



## NEARSIDE/ JUNCTION WALLS

This mini-guide describes two adjacent cliffs with a wide range of recently-cleaned trad routes up to 50m long, predominantly in the HVS-E2 range. Unambiguously in the UAE (so not having any actual or potential border issues) and accessible by black-top road, they should rival the Roadside area as the most convenient venue for trad climbing for UAE climbers.

### Approach

Start from the Wadi Bih turn, signposted W. Al Baih at the time of writing in 2009, (UTM 402750E 2851200N) where the plain meets the mountains. The print guidebook describes how to reach this point from the Emirates Road to the south.

Turn on to the Wadi Bih road and follow it up the twisting wadi basin, passing a dam. After 8.0km the wadi opens out into a broad plain where there is a distinct left turn (a). This is the start of the road that will eventually lead to the planned Jebel Al Jais mountain-top resort. If you encounter the UAE border post before finding this turn, you have driven too far.

Take the turn and follow the road northwards across the plain then into the more defined Wadi Shahah (b). At the time of writing (spring 2010) the road is almost entirely black-top but is blocked with one or two short gravel bypass sections.

About 8km from the turn the large Dickinadozer cliff (B) (see page 59 in the print guidebook) is visible to the right (east). The Nearside/ Junction area (A) is another 4 km further up the road, and should be easily recognisable from the topo photos.

Park carefully on the edge of the road adjacent to the cliff.

**version 0.9!**



## Nearside Far Left



**1 Little Pee Dee** 25m HVS

A leftwards slanting crack is followed to an overhanging and undercut crack to the top.

**2 Tim's Tipple** ★ 25m E1

A crack line with an obvious block overhang at mid height. Best split into two pitches above the overhang.

## Nearside Left



**1 Wild Goat** 30m HVS

Climb the left-hand crack for 10 metres and then move left up over a bulge to a ledge and belay. Climb the left-hand crack from the ledge and up into the open corner above.

**3 Pete's Corner** ★★ 30m VS

An obvious corner which is undercut at the base of the right wall. Climb the corner crack for 8 metres, traverse right for 4 metres, pull over a bulge and follow the crack above to the top.

**2 Sunshade** 30m VS

Climb the chimney to the same stance as the previous climb. Continue up the crack on the right to the top.

**4 Feathered Friends** ★★ 35m HVS

A left facing corner. The crack follows a crack line tending leftwards under overhangs. There is a stance just above mid height.

## Nearside Right



### 1 Spring Clean ★★ 35m HVS

Situated some 40 metres right of Feathered Friends. Climb the crack direct with a stance just below the large overhang on the right. Traverse off to the left along a narrow ledge.

### 2 Ooh Aah Cantona ★★★ 40m E1

Start up an east sandy crack to an overhang. Move left up and around the overhang and continue to a stance just above a large block. From the stance climb the right-hand crack up to an overhanging corner. From the top of the corner step right with difficulty. Follow the crack to the right and upwards and finish up the wall above tending leftwards.

### 3 Pimms in the Pool ★★★ 40m HVS

The climb starts under the left-hand end of a large overhang. Climb up the left of the overhang and continue up a thin crack to a ledge and belay. Continue delicately for three metres and move up rightwards across the wall past a loose looking flake. Continue up another thin crack line to a horizontal crack. Traverse left into a flake crack to the top.

### 4 Candyman ★ 40m VS

An obvious crack line that finishes up a corner to the left of a large overhang at the top

### 5 Cocaine Blues ★★★ 40m E2

A direct line up through a series of bulges and overhangs, a fine challenging climb. Starts easily up a crack before moving rightwards to a block. Continue up the corner to a stance below a bulge. Follow the crack line to the top.

### 6 Happy Wanderer ★ 40m VS

Lightish marks on the rock indicate the start. Follow a shallow crack line up to a corner crack above. After 15 metres traverse around the right into another corner and stance. Climb this corner to an overhang. Step around to the right and pull over into the open groove above. Climb this and then more easily to the top.

## Nearside above the Block



### 1 Irish Tea Party 40m VS

A crack line 10 metres to the left of the very large block leaning against the wall. The climb starts up the left-hand side of a hanging block. Follow the crack for 10 metres and traverse left into another crack line and up to a ledge and stance. Climb up behind the stance to another ledge and wider crack, climb this and then up to the top tending first leftwards and then back to the right.

## Junction left



**1 Christmas Crack** 15m E2

Start from the very left-hand end of the wall in the side wadi. Climb the steep crack line to the left of an overhang. There is a narrow vertical pocket to the right of the crux section.

**2 Mud Bath** 20m VS

The next obvious crack line to the right, climbed direct.

**3 High Diver** 30m E1

A crack line 20m to the right. Straightforward climbing to a stance on the left, continue up the main crack line over a bulge with difficulty.

**4 Spaghetti Junction** ★ 30m HVS

An obvious open corner is climbed to a bulge which is passed to the right and up to a stance a few metres higher. Climb the cracks above the stance avoiding the wider crack on the left.

**5 Chimney Crack** 30m HVS

Climb the wide chimney to a stance on top of large blocks. From the stance climb the crack in the corner and up past an overhang about six metres from the top.

## Junction central



**1 The Sidings** 40m VS

Climb a chimney crack for 15 metres to a ledge and stance on the right. Continue up over a bulge and follow the crack line to the top. The steep crack line just to the right of the chimney gives a Direct Start E3.

**2 No Speeding** ★★ 40m E1

Climb the crack and after 10 metres move leftwards across to another crack line and stance. Continue up this crack line which becomes thinner and finish through the overhang near the top.

**3 Leapfrog** ★★ 40m HVS

The same start as the previous climb but climb straight to the ledge and a stance below a crack line slightly to the right. Climb this crack which becomes thinner and more difficult, good climbing all the way to the top.

**4 Firebox** ★ 40m E1

A crack line with an overhanging start. Climb the crack line to a stance at 15 metres and continue above with more difficulty. Move slightly right and then up the wall above until it is possible to move leftwards and finish up the final section of the previous climb.

**5 Great Western** ★★★ 40m HVS

Start just right of an overhang. Climb the crack to a stance and continue in the same line direct to the top, excellent climbing.

**6 Highwayman** ★ 40m HVS

A very obvious crack line. Climb the crack all the way to the top. There is a good stance at around 20 metres, plenty of hand jamming practice!

**7 Orient Express** ★★★ 40m E1

Start some 8 metres to the right of the last climb. Move up into a left facing corner to a good stance. Move left for three metres into a shallow corner which leads up to a thin crack line to the top.

**8 Armbar Lane** ★★ 40m E3

An obvious left facing corner. Climb the chimney to a stance. Continue up the off width crack above with some difficulty and follow this crack line all the way to the top.

## Junction Right



### 1 Just Rolling Along ★ 40m VS

Start 10m to the right of Armbar Lane up a shallow left facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up to the horizontal ledge and stance. Climb the left-hand crack behind the stance and follow this to the top.

### 2 Clapham 40m HVS

Start at another shallow left facing corner into a more obvious corner to a good stance. Climb the crack behind the stance for about five metres and then move left for three metres into another crack line. Climb this to ledge and move around to the right and easily to the top.

Several more routes have been climbed to the right, but locations not precisely known.

## First ascents

PETE'S CORNER Pete Aldwinkle, Guida Vershute 2007

THE SIDINGS John Gregory, Dee McEnery – May 2008

SPAGHETTI JUNCTION Ian Gregory John Gregory – June 2008

NO SPEEDING Ian Gregory, John Gregory – June 2008

LEAPFROG Ian Gregory, John Gregory – June 2008

GREAT WESTERN John Gregory Dee McEnery - June 2008

FIREBOX John Gregory, Dee McEnery - July 2008

HIGHWAYMAN Ian Gregory, John Gregory - July 2008

JUST ROLLING ALONG John Gregory, Celine Adriaenssens - August 2008

ORIENT EXPRESS Ian Gregory, John Gregory - September 2008

MUD BATH John Gregory, Genny Boni - September 2008

CLAPHAM Ian Gregory, John Gregory – October 2008

CHIMNEY CRACK John Gregory, Celine Adriaenssens – October 2008

(Direct start Andrew Labonte, Shahan Contractor - January 2010)

CHRISTMAS CRACK Ian Gregory, John Gregory - December 2008

HIGH DIVER Ian Gregory, John Gregory - December 2008

LITTLE PEE DEE John Gregory, Dee McEnery May 2009

FEATHERED FRIENDS Ian Gregory, John Gregory May 2009

TIM'S TIPPLE John Gregory. Tim Richards May 2009

WILD GOAT John Gregory, Tim Richards June 2009

ARMBAR LANE Andrew Labonte, Dee McEnery - June 2009

SUNSHADE John Gregory, Celine Adriaenssens June 2009

CANDYMAN Ian Gregory, John Gregory June 2009

HAPPY WANDERER John Gregory, Dee McEnery July 2009

IRISH TEAPARTY Ian Gregory, John Gregory July 2009

SPRINGCLEAN Ian Gregory, John Gregory July 2009

OOH AAH CANTONA Ian Gregory, Dee McEnery, John Gregory July 2009

PIMMS IN THE POOL Ian Gregory, John Gregory August 2009

COCAINE BLUES Ian Gregory, John Gregory September 2009