respected face within Scotland's climbing community and one of the founding members of the QuickDraw Climbing Club, the first youth climbing club in Scotland, acting as chair for several years.

Scott has been competition coordinator in Scotland since 2010, staying involved even after his own children grew too old for the youth competitions. When approached by parents to help make more use of the EICA speed wall, he and Allan Bownes set up an informal speed squad which is growing in popularity and saw three climbers compete abroad for GB during 2018. He has also been chief judge at Scottish championships almost since they began.



The panel was impressed by Scott's enthusiasm, commitment and consistency over many years in the support and delivery of climbing competitions, his reputation as one of Scotland's most experienced climbing judges, and encouragement and support of young people at regional, national and international climbing events.

The judges felt that Scott has made a really positive difference to ClimbScotland's mission to inspire young climbers to achieve their best and are delighted that he is this year's winner.