

The Society Supports Enham's Kilimanjaro Challenge

In July our friends at disability charity Enham sponsored the UK's first multi-ability team in a challenge to climb Kilimanjaro. Six disabled clients of the charity set off together with six staff members: here they are ...



... and a support team including medical specialists, an award-winning film crew and a leading Hollywood film music composer. In total 16 of the 28 climbers made it to the top. Here are most of them:



So what became of the six disabled participants?

- One was hit by a bronchial infection so had to come down.
- Two made it to about 14500 ft. One had been hit by a motorbike at age 5 and the doctors wanted to pull the plug: now 30, he looks like a serious stroke victim. The other was thrown off her horse leaving one leg 4 inches shorter than the other. For 4-1/2 years she screwed the metal brace out a little each day so it is now only 1-1/2 inches shorter (still work in progress).
- Three made it to the top, all with more or less pronounced Aspergers or autism. One was "buddied" by a strapping Aussie who said he was shamed into making it to the top: he wanted to give up two days earlier but did not dare let his buddy make it alone. Here they are (*on the right*) at the summit:



The challenge was not just to stretch the individuals and team pairs but also to help fund a new residential training centre for disabled students seeking NVO and C&G qualifications in CAD and similar disciplines. Your Committee made a donation to Enham in support of this venture, extending our newly re-established friendship with the charity: individual members are welcome to follow suit at www.enham.org.uk, and some have already done so. We are hoping to arrange a Society visit to their base in Enham Alamein, Hampshire in the spring of 2009.