

HANSE HAUS on top of the World!

Robin Howe, 30, from Winsford in Somerset put HANSE HAUS on top of the world with his recent climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.

Robin lost his mum to cancer in 2004 and decided to face the challenge in memory of his mum whilst also raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Leaving London on 30th January 2009, Robin flew to Nairobi where he took a connecting flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport. The following day, along with 25 other people, including 2 reps from Macmillan, a doctor and various porters, he started the trek.

“On the first day we walked for 10 hours, largely through rainforest, then onto moorland”, says Robin. “Having trained on the hills of Exmoor, it was fairly easy going to begin with but every day was different. Before long, the terrain changed and we were climbing over huge boulders. Being in a big group was great as everyone helped one another out, not just with the physical demands but with a common reason for being there in the first place, we could relate to one another's personal stories.

Every morning we got up at 6am and after 7 days we were getting close to the summit. On the last morning, the porters woke us up at 2am and we began the final climb to the top for sunrise. The closer we got, the worse the effects of altitude and I started to suffer from a bad headache. Finally we made it and the sense of achievement was incredible. I felt very proud and emotional in knowing that I'd done it in memory of my mum.

In temperatures of -5 degrees, we didn't hang around - only long enough to take some photos – before we headed back down. We were walking for a total of 15 hours that day so returned feeling both exhausted and elated”.

Two days later on 9th Feb, Robin flew home to the UK. “It almost doesn't seem real now, but I'm so glad I did it, and raised some money for Macmillan Cancer Support along the way”, adds Robin.