

# SW Colleges Climbing Competition

After several months of planning and co-operation between Undercover Rock (UCR) and Colleges throughout the South West, the inaugural South West Colleges Climbing Competition (SWCCC) was held at the Bristol Climbing Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

The concept of climbing competitions is nothing new; however, an evident gulf exists between schools and university events, hence last year Steve Ellis (Programme Leader Outdoor Education) at Wiltshire College approached UCR with a view to filling the gap and testing the ground with a Wiltshire College competition in December 2009. With over 90 attendees from all 4 campus, the success was further justification for a regional Colleges event.

With all Colleges from across the region invited, it was great to see 9 Colleges attend, bringing a total of 15 6-person teams. With 90 eager competitors of all ability ranges it was always going to be a test to ensure that all climbers ability would be challenged. To his credit, Ben West provided 4 very competitive and challenging disciplines - bouldering and circuit problems, top rope and speed climbing. With event organizer, Jo McCready overseeing the smooth running of the competition, with the reliable assistance of UCR Centre staff, all teams were able to complete the allotted tasks within time.

With the Burton twins, Jack and Sam from Duchy College, Cornwall taking maximum points for bouldering and circuit problems and top rope events, it was always going to be difficult for teams to compete in the overall standings; however, they did and all climbers competed with determination and vigour throughout. Zak Stoneman from North Devon College proved too rapid for the twins and blasted his way to speed climbing victory.

The final standings saw Duchy College 'A' as worthy winners and SWCCC 2010 Champions with an impressive 542 pts, with Wiltshire College 'A' a creditable 2nd with 486 pts and Duchy College 'B' 3rd not far behind with 478 pts.

Attached are the complete results in the overall competition and the individual winners – congratulations to them all!

However, the overall winner was College climbing. The enthusiasm and technical ability demonstrated across all Colleges was outstanding and this event alone should provide justification for a National Colleges Climbing Competition.

We would like to thank all the students who attended who made it such a memorable event and all the staff from the Colleges who made it possible for this event to happen. The big question is will Duchy College hold onto their trophy and, if not, who is going to take it away from them? 2011 holds the answer.

Report by Steve Ellis & Jo McCready  
Images courtesy of Alex Sergison



Weymouth College Students



Speed climbing 1



Speed climbing 2



Top Rope



Will Renny (Wiltshire College A) Boulder problem