



Beyond Coronavirus

Weekly update 3 – Thurs 7th May

It's been another busy week with the working groups making good progress. We are now closing in on some guidelines for all of our members. In the meantime, some updates on our other work for you.

SPORT ENGLAND FUNDING

Due to the conference being cancelled and memberships not being paid, the ABCs finances were in a very poor state. I'm pleased to say that after a lot of hard work, Kath and Duncan have managed to get us £72.5K of emergency funding to support the ABC over the rest of this year. This is not a loan. This means that all our employees are safe in their jobs and we can continue with some of our safety related projects.

UK ACTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR REOPENING

This is being negotiated with the government as I write and the ABC are in the process of writing a high-level framework based on the UK Active one that we hope will form the basis on which we will be able to reopen. Once this is finalised we'll get it out to you all.

REOPENING GUIDELINES

The working groups have narrowed this work down and we are now entering a phase of pulling the details together and getting sign off on it. As a reminder, they will be based on our 3 principles of Hygiene, Capacity Management and Social Distancing. The plan for this is:

- Guidelines written up by Monday 11 May (there may still be some gaps) and back out to the working groups.
- Weds 13 May, Working Group leads will meet, go through the guidelines and agree them
- Friday 15 May the guidelines will be reviewed by the ABC Board
- Monday 18 May the guidelines will come out to all ABC Members for final consultation
- Friday 22 May the guidelines will be published

Whilst individual walls will still have work to do to translate the guidelines into practices for their own sites, we hope they will give you a solid foundation for this work.

T-SHIRT SALE

We have had a T-Shirt designed and have a printing process lined up ready to go. We will not have to buy T-Shirts up front nor will we have to fulfil the orders so this should work well to generate some real cash for the ABC. We will ask you all to publicise this to your members and are getting some national climbing treasures on board to get the sales going – please do let us know if you have a

personal contact with any high profile climbers who you could help us get on board. All the money we raise from this will be spent on a campaign focused on getting walls open safely and on getting as many customers back in as possible. Amongst other things we will be developing posters for walls and social media assets off the back our re-opening guidelines for you to use.

MONEY ISSUES

A quick update on potential funding sources:

North Face have a community fund that you might be able to apply to for financial support. The link is [here](#).

The Government has announced an additional grant fund scheme aimed at smaller businesses (less than 50 employees) with fixed property related costs, but distribution of funds is down to local authority discretion. It may be valuable to walls that operate as a charity or as part of a shared building or site that may not have been eligible for the existing grant schemes. Find out more [here](#).

It is expected that any grants given under this scheme will be treated under the same rules as existing schemes with regards taxation. A list of the schemes and support available are [here](#) if you haven't already applied.

IN THE PRESS

There is a lot of noise at the moment about the end of the Furlough scheme. There is a hope that it will taper off rather than ending abruptly. A lot of big names are making the case for this and it's difficult to see the government not listening. Rishi Sunak is going to make an announcement next week, so look out for that.

You may have seen that there was talk this morning in the press about gyms not being open until the Autumn. Our colleagues at UK Active are seeking clarification on this as a matter of urgency and if we hear anything we will be back in touch.