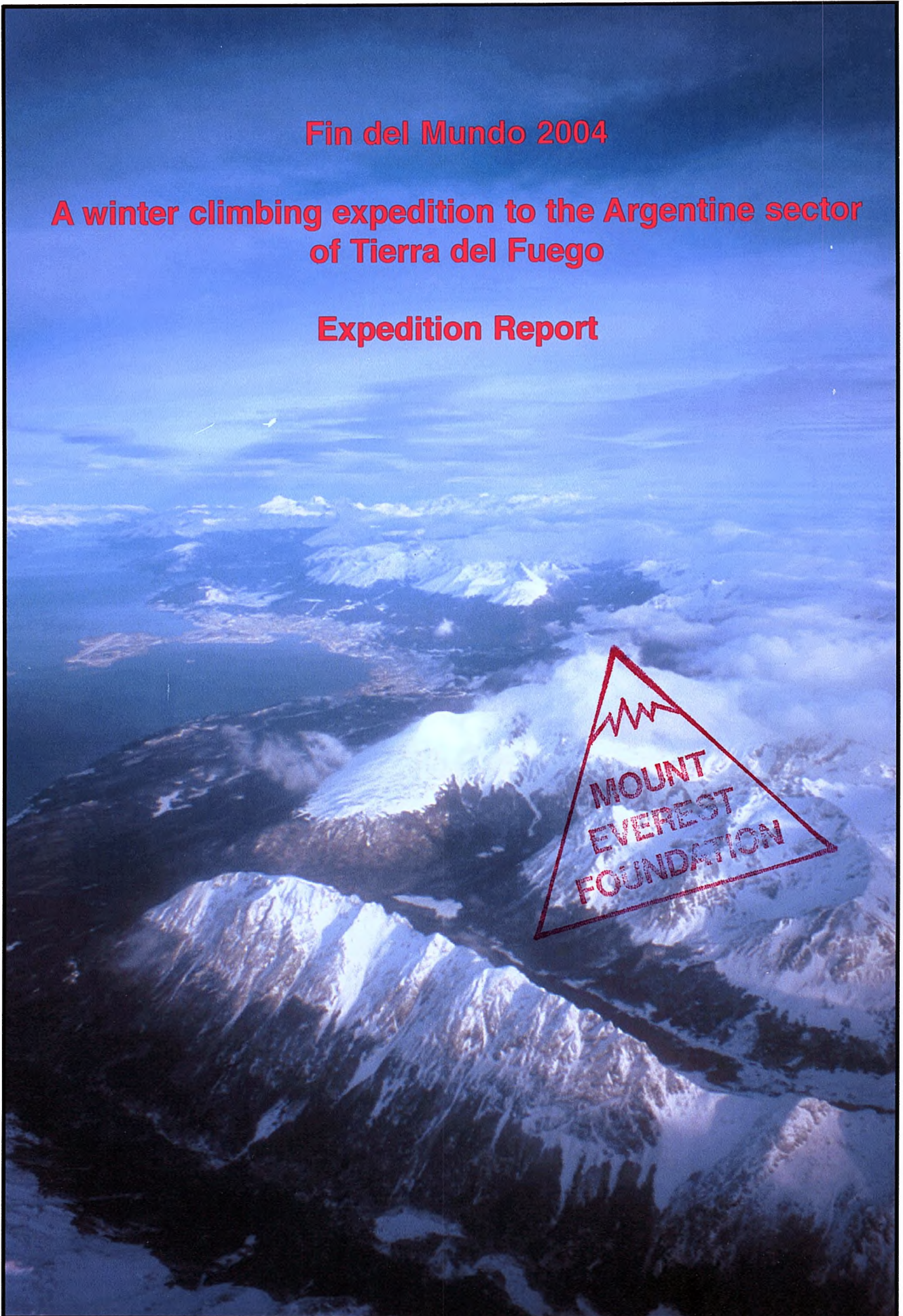


Fin del Mundo 2004

**A winter climbing expedition to the Argentine sector
of Tierra del Fuego**

Expedition Report



Fin del Mundo 2004 – a winter climbing expedition to the Argentine sector of Tierra del Fuego

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Introduction



Background to the trip

The inspiration for this expedition came during a week's visit by Colin Wells to eastern Tierra del Fuego during the Southern Hemisphere summer of February 2003. During a circuit of the Valle de Andorra in the northern hinterland of Ushuaia with two friends, a diversion was made up to a hanging valley to the foot of one of the more imposing peaks of the area, Monte Vinciguerra, with its extensively and impressively gullied South Face. It was manifestly obvious that here was a large area of poorly explored mountains with considerable scope for winter climbing.

Back in Ushuaia enquiries were made with one of the most knowledgeable mountaineers resident in Tierra del Fuego, Luis Turi. He revealed that no lines at all were recorded on the South Face of Vinciguerra, despite the fact that it was comparable in scale to Ben Nevis's north face. We were later to learn that it was not just Vinciguerra that was unexplored; in fact most of Argentine Tierra del Fuego has scarcely been touched from a climbing perspective.

That this fact is not widely known was amply demonstrated back in Britain when a well known mountain explorer who had visited the Chilean Cordillera Darwin informed Wells that the mountains in the east of TdF were: 'well known', adding dismissively: 'there is even a guidebook'.¹ We felt the incident merely emphasised the ignorance with which most climbers regard the mountains of Argentine Tierra del Fuego. There appears to be a widely held assumption that because the mountains are relatively low and appear to be close to a major settlement, they must be well explored. This is far from the truth. The extensive and often trackless forest makes penetration to the base of many hills problematic even just a few miles out of Ushuaia while the sub-Antarctic location of the island ensures that even ~~low~~ mountains at relatively modest altitudes can present a fierce challenge in winter conditions.

Instead, the mountains of Argentine Tierra del Fuego are ripe for exploratory mountaineering - and especially in winter. The sight of many low altitude waterfalls and tales of abundant snow and low temperatures in the area during the summer reconnaissance encouraged Wells in his hopes and with this in mind he resolved to return armed with ice tools in the near future. An obvious objective was to make an attempt on the impressive South Face of Vinciguerra and after showing photographs to Mary Twomey and Penny Clay (veterans of previous MEF-supported Karakorum expeditions) and Sarah Richards (an experienced Scottish winter climber and alpinist) a quorum for a small, lightweight exploratory expedition was achieved.

The plan was to attempt new ascents of low-level cascades to start with and gradually work up to a trip into the 'bush' with full sub-Antarctic camping and climbing gear, establish an advanced base camp beneath Vinciguerra's South Face gear and spend about a week attempting new routes. There appeared to be plenty of scope for alternative exploratory climbs should this prove to be stymied by weather or other logistical problems.

In fact, it was to prove the latter that would force a change of plan. With just a month to go, three of the team, Mary, Penny and Sarah were forced to withdraw from the venture due to a mixture of unforeseen domestic and work commitments. Luckily, Christine Goulding, another veteran of an MEF-supported trip (Hucho

1. The author of the so-called 'guidebook', our friend Luis Turi, on later hearing of this, laughed out loud before proclaiming that even he did not know where half the mountains were, let alone any outsiders. Luis's 'guidebook' (*Guía de Sendas y Escaladas de Tierra del Fuego*), excellent though it is, is in fact a kind of sampler of ideas for adventurous tourists and covers trekking, walking, mountain biking and wildlife watching as well as pointers towards the few established and readily accessible climbs.

Alchori 2000) was available at short notice, and joined CW to form a smaller, but still determined team. Fin del Mundo 2004 was back on!

However, it seemed unlikely that the original objective of climbing on Vinciguerra would be possible with just two members. This was not because of climbing difficulties, but rather logistical problems on the approach. Because of the likely arduousness of the approach through snow-swamped bush with few or no trails we had estimated that it would take at least two days to approach basecamp and probably the same to come out. As we were hoping to spend at least five days' climbing time we reckoned a team of four was probably the minimum to carry in the loads of a week's worth of food fuel and camping equipment, in addition to personal climbing kit. It would obviously be a struggle in the time available to try this with a team of just two.

Although we did not rule out the possibility of attempting to reach and climb on Vinciguerra, we made contingency plans. Because of the unknown nature of most of the technical terrain in the area, we were confident that we would not be short of alternative objectives which could be more easily approached with a compact team. In true exploratory climbing fashion, we decided to just turn up and make decisions based on the lay of the land and conditions.

The Outward Journey

The expedition got off to a somewhat inauspicious start. Both CG and CW managed to rendezvous as planned at Heathrow in the small hours of the morning of the 6th August. However, it soon became apparent that the booking agent had failed to confirm CW's flight and, as the flight was full, there was no room for him. CG, who had booked with another company, did have a confirmed seat. A frantic hour before departure saw CW attempting to persuade authorities to let him on the flight as part of Goulding's hand baggage but this proved fruitless. CW's booking agency did not open until 9am and so it was impossible to know when, if ever, he would be able to get on an alternative flight. CG had to take the risk that he would find a way and meet up with her in Buenos Aires within a day or so. She set off, leaving CW to spend an entire day at Heathrow Airport .²

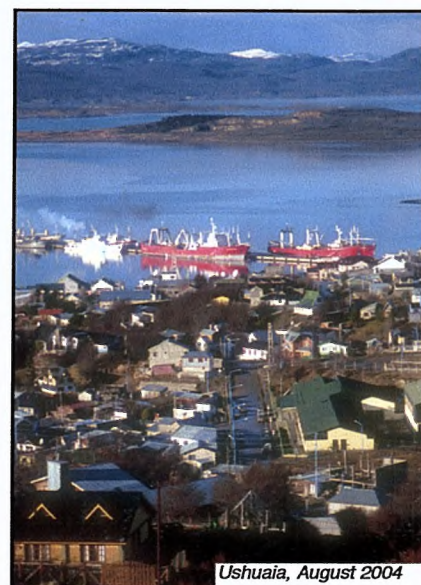
Thankfully, when contacted, the mortified booking agency pulled out all the stops. By a stroke of luck, an evening flight had a free seat. With any luck, and assuming all went according to plan, CW might succeed in making up the time to catch up with CG in time to make the connecting flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. He simply wouldn't sleep for 36 hours.

Settling in

Amazingly, the leader's luck held, and he did indeed meet up, bleary eyed, with a fresh faced and rested Goulding at the domestic aerpuerto in Buenos Aires, just in time to book in for the connecting flight south to Ushuaia.

Tierra del Fuego was clear of cloud as the aircraft approached the Beagle Channel allowing excellent views over Monte Olivia, and down the Tierra Major and Valle de Andorra and Cordon Vinciguerra. We glimpsed the distinctive South-East Face of Vinciguerra, imposing and distinctive even at this distance and altitude. Although there was plenty of snow lying on the high ground, we were surprised to find it did not descend to very low altitudes - something we had not expected.

Our friend Luis Turi, one of the few active mountaineers resident in Tierra del Fuego and a member of the *Compañía de Guías de Patagonia*, met us at the airport. He explained that the weather thus far this winter had been much warmer than average with much less snow than usual and there had also been an unusual succession of thaws ³. This not only meant the snowline was higher than normal, but it ensured that the low-level cascade exploration we had envisaged was not going to be possible on this occasion. However, every cloud has its silver lining, and the relatively low snow conditions meant any high mountain approaches were likely to be less complicated by ava-



Ushuaia, August 2004

² An experience which he can confirm is as close to a vision of hell as one can reasonably expect to encounter while still remaining on earth.

³ In fact, later during our visit the annual Tierra Major cross-country ski race was cancelled for the first time in its 20 year history because of insufficient snow at lower altitudes

lanche risk or the need for snowshoes - something which in a 'normal' winter would clearly be essential.⁴ As a consequence we immediately switched the emphasis in our planning to concentrate on higher mountain objectives. After talking to Luis and his wife Carolina - who is also an experienced mountaineer - it became clear that there were also numerous excellent alternatives to climbing on Vinciguerra. One of the most attractive was Cerro Bonete, a striking looking mountain ca. 10 miles north-east of Ushuaia. We were amazed to learn that it only had one route to its summit; that up its least technical western side. The shape-ly mountain however, boasted a very impressive looking South-East Face, which bristled with numerous lines including two obvious gully lines, and also a very attractive South-East Ridge. Even better, a wardened 'Refugio' called 'Solar del Bosque' was available for use as a 'basecamp' by the 'Ruta Tres' road which connects Ushuaia with the distant northern port of Rio Grande. From the refugio, the base of the mountain could be gained in a few hours of trail-breaking.



Juan's waterfall

Icefalls

Before all that however, we spent a few days getting 'acclimatised' to the conditions and shopping for supplies in the town. With extraordinary generosity, Luis & Carolina offered the use of a wooden bunkhouse annexe which they had built next to their house as a 'basecamp' for the duration of the trip. This we gladly availed ourselves of. Situated high up on the edge of the north-eastern part of the port, if an estate agent was to describe our bunkhouse, he probably would say that it 'benefitted' from a calor gas heater, ensuite toilet (although no door - we improved with karrimats) and a glorious view over the town and across the Beagle Channel to Islas Navarino and Hosta. We did not benefit, however, from the attentions of the vast packs of feral dogs which roam around this part of the city. Luckily, their bark was definitely worse than their bite, although it seemed foolish to emerge out of the hut unarmed and a trekking pole was generally carried at all times when walking down the roads nearby.

One of the first excursions into the 'bush' we made was to a small frozen cascade a few miles out of town called 'Juan's Waterfall' to test out equipment and make fine adjustments. A taxi (cheap and plentiful in Ushuaia) took us out of town and we arranged for a pick up just before dark. Despite the unseasonably mild winter the 25m cascade proved its reliability by being mostly well frozen and we spent an interesting few hours trying a variety of problems around Scottish 3-5 standard.

Another, bigger 30m cascade was visited with Luis Turi and his friend Sebastian at Haruwen shortly afterwards. Haruwen proved to be situated in a steep sided wooded gorge an hour's bushwhacking from the relatively new small scale ski developemnt at 'Cerro Castor', ca. 15 miles east of Ushuaia. Although the icefall was compelte, difficulties were encountered trying to get to the ice itself, since the river below was not frozen. Nevertheless, it proved possible and some interesting lines up to about Scottish V/VI were accomplished and Wells's 'Yeti' gaiters proved their worth yet again when he was pulled into the river after an unexpected tug on the rope while belaying Luis.



Goulding on Haruwen

Cerro Roy traverse

In order to finish our Tierra del Fuego 'training', we next set out to traverse the ring of spectacular rugged mountains that form a backdrop to the town of Ushuaia. After some confusing navigating through the dense

⁴ We had intended borrowina or hirina snowshoes while in TdF rather than add bulk and weight to out baooaee

woodland that starts almost as soon as Ushuaia ends, we finally broke out into a broad snow-filled valley above the abruptly truncated treeline. Gaining the ridge at a col to the north-east of Cerro Roy we were exposed to the blast of Tierra del Fuego's 'full conditions'.



Vinciguerra is revealed in a rent in the clouds

A searingly cold wind tore away at us as we began the climb up the craggy ridge to the broad summit of Roy in thick mist and we began to accumulate hoar crystals on our clothing. Once on the flatter summit we were caught by a furious snowstorm with gusts that made it difficult to keep one's footing. After ten minutes of attempting to shelter behind a very small pile of stones, our eyelashes began to freeze our eyelids shut and an ominous cold began to seep into our feet and hands. It was clear that we would have to move soon or we were going to risk a very real chance of hypothermia, despite our excellent clothing. While blindly attempting to retrace out now buried footprints, the mist suddenly tore open, pulled aside by giant forces unseen and a dazzling vista of the moun-

tains to the north was revealed. The Cordon Vinciguerra took centre stage, but white shining mountains sprouted in all directions. The wind also moderated slightly, and we elected to continue and try to complete the circuit after all. However, after descending the steep and exposed south-west slopes of Cerro Roy some large evil black clouds began advancing rapidly and the wind resumed its assault. We cut short the traverse and descended into the shelter of a broad valley between Roy and Cerro Godoy which eventually led to the Glaciar Martial access road. The day had been a salutary lesson in the sudden extremes which the weather in this part of the world could throw at you out of the blue. It may have been a warmer than usual year, but our day had been a reminder that we were still operating in a sub-Antarctic winter.



Goulding is battered by the storm

We now felt ready for a longer trip into the real mountains to attempt some pioneering. Luis and Carolina kindly gave us a lift and dropped us off at Solar del Bosque refugio. Here we spent a day sorting provisions and gear, and reconnoitring the approach to Cerro Bonete in anticipation of some exploratory climbing. The attractive-looking South-East Face of the mountain could be examined through binoculars in the clear weather and it looked as if a major gully line splitting it might 'go'.

Negra's Gully

Early on the morning of 15th August we set off to break trail through deep snow towards the base of the south face of Bonete. The going was easy through the initial forest, which had a trail cut through it, but once on the trackless open slopes above it became very slow as the snow was piled into sometimes thigh deep drifts. Eventually we struck out onto wind-blasted upper slopes with hard snow ice where we donned crampons and began to make quick progress. Even so, it had taken a good four hours to cover three miles.



Cerro Bonete SE Face

The SE Face of Cerro Bonete forms a magnificent slanting mass of rock not dissimilar in certain respects to the east face of Lliwedd in Snowdonia. Just right of centre it is split by a prominent couloir. The first 150ft or so comprised steep, albeit straightforward snow. Climbing this section was complicated however, by the fact that 'Negra', the dog belonging to the owner of the Solar del Bosque refugio, possessed a mountaineering bent,

and had joyfully bounded after us on our pre-dawn start. The dog was now spiritedly climbing up the gully between us, occasionally slipping down and narrowly avoiding being impaled on an ice axe. It soon found itself in a position where its enthusiasm had overtaken its undoubted competence and by the look in the mutt's eyes it clearly felt it might be easier to go on than face a steep and hairy descent. Unfortunately we had reached a series of technical ice pitches and, as we possessed no spare harness, were compelled to persuade our cramponless canine friend to descend. Regretfully this required hurling the hapless animal back down the gully, since it was clearly reluctant to descend voluntarily. We felt bad of course, but it was for the beast's own good. Even so, the sight of the poor dog's pleading eyes looking upwards as it careered hindmost, starting a small avalanche as it hurtled back down after a hefty shove was somewhat heartbreaking. Still, it surfed out of the powder when the angle eased, shook itself and, after hanging around for half an hour, trotted off back down to the valley none the worse for its ignominious ejection.



'Negra' the snow-dog

With the distraction of the dog behind us we turned our attention to the job in hand. The gully narrowed to a shallow vee-slot with very shallow (ca.1 inch) ice which was only about a foot wide. A series of three such steepenings, interspersed by deeper unconsolidated snow were climbed in one pitch. Fortunately good rock and peg protection was found beneath each crux on



Negra's Gully

the left rock wall. A large spike belay was discovered on the left of the gully above.

The next pitch followed steep, unconsolidated snow with a rock belay on the right wall. A huge chockstone lay above, forming an arch. CW precariously edged up through the arch, taking care to avoid brushing the enormous mass of rock perched seemingly ready to trundle over the top of his head. Just beyond lay steepening snow which gave out onto a steep slab with no protection. Although easy ground was visible only ca. 30ft above leading to the south-east ridge of the mountain no further progress could be made. With only 2 hours' daylight remaining plus several hundred feet of unknown terrain remaining above once the SE ridge was gained, the decision was regretfully made to downclimb and abseil back to the base. This we achieved successfully, making it back to Solar del Bosque an hour or so after dark, where the guardian met us half a



Emerging above the crux of Negra's Gully



Heading toward the chockstone

mile from the refugio on his skiddoo, being worried by the fact that 'Negra' had returned several hours previously on his own.

The South-East Ridge

After a day's rest, timed to perfection as high winds and cloud scoured the area, the weather improved once more and set off back up to the mountain on the 17th with the intention of tackling the fine looking North



Goulding on the lower section of the SE Ridge

East Ridge. Thanks to the previously broken trail, we regained base of the south-east face this time in just two hours. The South-East Ridge proved to be a fairly sustained route, weaving its way around outcrops of generally poor rock. The initial section proved deceptively tricky, with winding gully lines being followed on poor snow in between mini-buttresses. After a brief section of easier ground and with the exposure steadily increasing, at about two-thirds up the ridge the terrain suddenly narrowed to a narrow arete. A perfect knife edge snow crest only an inch or so wide with big drops either side formed a classic *mauvais pas*. To the south lay the gaping maw of the top of 'Negra's Gully' and to the north

racing away to boulder-strewn and craggy ground in a subsidiary valley. Wells led out to the knife-edge arete and, just when most committed in the middle of it and with only a poor snow bollard as a runner - the rope went taut. Communication was difficult as Goulding was belayed out of sight round a rock buttress. Wells retreated to the beginning of the arete and placed a deadman belay. Goulding then climbed through and, with the aid of 'a cheval' tactics succeeded in breaching the impasse. This crux section lay just above the exit from 'Negra's' Gully and, peering down, we could see that if the final 30-ft or so of tricky ground could be forced, the exit onto the SE Ridge should be straight-forward. We noted that there was a possible alternative mixed chimney line which might also go to the left.



Goulding reaches the end of the snow arete

The final steep slopes of the SE Ridge to the summit of Bonete were turned by exposed snow ledges to the right. We topped out to a developing gale which strung the rope out taut and horizontal as we picked out way to the summit rocks before making a very rapid descent down the technically easy west ridge and thence back to a celebratory beer at Solar Del Bosque. It just went to show what you could do if you made sure you tied the dog up...



Goulding on Bonete's summit



The penultimate pitch of the NE Ridge

Cinco Hermanos Icefall

We returned to Ushuaia for a few days rest before our next excursion. This comprised a plan to make the second ascent of a very attractive looking icefall that poured from a hanging valley splitting the NW cliffs of a mountain range know as the 'Cinco Hermanos', which lie to the east of Ushuaia. A few springs ago Luis Turi had made the only ascent of this sizeable cascade, which drew the eye from everywhere in the town. One of the major problems was access, since the approach entailed an arduous walk through a densely wooded valley, the Velo de Novia, which contained few tracks. Luis explained there was a vague animal track which we could follow up the north side of a river but in the event we were to soon lose this indistinct feature. The result was a frustrating and extremely exhausting day arduously bushwhacking to the upper end of the forest. Here we pitched the tent and CW ascended steep snowslopes above the wood to check out the state of the cascade. In the last light of the day he observed that there was quite a lot of debris falling down the route from snowslopes above but hoped that after a good night's freeze and an early start the risk would be moderated.



Cinco Hermanos Icefall

During the night it drizzled and the temperature remained well above freezing. Nevertheless, with the optimism born from many seasons in Scotland, we set out at first light in thick mist following CW's tracks of the night before and had gone a few hundred feet when several a large rocks came cascading down the slopes, narrowly missing us. It was clear the conditions were going to be unsafe and so we regrettably retreated back to the tent and thence back down through the terrible bush to the road-head.

Unfortunately, the long awaited snows of the winter chose to arrive during our final

few days in Tierra del Fuego as Ushuaia was battered by a succession of frontal systems that brought high winds and blizzard conditions. Any hopes for a return to the Cinco Hermanos icefall, or a large icefall on

Cerro Alvear which we had also hoped to climb, were scuppered by high avalanche risk and waist deep drifts in the mountains. We were confined to barracks for much of the time, punctuated by brief forays outside to fend off the packs of pariah dogs in the swirling snows. The importance of having the use of a warm, solid hut as basecamp in the TdF winter was particularly emphasised.



Nevertheless, we felt quite satisfied with our exploratory successes in this wonderful climbing country and now felt confident that it holds considerable potential for further winter climbing opportunities. On our final day in TdF the weather relented at last and we took the opportunity to take a boat ride on the Beagle Channel which afforded spectacular views of the mountains further down the coast and an opportunity to scope out further climbing objectives using binoculars.

We returned to the UK via Buenos Aires, fortunately without a repeat of the travel glitches encountered on the outward journey.

Expedition Diary

- August 6th Christine flies from Heathrow; Colin belatedly follows 12 hours later
- 7th Expedition members reunited in Buenos Aires. Fly to Ushuaia.
- 9th Ice climbing at 'Juan's Waterfall'
- 11th Ice climbing at Haruwen Waterfall
- 13th Traverse of Cerro Roy ridge; hit by storm
- 14th Move to Solar del Bosque
- 15th Attempt on SE Face of Cerro Bonete; climbed 'Negra's Gully'
- 17th Climbed SE Ridge of Cerro Bonete
- 18th Return to Ushuaia
- 20th Depart for Cerro Cinco Hermanos to attempt '5 Brothers' Icefall
- 21st Stonefall dictates retreat from icefall
- 22-25th Severe storms hit area
- 26th Reconnaissance of possible future objectives from Beagle Channel
- 27th Fly to Buenos Aires
- 28th Fly back to UK

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people and organisations who helped us in this venture:

The British Mountaineering Council & Mount Everest Foundation for grant aiding the expedition.

Luis Turi and Carolina Etchagoyan for their extraordinary generosity and help during our stay in Ushuaia.

Alexandro the owner and the guardian of 'Solar del Bosque' for help and hospitality

Appendix 1

General background information for climbing expeditions to Argentine Tierra del Fuego

Supplies

At the time of writing Ushuaia boasts four supermarkets, two medium sized ones on the western outskirts of the town, one medium one on the eastern side and also one in the far eastern industrial part of the town which is very big. All remain open 6 days a week (Mon-Sat) and the large one which also stays open on Sunday. Virtually all food supplies required for away trips are abundantly available in these shops.

Fuel for MSR stoves (known locally as 'solvente') is also available at a hardware store in the town. Camping gaz is available at the town's rather poorly stocked climbing shop, but 'Epigas' (or equivalent) is hard to find. The best bet is to arrange to procure some from Luis Turi, who keeps a private supply for The Compania.

Internal travel

Prepare to pay excess baggage on internal flights between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia of around 4 Argentine Pesos/kg. The internal allowance of 20kg is inadequate when carrying mountaineering and camping equipment. The application of this, however, as so often with airlines, appears to be fickle and we were not charged on the return flight despite carrying exactly the same amount of kit.

Taxis are abundant and cheap and are usually willing to take passengers a long way out of the urban area and along the N91 to drop off points to gain access to the mountainous hinterland. With careful panning, it is therefore not necessary to hire a car, which could prove relatively expensive, although this is certainly possible with at least two car hire businesses in the town.

Other suggestions for future expeditions

A VHF radio might be useful, or possibly a satellite 'phone when away from basecamp. The hinterland of Tierra del Fuego is extremely wild and trackless and the chances of being quickly located in the event of accident are remote.

Weather conditions

The weather was much warmer than average and consequently we suffered from a series of thaws. This ensured that low-level cascade exploration was not possible on this occasion. However, every cloud has its silver lining, and the relatively low snow conditions meant the high mountain approaches were less complicated by avalanche risk or the need for snowshoes. In a 'normal' winter the latter would clearly be essential.

As it was, approaches still required considerable energy-sapping trail-breaking, while forest sections were a complete nightmare if one found oneself unfortunate enough to lose the trail.

General information on mountaineering

Anyone thinking of making a trip to climb in Tierra del Fuego should contact the main authority on recent development, Señor Luis Turi at the Compañía de Guías. Turi has been responsible for most of the modern alpine, ice and mixed climbing development in the last five years and is currently working on a history of climbing in the islands.

Luis Turi
Compañía de Guías de Patagonia
Gobernador Campos 795
(9410) Ushuaia
Tierra del Fuego
Argentina
Tel 02901 437753
luisturi@yahoo.com

Appendix 2

Equipment

General notes:

Detailed below is a kitlist of technical equipment which was used during the expedition. Personal preferences obviously dictate variations on similar themes, although we found that every single item listed was found to be useful, if not essential, at some part of the trip.

It is perhaps also worth making some general points about specific pieces of equipment. 'Yeti' - type rubber randed overgaiters proved indispensable in the soggy terrain of Tierra del Fuego. With many bogs and swampy areas, it is inevitable that one is going to plunge through gloop to at least knee level at some point on approaches to climbs. We effectively carried out a controlled experiment on the trip, with one of us (CW) using 'Yetis' and the other (CG) conventional gaiters. The Yeti wearer remained smugly dryshod and warm for the duration of the entire trip, while the other, frustratingly, did not.

Similarly, plastic boots are probably a good idea for the same reasons. Although the difficulty and arduousness of approaches through frequently trackless boggy woodland would undoubtedly be more comfortably accomplished with modern lightweight-style fabric mountain boots, the extremely moist general conditions ensure that drying such footwear adequately is probably impossible when camping. Plastic boots equipped with overgaiters, however, proved resistant to the wet conditions, and the inner boots were able to be adequately dried in between climbs.

A GPS is very useful indeed, especially given the often dense forested areas one has to traverse, and satellite cover is adequate for accurate readings. However, no map grid currently exists for this part of Argentina and so it is necessary to navigate by reference to the trickier to assess latitude and longitude readings.

Similarly, mapping is poor (substantial areas have still to receive any accurate mapping at all). The best map currently available at the time of writing was a new publication based loosely on satellite imagery at a scale of 1:50 000 with 40m contour lines which was widely available in several shops for around £7 in Ushuaia (Ushuaia Trekking Map, Zagier & Urrity Publications; info@zagier.com). This still needed to be used with caution however, as it was unclear how accurate the reproduction of the satellite image was in various places and the contours appeared to be of the 'for guidance only' variety.

In terms of the climbing, the normal equipment employed when climbing continental water-ice routes was suitable for the pure ice routes encountered. A typical 'Scottish' mixed rack proved to be suitable for the alpine routes climbed. Pegs and rocks were especially useful on the frequent sections of poor rock encountered. One of us used a pair of monopoint crampons, while the other chose bipoints. No appreciable advantage appeared to accrue to either design on the terrain climbed and both performed admirably. Standard modern but not overly technical ice axes (DMM Fly and Black Diamond) were ideal for tackling everything encountered from steep water ice through to torquing cracks on alpine terrain.

Technical Kit list for 2 person expedition

Ropes x2 (50m 9mm)

rack: 7 ice screws, 1 set rocks, small selection of medium sized camming devices, 3 slings, selected pegs, extenders, Abalakov hooker, Deadman.

helmets

plastic boots + Yeti gaiters

technical mountaineering rucksac (50-65l)

technical ice axes

crampons

harnesses

trekking poles

GPS

sunglasses

abseil 'tat'

thick socks

compass/whistle

headtorches

spare batteries
camera & spare battery
film
fleece jacket
duvet jacket
thermal base layer vests
thermal hat or balavclava
gloves
mitts
salopettes
waterproof jacket
4-season tent
Thermarest
Karrimat
Gaz stove
Lighters
Eating utensils + plate + mug + water container ('Platypus' bladder type)
Swiss Army Knife
gaffer tape
4 season sleeping bag
dry bags
file
(n.b. In a 'normal' season, snowshoes will also be necessary)

Maps/Books

Ushuaia 1:50,000 Trekking Map
Zagier & Urrity Publications
PO Box 94 Suc. 19-C1419ZAA
Buenos Aires
Info@zagier.com
Zagier@ciudad.com.ar

Patagonia Sur, Tierra del Fuego, Costa a Costa
1:1,000,000
Zagier & Urrity Publications
PO Box 94 Suc. 19-C1419ZAA
Buenos Aires
Info@zagier.com
Zagier@ciudad.com.ar

Guia de Sendas & Escaladas de Tierra del Fuego
Luis Turi
3rd edition 2002
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Solar del Bosque Refugio
Alexandro



Ruta Nac N.3 Km 3020

Ushuaia

Tierra del Fuego

Argentina

solardelbosque@tierradelfuegg.org.ar

Appendix 3

Accounts

Income:

Grant from MEF:	£150.00
Grant from BMC:	£650
Members' contributions:	£2038.53

Total income: £2838.53

Expenditure:

Travel & transport:

2 return airfares: London-Buenos Aires:	£1500.00	
2 return airfares: Buenos Aires-Ushuaia:	£474.76	
+ excess baggage:	£25.00	
Local buses & taxis:	£47.38	
Boats:	£25.59	
	<u>£2072.73</u>	2072.73

Food

Food from stores/hotels/cafes etc: £188.17

Other supplies

'Solvente' MSR Fuel:	£5.00	
Epigas:	£10.00	
Maps:	£7.25	
Washing supplies:	£3.47	
	<u>£213.89</u>	£213.89

Accommodation (Hotels, etc.)

Tierra del Fuego:	£220.00	
Buenos Aires:	£61.00	
	<u>£281.00</u>	£281.00

Other costs

Members' insurance:	£215.00	
Costs of money handling (exchange etc):	£28.83	
Supplementary Airport tax (Ushuaia):	£4.74	
Supplementary Airport tax (Buenos Aires):	£22.34	
	<u>£270.91</u>	£270.91

Total expenditure: £2838.53

Notes on Expenditure

1) Equipment costs do not appear here (except for the £15.00 stove fuel expenditure). Most of the mountaineering equipment was loaned by the members. Members also purchased various additional items of personal gear for the trip, but these are not shown in the accounts.

Appendix 4

New route descriptions

The SE Ridge of Cerro Bonete. ('British Route'). AD. 300m

1st ascent: C.Wells & C.Goulding (alt) 17.08.04

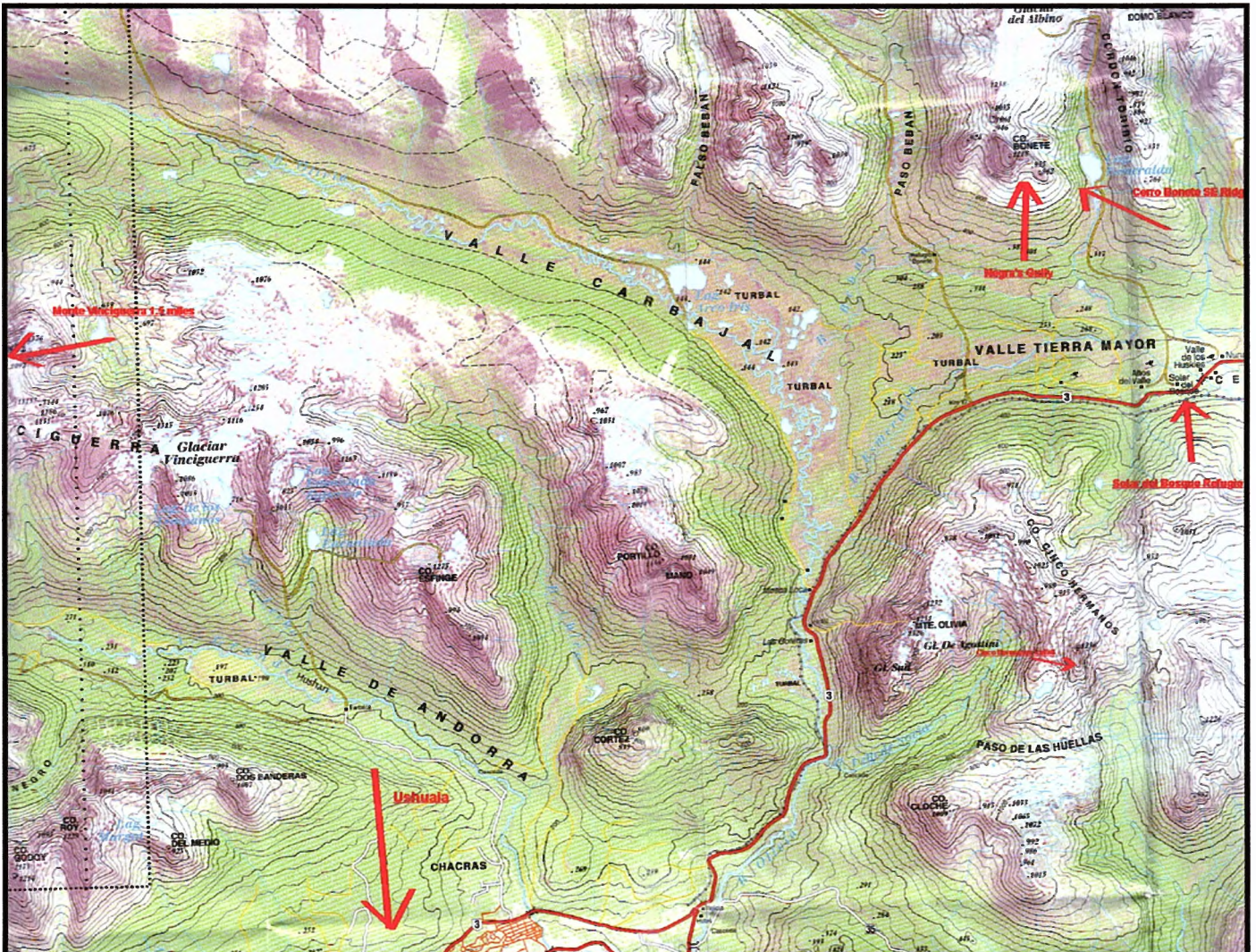
A fairly sustained route, which weaves around outcrops of generally poor rock. The ridge narrows to a knife edge arete at about 2/3 height which necessitated both a deadman belay & 'a cheval' tactics. The final steep slopes to the summit were turned by exposed snow ledges to the right.

'Negra's gully'. Scottish Grade 3/4 (1st partial ascent of the SE Face of Cerro Bonete)

C.Wells & C.Goulding (& Negra, 1st pitch) 15.08.04

The SE Face of Cerro Bonete forms a magnificent slanting mass of rock not dissimilar in certain respects to the east face of Lliwedd. Just right of centre it is split by a prominent couloir. The first 150ft or so comprised steep, unconsolidated snow until the gully narrowed and steepened into a series of thinly iced chockstones. Good rock with cracks on the left wall provided peg and rock runners to protect a series of tenuous moves on very thin ice over the bulges. Above, the gully lay back and a stance was taken on a ledge on the left beneath a rock wall. A further rope-length on Grade 2 snow leads to an enormous chockstone which forms an arch over the top of the route. A belay was taken on the right on poor slabby snow and ice. The high point was reached just beyond the chockstone where the ground steepened and the snow became excessively poor and unconsolidated. Despite easy ground being only perhaps 30-ft or so above, the rock beneath was extremely loose and there was no prospect of runners, so the route was reversed and abseiled from here.

**Appendix 5
Location maps**



Plates

1. Christine Goulding on the initial slopes of the SE Ridge of Cerro Bonete
2. Goulding tackles the first steep section of the ridge via a series of ramps
3. Tierra Major valley, an area of bog and southern beech forests traversed on the approach to Bonete
4. Descending from the top of *Negra's Gully*, Bonete SE Face. The giant Damoclean chockstone can be seen wedged high above the climber
5. Cerro Bonete, showing the South Face and SE Ridge
6. Ushuaia under snow as blizzards hit the area in the final days of the trip
7. Christine Goulding belaying high on the SE Ridge of Cerro Bonete
8. Monte Olivia, an impressive ~~and~~ ^{peak} just east of Ushuaia with only two routes up it

