**Public Minutes of CCPG Meetings held 22nd December 2020.**

We have now come to the end of 2020 and some would say “Thank Goodness! Can we now get out and live life normally.” Though, I don’t think we are yet at that stage, I hope that over 2021, the vaccine will prove as effective as hoped for and we will slowly be able to meet up socially.

GB Climbing has now been in existence for 12 months and CCPG for 9 months. Throughout that time we have been laying the foundations for the future of competition climbing in all formats; Lead, Boulder and Speed; Paraclimbing, Ice and Ski Mo. On the 22nd December we had our final meeting of 2020 which was CCPG’s 12th meeting in 9 months. Like all of our previous meetings this one was well attended and discussion was positive and forward looking.

**UK Sport funding:**

As you will no doubt have read elsewhere, GB Climbing has been awarded substantial funding over the next 4 year cycle. This will allow GB Climbing to develop its plans and strategies so that all athletes will benefit. The 3 key themes will be development of the competitors’ pathway from grassroots to podium places, the enrichment of coaching so that the athletes will be able to access the best coaches and literature for training; and finally, an assessment of the events and competitions that are put on across the country. More about all this can be found [here](https://www.thebmc.co.uk/uk-sport-funds-gb-climbing-to-uncover-the-champions-of-tomorrow)

**Recruitment to CCPG:**

CCPG has been running successfully over the past 9 months. We now feel that we need to strengthen the team. One area where we feel that we haven’t done well enough is in having an Athlete representative on CCPG. This is, in no way a reflection on our athletes who have such a busy life working, training and getting on with what young people do. It is more a short-sightedness on my part as Chair plus the difficulties of Covid-19 restricting having conversations with people. So, moving into 2021, we will be talking to all aspects of competition climbing asking competitors the best way communicate about the many and varied topics of climbing comps. That may be through an Athletes forum or something similar.

In 2021 I will be standing down as Chair and so we will be going out to recruit a new External Specialist to CCPG which will take place in January.

Finally, since we have been recipient of an award from UK Sport, we are keen to strengthen CCPG by including a UK Sport representative to act as an Observer on CCPG.

**Sponsorship for Competition Climbing:**

We have always been very aware that securing sponsorship for competition climbing is an important part of the work of CCPG.

Currently we have Secur-It as our kit sponsor and the benefits to the teams have been fantastic. We’ve had recent talks with Secur-It in which we strengthened our desire to work together and develop the partnership.

Additional to that, we will be seeking further sponsors who will be partners, along with Secur-It, in developing GB Climbing.

**Communication of Strategy:**

Through preparing our bid to UK Sport for Progression funding, we have been able identify a process for developing Lead, Boulder and Speed from Development squad through to Olympic athletes. Having this set out is a huge step forward but only a small part of the picture which represents Competition Climbing throughout the UK.

Starting in January, GB Climbing Staff and staff from Climb Scotland will be looking at the bigger picture to see where our strengths and our weaknesses are, and where there are the gaps. Also, looking at what we are doing for Paraclimbing, for Ice-climbing and for Ski Mo and asking what needs to be done to improve the situation. We will be looking at grassroots, at all of the work that is being done so successfully at local climbing walls, at their competitions and their coaching facilities. Through this process of learning the landscape we will be able to learn from our many partners that include: the climbing walls, ABC, ABCTT and Mountain Training. By working with them we should be able to coordinate all of our efforts so that all Competition Climbing can flourish to the benefit of everyone who wants to engage in climbing competitions, from grassroots to elite.

Thanks to all of you for being so supportive in 2020 and we all look forward to brighter prospects in 2021.

Thank you,

Rab Carrington.

26/12/20