

Following Father: Ascent of Kilimanjaro

In June 2011, I intend to follow in my father's footsteps and make it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Assuming I get there having survived lions, elephants, altitude sickness and my youngest brother's smelly feet, I should be standing on the same spot as my father did almost 50 years on to the day, so I already feel we have a family connection to the mountain.



My Father- Brave and Bonkers

Rogers Senior taught East African History in Tanzania and Kenya for over five years in the early 1960s. He was also part of an outward-bound group and this is how he came to climb Kilimanjaro on at least two occasions.

In those days the mountain was not mapped beyond the lower reaches, so led by a Royal Marine, they had to find their own way up, taking all the water and supplies they needed for themselves. There was also much more snow and ice at the top which enabled them to make an outrageously rapid descent perched on the ponchos they carried - if you were brave enough or simply bonkers. Anyone who knows my father will surely agree that both apply in his case!

Standing at 5,895m Kilimanjaro is one of the world's Big 7 and presents a fantastic opportunity to experience that feeling of being on top of the world without having to do any serious rope-work. However, I am under no illusions about the challenges of operating at that altitude.

Quarter of a Million -Some Goal!

However, this is nothing a decent fitness regime and hugely supportive family can't handle. I want to take this

opportunity to say a massive 'thank you' to the lovely Rachael, Oliver and Charlie for enabling me to have my mid-life crisis properly! I'm taking on this crazy challenge with 25 work colleagues and

associates to help raise money for our sponsored charity, Action for Children. If all goes well, we should raise somewhere in the region of a quarter of a million pounds over the full two years of our association.

Speak Out for the Vulnerable

Action for Children is a children's charity that supports and speaks out for the UK's most vulnerable children and young people and annually helps nearly 156,000 children, young people and their families through nearly 420 projects across the UK. I am a passionate supporter of Action for Children and this is where you come in, as you can really help me to do my bit. So far, I have managed to raise over £1,800 towards my £3,500 target, so I'm well on the way and would greatly appreciate any support you can give to such a worthwhile charity. You can donate directly by going to my Virgin Money Giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DanRogers1> I'll report back in the autumn issue and let you know how I get on!

Dan Rogers