

## **British 2005 Machermo Expedition Final Report**

### Objective:

To climb a new route on the north face of Machermo Peak 6100m in Nepal's Kumbu region, this is a 1000m face to the South of the first of the Gokyo lakes reached from the village of Machermo. The ascent was made in alpine style in a team of 2 carrying all equipment and without the use of fixed ropes or climbing sherpas.

### Outcome:

After setting up a high bivvi under the face (having used a local porter to help with the kit) the team taking everything with them made a 3am start on the face. On the lower slopes the snow was found to be a wind slab crust with deep sugar snow beneath. Safe progress was made by using seams of rock and the rope. Once the point above the guarding rock barrier was reached a long and arduous traverse in waist deep snow was made. Four hundred metres across the face, having passed other couloir lines, the point at which our planned route (a vaguely joined up couloir that ran in a diagonal line back across the face to reach the summit) was reached. Some upward progress was made, but after 500m of climbing and not a sniff of useable snow/ice the attempt was deemed pointless (trying to climb an ice couloir with no ice in it). After deciding not to rappel the rock barrier we traversed back and down climbed the way we had come.

### Duration:

The attempt was made on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### Finances:

An award of £1100 was received from the BMC.

Flights to Kathmandu- £585

Flight to Lukla - \$190

Machermo peak fee - \$500

Island Peak (Adventure Peaks permit) fee - £40 each

Agent fee - \$50

Park fees - 1000 rupees each

Cost of tea houses in Kumbu – 30000 rupees each

Cost of climbing food -1954 rupees

Total cost of trip for both climbers:

Agent: Himalayan Guides

### Travel:

We used Gulf Airlines to travel from London to Kathmandu then Sitar Airlines to travel to Lukla. Once at Lukla, porters were used to carry out kit up the valley. Two porters were needed to carry our bags up to Namche Bazar where the technical climbing kit was stored. Then one porter was needed for our acclimatisation phase on Island Peak. Once in the Machermo phase, two more porters were used to carry bags to Machermo village. Yaks were used on the return journey.

### Climbing details:

From Machermo village the descent on the South side of the mountain route was recied in one day. Then after a packing and planning day a sherpa was employed to help carry kit to the bottom of the face the following day. A bivvi was made in the moraines with view to starting the climbing early the following morning. The plan was to climb the face in under 3 days, thus 3.5 days food was taken on the route.

### Further potential:

Under good icy conditions the face offers potential new lines of a high standard from the centre of the face across the left side. These seem to be discontinuous ice runnels probably linked with steep rock or mixed sections.

This expedition report is free for the benefit of others conducting research for future expeditions.

