



Trip Report Wye Valley

10TH JUNE - 11TH JUNE 2023



DAY 1 - SYMONDS YAT

The second Wye Valley trip of the year was action packed and very popular! A final count of 27 club members and past members came down for the weekend.



Jon and Jigi climbed Symonds Yat on Friday, on Snoozin' Suzie (VD) and Orange Wall (HVS) before retiring to the campsite - a 4 mile walk after finding the car park barriers up at 9p.m!

In the meantime several intrepid climbers decided that the Ostrich pub would be a good idea. Beers were sampled and people eventually meandered under wobbly head torches back to the camping, you can guess what it was like...

The weather was unpredictable on Saturday as June heat built up to a humid day, threatening some thunderstorms; however we got away with dry and sunny conditions and managed a lot of climbing at Symonds Yat, mainly at the South Buttresses.



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At the South Buttresses, Ian was lead climber on Central Route (VD) and Homeopath (S) with Moises and Marta seconding. Jim, Lars, Chris, Adam and Nacho were on adjacent routes, supporting new climbers and leading.

New outdoor climbers Warren, Aiden and Ken got their rock shoes to work on to the limestone crag, on whatever they had in front of them! Heather and Steve worked with Warren on his lead skills on Central Route which seemed to go well! Dan, Lars, Adam Aiden and Ken finished Joyce's (S) led by Adam and Lars, while Jim and Nate worked on the more challenging adjacent route.



Bruno and fellow climbers were also down for the day, staying on the classic Golden Fleece side, and we all caught up afterwards briefly to compare notes.

Jigi and Nick decided on Shorn Cliff as a destination, and spent the day on many and varied routes including State of Independence (VS4B), Motion Pictures (E1 5b), a magnificent effort from Nick to achieve Laughing Cavaliers (HVS 5a) and Tigers Don't Cry (HVS 5b). 11 stars on 4 routes!

At the end of Saturday we entertained ourselves in the Ostrich pub, with some great food and a 21 climber salute to the weekend - mainly by eating out their supply of Sticky Toffee Pudding, and sampling several of their fine beers of course.





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DAY 2 - WINTOURS LEAP

After overnight rain, Sunday dawned as a damp start, various countryside sounds emanating from a sleepy campsite; including the sheep.



We decided on Wintours Leap and managed to arrange ourselves into two types of climber - sport and trad. John and Ross came down to join in for the day. Ian, Nacho, Nate, Nick, Alan and Maria headed off to the sport climbing area with a bag of quickdraws to try those routes. Ian, Nacho and Nate led Earl Mac Lovin (4c) then Nate led a short Tacky Teca (5b) sport route, before rain stopped play at lunchtime.

Rob led a group to the central area at Wintours Leap, navigating to a multi pitch climb for Ken, Aiden, Caroline and Dan. Weak sun turned to persistent rain and climbing in the wet turned slippery. The best way to proceed was the Easy Way Up, which actually isn't so easy in the wet! Ken's climbing technique was noted by Rob "that's an interesting move Ken..." as he laid back, pulled his weight over his front foot and flopped on to a damp ledge, like a wet fish on a trawler's deck.





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Jon and Jigi also climbed nearby on Wintours Leap on Sunday, tackling Saudi Air (7b), Surrealist (E1 5b) and Therapy (E2 5c) before the end of the day, joining the Easy Way Up group with a break for Sunday lunch in the pub between the rain showers !

After a splendid lunch in the Rising Sun pub, most people headed for home. Nick, Jon and Jigi waited for a break in the weather.



As Nick left, Jon and Jigi continued climbing in the evening sunshine, accompanied by a flock of seagulls, wheeling in the sky above.

An idyllic end, to a great climbing weeked, thanks to everyone who came along!



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WCC CLIMBERS:

Rob, Ken, Warren, Lars, Steve, Heather, Caroline, Nick, Jim, Marta, Moises, Nacho, Dan, Alan, Maria, Chris, Ian, Jigi, Jon, Aidan, Ross, John, Adam, Nathan, Bruno, Mark, Emma. Special Guests: Mike Allen, Carol Haynes and Cat.