



Louise 'Squash' Falconer is gearing up for her Everest adventurer

I'm going to jump off top of Everest

...and I'll become first woman to paraglide down says adventurer

By HYWEL TREWYN

AN adventurer is aiming to become the first woman in the world to solo pilot a paraglider from the top of Mount Everest.

Louise 'Squash' Falconer, 30, from Bronington, Flintshire, is in Nepal co-leading an expedition not only to climb Mount Everest – which at 8,848m is the world's highest mountain – but also to paraglide from the summit.

Two years ago Louise – who has been known as Squash since she was a child – rode a motorbike to the foot of Mount Blanc, at 4,810m the highest mountain in Europe, then climbed to the summit before paragliding off the top – becoming the first British woman to succeed at such a feat.

Now she is aiming higher – the summit of Everest.

Speaking to the Daily Post from base camp at Everest yesterday, Squash, said: "I am really well."

"We're back at base camp acclimatising and waiting basically for a weather window to do the climb to the summit and the jump."

"The last three and a half weeks, we've been climbing up and down to three different camps at different altitudes and resting."

"Now we're resting for the week and waiting for when the weather is good in two or three weeks when the winds will be calmer and there will be no snow."

"This time of year there are a couple of opportunities"

At Camp Three, it was minus 30 and

they had to fasten the tent and sleep on a ledge.

The rocks and terrain around Camp Three meant it was too dangerous to attempt a practise paraglide from there.

Squash has kept in touch with dad

George co-owner of TJs discount warehouse at Holyhead, Anglesey.

She said: "I've spent a lot of time in North Wales and I have god-parents living on Anglesey. It is absolutely beautiful. When I was younger I climbed around Snowdonia. Wales has always been a beautiful place I have resonated with."

She is climbing with a team including an American and an Englishman as well as a Sherpa.

She hopes to do the jump any time between May 13 and 25.

Squash secretly hopes it will be the 13th which is her dad's birthday.

She said: "I'm incredibly excited by the prospect but I am also apprehensive but you have to bring your nerves under control."

Her proud father George said: "I am proud of her. I don't like to dwell on it too much."



Staff at TJ Discount (left) and dad George wish Louise 'Squash' Falconer well

Tory AM hopeful's tweets attacked

A TORY Welsh Assembly candidate has used Twitter to criticise Prime Minister David Cameron and Welsh party leader Nick Bourne.

John Broughton also tweeted on Plaid Cymru candidates, calling Heledd Fychan odd and Helen Mary Jones a "fruitcake".

Plaid Cymru said Tories and Labour had turned the election into a "mud-slinging contest".

Mr Broughton, a business consultant from Llandrillo near Corwen, is ranked ninth on the Conservative list in North Wales for Assembly members.

Several of Mr Broughton's tweets over the past 12 months were critical of many prominent Welsh Conservatives' support for a Yes vote in the March referendum on assembly powers.

A Tory spokesman said members had been free to campaign on either side of the Assembly powers referendum.

A Plaid Cymru spokesperson said: "Both the Conservatives and Labour are guilty of turning this election into a mud-slinging contest because they have nothing to say about the issues that are important to the people of Wales."

Labour said Mr Broughton was turning on members of his own party. "David Cameron and Nick Bourne don't even have the confidence of their own candidates, let alone the voters. John Broughton was in a room clapping along to Cameron's speech a few days ago yet here he is sticking the boot in on his fellow Tories."

A Lib Dem spokesperson said: "Mr Broughton's comments about fellow assembly candidates are not appropriate and he should apologise immediately."

Weapon charge

A 54-YEAR-OLD man who allegedly carried a kubotan – a martial arts self-defence stick – in the town centre of Bala at 2am appeared yesterday before a special court.

Duncan Alan of Alderford was charged with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place.

He told magistrates at Llanidloes there would be "a very firm and guilty plea" and he will appear at Prestatyn court on May 12. Bail conditions are that he lives at home and does not enter North Wales except to see his solicitor.

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