

SNBL Round 2 Report

The second round of SNBL was held at Transition Extreme on Saturday 3 November. There were 104 competitors with 40 registering for the league in this round.

There was no change in the Female Junior category, with no other competitors taking part, but in the Male Junior category Charlie De Beaux took the win against Jamie Niven in both their 2nd round competition and so moved up the leader board to 1st and 2nd respectively, knocking Matthew Fall down to 3rd place and Euan Farmer (last year's winner) off the podium. The Adult Female competition had twelve competitors including six who had not competed in round 1. Adja Remskar again took the win in the round and remains in top spot, whilst Eilidh Vass Payne came 5th and moves up from 4th to 2nd in the SNBL rankings. Alison McDougal was only a few points behind Eilidh in the round but came in 8th and maintains her 3rd SNBL place. Of those competing in their first SNBL round this year, Hannah Smith made the biggest impression, coming in 2nd and moving into joint 6th place in the SNBL rankings. Also, Naomi Hatto and Bex Whitehead (who was 6th in last year's league) climbed well, beating many of last round's top contenders to get 3rd and 4th respectively which brings them in at 9th and 10th in SNBL.

The way the placings change so much between rounds is one of the attractions of the League and it's often hard to predict who will end up on the podium at the end of six rounds; the adult women's competition is a good example and although Adja looks unstoppable, you never know who will come through as a contender for the podium places! The Male Adult category saw some similar top ten upsets. The leader from Round 1, David Miedzybrodzki, did not compete and as a result the top spot in the round went to local Stephen Keir who now shares SNBL 1st place with David. Further new entries to the league were Jack McKechnie (last year's winner) and Steven Aitken who were 2nd and 3rd in the round and so enter SNBL at 6th and 8th places. An impressive upset to the placings was Angus Harrison-Smart and Callum Armour moving up into 3rd and 4th places respectively in SNBL after this round as David Elder (2nd at Alien) and Nathan Noble (3rd at Alien) did not compete, which leaves round three quite open!

In the Female Vets category only two competitors battled it out. Koon Morris (last year's winner) took a decisive win against Debbie Riley who was entering this year's event for the first time and so the remaining contenders in this category, Ali Nimmo and Avril Gall, must be biding their time for other rounds? In the Male Vets category Gareth Yardley (another League winner from last year) shared the win in this, his second round, securing the SNBL 1st place. Since last round's SNBL top placed Reuben Welsh was not competing he falls to 4th place overall. Sandy Sharp came 4th at Alien but was just behind Gareth to secure 2nd place at Transition and so move up to 2nd place in his SNBL rankings. Dave Hainsworth, who was an overall podium 3rd last year, came a very close 3rd and moves up from SNBL 6th place to 3rd place. Simon Riley entered his first round and was the final competitor in the category.

Many thanks to the staff and setters at Transition for their hard work producing a great competition and to all the competitors who took part.

Report from the host wall:

We had 104 entries to the TX comp, of which around 40 were SNBL entries. It was great to see so many people make the trip north to compete here and the mix of problems created an excellent split of competitors. While the senior men's comp obviously dominated the number of entries it was great to see a thriving junior section and know that the future of the sport is in great hands with the talent coming through. Stephen Keir and Adja Remskar looked like the class of the senior division while the

vets category had a battle of the big names in north east climbing with Guy Robertson and Gareth Yardley taking a dead heat for first place! As always it was a pleasure for us to host the SNBL and it really shows how the competition climbing scene in Scotland is booming. I'll look forward to seeing everyone else next year and hopefully they all bring a pal too!

Matthew Berry (Climbing Wall Manager)

ROUND 3 is coming sooner than you think!

Round 3 is to be held at Avertical World, Dundee on the 7th December. Avertical always produces a singularly entertaining competition by virtue of the size of their bouldering wall, so competitors need to train up their funky side-ways moves. Looking forward to it.