

**GINO WATKINS MEMORIAL FUND
PRELIMINARY REPORT FORM**

EXPEDITION LEADER:	EXPEDITION NAME:	EXPEDITION DATES:
Gabriel Clarke	Greenland Sail to Climb	28 th May to 1 st September

Please complete your *preliminary* expedition report (approximately 500 words).

Greenland Sail to Climb 2019 Preliminary Report

I am currently sat here in a rainy Cornwall having arrived 5 days ago from 4 months away, 2.5 months in Greenland, over 5000nm sailed, 2 Atlantic crossings, countless jaw dropping anchorages, several new routes climbed and it is safe to say that it has not at all sunk in. I left home in Cornwall on the 4th May and was joined by my crew for the trip in Mallaig Scotland departing on the 28th May. We made a quick passage across the Atlantic of 17 days direct to Nuuk. During the crossing out we saw strong winds predominantly from the east and northeast, with 3 gales up to Beafort 9 in the vicinity of Cape Farewell. Scary but all safe. We explored Nuuk fjord for the first part of the trip with a successful new route climbed. From here we headed North to Manitsoq where we attempted a big new route on the Sharks Fin wall, we were however forced to retreat after 2 good pitches of climbing due to rain and unappealing loose rock. We changed crew in Manitsoq and pushed North shortly afterwards transiting via the jaw dropping Hamborgersund. After a stop on Disko island we arrived in Uummannaq Fjord in early July, from here we explored the islands of Appat, Qaqugdługssuit, Drygalskis Halvo, Uummannaq, Ukalilik, Ikerasak and the mainland glaciers. We spent a total of 3 weeks walking, climbing and exploring within the area of Uummannaq. We climbed 5 routes in our time in Uummannaq between a grade of HS and E4 and backed off several others. Our time in Uummannaq was concluded with half the crew undertaking a 2 day walk across the Nuussuaq peninsular (From Uummannaq to Disko Bay) I then brought the boat round the 160nm peninsular to meet the walkers. From here we dropped of two crewmembers in Ilulissat, spent a few dates exploring around the glacier then headed southward to Manitsoq to resupply and prepare for the return crossing. We picked up a 3rd crew in Nuuk and made a direct passage for Nanortalik and the Uunatoq hot springs. After a quick soak in the hot springs we departed Nanortalik with full tanks ready to cross the Atlantic again! We departed from Nanortalik on the 16th of August arriving on the 1st September into St Agnes (Isles of Scilly) and finally Falmouth on the 2nd. 16 days at sea over a distance of 1700nm, we saw a max wind strength of Beafort 8. A brilliant adventure, but extremely good to be home.



Ikerasak, Uummannaq Fjord



Qaqugdlugssuit



Signed: _____ Alie _____
10/09/2019 _____

Date:

Please return this form within one month after the completion of your expedition, together with 1-2 photographs, to:

**The Secretary
Gino Watkins Memorial Fund Committee
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road
Cambridge CB2 1ER
Email: ginowatkins@spri.cam.ac.uk**