



3rd Press Release

Chamonix, 12 March

The 17 Piolets d'Or : the 6 nominees

From 22nd to 25th April 2009

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc – Courmayeur

The International jury of the 17th Piolets d'Or have chosen the six ascents to be nominated from among the 57 first ascents and linked routes achieved in mountains throughout the world during the course of 2008.

Most of the protagonists of these six notable achievements will be present in Chamonix and Courmayeur from 22nd to 25th April.

With them will be climbers from all over the world: they will be gathering to celebrate their great passion in a real festival atmosphere. Presentations, debates, films, meetings and other cultural activities will be shared between Courmayeur and Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, from 22nd to 25th April. For all information: www.pioletdor.org.

1) THE NOMINEES FOR THE 17TH PIOLETS D'OR

THE ASCENTS

First ascent of the South-West face of Kamet (7756m, India).

A mixed Japanese team composed of Kazuya Hiraide and Kei Taniguchi opened up the unclimbed South-west face of Kamet in alpine style, between 26th September and 7th October 2008.

Name of Route : Samurai Direct.

Height of Climb: 1800m.

Difficulties declared: mixed M5+, ice 5+.

New Route on the South face of Nuptse I (7861m, Nepal).

Frenchmen Stéphane Benoist and Patrice Glairon Rappaz achieved a route on the south face of Nuptse I in alpine style between the 27 and 30 October 2008.

Name of Route: Are you experienced ?

Height of climb: 2000m.

Difficulties declared: mixed M5, ice 90°.

First complete ascent of the East face of Cerro Escudo (2450m, Chili).

American Dave Turner opened the route solo in 34 days on one of the most difficult Big Walls in the world, the East face of Cerro Escudo, starting in December 2007 and finishing in January 2008.

Name of Route : Taste the pain.

Height of Climb : 1200m.

Difficulty declared: aid climb A4+.

New route on the North face of Kalanka (6931m, India).

In September 2008, the Japanese Fumitaka Ichimura, Yusuke Sato and Kazuki Amano achieved a new route on the North face of Kalanka in alpine style, which had never been ascended in one go in September.

Height of Route: 1800m.

Difficulty declared: mixed M5.

First Ascent of the North face of Tengkampoche (6500m, Nepal).

The Swiss Ueli Steck and Simon Anthamatten climbing alpine style opened up a new route and first ascent abutting the North face of Tengkampoche, between 21st and 24th April 2008.

Nom of Route : Checkmate.

Height of Climb : 2000m.

Difficulties declared : mixed M7, ice 5, rock 6/A0.

Linked technical routes in Denali (6194m, Alaska).

The Japanese Fumitaka Ichimura, Yusuke Sato and Katsutaka Yokoyama succeeded in linking the routes Isis Face, the descent route the Ramp, and a climb back up the Slovak Direct route in one trip from 11 - 18 May.

Total ascent : 2350m (Isis Face) and 2900m (Slovak Direct).

Difficulty declared : Alaska grade 6.

2) **INTERNATIONAL JURY:**

Doug Scott (GB) : President of the jury - climber

Dario Rodriguez (Spain) – journalist - Desnivel

Dodo Kopold (Slovakia) - climber

Jim Donini (USA) - climber

Peter Habeler (Austria) - climber

Yong ImDuck (Korea) - journalist

3) THE PROGRAM

All the presentations, debates and meetings are open to the public.

Wednesday 22nd April Chamonix

8:30pm Le Majestic – Meeting/debates
« **Modern Himalayanism: Perspectives and deviations** »
presentation : François CARREL- journalist
Introduction Patrick WAGNON - climber
Participation : the jury - the nominees
& : « **Future playgrounds in the Himalaya** »
photos of Himalayan summits still unconquered.

Thursday 23rd April Chamonix

8:30pm Le Majestic – Meeting/debate
« **From Alpinism to Expeditions : 4 experiences, 4 approaches** »
presentation : Claude GARDIEN - Journalist
introduction : Christian TROMMSDORFF - Alpinist ,with Doug SCOTT, Peter HABELER,
Jim DONINI, Dodo KOPOLD (members of the Piolets d'Or jury)

Courmayeur

5:00pm Presentation of the French version of the book (published by Guérin)
The Duke of Abruzzes, gentleman explorer
by Mirella TENDIRINI and Michael SHANDRICK.

8:30pm Lecture : **The Duke of Abruzzes – gentleman explorer**
by Mirella TENDERINI

Friday 24th April Courmayeur

9:00pm **Reception for the Career Piolet d'Or :**
presentation of the jury, the nominees for their performances
and the award of the career Piolet d'Or.

Saturday 25th April Chamonix at Le Majestic

5:00pm Presentation by GUERIN publishing of « **EIGER OBSESSION** »
by John HARLIN III.

8:30pm **Reception for the nomination of the Piolets d'Or**
« **Ascents of the year** »
presentation of jury
presentation of the winner of the Career Piolet d'Or
presentation of the six ascents « performances of the year »
speech by Doug SCOTT, President of the jury
presentation of the trophies

Contacts

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