



South Devon stuff

Martin Crocker

South Devon stuff *Version 30.7.2021*. Some (possibly) New Stuff (but I'd be very happy if anything described below has been climbed before).

Chudleigh

*Dead Cat Bounce 7m E4 6a (hard-V3)

Climb the right side of the *Dreamboat* arête to finish via a short slim groove. As good as its partner but with a bigger drop.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 11.3.2020

Sharkham Bouldering Area

There is a 5m high overhanging wall above an inlet immediately east of *Undercut Arête* boulder. Hell, you'd might as well do these DWS titches while bumbling around here. High spring tide recommended but even then there is a reef you must either avoid or jump onto in the event of messing up.

Happy Campers' Traverse 8m S2/3 F5

Traverse the wall from north to south along a jug-rich break, taking full note of your landing after half-distance.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 25.10.2020

Mein Camp 5m S1/2 F5

Traverse in from the north for 3m, and pull over onto a slab using a short diagonal crack over the lip.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 25.10.2020

Same day I managed *The New Beginnings*, nearby: looked like it hadn't been climbed for years (partly because I ripped off a few really loose holds right at the top). Only just-V6 (?) and at that grade you must exit the apex direct and not sidle off right (or use out-of-line finger-jug on the right).

Durl Head

*Rapid Flow Test 9m S1 6b+

A mildly acrobatic way over the sizeable roof above the first part of the traverse-in. Wait for a good high tide, as there is a big subsurface sloper. Stretch for a sharp jug on the right side of the roof; cut loose to more jugs up left; then take the lovely compact slab above on slopers. Really good, boasting by far the best rock of the trio.

FA: MJC (solo)

Dooby Ducks' is a nasty piece of work: snappy, and undergraded as expected.

Chuck Berry provides an excitingly high DWS. To keep above deep water, traverse left 5m from just short of its junction with *Berry Red Wall/Lady of Shame*. Follow cracks up the wall, taking care with the rock, and reach past some stuck on blocks to a line of holds leading right into the exit of *LoS*. Like this it's F5+ and S3 (because of its height). Reach it by traversing in from the north. Soloed by MJC 20 July 2021 (after checking by abseil the exit for loose rock).

Flangipan is S2 F5+ as a DWS. The S2 is for the high upper section, but that's no harder than F4+.

On-sight DWS by MJC 20 July 2021. *I came to solo **Lady of Shame** but had forgotten there is a big ledge beneath!*

****Foaming at the Gusset 15m S1 F6b+**

A fantastic roof with a run of great jugs – once you reach them. Climb the front of the little buttress straight to the stance of *Foaming at the Mouth*. Above the right-hand end of the ledge is a hanging niche with a flake on its left arête. Extend for a finger-jam in the groove; then fire out left for the flake. Haul over into the niche, and exit easily.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 20.7.2021 *The underside of the roof was wet with humidity, so I'm not sure about the grade.*

Freedumb Day+1 S1 F5

A good intro to deep water soloing on this crag. It climbs the right arête of the North Bay. Traverse in and climb the arête, pulling over a little roof into a groove. For a nice exposed finish tiptoe left long the lip of roof, and pull up onto easier ground.

On-sight DWS by MJC 20 July 2021 (probably done before)

Berry Head

Red Walls

****Witches' Knickers 15m F6b S1**

A stunning companion of *Forrest Gump*, mostly jug-pulling – but 'out there'. Approach as for *Relay* etc. to the overhung ledges. Climb over the overhang, up a short pink corner (just left of where *Karmacoma* pulls over). Pull rightwards over the bulge (*Karmacoma* swings left here), and bear right on big holds to the lip of the main roof. Jugs lead into and up the crack over the lip, 2m left of *Forrest Gump*. Wave to your audience to the south.

FA: MJC (solo; I had climbed *Karmacoma* before) 26.10.2020

Coastguard cliff

***Someone Else got that Number 12m S1 F6c**

An aerobic dalliance with the hanging arête left of *Piracy*. Take the *Douglas Fairbanks* corner for 3m to a deep pocket on the right wall. Make hard moves right to stand up on a projecting foothold, swing right, and grab the hanging arête. Now above deeper water, layback the arête while to the best of your ability avoiding the barn door. Andy's *Piracy* finish lies directly overhead.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 12.9.2020

FYI: The new *Piracy* ain't F3+! Solid 5a moves up 'new' arête, so F5.

Cloudburst Buttress

***Same As it Ever Was 8m S0 F5**

The beautiful little grooved arête above good water immediately left of Coastguard Cliff. Traverse in from the west via a ledge and finger-rail. Delicately work up the groove.

FA: ? Must have been done before my ascent of 7.6.2021.

Shades of Ray 12m S2 F6a+

Climb the left side of the isolated arête of *Hidden Groove*, finishing as for that route. Lures you into a scary sloping mantel on the left – don't fall.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 7.6.2021

God I Need a Drink! 15m S3 F6b+

A direct harrowing finish to *Dry and Wet*. After rocking-up onto the calcite wall, balance straight up to finger-pockets under the leaning headwall. Crank up, rather than crack up, and mantel over to safety. On-sighting would be courageous but foolhardy: best check the sturdiness of the holds beforehand.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping upper section; just as well given the big 'solid' brain-mashing layaway block that came off during headpointing) 12.9.2020

By the way *Ben* (probably F6b+, as it is tech harder than *Calcite Diamond*) is S3: a fall would lead to arms and legs severed by the knife-edged arête below. In reality the *Cloudburst* buttress isn't best suited to DWS: any fall would lead to a chaotic flailing on the underlying slab and a blood-slick in the water.

Easy Buttress

There's an eliminate called **No** 6m E1 5a up the end (eastern) wall of the buttress. Start low in the gully (no bridging), reach the obvious finger-jug, and take nice holds to the top. FA: MJC (on-sight solo), 7.6.2021 – done before?

Living Zawn

Buggie Boogie Woogie. The base of the tiny corner can be reached by a sequency diagonal traverse from near the start of the traverse-in (F6a+).

Hidden Zawn

You can make a F4+ S2 entry into the rightmost routes from the east (thus improving them), as follows. After the initial groove of *Sealed*, move left around the rib and take a line of footholds towards the back of the 'zawn'. Bridge across and descend the opposite wall to link up with *Meds* and *Placebo* (and in fact *Tied Line* – which is nebulous when approached from the west – makes much more sense this way).

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 26.10.2020 Done before?

A line filling the gap between 47 and 48 is worth describing:

Sugar Pill S1 F5

Take the bubbly eliminate slab just left of a thin roof and carry on direct using big holds on the right.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 26.10.2020 Done before?

Arch Zawn**Arth-rotator-itis** S1 F6b

Merely an alternative start to *Old Man's Ladder* (or *Stannah*). Groan, creak and snap up the right-slanting flake and groove left of *Stannah*, and pull up direct onto the foot-ledge of *OML*. Continue as for that route. (Note the line of *OML* on the topo is not quite correct – it takes a far more direct line up the white wall.)

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 21.7.2020 Done before?

Saddle Point area

Mass Murderer is an E6 6a solo above a 'death landing' whatever the state of the tide: great climbing though. There are four bolt stubs in the upper slab; a fascinating piece of history given it must have been one of the country's earliest purpose-built sport routes (yet in such an anachronistic place). It is even more unsettling when the tombstoners are consuming Big Mac.

Donnarumma F5 S0 The obvious short arête above good water down and right of Big Mac. Reverse the corner to its right until an orange patch under the arête on the left. A tricky move starts the arête; then it's easy. FA?

The next cluster of deep water solos, which taken together justify the diversion, climb the grey and orange wall under the concrete 'jumping step' under the right-hand side of the quarry. Not recommended if the tombstoners are jumping. Also, wait for high tide because there's a rock platform under most of the routes (and the step, bizarrely).

5m F4 S0 Traverse right along the break for 2m. Take the pleasant pock-marked slab to the top.

5m F4+ S1/2 Traverse along the break to a ledge under the orange wall. Climb up and leftwards to exit just right of the concrete jump-step.

5m F5+ S1/2 From the ledge climb the centre of the orange wall and finish on spaced jugs. Eliminate.

6m F5 S1/2 A double-handed undercut in the right side of the orange wall enables the first of a series of mega-jugs to be reached: continue to the highest point. Quite good.

The above surely must have been done before my low-tide o-s solo ascents on 13.7.2021.

Watchtower cliff-line

Around the first rib of the traverse, and loitering with intent high above the sea, is an overhanging orange flowstone wall: your destiny.

****Death Metal Mountain 15m F7a/F7a+ S3+**

More the British E5 6a grade than the French 'equivalent', this is the totally committing line up the centre of the wall. If you pump out or mess up the start, make sure you push/jump out of the way of the underlying ledge and slab – either way it's 30 – 60 feet to the sea. Start under an obvious grey flowstone layaway 4m up the wall, right hand on sharp crimp. Make an intricate sequence to gain the layaway; then lay one on for the deep pocket up to the right. Sustained strenuous moves above gain a projecting block-hold (just use its left side, as it's somewhat hollow). Easier now; but carefully select holds above to ease out onto a scenic karst slab.

FA: MJC (after top-roping) 22.6.2021.

Recalling the perfect east wall of Thunder Hole, I took an ab....

You could incorporate the next route in your *Watchtower* traverse itinerary; alternatively reach it by a 30m abseil to the foot-ledge at the base of the groove at the eastern end of the Watchtower crux traverse. At the base of the zig-zags on the way to London Bridge, hop over the fence and take a descending track with steps to near its end. Locate a substantial holm oak 5m below the path, which has a jammed limestone block in its roots; abseil from this, take jumars to get out again (if not exiting via *The Watchtower* traverse), and mind your head.

****Where Old Men Came and Went 12m S0 F7a+/7b**

Very finery indeed, and the best footholds are hard to spot. From the groove, traverse left (and down slightly initially) under a thin overhang, before making a testing rock-up left to reach sharp holds at the right end of a jug in the middle of the glorious orange wall. From the jug, one neat move above will get you to the centre of *Watchtower's* crux traverse: take it rightwards, descending, to your starting point.

FA: MJC (solo, after abseil approach) 15.9.2020

Telegraph Hole (sea walls)

A few of these can be previewed in *Freddie the Frog Hits Telegraph Hole* – a mini-film on YouTube, embedded in www.martincrockerclimbing.com.

Dis-United Kingdom 30m S2 F5+

Really only a variation to *Pinnacle Traverse Continuation*, but described here as a high tide excursion in its own right. Descend the *Winklepicker* wall diagonally left; step up and traverse across the seepage onto ledges at the back of the zawn (this is the S2 part). Step down to another ledge, on the far wall. Instead of ducking down under the ‘winklepicker’, launch up the black wall to a jug-line which is followed leftwards onto the top of said projection (this is the fun part – and only SO, F4+). Scramble up into the wood.
FA: MJC (on-sight solo; possibly climbed before) 15.9.2020

Right of *Powder Blue* (which is F6a and much better than it looks) and *Winklepicker* (which is *S2 F5) are a few shorties. The brown drainage line is F4+ (and useable as a descent, making it feel a lot harder), the thin flake to the right is F5, while the arête earns itself a description.

Pickled Winker 7m S1/3 F5+

This is the left side of the white, right-bounding arête. Approach by a suitable solo descent of the *Winklepicker* wall; traverse right with feet at or just below the barnacle line, and move up to a big sidehold on the arête for right hand. Undercut to ledges and finish up the top step. Come at high spring tide, so at least to pretend the unmissable rockshelf below isn't there. Note: the reported F3+ takes the arête's right-hand side, though it won't be SO.
FA: MJC (solo at S3, but after top-roping because the tide had gone out) 10.9.2020

The next two routes offer but a skim of water at high tide, raising the rhetorical question: ‘Why an S grade, then?’ They have some decent gear too, by the looks of it, so maybe leading them makes more sense. Approach them by descending the Diff corner and traversing the lowest foot-ledge.

*BJ Vanity Project 9m S3+ F5 (E1/2 5a to lead?)

Much easier than it looks. Pull up onto the grey face on finger-jugs. Delicately balance up its centre to a break, and proceed direct past a second break to the top.
FA: MJC (after top-roping, expecting it to be much harder) 12.6.2021

*The Great Reset 9m S3+ F6a+ (E2/3 5c to lead?)

The superb yet short right-hand arête of the grey wall. Pull up to breaks under the small roofs in the hanging arête, and make a stiff pull to jugs high above. Yank over, and finish easily. If you miss the capacious thread-hold under the roofs and you could have problems! Front cover pic (video still).
FA: MJC (after top-roping) 12.6.2021

The next three lead routes take the previously unprobed roof-laden orange walls to the right (below which *Pinnacle Traverse Continuation* rambles along a sloping barnacle shelf. The shelf is exposed other than 1 to 2 hours either side of high tide). Approach them by descending the Diff corner or by abseil (from trees set 15 metres back). The walls are dominated by a left-slanting corner/roof line.

Ship Chat 9m HVS 4c

No S grade here. If soloing, traverse 2m beyond the *The Great Reset* arête. Big holds on very steep rock lead into an awkward finishing groove (avoid the easy escape left onto the arête). Protectable and therefore best led, at low-to-mid tide.
FA: MJC (solo) 12.6.2021 *Two of the Covid-anchored liners were deep in fog-horn conversation.*

BJ Gaffe Machine 12m E3 5c

Spare us the see-through soundbites: this is a real-life strenuous battle, despite its brevity. Start in line with the top of the corner (roof). Pounce up the initial bulging wall onto a ledge. Pull up past a mini-arch in the folded grey rock and gain a big side-hold flange in the apex of the corner. Use large holds on the left wall to exit – hyperbolae at the ready.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.6.2021

***'Greed is Good' (God help us)** E3 6a 12m

Powerful but can be protected to the hilt, strength permitting. Start just to the right of an undercut prow which forms the bottom right-hand end of the roof. Reach jugs over the roof, cut loose, and get established on the wall. Make a fingery move to a ledge and easy ground.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.6.2021

The *Eventide* buttress is quite a nice little deep water solo site, with fine rock and nothing to hit in the water save paddleboarders. Here are a few add-ons, which might not be new.

Skjelvet 18m S1 F6b

Pretty good climbing up the red rock just before the underlying platform gets in the way. Follow *PTC* to within 2m of the ledges. Climb up and make strenuous moves over a bulge into a left-facing scoop. Steeply exit on large holds, quaking.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 15.9.2020.

***Num-Yum** 15m S0 F5+

Follow *PTC* (as for *Eventide*), but carry on until beneath the left end of the roof. Above is a hanging corner, which provides a short-lived tussle. Good fun.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 15.9.2020 Climbed before?

Eventide Variation S0 F6b

Step left again beneath the roof, undercut for big holds on the lip, and make one strong pull to get onto the headwall. Proceed direct, clawing over onto a serrated slab to exit.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 15.9.2020 Climbed before?

HMS Prince of Wales 5m F5

A neat warm-up on the rib between *Eventide* and the groove of *Telescopic Arms*. Start beneath the latter and swing around an arête (considerably harder than 5a at high tide), trundling left until under the front of the rib. Forge straight up, finishing with an athletic layback up the true arête. FA?

The Toss Off: I Love You Nick, Ultimate Low Start S0 F6c

An extending few moments needing tides no higher than 4.1.m and a relatively calm sea so the footholds don't get wet. Reverse *Naked Surprise* (or traverse in), and descend further towards the base of the arête until you can reach a good side-hold for right hand left of the arête (somewhat contorted). Standing on the obvious flat foothold at the HWM, reach around high for a fat rounded pinch and power it to gain the routine jugs well above.

FA: MJC (solo) 20.6.2021

***Turn it On** 7m S1 F6b+

Bridge across the mini-zawn using the obvious fingerhold, as for *The Toss Off*. Take the concretions and crimps straight up the otherwise smooth wall to a break just below the top. Exit easily. (No 'escaping' left onto the arête.) This sounds similar to the original description of *TTO*: 'do the splits to get established on the right side of the arête at its base. Using the concretions, delicately secrete up the arête to jugs on its edge and an easier finish'. Beware the narrow landing trench. So, this looks like a direct finish to *TTO*, up the wall (with *TTO* swinging left onto the obvious jug on the arête after 3m).

FA: MJC (solo; had climbed *The Toss Off* before) 10.9.2020

****Rule of Sex 7m S1 F5**

A cult classic to be (?), with some whopping jugs. Descend the corner (Diff) as for *The Toss Off* etc. Keeping low, enter the chimney right of said indulgence, and – ass to the wall – back-and-foot all the way to the top. Come when the air and maybe you are feeling fresh, but beware the tight landing-trench.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 10.9.2020

NaughtyNick 10m (these aren't 15m) S3 HVS 5a F5

Pull over the initial overhang (I started *Stratagem* just to the right of the Nick), and forge straight up between it and *Megatarts*. Best led as – should you fall – you will maim yourself on the traverse-ledge and then drown. But don't let that put you off: the holds are good.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 10.9.2020

Stratagem and *Megasluts* are F4+.

Tongue of the Sea 8m S2 F5

From the col between Daddyhole Pinnacle and the mainland you will see a white and brown-streaked arête 15m to the west. At high tide traverse in from the east and stretch left to an obvious jug in the white wall. Take the very escapable arête above, exercising self-discipline to stay tight to it. Don't fall off.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 10.9.2020

Daddyhole Main Cliff***Tempest 25m E3 5c**

Beautiful, if short-lived, climbing up the crag's best rock; well, that's before it ends in the shattered junk in common with *Tobacco Road*. It climbs the broad rib between *Caliban* and *Good Dog*, and is well protected. From the reef, climb easily direct to a horizontal slot (cams) in a bulge. Make a big move to the obvious projecting finger-hold and gain the little break above. Continue up a flake-line mostly on undercuts and pull up a thin crack to a ledge. To avoid the shattered rock overhead, traverse right 2 metres to the top of *Good Dog*. Scramble up the loose slab of *TR* to finish.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 23.7.2021 *Can't be sure of the grade because of that day's post-heatwave tempest – could be anything between E2 5c and E3 6a.*

Daddyhole Upper Cliff

Two problems up the textured wall between *Corner* and *Gravity Crack*; an easy to locate wart above head-height starts you off:

Wart (left) V2 (f5+) Pinch the wart with right hand and extend to the sloper in the traverse-break above.

***Wart (right) V4 (f6b)** Pinch the wart with left hand, reach up right for tinies and crimp hard for the break.
FAs: MJC 25.9.2020

***Relyon 6m V5 (f6c)** Pays its respects to the adjacent Relyon king size mattress that had been dumped over the cliff; this is the left side of the 'project arête'. No big white block. Sit start the arête and take its very edge (no rockfall scar jug to right), laybacking up powerfully until a trying crux rock-up gains a hand-ledge. Finish more easily but at height.

FA: MJC 25.9.2020

Magawa 6m V3 (f6a+)/E3 6a The improbable (at these grades) wall left of *Just one Kiss*. Using a big sidehold in the rockfall scar to the left, reach the first of two good holds. Pull hard to the next, and then make a long, long reach up right for a thin projecting layaway. Pull up to an OK exit. On-sightable with multiple mats, I suppose; though you'd best brush the exit first.

FA: MJC (solo, after top-roping) 25.9.2020

Love's Labour Lost variation: V2 (f5+) An eliminate up the slab just left of (and avoiding holds in) the initial crack. One difficult rock-up.

FA: MJC 25.9.2020

Meadfoot Sea-cliffs

Globe Trotter 6m VS 4b/F4 S2 (?/18.6.2021)

The black corner on nice holds; this being the right-hand of the pair of corners right of the 'overhang above the high water mark').

FA: ? – must have been climbed before, if only in mistake for *Lamb's Tail* (F4).

Black Head

***Room to Breathe** 6m S0 F6c+

Follow the traverse-in to both hands in the horizontal finger-slot (small white streak) in the centre of the black wall. Take crimps, dinks, and dimples straight to the top. High tech flat-on-the-wall climbing, possibly harder than 6c+ if you prefer bigger holds.

Note: there is plenty of space for this: *Squished In* seems to take an eliminate line up a ragged crack just left of the arête and *Solid Emulsion* is way over left up cracks just right of the corner.

FA: MJC (solo) 31.8.2020, climbed before?

Long Quarry Point

Just a note to say that a good option for *Sea Slater Traverse* is to proceed on the lowest variants and return via the higher two (returning right-to-left the F5+ is S2 F6a, and the F6b+ is S2 F6a+).

Babbacombe

New Quarry

In the Black Jack zawn:

***Bust It** 6m S2 F6b+

Traverse from the left, passing the sidehold/jug of *Black Jack*; and then move up a slight rib in the centre-right of the wall. There is a crucial long reach off a high left hand crimp at the top and a protruding tongue of rock at the bottom – great care is required. Probably F6b if you swing in from the right.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020

Double Down S1 F6a+

An affable left-to-right traverse just above the pink, with tech moves to gain *Black Jack's* sidehold/jug.

Don't fall off at the end.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020 Done before?

Worth describing the route left of 22a climbed by Chris and family: F5a on big creaky jugs.

Between *Jammie Dodge* and *Banana Splits* is a 4m-high pinnacle under a leaning prow (unclimbed – looks F7c/7c-ish though with a *harikari* exit). Take it away, Alexis.

****30 in the Shade** 25m S1 F6c

Shady explorations. A featuresome traverse of the *Jammie Dodger* area, with the crux above good water (at high tide). Descend the diagonal crack leftwards and bridge across onto the pinnacle (F5 and S1 thus far, a worthy excursion in its own right). On the far side of the pinnacle, launch diagonally left up an overhanging wall to gain a high jug (on *Sweat and Swelter*); then stride left into *Jammie Dodger*. Make one move up to gain a jug-rail above a smooth wall, and then traverse left descending a little to the eastern end of the wall.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020

****Sweat and Swelter** 7m S1 F7a+

Superb: the cracks and groove right of *Jammie Dodger*. Traverse in as for *30 in the Shade*. Launch diagonally left up an overhanging wall to gain a high jug. Make a long reach up the groove; hang whatever comes to hand, and – from a higher jug – finish a little more easily. Quite possibly 7a when cooler – it was hard to be objective in that heat.

FA: MJC (solo, subsequent to *Jammie Dodger* and *30 in the Shade*) 11.8.2020

Little Arête 4m F4

The left side of the little arête of the prow right of *Banana Splits* is a nice warm-up.

MC Annihilator 7m S0 F6c

The 'imposing nose' on the *Curiosity* traverse; easy to fall off, but with safe water. Scramble down to the left (facing out) of the nose to gain the lowest ledge just above HWM. Reach high left for the sharp arête; then abandon style to join high holds or the drink. Swing right and carefully take hollow jugs to the top.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020 *Almost fell off – would have been welcome in the swelter.*

Curiosity

The section beyond *Big Buzz* is probably its best part: interesting flowstone features, though with little water (S2/3). No need to reverse; just scramble easily up above the little cave (water beneath) to the cliff-top.

Withy Point Rocks

***Nutters 1 to 3** 9m S0 F6c

Pays homage to the tombstoners' named jumps from blood-curdling positions up to the right. Traverse along *Undertow* for 3m until just before its hard move up right for the finger-jug. Reach two crimps above the bulge, pull hard on a small round sidehold for left and gain more crimps above. Continue up the narrowing wall on spaced holds; reach the top and mantel over.

FA: MJC (solo) 1.9.2020

Quick Dip Area

****End on a High** 14m S1 F6c+

The gorgeous orange wall left of the arête of *Life's an Ocean*; the best rock on the buttress. Start at the foot of the corner (could be reached by a careful abseil down the corner: I did the traverse when I climbed *Life's an Ocean*, and it is consistently loose and crumbly as far as the corner). Step right onto the foot of the wall and power straight up on pockets and edges past a very long reach. Continue to a shake-out beneath a wide crack. Ignore the (easy) crack (because it would leave you dangerously above the slab); locate two pinches on the leaning wall on the right and gain a good layaway high on the arête. Keeping in balance, teeter up to fingerholds just around the arête and pull up carefully to the exit of *Life's an Ocean*.

FA: MJC (solo, after abseil inspection and cleaning the top section) 29.9.2020

Life's an Ocean is **, but full-on 6b (or more) on the arête (many of the holds are weak or very weak, and a wipe-out is highly probable on sight!).

When the Sun Hits has 5m of good climbing before degenerating into an absolute bag with atrocious rock – terrifyingly dangerous (but waterwings off to Sir Simon).

Petit Tor Point

The following notes have been succeeded by a free downloadable Petit Tor Topo which you can find on www.martincrockerclimbing.com

****Out of my Pocket** 7m S0 F6a/6a+

I thought it the best route of the wall. Gain the scoop twixt 5 and 6. Starting from a high layaway for right hand, climb the left edge of the scoop to gain beautiful finger-holds in the black rock; then reach high left (crux) to a long slanting edge. Finish direct. The white foot-block of 6 is off-this-line (but I think Tim used it on his version – easier?).

***Audience with the Earl of Wooster** 10m S2 F6b

An exciting mini-adventure on a great line. The rock in the top section is better than it looks, but – nonetheless – please avoid going airborne. Follow the traverse and make its first hard move right on the north wall. Stretch up left for a large trembling thread. Use holds up right to gain a handrail up left. Swing right onto a sloping ledge beneath a corner. Take the corner to the top, steadily.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 22.7.2020 I initially thought that this might be AP's route, but his (*Neckton*) is some way to the right.

On the north wall of the zawn is a useful little number, no doubt climbed before.

Au Petit Bonheur 6m S0 F6a

At mid-tide traverse left from the mouth of the zawn for 2m and gain large holds in a plant-centric niche above with difficulty. Pull over the bulge and finish direct.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 30.8.2020

The little F5+ lip traverse on the left side of the cave (which I thought might be new) is an AP route: *Plankton*. Looking properly I see that the water is pretty shallow – so at least S1 (S2 at neap?).

Planet Shiraz 6m S1/2 F6a

Climb the obvious fault/groove left of *Proper Job*, trending left at the top on big holds. Keep a wary eye on the reef to your left i.e. if you must fall, do so to your right.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo, though it's easy to look over the top) 29.7.2020. Obvious line: done before?

I repeated AP's *White Star Line*, which is exhilarating and easy to access.

Did a bunch of things in the *Cracked Arête* area. All are accessed at mid tide (at high spring tides the sloping barnacle shelf from which the routes start becomes wave-washed or submerged making starting with dry feet nigh on impossible).

Access options: (1) *Shufflebum Traverse* (a pain in the baptising ass, repeatedly, and hard to get the sea conditions right), (2) reverse *Cracked Arête* or *Lock up Your Deep Waters*, or (3) from cams on *Cunard Line* (belay of *Neckline*) abseil down the black corner of *Intimate Dark Contortions* placing a few pieces to keep you from landing in the sea (inadvertently jammed wire deep in corner-crack will help in the interim).

The first four routes start at the black corner left of *Cracked Arête*.

****The Youknowwhat** 9m S1 F6b+

The S1 is for the starting move, but once in the air you'll be gurning safely above deep water. Swing up left from the shelf onto a white handrail, and heelhook out into space. At the end of the hand-ledge make a few steep pulls to regain the vertical and *Cunard Line*.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo; well, not really as I first managed to lean in from a rope and brush some of the big clumps of pigeon shit off the edge of the rail) 8.8.2020

****Missing Brittany Ferries** 9m S1 F6c+

A brilliant link-up; the best route on this wall. Swing up left onto handrail of *The Youknowwhat*. Find a slot for left hand in the roof above and pull long and hard for a jug at the base of a black scoop. Swing right on a jug-line; then rock up left into the black scoop so joining the end of *White Star Line*.

FA: MJC (solo) 30.8.2020

The Quarantiners 7m S1 F6b

Start 3m left of the black corner (of *IDC*), and ape up the huge jug-line that rises rightwards into the corner. Safe once you get clear of the sloping shelf.

FA: MJC (solo) 30.8.2020

Intimate Dark Contortions 6m S2 F6b

Do so in the impending corner left of *Cracked Arête*. Short, but the crux is perilously above the ankle-snapping rock shelf, so don't de-contort too early.

FA: MJC (solo) 29.7.2020

*****Freddie the Frog Floats Again** 6m S1 F6b+

Blissful holds and positions on the underside of the prow left of *Cracked Arête*. From the foot of the *IDC* corner, swing out right onto a mega-jug. Reach up right and then gain the centre of the sloping edge of the large ledge above. Swing right to a jug on the apex and hop over. A future classic?

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 29.7.2020

Lock up Your Deep Waters 9m S1 F4+

Good for acclimatizing. Step right from the foot of the corner and take a short thin crack onto a rounded ledge. Continue easily, move right, and take a broad rib onto *Cunard Line*. (Looks like the section above the ledge is in common with *Desired Lines*?)

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 8.8.2020

****Fifty Years of This** 9m S1 F6c+

Immaculate climbing up a *La Crème* like groove (but, don't panic, this is a lot easier). Start 3m right of the corner, past a tricky move. Move up a ragged wall onto a hand-ledge at 4m. Above is a small angular nose: grope, grip and grapple with it to make a powerful stand-up, so gaining small edges in the groove.

Sustained moves up the groove lead to the *Cunard Line* traverse.

FA: MJC (solo) 8.8.2020

***Stressed Eric** 9/10m S1/2 F5+

An airy and atmospheric solo, but don't be tempted to stray right above a subsurface rock platform. Start 3m right of the corner, past a tricky move. Move up a ragged wall onto a hand-ledge at 4m. Swing 1.5m right along the ledge; then pull up onto a rib hosting a wide red vein. Confidently take good finger-ledges straight up the steepening rib onto *Cunard Line*.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 8.8.2020

Coves North of Maidencombe

Out-of-the way bouldering on Permian breccia you've discovered you love so much from going Nudey. The original concept was to chill out on wave-washed boulders above sand, far from the Maidencombe crowds. Well, in Mackerel Cove, Herring Cove, and Badger Cove there are such boulders, plus a concave wall still with (nails) potential at the former.

A plastic sheet/tarpaulin is useful to keep your feet sand-free. Take a bouldering mat for the Mackerel Cove stuff; a few cushions will suffice for Herring Cove and Badger Cove.

I'll produce a proper topo in due course. There is a little film of some of the problems on YouTube, embedded in www.martincrockerclimbing.com.

Mackerel Cove

At the back of the bay is the concave wall moistened by a semi-permanent waterfall, which is less steep to the right. It lies above a flat wave-washed platform for which you'll need a mat (a couple of mats are advised for the projects).

Sand Height

When I returned a month later, on my way to smoke herrings, the sand height here was two to three feet higher than on my June visit, burying the sit starts on The Capsule. Bring a shovel.

Problems are described left to right.

***Queen Mary 2** V2 5c Two rounded black blocks under the bulge precede a little hand-ramp; hand-traverse right to finish off.

Bonito V1 5c Sit start and climb direct via a square block above the bulge for left hand.

Mass Extinction V1 5c The rightward-rising flake to the right.

Perfection in the Permian V3 6a A tough fish to fry which passes a triad of limestone pebbles above the bulge. Mind the block behind (feels a bit gripping).

The Capsule

This is the fine beach-side boulder. At suitable sand levels further sit starts await those who've consumed sufficient Omega-3 to keep knee arthritis at bay.

Seven Seas The left arête from standing (V0-) or from kneeling (V0+). The sit start awaits.

Tuna Fork V2+ (6a) A sit start with right hand in square pocket, followed by an easy mantel.

**** Omega-3** V4 (6b). Mantel the projecting limestone block on the cusp of the little rib. Easier for the more flexible/short-legged. A sit start looks possible, but might reduce the quality (enjoyment!).

Hard of Herring V0 Between the rib and the right arête, mantel past a good juggy block well over the lip. A contorted sit start with right hand in layaway looks V5ish.

***Fatty Acids Forever** V3 6a Sit start the right arête, using a crimp in each hand.

****Lip(id) Trip** V3+ The King Salmon of the bay. Sit start up the right arête, and then hand traverse all the way leftwards to the left arête. The good juggy block set a little further back from the lip (on *Hard of Herring*) is out.

The *Impasse*: well it's not really, but some awkward climbing or/and boulder-hopping is necessary to pass from Mackerel Cove onto the wave-cut platform and boulders leading to the coves further north. Best to keep things simple and lightweight and make sure you climb beyond for no longer than two hours either side of low tide. However, if you mess the tides up, it does look like you can thrash out of Badger Cove to the coast path through lush and painful jungle.

Herring Cove

There is a cluster of boulders above the left (south) side of the beach.

****can't Rap it, so Slap it V3+ (6a)** A fine boulder with a sea-facing lip traverse. Sit start far right, gain the lip and take it leftwards and then a series of pebbles under the lip (not-to-be used big limestone jug above) to snatch the left arête. Romp along the easy continuation around the corner for fun.

What a (bum) Drag V0+ (5b) Lovely rock. Make an ultra-low lip traverse of the juggy oblong block starting as far left as the sand level allows.

V0- (4c) Make a few quick moves up the rib of the adjoining boulder.

Knees up Mother Brown V2 (5c) Eliminate: avoiding both supporting small boulders, pull hard up the leaning wall and flail around on good pebbles to pull over.

Behind is a hanging rib, above rocks this time.

Landslip Leap V1 (5c) The rib, with a dynamic start.

Over on the right side of the bay is a long boulder part-buried in the sand with a project lip-traverse that's *One for Tom* (V8?). It looks like the underside will need to be dry (rare) for any chance of success. Consolation prizes are two sit starts: one using the limestone block just left of a vertical crack (V0+) and one two metres further left which starts on two good limestone blocks (V1).

Badger Cove

In the southern corner of the beach and set above small-gauge gravel and sand is a long low-level lip traverse, probably the best problem in the coves. The rock is wave-washed and the best quality I've seen here.

*****The MSea Shuffle V5 (6a)** Start at a short wide crack far left. Strenuously shuffle right on slopers and make the decision when to bring a heel up. Fortunately jugs take over where the lip becomes increasingly undercut. Save some strength for the punishing mantel at the far end of the overhang.

Odds and Sods

Correct name is *Disco Babes from Outer Space*

Arch Temptress: on-sight soloed 3.10.98

Atheist: on-sight soloed 18.4.97

Typo on FA date of *Don't Fear the Reef*

Five Fingered Widow: on-sight soloed from NS (at 6a+) 4.10.98

Watchtower: on my March 1997 crossing, with a jumar the 'short section of rope' was used for protection *not* tension i.e. twas a free ascent. I slipped off on my first attempt, but was checked by the rope after hitting the west wall; returned to the starting position and then succeeded unassisted on my second attempt. I didn't want to leave a long rope defacing the cliff, so – according to my notes – I de-lassoed it (not sure if that was by re-running the first part of the traverse or from the opposite wall there and then, probably the former). I guess all that remains is for someone to solo the bridging part which I protected.