

Ross Kirkland

Age 17



Elastic Collision (E3 5c) Reiff



I started climbing at my local indoor wall Alien Rock in Edinburgh when I was 8. My parents took me and my sister along to kids club and we both really enjoyed it and pestered them to keep taking us back. I competed in my first competition about a year later.

Competition Achievements

In my early years as a competition climber I twice won the South of Scotland Youth Climbing Series. I came 1st in the first Scottish Climbing Championships (SYCC) and 2nd in the second. I also came 3rd in the 2008 Junior British Lead Climbing Championships and 2nd in the 2009 British Junior Team Trials.



Outdoor Sport Climbing Achievements

In the United Kingdom I have red pointed 'Dominatrix' 7C at Kilnsey. On a recent trip to Spain sport climbing I have on-sited 'Iron man' 7b+/c, flashed 'Thia dreams' 8a, making me one of the youngest ever Scots to have flashed a route of this grade. I have also climbed numerous other 7b+'s & 7c's on this trip!

Thia Dreams (8a), Spain

Outdoor Traditional Climbing

This aspect of climbing is where my real passion lies & I have climbed extensively throughout Scotland and England. My favourite areas include Reiff, the Peak district and Dunkeld!

My most memorable routes to date are 'Elastic Collision' E3 5c (Reiff, on-sight), 'Lost Cause' E4 6b (Back Bowden Doors, Northumberland, Flash) & 'Strapadicktomi' E5 6b (Froggat Edge, Peak, Ground-up).

Climbing Influences



Neil McGeachy has been the main influence in my climbing; he has acted as my climbing coach for a number of years and has always inspired me to keep pushing myself. He has also been a huge influence on my outdoor climbing, helping me improve my trad and sport climbing through taking me on trips.

Kevin Howett has influenced my outdoor climbing, he introduced me to trad climbing at the tender age of 10 and I have loved it ever since. Kevin has also helped through his role as Development Officer for the MCofS through getting funding for competitions and outdoor trips. It is thanks to the MCofS that I was able to spend 5 weeks climbing in Spain this year.

Neil McGeachy and Ross route-reading coaching in Spain