CCPG meeting 2nd July 2020: the need for a long term Strategy

At our recent meeting Nick Colton brought us the welcome news that staff are now starting to come back to work from furlough although their positions are not yet full time, any relaxation in the lockdown is good news for GB Climbing.

GB Climbing is sending a letter to IFSC (Europe) supporting their wish that competition climbing becomes a sport within the Commonwealth Games. Though GB Climbing supports this it has stressed that our primary objective is to get Paraclimbing as an official event in the Paralympic movement. We will have to see what progress that IFSC can make.

As you will probably have noted, the GB Climbing Survey is out there now and I hope you have taken the opportunity to fill in your thoughts. The results of this survey will indicate what you believe to be the Goals for competition climbing and also its priorities. Through your responses we will be able to formulate our Vision for the future of GB Climbing and from that will come the Strategy for the next 4 year cycle. This strategy will be the roadmap by which GB Climbing will, in the words of Tom G, become the best climbing team in the World by 2032! The survey closes on 17th July 2020.

The need for a strategy was borne out during a presentation by Alex Messenger who was discussing how the profile of GB Climbing can be developed on all social media channels so that all of the information that you need about competitions can be found in a single source. Alex and Paul Drew will be working together to develop a robust plan for increasing the availability of all things GB Climbing.

Rich Emerson presented his plans for how GB Climbing finances should be organised. Once again, his words echoed the need for long term planning on a 4 year basis in order to achieve our goals. His ideas about how this should be achieved and how the figures should be presented was fully adopted by CCPG.

Jamie Smith from Scotland explained how he would be working with the competition element of Ice Climbing and Ski Mo and trying to bring all groups together so that we can be more positive in our actions to win competitions and broaden the appeal of these disciplines.

Rab Carrington spoke briefly on working with Partners. The ideas presented were very plausible but before implementation needed to be part of the Strategic Plan for GB Climbing. As you can see, the development of an all encompassing strategic plan for GB Climbing is fundamental to the success of this new venture.

Finally, Nick Colton presented a paper on “Return to Training” document. With the 3 month closure of climbing walls due to Covid-19 competitors haven’t been able to train as effectively as they previously did. This document is hugely important on two separate fronts:

* It explains very carefully the care needed in taking precautions against Covid-19 when indoor climbing/training recommences. As we have greater access to facilities is important that each and every one of us ensures that we are not spreading the disease.
* The document carefully outlines the processes about getting ready for competitions. This is relevant after a 3 month lay-off, but is equally applicable to any athlete coming back to training after a winter lay off etc. This document explains the commitment of an athlete to their training schedule. It also clarifies the bureaucratic details which are needed in order that an athlete can compete, or more importantly, be refused to compete.

The essence of the document was agreed though there was a need for a few additional tweaks. This is probably completed at the time of writing.

So, all agreed, a very useful meeting with the clear message that the long term strategy needs to be developed for GB Climbing.

The next meeting is 30th July 2020.

Thank you,

Rab Carrington

15th July 2020.