CCPG Meeting: 4th June 2020: A step in the right direction.

Following on from previous presentations from the GB Climbing staff when Tom Greenall talked about the ambitions which he believed were attainable for GB Climbing. Previously we heard from Tim Cunnington and Lucinda Whittaker explaining the pathways they were establishing to guide any aspiring competition climber from start-up right through to becoming part of the Senior Team. Much of this development work is in step with Sport England and UK Sport plans and as such a lot of it is funded through those organisations.

At this meeting, it was the turn of Nick Colton, Lead Officer for GB Climbing (GBC) and as such a member of CCPG, to give a presentation. Nick concentrated his talk on the role of GB Climbing as a department within the BMC which is the NGB for competitions. GB Climbing is responsible for all aspects of competition climbing in England and Wales. In this many facetted role, GB Climbing has the responsibility to run competitions, like the Youth Climbing Series for the youngest climbers right through to the National competitions. GBC also provides pathways along which young competitors can develop and safely hone their skills. Finally, Tom prepares the senior team for the International competitions. Nick highlighted the fact that though GB Climbing received funding through Sport England (Sport Scotland north of the border), from UK Sport and the generosity of the BMC it was necessary that Sponsorship needed to be found to be able to achieve the goal of “Being the best team in the world by 2032”.

It has been realised for some time, that there are many workstreams that GB Climbing need to develop in order to progress. It would be impossible to manage to do this is in the time available if CCPG as a group looked at all of the various aspects highlighted. So, in order that all streams could develop simultaneously it was decided to split the workstreams into work groups each work group headed up by a member of CCPG.

* Marketing & Communication Paul Drew
* Finance Rich Emerson
* Athlete Strategy & Paraclimbing Paul Davies & Lorraine Brown
* Ice Climbing & Ski-Mountaineering Jamie Smith
* Partners & Stakeholders Rab Carrington

Work will now continue in each of these fields by relying on the work and expertise of GB Climbing staff, the resources available within the BMC (MS in Scotland), the expertise to be found in UK Sport and EIS but not least by working alongside all of our many stakeholders.

There was also discussion and in some, conclusions reached, on the following topics:

* The survey to find the Vision and Mission Statement for GB Climbing is ready to go, some final tweaks might be needed after its final road test, then it will go live. We look forward to finding out what you think is the goal for GB Climbing.
* CCPG was asked to set targets for GB Climbing for the next year. It was decided that any targets set would need to fall out of GB Climbing’s strategy which is in the process of being developed and therefore we will need to wait for the targets.
* There was discussion about whether GB Climbing would support IFSC’s wish to get Climbing into the Commonwealth Games. There was divided opinion with many suggesting that IFSC should focus its attention on getting Paraclimbing into the Paralympics. More information is required from IFSC (Europe).
* The event “British Climbing Cup” was briefly discussed. More information is required to see what opportunities for GB Climbing exist.
* Tom Greenall had posted a paper “Campaign Principles: Guiding Tenants of Competition Preparation and Delivery”. This is a very important paper explaining how athletes need to follow the preparation advice in order to be fully prepared for the competition season. This is super important at the moment due to the disruption caused by Covid-19. Tom picks his way carefully through all of the stages and precautions necessary. GB Climbing is now implementing and ratifying the process that Tom has produced.
* CCPG holds its next meeting on Thursday, 2nd July.

Thank you for reading this and enjoy your climbing.

Rab Carrington