

International Competitions

9th Youth Colors Climbing Festival (YCCF) Imst, Austria



PHOTO: Martin Bosi

Angus, Gabriella and William stand in front of the awesome outdoor climbing tower at Imst

Several members of the Scottish Teams, and GB Team travelled out to Austria to take part in the Youth Colors event. Here's what they got up to...

Angus Davidson

Team GB, Youth C (aged 12)
Edinburgh Academy

When we arrived in Imst, I signed my name and registered on the sheet for next day. I found out that there were forty-two people in my category, from fourteen different countries - two more than last year (I think?).

We (me and dad) then booked ourselves into the 'Hershen Hotel', which was very nice. I got to meet William (Bosi from Edinburgh – also in the GB Team – Youth C) before the competition, as they came over for dinner at our hotel.

The next day, I had to wake up at 0630 to get my stuff ready, then went down to breakfast at 0700. The breakfast was delicious. There was a massive selection of cereals, bread, cheese, to start my day. We then got into the car to get there for 0745 for the warm up. After the warm up, the demos started at 0900, so we could get a good warm up.

Throughout the first day, I topped 5 out of 6 routes. The first route, I timed out on, because you only had 4 minutes to complete it - and I didn't know that.

On the last day of competition, I was feeling good because I was in 6th position, and leading team GB. The second day was a lot harder. The routes were all 'nails'. Also, I was on the hardest route first – climbing at 0900 (exactly!).

When I came off my first route; I thought I did really badly, but only 3 people got past where I got to. I completed my second route, but I did badly on my last which overall put me in 7th. I am really pleased with what I achieved.

But it wasn't over there, the same day, we went to the water park, 'AREA 47' – a short 15 min drive from Imst. It was amazing! It had giant flumes, 'deep-water soloing', white water rafting, a trampoline on the water and lots more.

IT WAS AMAZING!



After we went deep-water soloing, we went to the water parks' cafe. I ordered a HUGE plate of chips, smothered in salt and a dollop of ketchup - and a Fanta to finish it all off.

Later that day went to a hotel in Garmish. We put our stuff into the hotel room and went out for supper. We found this crazy restaurant, with a guy playing a 'squeeze-box' and the whole restaurant clapping along. Lunatics!

I had a 'Weiner Schnitzel' and chips, and two bottles of coke. (Healthy – eh?). We then went back to the hotel to have a good night's sleep. The next day, we got up and went for a swim, then to this very nice cafe. I had a hot chocolate and two croissants. Delicious! After that we packed our stuff away and went to the airport. The flight was on time – no delays.

Shortly after landing in Edinburgh I was snuggled into my nice warm bed.

William Bosi

Team GB, Youth C (aged 12)

The competition is very well run, and great fun. I think it is good that everyone who takes part gets a prize. Our trip to Imst was really good - you can go very fast on the alpine coaster down the mountain and visit a local water park which has a climbing wall overhanging the lake. In my category there were 42 climbers from 14 countries. The routes in the competition were hard but good fun and I was pleased that I finished in the top ten.



location and the new outside wall is stunning. The use of numbers to organise and identify climbers makes the competition run efficiently.

Martin Bosi (Dad)

William had a fantastic experience and we would recommend the Youth Colours to other young climbers and their families - it is a well organised competition with a friendly atmosphere. The Kletterhalle in Imst is a great

See a short video by Martin Bosi of Angus and William 'route reading' at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBEhv5XI1N8>



PHOTO: Nick Pope

Jim Pope, Angus and William

Gabriella Stewart

I really wanted to go to Imst again this year because I had enjoyed the competition last year. The wall is great to climb on and the new outside wall was finished, which was only just beginning to be built the previous year. I had moved up an age category, so I was leading instead of top roping which was more exciting.

I knew I had 43 other girls born in 99 and 98 in my category, and from around 14 different countries. I was looking forward to meeting up with an Austrian friend, Elena, I had made last year, who said 'luck good ' before every time I climbed.

I like the way the competition is organised. They have the timetable on the wall, so that you know when each demonstration of a route will happen, and also when you can have lunch so that you can relax a bit when you are not climbing. The running order also stays the same for the first day and so you can watch the climbers and then warm up when you have around five climbers in front of you still to go, and then tie in ready to climb. I topped my first two climbs but as I was clipping the last bolt the rope slipped out and I took a really big fall. The belayer had let out a lot of slack and so I fell around 15 m. I got a bit of a fright and felt a bit shaky afterwards. I then didn't climb the next two routes very well, they were very hard but I should have done better on my third route. The last two climbs on the Saturday I felt a bit stronger but still wished I had done better.

I went for a swim with Angus and my mum and his dad to stretch our muscles and then went for something to eat and another early night.

Results for British Competitors:

Aiden Dunne 2nd (England - not in Team GB)

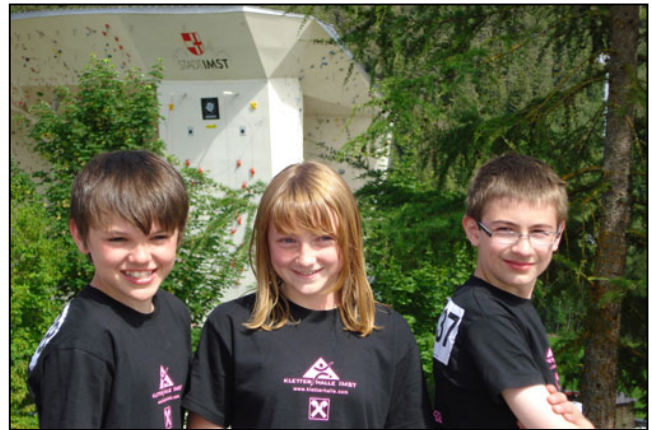
Angus Davidson 7th

William Bosi 8th

Jim Pope 9th (England - not in Team GB)

Carmel Moran 15th

Gabriella Stewart 30th (Scotland South Team)



The next morning we did another warm up with Ian Dun and then I did my own warm up as well because I had a while to wait for my first climb. We were climbing our last three routes at the same time. Carmel who is in the British team was in the same category as me, climbed the green route first and then talked me through it. I climbed the yellow and told her all about it. I felt I climbed the yellow reasonably well, but I still wanted to top it, it was a 7C+!!, the green was a 7b and my final route was a 7c+. I was timed out on my last 2 routes, I was just over half way on both of them. We were only given 4 minutes for each route. It would have been good to have known this before we went to Imst because I had no idea how to work out what four minutes of climbing felt like.

Overall I came in 30th place, so I was a bit disappointed, I was hoping to be in the top 20, but my second two routes on the Saturday let me down. I have decided I need to work on climbing faster, getting over ledges and my overall strength. Imst always seems to fire me up to train harder and do better next year. I have another year in this category so roll on 2012. It would be great if more Scottish climbers could go to this comp.