

# Wimberry Climbing meet – August 2013

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Wimberry is one of those places I have always meant to visit and despite having 10 routes in the Steve Ashton 100 Best Yorkshire and Peak Grit, I have never quite got round to it. Weather and the long walk are the usual excuses, that and its reputation for brutal man eating crack lines and thick green lichen.

For those who have never ventured, a dry spell is a must before any visit, as any dampness quickly turns the lichen to slime, so it was pretty disappointing, to be caught in a heavy shower just before reaching the crag.

The weather was kind and the team (Mike and Paul) decided I better crack on with the first route Overhanging Chimney (V Diff). I have to say it was a pretty unique experience, scraping wet slime from all hand and footholds before use and I reckon my seconds got a bit of an easy ride!



Paul was quick to grab the very fine Ornithologist's Corner (VS 5a), clean and very good. Having warmed up, I thought we better tackle the 2 stopper routes while the weather held and to be honest Freddie's Finale (E1 5b) was pretty intimidating and I just wanted it done.

Armed with Dave's jamming glove of glory (yes there was only one, Dave lost the left), I went for it and rather like the walk in; it was nowhere as bad as I feared. Top tip, if you have 3 No. 4 cams you are invincible. Mike declined the opportunity, but did award me with my Jamming Proficiency Badge!

Paul was up next for The Trident (HVS/E1 5b), like The Peapod, but harder. You seemed to struggle with very precarious chimneying for what felt like hours, to gain inches. Paul loved it, well at least found it quite an emotional experience and judging by all the noise Mike was making, he wouldn't forget it in a hurry either!

Bertie's Bugbear, a great looking severe was under a thick carpet of lichen, so we left that and also walked past Starvation Chimney (HVD), wet and slimy with a caving trip at the top and onto Rote 2, a



great varied VS 5a. We were now half way, 5 routes out of 10, and failing to recruit a second, I soloed up to the constriction of Starvation Chimney and promptly got my helmet stuck. I freed myself and looked down to see that Paul and Mike had lost interest in my struggle and where starting Route 2 (HS4b). I decided that looked a better option, so quickly reversed to join them.

Six in the bag and getting a bit late, so a quick solo up Twin Cracks (HS 4b) and Slab Climb (Severe), took the tally to 8. Not in the 100 best list but looking good I quickly bagged a solo of Herringbone Slab (HVS 4c) as a consolation prize.

Wimberry was a great day out, 9 routes done in total, with 8 out of 10 of my 100 best list in the bag, finished nicely by Mike treating us all to an ice cream!

The good news is I still have 2 to do, so a return trip is in offing for all those who missed out this time.

Jon Shields