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Saturday, 17th October 2009

Climbing ladder to success



Looking up: Front, from left: Dana Windle, Mary Clerkin, Bethany Holland; back: Jake Beech, Jack Shaw and Alice Waterhouse

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A GROUP set up to support talented young Sheffield climbers is celebrating its first competition success. Sheffield's Foundry Academy was launched in September and brings together young climbers with some of the city's top coaches and senior climbers.

And the group, based at the Foundry, is already celebrating success with six podium places at the regional heats of the British Mountaineering Council Youth Climbing Series, one of the country's biggest junior climbing competitions.

Fourteen-year-old Alice Waterhouse won the girls' 14-16 category - a success which comes shortly after she won the BMC Leading Ladder Final.

Jack Shaw, 12, was also a winner, topping the boys 11-13 group with fellow team mate Jake Beech coming third.

In the girls 7-10s category, Mary Clerkin, 10, came second overall and Dana Windle, nine, came third.

Twelve-year-old Bethany Hoyland, who has two sisters in the Academy, came third in the girls' 11-13 group.

The six will now compete against the country's best young climbers in the national finals being held in London next month at The Westway Climbing Wall.

Academy secretary Danny Brown said: "We are really delighted with these results coming in our first year. With six podium places we led the way in this year's regional competition, ahead of other more established clubs.

"We are really proud of our six finalists and of all the Academy members who climbed really well and supported each other throughout the competition.

"To top it all the last heat was here at The Foundry.

"We've had so much support from everyone here and from local coaches and climbers and of course our local sponsors who helped up get up and running, so it was great to be here for the final results."

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