



Press Release

06 September 2016

For immediate release

## **Record entry for Scottish climbing comp** **ClimbScotland hosts biggest ever climbing competition in wake of** **Olympics decision**

Just weeks after climbing was confirmed as a future Olympic sport, ClimbScotland has hosted its biggest ever climbing competition in Edinburgh.

The Scottish Youth Climbing Championship at EICA Ratho saw almost 150 climbers taking part in tests of skill and speed on vertical and overhanging walls. At the same time over 30 people took part in the ParaClimb Scotland event, where they overcame a range of disabilities to climb technically challenging routes.

Jamie Smith, ClimbScotland Team Leader, said: "This was an awesome event to behold! Every time I attend these events, I'm blown away by the standard of climbing in all the age groups. What gets me more though is the support all the young climbers give one another, including those they are in direct competition with. I have never seen this in any other sport and acts as a reminder to one of the many reasons I, along with many others, love this sport. To think that there may be some young climbers who took part this weekend who may go on to represent team GB at the next Olympics is incredible! I would like to say a massive well done to all who took part and also to all the volunteers who made the day possible."

In the SYCC almost 120 contestants vied to overcome technical climbs, either leading or on a top rope depending on their age category, ascending routes of increasing difficulty.

The speed climbing championships have been likened to the 100-metre sprint of the climbing world, with climbers racing up identical routes on an 18-metre overhanging wall, each trying to get the shortest time. This year 70 contestants took part, with the fastest time 11.24 seconds, by Scots climber Angus Davidson. There was also a highly popular mini-speed competition, where young climbers too small for the regulation speed course were able to get a taster of competing against the clock.

Nearly £700 worth of prizes across the three competitions were donated by Tiso.

Mountaineering Scotland Sport Development Officer Kevin Howett said: "This is a great piece of generosity from Tiso, and it will be good to give that extra bit of reward to climbers for all their hard work and training."

Bruce Hay, manager of Tiso's Perth Outdoor Experience store, said: "Climbing is part of the Tiso DNA and we're delighted to be providing the prizes for this competition. Climb Scotland is doing incredible work, encouraging and developing the next generation of participants. It's a pleasure to be involved."

Full results of the lead and speed competitions can be found on the ClimbScotland website at <http://www.climbscotland.net/moving-on-up/competitions/latest-results/2016-sycc-and-sysc>

Results of ParaClimb Scotland, which was also the first round of the British Para Climbing Series, can be seen on the Mountaineering Scotland website at <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/spcc2016.asp>

## **Ends**

### **Further information**

Contact Neil Reid, Communications Officer, on 01738 493941 or 07788871803 or [neil@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:neil@mcofs.org.uk)

### **About Mountaineering Scotland**

- Mountaineering Scotland is the new name for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), which acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- Mountaineering Council of Scotland remains the registered company name.
- 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 is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers.
- 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.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP