

## **Pabbay – Adventure Andy**

Well what another fantastic place to adventure to with the clubs very own Mr Bond 006 license to adventure and thrill find!?! Pabbay has to be one of the most enjoyable meets I've been on. The whole atmosphere on the Island away from the hustle and bustle of the World is really on another Island so to speak. I suppose my adventure streak comes from growing up with the club and my parents. Who always (especially my old man) encouraged us to be active, especially in outdoor pursuits. Wild, remote places are just fantastic they bring out something in everyone who really enjoy them.

Anyhow, the real reason for this article is to expose the wildness and remoteness of certain places we have in the world. Even in the UK you can find them. Islands in Scotland, sea cliffs around Gogarth and Devon (thanks again Andy for this one!), mountain crags in the Lakes and Wales. The list really is endless. There is something about being “out there” as it is. Away from the hustle and the bustle of real life, alone on the lead with just the rock and atmosphere around you. What better place than a deserted island? Or some other remote, isolated area.

This essentially must be one of the reasons we do this weird sport. There is real no reason – you abseil down to the bottom of the crag only to climb back up – what really is the point? Well its magic. Adventurous climbing is where it's at in my own jilted opinion. You don't have to climb “hard” to enjoy it, any level will do. So next time your at that road side crag, think of the places it should be taking you in the future. Maybe it is not for everyone, some people enjoy the comfort of the pub at the end of the day, but one has to feel that it misses some of the “point” of climbing.

Pabbay, all the other places I've been in the past, and the future places I hope to be introduced to are a must if you want this type of climbing. Just do it! You don't get another chance in this life, grab the opportunities with both hands when they arise.

So some routes we managed to do at Pabbay:

The Prophecy of the Drowning – supposedly one of the finest routes in the Outer Hebrides. However, if you want 1 of the finest routes with 1 of the best routes then I would point you at U-ei the abseil is amazing, a full 70 metre free abseil down to a rock platform. Touching nothing all the way down – you've got to enjoy the ride otherwise you'd be bricking it!!!

Sugar Cane Country at Hooper's Geo, a lovely sustained E4 to keep you thinking all the way to the top. You've got plenty of protection around the crux, and plenty of climbing to the top. Spring Squill, a beautiful big juggled E1 all the way to the top, which was even done by the adventurous I himself.

Endolphin Rush – which has an extremely pumpy first pitch, which I has to fight all the way up. Ask my old man about this and the camera incident!!!

The following two routes where some finds that we made – the first is near Rosinish Wall, which is opposite where you stay during the week on the Island.

### **Wing N' Prayer - E2 5c**

5c (10m) Climb the right hand of the three cracks. Stepping left at the top.

Then to top it off the following route. Which is to the left of the main cliff upper tier as you face at the crag. We were not sure whether this was a place to climb. Accidentally abseiling down to the wrong platform. Needs must and climbing out off the situation was amazing. Finding your own way out of a situation that you've got yourself in to, just keep reading the line and climbing it. This really is what adventure climbing is all about. I've got to get more of this done in the future. Anyhow the route description is as follows:

**What the hell-eagle am I doing here? - E3 5b/c \*\***

Steep and character building climb!

1, 5b (40m) Climb the grey groove above the belay stance to a point where you can traverse right in to a black corner climb this to a yellow wall with a downward pointing flake. Climb this on its left to a red fire brick ledge. Belay left below the left of the big long roof.

2, 5b/5c (30m) Step left back in to a crack and follow this to an overhang. Surmount this - crux. Continue up until a move left brings another crack finish steeply up this and belay on the ledge.

3, 4b (20m) Climb over broken ledges to finish.

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Anyhow, there were many more routes done by everyone who accompanied us on the trip. I'm sure someone else is going to be writing a full article about the trip!?!

I look forward to the future trips that we have planned, I hope that everyone else is as physced as I am for this kind of climbing.

Most of all thanks to Andy and my old man for showing me the light.

David Toon