

Competition Climbing Performance Group (CCPG)

Review 2022

The Members of the CCPG Review 2022 Panel

Paul J Dewhurst	Chair
Stuart Younie	Mountaineering Scotland and CCPG Member
Iain Mckenzie	Former Chair of BMC Competition Climbing Committee (CCC)
David Xiberras	Parent Representative
Molly Thompson Smith	Athlete Representative
Colin Knowles	Member of ODG Competition Structure Review Panel

Submitted to the BMC Board of Directors on 24 December 2022

Final Report

This review was authorised by the BMC Board of Directors (BoD) in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Competition Climbing Performance Group (CCPG). The review's objective is to report on the performance of the CCPG since its inception on 9th April 2020 to 29th September 2022.

The 'Purpose' of the CCPG, as drawn from its current ToR is:

Purpose

The purpose of the CCPG should include, but not be limited to:

- Advise and report to the Board
- Support and challenge GB Climbing
- Develop its strategy and long term aims
- Advise GB Climbing on the management of resources at their disposal
- Exercise the delegated authority of the Board in accordance with these terms of reference
- Assess the performance of the CCPG and GB Climbing against set criteria to ensure that competition climbing is being governed in the best possible manner

A historical note

Prior to 2020 the conduct and calendar of climbing competitions in all their forms were the responsibility of the BMC Competition Climbing Committee (CCC). The CCPG, which replaced the CCC, was launched on 9th April 2020. In 2020 the Covid 19 pandemic seriously affected what CCPG was able to achieve, and things began to progress in 2021 with CCPG able to conduct its business more freely as the country got to grips with the pandemic.

Major topics considered by this review

1. Safeguarding and Risk

Regarding Safeguarding, the BMC has seen many staffing and operational changes since the establishment of GBC. However, at the time of reporting, the published [BMC Safeguarding policies](#) are out of date (Child policy - last modified 13th January 2015, Adult policy - last modified 24th December 2019).

We were concerned that, during the period of the review, the CCPG was not consistently considering Risks and Safeguarding.

2. Financial Management

We have evidence of poor reporting of the financial situation of GBC to CCPG. Consequently, CCPG was not able to provide a proper oversight. It is reported that GBC has significantly overspent its budget for 2022.

3. Communication

In respect of communications we consider that there has been a consistent lack of timely information flowing between:

- CCPG and GBC;
- CCPG and the BoD;
- GBC and athletes;
- GBC and parents of athletes;
- GBC and key stakeholders including coaches, climbing walls and other persons involved in activities associated to competition climbing.

4. Commercial Management

CCPG and GB Climbing would benefit from the BMC introducing a higher standard of Contract Management, where its processes ensure a high degree of transparency; effective control of "Conflict of Interest"; the proper curation of Tenders, communications with interested parties, bids and decision-making meeting minutes.

5. Governance

We investigated the governance of CCPG and have concluded that, there are a number of areas of significant concern.

- Whilst most of CCPG meetings have been quorate, there has rarely been an Athlete representative in attendance.
- There is no evidence of internal reviews as required by the ToR.
- The production of the Minutes has been slow; in some cases, they are circulated only hours prior to the next meeting's start time. Similarly, most meeting papers are circulated only hours before the meeting, in direct contradiction with the ToR.
- At the meetings there is little discussion of GBC programmes and policies.
- The ToR are unclear about which matters must receive consent from CCPG and which matters are provided for discussion and agreement.
- There has been consistent failure to provide reports to the BoD.

Key points to note:

- The BoD itself could be considered accountable for not insisting on those reports.
- The BoD also allowed CCPG to effectively cease operations between April 22nd and September 29th 2022, thus compounding the lack of oversight and direction provided to GBC.

6. Partners

We are concerned that there has been no consistent engagement with the athletes in a manner that allows for a suitable Athlete representative to fully participate in CCPG. This lack represents a risk to both CCPG and GBC.

We suggest that there would be benefit in considering the addition of one or more partner organisations to CCPG.

We note that GBC are not collaborating effectively with Partners in developing coaching schemes. A significant recent example is the lack of discussion with partners regarding the Performance Pathway prior to amending it.

7. GB Climbing and CCPG

We are concerned that competition climbing at the grass roots level has not been addressed by CCPG, and question how the stated performance objectives of GBC can be met unless all levels of the participation and talent pathway are properly addressed.

We have documented instances of poor planning and forward thinking by GBC that have created travel and accommodation difficulties for athletes, parents and staff both in the UK and abroad.

Arrangements made by GBC for athletes in respect of travel and accommodation are generally regarded as providing poor value for money by athletes and parents. In some recorded cases, the costs were prohibitive to athletes, with little or no financial assistance available.

We recorded at least one instance of an athlete being asked to travel across Europe to attend a short training session in the UK. We regard this as incompatible with the BMC's Climate Declaration, and by creating what is essentially a financial barrier for many athletes, GBC cannot be compliant with BMC Equity and Diversity policies.

We would have expected these issues to be discussed at CCPG and that there would be corresponding changes in practice by GBC to meet those criticisms.

Report Conclusion

The 'Purpose' of CCPG, as drawn from its current Terms of Reference, are:

Purpose

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We have not seen any evidence that would lead this Review to conclude that any of the above criteria have been met. This is clearly a breach of the operating mandate which CCPG and GB Climbing were duty bound to deliver, and a failure to comply with the Terms of Reference which were set out and agreed by the BoD and for which they are accountable.