

Kinder Climbing Meet, September 2013

End of September, the sun was shining and 2 car loads heading for Kinder, for what ended up being one of the most enjoyable weekend meets of the year. This was never going to be about climbing hard or a high volume of routes, rather savouring the pleasure of empty cliffs and good company, in a great setting and for once the weather was playing ball.



Attending were Mike, Jeff, Jon H., Dave, Tony, Ben and myself, with Mark meeting us there. I did hear a rumour that a Tigger, fresh out of hibernation was also on Kinder - somewhere. Jeff, Dave and I went to explore The Great Buttress in search of some esoteric 100 Best ticks. With a fair amount of effort we got to the bottom of Great Slab, which even Ashton concedes "it is good not great". I would have gratefully taken good, but got bloody awful instead. After writing a more appropriate route name in the green slime, we retreated and checked the other 2 routes, to find they were also un-climbable without a good freeze and axes! Looking across the valley we could see the others had split up. Mike was already half way up Zig Zag a classic 3* VD, with Tony belaying and Jon H, Mark and Ben where heading towards Kinder Buttress.



Cutting our loses, we joined Mike and Tony, who having just finished, were settling down for lunch, and rather smugly, got to enjoy the site of Jeff trying to find the slime free holds on Zig Zag. I am glad to say he stuck it out and finished in **style!** Hats off to Mike.



We left Tony climbing the rather exciting Chockstone Chimney VD and headed for Kinder Buttress and the 2 pitch 3* HS 4b, 4c, Mermaid's Ridge. Seeing how good and dry the first pitch looked I quickly claimed it - after all Jeff had the last one. This left Dave the second pitch, with a lovely 4c



move onto the arête and then on to a chimney which was a little green and had repulsed 2 leaders already, top effort Dave, (Unfortunately Ben stepped up and had done the crux, but failed to finish, as he was put off by the green. Jon H. also decided that the green was not for him, but Mark did manage with the rope from above, so got the route before he headed home 2 hours late!). By this time, Mike and Tony had wandered over from off width hell to finish off the day with Mermaid's Ridge, which they completed in good order.



With Jon H. practising his abseil skills, I invited Ben to join us on our last route of the day, Left Twin Chimney HS 4b, 4c. It was "short straw" Ingham's turn up, front for the first pitch, a bridging corner with a fist size crack in the back. Damp and green, this was pretty hard to second; I was last up and still got slimed up to my elbow! After awarding "short straw" with "man of the match", I swiftly led through and was delighted that although damp my final crack was a red herring, all the real climbing done on lovely sun soaked ripples on the right wall.

A pleasant walk through the woods and along the stream brought the day to an end. No ice creams this time, but we all stopped off for a well-deserved pint.

Thanks to everyone who attended and to meet leader Mike.

Jon Shields, September 2013