

## The Irish Bouldering Championship

**2010** took place at the Ozone climbing wall, Belfast on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May. This competition is a new addition to the Irish Competition Climbing Calendar and was a big success, with 40 entries and a high standard of competition across all categories...



The day started with a qualifying round of 17 problems, on which the competitors had unlimited attempts. The problems were designed to test every aspect of competitor's skills and the harder ones included 3 steep outings across the Ozone's 'barrel' overhang, a technical overhanging arête problem, tricky bridging and smearing up a corner and an entertaining sideways dyno...

Before too long the Senior male final was taking shape, with Rob and Dave Hunter Eddie Barbour and Jake Haddock completing all 17 qualifying problems and Eddie Cooper, Tim Mc Glinchey and Andrew Colligan (Junior Male) ticking 16 of the 17. In the senior female category, competition was really tight and the top 5 women had to battle almost until time was called on the qualifying problems to make it into the final. In the end the 5 finalists, all of whom had ticked 14 of the 17 qualifying problems, were Katie Maxwell, Lucy Mitchell, Veronica Lee, Patricia Fox and Joan Mulloy. They would be joined in the final by Rachel Cooper (Junior Female).

The Junior places were decided on the qualifying problems only, with the top scoring Juniors- Rachel Cooper and Andrew Colligan taking part in the senior Final. Joint second in the male Juniors went to Dominic Burns and Jamie Rankin, with Yolanda Woods in 2<sup>nd</sup> JF and Vanessa Woods in 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Dominic Burns, joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior and Rachel Cooper, Junior Female Winner

The format for the final was that competitors had 5 problems to complete, with a 5 minute time period on each and 5 minutes rest in between. Veronica Lee was first out of isolation and completed problem 1, a tricky arête, on her second attempt, making it look easy! As the rest of the female competitors took their attempts it became clear that the battle to qualify for the final had taken its toll on everyone's energy reserves. Veronica's superb performance on the first problem ended up clinching victory for her, while Joan and Patricia shared second place with one bonus hold each.

Next it was time for the male final- after the already hard problems had a few more holds removed.



Rob Hunter in the Qualifying round, Eddie Cooper on final problem 3, Jake Haddock on Final problem 1

Rob, Eddie Barbour and Jake all topped problem 1, with Eddie Cooper reaching the bonus hold. Almost everyone topped problem 2. Number 3 was completed by Rob and Eddies Barbour and Cooper- though any points for style/ showing off have to go to Eddie C, who managed to find a handy knee bar and reach completely statically to the sloper above the lip of the overhang. Problem 4 stumped everyone, leaving problem 5 as the decider... In the end, Rob Hunter reached the bonus on his 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, while Eddie Barbour latched it on his 2<sup>nd</sup>, leaving Rob and Eddie in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place respectively. Eddie Cooper came 3<sup>rd</sup> and won't be getting a veterans category if he keeps climbing like this!

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped to make the event a success, especially to the route-setter, Percy Bishton and to Belfast City Council and Surf Mountain, who kindly provided sponsorship and prizes for the event.



Tim Mc Glinchey on Final Problem 1 and Eddie Barbour on the deciding problem