

# Wall<sub>to</sub>Wall

2 0 1 4



## Expedition Report

Fox Jaw Cirque, Trillingerne, East Greenland  
7th July - 14th August 2014

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# Contents

Summary .....	3
Objectives .....	3
Travel / Transport .....	3
Equipment .....	4
Accommodation .....	4-5
Food .....	5
First Aid Kit .....	5
Injuries .....	5
Weather .....	5
Water .....	6
Wildlife .....	6
Communications .....	6
Insurance .....	6
Funding .....	7
Sponsorship .....	7
Costs .....	7
Maps .....	7
Route Topos .....	8-9
Research .....	9
Photographs .....	10-16
Conclusion .....	17
Appendix 1 - Group kit .....	18
Appendix 2 - Food .....	19
Appendix 3 - Costs .....	20
Appendix 4 - Topo Image & details description of new routes .....	21-23
Appendix 5 - Article for MCofS and AAJ .....	24-25

## Summary

This expedition was an opportunity to show what lies hidden amongst the glaciers of East Greenland. Fox Jaw Cirque is a place where you are temporarily disengaged from reality allowing you to focus on the climbing which is surprisingly accessible. It was these optimal conditions which made it possible to achieve FAs during the time the expedition team was based in the area.

## Objectives

1. Successfully establish new routes on Fox Jaw Cirque taking the fast and light approach.
2. Repeat 2-3 routes established by previous expeditions to the area.
3. Through team work and common goals, ascend unclimbed peaks which make up Fox Jaw Cirque. Climb and live as a team, encouraging and inspiring team members to push their limits and be the best they can be in this unique environment and having minimum impact on nature and the rock.

## Travel / Transport

Flying from Scotland you can get direct flights to Reykyavik, however make sure you book early to avoid the price hike. Four members flew via London and one via Birmingham, the return journey was direct back into Glasgow.

### Edinburgh - London

Our Edinburgh flight was delayed which meant timing was very tight. Sion went straight through security and made the flight; Robert, Pat and Cath were delayed going through security and missed the connecting flight. A night spent at the hotel then an early morning to find the luggage at Heathrow before getting our rescheduled early afternoon flight. Helpful ground staff and a couple of hours later we had all the luggage including Sion's which they said was on the flight...

It would be wise to avoid Heathrow T5!

### London - Reykyavik

Flight arrived into Reykyavik, from here we used one of the regular shuttle buses that are conveniently timed to coincide with the flights. Travel time is approximately 40mins from airport to city centre with a few hotel drop off points enroute.

### Reykyavik - Kulusuk

Finally our final flight to Greenland. There are two flights in and two flights out every day to this tiny island on the East coast with a population of less than 300. We arrived on the morning flight, our excess baggage did not. Thankfully it arrived on the afternoon flight.

After the delays of flights and baggage we were unable to confirm a time that we would be ready for our boat transfer up the Fjord. Several phone calls later we had confirmation and were collected from the village harbour at 1730hrs.

### Kulusuk - Kua Valley

A speedy trip up the Fjord placed us in good time arriving at the drop off point for around 1845hrs. We disembarked with a high tide and quickly sorted gear and food ready for our first carry up the valley.

### Kua Valley - Kulusuk

We camped overnight in the Kua Valley with our last load aiming to arrive on Sunday in plenty of time for our pick up at 6pm. The black fly were out in abundance and head nets were a necessity unless you planned on eating them for dinner. A leisurely start the next morning with our last walk down the remaining section of the valley to arrive at our pick up point at 1:30pm. Enough time to start feasting on our stash of biscuits when our boat arrived at 2pm! Lucky for us we quickly loaded the boat and headed back to Kulusuk. The return trip was rougher than the first and took longer too. We arrived back in Kulusuk at approximately 4:30pm which was enough time to get our bags up to the airport before it closed for the day. We stored some excess baggage there ready for our impending departure.

## Equipment

Each team member carried their own personal kit plus individual climbing rack in their own luggage allowance. The group kit required for the expedition was sent via freight using Allways Freight Ltd who are affiliated with Iceland Air and based in London.

We did not have the option of sending freight by sea as the team had not been finalised in time for this to be logistically possible.

Details of the group kit are listed in *Appendix 1* and below is an outline of what was used in base camp.

### Tents

We each had our own individual tent for sleeping and we used a HiGear 4 man tent as our group tent for meals on colder nights and for socialising in the evenings away from the dreaded mosquitos and kamakaze eye flies.

### Stoves

Two stoves were used for cooking in base camp; one MSR DragonFly and one MSR WhisperLite. For bivis there was one MSR Pocket Rocket and one Jetboil. All fuel was purchased in Greenland from Peroni Tuning. We allowed for 1 litre/day for the team, we did not use the daily allowance allocated and used even less when the team became four. We used EN14 screw top canisters for the bivi nights. The fuel supplied was good quality and clean. The Dragonfly performed substantially better and more efficiently over the course of the expedition and required far less maintenance than the WhisperLite.

### Cooking

Two large pots and one frying pan were used for the majority of the cooking while a 1.5 litre Primus Eta pot was used as a kettle, this proved to be very efficient for the task. An array of general cooking utensils were useful and made cooking much easier as most meals were cooked from scratch rather than dehydrated packet meals.

### Emergency Equipment

Given the nature of the environment the team carried a rifle just in case; no polar bears were sighted over the five week period. We also had three flares but again these were not required.

### Other

Duct tape as always is a handy piece of kit, sponges for washing dishes and they burn easily in the rubbish when they're done. Plenty of lighters for lighting stoves and burning rubbish including toilet roll.

### Useful & 'nice to have' Equipment

Puzzle books; Cath was the Sudoku queen and Simon the Crossword king. Also one deck of cards and a game of Uno which passed the time in the group tent in the evenings.

## Accommodation

### Reykjavik

In Reykjavik Cath, Robert and Pat stayed at the Salvation Army Hostel in the city centre. Simon dossed at the airport and Sion stayed in the hotel adjacent to the airport at great expense; hoping that Cath, Robert and Pat might have been on the next flight not knowing why they had missed the connection in London.

On the return trip Cath, Sion & Simon stayed at the YHA in the centre of downtown Reykjavik. It has happy hour in the early evening where the beer is cheap and the atmosphere is chilled and social atmosphere in the bar and lounge area.

### Kulusuk

There is not much in Kulusuk apart for an expensive hotel for tourists and a small hostel with showers. While waiting for the rest of the team Simon and Sion camped in the hills halfway between the airport and the village; water was sourced from the village dam. On our return journey we camped on the bay approximately 1 mile from the airport east of the airport harbour. By mid August the nights were extremely cold and sounds of icebergs calving in the bay could be heard from our tents at night. A water source located on the other side of the airport was easily accessible after 1700hrs when the airport was closed for day.



## **Base Camp**

Tents were pitched on the first night on the flat ground of the valley floor. After a recce by Sion in the morning it was decided to move base camp a further 20 minute walk closer to the base of the Fox Jaw Cirque. Sion discovered evidence of a previous base camp site underneath the largest boulder in the valley. Rocks had been arranged to form a table and seating perfect for a base camp kitchen. Tents were pitched two uphill and three downhill of the boulder and the group tent between the boulder and the fresh water source. The main water source was about 10 metres away from the kitchen area and in the afternoons another stream only a few feet from the kitchen began to flow. This second flow was cleaner than the main water source and was preferred for drinking.

## **Hut**

Overlooking the Karale Glacier system the hut is maintained by Hans Christian Florian who lives in Tasiilaq. The hut is well equipped and has both style beds with mattresses, there was also a couple of old sleeping bags for bedding, however this shouldn't be relied upon and your own sleeping bag is recommended. There is a stove and fire in the hut but the stove wouldn't connect properly so we used our own pocket rocket. The hut is used by hikers and ski tourers in the appropriate seasons. Also a few metres from the hut is the outside "dunny", if the door is open then it's occupied so you can sit and enjoy the amazing view! It is advised that you email Hans before using the hut. [emailflorian@greenet.gl](mailto:emailflorian@greenet.gl)

## **Bivi**

A combination of bivi bags, bivi tent and the hut were used when away from base camp.

## **Food**

For a comprehensive list of food please see Appendix 2. After much discussion it was decided to use dehydrated meals for nights away from base camp only and for time in base camp to cook proper meals. This proved to be a satisfying strategy and provided enough energy for the team with their voracious appetites. There was plenty for everyone although getting it from the food cache was a gruelling day of 7-8 hours hiking over moraines and through bog or glacial rivers.

## **First Aid Kit**

The first aid kit was a standard expedition kit with added extras specifically for use in remote environments such as antibiotics and strong painkillers along.

When away from base camp each team member took with them a basic personal first aid kit to treat any minor injuries immediately.

## **Injuries**

The most serious injury was on the 25/07/14, Simon Smith who fell approximately 20ft onto a ledge 10 pitches up on the Incisor formation. With help from Sion Brocklehurst and Ibuprofen they repelled the 10 pitches back down before meeting Robert Durran on the scree slopes for further assistance to carry equipment back down to camp.

On 20/07/14 Pat Ingram suffered grazing to the chest and lower leg after a rock fall incident during the abseil off of a non climbable line on Cavity Ridge.

## **Weather**

The team was lucky enough to have consistent weather for most of the expedition. Only two days of rain were experienced and this was not heavy neither were they full days of rain.

The first two weeks we were unsure about what the clouds would do when it was low and hung for much of the day. Sometimes it would dissipate leaving the skies clear. This put off climbing teams from doing alpine starts early in the morning as we did not get weather reports there was a little uncertainty if this cloud would amass to a storm; arctic or otherwise.

Over time we got used to the surrounding weather patterns and were able to make better decisions about climbing days and rest days.

## Water

There was no shortage of fresh water throughout the valley and we were always close to a water source which did not require any filtering before drinking. This includes the arduous 4 hour walk from drop to base camp and the walk to the hut. Up on the Fox Jaw the team was reduced to one source from a small stream at the top of the scree slope which was not always flowing regardless of the time of day. For this reason we carried water from base camp for climbing most of the time.

## Wildlife

There were numerous birds in the area along with gulls nearer to the Fjord itself. Some of the birds near our base camp are listed below:

Snow Bunting

Canada Geese (only in the last week)

Rock Ptarmigan

Wheatear

Raven (they were very big and loud)

Lapland Longspur (maybe?)

Arctic Fox were also in the area with one making regular visits to our kitchen at night leaving evidence behind each time. We hung our rubbish high so the fox couldn't rummage and make a mess of the area.

## Communications

One SatPhone was used to report back to the UK and with Peroni Tuning to arrange boats pick up times. Four walkie talkies were used for communication between base camp and climbing teams.

## Insurance

This was one of the trickier aspects of the logistics to get sorted. Initial thoughts were that this would be a reasonably quick if not expensive task to finalise, however upon further investigation of fine print and phone calls to numerous insurance companies there were in fact very few options.

Many companies do not cover arctic regions even though our particular destination was not technically in the arctic circle for insurance purposes it was. For the few that did cover Greenland they did not cover technical rock climbing.

So in short it was climbing but not arctic or arctic but not technical climbing.

These were our options...

1/ BMC £934 per person

2/ Combine Global Rescue with the with EH11 card. (NB: Global Rescue do not provide a search service.)

As a team we decided to go for option 2, ideally for a hassle free all-in-one insurance option 1 would have been nice, however the cost difference was significant.

We do not think that Global Rescue would be suitable for all expeditions as noted above they do not offer a search service it is rescue only. If their rescue service is called upon it clearly defines in their T & C's and confirmed by a phone call that you must provide them with accurate GPS co-ordinates of your location from which you required to be rescued. We decided that as we were going to be exploring from our base camp with sat phone facilities and walkie talkie for back up communications that we would know the location of team members at all times. When team members went climbing or exploring from base camp other team members were notified of area to be explored and e.t.a. for arrival return to base camp.

Fortunately no rescue or medical services were required prior to returning to the UK.

## Funding

The team received funding from BMC, MCofS (for Scottish based team members) and MEF.



## Sponsorship

The team were sponsored by Tiso Ltd for hardware and clothing. The team also received support from DMM, Torq, Stoats and G & C Alldred of Stranraer.

Cath Alldred received support from Wild Country who provided climbing hardware and Simon Smith received support from PHD who provided down jacket.



## Costs

Our biggest outlays were the flights and excess luggage which would have been cheaper if booked earlier, followed by food then insurance. Personal kit is not included in these costings.

Please see *Appendix 3* for detailed breakdown of accounts.

## Maps

There are very few maps available for this region of Greenland. The one we did manage to get hold of was from Stanford Maps located in London, we used their online ordering service which was fast and reliable. The map comes in a 1:250 000 scale, no other options available for scale which included the Trilingerne Range. However when in Greenland we discovered there is one other map available for the Kua Valley where we were camped.

## Route Topos

Visual topos of previous routes were difficult to come by however we did find the Ragni de Leco routes online with detailed descriptions. Another image from the AAC article which showed the lines along with grade, length and pitches where available online and both of these proved to be helpful when planning where our own new routes were to be established. For complete topo and image please refer to *Appendix 4*)

### Successful:

#### *New Routes:*

*'Back Alley Dentistry' on Baby Molar - 14/07/14*

HXS 5b/c 5.10

275m, 5 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

*'Rampant' on Left Rabbit Ear - 20/07/14*

E4 6a

400m, 9 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

*'Days of Miracle and Wonder' on Baby Molar - 22/07/14*

E2 5c- 5.10

355m, 7 pitches

(Simon Smith, Robert Durran)

*'The Long Distance Call' on Baby Molar - 01/08/14*

E3 5c 5.10++

385m, 7 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst, Cath Alldred)

#### *Repeat:*

*'Tooth Fairy' on Baby Molar 16/07/14*

5.8

300m, 7 pitches

(Robert Durran, Pat Ingram, Cath Alldred)

### Unsuccessful:

#### *New Routes:*

On Baby Molar - 14/07/14

Climbed 2 pitches but on 3rd pitch were unable to find a line, this appeared to be the crux pitch with very little or no gear placements available.

(Robert Durran, Pat Ingram)

On Molar formation 16/07/14

Climbed 2 pitches but again unable to find a safe line to climb due to unprotectable hard slab climbing: unjustifiable without bolt, retreated from this point.

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

Cavity Ridge - 20/07/14

Climbed 5 pitches but then unable to find a safe line to climb due to slowness of climbing and concerns of being able to make a safe retreat, retreated from this point.

(Robert Durran, Pat Ingram)



*On Baby Molar - 31/07/14*

Shut down on 1st pitch with only a few gear placements on and initial bold slab section. Further up the pitch the team was unable to find a line that wasn't heavily vegetated preventing the safe placement of gear.

(Robert Durran, Cath Alldred)

*Cavity Ridge - 04/08/14*

Climbed 4 pitches and then retreated due to loose rock and dubious weather.

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

### ***Repeat:***

***'Beers in Paradise' on Incisor - 17/07/14***

5.10+, A0 pendulum

600m, 12 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

Rock was wet from low cloud earlier that morning. Retreated after being shut down on the line and discovering later they may have been attempting the wrong line.

***'Beers in Paradise' on Incisor - 25/07/14***

5.10+, A0 pendulum

600m, 12 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

At high point on pitch 10 approximately 500m a block dislodged when placing gear which also brought other loose rocks down, Simon fell 20-25ft to a ledge below injuring ankle. Confirmed as broken heel upon return to Glasgow.

***'Beers in Paradise' on Incisor***

5.10+, A0 pendulum

600m, 12 pitches

(Sion Brocklehurst, Robert Durran)

Reached previous high point of approximately 500m, after probing several lines the team were unable to find the established line climbed by Libecki & Briggs.

## **Research**

Research prior to the trip was extensive and took some time due to the nature of the region we travelled to. We used the internet, emailed various people and spoke to others who had visited the area before making some final decisions. Conversations were about food, travel/logistics, rack and climate.

## Photographs



*Kulusuk airport.*



*Boat drop off location and food cache, Trilingerne Range visible in background.*



*Our view of the Fox Jaw Cirque from base camp.*





*Team approach Fox Jaw Cirque from the slopes below.*



*Cath & Pat on 'Tooth Fairy'.*



*Cath & Pat on summit of Baby Molar after climbing 'Tooth Fairy'.*





*Bivvi ledge below Cavity Ridge.*



*Sion reflecting after a 2nd thwarted attempt on 'Beers in Paradise'.*



*Sion climbing 'Beers in Paradise'.*



*Simon climbing on 'Miracle of Days and Wonder'.*





*Robert & Cath on 1st summit behind the hut with Fox Jaw Cirque visible in the background.*



*Snow Bunting.*



*Hut on Karale Glacier below Hutton Peak, used throughout the year but more so during the ski touring season.*





*Looking out over the valley from base camp.*



*Sion, Simon & Cath in the base camp kitchen.*





*Cath & Sion with about to head North on up the Kua Valley.*



*Just some of the flowers which adorned the Kua Valley.*







*Just some of the flowers which adorned the Kua Valley.*



*Blueberries were in abundance for most of the trip.*



*View from the airport looking North towards the airport harbour on the Kulusuk island.*



## Conclusion

The team enjoyed a five week expedition with everything you would expect from such a trip with the inherent risks of new routing in a such a landscape.

The biggest surprise to us was the rock type; as all teams previous to us had reported granite and so this is what we expected to find. As we arrived and began walking up the valley it quickly became clear that it wasn't granite but indeed Gneisses which are ca2.8 billion years old. It was loose and chossy but there were still many good lines to be found. Sion and Simon noted that the rock further around the cirque where they established 'Rampant' was more solid than on the Baby Molar and Cavity Ridge and they were presented with the crack lines we had been expecting.

The hike from base camp to the base of the Baby Molar can be 1-2 hours depending on the individuals fitness. The slopes leading up to the base of the rock were grassy leading into loose scree and dirt on the ledge system directly below the rockface.

The potential for further new routes on the Fox Jaw Cirque is extensive particularly if the condition of the glacier allows access to the formations beyond the Left and Right Rabbit Ears. Cavity Ridge was less appealing with gritty slabs leading up to some lines which were more often than not loose and chossy. The Incisor provided good climbing on more solid rock however any new lines here would more than likely require extensive bolting of the rock. The Baby Molar where we established three new routes has the potential for maybe more, however we encountered a substantial amount of loose rock... lines should be chosen with great care on this formation. The potential for new routes further around on the Cirque looks promising if conditions are good.



*Just a glimpse of the rock which make up the Fox Jaw Cirque.*



Group Kit		
Item	Quantity	Notes
Stores tent / Group tent	1	Was helpful to get away from the mosquitos
Storage barrels	4	Essential at food cache and in BC to keep foxes out of food
Large mosquito net	1	We didn't take one but used personal head nets and group tent
Frying pan	1	
Pots	3	1 as a kettle (primus eta) and 2 big cooking pots
Cooking utensils	1 set	Essential for group cooking
Washing up cloths	6 pck	Sponges + 2 tea towels
Washing up soap	1	
Lighters	6	Used for cooking and burning rubbish and toilet roll
Rubbish bags	1 pack	
Zip lock food bags	3 packs	Snacks away from camp and useful for decanting various things
Base Camp First Aid Kit	1	Full remote expedition kit
Tool kit	1	Toolkit which comes with stoves for maintenance
Sewing kit	2	Small travel size
Duct tape	2 rolls	Used for everything and anything including boot repair
Batteries	Enough	For walkie talkies and mp3 players
Satellite phone	1	Essential in case of rescue and we used to contact UK
Insect repellent	Enough	We each took one can plus 2 extra over the group was plenty Smidge works!
Cards	1 deck	Regular and uno was night time entertainment
Ab tat	100m	Used DMM black military ab tat, had about 40-50m left over
Ropes	7	Only ever used 4 of them
Stove	2	MSR DragonFly and MSR WhisperLite... Wouldn't use a WhisperLite on exped again
Toilet roll	12	We had quite a bit left over
Fishing stuff	1	We caught a few fish before I broke the fishing rod would have caught more otherwise

Purchase in Greenland		
Item	Quantity	Notes
Fuel	34 litres	For cooking
	cannisters	2 x EN14 cannisters
Rifle + ammo	1	10 rounds
Flares	3	

Personal kit		
Item	Quantity	Notes
Tents	1	
Climbing rack	1	Incl extra cams and wires and harness
Rucksack	1	
Personal clothing	1	Incl own wash kit etc, no smelly folk on my exped
Helmet	1	
Boots	1	
Crampons	1	



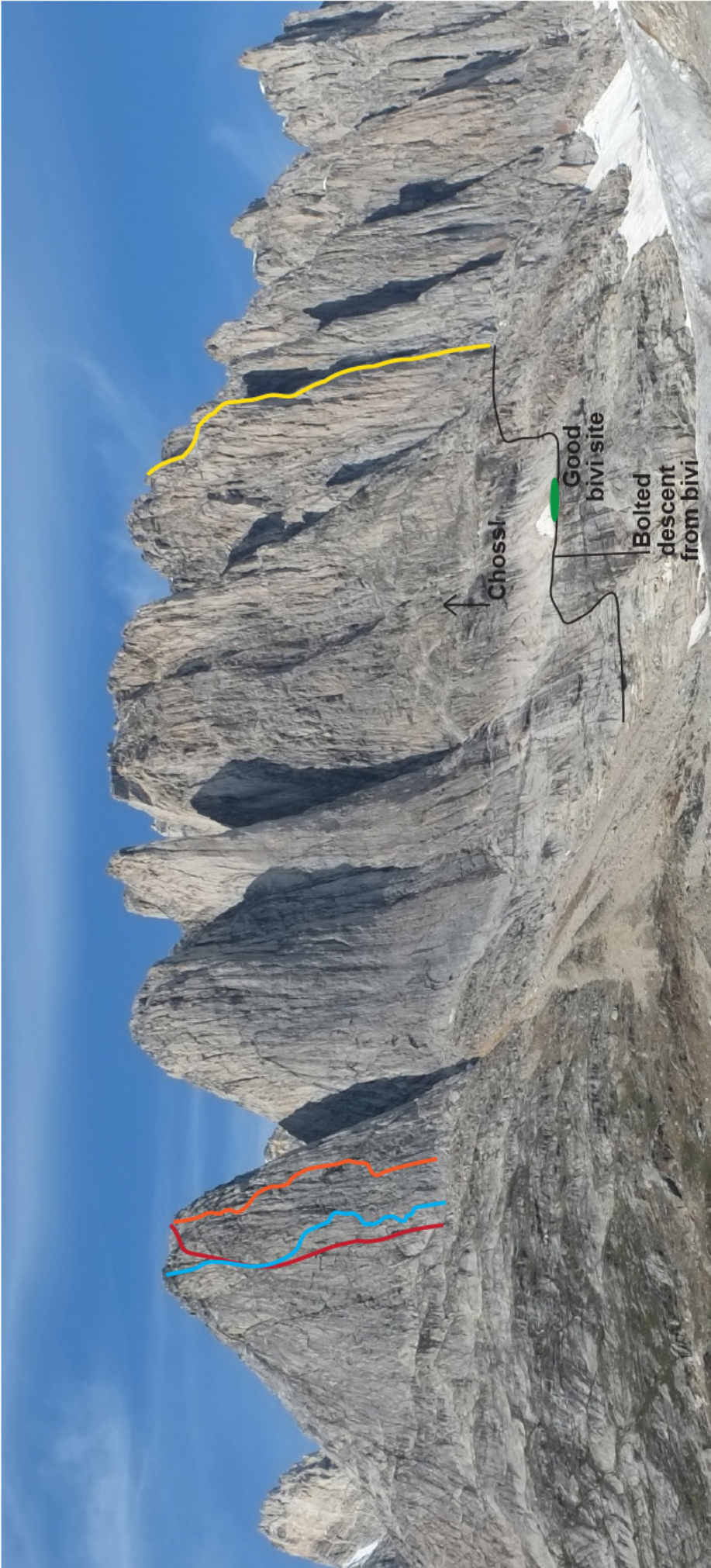
Appendix 2

UK Purchased Food			
ITEM	Unit Type	Units	SUPPLIER
Egg powder	Sachet	144.00	Tesco
Cous Cous		6.00	cash & carry
Cup-a-soup	Sachet	100.00	cash & carry
Lentils	Packet (3kg)	2.00	cash & carry
Dried Onions	Packet	5.00	healthy supplies
Peanut Butter	Jar	2.00	Tesco
Instant Custard	Sachet	50.00	Tesco
Angel Delight	Sachet	10.00	cash & carry
Dried Fruit	Packet	1.00	local healthfood
Malt Loaf	Packet	15.00	ASDA
Ginger Loaf	Packet	15.00	ASDA
Raisins	Packet	1.00	local healthfood
Peppermint tea	Box (80 bags)	2.00	cash & carry
Hot Chocolate	Tub	1.00	cash & carry
Stoats	Bar	108.00	Stoats
TORQ bars	Bar	120.00	TORQ
TORQ gels	Sachet	40.00	TORQ
TORQ Drink Powder	Tub	2.00	TORQ
Dried Sauce mixes	Sachet	40.00	Tesco
Nuts	Packet	1.00	local healthfood
Smash	Tub	2.00	cash & carry
Stock cubes	Packet (8 cubes)	3.00	Tesco
Chilli Powder	Packet	1.00	healthy supplies
Tobasco Sauce	Bottle	1.00	Tesco
Curry Powder	Tub	1.00	Tesco
Milk powder	Tub	3.00	Tesco
Noodles (mug shots)	Sachet	50.00	B&M
Tuna	Sachet	20.00	B&M
Biscuits	Packet	40.00	cash & carry
Mustard Powder	Packet	1.00	Tesco
Jam	Jar	2.00	Tesco
Honey	Jar	4.00	Tesco
Chocolate bars	Bar	170.00	cash & carry
Cereal Bars	Bar	170.00	B&M + Tesco
Dried mushrooms	Plastic Jar	8.00	healthy supplies
garlic granules	Packet	3.00	healthy supplies
cumin	From chris	1.00	From chris
paprika	From chris	1.00	From chris
corriander	Packet	1.00	healthy supplies
dehydrated tomato	Packet	1.00	healthy supplies
dried herbs	From chris	1.00	From chris
Mountain House Meals	Packet	25.00	Tiso
soy sauce	bottle	1.00	From chris

Greenland Purchased Food			
ITEM	Unit Type	Units	SUPPLIER
Oats	Kilo	10.00	Peroni Tuning
Pasta	Kilo	10.00	Peroni Tuning
Rice	Kilo	8.00	Peroni Tuning
Cheese	Kilo	6.00	Peroni Tuning
Salami	Kilo	12.00	Peroni Tuning
Flour	Kilo	4.00	Peroni Tuning
Cooking oil	Litres	2.00	Peroni Tuning
Coffee	250g	6.00	Peroni Tuning
Tea	15 bags/pack	12.00	Peroni Tuning
Sugar	Kilo	1.00	Peroni Tuning
Salt	grams	1.00	Kulusuk
Pepper	grams	1.00	Kulusuk

<b>Costs</b>				
	<b>Description</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Out</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Income</b>	Personal contribution x5	£ 2,500.00		
	British Mountaineering Council	£ 400.00		
	Mountaineering Council of Scotland	£ 200.00		
	Mount Everest Foundation	£ 750.00		
	Mace Shop Stranraer	£ 348.89		
				£4,198.89
<b>Travel</b>				
	Boat transfer return for 5 people + baggage		£ 1,402.00	£ 2,796.89
<b>Freight</b>	Group freight from Glasgow to Kulusuk (Allways Freight Ltd)		£ 1,066.80	£ 1,730.09
	Excess baggage on return flights Kulusuk to Glasgow		£ 276.00	£ 1,454.09
<b>Food</b>	UK		£ 697.78	£ 756.31
	Greenland		£ 230.00	£ 526.31
<b>Equipment</b>	Greenland			
	Gun + ammo		£ 160.00	£ 366.31
	Heptane 35l		£ 130.00	£ 236.31
	Gas cartridges x 2 900ml		£ 38.00	£ 198.31
	UK			
	Ab tat		£ 114.00	£ 84.31
	Ropes		£ 440.00	-£ 355.69
<b>Other</b>	Sat Phone Bill		£ 126.11	-£ 481.80
	Extra contribution x4	£ 482.00		
				£ 0.20
<b>Paid for individually</b>	<i>Not all team members incurred all of these costs except the flight.</i>			
.	(On average each team member paid £1650 each exluding personal kit)			
<b>Accomodation</b>	Salvation Army Kulusuk x2 nights		£ 100.00	
	YHA Reykyavik x2 nights		£ 70.00	
	Bus Transfer Reykyavik		£ 24.00	
<b>Travel</b>	Extra boat transfer x1		£ 369.00	
	Flights		£ 1,010.00	





Back Alley Dentistry

Rampant

Days of Miracle and Wonder

The Long Distance Call

## Successful:

### *New Routes:*

#### *'Back Alley Dentistry' on Baby Molar - 14/07/14*

HXS 5b/c 5.10

275m, 5 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

- 1 - Ascend the obvious right facing corner to a good ledge. 60m
  - 2 - Trend right over broken ground to access ledges and a pillar, thread belay below dubious rock roof. 50m
  - 3 - The fool hardy may continue into the sensationally loose roof crack, better rock and crack continuation lurk above. 45m (5b/c loos as...!)
  - 4 - Continue up crack to short overlap, pleasant climbing to large ledge. 50m
  - 5 - Continue over similar ground with occasional interest to finish at a large ledge/boulder. 70m
- ....scramble 60m ish to summit.

(if this gets repeated intentionally then the FJC is climbed out!)

#### *'Rampant' on Left Rabbit Ear - 20/07/14*

E4 6a \*\*\*

400m, 9 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst)

Ascends the right hand side of the Left Rabbit Ear on mostly quality rock.  
Wide climbing, off width and squeeze, would be very bold without #5 & #6 cams.

Starts at twin cracks 5m right of a thin left-facing corner.  
Continues following a series of cracks (obvious wide crack right-facing corner.)  
At a broken ledge system a thin, hard crack is the key to easier climbing above.

#### *'Days of Miracle and Wonder' on Baby Molar - 22/07/14*

E2 5c- 5.10 \*\*\*

355m, 7 pitches

(Simon Smith, Robert Durran)

A central line on the Baby Molar giving excellent climbing in cracks and grooves.  
About 30m right of 'Tooth Fairy' is a parallel slanting crack system. Start about 10m right of this at a short rightwards slanting ramp.

- 1 - 5b Climb the ramp and shallow groove above, then move easily to the ledges. 65m
- 2 - 4c Continue in the same line to below a steeper section with some shattered rock. 35m
- 3 - 5b Turn the shattered rock on the right to reach a black streaked left facing groove. 25m
- 4 - 5a Climb the superb groove and belay above on the right. 35m
- 5 - 5c climb the continuation crack and then undercut out right around stepped bulges to ledges above. 40m
- 6 - 5a Work up and left to easier ground. 55m
- 7 - Easy ground up rightwards to the summit. 100m



*'The Long Distance Call' on Baby Molar - 01/08/14*

E3 5c 5.10++ \*\*

385m, 7 pitches

(Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst, Cath Alldred)

Start at a thin seam at the base of a prominent black streak.

1 - 5c Climb the thin seam direct to a ledge. 55m

2 - 4b Climb a vague line over ledgy ground aiming for a grassy niche. 55m

3 - 5b Climb the thin seam above the belay to a ledge. 35m

4 - 5c From the previous ledge climb a corner and slab above finishing up a left facing corner to a small ledge. 60m (Poor belay.)

5 - 4c Take the left trending line above to join 'Days of Miracle and Wonder' half way up the 6th pitch.

6 - Continue direct over easier ground. 60m

7 - 5a Take the cracked slab on the left to a ledge. 60m

### **Wall to Wall 2014 Expedition - East Greenland, Fox Jaw Cirque, Four First Ascents**

The rock formation known as Fox Jaw Cirque in the Kua Valley stands out from its surroundings with spires neatly aligned to give an impressive view against the backdrop of Storbroar and the rest of the Trilingerne Range. After tantalising glimpses from the boat we were dropped off at the head of the Tasilaq Fjord on 10th July, we sorted our food and kit for the coming weeks and began our first of three arduous hauls up the valley to the foot of the Cirque. Cath Alldred, Sion Brocklehurst, Robert Durran, Pat Ingram and Simon Smith established camp and began looking at the first set of objectives for climbing on Fox Jaw. The climbing potential here was first discovered in 1998 by Dave Briggs and Mike Libeck.

After establishing that the rock type was gneiss rather than the granite reported by other teams we set off on our first forays into the formation with bluebird skies and pleasant climbing temperatures. After the first day of climbing on a formation known as the 'Baby Molar' by Simon, Sion, Pat and Robert there was mixed success but consistency in the evaluation of the rock - loose! Pat and Robert retreated, while Simon and Sion ploughed on past occasionally terrifyingly chossy though often splendid rock to the summit and produced our first new line, aptly named Back Alley Dentistry and graded HXS. Unable to find the bolted descent described in a previous AAJ report they abseiled down a sketchy gully. Cath, Pat and Robert later found the bolted descent line when a repeat ascent of Tooth Fairy was made; finding some superb climbing on this route and were rewarded with stunning views for miles around above the cloud inversion. It became obvious that the rock in the cirque provided very bold but high quality slab climbing with long run-outs between thin, incipient and often flaring cracks with the occasional quality splitter thrown in. On an ascent of 'Left Rabbit Ear' however Simon and Sion encountered stunning crack climbing from tough fingertips to stomach churning off-width burls and came away with the cracking new line of Rampant.

Cavity Ridge proved twice to be a difficult section of rock to climb due to its unstable nature. Loose blocks were dislodged during Robert and Pat's descent after a failed attempt on what initially looked to be a promising line. This incident led Pat to make a decision to return home not willing to take any further risks in objectively dangerous terrain. Later Simon and Sion attempted a line which again proved difficult on the lower slabs when damp, loose rock and gritty sand forced them to return to the bivvy ledge. The duo also attempted a line on 'The Molar' formation but were thwarted by wet rock and unjustifiable run-outs without recourse to bolting. Calamity then struck on an attempt to repeat the American route Beers in Paradise to scope out the descent with a view to a new route on The Incisor. After 10 enjoyable pitches Simon ripped off a large block on lead resulting in a 25ft whipper onto a spike below and a busted up heel (later confirmed as a fracture). The subsequent retreat proved a painful mini-epic! A second attempt by Robert and Sion reached the same high point where they were unable to find the continuation of the route.

A further two new routes were established on the Baby Molar both providing quality climbing on mostly sound rock with Simon discovering the benefits of ice river treatment and copious amounts of painkillers! So we found a few splitter cracks and plenty of bold slab climbing to keep us occupied and the views were humbling to say the least. As previously noted, blue bird sky days were plentiful and building clouds rarely produced anything apart from apprehension. We experienced two days of rain and with the wind through the valley the rock was quick to dry causing very little disruption to our climbing days. When not climbing we explored further up the valley for other possible objectives but many of the glaciers looked very crevassed or made approaching the rock very difficult and time consuming. Some enjoyable bouldering was to be had near base camp. Cath and Robert hiked up to the hut which overlooks the Karale Glacier system and is maintained by Hans Christian Florien who is based in Tasilaq. They spent one night here and climbed the first of the two peaks behind the hut which gives way to another superb view up and down the Kua Valley. Robert spent a further night here later in the trip and made an attempt to climb an easier peak opposite but was forced back due the heavily crevassed glacier.

Food in base camp was outstanding; having brought the bulk of our supplies from the UK and topping up with some basics from The Red House (Peroni Tuning) based in Tasilaq. Robert Peroni was extremely helpful in our planning and logistics, he was able to provide boat transfer, rifle and food supplies from Tasilaq. We ate various meals made from our stock of rice, spaghetti, lentils, surprisingly good soy mince, porridge oats, tasty salami and cheese all seasoned with our spice rack and some malt loaf and Scottish ginger cake for treat days. The boys were a little worried about a girl planning the menu but were pleasantly surprised at a healthy stock of food. The Fox Jaw still has a great deal of climbing potential with hard lines still to go on the closest formations and a wealth of exploration up the glacier on the less easily accessible features, although a lot of loose and unappealing rock might also be encountered.



With numerous crevasses and much of the glacier still covered in wet looking snow, the team was unable to explore further along the cirque on this occasion. Well aware of the objective dangers encountered with new routing some difficult decisions were made and this was just one of many.

Summary of first ascents: 'Back Alley Dentistry' on Baby Molar - HXS 5b/c, 5.10, 275m, 5 pitches (Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst, 14/07/14); 'Rampant' on Left Rabbit Ear - E4 6a, 5.11+, 400m, 9 pitches (Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst, 20/07/14); 'Days of Miracle and Wonder' on Baby Molar - E2 5c- 5.10, 355m, 7 pitches (Simon Smith, Robert Durran, 22/07/14); 'The Long Distance Call' on Baby Molar - E3 5c 5.10++, 385m, 7 pitches (Simon Smith, Sion Brocklehurst, Cath Alldred, 01/08/14).

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