



## **MCofS News Release**

15 February 2010

For immediate release

### **Success for Shawlands and Balfron Climbers in First Ever Scottish High Schools Climbing Competition**

The first ever Scottish High Schools Climbing Competition was held in January and February at the Glasgow Climbing Centre. Instigated by Des Bagshaw from St Aloysius College in Glasgow, and supported by the MCofS (Mountaineering Council of Scotland) the competition attracted young climbers from all over Scotland.

Ten competitors who made it through to the final round of the 2010 Scottish Schools Climbing Competition battled for the title on February 6<sup>th</sup>, with each competitor attempting to climb 3 routes and gaining points for the height gained.

Yan Kalapothakis (Shawlands Academy) did a clean sweep of all his routes, not even breaking sweat on the hardest climb. Fraser Wiseman and Joe Gilus both from Kelvinside Academy were joint 3<sup>rd</sup> after 3 routes and undertook the tie breaker route resulting in Fraser just gaining slightly more height than Joe. The final positions were a win for Yan Kalapothakis (Shawlands Academy), 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Gregory Gaughan (Balfron High) and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Fraser Wiseman (Kelvinside Academy).

The girl's category was dominated by a team from Balfron High School. Once again the tie breaker route was required, as after 3 climbs Eleanor Hopkins and Christie MacLeod had full points. Following an exciting final route the results were 1<sup>st</sup> Eleanor Hopkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christie MacLeod and 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosie Singleton, all from Balfron High.

Neil Wightwick, Manager of the Glasgow Climbing Centre said: "The Scottish High Schools Climbing Competition has been tried and tested on a relatively small scale this year. Scottish local authorities have already shown a huge amount of interest in their schools becoming involved in next year's competition. Glasgow Climbing Centre aims to link up with the MCofS and other climbing facilities across Scotland to create a large scale nationwide competition for Scotland's school pupils in 2011."

Kevin Howett, the MCofS Sports Development Officer, said: "The MCofS is targeting the development of climbing through Schools. The first part of this process is encouraging the building of school climbing facilities and the development of a FUN competitions network at schools. This initiative by Glasgow Climbing Centre is fully supported as a first step in this process."

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Neil Wightwick can be contacted on 07966 137 997.

More information, pictures and results can be found on the [Glasgow Climbing Centre](#) website and on the [MCofS website](#).

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**Notes for Editors:**

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.

MCofS is a membership organisation with 10,500 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, grants, and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain weather information services, mountain leader training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities. MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.