



# Hobbies

Here's something you didn't know about me...



**Name:** Brin Bendon

**Hobby:** Mountaineering

**Occupation:** Managing Director, Vector Training Ltd

### How and when did you get involved in Mountaineering?

"My Scottish father would take us on family holidays to the Highlands. However, it wasn't until I was 18, when Outward Bound introduced me to rock climbing and snow and ice mountaineering, that I knew I had the passion.

"I founded the 4C's (The Cambridge Climbing and Caving Club) with like minded people. We would go to the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District. During this period I was privileged to climb with Hamish Hamilton, who led me up Kipling's Groove. This route, had been first climbed in 1948 by A.R. Dolphin and one of my uncles who when I asked him why they had called it after Kipling, replied, "Because it was ruddyard".

"My first trip abroad was to climb the Grossglockner in the Austrian Alps which was followed by a week in the Italian Dolomites. I celebrated my 21st birthday by climbing the Matterhorn. It was these experiences together with the late David Shepherd, a friend and mentor of mine, who taught me about mountain safety and some of the more advanced techniques, that I would need for climbing in the Himalaya. A 50th birthday gift from my wife was to send me to Nepal in 1996, with leading mountaineer Tom Richardson. I have returned three times and it was with Tom I had my most memorable experience in 2002, when he led an expedition to Mera Peak in the Hinku and Hongu valleys south west of the Everest range. At 6,500 metres (21,247 ft) it was the highest mountain I had attempted."

### What is it about Mountaineering that appeals to you?

"For me, the enjoyment of mountaineering is not necessarily about reaching the summit. It is as much about feeling lost in the wilderness surrounded by the beauty of snow capped mountains. I find it humbling to be among these mountains and their people, the Sherpas, who have taught me a degree of humility about our place as human beings – how insignificant we are in the face of raw nature. Whether in the Highlands the Himalaya, mountains command our respect. They remind us of our own mortality since they will be on this planet long after we are gone."

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