

EAST GREENLAND 2015 EXPEDITION

ADVENTURES IN LIVERPOOL LAND



WEST LANCASHIRE SCOUTS

Scouting - what you need to know.

We are the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. We change lives by offering 6- to 25-year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities.

Scouts helps children and young adults reach their full potential. Scouts develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment. We help young people to get jobs, save lives and even change the world.

What do Scouts do?

Scouts take part in activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. As a Scout you can learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming, or even how to fly a plane. There's something for every young person. It's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

What do volunteers do?

This everyday adventure is possible thanks to our adult volunteers, who support Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with young people, to helping manage a Group, to being a charity Trustee. We help volunteers get the most out of their experiences at Scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.

Our award-winning training scheme for volunteers means that adults get as much from Scouts as young people. Our approach focuses on what you want to get out of volunteering with Scouts, while respecting how much time you can offer. Over 90% of Scout volunteers say that their skills and experiences have been useful in their work or personal life.

Get involved

Search for your local group to find out how you can be a part of the adventure, and visit www.westlancsscouts.org.uk to discover more.



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Expedition Log & List of achievements

21 July - fly MAN to KEF airports, take hire vans to Akureyri
22 July - fly AKU to CNP in Greenland. Camp by airport
23 July - cross Hurryfjord by rib. Walk to wild camp in Kalkdal
24 July - walk Kalkdal to Base Camp. Pitch tents, find equipment stash.
25 July - rest day (road building).
26 July - recce day (Sgurr Nan Chumbawamba & Foxes Pass)
27 July - Reiff & top behind Base Camp. Bivvy near summit
28 July - back to Base Camp via subsidiary tops.
29 July - rest day - group meal
30 July - Abstract & scramble route. Wild camp on side of peak
31 July - return to Base Camp - find storm damaged tents
1 August - storm bound
2 August - storm bound
3 August - Pole Hill
4 August - Aiguille de Scouse
5 August - rest (ice climbing) / Bimble
6 August - rest day
7 August - poor weather day & D o E leave - Dolmen Ridge attempt
8 August D o E day 2 - Bimble +
9 August D o E day 3 - packing day & rapid retreat to coast
10 August - boats over Hurryfjord & camp at CNP
11 August - rest day at CNP
12 August - fly CNP - REK. Take bus to hostel
13 August - tourist day with hire minibus round Iceland highlights
14 August - fly KEF - MAN

First Ascents

Abstract (803m)
Reiff (1000m)
Sgurr nan Chumbawamba (1,200m)
Aiguille de Scouse (1,340m)

Other Ascents (not first ascents)

Pole Hill
BSES peak



Introduction - Andy Mathers, Expedition Leader

Four years in the planning, three previous Greenland expeditions, and two years of training all went in to making one hugely successful mountaineering expedition to Liverpool Land, on Greenland's eastern shore in the summer of 2015.

This book tells the story of our expedition, the preparation, the training, and the team behind it. And what a team we were! Explorer Scouts, Network Members, Section Leaders and SASU Members from across West Lancs, some experienced but most not, all with

one thing in common: the desire to spend a month exploring the remote wilderness and mountains of the arctic.

Through our training and preparation, 16 year old Explorer Scouts became 18 year old men, with the knowledge and experience of mountaineers ready to take on the Emmanuel Glacier and peaks such as Sgurr nan Chumbawumba, Abstract, and Aiguille de Scouse! Take a peek into their adventures on the pages that follow.

In the words of Bear Grylls...

"This is what I love about Scouting. It's about doing great things, loving and enjoying the great adventures and helping others to do the same."

What else can be said to follow that? Other than letting our photographs tell the story.

See you on the next adventure!

Andy Mathers

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Location

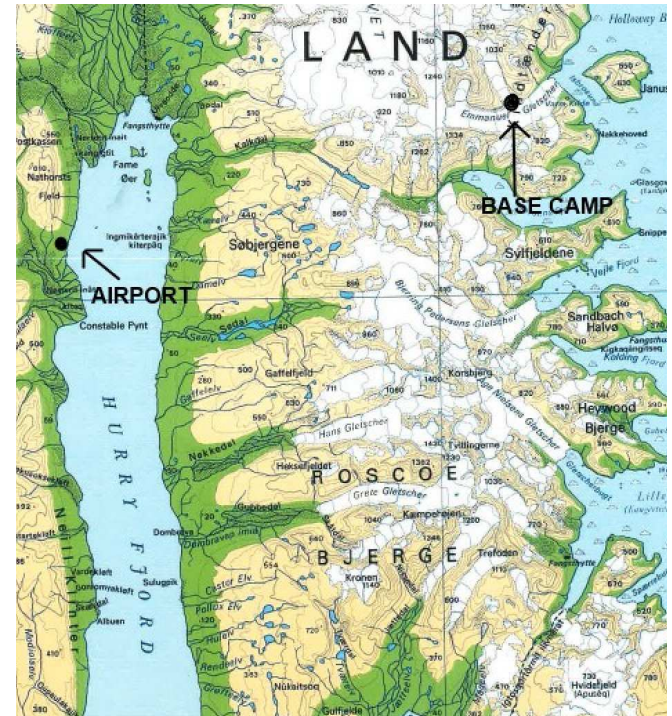


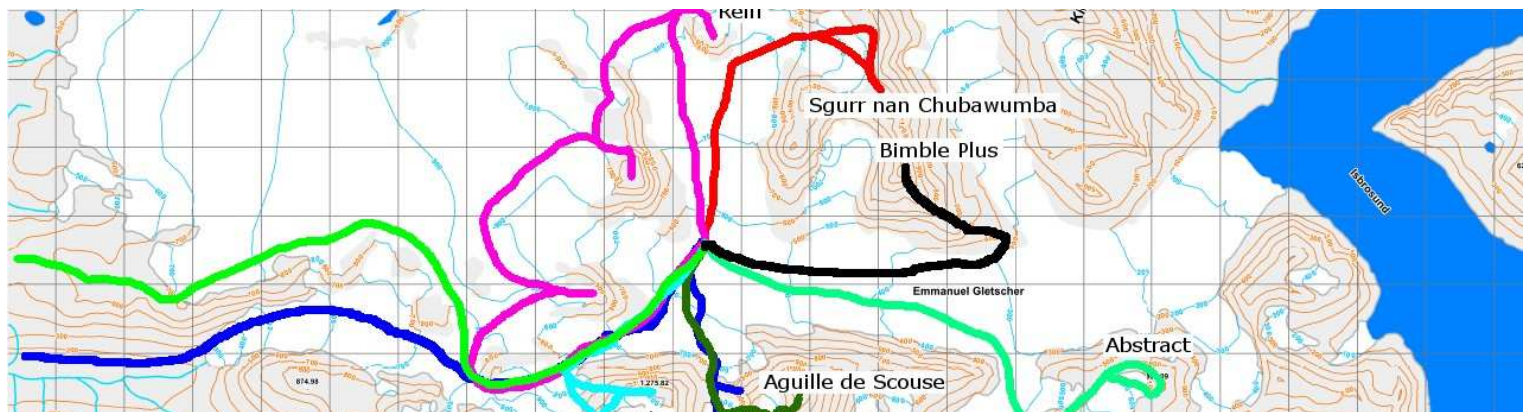
Our trip took place in Liverpool Land, a region of Eastern Greenland. This lies within the Arctic circle, and with the exception of one small village and an airport, is uninhabited.



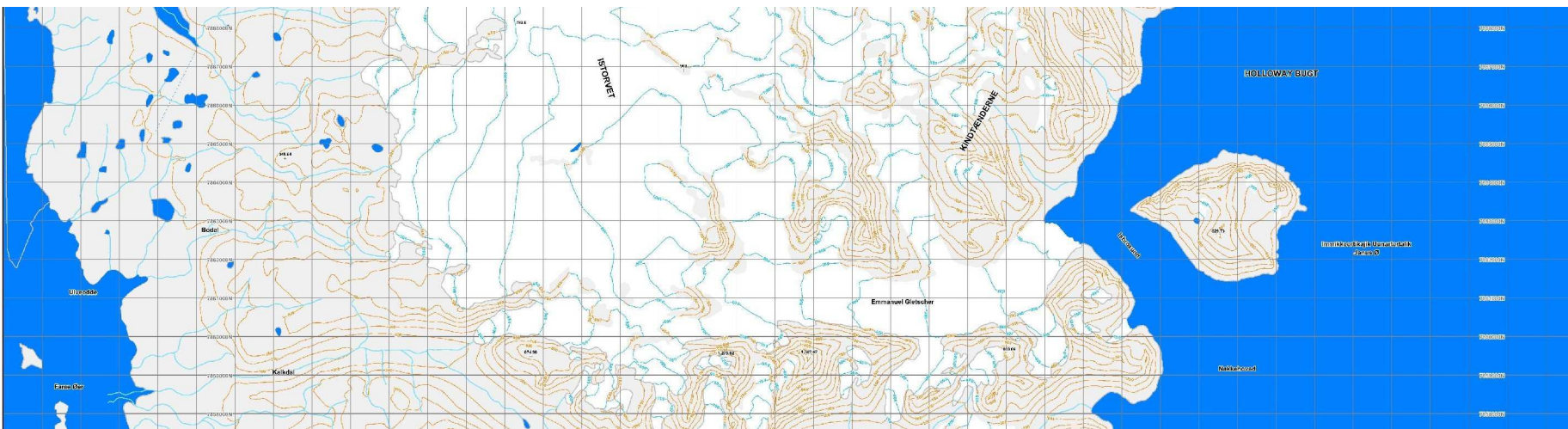
Liverpool Land is the Eastern most peninsula of the land masses surrounding Scoresbysund, the largest fjord system in the world (over 100km long). It's glaciated regions do not form part of the main Greenlandic ice sheet, but there are several permanent glaciers covering most of Liverpool Land.

Constable Pynt airport lies on the shores of Hurryfjord, a subsidiary fjord of Scoresbysund. From there we were to take boats over Hurryfjord and walk up the Kalkdal valley, then up and over onto the Emmanuel glacier. It's roughly 18km from our boat drop off to Base Camp, and we put an intermediate camp at the higher reaches of Kalkdal before we got onto the glacier.





This map above details our routes on the trip ... we got a lot done! See the mountaineering section for more detail on this.



The area ... an introduction

The region has a complex geology, with many of the rocks being friable due to the effects of an active glacial region. The whole land is covered by snow for most of the year, although for the summer months the snow 'usually' recedes and plant life blooms rapidly. The long peninsula is split by the valley of Kalkdal which bisects it roughly in the middle. Our trip was to enter Kalkdal from the western shore, then climb north-easterly up on to a glacial system, dropping us down onto the Emmanuel glacier where our Base Camp was to be sited. This was approximately 8km from the eastern coast, and around 16km from our drop-off location. All of our mountaineering objectives were focused on the northern side of Kalkdal, on and around the Emmanuel Glacier.



Training

The group approached this expedition from a diverse technical background, with some members having extensive alpine mountaineering experience, including prior visits to Greenland, and others having a limited UK hill walking background. Additionally, although the hub of the team is West Lancashire, group members were spread further afield and initially didn't know each other.

To manage this, the leader team developed a plan of regular meetings with a progressive technical training focus to get all team members up to a minimum standard of hill proficiency and to bond the team. Key skills developed were navigation, camp craft and generally looking after / using expedition equipment (Super Quasar tents, MSR Dragonfly stoves etc.), winter walking skills (axe, crampons), rope work and glacier travel.

The team met over a variety of locations to keep interest, introduce difficulty progressively and challenge members, however as the number of participants was already critical, we couldn't afford to put people off! Venues used included:

- * Outskirts of Stockport (autumn) - bonding weekend with key themes of fitness, navigation, rope work (indoors) and cooking. Comments - highly recommend Mellor Lodge, Linnet Clough Scout Campsite for quiet, accessible location, easy access to countryside, good pub and good value.
- * Nethy Station, Nethybridge, Cairngorms (winter) - introduction to walking on snow and steeper slopes, winter skills, Scottish weather. Comments - handy for the hills
- * Norway (summer) - Jotunheimen - nr Sognefjord, nr Glittertind, Bessigen and Oslo. Key skills - glacier camping, glacier travel, multi-day expedition, long hill days. Following the core 4 day expedition, a series of easier days consolidated our skills and competent mountaineers on popular peaks, followed by more team building.

* Other locations included North Wales, Lakes, and Glencoe - each was an experience and contributed to the memories and achievements of the expedition.

The leader team had a particular focus that was carefully managed to ensure the ultimate success of the trip. The key component was achieving and demonstrating sufficient skills and experience to be approved as leaders in glacial terrain in Greenland. This was intended to be achieved by building on existing UK Scout Permits and extending for use abroad.

Key skills that required further development were identified on an individual leader basis and an action plan was developed, sometimes involving the group, sometimes being a personal activity. Examples include:

Chris Bainbridge - winter hill walking assessment
David Speakman - gaining Mountain Leader Award
Sean O'Sullivan - gaining multi-pitch climbing Scout Permit and DofE expedition assessor status
Ash Green - refreshing expedition first aid qualification
Andy Mathers - increasing experience of leading scrambling as an activity.

The team was realistic about what could be achieved in 2 years for busy people, but fortunately the leader team selection ensured a good starting point and sufficient skills were developed to allow approval of 4 glacial terrain mountain leaders with the remaining 2 leaders considered competent in non-glacial terrain. It should not be forgotten that some young people also took on specific roles in the expedition and met their own training targets, e.g. for competence in film making, food preparation / storage and others. The training occupied many trips over 2 years and saw the development of young inexperienced teenagers into proficient, capable mountaineers.

Background training of leaders was largely pursued privately, but was critical to the success of the expedition, so all in all, the 2 years prior to getting to Greenland saw more time spent, more personal and practical development and more variety of hills climbed than on the expedition itself! Without this focus on training all members, the important goal of developing young people would have only been partially achieved.

Sean O'Sullivan



The trip was open to applicants through the summer of 2013, and we launched into a series of training events that would stretch the full two years until the trip was completed.

A selection weekend was held (upon which all who attended were selected), and some people signed up after this weekend. Adverts were placed through all means of communication within Scouting in the County, and the advert was also shared with neighbouring regions.



The training weekends comprised:

- * Autumn 2013 (navigation & kit familiarization)
- * Winter 2013 (winter skills in the Cairngorms)
- * Spring 2014 (backpacking in Snowdonia)
- * Summer 2014 (Norway expedition training)
- * Autumn 2015 (First aid)

- * Winter 2015 (winter skills in Glencoe)
- * Spring 2015 (scrambling training & packing weekends)



A skills matrix was completed at the start of the trip to assist focused training on core skills. Many of the young people had a wide variety of skills to attain, but took on this challenge with enthusiasm! This matrix allowed people to score themselves in levels of capability, from items such as first aid and navigation, through to climbing skills and their ability to use a multi-fuel stove.



Practising ice axe arrests in the Cairngorms



Getting used to winter equipment in a walk round the corries.



Grabbing a brew in a pre-built snow cave



Training on steep snow - an essential skill!

Norway training expedition - Summer 2014

Following a long and difficult walk onto the glacier, we practised many different ice skills, including mountaineering techniques, but also handling the collection of fresh water safely, pitching tents without tent pegs and moving around safely.

Our main training event for the whole trip was a 10 day trip to Norway. This focused on a 4 day expedition into the Jostedalbreen - a remote and isolated glacier which we needed to take all food, equipment and supplies into.

This helped the young people understand real remoteness, and enabled them to rely and trust on each other thoroughly. This reliance is an important part of a remote expedition, and it was important to provide such exposure in our training trips.





Preparing for the trip up to the glacier. This was a great opportunity to try out new kit and to test bits before purchasing. The Leaders were on hand to recommend and suggest improvements to equipment throughout.



In case of falling into a crevasse, it was important that everyone knew how to rescue themselves by ascending a rope. Rather than do this by lowering into REAL crevasses, a rope into a tree at the campsite did the trick!

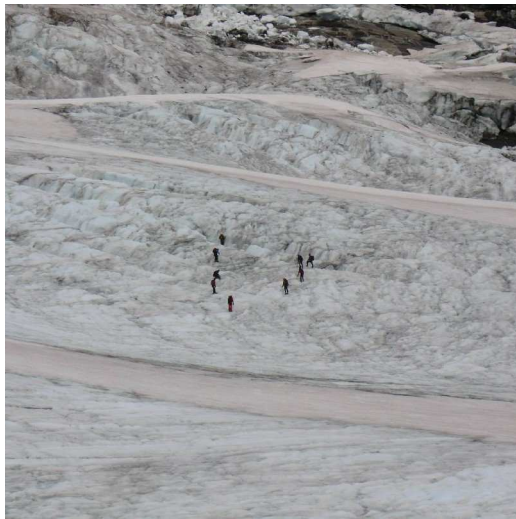


It was important to all to understand the remoteness, and the need for self sufficiency. This brings with it all manner of decisions regarding what to take, and those few extra grams end up feeling VERY heavy. This training expedition was key to providing all participants with the knowledge that you can't take the kitchen sink (even if your bag IS big enough to fit it!)

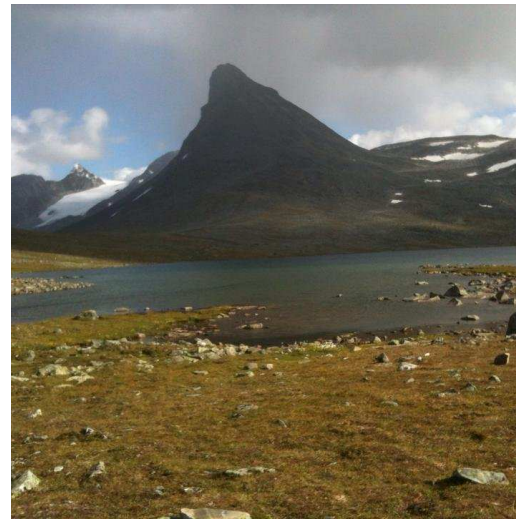
You would never have dreamed that thick birch scrub is good training for a country where the highest tree is about 3" tall! This did provide an excellent test of determination and stamina. It was vital that people on the trip could handle the potential for needing to put some very long days in, if the conditions dictated it.



These ants in the distance are a couple of teams working on crevasse rescue techniques, along with some more advanced ice travel techniques. We spent a few days on the glacier, one doing such training, one summitting a nearby mountain, with lots of scope for people to work out what living on a glacier is actually like!



One team ready for the off. Our training glacier in Norway was in the Jostedalbreen National Park, and has the benefit of being rarely visited. We saw no-one for about 4 days - a great way for people to experience a bit of isolation before heading to the Arctic for several weeks!



One of the training mountains - Kyrkjia in the Jotunheimen National Park. We wild camped in this area then grabbed this peak, followed by walking (a very LONG) way to meet the minibus in the next valley along. We got to cover a fair distance in Norway - with some stunning views to be had!



Our recent mountaineering training was done in North Wales, on routes such as Cneifon Arete and a descent of the north ridge of Tryfan. This gave great opportunity to remember the skills touched on over the previous two years



Scrambling training was held over multiple separate days due to exams getting in the way & meaning that not all people could make the one day. We offered many options and people took what they could make.



The ability to place and remove climbing equipment is vital on such a trip, and so some time was spent in understanding how and why certain types of protection are used.



First aid training for the youngsters - autumn '14



Bainbo's bondage - Expedition first aid training



Scrambling & backpacking training - Snowdonia



Matt Crozier was with us until he emigrated!



Our friendly trucker Ed, who got us to Norway



Ed Thornley who was with us for the start ...

Our barrels ready for the boat ride



Our Base Camp kit (including 650kg food) was pulled into place by skiddoo in spring 2015. We pre-packed and sent this kit out in March 2015, with an allocation of 3.5 kg per person to Base Camp - everything else would be carried in and out! The kit went from UK > Reykjavik > Akureyri > Constable Pynt. All kit was within securely fastened blue barrels, and at the end of the expedition all unused items & waste would be returned in these back to the UK. Any items required by the county or individuals before summer 2016 had to be carried back out - this meant that the weight on the way out was larger than the walk in. These barrels were all insulated with foil and foam linings.

After arrival at Constable-Pynt, we collected our metal work from Tangents' stores and the following morning departed at 4am to a pair of inflatable boats which took us over the fjord in two runs. We deposited a cache of food and fuel when we arrived on the other side, as we needed to be ready for all eventualities (such as being unable to find our Base Camp food & kit, needing to evacuate at any point, or in the event of the fjord being full of ice needing to walk around the Fjord (approx 2 days).

Moving people

We arrived at Manchester Airport at around 5am by cars & taxis, then flew by Easyjet to Keflavik International Airport in Iceland. Our following flight to Constable-Pynt in Greenland was from a separate airport in the north of the country at Akureyri, and so we hired two 9-seater vehicles and had a fantastic ride through the heart of Iceland. After a camp in Akureyri, we flew by Iceland Air to Constable-Pynt, and then via inflatable rib the following morning to the western shore of Liverpool Land.

Return was much the same, although a storm during our extraction led to a few tense moments and some people needing to walk for a few hours down the western shore of Hurrjfyord, and we

Logistics

Planning & location

The planning for this trip started in mid 2012, but we recruited our team throughout 2013 after we agreed with West Lancs Scout County not to clash with their "Red Rose" International camps which run on a 4-yearly basis. Experience gained from trips in 2004 and 2007 by the county to the area led us to us Tangent Expeditions for our Logistical support, and we met regularly with Paul Walker from Tangent through the planning. Regular monthly meetings were held by our planning team, and bi-monthly meetings were held with all members prior to the trip.

We settled on Liverpool Land as our destination for mostly financial reasons. The area is close to the airport at Constable-Pynt, just on the other

side of the 6km wide Hurrjfyord. Prior trips had involved plane and helicopter use to insert people and kit to unexplored areas, but as the team settled around 17 people, we realized that we simply couldn't afford such items without a significant increase in personal contribution. Liverpool Land allowed us to head to a remote area with unclimbed mountains in an affordable manner. A fellow Scouter and member of the 2007 trip (Chris Mosley) happened to be on a skiing trip in the area in 2013, and thanks to him we got some photos of the area in order to assist us with our planning.

Moving equipment



flew direct from Constable-Pynt to Reykjavik airport. The following day we played at being tourists, hired a 16 seater minibus and did the sights of the area, then the following morning returned to Keflavik and then back to Manchester.

Communications

We had several methods of communicating at our disposal. We took two sat phones, and through these sent sms messages to a contact in the UK who updated our twitter feed, letting relatives and our supporters know how we were getting on. Tangent also provided air and marine band radios, along with two EPIRB locator beacons. We were surprised to find that we could get basic mobile reception from the tops of the mountains - as long as we could see the airport at Constable-Pynt. Problems arose when we tried to text or call

directly between the two Iridium Satphones - we ended up having to relay messages through our UK contact Dick Griffiths in order to communicate when groups were apart (such as on the Duke of Edinburgh expedition near the end of the trip).

Safety

Bear safety

A risk of low likelihood but huge consequence was a meeting with a polar bear. Following the 2012 tragedy of the BSES expedition to Spitzbergen where a young man was killed, we were acutely aware of this risk. Thorough planning beforehand led to a polar bear policy on the trip covering all angles. Our toilet and food preparation areas would always be at least 50m from any tents, shotguns were provided by Tangent expeditions along with a variety of flares. Bear fences would be used at all campsites, and when near the

coastal regions (most of the time) we would operate a 'bear watch', with pairs of people taking turns to be up overnight keeping a watchful eye out.

Medical

All team members had some element of first aid training - everyone had a standard REC2 3 year first aid qualification, and four of the leaders undertook a remote expedition medic course. In addition to this knowledge, we had support from Dr Alison Chambers and Dr Clare O'Sullivan. One call had to be put into Dr O'Sullivan when a member managed to get an infected ear; with application of treatments this cleared up quickly. The other injury was a crushed finger to a member when moving rocks during construction of our kit cache at the end of the expedition. Dressings were applied and this cleared up within a few days.

Furiously sewing our Base Camp tent on a wet hill day in Scotland.



Packing all the food (and some kit) - March 2015



Just over 2 meals worth of tea, without carb, pud or starter!



Opportunistic grabbing of deals helped us keep costs down.

Following our packing, all this kit was taking into position in April.



Tangent Expeditions (Snow Dragons) took our kit via skiddoo to BC.



They travelled via Kalkdal, over the sea ice and up the glacier



GPS references were taken and passed to us for finding this stash!

Our ride from Iceland to Constable-Pynt airport in Greenland



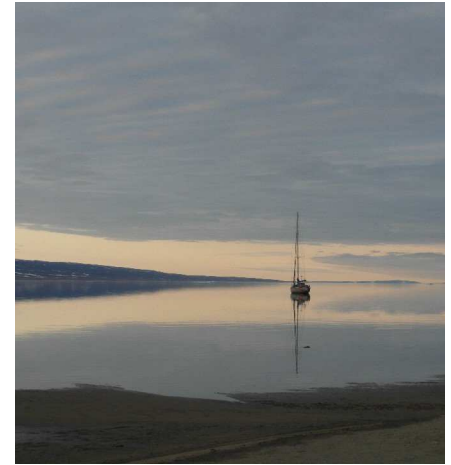
Getting to Base Camp



Finally, we were on our way. At 4am on the 23rd July, we headed down to the jetty (2km away) to find our transport over the fjord. Southern Liverpool Land is the range in the background of this image.



The team were equipped with all our walk-in kit (planned 2 ways with 1 extra days food), plus three rifles, three bear fences and four 'pulks' - sledges with a harness for pulling. This came in around 35kg per person. This was a LOT of weight, and we had a long way to carry it!



On our way to the boats we noticed this sailing boat - a company operates here that take people out for sailing experiences in Hurryfjord and Scoresbysund.

There are few tourist visitors to this area - and so opportunities like visiting the local village and sailing are few and far between.

Following loading the boats with equipment and people, they sped off to our landing site, 12km away. The crossing was calm and great fun, if a little uncomfortable in our stylish immersion suits. Although it was hilarious fighting our way into these things, they were quite fragile. And so we were bodily carried wearing these (plus our walking kit underneath) by Paul Walker & staff from Tangent Expeditions all the way from where we kitted up into the boats! They looked tired at the end!



Our route required us to cross Hurrjford by boat before we could get to Liverpool Land. Due to the intense cold of the water (filled with icebergs!) it was vital that if anyone did fall into the water, they would survive. These telly-tubby suits are full-body survival suits, designed to keep people afloat and alive so that they can be rescued. They're not the easiest thing to get on though!





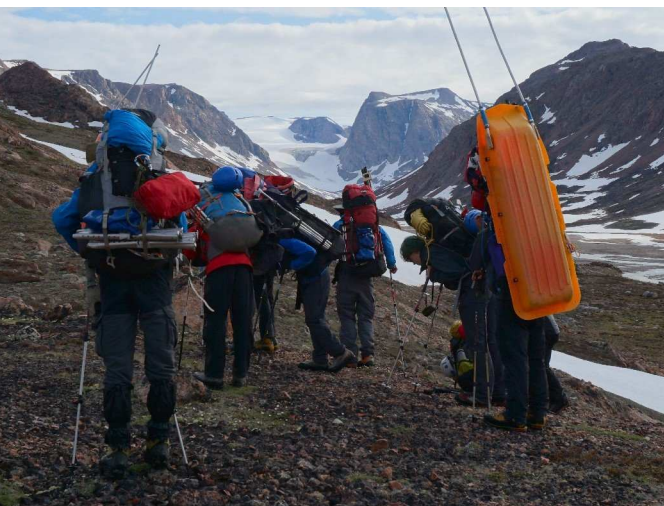
After arriving at the other side, we undertook some basic shotgun training, and then set off. We had a few km to go before we could get into Kalkdal, the main valley that splits Liverpool land. It is from there where we would head up and onto the glacier.

The pulks were pretty light, although they were terrible to get on and off. After some practise, putting your rucsac on whilst lying down, flailing your limbs a little, and then getting some friends to drag you up was the recommended style of getting moving. After this, more than one 'beetle fight' happened on the walk in!

Near the coast, there is no current glacial action, so a thin soil and moss has been able to grow - this being the Arctic tundra that supports most land-based life in Greenland.



Reaching the top of the first rise - a moraine pile near the entrance to the Kalkdal valley. Behind us is Hurryfjord, quite empty of ice. That wasn't to last - the next time we saw this fjord from a mountain top, it looked a lot more icy than this!



In the distance can be seen the start of the glacier taking us onto the ice cap - which was our destination the following day.

By this point, the effects of the 4am get up, plus the exceedingly heavy rucsacs were starting to weigh on the shoulders of everyone. Our planned campsite was at the foot of the glacier, around another 6km on from this location.

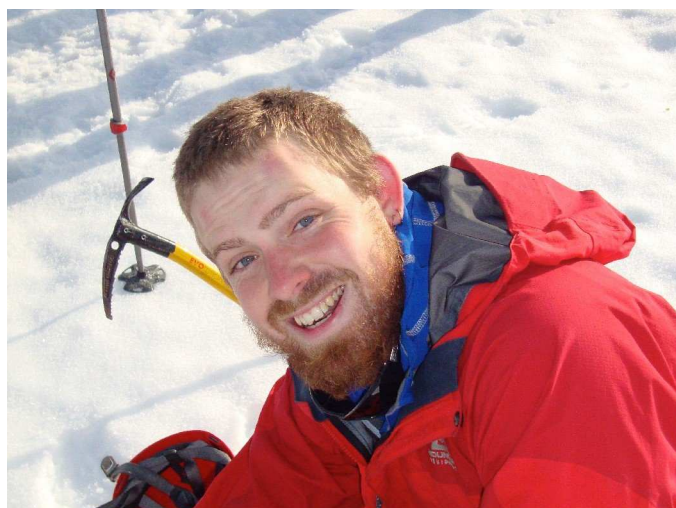


Heading to our intermediary campsite at the foot of the glacier. This photo is in the Kalkdal valley.



The combination of heavy packs, a succession of VERY early starts and late mornings, then a 3am get up on THIS day, led to some pretty tired bodies. We slept very well indeed at our intermediate campsite, just before the glacier. Some managed to sleep before we got to the campsite too!

Finally, the following day took us onto the ice and snow of Liverpool Land. Spirits rose as we approached the high point - we knew it was downhill all the way after this until our Base Camp. The glacier was completely 'wet' - in that it was covered in snow, hiding all the crevasses from view. This would mean that all our trips out from Base Camp would require roped travel.



Taken just as we arrived at Base Camp with all the kit which had been sent in over Winter for us.



Base Camp life

Our Base Camp was to be our village and home for nearly three weeks, so our work was cut out when we arrived at a collection of blue barrels, perched on a long line of very loose rock, on a glacier. We quickly realised that we would not be able to camp on the ice under this moraine (it was too crevassed), so as the glacier was covered in snow, we pitched there instead.

In line with our bear safety policy, we located our tents in a line, around 75m from our cooking area & chillout zone. We moved all the barrels (containing food, spares and so on) down to the cooking area and positioned them so we could get access from the moraine (they bed in well on the snow, but walking on snow = wet feet!).

After our first night there (and some pretty hefty sleeping in!) we decided to have a rest day, and so the younger team members took it on themselves to do some rock clearance and prepare a pathway to the cooking area & to peoples' tents. This was greatly appreciated by everyone, and reduced chance of injury!

The cooking area was also the home of "Bear Rock" our designated spot for sitting on when on bear watch. It was higher than all other rocks and was stable, so we were able to get a good vantage from here. Bear watch was conducted at all times - when we were all awake it was waived as we would have spotted things approaching, but we did a 1hr or 2hr shift each night in pairs.

Further on, by another 75m was our toilet. This was a medium sized blue barrel and with a loo seat sat on top served as an excellent receptacle. By putting the lid (and metal lock!) on top, we could move this by pulk to a nearby moulin & pour it away, to be munched up by the glacier & crushed by the weight of the ice.

The snow helped with our kitchen ... thanks to some regular burying, a couple of barrels were

sunk on their side under a mound of snow. This created a very effective refrigerator, and both meats and cheeses survived well.

The weather at Base Camp fluctuated through the trip. The first week was great weather - blue skies, no wind - perfect for mountaineering! After the Abstract trip, we returned to find winds building and several tents damaged at Base Camp. Our Base Camp tent had been destroyed, and one mountaineering tent had sustained serious damage. Thanks to Bainbo's prior planning, we had plenty of spare parts and a complete spare tent, so repairs were made, tents were fastened down, and the expedition then hid in their tents for 48 hours waiting for the weather to move on. Following this break in the weather, another stable yet cloudy period moved in, and at the end of the trip the weather had brought in mist from off the sea which sat on Base Camp for several days. At the point where we needed to pack up Base Camp, many things were damp due to this mist not letting anything dry.

A few group meals were had by the team, giving an excuse to all get together and have a catch up. Blackers and his team had spotted some great meal choices and so we all enjoyed the meal of pulled pork, as well as the lamb shank! The occasional breakfasts of pancakes and cured bacon REALLY helped too!

The challenge of staying on top of waste and litter was one which tested the whole trip at times. After the first recce trip where we were visited by an alpine fox, we realised that we would need to be vigilant with food storage at all times. From this point forward, all food was kept in blue barrels when not being used. Burnable items were collected together and disposed of, and all non-burnable items along with the ashes were packed to be returned to the UK in summer 2016.

Not long after arriving in Liverpool Land, we realised that due to the snow cover, it would be essential to change our body clocks to match. Warm snow tends to lead to falling rocks from

mountains, and so it is vital for the team safety that mountaineering happens at the coldest times. We generally rose at 10pm, with an aim for being away for midnight. This would tend to put us back into Base Camp around 8-10am, at which point we would then think about tea time. Bear watch would start most times around 2pm, which is when people would head to bed. Everyone worked on these timings, until the Duke of Edinburgh team reached the coast on their walk out, and when the rest of the team realised that the poor weather at the end of the trip was not going to give us any opportunity to achieve more mountains.

At the end of the trip, the weather quickly took a turn for the worst. We received a weather forecast on the sat phone from our home contact Dick Griffiths to say that the weather was rapidly changing and high winds were forecast. We liaised with our Tangent contacts who advised us to get out from Base Camp and to the coast as soon as we could. Within around 2hrs of this call we had packed up the site into blue barrels & left a stash for Tangent to collect the following year, then made the 16km walk with huge rucksacs over to the pickup point at 3am. By this point, the sea was choppy and had some sea ice in to make it more exciting. Several shuttles by inflatable rib later, and we were all on the correct side of the fjord, though some had a few hours walk to complete before they could reach the others. For some, this was a 36hr day, and a significant challenge.

After escape back to Constable Pynt, we spend a day or two waiting for our plane out, and we have Tangent to thank for storing our kit, providing us with somewhere to dry our kit and somewhere to shelter when the weather turned again.

Ash Green



Leaving aside the home brew kit on top of barrel 17, one of these small barrels acted as our water source in Base Camp. It was far easier for a couple of people to fill this barrel, bring back to Base Camp and then everyone fill their water containers. Sometimes this was quite full of ice which prolonged the cooking time and used precious fuel - this was rationed as we discovered that one of the fuel bottles left over winter for us had leaked.

The water source was a stream fed from a small glacial pond, just upstream from our sleeping area.



One fantastic idea from Blackers was to build a shelter, as our Base Camp tent had proven less than ideal in the wind. The "Hard Rock Cafe" was up and running for a good chunk of the trip!

One tarpaulin, two blue barrels, one handy boulder and a reel of paracord created a pretty bombproof shelter to conduct Bear Watch from.

The completed road!



Road building

One of the most likely injuries on a glacier is tripping over moraine - rocks which have fallen from a mountain and are being taken to the sea by the glacier. Our Base Camp was purposely sited next to a medial moraine (in the middle of the glacier), as it gave us chance to move around and not have to worry about snow and keeping things dry all the time. However, this pile of unsorted boulders, grit and ice made the area quite tricky to move through.

"Wouldn't it be handy if there was a road here" we thought.

The young people on the trip set about this task, defining and then clearing a path from our tents to the cooking area, around 75m away. This was no mean feat, with many tonnes of rock being moved over several hours (this was supposed to be a 'rest day!'), complete with a couple of bridges being built to cross shallow crevasses. This undoubtedly prevented injuries and was hugely useful to the rest of us!

Not content with just moving rocks, many people then set to work constructing thrones for themselves in the cooking area, giving places where they could relax in a comfortable way. Admittedly, some thrones of rock were more comfortable than others, particularly when used with a Thermarest chair or some of the insulation which we had packed all the food within.



A planning meeting in full flow. These involved the whole team and gave everyone the opportunity to suggest where they would like to go, what routes had caught their eye and air any issues on the trip. As well as planning, these were great opportunities to review the trip so far and improve on items as we went through the time in Base Camp.



In-depth planning of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition. Prior to the trip some members had expressed a desire to complete a Duke of Edinburgh expedition whilst in Greenland, and so this was build into the end of the expedition. This allowed the participants to use skills attained earlier in the trip to safely and successfully complete an unaccompanied (yet remotely supervised) four day expedition. Some planning needed to be refined on the trip, due to the unexpected 'wet' glaciers - being covered in snow and hiding any crevasses.

The trip experienced a wide range of weather conditions, from stunning blue skies, to a 48hr storm which kept us tent bound and destroyed one of them! (we had spares!). Near the end of the trip, we lost sight of the sun altogether and a thick mist enveloped the camp for several days.



Whilst we could, it was important to make the best of the good weather! Techno boxers may be very clever, but even merino wool does need to be washed before your tent-mates start forcing you out!





(Ben was happy).
Our tents were purposefully pitched in a line - in the event of a bear getting into camp, we needed to ensure our tents were not encircling it!
This, and many other key tips, were gained through research into current best practise from the Royal Geographical Society and other bodies.



The person in the frame here was happy not only because he was in this stunning area (with the Aiguille de Scouse behind), but he was no doubt 'refreshed' after using our luxurious bathroom facilities! (far better than staring at the back of the loo door at home!)



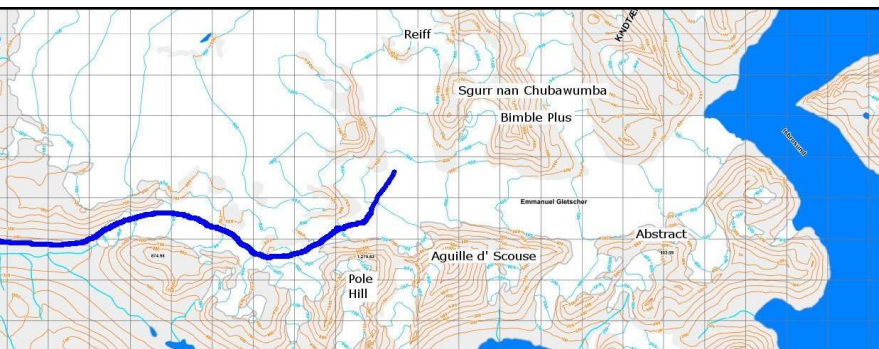
Mountaineering

And so we now detail some notes about hills, glaciers, and the stunning, stunning area that we were so fortunate to exist within for such a small time.



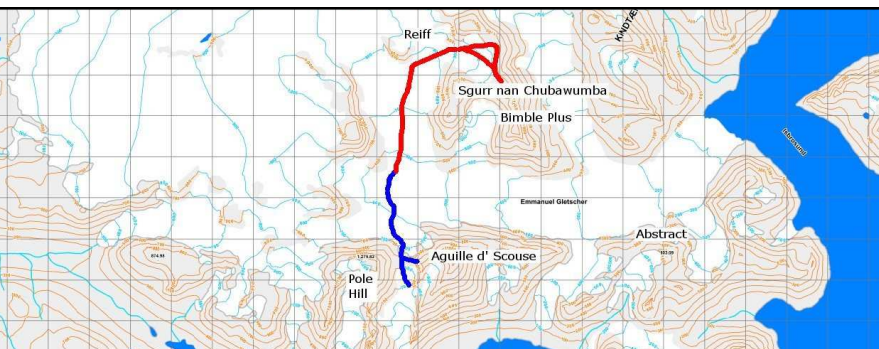
Superb scrambling up the main ridge of Abstract. The furthest land mass is the island of Sermersooq, surrounded by sea ice. The end of the Emmanuel Glacier can be seen in the bottom left.





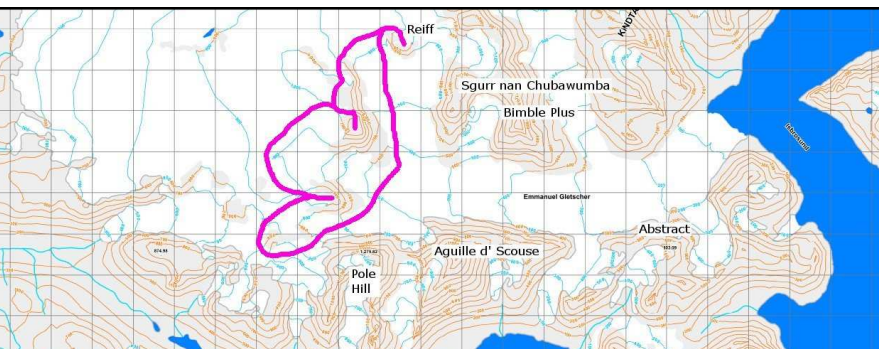
The walk in

This map shows our route in as we walked from the shore to our Base Camp at the foot of BSE Peak. The starting point on the west is the mid-way camp from the shore, and so the route is the single day walk in to Base Camp. From climbing onto the glacier 2km in from our camp, we were then quickly onto snow and followed the valley system up to around 850m height, before dropping back down to our Base Camp at around 580m.



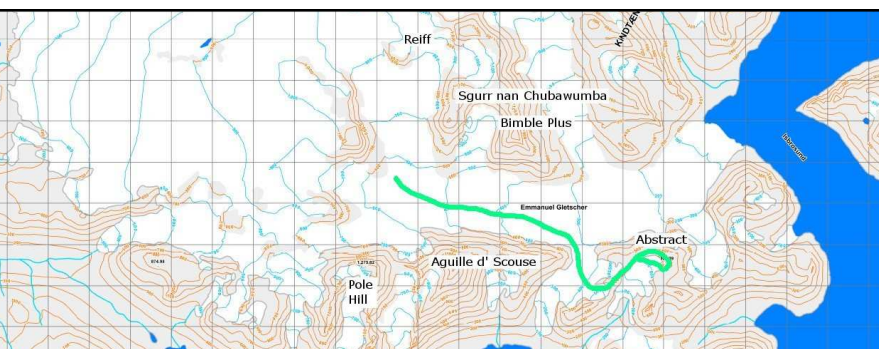
The recce day

The team split into two, one group heading north, the other south. The intention of this day was to assess the lie of the land, to look for potential objectives, and to stretch our legs. One team headed up into a large snow bowl and following a steep climb gained a rock ridge which led (in a loose fashion) to Sgurr nan Chubawumba. The other team headed south over an inviting col (named Foxes Pass after they were visited by an alpine fox en route) to see what lay on the other side. From Base Camp, a stunning line of spires and minarets runs from Foxes Pass to the largest summit in the region (Aguille d' Scouse), but after a short recce up this ridge, it proved far too loose to be a safe challenge. Investigation was performed on the other side of the pass for alternative routes up this mountain.



Reiff

The whole team headed out for a two-day trip, with a planned bivvy on the peak behind Base Camp. The summit of Reiff was gained in the late morning, and after this peak we embarked on some snow-focused skills training (all our safety training prior to the trip was based on ice, not snow). Following this we swung round to the main top behind basecamp to get superb views and find a note from a previous university trip in the mid 90's. That night a stunning bivvy was had (looking to the Renland and Milneland areas), and the following day we bagged the top of the next subsidiary top (with 3 separate peaks) before heading down to Base Camp again.

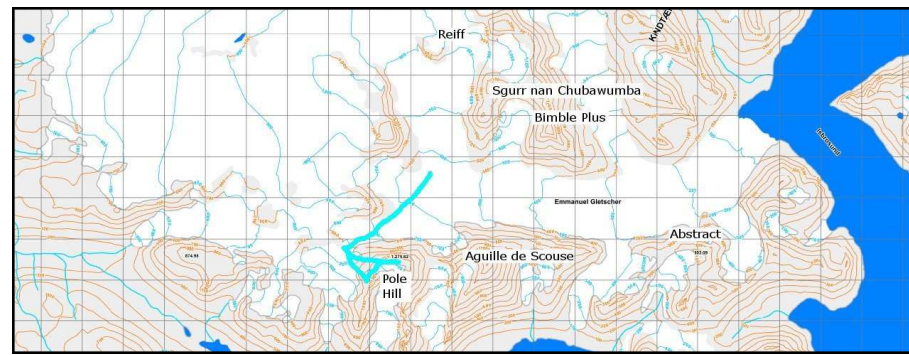


Abstract

Again, the whole team headed towards the coast to check out a ridge line that a few people had spied. The weather was a bit more suspect, so tents were taken for a two day trip. After dropping the tents after some pretty extreme puking up a steep slope, we gained a ridge line and could see a huge corrie with a fantastic ridge line. We attempted this line, and although the scrambling was superb, the ridge ended with a drop that could not be abseiled down due to lack of anchors. We backtracked and dropped into the snowy corrie, skirted the difficulty then rejoined the ridge just before the summit. Some team members had headed directly for the top, bypassing the trickier scrambling. That night the clag set in, and so the following day we retreated back to Base Camp. However, several other potential tops were possible on this same corrie, and it is well worth further investigation.

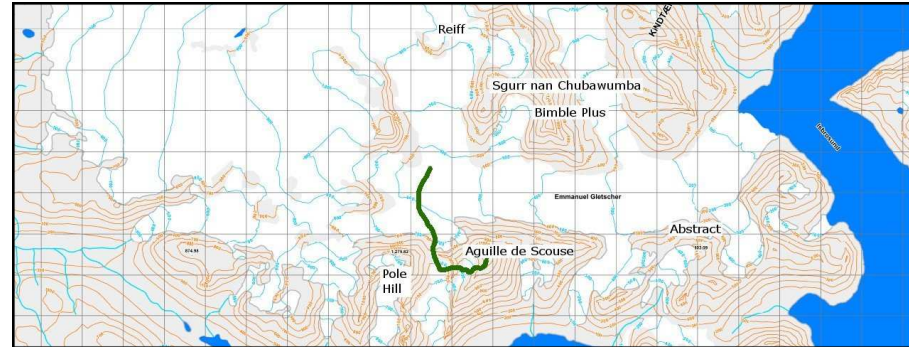
Pole Hill

Following the return from Abstract, we found Base Camp was in full storm, and remained so for 48 hours. The next good weather break led us up to the summit of Pole Hill, the second highest top around. We had spied a route up this when descending from the bivvy, and knew that it was straightforward. Within a few hours from Base Camp we were stood on the top, next to a cairn and looking out to sea, with one eye on the sea ice in Hurryfjord (between us and the airport!). We also spotted a potential route up the 'big one' - the Aiguille de Scouse, by running what seemed to be two snow gullies after Foxes Pass together, and onto a rock ridge. On the descent from this, Sean also spotted a potential scrambling line for future investigation.



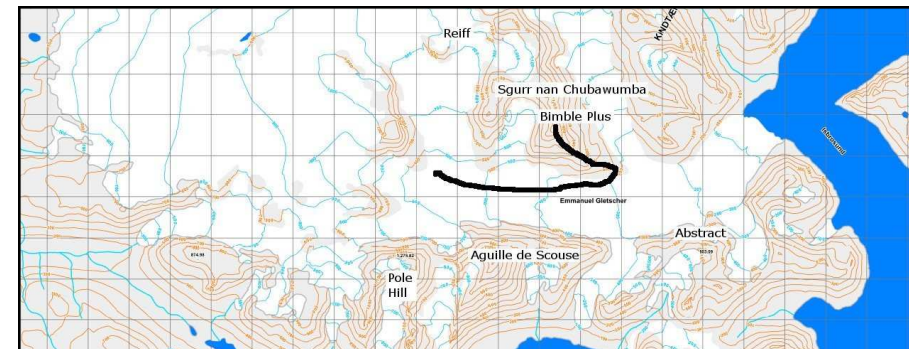
Aiguille de Scouse

With a route in mind, most of the team headed for this objective. Up and over Foxes Pass, then up Baldricks Gully, then up Turd Gully gave three top quality grade 1 snow gullies. A rather loose line over a scree shelf led to a more solid line, and then a pitch of scrambling led to the rock ridge. 1hr later we were on the top - the highest point in northern Liverpool Land, with no cairn - so we claimed this as our own! Return was a backtrack of the same route, but with a couple of careful abseils to get over the loose rock. An amazing route, with great weather and a fabulous mountain to be on throughout.



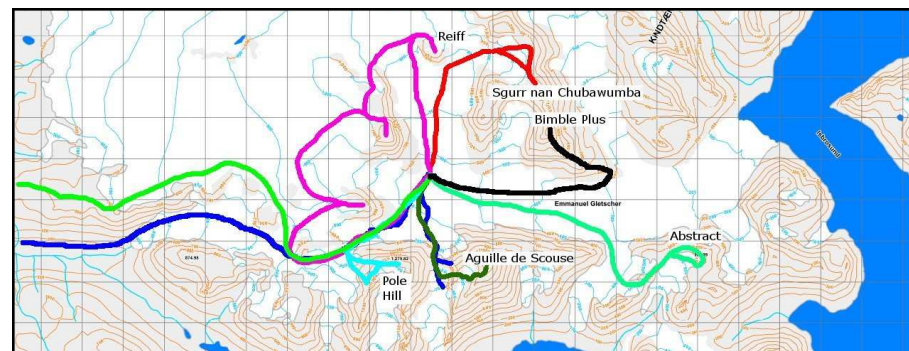
Bimble / Bimble plus

Whilst the people who had completed the Aiguille de Scouse route rested, the others (and Sean) headed off to Bimble down the valley. A ridge with a forgiving angle, it was a route of boulders the entire way and pretty tiring work! Depite the 5km down the valley and back up, the team completed it in good time. After the D of E team headed off a few days later, the rest of the team headed for this route and 'think' that they got a bit further along the ridge, so called it Bimble plus.



Summary

Almost all the peaks visible from Base Camp were summited, with the exception of the '4 tops', NE of Base Camp which looked to have a suspect ascent line. Ice climbing was conducted in the crevasse field due west of Base Camp. The nature of the geology and active glaciation led to all rock encountered being very loose and dangerous. With the exception of the south-facing walls on Reiff, there were no obvious safe locations for rock-climbing.



Lewie taking a moment before heading down the glacier to Base Camp.



Mike having a breather as we headed down the Emmanuel glacier to Base Camp





Looking north to Reiff (far standalone peak) and our bivvy site (BSES Peak). Base Camp was located at the top of the moraine band running down the glacier. This picture was taken from the Aiguille de Scouse.



Lewie taking a breather at the top of Foxes Pass. The mountains in the background are in southern Liverpool Land, and the main ridge line that is catching the sunlight is the highest point in this land.

The valley of Kaldal splits Liverpool Land, and it is this valley which is at the bottom of the slope behind Lewie.

Looking out to sea at sunrise. The sea is carpeted by a blanket of mist - this is moisture evaporating from the sea ice which moved in and out on a daily basis up the coastline. Near the end of the trip this mist crept inland and enveloped Base Camp for a few days, making everything damp and cold.



Early morning light shines off the exposed rock. The geology was very complex, but early morning light (or more accurately, the Midnight Sun) lit these mountains up with stunning colours

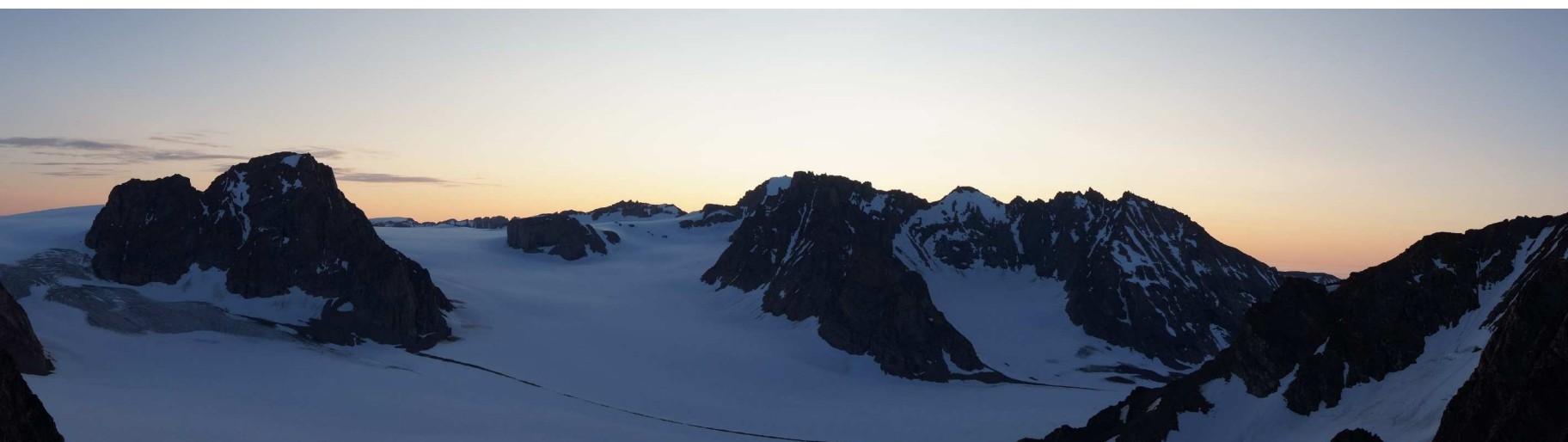


Our training regime over many years and many environments prepared everyone for the mountaineering challenges of the area.

This included technical travel on steep slopes, ropework skills, and proficient use of ice axe and crampons.

This steep snow was the route up onto Sgurr nan Chumbawumba.







The mountaineering was often achievable, yet had to be treated with respect. Great consideration had to be given to anything which touched rock, as pretty much the entire mountain moved! Despite this, we found safe routes up all the mountains we set our sights on, and managed to climb almost all summits which we could see from Base Camp!

All routes included glacial approaches, with a mix of ridge scrambles and snow gully climbs. Some routes required research - the route on the Aiguille de Scouse was realised after two other ascents on nearby mountains that allowed us to plan a route (including three snow gullies, an 'interesting scramble' and ridge climb!).

A number of descent routes included abseils - these were treated with utmost caution but were often the safest means of returning to Base Camp.

Some routes (such as on Abstract) required a rethink half way through when heading to the top. This route - although great scrambling - led us to a 30m drop with no safe abseil anchors. For this route we had to retrace our steps, and plan an alternative route around this obstacle to rejoin our intended route to the summit.

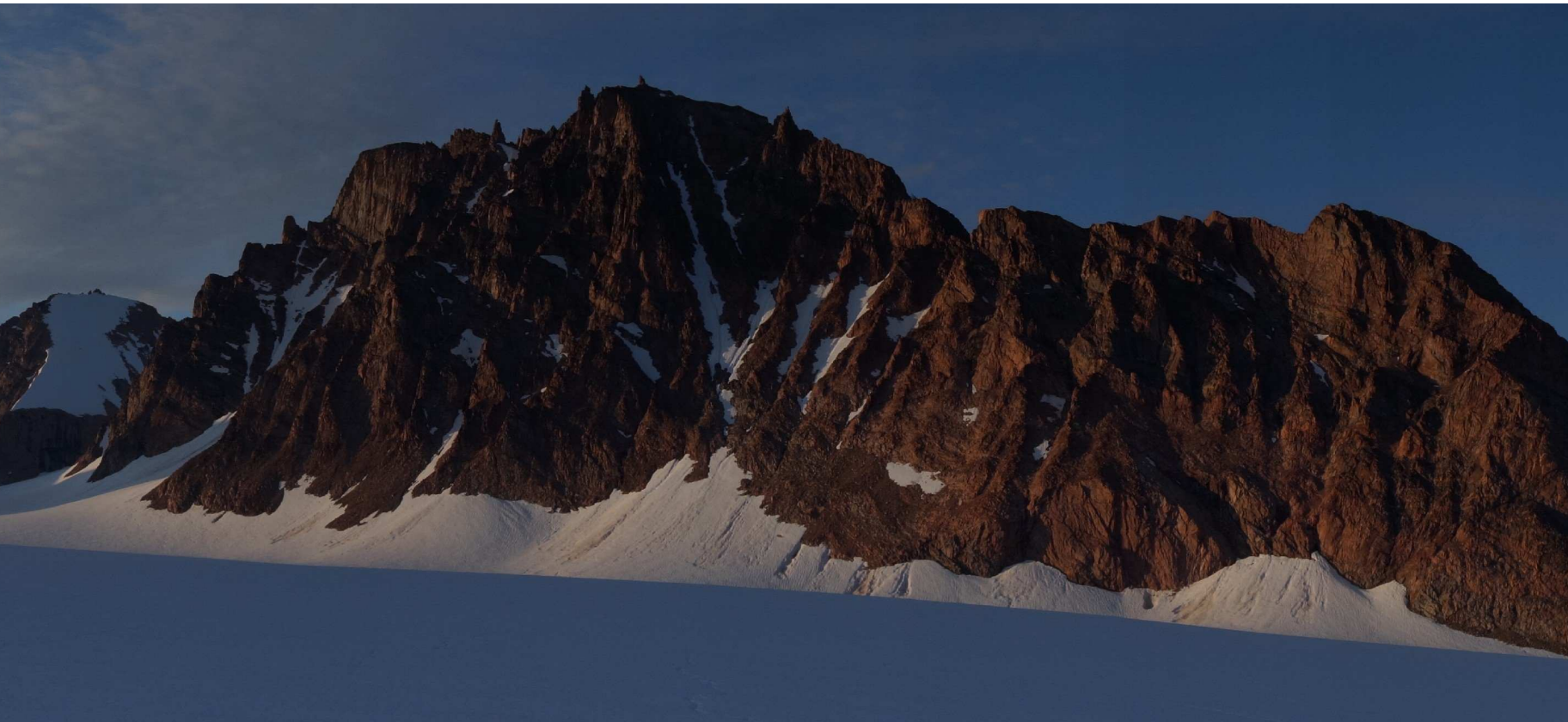
Training on the mountains in the UK and in Norway helped give everyone the confidence to attempt these peaks. At times, people were challenged in multiple ways, and were sometimes nudged outside of their "comfort zone". This is precisely what we wanted people to experience - pushing themselves beyond what they thought they could achieve. Andy's training in Outdoor Education at university helped us focus on how to achieve this:

"...The person has fear of physical harm, or physical or psychological stress, and no longer feels complete master of the situation. He feels however that he can with considerable effort on his part, and given luck, overcome the situation without accident. He accepts that his skills are about to be tested. He is conscious of a definite degree of uncertainty as to the outcome, and feels, as it were, poised on a knife edge between success and failure. If he succeeds, he has experienced what I would term 'frontier adventure'. He has found himself in a situation which becomes firmly etched upon his mind, perhaps forever."

Colin Morlock (The Adventure Alternative 1984)









These pictures are from the bivy which we had near the summit of BSES peak. Although sleeping on rocks and gravel, most people slept better than they had in days! We were able to view mountains far to the North, West and South, including towards Milne Lane and Renland from previous West Lancs Scouts Trips. Not many can claim to have slept under the stars in the Arctic!



Heading up the ridge on Abstract. This route required a remote camp, scrambling, snow ramps, abseils and handling some rather changable (Scottish!) weather. A great route with lots of potential for other summits as part of a longer day out. This peak was named in honour of the soon to be Mrs Speakman.



Scrambling on 'loose' sections of Abstract.

Phil said:
"My mum'll kill me if she knew what I was up to".

All technical sections were pitched where appropriate, using rock climbing equipment to protect each rope team.





Group abseil on the Abstract route. All members of the trip completed this, even the ones who didn't like abseiling! This is often the safest method of descent and all routes were thoroughly tested by a mountaineering leader first (cannon fodder).



Sean provides Speakman with some motivational words. No record exists of Speakman's response (probably for the best, although he did emigrate after the trip, possibly to escape from Sean).



Tired and fed up of yet more packaged dried fruit and sweets full of pocket fluff, Andy decided to try eating his GPS.

Dan agreed with this idea by passing wind.

Phil, Speakman and Ben on the recce trip, having a look at some very loose scrambling on the direct route up Aiguilles de Scouse





Main pic is descending Foxes Pass on the way to Aiguille de Scouse. Top insert is Ash, Phil and Mike heading up the final snow gully over a Bergschrund . Lower insert is Camp Dan tackling some scrambling. He assures us it was "wicked", albeit in a slightly trembling voice.

Mike and Phil heading up the summit ridge to the Aiguilles de Scouse, with southern Liverpool Land behind



From the bottom of the main abseil on Aiguilles de Scouse. The rock was so loose it was far safer and quicker to abseil. One person can be seen silhouetted on the main descent, and someone in a white helmet can be seen on the right, about to start down the second abseil.



Same abseil but taken from above.



Descending Baldricks gully (before Foxes pass). The route involved three snow gully climbs (all around grade 1 / grade 2), one snow gully descent (grade 1), then the rock scramble and ridge climb. All this was reversed, with the exception of the scramble which was abseiled. This was a superb route, and everyone was required to call on all of their previous training and experience. It





Blackers, the senior member of the trip took on the honorary role of expedition Grandad, as well as finance and food! Andy was able to offer pastoral support to people if they were feeling at a low point during the trip.



Dan was particularly attached to his True Mountain neck gaiter, often sporting the same style every day. Dan was one of several young people who really threw themselves into the planning of the expedition, helping with fundraising, food and logistics. He's gained a significant amount of experience due to this - and not just in mountaineering!



Sean and Elliot on Bimble. Sean brought significant experience from previous Arctic expeditions, and brought his expertise to the trip by managing the training for all participants. Elliot was one of the younger members of the trip with little experience in the hills, but he and the others performed admirably, becoming safe and accomplished mountaineers.

Although predominately used on the walk in and when overnighing, the pulks were very handy for other things. In particular, the handling of fluids (and solids). It was far more efficient to fill one clean barrel with fresh water from the water source, rather than everyone full their pans individually. And, when it was your turn, it was also time to take the toilet barrel for a (very careful) trip to the local moulin (glacial shaft) for some disposal!





Roped descent from the summit of Abstract.
The first party to make it there both ascended and descended without the need for ropes. By the time the rest arrived, 30 mins later with 'weather' in attendance, all we had was mist & very loose, very wet rock. And so, an abseil was used to protect this descent.



The ice climbing day gave a chance to use a different set of muscles for while, and the opportunity to try something new was jumped on by many people!

By setting up a belay with multiple ice screws on the surface, we were able to lower people into crevasses (we used ones which had a sealed base) and then they could climb out.

Everyone had opportunity to try several different routes, use different techniques and using both straight and curved ice tools to climb with. This allowed people to get a real feel for the sport, and the differences with the available equipment.



Camp Dan escaping from a crevasse on our ice climbing afternoon



Ash giving advice on placing ice screws to Phil for creating a belay anchor for ice climbing.



Kit stash used by the Duke of Edinburgh team. Crampons, ropes and axes are not much use on Arctic tundra!

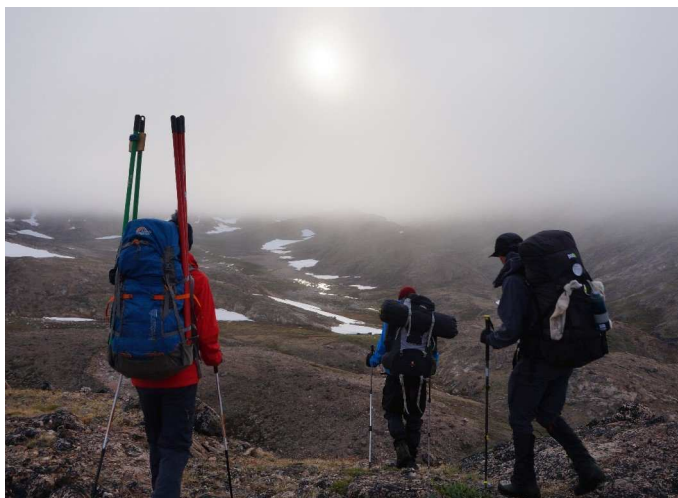


Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Not only were Elliot, Lewie, Dan and Matt heading out on their four day expedition, but as they were finishing at our boat pick up location, they also needed to carry out all their kit and their share of teh group kit too! These packs were VERY heavy, although after 3 weeks of mountaineering, everyone felt in a strong condition!
It still didn't stop the packs weighing over 30kg though ...



The Duke of Edinburgh team encountered a number of river crossings, as they skirted the eastern shoreline of Hurryfjord. The Norwegian training expedition helped to prepare them for such an occasion, and so they were able to undertake these independently. The 4 day, 3 night self-led trip was a qualifying Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition - and what a place to do it! The project they undertook was "observing and logging glacial features", and their intended location for walking provided many to study.



Wildlife



A herd of Musk Ox (*Ovibos moschatus*) on the plains, north of Kalkdal.

These very sturdy oxen were some of the few local species which we sighted on the expedition. The inset image shows Speakman with the Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) which we spotted a couple of times on the trip.

It was telling just how remote we were, as none of the species we encountered made any attempt to scavenge from our Base Camp at any time.



Food and Nutrition

Introduction

Food is a pivotal aspect of an expedition. It forms the majority of freight, dictates positioning logistics, occupies the majority of time for purchasing and packing and provides both the calorific sustenance and motivational content for team performance. It is a huge task and one should not underestimate the level of commitment and tenacity required to meet shipping deadlines.

Planning

Fortunately the team was able to use the experience of previous expeditions to Milne Land (2004) and Renland (2007). The critical component of the plan was to construct the timeline of the expedition. It was necessary to work back from the finish of the expedition to calculate man days, buffer stocks and depot stations. At this stage, an assumption was made on the meal mix. This allowed weights to be estimated based on historic data. Research was

undertaken into menu preferences and special considerations including wheat intolerance. Hill/day food would be provided by the tried and tested method of issuing a 5 day ration bag (goody bag!). The early shipping dates due to skidoo insertion added to the complication of ensuring all items were within best before dates, therefore delaying purchasing to last opportunity.

Procurement & Sourcing.

Purchasing had to be completed six months in advance of shipping. This reduced the shelf life available (especially the varieties of cake). In addition the deposit on the glacier in March until arrival in July could involve significant temperature variation. The knowledge gained from previous expeditions was applied to the product mix. In addition, the co-ordinator investigated possibilities of obtaining a greater content of 'fresh' food to add variety including dry cured bacon, sausage, cheese and dried meats. Staples were obtained from supermarkets taking advantage of post-Christmas discounts. Direct contact was made with 'specialist' providers to obtain direct supplies at trade prices. It is worth noting that companies

contacted by letter did not respond. However, those contacted by email via contact links on websites responded immediately with no request for trade prices refused! The power of the internet and Scouting combined! Acknowledgement and of all product suppliers can be referred to at the end of this book.

Portioning and meal Assembly

A packing weekend was identified in the timeline. With experience it was soon confirmed that portion packing and assembly of meals needed to be done in advance of packing into transportation barrels. Meals were made up into 2 man packs, the odd number catered for by wheat intolerant special diet provision. Day bag rations were packed into five separate five day bags allowing for some surplus for use in Iceland on layover. This allowed the owner to select from a substantial array of items and trade unwanted items in the 'swap' box. A greater effort was made to provide balanced diet items including air dried meats, nuts, seeds and snacks, rather than relying on chocolate and trail bars.

Packing & portioning tasks included

- * Portioning dried fruits, snacks and sweets for day bags
- * Portioning pasta and rice
- * Stripping packaging
- * Making up meal packs and breakfasts
- * Assembling ingredients and stock for communal Base Camp meals

Packing

As all meal assembly had been completed in advance of the packing weekend much more time could be spent on ensuring food was packed in the correct barrel for onward distribution and adequately insulated to withstand large temperature variations.

Cost

A budget of £8 per person per day was set at budget proposal. However, this was based on 30 people and gave substantial room for manoeuvre

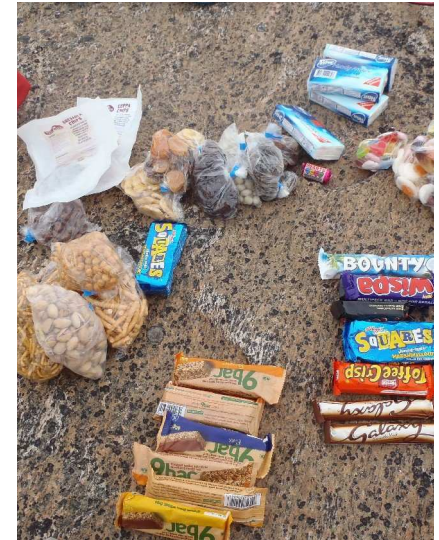


regarding quantity and bulk purchase. As the expedition part size decreased the budget remained the same per person. With the negotiation of trade discount and post- Christmas discounting the final cost per person per day came to £8.07, slightly ahead of the target. However, a substantially greater offering was made by provision of additional fresh foods (including 75kg of cheese!).

Conclusion

The task of food provisioning for an expedition can be onerous. Although there is a 'a team approach' a successful conclusion has to rely on a small number of driven individuals. Meal assembly should be done with adequate time to correct due to stock discrepancies and shortages. Overall, the planning and provision of food was a success. There was very little spoilage; sub store distribution went according to plan and the inclusion of fresh foods of bacon and cheese were a great team morale boost. Storage and stock handling is a major factor in execution and careful consideration should be given to premises that can provide a large enough space and can cope with intrusion for a considerable period of time.

Andy Blackledge



Finance and Accounts

Finance Introduction

The expedition was fortunate to have the experience of the Treasurer of the 2007 expedition to maintain the project finances. At concept (January 2013 kick off), the draft budget was based on participation of thirty people. At the selection weekend this was still the target number. Thirty participants was an optimum number to gain scale economy on the fixed logistical costs. The optimum number would allow a significant logistical input of flight and boat transfers.

Budget Preparation and Final Cost

The budget was broken down into the constituent parts and an initial target cost was calculated at £3,300 per head including training, centrally raised funds and gift aid. This was within the price range band of the previous expeditions and allowed significant room to reduce member costs through fund raising. The final cost is slightly higher at £3,481 per head but included hostel accommodation on return to Iceland and sightseeing transportation. Therefore the higher cost was expected and agreed before departure.

Itinerary and Budget Revision

By the time the team was due to depart for the 2014 training

expedition to Norway, participant numbers had reduced to sixteen. This number could clearly not sustain the original intended itinerary and use as much logistical input from Tangent as planned.

Concerns were raised at the viability of the expedition and an emergency meeting was convened to discuss alternate possibilities and negotiate a fixed price of service for the sixteen participants. The revised itinerary allowed Tangent expeditions to guarantee the schedule by releasing extra capacity of aircraft to other expeditions. The revised destination could be fulfilled by boat transfer instead of aircraft and distribution of food and equipment could be undertaken within the 'Snow Dragons' programme to avoid further cost.

There was a potential risk to the expedition that if there were further number reductions then the price per individual would go up due to fixing the cost. This was an accepted risk and an amended contract was duly signed.

On returning from Norway a further party member dropped out. This gave every individual a stretched target to raise more central funds and gifts that could be considered under the gift aid scheme. The target member

contribution remained at £3,000 for the expedition plus the additional requirements of training weekends and travel and accommodation costs in Iceland.

Management of Funds

A payment schedule was issued commencing with a non-refundable commitment deposit of £150. Payments of £500 were required at regular intervals plus additional training costs. All receipts and payments were administered directly into the bank account and progress was reported on a weekly basis. Payments to suppliers and service providers were administered directly by bank transfer from County Office.

Gift Aid and Central Donations

It was necessary to increase the budgeted centrally raised funds to make up the £3,000 shortfall on the further member dropping out following the Norway training expedition. The Expedition Leader successfully applied for funding from the Gino Watkins Memorial Fund (£2,500) and Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (£5,000) and qualifying gift aid contributed £8,700 to overall funds.

Conclusion

For twelve to eighteen months member numbers, itinerary and cost were not fixed. The target budget was moving until team numbers and the agreement of fixed price logistics in June 2014. The team had to absorb the costs of an additional drop out following the training expedition in Norway. This was covered by central fund raising and qualifying gift aid and is a credit to team members to achieve.

Andy Blackledge

Income		
Member Contributions	£51776	
Central Donations	£10864	
Gift Aid	£8713	
Lyon Equipment	£1897	
Total		£73250
Expenditure		
Tangent Expeditions	£49600	
Flights, Transport, Accommodation Iceland	£5480	
Training	£11883	
Food	£2782	
Lyon Equipment	£1897	
Equipment	£157	
Prospectus	£370	
Final Report Provision	£500	
Polo shirts/Neckers	£268	
Sat Phone/Sim	£313	
Total		£73250
Balance		0

From the outset, our intention was to provide an expedition into the Arctic which gave exciting opportunities at an affordable price. The fluctuations in the in-country costings in the last few years, combined with a lower participant update resulted in the expedition taking a slightly different direction than what was originally anticipated.

The flexibility of the planning team, along with partners such as Tangent expeditions, enabled us to think creatively and still provide a fantastic experience for the participants

Investment in items such as a pre-event prospectus enabled the team to use this high quality marketing document when seeking grants and support from companies. We are thankful for Dr Andy Cumpstey for arranging printing of this at cost!

Flights were costed in through two methods - Tangent Expeditions handled the Iceland to Greenland (CNP) legs, whilst we needed to purchase our own UK to Iceland travel. With the advent of low-cost air routes to Iceland (and the budget growing in other areas), we flew EasyJet to and ~IcelandAir back from Iceland.

Raising funds for a trip such as this is no small matter. Many of the expedition members took on extra jobs or got 'creative' with their fund raising. As an example, fund raising events included bag packs (Morrisons & Booths), raffles, concerts & a lecture for a local Masonic event, race nights and so on. Many people essentially put their lives on hold for a while whilst they concentrated on raising the monies for the expedition.

It is in the nature of Scouting that people are encouraged to raise funds themselves, and not put pressure on 'The bank of mum and dad'. All people on the trip made a significant financial commitment to the expedition and it is admirable that all made the effort and raised the funds necessary.

Cost per head paid		£3452
Training Costs per head	£792	
Expedition Contribution per head	£3000	
Contribution to Training per head	£482	
Total cost per head to individual	£3482	
Total Expedition Cost (net of Lyon personal equipment)		£71353
Total Cost per head Actual		£4756



Andy Mathers, Expedition Leader. Andy is an Explorer Scout Leader in Blackpool and has extensive experience in running international Scouting trips. Andy had overall responsibility for the trip, and was involved in all aspects of its delivery.



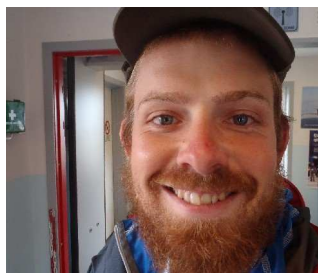
Ash Green, Deputy Leader and Head of Logistics. Responsible for all equipment and planning around getting us to our objectives safely.



Sean O'Sullivan, Head of Activities and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator. Sean has a significant back catalogue of international mountaineering experience



Chris 'Bainbo' Bainbridge put in a significant amount of work around the logistics and food teams. He not only has many years of mountaineering experience in the UK & Alps, but is a committed member of Waddecar Service Crew.



James Speakman has much experience in UK mountaineering, but this was his first trip into remote regions. He undertook and completed a wide range of training objectives for this expedition, and pushed himself in many ways through the build up. He is now testing himself on Canadas mountains!



Matt Bridges was responsible for the scientific studies on the trip and also was the driving force behind the Duke of Edinburgh expedition.



"Camp" Dan Mclean has been on several international trips with Scouting in the past. He is a member of the Scout Network in Preston and thoroughly tested himself on the Greenlandic mountains.



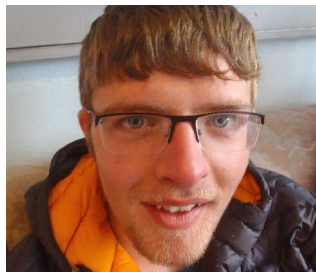
Mike Wilson has been an active mountaineer for several years, with family and through Scouting. Mike helped organise several key fundraising events which brought some significant funds into the central pot.



Lewie Greenhalgh took a lead role on the videography during the trip, and was a critical part of our post-expedition presentation



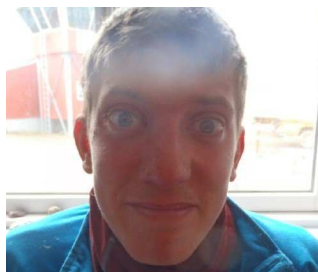
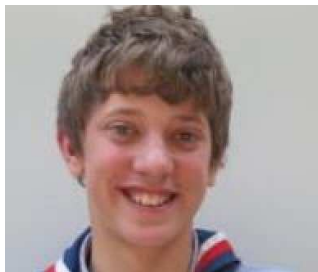
Elliot Jones is an Explorer Scout in Eclipse ESU. He (and his hair) were challenged in several ways on the expedition, and Elliot was one of the team who undertook the Duke of Edinburgh expedition.



Phil Hutchinson turned out to be our on-trip firearms expert, being a regular and proficient clay-pigeon shooter! Phil really threw himself into the mountaineering threw the whole build up, and clearly has a future in the hills!



Andrew Bithell, Explorer from Eclipse ESU. Andy threw himself into planning on the trip, and helped out in many separate planning teams. He also made a point of conducting thorough research into transport for us all.



Dan Marshall was a key part of the food group, helping plan menus, buy food, calculate portion sizes and work out who was getting what when. Dan pushed himself hard on this trip, and was one of the team on the Duke of Edinburgh expedition.



Ben Aldrige (Baldrige) has been involved on the County Mountaineering team since his mid teens, and shows no sign of stopping! Ben helped in several planning groups, and took himself to new highs on this trip!



Andy 'Blackers' Blackledge was responsible for the finance and food on the expedition - two of the biggest roles! Despite working a long way from the County, he was always able to host planning meetings and devoted many months in planning to the expedition.



Our promo shot of thanks for True Mountain, who provided our neck gaiters

With thanks to ...

A trip like this cannot possibly occur without support from a great number of people. With the size of our team, everyone needed to pull their weight - and pull they certainly did! Some young people learnt a whole lot more than simply how to climb mountains - and it is this which we were hoping to encourage within the youngsters. The opportunity to plan transport items, design the menu, raise funds, attend functions and give presentations on the teams behalf was no small matter, and greatly reduced the load on the leadership team during the planning.

We would particularly like to thank the following individuals and organisations for

assisting us in being able to deliver this expedition safely & on budget. Without this support the budget targets would have been exceeded and the expedition would not have benefitted from a unique range of individual and artisan products.

Dick Griffiths FRGS
 Chris Mosely
 Paul Walker from Tangent Expedititons
 Dr Ali Chambers (pre-event support)
 Dr Clare O'Sullivan (on-event support)
 West Lancs Scouts Major Events Group – approval, advice and financial support
 Karen Cresham & Darren Wilson – fundraising support

Sandra Sowerbutts – financial support

Dave Meddings – mapping
 Deli Charcuterie (Air dried meats)
 Dewlay Cheese (Cheese)
 Shaws Meats (dry cured bacon, salami, sausage)
 Appleseds Health Store (Nuts/dried fruits/snacks)
 Morning Foods (Porridge)
 Vesty Foods Mountain House (Dehydrated Meals)
 Truemountain.com (discounted kit & freebies!)
 Nick Wright, Mountain Trauma Rescue Services
 Andy Sherrif First Aid Training Services

Our grateful thanks go to the following trusts and organisations who provided financial assistance to the venture.

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust – expedition grant
 Gino Watkins Memorial Fund – expedition grant
 Young Explorers Trust – approval & advice
 Michael Lea, The Arctic Club – advice & publicity
 Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh – expedition grant
 Dot Ashton, Lancashire County Council – financial support

We would also like to thank those who helped us on our way and wanted to come on the trip, until other opportunities arose:

Becky (and Reiff) Green
 Matt Crozier
 Ed Thornley
 Ed the Trucker
 Dr Andy Cumpstey
 Ollie Morris
 All the parents, partners, families and supporters of the trip





This is the story of 15 souls from West Lancashire Scouts, who went to go and discover the Arctic in North-Eastern Greenland. They climbed mountains, drank the purest water, made wine, ate cake, and had a fantastic time. Many of the young people had little to no mountaineering experience when they signed up for the trip three years beforehand. This book serves to show what you can do if you put your mind to it, and what kind of opportunities both Scouting and mountaineering can offer to young people!