

reached the top at 6 p.m. and called our two friends by radio. We saw no sign of any previous ascent and as we had to rappel from the very top, we believe this summit to be previously unvisited.

We set off down, thinking that we would be back at the terrace in a few hours. However, our rope jammed twice and we spent much time going up and down to retrieve it. In the end it was dusk as we started the final rappels. After a total of 15 rappels we arrived on the terrace at midnight. We rested here for two hours, then it started to rain, so we packed up and retreated across the terrace and down the couloir. By the time we were starting across the fjord in our kayaks, it was night once more. Not only was it raining but the wind was also beginning to rise. Forty-four hours after leaving the terrace for our final ascent, we arrived back at our tents wet and tired but happy. The weather remained bad for the next three days.

Nunez and I christened our all-female ascent, *Hidrofilia*. It gave 1,620m of climbing over effectively six days and had 31 pitches up to 6c+/7a and A2+. No fixed ropes or bolts were used and very little gear was left on the route.

CECILIA BUIL, *Spain*

*Pamiagdhluk Island, The Baroness, second ascent of Venus Envy; Prins Christian Sund, Igdlorssuit Havn, repeat ascents and new routes.* Sarah Whitehouse and I again visited the Cape Farewell region of South Greenland. We first landed at Pamiagdhluk Island, where we made the second ascent of Venus Envy, a 15-pitch route on the Baroness put up in 2001 by Airlie Anderson and Lucy Creamer at E4/5 6a. We fixed ropes and made several variations. At the pinnacle that forms the third pitch above the lower snow terrace, we climbed the left rather than the right side. Although the grade is the same (E4 6a), this allowed the pitch to be climbed with a standard rack. (The right side, followed on the original ascent is an off-width that requires a #6 Friend.) However, the next pitch (also E4 6a) is still a bold off-width requiring a #6 Friend. Near the top of the route we also climbed a ramp system left of the original finish, which gave two hard pitches of E3/4 (one of which was particularly bold at 5c, the other more technical at good 6a), followed by VS climbing. We named it the Blue Jeans variant. We also repeated the first three pitches of The Fur Trappers (ca 650m, 17 pitches, E4 6a and A1, Niall Grimes and Ian Hey, 2001) on the same formation. The Baroness is a splendid piece of rock with much scope for hard climbing on the yet untouched left side of the wall and no obvious easy way off the far side. However, it faces northwest and does not receive the sun until after 2 p.m.

We were then transported to Prins Christian Sund, where we overlapped four days with another British party climbing above Igdlorssuit Havn (see elsewhere). Here, we repeated Cryptic Crossword, an 11-pitch route on the right side of the left wing of Igdlorssuit Havn Tower's main face. This route has now been climbed a lot and is arguably the most popular climb in South Greenland. We were able to make the ascent entirely without aid, free climbing the tension traverse/lower at E3 5c, the same as the original route grade given by first ascensionists Matt Heason and Adam Jackson in 2001, and confirmed by several subsequent ascents by other members of their party the same year. We also did a one-day ascent of Wonderful Purple Head (25 pitches, E2 5c), another route climbed on the Tower in 2001 by Dean Grindell and Mark Harris, who linked the start of Wonderful World (800m, E4 6a C1) with Action Man's Purple Head (23 pitches, E2 5b). However, this is a big face and the line we followed may not be entirely that of the first ascensionists. In any case we felt the grade to be E3 5c possibly even E4 6a. Finally,

we climbed a new route right of Homebrew Hangover on the much shorter sea cliffs above base camp, we graded Zip Drive E3 5c. We experienced brilliant weather throughout our stay and plan to return again this year.

TONY WHITEHOUSE, U.K.

*Prins Christian Sund, Igdlorssuit Havn Tower, new routes and first free ascents on the west face.* An eight-man team comprising some of the best rock climbers in Britain visited the western end of Prins Christian Sund in the Cape Farewell region of South Greenland. Two of the team, Miles Gibson and Steve McClure, completed a new 23-pitch route on the west face of Igdlorssuit Havn Tower (1,160m), an excellent 900m line that the pair graded E7 6c and named Twenty-one.

The route takes the most obvious feature on the face, an impressive, left-facing, central corner system, which was climbed ground-up, using nothing but natural gear and approximately 450m of fixed rope. Unfortunately, closer inspection revealed the 400m corner to be guarded by around 250m of compact slabby rock and the pair had two attempts to find a line through the slabs. On the second they discovered a series of cracks leading left through unprotected slabs and arêtes to gain the base of the corner in 13 pitches. Rope was fixed to this point, above which the climbers progressed in capsule style using a portaledge. A wet roof high on the route proved particularly troublesome, with McClure reporting it to feel like F8b under the conditions. This was pitch 21, climbed after four attempts. Above, much easier ground led to the top.

The 800m-high seaward face of the granite tower was first climbed by a five-man Croatian-Slovenian team in 1996 via a line further right. They named their 24-pitch route Ujarak (6c A3), after the boat that eventually picked them up at the end of a long 12-day wait, when their prearranged lift failed to materialize. This line was free climbed by four other members of the British team: Nick Boden, Tom Briggs, Adrian Jebb, and Rob Mirfon. The ninth pitch, rated A3, was first aided and then top-roped at E7 6b, whereas the A1 bolt ladder above eventually succumbed at E7c+. Ropes were fixed to the top of pitch 12, after which the remaining ground was climbed on-sight over one-and-a-half days with an intervening bivouac. Natural protection and existing in-situ gear were used throughout. On the 1996 ascent 12 pitches had involved the use of aid but the route now goes completely free at E7 6c.

In 2001 Max Dutson and Dave Lucas, from Matt Heason's British expedition to the same area, added Wonderful World to the face, giving 23 pitches to E4 6a and C1/C2. Heason's brother, Ben, was also part of last summer's team and repeated the line with Simon Moore. The pair free climbed the entire route on-sight over two days, notably the excellent corner of pitch 15 at E6 6b. At the top, a new four-pitch variant, dubbed The Turning Point, was created with one pitch of E5 and another of E6. Much of this was climbed at night with the top reached at 2 a.m.

Several shorter routes on the cliffs nearer to base camp were also climbed at grades up to E7 and Heason also soloed Cryptic Crossword (E3 5c), but Twenty-one and the free version of Ujarak are, almost certainly, the hardest major free rock climbs in Greenland to date. (Editor's note: E7 6c translates to approximately 5.13+.)

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*