



Mountaineering Scotland Awards

THREE outstanding individuals were recognised in the inaugural Mountaineering Scotland Awards. The awards were launched by Mountaineering Scotland to recognise and celebrate exceptional contributions to mountaineering and climbing in Scotland through personal achievement and volunteering. The award winners received specially commissioned fused-glass artwork as trophies.

The awards were made at Mountaineering Scotland's AGM in Perth in September, when the President, Mike Watson congratulated all three winners, remarking that the standard of nominations was so high that judges had been unable to narrow the volunteer category down to one winner and had to make a joint award.

Mike said: "The volunteering award is an innovation by Mountaineering Scotland to recognise the huge contribution that volunteers make to a whole range of activities within the mountaineering community, and the fact that a joint award has been made, encompassing the development of young people with an interest in mountaineering, through to preserving Scotland's mountain landscape, illustrates the width of interests within the organisation.

"The Young Climber of the Year Award demonstrates not only the outstanding commitment of the individual to developing her own skills, but also her willingness to encourage others, some of whom may be relatively disadvantaged children."

The ClimbScotland Young Climber of the Year Award went to Caitlin Connor from Cambuslang, Glasgow, who has combined success in climbing competitions with a willingness to promote charitable aims.

The Mountaineering Scotland Volunteer of the Year Award was shared between Thom Humphrey, from Dunfermline, Fife, who helped found and develop the highly successful Carnegie Junior Climbing Club, and retiring Mountaineering Scotland Director, Dave Gordon, from Scone in Perthshire.

Caitlin Connor (13) has consistently achieved a high



level in both local and national competitions and is both Scottish and British champion for her age group. Beyond that, she has been a youth ambassador for the climbing charity Urban Uprising for several years and is an active fundraiser, helping other, less fortunate children experience the joy and benefits that climbing has to offer.

In March 2015, Caitlin raised over £1000 for charity by climbing 100 routes of 6a or above in a single day, and she is now organising another sponsored climb.

As an unpaid director of Mountaineering Scotland, Dave Gordon has worked with great professionalism over the last four years, averaging two to three days a week, assessing planning applications which could affect Scotland's mountains – such as wind farms, access roads and hydro tracks – and effectively putting the mountaineers' case to planning authorities and public inquiries. Dave has also fostered good relations with other organisations and contributed much to Mountaineering Scotland's work on access.

Thom Humphrey was recognised for his persistence and dedication in the creation and development of Carnegie Junior Climbing Club (now known as the Carnegie Crimpin' Chimps) in Dunfermline.

He oversaw the creation of the club in 2015 and from an initial dozen members it has grown to about 40 and offers great opportunities to young climbers of all abilities.



Caitlin Connor,
Young Climber of
the Year



Thom and Dave,
sharing the
Volunteer of the
Year award.