



**Press Release**

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**For immediate release**

## **Scottish snow and ice an international hit** **Climbers from 22 countries thrilled by Scotland's mountains**

A week-long gathering in Scotland of mountaineers from across the world has been hailed a massive success.

Climbers from Europe, Scandinavia, the Middle East, the Americas and South Korea came as guests of Mountaineering Scotland to pair up with UK climbers and sample the unique character of Scottish winter climbing.

Ice-axe wielding and crampon-shod, they climbed well-known classic ice routes and hard, modern test-pieces – and also notched up six entirely new routes, including one amongst the hardest ever done in Scotland.

Some of the 60-strong group even took part in a mountain rescue, when they witnessed an avalanche on Ben Nevis and abandoned their own climbs to give initial support and First Aid to the victim until the Mountain Rescue Team arrived for the evacuation.

After a week of climbing, sometimes in challenging weather, both guest and host climbers were unanimous in declaring the event a great success, with the guests, most of whom have experience of climbing in the Alps and greater ranges – enthusing about the whole challenge and experience of winter climbing in Scotland.

Stuart Younie, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland, said “Mountaineering Scotland has been delighted to host this event in our 50th year, and to be able to welcome climbers from 22 different countries and all over the UK to enjoy some of the best winter climbing conditions Scotland has seen in many years. It’s been a great opportunity to showcase Scotland on an international stage and many of our international guests have been so enthused about the experience they are already talking about when they are going to come back. Thanks to our partner organisations and to all the volunteers who helped deliver such a fantastic event.”

Streap Alba Geamhradh 2020 – the name means Climb Scotland Winter 2020 in Gaelic – was revived this year as part of the celebrations to mark Mountaineering Scotland’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was supported by the Scottish Mountaineering Club, The Alpine Club, British Mountaineering Council and Salewa.

Organisers had been worried that climbing conditions would be poor, with a relatively warm December and January, but in the week or so before the international guests arrived colder conditions blew in and plastered the cliffs and gullies with snow and ice.

The visiting climbers were teamed up with UK climbers of similar ability and climbed in various mountain areas of Scotland, staying in climbing huts in the Cairngorms, Glen Coe and on Ben Nevis itself.

**Ends**



**Notes for editors:**

*Image:* Host climber Luca Celano and Carl Nystedt from Sweden climbing in the Cairngorms. Photo by Marc Langley

[http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Luca\\_Celano\\_and\\_Carl\\_Nystedt\\_\(Sweden\)\\_on\\_Pot\\_of\\_Gold\\_\(V,6\),\\_Coire\\_an\\_t-Sneachda.\\_\(Photo\\_Marc\\_Langley\).jpg](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Luca_Celano_and_Carl_Nystedt_(Sweden)_on_Pot_of_Gold_(V,6),_Coire_an_t-Sneachda._(Photo_Marc_Langley).jpg)

Wadim Jablonski from Poland climbing a hard route in Glen Coe. Photo by Paul Ramsden.

[http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Wadim\\_Jablonski\\_\(Poland\)\\_climbing\\_the\\_modern\\_classic\\_Central\\_Grooves\\_\(VII,7\)\\_Stob\\_Coire\\_nan\\_Lochan,\\_Glen\\_Coe\\_\(Photo\\_Paul\\_Ramsden\).jpg](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Wadim_Jablonski_(Poland)_climbing_the_modern_classic_Central_Grooves_(VII,7)_Stob_Coire_nan_Lochan,_Glen_Coe_(Photo_Paul_Ramsden).jpg)

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**About Mountaineering Scotland:**

- Mountaineering Scotland is the national representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers in Scotland.
- 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 14,500 members and is funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from sportsotland, 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 also runs the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sport 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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- Website: [www.mountaineering.scot](http://www.mountaineering.scot)