

## NEW CLIMBS

### WALES

#### MOELWYNS.

The five buttresses of the Eastern Moelwyn slopes have only been partly explored. They run North-Eastward from below Llyn Stwlan and are taken from South to North in the descriptions below. More new routes will probably result from the M.A.M. Meet in April but will be too late to be included here. Two Moderate scrambles on Craig Stwlan, overlooking the llyn, are omitted.

#### CRAIG FACH.

##### MILKY WAY. 220 feet. Difficult.

**Start.** 100 yards North from the wall running down from Llyn Stwlan. Under the left-hand wall of the slab buttress. Cairn.

1. 55 feet. Swing up the easy overhang on to the slab. A short crack above leads right, to an airy stance and belay.
2. 65 feet. Up the edge above, trending right and then left, to a niche and belay at left end of a grassy ledge.
3. 35 feet. Diagonally right, via a small chimney, to belay.
4. 65 feet. Head straight up for the break in the summit dome, which makes an awkward and airy finish.

Showell Styles, H. Morris. September 30th, 1951.

#### CRAIG YSTAC.

##### SOUTH CHIMNEYS. 170 feet. Hard Difficult.

**Start.** The sheer face of the Stack has an obvious line of vertical chimneys up its left side. Start at the foot of the shattered wall below. Cairn.

1. 25 feet. Climb the wall to narrow ledge at foot of first chimney. A belay can be contrived.
2. 45 feet. The projecting Hearthstone appears sound. An awkward landing on the left brings one to a belay boulder.
3. 10 feet. The licheny chimney above has not been climbed. Step easily round corner on left into a nook.
4. 20 feet. Up the right wall of the corner, vertical and hard, to a grass alcove in the direct line again.
5. 20 feet. Up the third chimney to grass shelf and belay.
6. 30 feet. The overhanging chockstones are climbed. There is now an easy let-off on the right, but the Tallboy straight ahead provides a suitable finish.
7. 20 feet. Up and out of the Tallboy. Belays 10 feet above.

Showell Styles, H. Morris. September 30th, 1951.

##### FLOATING RIB. 200 feet. Hard Difficult.

**Start.** 20 feet left of South Chimneys start. The route goes straight up the disjointed rib above on delightful rock, rather artificially in the top section. Five pitches.

M. O'Hara, H. Morris, D. Esmond. June 15th, 1952.

##### NORTH CHIMNEY. 75 feet. Difficult.

**Start.** At the right-hand end of the Stack face, above a little grass gully with a big chockstone. Face right and squirm in the inmost recesses until a step out to the right can be made.

Showell Styles. September 30th, 1951.

## CRAIG DYN.

### KIRKUS'S CLIMB. No length given. Very Difficult.

**Start.** At the toe of the buttress (next on right to Craig Ystac) below a small cave. "The route goes through this and up along arête." No pitch-by-pitch description available.

C. F. Kirkus, G. H. Kirkus. 1929.

### HOLE AND CORNER ROUTE. 235 feet. Difficult.

**Start.** 100 feet left of the start of Kirkus's Climb and 100 feet below the overhang of the huge perched boulder on the slab. 100 feet of rope for two is useful. Cairn.

1. 25 feet. Scramble up a grassy corner to a grass shelf. Belay for line on slab above.
2. 20 feet. The slab above on small and awkward holds. Belay in niche under chockstone.
3. 15 feet. Pass the chockstone on the right, delicate.
4. 15 feet. An easy cleft leads to the top of the giant boulder.
5. 60 feet. Walk 20 feet right and go straight up grassy slabs. Belay under centre of overhanging wall.
6. 100 feet. Turn the overhang on the left, go up a mossy groove, and climb the rounded slab above. Belay in grassy nook a few feet down on right.

H. Morris, Showell Styles, leading through. October 7th, 1951.

## CRAIG TRI.

This is the next buttress but one, going North from Craig Dyn past the old quarry incline.

### EVASION. 140 feet. Very Difficult.

**Start.** Scramble up grassy ledges to the centre of the crag and belay in the narrow grass gully.

1. 20 feet. Traverse out delicately to the left and gain a big grass ledge. Poor belay. Walk up to another belay under a wall.
2. 120 feet. Straight up on the left of the belay on loose and vegetated rock, bearing left at top and gaining an awkward traverse across the face to the left.

M. O'Hara, Showell Styles, D. Esmond. June 15th, 1952.

## CRAIG YSGAFN.

The only climbing on this steep and rugged crag midway between the two Moelwyns is on its West or seaward-facing side.

### TAILS CLIMB. 125 feet. Difficult.

**Start.** About 200 yards from Bwlch Stwlan, on the old track running North-West, the rock on the right steepens into a buttress with a steep gully running up on its left. Begin at the left toe of the buttress.

1. 30 feet. A vertical wall.
2. 35 feet. The ridge steepens and narrows.
3. 60 feet. Gain a narrow saddle, pass a small gendarme, and climb the steep crux with the aid of a quartz handhold on which all depends.

Showell Styles, M. O'Hara, D. Esmond. June 15th, 1952.



**HEADS CLIMB. 75 feet. Difficult.**

**Start.** At the upper end of the steep gully, opposite the upper part of Tails Climb.

1. 30 feet. Steeply up on the left face of a vertical tower.
2. 45 feet. Climb up on right until it is possible to traverse left into overhanging chimney. The chockstone is doubtfully safe and a running belay is not out of place.

G. Williams, H. Morris. June 15th, 1952.

**TRYFAN. CREIGIAU DENA.**

**GIANT'S STEPS. 265 feet. Very Difficult.**

**Start.** Five minutes from Glan Dena, and straight up the hillside from the 8th telegraph pole from the Hut gate in the Ogwen direction, a series of great rock steps is seen. Begin at the first step, which is cleft by an unclimbed crack.

1. 40 feet. Up the buttress corner by a slab and wall.
2. 100 feet. Easy slabs and a little nose to foot of second step.
3. 50 feet. Take the narrow undercut slab sloping up from right to left. Pleasant climbing.
4. 40 feet. A walk on grass to third step.
5. 35 feet. The obvious easy ways are avoided for a steep face with tiny holds.

The fourth step, whose only weakness is a fine crack of V.S. standard, has only been done on a top rope (by Ray Handley).

E. Byne, C. Ashley, R. Goldsmith, Raymond Arthur. April 12th, 1952.

**EASTER RIDGE. 300 feet. Very Difficult.**

A fine, sound, continuous route with airy situations.

**Start.** On the right of the first pitch of Anniversary Approach, at the foot of a steep ridge.

1. 25 feet. An easy crack to large ledge and belays.
2. 25 feet. Traverse right, awkwardly, to small rock ledge and belay.
3. 60 feet. Straight up the scooped wall, move left on to the crest, and up to a good platform.
4. 50 feet. A steep tower is climbed direct up the centre to another ledge.
5. 50 feet. Up the slabby arête ahead, airily, to a small pinnacle belay.
6. 100 feet. The most prominent feature of the little amphitheatre straight ahead is a quartz slab topped by steep towers. Climb the slab from left to right, up a ledgy corner until within 20 feet of the top; then a running belay may be used (thread) for a horizontal traverse right, finishing up the right-hand corner.

E. Byne, Raymond Arthur, C. Ashbury, R. Goldsmith. April 13th, 1952.

**GLANDULAR ROUTE. 370 feet. Difficult.**

A problem-climber's ramble, with several pitches hard of their standard.

**Start.** 100 feet East of the first pitch of Anniversary Approach, at a large tilted quartz slab.

1. 40 feet. Up the left side of the slab.
2. 20 feet. Over the nose ahead.

3. 40 feet. Cross heather, left, to a large quartz slab, climbing an amusing "coffin-block" on the way.
  4. 60 feet. Up the left edge of the quartz slab.
  5. 20 feet. Along the top and up the perched boulder. Walk 50 feet to the right; a narrow quartz slab is found on the left of a large easy slab.
  6. 15 feet. Up the narrow slab to a stance below a pinnacle flake.
  7. 50 feet. Up the flake crest, stride across the crevasse, and up the corner. Walk due South across heather to a rock corner.
  8. 50 feet. The corner, a smooth slab, and a cracked nose.
  9. 20 feet. Take the steep crack straight ahead.
  10. 50 feet. Scrambling to an arête.
  11. 20 feet. Up the overhanging arête on good holds.
  12. 20 feet. The Overhanging V-Chimney in the final buttress gives the best finish and is Very Difficult.
- S. Styles, R. Goldsmith, Raymond Arthur, E. Byne, C. Ashbury.  
April 12th, 1952.

#### ANNIVERSARY GIRDLE. 445 feet. Difficult.

**Start.** As for Easter Ridge.

Pitches 1 to 4 as for Easter Ridge.

5. 30 feet. Descend through a hole in jammed boulders to the ledge leading left to the Chimney of Anniversary Approach.
  6. 80 feet. Up the Chimney and on to the crest of the Flake.
  7. 40 feet. To the inner end of the Flake and descend the crack below to the first grass stance.
  8. 100 feet. Step across to the rock rib, up this to grass, and so to a small amphitheatre. (This pitch can be broken.)
  9. 25 feet. Exit is provided by a groove in the right wall and a crack on its right.
  10. 20 feet. A pleasant finish up the wall ahead.
- E. Byne, M. Culley, C. Ashbury, H. Hayley. September 21st, 1952.

#### COLUMBYNE. 625 feet of climbing. Very Difficult.

##### **Situation.**

The Ivy Chimney at the top of the Milestone Buttress is bounded on its right by a deep wet gully, on the right of which is a wet black buttress. This is bounded on its right by a shallow rocky watercourse. The route grows from this watercourse on its right hand side, and about 200 feet up, which is also at about the same level as the top of the wet black buttress. Although somewhat artificial in the early pitches, the route gradually builds up and finally blossoms out into a magnificent rock tower which gives superb climbing and unique situations.

##### **Approaches.**

Either by moving horizontally West from the finish of Ivy Chimney, or more directly by scrambling for 200 feet up the watercourse. This contains a definite rock pitch, and about 20 feet above this the watercourse fans out into a wide heathery gully. At this point a nose of rock is seen on the right, the left face of which is cleft by three parallel cracks.

**Start.** At the foot of the nose.

1. 30 feet. Climb the right hand crack; swing round the nose, to a stance and belays on a shelf.



2. 30 feet. Step back left and up a steep little face to a crevasse with a large spike belay well to the right.
3. 60 feet. Up the slabs above the belay to a ledge and a steep wall, cleft by a vertical crack (unclimbed but possible).
4. 25 feet. Up the overhanging corner, 4 feet left of the crack, to a large crevasse.
5. 20 feet. Up the wall of the crevasse, and across heather to a huge bollard.
6. 20 feet. Descend about 6 feet right from the bollard and on to the arête, to a small belay below a ferocious crack.
7. 40 feet. Move round the corner to the right and up the other side of this pinnacle crack, and then up the arête to a belay amongst some grooves.
8. 80 feet. Step out of the grooves, round the corner to the right, and up a delightful slab to a large heather terrace. Then walk 40 feet across heather to the steep left corner of a belt of slabs.
9. 60 feet. Climb a thin hard crack up this corner, or mantelshelf on to a ledge on its left and up a chimney leading back on to the slabs and two crevasses.
10. 40 feet. Directly up the slabs to a heather terrace below the left corner of the Great Tower.
11. 50 feet. The climbing now assumes a more serious nature. Climb a conspicuous and steep narrow crack which leads to a turfy stance near some small dead trees (thread belay).
12. 15 feet. Up a little turfy wall trending right, to a grassy ledge at the base of an incut V-corner. (A thread belay can be arranged by the use of a jammed stone which can be inserted in some cracks on the right wall.)
13. 80 feet. The Great Traverse. A steady leader and last man necessary. From the grassy incut corner, move round the corner out to the right and traverse horizontally across the exposed face for 80 feet. Holds are scarce and awkwardly placed, the situation superb, and care is needed until a short gully is reached; belay.
14. 15 feet. Continue the traverse, moving diagonally up to the right to a stance at the base of a pinnacle and crack.
15. 70 feet. Climb the pinnacle crack and up the arête to a boulder-strewn slope and final cairn.

First Ascent: Eric Bynes, Charles Ashbury, Colin Bates, Douglas Wilson, Priestley Phillips. April 7th, 1953.

#### **FLAKE CRACK DIRECT. Very Severe or Severe.**

This crack, on the outer face of the Flake of Anniversary Approach, was climbed by D. Penlington on September 12th, 1952, using layback methods to reach the halfway stance in the Crack, where a running belay can safeguard the hand-and-foot jamming of the top section.

The Indirect route (Severe), which traverses from the left to the half-way stance, was climbed by Eric Byne on September 23rd, 1951.

#### **THREE CLIFFS.**

#### **CLOGWYN Y GROCHAN.**

#### **THE SPECTRE, Direct Start. 40 feet. Hard Severe.**

Begin about 6 feet left of the ordinary start. Go straight up the inverted V-chimney until the overhanging chockstone forces a swing up to the left. Continue as for Spectre Route.

Ray Handley, April 12th, 1952.

**CARREG WASTAD.**

**THE SKYLON. 200 feet. Very Severe.**

**Start.** As for the Wrinkle.

1. 40 feet. Climb straight up to a small tree. Belay.
  2. 85 feet. Traverse 10 feet right to a ledge beneath a crack with a small overhang. (A piton was used to safeguard the leader on the overhang.) Using a handjam at the base of the overhang, straddle the crack until a left move is possible. Thence directly to a quartz-and-heather ledge, followed by a 10-foot traverse right and up on good holds to belay on a flake.
  3. 25 feet. Up the sloping slab on good holds to belay.
  4. 50 feet. Climb the steep wall above to the summit.
- R. Handley, E. Phillips. April 13th, 1952.

**SKYE.**

**SGURR MHC COINNICH.**

**VARIATION FINISH, WEST BUTTRESS. 150 feet. Very Difficult.**

The chimney on the upper part of this route was avoided in favour of the vertical face of the tower on its left, which gave an exposed and exhilarating direct route. There was a complete absence of nail-scratches.

E. Byne, C. Ashbury, Winifred E. Hill. August 2nd, 1952.