

Introducing Simon Tait New Area Youth Coordinator for South Scotland

After finding my passion for climbing early in my teens I decided to follow this up by looking for a job within outdoor pursuits. This took me to my current position working at EICA: Ratho as a climbing instructor.

Since starting at Ratho my climbing has come on leaps and bounds going from a steady 6b/VS climber to 7c/E4 climber, climbing in some very cool and unusual places.

I have also recently taken on the post of Area Youth Coordinator Scotland South for the MCofS. I have been involved in this over the last few years helping Neil McGeachy run the Youth Climbing Series and other MCofS events. Hopefully with the support and backing from the MCofS and my colleagues at Ratho this post will be as successful for me as it was for Neil.

My Climbing experience has taken me to some awesome venues over the last six years with trips to the Himalayas, Alps and Outer Hebrides to name but a few. I have also enjoyed a bit of winter action with lots of Scottish winter climbing and a trip to Rjuikan in Norway.

My hardest Traditional lead climb came last year on the Isle of Mingulay, climbing Nematocyst (E5 6b) and my



hardest sport route so far has been Hamish Teddies (7b+) at Dunkeld's Upper Cave.

My hopes and aspirations for the next few years are to be comfortably climbing E5 and pushing onto E6. Sport climbing wise I would like to be climbing 8a within the next year or two. The last two years I have gone to Spain for a spot of climbing during the winter and hope that this continues each year.

Within my job at Ratho I run the YCS club (competition team), this leads well with the post as AYC, as it means I am well aware of the ability and talent of the young climbers. I have been coaching many of our very talented young climbers over the last four years with many of them now on the British Team or Aspirants to the Team and many more promising young climbers coming through.

As this year's season comes to an end it gives me time to be looking into organising winter competitions. With 2010 YCS approaching I am looking forwards to next years Youth Competitions already.



Simon
Tait 2009

