



New Talks by Explorer & Film Safety Consultant Jim McNeill

Having completed two major TV programmes and working on the sequel to BBC's "Planet Earth" series, "Frozen Planet", has meant Jim has added two more talks to his repertoire

Safety in the Extremes

How to ensure safety, teamwork & success in the most hazardous of environments

Frozen "but.....s"

Light-hearted after dinner anecdotes associated with film crews surviving the Arctic wilderness

From Jim's original repertoire

Serious Stuff

Leadership

The world of leadership training is full of people that create jargon and lists of "must-dos" - and then the inevitable book or three in a similar vein. No matter what the audience, Jim "rolls up his sleeves" and talks about what he calls simple and dynamic leadership based on reality, simple characteristics and a goodly degree of common sense. If you want a no-nonsense, working talk anecdotally portrayed by dipping into Jim's three "pools" of personal experience, then this is the talk for you.

Motivation

It is when people are at the extreme end of their "tether", absolutely physically and mentally shattered and you have to ask them for more, (without question or even murmur) that you really get to know something about motivation. Are there any tricks, techniques, tools? Jim discusses and draws parallels.

Performance

Jim describes himself as having a passion for getting the very best performance out of everyone; individually or collectively as a team. Having recently trained 51 people from all walks of life and every echelon of society to become competent sea ice travellers and 26 of those people having reached the Geomagnetic North Pole, he certainly has something useful to offer on the subject.

Incident Leadership and Planning for Disasters

Jim can present a keynote speech or workshop based on incident leadership, situation and critical crisis management, communications, risk assessment and dynamic risk assessments etc. Anecdotal evidence is drawn from Jim's operational fire service work, Royal Household fire precautions work and Arctic expeditionary work.

Climate Change Issues

The subject of global climate change has moved on. It's clear, it's here! The Arctic has long been recognised as a barometer of what is going on and International Polar Year has focussed people's attentions on watching the barometer. Jim's Ice Warrior Project plays a crucial role in gathering the scientific raw data and in delivering the reality of climate change to its audiences around the globe. Having started his working life in 1980 measuring the environmental impact of agricultural practices, which included ground-breaking work on the depletion of the ozone layer, Jim has had an extraordinarily close relationship with the Arctic Region over the past twenty three years and is exceptionally well qualified to talk first hand about the changes he has seen.

Lighter Notes

Selection

Being able to select suitable candidates to become polar explorers from a public call for volunteers demands that you are pretty observant and it is these observations of human behaviour that Jim recounts in an almost stand-up comedic style. Great for the after dinner chortle!

Things that go wrong

A humorous collection of mishaps, failures, accidents and near disasters, Jim is the master of all with polished and accomplished experience in fire and rescue, business and expeditionary fields.

Life on Expedition....in the freezer!

Over the twenty two years of Jim's Polar expeditions there must be only a few questions left that Jim hasn't answered about what it is really like on expedition, spending so much time in such incredibly adverse conditions. Jim challenges the audience to come up with a novel one whilst flitting through an array of humorous happenings.

About Jim...

Jim McNeill is a charismatic and dynamic keynote speaker with a passion for leadership. He inspires individuals and teams, at any level, to go beyond their boundaries and reach peak performance. In 2001 Jim founded the highly successful "Ice Warrior Project" an organisation which gives "ordinary" people the opportunity to achieve extraordinary feats.

Throughout his career Jim has selected, trained and led highly successful teams. From top-level corporations, through high risk polar expeditions, to critical life-saving situations, where effective leadership and hands-on teamwork are paramount

Jim's guiding, survival and logistics expertise is employed by BBC film crews on location in extreme environments. Last year Jim was ITV News' own "Ice Warrior", reporting the reality of climate change directly from the Arctic Ocean to audiences around the globe. The story will continue on ITV next year as he attempts the last, so far unattained, World First in polar expeditioning - to be the first person to reach the very centre of the Arctic Ocean – the Arctic Pole.

Some testimonials...

Jim McNeill offers his audience an entertaining and fascinating insight into his truly remarkable adventures. His courage, unyielding determination and dedication to achieving the seemingly impossible left all those in the room feeling humbled and inspired. Any business serious about success should hear his message.

Sue Thexton – Managing Director, ITN Source

Why it worked for us:

Ice Warrior: Jim McNeill with Ice Warrior has helped turn ordinary people's dreams into a reality. An extraordinary man enabling ordinary people to take the ultimate challenge of Arctic exploration.

Arctic Exploration: The tales of Jim's many Arctic expeditions are unique and thrilling. They are relevant to everyone that has undertaken a personal challenge, the fear of failure or the sacrifice for success each connect very powerfully with the audience.

Commercial Connection: There are some powerful learning's for the commercial world. Here Jim draws strong parallels to the business arena and provides some compelling insights into the key areas of leadership and teamwork that provide some invaluable and graphic lessons.

John Gillett - Chairman Candour Event Marketing

The presentation Jim gave (to my marketing leadership group) was nothing less than inspirational. He combined an authoritative blend of raw experience with practical coaching on leadership skills which has further energised an already highly motivated group of senior executives. We plan to bring him back and extend our learning with him to our wider team.

Jon Geldart - Director of Marketing, Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP

Jim McNeill's presentation to the Captain Scott Society on the subject of his "Ice Warrior" endeavours was colourful and entertaining but most of all it was thought provoking. Jim gave an honest and unsentimental view of the difficulties he faced in his quest for the four North Poles and also a clear assessment of how global warming is changing the face and nature of the Arctic. The extraordinary images used to good effect during the presentation were graphic, evocative and often dramatic. The knowledge Jim has acquired of the Arctic was obvious and allowed him to speak with authority and assurance.

Julian Salisbury - Chairman, The Captain Scott Society

When Jim talks about the Arctic his messages are about more than just the frozen wastes – they are about people, and the essential ingredients which enable them to work together under adverse conditions to achieve success.

Steve Howe MVO - Managing Director SHC Consulting

Jim provided a really good finish to our conference and the link to teams, leadership and motivation was right on the money.

Steve Lavery - Managing Director UPM Tilhill Ltd

Jim proved an amusing and engaging speaker who enthralled our audience with his tales of modern adventure. His personal insights into the effects of climate change were delivered with passion and detail. Everyone was both entertained and educated; we will definitely use him again.

Chairman - Sign-Up.To

Safety Consultancy for the Film Industry

Safety management in polar, mountainous and desert regions
Safety planning
Safety audit
Risk assessment
Dynamic risk assessment
Safety team selection and provision
Safety training
Medical emergency planning, training and exercising
Critical crisis management
Key person safety
Contingency planning
Equipment specification, testing and procurement
Location selection and advice
Medical team selection and provision
Fire team selection and provision



BBC

Jim is location and safety advisor for the BBC Natural History Unit. This BBC Online report is from their recent filming in the Highlands of Scotland.

"Jim, on all fours, checked the lashings and was lifted off the ground. It was difficult to crawl and impossible to stand; but trained and experienced in conditions such as these from his solo expeditions on the Arctic ice, Jim was calm and clear in his commands."

- **Producer, Fergus Beeley**

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BBC

In 2007 Jim spent most of the summer on Ellesmere Island in the Arctic with the BBC's Natural History Unit. Jim located the elusive Arctic Wolf for the BBC and has written a diary about the wolves and their environment for BBC Online

[read more>](#)

[wolves caught on camera>](#)

Testimonials

"Despite having travelled a huge amount in the Tropics with the BBC Natural History Unit and as a biologist beforehand I was an Arctic virgin before I went on Jim's Ice-Warrior Course. After an intensive five days, down in Berkshire and in the shadows of Ascot Racecourse I felt more than equipped to take on 80 degrees north for the 'Sisters of the Snow' Natural World. I thought the course was incredibly well organised and went through everything from a very comprehensive wilderness first aid course with much hands-on practice, to GPS work, workshops on clothing, the use of special knots and what to do when a polar bear comes a little bit too close! Jim is particularly strong on logistics and emergency planning with particular relevance to the Arctic and so by talking through our needs, Jim was able to help particularly with formulating robust emergency procedures and look at complex coordination issues from all sides.

Jim is good humoured, incredibly genial to work with and has a good understanding of the needs of film camera crews and I wouldn't hesitate to link up with him again."

Mike Dilger

Freelance Naturalist, Presenter and Assistant Producer

"Jim McNeill arranged for a four-man BBC filming team to reach a remote peninsula on Ellesmere Island, Northern Canada and work there for eight weeks in summer 2007. Jim was responsible for all the complex health and safety issues in this extraordinarily isolated place. It would not have been possible for the BBC Natural History Unit to film in such a remote location in the High Arctic without Jim's assistance. Jim was able to co-ordinate new aircraft landing sites in the ever-changing environment of the melting ice of the Arctic. This ensured that the film team could prioritise their work, knowing that the logistic needs could follow."

"The Arctic location safety training that was provided by Jim lasted one week and ensured that the BBC team was confident and well prepared for any possible scenario. The course covered Navigation, Orientation, Personal and Medical Kits, Communications, Hazards and Risk Management. The forests around Ascot provided practical opportunities to learn. Jim even seemed able to provide snow for the week!"

Fergus Beeley

Producer, BBC NHU