

# Sir Chris Bonington Biography

## CLIMBS:

First Ascent Annapurna II (7937m) in Nepal, with Dick Grant and Sherpa Ang Nyma.

1961 Second Ascent Nuptse (7879m) third peak of Everest with Sherpa Ang Pemba. 1st ascent by Dennis Davis and Sherpa Tachei, day before.

First Ascent Central Pillar of Freney, Mont Blanc with Whillans, Clough and Djuclosz.

First British Ascent, North Wall of the Eiger with Clough.

First Ascent Central Tower of Paine, Patagonia with Whillans.

1966 First Ascent Old Man of Hoy with Patey and Bailey.

1970 Leader, Annapurna South Face Expedition. Whillans and Haston made first ascent.

1972 Leader, British Everest Expedition, reaching 8300m.

1973 First Ascent Brammah (6411m) Kashmir with Estcourt.

1974 First Ascent Changabang (6864), Garhwal Himalaya with Boysen, Haston, Scott, Tachei and Sandhu,

1975 Leader, British South West Face of Everest Expedition. Haston and Scott made first ascent.

First Ascent of Ogre, (7284m), with Doug Scott.

Leader, British K2 Expedition to West Face K2.

1980 Climbing Leader, British Mount Kongur Expedition, making first Ascent Mount Kongur (7700m) with Boardman, Rouse and Tasker.

1982 Leader, British Everest Expedition, North East Ridge.

1983 First Ascent, West Summit of Shivling (6501m), Gangotri with Jim Fotheringham.

1983 First British Ascent (solo) Mount Vinson (4897m), (highest in Antarctica).

1985 Ascent of Mount Everest (8848m) as a member of Norwegian Everest Expedition

1987 Leader, Norwegian/British Menlungtse Expedition.

1988 Leader, British American Tibet Expedition which made the first ascent of the West Summit of Menlungtse (7023m)

Climbing Leader, 'Greenland The Hard Way' Expedition, which sailed to Greenland in the Suhaili, skipper Robin Knox Johnston and attempted "The Cathedral", Lemon Mountains.

1992 Joint Leader with Harish Kapadia, of Indian/British Kumaon Expedition. With Graham Little made first ascent of West Ridge of Panch Chuli II (6904m)

1993 Member British Greenland Expedition to Lemon Mountains making three first ascents.

1993 Climbed Mount El'brus (5642m), highest peak in Europe, and N.E. Ridge of Ushba

1994 Joint Leader with Harish Kapadia of Indian/British Kinnaur Expedition which made the first ascent of Rangrik Rang (6553m) in the remote Kinnaur Himalaya of northern India

First Ascent of Drangnag-Ri (6801m) Rolwaling Himal, as a member of the Norwegian Everest 10th Anniversary Expedition.

Exploratory expedition to North and South approaches to Sepu Kangri (9956m) in the Eastern Nyenchen Tanglha range in East Tibet.

Leader British Tibet Expedition to Sepu Kangri – reaching 6100m.

Leader British Tibet Expedition to Sepu Kangri reaching 6800m on main summit and making first ascent Turquoise Flower (6650m).

2000 First ascent Danga II (6190m) in East Nepal with his son Daniel, brother Gerald and nephew James.

Expedition to South Greenland climbing 3 unclimbed peaks.

2003 First ascent Jaraun Peak, 5205m, Sainj Valley, Kullu.

2004 First ascent Pimu Peak, 5490m, Above Pimu Pass, between Jambu Nala and Pimu Nala, Menthosa Range, Lahoul.

## AWARDS

Knighthood, 1996

C.B.E., 1986

Founder's Medal Royal Geographical Society, 1974

Lawrence of Arabia medal of the Royal Asian Society

Livingstone Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society

Hon. D. Civil Law (Northumbria)

Hon. D.Sc. (Sheffield)

Hon. D.Sc. (Lancaster)

Hon Doctorate (Sheffield Hall am University)

Hon M.A. (Salford)

Hon Fellowship (UMIST)

Hon Fellowship (North Lancashire)  
Hon Doctor of Letters, University of Bradford, 2002

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman (Non executive), Berghaus  
Visiting Fellow, Cranfield Business School

### **HONORARY APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman, Mount Everest Foundation, 1999 - 2001  
President Council for National Parks 1992 – 1999  
Chairman, Corporate Forum, Council for National Parks, 1992 .....

President, Lepra, 1985.....  
President, The Alpine Club, 1996-98  
President, British Mountaineering Council, 1988-1991  
Chairman, Mountain Heritage Trust of the BMC, 2000 .....

President, British Orienteering Federation, 1986 .....

President, National Trust Lake District Appeal  
Vice President Army Mountaineering Association  
Vice President, Young Explorers Trust  
Vice President Youth Hostels Association (England & Wales)  
Vice President, British Lung Foundation  
Trustee, Calvert Trust Outdoor Activity Centre for the Disabled  
Trustee, Outward Bound  
Chairman, Outward Bound Risk Management Committee  
Trustee, Himalayan Environment Trust  
Signatory, Mountain Wilderness Association  
Deputy Lieutenant, Cumbria, 2004.....  
Chancellor, Lancaster University, 2005.....

### **BOOKS**

1966 "I Chose to Climb" (Gollancz)  
1970 "Annapurna South Face" (Cassell)  
1972 "The Next Horizon" (Gollancz)  
1973 "Everest South West Face" (Hodder & Stoughton)  
1974 "Changabang" (joint author), (Heinemann)  
1976 "Everest the Hard Way" (Hodder & Stoughton)  
1981 "Quest for Adventure" (Hodder & Stoughton)  
1982 "Kongur: China's Elusive Summit" (Hodder & Stoughton)  
1983 "Everest: The Unclimbed Ridge" (with Dr. Charles Clarke)  
(Hodder & Stoughton)  
1986 "The Everest Years" (Hodder & Stoughton)  
1989 "Mountaineer - Thirty Years of Climbing on the World's Great Peaks" (Hodder & Stoughton)  
1992 "The Climbers" (BBC Books & Hodder & Stoughton)  
1992 "Sea, Ice and Rock" (Hodder and Stoughton) with Robin Knox-Johnston  
1994 "Great Climbs" Edited jointly with Audrey Salkeld (Reed Illustrated Books)  
1999 "Tibet's Secret Mountain, the Triumph of Sepu Kangri" with Charles Clarke  
(Weidenfeld and Nicolson)  
2000 "Boundless Horizons" -Omnibus edition of the 3 autobiographical books  
(Weidenfeld and Nicolson)  
2000 "Quest for Adventure" – Remarkable Feats of Exploration and Adventure 1950-  
2000 (Cassell)  
2002 "Chris Bonington's Everest", (Weidenfeld and Nicolson)  
2003 "Everest Expeditions" Omnibus edition of "Everest South West Face", "Everest the Hard Way"  
and "Everest the Unclimbed Ridge". (Weidenfeld and Nicolson)  
2005 Chris Bonington's Lakeland Heritage with Roly Smith (Halsgrove).

### **TELEVISION**

1985 Devised, wrote and presented Award-winning Channel 4 Television Series "LAKELAND ROCK", which

won the Golden Shot award at the Portoroz European Sports Film Festival 1986, for the best sports documentary. This was a world event with entries from America and Australia as well as Europe. The series also won a Bronze Medal at the New York Film and TV Festival in 1986.

EVEREST YEARS, an hour long TV documentary based on THE EVEREST YEARS book, won the Gold Medal for sports programmes (highest award) at the 1988 New York Film and TV Festival. It also won the prize for the Best Mountaineering Film, the top award in the mountaineering category, at the Banff International Mountain Film Festival, which is the premier world mountain film festival.

THE CLIMBERS. Narrated and participated in this six-part series shown on BBC Television about the history of mountaineering, and wrote the accompanying book, THE CLIMBERS.

EVEREST - BLOOD SWEAT AND TEARS Wrote, narrated and fronted this documentary, filmed in Nepal around Everest Base Camp, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest.

### **MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

He completed a very successful management training video 'LEADING TO THE TOP', distributed by Connaught Training Ltd, and for several years has lectured to the Sloan Programme of The London Business School and at Cranfield University where he is a Visiting Fellow. He has become increasingly interested in the study of leadership, starting with his own experience as a successful expedition leader and using this to explore a wider application.

Listed below are some of the Companies he has addressed over the years on leadership and teambuilding using a sophisticated live presentation illustrated by slides of his own ascent of Everest and short sound bites recorded at the time:

Apple  
Barclays Bank  
British Aerospace  
British Airways  
British Telecom  
BP  
Cadbury  
Cedel  
Civil Service College  
Compaq Computers  
Credit Lyonnaise  
Hewlett Packard  
Digital  
General Motors  
Guinness  
Gulf Petroleum  
IBM  
Institute of Personnel Management  
Irish Telecom  
Jardine Matheson  
Kodak  
Management Centre Europe  
Marconi  
Minit International  
Morrison Construction  
National Power  
National Gas  
Prudential Insurance  
Quality Scotland Foundation  
Reed International  
Searle Pharmaceuticals  
Shell

Smith Kline Beecham  
Sunlife  
Woolwich Building Society  
Volvo