



Press Release

6 August 2019

For immediate release

## **Climbers on the wall**

### **Scotland's first national lead climbing competition for adults**

Climbers are gearing up for Scotland's first ever national lead climbing competition for adults.

The Scottish Lead Climbing Competition, organised by Mountaineering Scotland's ClimbScotland project, and hosted at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at Ratho, will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> September as part of the Big Weekend of climbing competitions.

Climbers will compete to see who can get highest on a 15 metre route which gets harder as it gets higher. Unlike bouldering competitions, which only go up to four metres, lead climbing competitors use a rope for protection.

Kevin Howett, Mountaineering Scotland's Sport Development Officer, said, we have been running junior competitions for 15 years now and seen the number of competitors increasing dramatically in recent years. But until now there has been nowhere for them to progress after they pass 18.

"Now, with interest in competition climbing growing as a result of the Olympic effect, we felt the time was right to do something for senior climbers."

Nic Crawshaw, of EICA Ratho, said: "We are delighted to be hosting this event, and really looking forward to giving customers who aren't part of the junior competition circuit an opportunity to test themselves in a lead climbing competition."

The Big Weekend at EICA Ratho will include the Youth Championships on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, on lead, top-rope and speed, then on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> the Senior competition, the SLCC, will be held at the same time as the ClimbScotland Paraclimbing Festival.

There will be two age categories for the SLCC – seniors at 18-44 and veterans at 45+, with male and female categories in each. There will also be two levels of difficulty, so that climbers don't have to be elite competitors to take part.

Speed climbing will also feature on the Sunday, in both the senior competition and the paraclimbing, the first time either category has been able to take part.

## Ends

### Notes for editors:

*Image:* [http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Climbing\\_competition\\_image.jpg](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Climbing_competition_image.jpg)

Generic image of man taking part in a lead climbing competition

### Further information contact:

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### About Mountaineering Scotland:

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 14,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.
- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sports climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.

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