The 4th Meeting of CCPG: Time to move forward.

On the 21st of May, CCPG met for the 4th time by conference call. It may seem that CCPG is doing an awful lot of talking but very little action. I think you are right to come to this conclusion at this time. CCPG has only been set up for 2 months and it will take time for its members to fully understand the BMC and Competition Climbing. We have to discover how GB Climbing operates, the work they have already initiated and are currently working on plus we need to know what are its goals and ambitions. All this has to be done with the backdrop of Coronavirus which is hindering our athletes from properly training and from competing. Equally, CCPG is hampered by not being able to meet up for face to face meetings.

To move this along, at our last meeting we invited Tom Greenall (GB Climbing Head Coach) to give a presentation indicating the stepping stones GB Climbing needs to take to progress the GB Climbing Team from its current position as 10th best in the world, through 2024 Olympics in Paris, 2028 successes in LA and then finally become in 2032 the #1 competition climbing nation in the world.

Tom sees the potential in GB Climbing; if it can be 10th best in the world with the limited resources that currently exist then why not in 12 years time be the world’s best nation. Tom recognises the talent that exists and is developing in the squads too young yet for the senior teams who now have talent development pathways open to them, the knowledge which can be gleaned from UK Sport and EIS, there is definitely a bright future for GB Climbing.

Tom also mentioned that we should not forget the Para Climbers. Even though Paraclimbing is not yet on the Para Olympics list, the GB Paraclimbing team are among the best in the world with a great team and fantastic set of coaches.

We had a quick update from Jamie Smith and Nick Colton on our situation with Sport England and Sport Scotland. Whilst UK Sport deals principally with the elite athletes, Sports England and Scotland lay the foundations and pathways for grassroots climbers to become elite climbers. Both Climb Scotland and GB Climbing are working hard putting together their strategies for the next 4 year cycle of funding. CCPG offers its help should that be needed by either team.

Having heard from Tom about the Ambitions of the GB Senior Team; we now moved on to discuss what should be the Vision of the whole of Competition Climbing (from grassroots to Senior Team); for all disciplines involved ( whether that is competing as a Para Climber, an Ice Climber in SkiMo or Lead/Boulder/Speed, for everbody involved in Competitions (coaches, parents, competitors, climbing wall owners .....) All of us need that single clear vision of what we want to achieve.

To help us find those elusive words which will describe our Vision, we have put together a Survey which will be open to all of you to fill in and contribute to finding the Vision. This will be available very soon, I do hope all of you will take part.

Running Competition Climbing is not all about ambition and training schedules there is other, far more mundane, work that needs to be carried out. CCPG looked briefly at how it could develop the work on Communication and Marketing as well as how to improve funding for Competition Climbing. It was agreed that more work needed to be carried out before strategies could be established for both of these work streams. These topics will be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

Thank you for reading this short report. If you are based in England, then I hope you have been able to take advantage of the easing in lockdown and magnificent weather and get out climbing (at 2 m distancing). If you live in Wales and Scotland, I hope your easing will come about very soon.

Rab Carrington.

30th May 2020.