

Ice cold gold

The Arctic winter is often characterised by outsiders as a long dark, deep-frozen season. This is obviously not correct.

Sudden weather changes occur through the winter, where snow turns into sleet and where sleet turns into rain. At Nuuk warm Foehn winds often arise over the ice sheet. The strong winds melt the surface of the snow and the ice in their passage of the town. Also the weather systems from the south often bring warm air up along the west coast of Greenland.

In Nuuk we traditionally have a football match between known politicians and others in the days between Christmas and New Year. The match takes place in a gravelled open football field. Most often the match takes place in the snow, but some years the soccer players founders around in huge amounts of water from the defrosted snow and ice that is covering the frozen football field.

Right beside my home we have a small marsh. It can quickly thaw, and just as quickly freeze over. When there has been a change in the weather, it creates a smooth surface that can act as a mirror. When the winter sun sends its cold rays onto the surface of the marsh, beautiful colours are formed in the new-ice. This day in January the light of the sun almost create a shade of ice cold gold.



Qernertunnguanut in Nuuk, January 2013