**RETRO-BOLTING**

**RETRO-BOLTING AT SPECIFIC CRAGS**

**AND IN PARTICULAR TILBERTHWAITE QUARRY**

The FRCC Wired Lakes Sport & Slate Guide is likely to be published early in 2020. Currently we have a protocol for bolting and at the January Area meeting the approval of constitutional changes to the Cumbria Bolt Fund paved the way for retro-bolting activity.

Following approval of the revised CBF Constitution there is no longer a requirement to consult with the wider climbing community if the intention of the first ascent team was to create a sport route by using drilled, manufactured placements or fixed gear - Clause 9.3.

This paper has two goals:

1. to clarify the position regarding retro-bolting of ‘Sport’ venues and
2. to open the consultation for retro-bolting at Tilberthwaite Quarry.

Any retro-bolting activity will then be put to a decision at the BMC Lakes Area meeting in September and, if approved, retro-bolting will take place later in the year.

A suggestion has been made to publish and maintain a list of those routes that do have significant historical importance and are considered to merit classic status in order to ensure that no bolts are placed in them. These include:

* Stage Fright and Life in the Fast Lane – Hodge Close

**RETRO-BOLTING SPORT ROUTES**

The following locations fall into the category of Clause 9.3 for retro-bolting :

* High or Upper Blue Quarry
* Saddlestone Quarry
* Runestone Quarry
* Scout Scar (already well-equipped)
* Mill Side Scar (re-equipped by CBF)
* Parrock Upper Slabs
* Moss Rigg Quarry - Train Crazy Boys

Retro-bolting at these locations will go ahead without reference to a future BMC Area meeting or the First Ascent teams.

Other locations have been re-equipped and retro-bolted, not always with consultation at an Area meeting, with retro-bolting of trad routes, as these were considered anomalous at that venue. These are:

* Humphrey Head (most routes bolted, though a couple of trad still exist)
* Chapel Head Scar (all routes now bolted)
* Cathedral Quarry (most routes now bolted)
* Bram Crag Quarry (all routes now bolted)
* some routes at Hodge Close Quarry

**TILBERTHWAITE QUARRY**

At Tilberthwaite Quarry, in 2016, the CBF replaced all of the bolts and anchors on a like-for-like basis with chemically bonded bolts only where it was considered that the rock was strong enough to withstand the forces and stresses. There are still routes with very old bolts that haven’t been re-equipped. The venue has a number of routes that fall into category 9.2 of the CBF Constitution i.e. with isolated or occasional bolts. It is not known whether the intention was to create a sport route and, given the hostile climate to any bolting at that time, the bolting that took place was distinctly minimalist. Unlike some routes at Hodge Close, it is considered that Tilberthwaite does not have any routes of high standing i.e. historically important or meriting classic status. Anvil Arete, protected by a single bolt, is the only route that comes close.

Due to the quality of the rock a route-by-route assessment is required, with bolts only being placed by the CBF where the rock is considered to be sound. Routes which readily run to protection will not be bolted. These include:

* Kick Off
* Christmas Cracker
* Tilney’s Shovel
* Juggler’s Crack
* Big Tree Corner
* Top Shot
* Acrachnophobia

The following routes would be assessed for retro-bolting:

* Rusty Wall - J Daly - peg and bolt 1987
* Pressure Drop - M Miller - peg and 2B 1990
* Solitaire - J Daly - unprotected
* Life in the Bus Lane - E Blaycock -
* Tuxedo Junction - J Daly
* More Come and Rise - T Walkington
* Slow and Easy - N Franklin - unprotected
* Slip of the Tongue - D Taylor
* Morecambe and Wise - T Walkington
* Punchy Patterson - K Phizacklea - skyhook and 1 bolt 2016
* Anvil Arete - K Phizacklea - 1 bolt 2016
* Spycatcher - A Greig
* Ingham’s Route - P Ingham - peg and 2B 2016 - 9.3
* Violation - K Phizacklea - 3B 1987 - 9.3
* Violation Variation - J Daly - 3B 1987 - 9.3
* The Vexed Question - M Miller - 2B - 9.3
* Jitterbug - J Daly
* Rhode Island Red - K Phizacklea
* Barnes Big Day Out - I Barnes - 3B 1998 - 9.3
* A Meeting with Don Juan - T Peak - 2B 1991 - 9.3
* Making Peace with God - M Hartley
* Split Wet beaver - J Metcalfe - 2B 1989 and 2016 - 9.3
* Elicit Scenes of Sex and Violence - P Cornforth - 4B 1991 - 9.3
* Fat Guy Goes Nutzoid - M Radtke -2B 1989 - 9.3
* Look Sharp - K Phizacklea - 2B 1987
* Act of Contrition - J Burrell - unprotected and very poor landing
* Treacle Slab - J Daly - 1B 2016 and wires
* Death Warrant - M Johnson - 2B 1993 and 2016 and wires - 9.3?
* Nebbie - K Phizacklea

Routes to the right of Big Tree Corner and left of Ingham’s Route - The Curver to Megabyte - are considered to be very dangerous, as the huge flake climbed by The Curver and Slate Dancer will fall off at some point. The Death Flake!

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