

COVID-19 Pandemic: Anabasis Club Statement, 18th March 2020.

Dear All,

Given the unprecedented situation concerning COVID-19, the committee has been in discussion about how this may affect us as a club, our responsibilities and any measures that should be put in place. We have spoken to the Jones family at Garth, and considered the advice put forward by the UK Government, the BMC, Mountaineering Scotland, Mountain Rescue and the National Trust.

At the time it is important to consider:

- The risk of transmission in sensitive, otherwise isolated rural communities
- The impact that having an accident, or transmitting the virus, may have on already overwhelmed healthcare systems and NHS resources in rural communities
- The very real possibility that the services of Mountain Rescue may be reduced or suspended entirely in some areas

The club has a duty of care to its members and external groups using the hut. COVID-19 is likely to be spread indirectly via contact with surfaces that have been contaminated, and of course the facilities at Garth are intrinsically communal. The wellbeing of the Jones family is also of highest priority.

Therefore, **the committee agrees that the most responsible way forward is to prohibit access to the club hut at Garth and cancel all bookings until further notice, for as long as government and BMC guidelines advise.** This is a precaution that has been agreed with the Jones family, and one that they will expect us to adhere to. Clive will likely visit at some point for maintenance and inspection, however, if the government place a ban on travel, we will just ask Thomas to check periodically.

Furthermore, Joyce has been in correspondence with the contact for the George Starkey Hut Meet. Given the governmental advice, **the meet will, regrettably, be cancelled.** The club has been offered a full refund, which will be processed as soon as possible.

The BMC reiterate that the situation is changing rapidly, and advise that both club and personal decisions should be revised accordingly. Therefore the situation will be kept under review and you will be notified if the Club's position changes. If you've any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Here is a useful link with a comprehensive synthesis of what the situation means for outdoor pursuits in the UK at this time:

https://www.ukhillwalking.com/news/2020/03/covid_19_-_what_does_it_mean_for_the_outdoors-72237

Wishing you all the best in these challenging times.

Dave

Dave Appleton, Chair, 18.03.2020