



On the 22nd of October a team from Great Britain, consisting of Nathan White, Jack Morris, Connor Holdsworth and Dave Sharpe headed into the Rolwaling valley. After acclimatising on Parchamo 6187m the team had to repair their equipment and ration their food due to being ravaged by Ravens. The team chose to split up to attempt two different objectives. Dave Sharpe and Connor Holdsworth made the first ascent of Takargo East with the aim of linking Takargo East with the main Summit of Takargo 6771m by the very complex East ridge. Having spent a number of days above 6000m and traversed the majority of the ridge mostly on loose rock and very poor snow. The team made the decision to descend due to illness just shy of the summit. On the experience Connor had to say-

“ it was an amazing experience that felt full of big Mountain skill for me. It was a 6 day round trip from advanced base camp with big rucksacks, everything from crossing the approach glacier to topping out felt wild and very remote. When we left the glacier, we soloed most of the initial face of Takargo East. Which would have been mostly Scottish II with some steps of III and finally one harder looser step of IV right at the top. Soloing this 600m face was incredible with the nothing but air beneath us. From there we spent a night very close to the summit and saw snow leopard prints in the morning. The following two days were highly technical Ridge Climbing with the odd bit of good Ice but mostly some very loose rock and bottomless untransformed snow feeling very engaging the whole time, however climbing the ridge did mean that we had good places to pitch the tent every night. Unfortunately I had been feeling pretty rough since we left the glacier and some specs of blood in my vomit made it feel like the right decision was to head down as the ridge met the main face of Takargo. Even though we had been looking at the ridge from the Tashi Lapsa pass on our acclimatisation phase, to me it presented its self to be far more complex than I thought. There was also some bad weather on the way and it was definitely on my mind that even though we might reach the summit and be able to descend to glacier. We would almost certainly be storm bound there for a while the snow settled and run out of food. The hardest sections were around grade v Scottish and route length of what we climbed is probably around 2000m

A super wild Adventure in the Big mountains with my Pal Dave.

We called the ridge Neige Lepeord after the foot prints we saw near the summit of Takargo east. To my knowledge, this is the 3rd ascent of this peak, although the face and subsequent ridge were totally unclimbed terrain. “.

After observing the face for some time Nathan white and Jack Morris choose to attempt the very impressive ridge that splits the complex and Serac covered North and north west faces of Linkhu Chuli 2 (Big Phera- Go Nup). Whilst the Serac covered walls were very active, the Ridge line provided an incredibly direct and objectively safe passage through the chaos





After accessing the ridge via the entry couloir, the team found sustained and technically engaging climbing throughout, with very limited options for bivouacking. The pair climbed beyond the point of retreat into steeper terrain with the hope the terrain would ease as they approached the summit. Unfortunately the opposite was true and faced with a final impenetrable rock band, Jack and Nathan had to traverse towards the serac on the North West face to outflank and unlock the final part of the route. After summiting the NW summit they decided to forgo the main summit which was only a couple of hundred meters away as it was apparent that a storm and heavy snow was imminent. Nathan commented- "Nothing more was to be found or gained from standing a few meters higher, the route had already provided a state of transcendence, our priority was get down safely. Especially given the fact we hadn't even seen, let alone had any knowledge of our chosen line of descent". Due to the unconsolidated nature of the snow, loose rock and lack of ice the line of ascent wasn't a viable option for descent, So the pair descended the west ridge onsite. With much downclimbing and abseiling through seracs they arrived on the glacier just as the weather was deteriorating.

Within 24hrs the glacier and the Tasi Lapcha pass were impassible with many of the trekking teams evacuating the valley due to the depth and unstable snow conditions. The team commented that they had very much 'threaded the needle' both due to the line and the weather window. On commenting on the Route grade and name the team propose- Dreaming of Rotisserie chicken? - ED2, M6, WI3 2500m, 4 days

Notes on access and travel- From Basecamp to advanced basecamp was some pretty horrific moraine that we all underestimated- this meant that when we left BC we were Very committed to being up high. Other than the obvious logistical issues of food and kit this for me meant that we couldn't reach a lower altitude to recover or rest. Perhaps accessing Takargo might be easier from the other side of Tashi Lapsa. We noted that the Gotler route on Takargo was too dry to climb when we were there, this may be climate change or the fact that they were there in March.

Notes on injury- on reaching ABC Nathan was hit with a bout of altitude sickness that he ultimately recovered from but was getting to the point where it was getting serious. Connor after feeling rough for a week or so, and suffering from a weak stomach eventually had specks of blood in his vomit. After a long time with a big rucksack he also suffered from a bad case of piles and blood in his stool.

Trip.com broke our original flight down into separate tickets, this meant that Nathan and Connor couldn't transfer through deli having to buy a full round of new flights. Maintenance work on Kathmandu airport also meant that Nathan then had to purchase further new flights to get home, qatar airlines having cancelled all flights from Nepal for 10 days. A very unwanted extra expense to this otherwise fantastic trip.

Waste disposal- All waste was carried back out from our trip and dealt with by the local nepali team.

Local help – we used Himalyan Guides. They were excellent at organising logistics for us making a mostly stress free trip once we got to Nepal.

Expedition Costs		Expedition Income	
International travel	£7000 (We originally budgeted £2400 but had some cancellations)	Number of Members	4
Domestic flights and transport	600	Amount of Personal Contributions	£9600 – after new flights purchased
Permits and peak fees	£4700	Details of grants	BMC -£606 Austrian Alpine club £1200 Alpine Club £500 Neil Mackenzie trust - £750
Liaison Officer or Sirdar	Inc in Permit and peak fee	Other sources including sponsors	
Expedition members' insurance	£1680		
Porter / staff Insurance	Included in sirdar section		
Food and fuel (base camp and above)	1900		
Agency fees if applicable			
Porters and pack animals	650		
Accommodation while in country	300		
Base Camp Staff (if needed)	Inc in sirdar		
TOTAL	£12'230	TOTAL	£7556 funding

We would like to Thank RAB, Petzl, BlackDiamond, LYO food for supporting this trip with some equipments and discounts on kit