

## NEW CLIMBS SECTION

### OUTER ISLES

#### HOY, St John's Head

A note, along with an 11 pitch description, has been sent of an attempt by D. Etherington, A. Moore to climb the main cliff. More impressive than the probable E5 grade and 2 bivouacs, is that a second attempt was made, with another 2 bivouacs but gaining only 10m. A big route was, however, completed and a description is awaited.

#### LEWIS, Dalbeg (NB 225465)

The headland right (North) of Dalbeg beach is split by an obvious deep slot. A large boulder sits prominently at the top of this. Walk through the fields to the top of the headland. The seaward side of the slot forms a narrow buttress with an arch through it at the bottom. The seaward wall of this buttress offers several fine routes on good rock.

The wall itself is split by an obvious quartz crack running diagonally right to left, Limpet Crack and two groove lines further right, not visible from above. Access can be gained by abseil or by scrambling down a gully towards the sea before traversing left on to easy-angled slabs.

The routes are described from right to left.

The left end of the wall has a rampline up its side which forms a stepped corner where it meets the wall; this is climbable at Very Difficult (Rampling, B. Davison, solo). The left edge of the ramp finishing up a short crack is climbed at VS (A. Cunningham, B. Davison).

On the wall proper are two slanting cracklines, the righthand and higher of the two, Limpet Crack, offers the better climb. To the right of this starting at half height in the centre of the wall is a groove/ramp line running to the left and taken by Neptune. The arch at the right hand end of the wall has two groove lines above it, one starting to the left of the arch and the other a few feet to the right.

#### *-Damp Down*

35m E3 6a

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 24th May, 1989.

The lower of the two cracklines, a bit artificial as it is possible to step down on to the ramp in a few places.

Start up Rampling until it is possible to pull on to the wall using a flake. Make hard moves left along the crack under a small roof to a foothold. Continue left to a large foothold, then go up the lefthand of two cracks to a flat handhold. From this reach right into the righthand crack and follow it to the top.

#### *-Limpet Crack*

40m E3 5c

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 17th May, 1989.

The impressive diagonal quartz crack running from the middle of the wall to the left. The crux is at mid-height.

#### *-Neptune a Calling*

35m E5 6b

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 24th May, 1989.

Start up a blunt rib left of Neptune which leads to a small rib after 7m. From here make difficult moves left to a small horizontal slot and then left again to a vertical crack before moving up to a large flake/ledge. From here climb right into a shallow corner, then up into the finishing grooves of Neptune.

*-Neptune*

40m E2 5c

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 17th May, 1989.

Starting at mid height in the centre of the wall is a groove line running right to left. Start up the wall below this (5m right of Limpet Crack) to enter the groove and follow it leftwards to the top.

*-Wave Watcher*

5m E3/4 6a

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 18th May, 1989.

1. 25m, 6a. Climb the left hand of the two grooves left of the arch with a strenuous start.
2. 20m, 4c. Finish up the left arete of the slab/buttness.

*-Underneath the Arches*

45m E4 6a

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 19th May, 1989.

1. 20m, 6a. Start at the left hand side of the arch and climb the right hand groove rightwards under the roof to the slab.
2. 25m, 4c. Finish up the left arete of the slab/buttness.

*-Dalbeg Buttress*

60m HVS 5b

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 17th May, 1989.

The climb is affected by high tide and a sea often with a big swell. Route takes the front of the buttress but the crux is reaching it.

1. 15m, 5b. From just above the sea, lean across the gap to the right hand side of the arch. Using an RP1 as a handhold, step across the gap to a ledge, heelhooking to gain access to the ledge. This can be very slimy, and may have to be timed to miss the waves. Once on to the ledge, climb up a few metres and belay below an overlap.
2. 20m, 5a. Go on to the front of the buttress and climb up weaving through three overlaps, the top one being taken by its left arete.
3. 25m, 4a. Climb the slab above, then the corner in the middle of the slab.

**East Wall**

Before the black slot is reached (east or landward side of it), is an easy angled slab with a wall facing to sea with two corners. The next 3 routes are found on this wall.

*-Celtic Ray*

20m VS 4b

P. Mallon, C. McCartney. 1990.

Climb the first corner.

*-Don't Break my Raybans*

20m HVS 5a

C. McCartney, P. Mallon. 1990.

Climb the wall between the two corners, trending right to the arete to finish.

*-Born to Fly*

20m HVS 5a

C. McCartney, P. Mallon. 1990.

This takes the second corner.

**Cave Slab**

From the descent to the Dalbeg Buttress, turn right (facing out) at the top of the descent slab to gain access to the following routes.

The left edge of the slab is undercut by a large cave whereas the right side runs up to a series of steep grooves below an orange coloured slab with a crackline running up its centre. From left to right.

*-The Black Hole*

45m E4 6b

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 20th May, 1989.

The crack in the overlap at the far left hand end, starting by moving into a wide undercut niche and then hard moves over the next overlap leads into a short steep corner. Swing right and follow the crack in the slab left of the overhang to finish up a short corner.



*-Simple Jim*

35m E3 6a

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 19th May, 1989.

Start by hard moves up the crack 3m right of the last route. Follow the red slab up to a roof/overlap. Traverse left and pull over the overlap at a quartz vein. Move up and traverse right to the base of a steep corner. Climb this past a huge block. Finish leftwards.

*-Beam Me Up Scotty*

30m E1 5b

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 19th May, 1989.

Climbs the wide crack in the easy red finishing slab. To reach this, follow a leftward-trending black ramp line to pull into a niche at the base of the final crack (crux).

*-Bones*

30m Severe

B. Davison. April, 1989.

Start just right of the previous route and climb up to gain the thinner right hand crack in the red finishing slab.

*-Kling On Corner*

25m E1 5a

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 19th May, 1989.

Climb the smooth looking groove at the righthand side of the red slab. Loose in places.

The next routes are at the extreme left end of the slab above the sea but are reached by walking round the headland of Cave Slab and abseiling down a short seaward-facing wall to a sloping platform. An overlap at the righthand side gives access to the extreme left end of Cave Slab. Left of the overlap are 2 grooves, Dilithium Crystals and Its no Good Captain she's Breaking Up. The routes are described from the abseil point rightwards.

*-Warp Drive*

15m VS 4c

B. Davison. 25th May, 1989.

The abseil wall is pocketed with a crack and a shallow groove running up it 3m left of Dilithium Crystals. Climb the wall.

*-Dilithium Crystals*

20m HVS 5a

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 21st May, 1989.

Climb the second groove left of the overlap on good cracks and pockets.

*-Its no Good Captain she's Breaking Up*

20m HVS 4c

B. Davison. 25th May, 1989.

The first groove left of the overlap. Start up a ramp harder than it looks and into the groove.

*-Captain's Log*

30m HVS 5a

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 21st May, 1989.

Cross the overlap at its lowest point, then move up over 2 small overlaps on to the top slab and head up towards a groove capped by an overhang. Climb the crack on the left of this to the top.

**Black Zawn**

The next zawn North to Cave Wall is marked by 2 large cairns at its top. The zawn has an easy slab on its northern side and a steep back wall split by Old Salt, a right to left diagonal quartz crack starting from a ledge half way up the wall, above a cave.

The black south wall has a ledge running up left (facing the wall) from the sea and ending by some large flakes used as a belay point. The top of the wall has 3 prominent corners, the largest and left one being taken by Sea Shanty, the middle and shorter one being Briny and to the right of this is the left-facing corner of Salty Old Sea Dog.

The routes are reached by abseiling down the wall to the right of centre, and moving along the ledge. They can also be reached by climbing down at low tide from the bottom of the abseil into Warp Drive (described above).

*-Sea Shanty*

40m HVS 5a

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 21st May, 1989.

From the left edge of the ledge, move up and left to lighter coloured rock and a ledge system trending left. At the bottom of the corner, move up this exiting right.

*-Briny*

35m E1 5b

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 21st May, 1989.

From the same start at the flakes at the left end of the ledge, move up a faint blunt rib above the belay, directly below the V of the corner, to some overhanging unstable-looking blocks. Weave left through these to the start of a good crack and into the top corner.

*-Salty Old Sea Dog*

30m VS 4c

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 21st May, 1989.

Start 5m right of the previous route. Climb a short corner to a ledge, then up a crack till possible to move left and into the bottom of the corner. Follow this to the top.

*-Sea Monster*

30m Hard Severe 4b

A. Cunningham, B. Davison. 21st May, 1989.

Immediately right of the last route is a corner facing the sea. A steep start up this leads to a ledge at half height. Cross this and climb up a crack at the left side of the ledge to a final steep finish.

*-Navy Cut*

30m HVS 5a

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey, B. Marshall. 23rd July, 1989.

Follow the two-tiered corner at the right end of the black wall.

*-No Fags for Christmas*

15m VS 4c

B. Marshall, D. MacGimpsey, A. MacFarlane. 23rd July, 1989.

This takes the groove at the seaward end of the West facing wall about 7m right of Navy Cut.

The back wall of the zawn has a quartz crack running down from a ledge above a cave at the bottom right side of the wall. Abseil down to the ledge.

*-Old Salt*

40m E3 5c

B. Davison, A. Cunningham. 22nd May, 1989.

From the left end of the ledge, follow the quartz crack diagonally left to gain a ledge after about 30m. It would be possible to finish up a groove above here. The crack, however, continues at ledge level so step down and follow it leftwards to its finish.

**Small West Wall**

From the headland north of the black zawn, drop down (moving away from the black zawn) to a black rock platform with a pool in it about 20m above the sea. To the right of the pool is an easy angled wall with an overhang at the bottom, which has been climbed at Hard Severe, starting from the right, or with a 5c direct start. This is bounded on the right by two corners, Original Route and Solitude, and 10m right is the wide overhanging chimney/crack of Mongrel.

*-Original Route*

10m Very Difficult

B. Davison. April, 1989.

The obvious corner right of the slab. It is possible to move out on to the wall near the top at Hard Severe.

*-Solitude*

10m VS 4c

B. Davison. May, 1989.

To the right is another corner with an awkward start.

*-Sunday Stroll*

10m VS 4c

B. Davison. 13th May, 1990.

Start as for Solitude, then after 4m, swing right on to the nose of the arete and round to a ledge to finish up the wall at the back.

*-Hang It*

10m HVS 5a

A. MacFarlane, B. Marshall. 18th June, 1989.

To the right is a short overhanging crack leading to the ledge.

*-Mongrel*

8m VS 4c

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 24th August, 1989.

Ascend the overhanging squeeze chimney right of Hang It.

Below and left of the rock platform is a wall, the centre of which is a groove capped by an overhang with a hanging plaque of rock to its left. The bottom of the wall can be reached by abseil or scrambling down stepped ledges from the platform. The routes are described from right to left.

*-Tea For Two*

15m VS 4c

D. MacGimpsey, A. Newey. July, 1989.

Ascends the shallow corner right of the overhang, starting up a crack. A variation start up the slab to the left is 5b.

*-Down Under*

15m E2 6a

B. Davison, A. MacFarlane. 13th May, 1990.

Climb the groove to the left of the overhang, then over it on good finger jams.

*-Gleaning the Bone*

15m E2 5c

A. MacFarlane, D. Stelfox. 28th August, 1989.

To the left of the groove is a narrow wall/pillar with a hanging plaque of rock. Climb this.

*-Flying Teapot*

15m HVS 5a

D. MacGimpsey, A. MacFarlane. July, 1989.

Climb the groove left of the narrow pillar.

Left of Flying Teapot past a blunt arete is an easy-angled slab/wall climbed at Severe (Henry's Hard Times) with a Diff corner on its left. Left again is an overhang with cracks going through its left and right hand ends, Endurance.

*-Endurance*

15m E4 6b

B. Davison, A. MacFarlane. 21st May, 1990.

This takes the corner and crack through the right side of the roof. Climb the corner to the bottom of the groove. Awkward moves up the groove lead to the overhang. A foothold on the right helps progress through the overhang to the headwall and a sloping finish.

*-Ruth's Lazy Day*

20m Hard Severe

D. MacGimpsey, C. Allan. May, 1989.

Climbs the groove left of the overhang.

*-Clean Hand Gang*

20m E3 5b

B. Davison. 24th May, 1990.

This takes the wall to the left as directly as possible. Start at the right hand side of the wall, then make moves up and left to a good hold. A long reach to a flat incut leads to good holds trending right to a ledge. Climb the edge of the groove to the top.

*-Jessie James*

20m E2 5b

B. Davison. 24th May, 1990.

The arete forming the left side of the wall. Start on the right side of the arete, up the left side of the wall to a good hold. Move left to good but spaced holds on the arete leading to a ledge. Finish by moving up and left into Outlaw.

*-Outlaw*

20m HVS 5a

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey, B. Marshall. 23rd July, 1989.

The groove immediately left of the arete, exiting up the corner.

*-Robbery Under Arms*

20m E1 5b

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 1989.

The middle of the 3 grooves starting up the lefthand series of cracks and small ledges. Continue up the hanging nose of rock, then step right at finish.

*-Thuggery*

20m HVS 5b

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey, B. Marshall. 18th June, 1989.

The lefthand groove, starting up a corner past a flake to continue through the roof.

**Big West Wall**

Immediately after the groove of Thuggery, the wall gains height and is capped by an overhang with a corner running through it at either end. The wall curves round into the next zawn where a recess offers a corner climb up either side.

*-New World*

25m E1 5b

B. Davison. 17th May, 1990.

Lcft of Thuggery, start up a steep groove just right of the overhang which runs along the botom of the wall. At the top of the groove, move right to a ledge, then climb the wall to the prominent corner at the right hand end of the top roof.

*-Island of No Return*

35m HVS 5a

B. Davison. 17th May, 1990.

About 7m left of where the overhang running along the bottom of the wall ends, a square-cut groove capped by a small roof is to be found. Move up to the top of the groove, then hand traverse right 4m to a foothold and ascend the cracks to a basalt intrusion. Move to a ledge on the right, then up to another ledge. Traverse left into the bottom of the corner which marks the left end of the top overhang.

About 6m left is the recess which the next 2 climbs take.

*-New Addition*

40m HVS 4c

B. Davison. 17th May, 1990.

The right hand corner of the recess is followed passing a flake/chimney which leads to a ledge. Follow the corner to the top.

*-First Born*

40m VS 4b

B. Davison. 17th May, 1990.

Climb the left hand corner of the recess to a ledge, then up a wall before stepping left into a shallow chimney and corner leading to the top.

**Preacher Zawn**

The next zawn North has a large block leaning against the wall and a fence ending at its top. The centre of the north wall is cut by a wide crack, Red Hand Gang.

*-Red Hand Gang*

35m E2 5b

D. Stelfox, A. MacFarlane. 28th August, 1989.

Ascend the prominent crack near the collapsed block. Loose.

*-Mr Big Comes Clean*

30m E2 5c

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 30th July, 1989.

To the right of Red Hand Gang are 3 corners. Climb the right hand.

*-A Prophet's Doom*

20m E3 6a

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 16th July, 1990.

Climb the crackline 3m right of the previous route. Sustained.

**NEW TOLSTA, Garry Bay.**

Grey Castle or Duin Athail (see SMCJ 1974, p268). From the end of the North Tolsta road to Garry Beach, continue up the peat road until the road veers inland. From here head North and in about 20 min the castle-like crag is easily seen on the coast.

The bay just North of the tower offers a few possible climbs. About 400m North of the tower is a wall with 4 large boulders at the bottom. The following 2 routes are reached by abseil down this wall.

*-Haar*

15m Severe

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 5th July, 1989.

Immediately above the 4 boulders is a slabby wall. Climb it.

*-The Milky Bar Kid*

20m VS 4c

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 15th July, 1989.

North of the 4 boulders is a large arched roof and on from this a south facing corner. Start up a ramp on the right of the corner, then enter the main corner.

Direct Start E1 5c Start up the steep jamming crack which forms the bottom of the corner.

**Grey Tower**

From the last routes, it is possible to see 2 obvious corner lines on the grey tower.

*-Celtic Swing*

65m E1

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 5th July, 1989.

Follows the right hand corner.

1. 4a Up the wall and corner to belay on a ledge with some loose rock.

2. 5b/c Either up from the belay 2m, then traverse left to a short corner and up right to a large ledge, or straight up a crack from the belay and then left to the large ledge. From the ledge, take the left crack to a belay.

3. 4c Follow the corner until below a large pillar. Traverse left to exit.

*-Druid*

65m E2

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 20th June, 1989.

Follows the left hand corner.

1. 10m, 5a. Climb the wall to the right of the corner to belay on the ledge.

2. 35m, 5b. Step into the corner and follow it to a ledge.

3. 20m, 5a. Continue up the corner.

To descend from these 2 routes, climb up about 15m and traverse east on grass ledges. Move a few feet on to the north wall and down heather. Delicate down climbing for 10m; or abseil from the top.

On the south side of the tower below the grass and the 1971 MacKenzie route, are 3 obvious open corners at sea level, The Open Books.

*-State of Mind*

20m E1 5b

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 13th August, 1989.

The right hand corner

*-Cloud Burst*

20m E2 5c

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 13th August, 1989.

The left hand corner.

The following notes were sent by J.R. Mackenzie somewhat belatedly:

**Ard Phenis Head (NA 9929)**

Two miles north of Brnish village is Camus Islivig Bay. This has cliffs of up to 60m, composed of gneiss and migmatites, plus several sea stacks.

The Ard Phenis Head, which is a vertical mass of gneiss, is bordered on the right by a fine overlapped slab which provides the following route.



*-Route Major*

60m Very Difficult

J.R. Mackenzie, A. McDonald, A. MacDonald. 17th August, 1971.

Best approached from the bay at low tide, otherwise a 35m traverse out to the slab is needed. Start beneath the left hand corner and up a slab to step left into the corner, climb a chimney and belay in a recess. Surmount overlap above, then easily left and up steep corner on big holds. Traverse right to centre of slabs, following fault lines to finish.

**Beannan a' Deas (map ref unknown by Ed)**

The 1933 party climbed the very steep slabby face on the NW side of the hill, leaving a cairn to mark their route. To the left of the 1933 route is a steep crack.

*-The Geal Crack*

90m VS

A. MacDonald, J.R. Mackenzie. 18th August, 1971.

Climb the fine crack for 30m starting at a cairn, belay on ledge above. Climb an easy slab, then a wall split by a thin crack. Either finish up the crack or, better, step right into a scoop leading to the top. An easier alternative to the top pitch is to step right into the 1933 corner groove which makes the first pitch the crux.

**The Eye Peninsula**

Sea cliffs of a variable nature exist here near the village of Bayble. Cars can be taken as far as an aircraft beacon, then walk left and contour the cliff edge to follow a path down a grassy gully. At sea level, cross blocks and the route below starts by a slab, which is due east from the beacon.

*-Jacob's Ladder*

80m VS

A. MacDonald, A. MacDonald. 29th August, 1971.

Variation top. J.R. Mackenzie, A. MacDonald. 12th December, 1971.

Climb the slab and corner to grass and belays below a crack (15m). Go up the crack, step left to an overhang and over this, then traverse right to a groove. Climb a slab to a shallow chimney which is taken to a grassy recess and belays (40m). There is now a choice of exits. The original finish climbed over the belay to a corner; by this way the whole climb is Severe. The variation finish traverses right over first grass, then slabs, then hand traverses across the steep face on good holds before swinging over a bulge to a small ledge. Traverse right to a corner, climb this, then up a slab for a short distance before hand traversing left to a sloping shelf. Finish by surmounting the arete and an easy slab (25m).

**HARRIS, Glen Scaladale, Creag Mo***-Macbeth Variation*

HVS 5a

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 8th July, 1989.

1. Start at the lowest rock below a corner/groove. Climb the groove passing loose blocks and a short overhanging wall. Continue a further 7m until level with the first belay of Macbeth. Traverse left for 3m, then up a rounded edge to a belay below some roofs.
2. Climb a chimney to a grassy ledge and join Macbeth.

*-Antipodean Exile*

40m E2 5b

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 8th July, 1989.

From the right hand end of the amphitheatre, follow a grass ledge to a blunt arete. Start just left of the arete which bounds the left wall.

Climb 5m to the incipient crack. It is possible to step left into the main crack and follow this but if wet, traverse right and up the arete climbing the double cracks and on to the top via a shallow chimney.

*-King Billy*

50m HVS

A. MacFarlane, D. Stelfox. 26th August, 1989.

1. 4c Start up the wall immediately right of the long low overhang of Little Bow Peep and go up to a grass ledge.
2. 5a Go up the wall trending right into a corner. Follow this, then exit left through a roof.

*-Herbivore Direct*

E3 6a

B. Davison, A. MacFarlane. 19th May, 1990.

Follow Herbivore till it traverses right midway up the obvious corner. Continue up the corner with difficulty to a sloping finish.

The original line of Herbivore was repeated, HVS 5a being the modern grade.

Sgurr Scaladale: The 1961 route Mionnir was repeated without the aid to enter the chimney (VS 4c), by A. MacFarlane, B. Davison.

**STRONE ULLADALE***-Flakeway to the Stairs*

120m E2 5c 5b 5c 5a

The aid on pitches 2 and 3 was eliminated and a more direct top pitch up a corner left of the stance added. This top pitch was probably the same as for Beyond the Ranges. A. MacFarlane, B. Davison, July, 1990.

**CREAG DUBH DHIBADAIL,***-Borealis*

80m E2

A. MacFarlane, D. MacGimpsey. 14th July, 1990.

Start as for Aurora.

1. 20m, 5a. Go up the groove to a sizeable ledge directly below a triangular roof.
2. 30m, 5b. Traverse right to a right facing corner. Go up this to a sloping ledge. Move left to a right-facing corner and climb this to a belay ledge, as for Midguard.
3. 30m, 4c. Go up a slab to a left-facing corner/chimney.

*-Hitch Hiker*

160m E2

A. MacFarlane, B. Davison. April, 1990.

Start at the right hand end of the cliff about 10m right of the wide crack of Solitude and below and left of an obvious roof.

1. 40m, 5b. Start up a slabby rampline as Take Two, trending rightwards to belay on a small ledge after passing a quartz band using 3 aid points due to wet.
2. 40m, 5c. Move up a steep groove above the belay to a sloping ledge below the right hand end of a large roof, then traverse left to a ledge at the other end of the roof.
3. 40m, 4c. Hand traverse right to the arete, then climb up a rampline trending left.
4. 40m, 4c. Move left to finish up a corner and leftward trending groove.

**MULL, An Garradh (NM 609204)**

The main face is an imposing plaque of steep, clean and apparently smooth rock devoid of obvious features apart from a big overhang high on its left. It is bounded on the right by a huge sandstone dyke (Dropout) and on the left by fairly vegetated slabby ground leading up to twin corners left of the big overhang. The rock is a compact rhyolite with an unpredictably brittle surface. Most cracks are formed by loose blocks and flakes and carrying a large rack, including several knifeblade pegs, is recommended. A paranoid style of climbing is required with a potential threat to both leader and second (like the runners, the belays must be treated with suspicion). The unusual grade is designed to reflect this. Despite the cautionary description, the underlying rock is sound and the central route provided a magnificent adventure with an air of tension rather than imminent doom. The cliff faces south and dries fairly quickly; a strong sun may be more of a problem.

*-Knocking on Heaven's Door*

210m E5

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 30th April/1st May, 1990.

The route starts right of centre and trends left until close under the big overhang. On day 1, climbing on sight, an escape line to the left was taken. On day 2 the belay under the overhang was regained by abseil and a right finish was produced. A truly direct finish awaits! At the bottom left of the face is a long overhang. Start at easy-angled slabs midway between this and the dyke.

1. 25m, 4c. Climb steepening slabs to belay below a small heathery ledge.
2. 20m, 5c. Gain the ledge, move right to a flake, then step up into a shallow depression. Climb up this, exiting on the right to a belay ledge.
3. 15m, 5a. Climb a heathery groove on the left, then continue left to a ledge below a long overhang.
4. 25m, 5c. Climb a steep groove left of the overhang, then trend right to a ledge and poor belay.
5. 15m, 5c. Climb a flake at the right end of the ledge, then move back left across the wall to a bottomless groove. Go up this to a flake and step left to a rock ledge about 10m below the right end of the big overhang. The Seductive Finish goes left from here. Instead,
6. 15m, 5b. Go up towards the overhang, then traverse right on smoother rock to a ledge and poor belay.
7. 45m, 5c. Gain a higher ledge on the right and from its far end, descend about 5m until possible to gain the rib on the right. Continue right over a bulge and across ledges to gain the dyke. Go up this to a good belay.
8. 45m, 4c. Continue up the dyke to finish obviously on the left.

*-Seductive Finish*

85m E1

This is an optional finish, less direct but on better rock. It avoids the hardest pitch.

6. 20m, 5a. From the belay under the big overhang, traverse left and slightly up until a ledge appears unexpectedly below and round the arete. It is gained by a sensational small jump.
7. 50m, 5b. Star Trek goes up and right from here to climb the huge, hanging, right hand corner. After a short descent, go up the left corner on good rock until it deteriorates near the top.
8. 15m, -. Finish on the left.

*-Dropout*

180m E3

B. Davison, A. Smith. 26th May, 1987.

Takes the big dyke/chimney bounding the right side of the main face.

1. 30m, 5a. Climb the chimney, belay on the right before overhangs.
2. 35m, 5b. Move back left and climb through a second set of overhangs. Belay below a third set.
3. 35m, 5b. Go over the overhang and continue to grass and a tree belay.
4. 35m, 5a. Continue up the chimney, sometimes on the left wall.
5. 45m, 4c. Continue up the dyke to finish obviously on the left.

*-Star Trek*

180m E3

B. Davison, A. Smith. 27th May, 1987.

Takes the right hand fork of the twin corners at the top left of the crag. Start left of the overhangs at the bottom left of the main face.

1. 30m, 5a. Follow a line of weakness left, then traverse right along a grass ledge to belay below a hanging block.
2. 30m, 5a. Surmount the overhang and continue up to a tree belay.
3. 45m, 4c. Climb rightwards, mainly on grass, to a big ledge below the corners.
4. 15m, 5a. Climb the lower half of the coners to their junction.
5. 45m, 5c. Climb the right hand corner past a ledge at half height to a large ledge.
6. 15m, 4b. Climb a corner at the back of the ledge.

*-Mincing Gay Bar Loiterer*

165m E2/3

B. Davison, C. Moody, A. Smith. 27th June, 1987.

The route is high on the right of the preceding routes, finishing up the corner before the crag degenerates into shattered rock further right. The 5b section on the last pitch is on reasonable rock but there is also some 5a which is sustained, loose and poorly protected. Start at the top of an easy ramp.

1. 40m, -. Go up slabs to belay below a niche capped by an overhang.
2. 25m, 4c. Go up right of the niche to a large ledge.
3. 55m, 4b. Walk left, then move rightwards, then leftwards along a crack to below an overhang at the start of the corner.
4. 45m, 5b. Climb a flake on the left to a ramp and continue to a ledge. Move left and climb a detachable flake left of the corner.

Note: There are further routes on this crag but the first ascenders have declined to publicise them.

**RHUM, Hallival, West Face**

High on the west face of Hallival, just below the summit and over looking Atlantic Corrie, is a compact crag which looks deceptively scrappy from below. It does however offer some fine routes. The most prominent feature seen from below is the Western Slab, to the left of which is Western Wall. Right of Western Slab is Hourglass Buttress, easy angled in its lower reaches, but with a fine steep slab above a grassy ledge at the 'waist' of the buttress. Right again is a broken area of ribs (Central Ribs), ending in a prominent V-groove which bounds the left edge of Western Ridge. To the right of this, the rocks become more broken and lesser in height. There are easy descents at either end of the crag.

*-Grendel*

21m VS

J. Mitchell, E. Mitchell. 18th July, 1990.

From the left end of Western Wall, climb a black streaked wall and groove to ledges. Climb steeply up the right wall, mantelshelf onto an overhanging ledge, and finish up an overhanging crack.

*-Fugazi*

21m VS

E. Mitchell, J. Mitchell. 18th July, 1990.

10m left of Troll Corner, climb a blunt nose to gain an obvious niche. Climb the steep right wall onto a small ledge, then bridge up to a mantelshelf onto an overhanging block. Move left and climb the steep headwall, traversing right to a break, then climbing a corner to the top.

*-Troll Corner*

21m VS

N. Reid, J. Mitchell. 18th July, 1990.

At the junction of Western Wall and the side-wall of Western Slab, climb a steep corner crack with an overhanging direct exit. \*Continue up a slab to finish left of a rock gargoyle.

*-Slab Direct*

23m Very Difficult

J. Mitchell, N. Reid. 18th July, 1990.

Climb straight up the centre of Western Slab, finishing to the right of the rock gargoyle.

*-Cullie's Route*

23m Very Difficult

M. Dunlop, A. Bain. 18th July, 1990.

Climbs the right side of Western Slab, to the right of the scrappy groove.

*-Moss Slab*

12m Severe

A. Bain, M. Dunlop. 18th July, 1990.

Lies on the upper section of Hourglass Buttress. Climb from the bottom left corner, traverse onto slab, and climb to the top.

*-Bishop's Groove*

18m Severe

N. Reid, J. Mitchell. 18th July, 1990.

This route takes the obvious V-groove to the left of Western Ridge. Scramble up some loose blocks to a belay at sound rock. Climb the groove to the top.

*-Pandora's Box*

35m Severe

J. Mitchell, N. Reid. 18th July, 1990.

Start at the left edge of Western Ridge. Climb a narrow slab and left-facing corner to a large overhang which is turned on the right. Climb a V-groove to a steep wall, which is climbed using the left side crack to an overhanging prow and a belay. Traverse 5m right and bridge up an easy open V-groove above.

*-Western Ridge*

45m Severe

A. Bain, M. Dunlop. 18th July, 1990.

From the lowest rocks of Western Ridge, climb directly to a belay at an overhang. Climb the overhang to the end of continuous climbing at 24m. Continue up over two short walls separated by grass ledges.

**HALLIVAL, South-East Face, Lower Tier***-Nice n' Easy*

20m Hard Severe

J. Mitchell, N. Reid. 16th July, 1990.

Approx 20m left of the gully bounding the left edge of Allival Slab is a small pyramid shaped buttress. Climb the well defined left bounding arete, with an entertaining finish.

*Breeze (variation)*

20m Severe

A. Bain, M. Dunlop 16th July, 1990

Climb Oxford Groove for 3m. Make a rightwards rising traverse onto a wall for 5m. From a broad ledge, climb a short arete, then traverse left to a crack line which is followed to the terrace.

**Middle Tier***-Allivalhalla*

37m Very Difficult

N. Reid, J. Mitchell. 16th July, 1990.

Gain the bottom left corner of Allival Slab. Make an easy rising traverse into a vegetatious crack heading to an obvious corner. Where the slab steepens before the corner, move 3m right and follow a thin crack to the left of a detached block, exiting on to an easier angled slab left of an obvious horizontal overhanging block.

**Note**

Hallival, South East Face. Flake and Crack Route. John Mitchell reports that the original route has now been modified slightly, the flake having fallen to the coire floor. An alternative start has been made (J. Mitchell and E. Mitchell, 16th July, 1990), starting by a rising traverse from the bottom left corner or Allival Slab to an obvious small pinnacle. The original line is followed thereafter.

**MULL OF CARA, Carraig Mhor**

These fine epidiorite cliffs, reaching a maximum height of 40m, rise above a boulder jumble at the southern tip of Cara. They are largely steep and clean with few nesting birds. In contrast, the lower more broken crags, extending northwards along the east coast, support much bird life. The main crag is bounded on its east side by a sheer wall above a dipping band of deeply eroded sandy rock and on its west side by a dwindling slabby face. Scars (and debris) from several large, relatively recent rockfalls are evident. Access to the base of this crag can be affected from the west at beach level and from the east via the hillside above, down broken ground just beyond the sheer wall. The OS 1:10000 and 1:25000 maps do not depict this break, erroneously showing the main crag linking to the lower crag of the east coast.

*-Rubha Rib*

45m VS 4c

G.E. Little, R.G. Reid. 15th September, 1990.

This route takes a clean line up the slab and rib where the angle of the face eases near the west end of the crag. A kite shaped recess just above ground level (just left of a black overhanging corner) marks the start of the route.

Climb into, then directly above the kite-shaped recess to smoother rock (strenuous). Pull right, then up to the top of a large flake. Climb the clean slab wall above, just left of a groove, then step right on to the rib. Climb this and left-trending groove above.

*-Cara Corner*

30m E2 5b

G.E. Little, R.G. Reid. 16th September, 1990.

Takes the obvious corner bounding the left side of the sheer wall at the east end of the crag. Spectacular climbing with some friable holds. Protection just adequate, although difficult to place.

Scramble to the base of the corner. Climb it, passing a grass tuft and a slim groove on the left wall to gain a semi-detached, flat topped flake on the left. Ascend the left wall to a small ledge. Move back to a rock pedestal, then up the corner to finish.



-Thomas Traverse

40m E1 5b

R.G. Reid, G.E. Little. 16th September, 1990.

Start at the bottom of the prominent crack splitting the face to the left of Cara Corner. An excellent varied route.

Traverse hard left to gain a grass patch under an obvious dark roof. Move left to a good foothold (crux), then layback up a flake edge into a groove. Gain a foothold on the left bounding rib, then up to below a small overhang. Pull over this, then climb short walls to gain a good ledge on the right below the final corner. Up this strenuously in two steps to the top.

## SKYE

### Sgurr Hain Crag (NG 508201)

The crag is situated approx 0.5km west of the southern end of Loch na Creitheach, and 1.5km north of the Camasunary bothy. It faces south-east, and consists of two main buttresses, separated by a wide gully. The rock varies from perfect gabbro to some rather loose sections. There is scope for many new routes on obvious lines. These routes would be both fairly hard and require cleaning.

-Peterless Crack

120m E1

T. Walkington, A. Cunningham. 20th May, 1990.

1. 15m 5b. Start 5m left of a small bay (just left of the toe of the buttress). Climb over initial bulges, moving right then leftwards to gain a crack-line in slabs.
2. 20m 5b. Continue up the crack line, going through an overhang, and up to a block belay.
3. 20m 5a. Directly above the belay, climb a crack line through overhangs to a grass ledge which is traversed left to the foot of a corner.
4. 35m. Climb a corner/groove until steep heather leads to some rowan trees.
5. 30m. Move round to the right and follow slabs to the top.

-Bryantless Crack

40m HVS

T. Walkington, A. Cunningham. 20th May, 1990.

1. 15m 4c. Start at the small bay mentioned in the previous description. Climb the overhanging corner to slabs.
2. 27m 4c. Continue up the corner to a block. Make an awkward exit onto a gangway up on the left, and continue up leftwards to the block belay on Peterless Crack which is followed to the top.

The next three routes lie on the bounding wall of the buttress, high up on the wide central gully.

-Assault Course Bimbo

30m E4

T. Walkington, A. Cunningham. 19th May, 1990.

An excellent pitch on perfect rock, very sustained with very good protection. Takes a thin crackline up the centre of a vertical wall high up on the left bounding wall of the wide central gully. Scramble up for 10m to belay at some blocks.

1. 30m 6a. Climb to the top of the blocks just left of the crack. Make a short traverse along a quartzite band to the crack, which is followed to the top.

-Witchless Corner

20m VS 4c

T. Walkington, A. Cunningham, M. Smith. 21st May, 1990.

This route takes the obvious corner several metres to the right of, and slightly higher than, Assault Course Bimbo. Pleasant and well protected.

-James' Crack

85m HVS

T. Walkington, A. Cunningham. 18th May, 1990.

The climb follows the continuous vertical corner on the right bounding wall of the gully, at about the same level as Witchless Crack. The crack starts about 12m beneath a large jammed boulder in the gully (not the wider crack 5m below the boulder). Follow the crack in its entirety, poorly protected in its upper section, but with most loose rock removed. 25m, 5a; 25m, 4c; 35m, 4b.

**SGURR AN FHEADAIN, South-West Face***-Dykehead Hotel*

105m E3

G. Nicoll, K. Noble, A. Chamings. 14th July, 1990.

Takes the prominent slanting trap dyke in the centre of the face. Start 3m left of the flake-crack of Retribution.

1. 35m 4c. Climb a slabby wall directly to a grass ledge at 25m, gain the wall above by a large block on the right, move back leftwards and up to belay in a short corner at the base of the dyke.
2. 40m 5c. Follow the dyke diagonally rightwards to a ledge, move right and climb the right hand side of an overhang to regain the dyke which is followed to its conclusion at a good ledge. A tremendous pitch.
3. 30m 4b. Continue more easily to the top.

**SGURR A' MHADAIDH, North-West Face***-Deep Gash Gully*

245m VI

M.E. Moran, M. Welsh. 14th February, 1991.

The 'Raven's Gully' of Skye. A formidable and atmospheric winter climb.

This route had in fact previously been climbed in winter by M. Fowler and J. Lincoln, on 2nd February, 1991.

1. 30m A short step and easy snow lead to a large roofed cave.
2. 15m Back and foot to huge chockstones in the roof, then out and under the lip of the overhangs to an awkward exit. Belay in recess immediately above.
3. 40m Climb a short step and easy snows to belays in hollow in right wall.
4. 40m Go up left into the extremely steep upper gully. Bridge up past an ice pillar, then climb iced grooves to a hidden cave recess below final overhangs.
5. 30m Climb 3m on the right wall, then make very committing moves to bridge the gully and enter a narrow chimney. Surmount the final capstone direct and climb steep snows to belay at the next chockstone recess.
- 6,7. 90m Bridge past the chockstone, then climb the snow gully to a short exit pitch.

Note: A rockfall on Megaton, pitch 4, has made the route unjustifiably dangerous, according to at least two opinions, one of whom freed the combined tactics move (6a) before retreating.

**SRON NA CICHE, East Buttress (Vulcan Wall)***-Uhuru*

70m E2

K. Howett, T. Prentice. 22nd July, 1990.

Excellent climbing up the fine crack-line in the silver-streaked wall between Vulcan Wall and Dilemma. Start at cracks just left of the vertical crack of Dilemma.

1. 25m 5c. Climb to a small overlap and follow the crack above to a hard move right to the Vulcan Wall ledge. Traverse left to a flake block belay.
2. 45m 5c. Step right off the block, up cracks and move right over a curving overlap. Move up and right to pull into the main crack, which is followed with difficulty to better holds. Continue up the excellent crack to finish right of the large precarious block.

**CLACH GLAS, East Face***-B Gully*

600m IV

S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 12th January, 1991.

The deep gully on the right flank of the East Face. Requires heavy snowfall and a long freeze. Numerous short steps were encountered interspersed by long easy sections. Short excursions were made out of the true line of the gully at two points.

**RED CUILLIN, Coire na Seilg, Creag Druim Eadar Da Choire**

APPROACH: Coire na Seilg is enclosed between the North ridges of Garbh Bheinn and Belig. A large cliff lies astride the North ridge of Garbh Bheinn at NG 528242 and is probably best approached by the longer but drier North ridge than by the boggy glen. Allow 1½h. The crag is at approx 500m, faces North and takes 2 days to dry completely. It often has better weather than the main areas of the Cuillin due to its isolated position.

DESCENT: In descent, keep to the west towards the North ridge and then follow the scree slopes below the crag.

LAYOUT: The cliff presents a face to both East and North, the eastern being 100m in height and quicker drying. The crag is best described left and right of a pronounced gully line which rises centrally above a series of heathery rakes. To the left of this gully, the crag is bottomed by a steep wall followed by more broken ground, topped by more walls which are bounded on the left by a fine rib. The lower wall has a vertical central groove, a little edge on the left and a pair of vertical corners on the right. The rib falls steeply into a groove which forms a slab below half height and the crag to the left lies back in easy angled buttresses. To the right of the gully a splendid overlapped slab is split by three cracklines and to its right a steep edge swings North, well seen from the corrie floor. This vertical north wall gradually diminishes in height towards the ridge and has two pronounced lines, a deep cracked groove and a shallow banana-shaped one to its right with a tapering buttress in between. To the right again are vertical cracks above vegetated ledges before the cliff becomes blocky and low near the ridge. Some of the rock is blocky and high up on the East face there are small sections of brittle rock.

The routes are described from left to right, starting on the East face.

### EAST FACE,

*-Far East Buttress*

150m Difficult

G. Cain. 1980.

Left of the recessed slab of Cubs Corner (described below) is a long easy-angled buttress which gives delightful climbing on excellent rock.

*-Cubs Corner*

60m Severe

G. Cain, B. Scout. 1980.

Left of Skye Ride (below) is the recessed slab. Climb this, then trend left and up the blocky crack to finish up easy ground.

*-Skye Ride*

100m VS

C. Rowland, K. Hopper. 1980.

1. 25m, 4c. Climb the artificial left edge of the lower wall (cairn) to reach easy blocky ground.

2. 25m, - Continue in the same line to the base of the fine rib, well seen from below.

3. 25m, 4c. Climb the rib direct, following a thin crack left of a drainage groove, crux, to pull over on to a slab below an overhanging corner.

4. 10m, 4c. Climb the corner.

5. 15m, 4b. Step up to another ledge with flakes and climb a straight crack to big ledges. 20m of scrambling up and right avoids a loose wall to finish.

*-Unnamed*

100m E1

J.R. Mackenzie, R. Jones. 1st June, 1988.

Start at the rightmost of two corners which lie at the right end of the steep lower wall, cairn. A good and varied first pitch, thereafter somewhat artificial.

1. 40m, 5b. Go up a slab to the corner and traverse right along flakes to a grass patch. Climb a crack right of perched flakes to an overhanging corner. Surmount this via a hidden hold, crux, to exit into a groove. Climb the bold slab on the right, trending up left to belays.

2. 27m, - Up pleasant rocks right then left to belays below a cracked wall which lies right of the rib pitch right of Skye Ride.

3. 35m, 4b. Climb a gangway slanting left below the vertical crack. Trend up right, then traverse right for a few feet until a scoop can be climbed to a narrow ledge below a steep friable wall. Traverse right to a grassy groove to finish.

*-Seilg Gully*

150m Very Difficult

C. Rowland, K. Hopper. 1980.

The long broken gully that lies left of the big slab.

The big slab lies to the right of Seilg Gully and is the crag's finest feature. It faces NE and takes two days to dry. To reach the base, approach either up Seilg Gully, then traverse right, or scramble up heathery shelves and rock steps to the same point. A grass ledge lies centrally beneath and forms a stance for the next three routes.

*-Hand Jive*

55m VS

C. Rowland, J. Smith. 1981.

A good introduction to the crag, taking the left hand crack. A lobed crack runs diagonally up left from the stance.

1. 20m, 4b. Climb up to the lobe and step right on to the slab beneath it. Follow this trending left to a stance and belay overlooking Seilg Gully.
2. 35m, 4c. Step right and follow the crack through the overhanging corner to the top.

*-Streetwise Dancer*

50m HVS

C. Rowland, J. Smith. 1981.

1. 25m, 4c. A bold sparsely protected pitch on good rock. Below the centre of the curved overlap is a niche; climb the steep slab directly below this, then follow a slanting crack right until a line of holds trend up left before stepping back right into the niche itself.

2. 25m, 5a. Climb up above the niche to gain the overlap on the right and then pull over this at its highest point, crux. Now trend left along little edges to join Hand Jive to finish. Well protected.

*-Cuckoo Waltz*

50m E1 5b

C. Rowland, K. Hopper. 1980.

Excellent rock, well protected. Climb initially as for Streetwise Dancer, but aiming for the right hand end of the overlaps. The right-slanting crack then straightens out and breaks through the upper overlaps via a finger crack, crux. More easily to the top.

*-Flights of Fancy*

45m E2

M. Haltree, M. Frew, S. Price. 27th May, 1990.

A bolder start that joins the parent route where the right-trending crack straightens out. Start up and right on a higher ledge as for Rites of Passage and step left on to the bald slab, surmounting a little overhang, then trending up left to join the crack.

*-Rites of Passage*

55m E1 5b

J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 26th May, 1990.

A splendid line that follows the cleaned cracks up the wall left of the bounding arete. Scramble up heather and rock as for the other routes but go further right to a commodious ledge and belays. Climb up left to the corner, then follow a diagonal crack right to a thin move which gains the base of the main crack. Follow the crack in a great position to the top, where a step left on to the slab gives a fitting finish.

THE NORTH FACE, to the right of the black arete, is very steep and is characterised by grooves and a banana-shaped corner. It is very slow to dry and could take a week or more.

*-The Alpha Groove*

60m Very Severe

C. Rowland, K. Hopper. 1981.

A very good and strenuous first pitch provides the meat of the climb. Near the left end of the North face is a very prominent groove.

1. 20m, 4c. Climb the increasingly awkward groove to a tight exit on to a fine eyrie stance.
2. 20m, 4c. The continuation groove to the right of the stance is usually wet, so step right for 3m to a subsidiary groove and climb this to step back left across the top of the main groove on wet undercliffs which lead to the upper wide grooves.
3. 20m, - Continue to the top.

*-Direct Finish*

45m HVS 5a

C. Rowland, J. Smith. 1981.

A much drier alternative to the top pitches. From the stance, step 3m right in to the subsidiary groove and climb this to a steep and awkward crack which ends at a large stance below the top pitch of Black Magic. Climb the cracks splitting the right wall and finish up a narrow gully.

*-Tapered Buttress*

60m E1

P. Nunn, A.N. Other. 1981.

The fine tapered buttress between The Alpha Groove and Black Magic. Start directly below the banana shaped groove of Black Magic and climb the steep buttress direct (30m, 5b). Continue in the same line to the top (30m, 5b).

*-Black Magic*

75m E2

J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 27th May, 1990.

The obvious banana-shaped groove which is often wet. An excellent middle pitch. Climb into The Meadow, a delightful oasis of wild flowers, and belay below the main groove (25m). Climb the groove to a precariously wedged block. Stand above the block without using it, then traverse left to a rib and crack to avoid a wet finish up the groove (30m, 5c). Now climb the increasingly difficult corner direct, artificial (20m, 5b).

**KILT ROCK, Elishader Wall***-Pinnacle Chimney*

15m Very Difficult

C. Moody. 1st December, 1990.

Start at the left end of the wall at the neck between the pinnacle and the main cliff. Follow chockstones and finish by chimneying up behind a smaller pinnacle.

*-Bandasky*

30m E1 5a

C. Moody, B. Taylor. 28th July, 1990.

Climb the front of the small pillar just left of The Dangers. Follow twin cracks mostly using the better defined left hand crack. Sustained.

*-Unnamed*

30m HVS 5a

M. McLeod, C. Moody, B. Taylor. 21st October, 1990.

Left of the left hand roof is a left-facing corner-crack which is very wide near the top.

**Descent Gully, South Wall***-Confiture*

10m Very Difficult

C. Moody. 1st December, 1990

Twin cracks right of Jammy Dodger.

*-Marmalada*

10m Difficult

C. Moody. 1st December, 1990.

Right of Confiture is a pinnacle. Chimney up the left side to gain the top, then finish up a short crack.

**NORTHERN HIGHLANDS**

A huge number of new routes on outcrops in the Northern Highlands have been climbed in the last three years. Descriptions will appear soon in the new guidebook and there is not space to repeat them here. The crags include Sheigra (NC 1860), Reiff, Ardmail Crag, Royal Hotel Buttress (Ullapool NH 134944) and Seana Mheallan (Torridon NG 925553)

**AM BUACHAILLE -Atlantic Wall**

50m E1

S. Richardson, R. Clothier. 15th September, 1990.

An exposed and intimidating route taking the seaward (West) face of the stack. Good rock and protection. Retreat after the first pitch would be difficult. Start below the South face at the left end of the rock plinth.

1. 15m, 5a. Climb a small left-facing corner to a roof at 5m. Traverse left to the arete and climb this to reach an exposed stance.

2. 15m, 4c. Strenuously up the overhanging flake crack on the seaward face, directly above the stance, and continue more easily to reach a large ledge beneath the steep final wall. Belay up and right beside a huge detached block.

3. 20m, 5a/b. Climb the thin crack above the block to a horizontal break. Traverse left to reach the continuous crack running up the left side of the wall which leads to easier ground and the top. A fine pitch.





*Photo: Chris Anderson*

Rab Anderson on 'Seems the Same', HVS 5a, Seana Mheallan, Torridon



*Photo: T. B. Fleming*

The President on the final headwall

**ASSYNT, Beinn an Fhurain (NC 303215)**

The cliff is formed round a nose east of spot height 860. Traversing round under the cliff from the col between Beinn an Fhurain and Conival, one soon comes to a short gully with an icefall just to its left. Climb this (40m), then traverse easily right into the gully. The gully leads into a steeper icefall (40m) which continues as a thinner version leading into an icy chimney (45m). One can now escape off left or scramble up to a mixed pitch (choice of several, all steep) leading up to the summit. A scrappy line but giving 3 long icefall pitches, steep but not with a serious disposition. Climbed by B. Davison, A. Nisbet, 9th February, 1991.

**QUINAG, Western Cliffs -*Noggin the Nog***

80m IV

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 10th February, 1991.

The route followed a chimney on the right wall of the bay containing The Gully of Nedd (SMCJ 1986, p308) ie. just left of the grade I gully (descent) below the third col. There is a shallower groove to the right and the two features define a small tower on the ridge bounding the gully. Two long pitches, much back and foot, then scrambling.

The Gully of Nedd was repeated that day, a fine line and easier.

**COIGACH, Cul Mor, Coire Gorm -*The Cul***

165m V

S. Richardson, R. Everett. 13th January, 1991.

In the centre of the back wall of the coire, a prominent deep chimney slants from right to left. Climb the first steep chimney, exiting right, and continue for 2 easier pitches, passing under a flake tunnel, to a stance beneath the final overhanging chimney. Climb this to a steep finish on the right wall (35m). A spectacular pitch.

Note: Sgurr an Fhìdhleir. A free ascent of Nose Direct, Tower Finish at E1 5b/c by S. Richardson and S. Allan, 19th May, 1990. A free winter ascent of the Nose Direct, summer line at Grade VI, R. Everett and S. Richardson, 12th January, 1991.

**BEINN DEARG, Glen Squaib -*Jewel in the Crown***

160m V

S. Richardson, C. Cartwright (alt). 6th January, 1991.

Climbs the icy corner just to the left of Emerald Gully. The crux pitches need a good build-up of ice which is fairly rare. On this ascent a fair coating was found after a heavy snowfall followed by a week of freeze/thaw. The route is not technically difficult by modern standards, but the ice will rarely be thick, and the protection is well-spaced. Low in the grade.

Start 20m below the first steep pitch in Emerald Gully. Move left across mixed ground and climb a steep icy corner for 10m to exit on a snow terrace beneath the corner (25m). The bottom of the corner overhangs, but a strenuous pull from the right gained a frieze of icicles and entry into the corner which is climbed (thread runner on left) to a good stance on the left (20m). Move right and up a steep ice wall, then continue up mixed ground to belay in a small cave on a terrace (45m). Two pitches up ice, snow and moderate mixed ground lead to the cornice (70m).

**AN TEALLACH, Lord Berkley's Seat**

130m V

S. Jenkins, A. Nisbet. 28th January, 1991.

This spectacular route climbs the impressive coire face of the Seat. Cooperative rock and turf (if well frozen) makes the route a slight imposter, low in its grade. Start just left of the toe of the buttress.

1. 45m Climb the crest, trending slightly rightwards until stopped by a barrier wall.
2. 35m Traverse right and climb a short slab overlooking the gully right branch. A series of walls leads to another barrier.
3. 25m Traverse left and climb corners just right of the crest.
4. 25m A short turf ramp leads diagonally right to the final wall, finishing right of the Seat's summit.

**CREAG MHOR THOLLAIDH, Lower Crag -North-West Orient**

60m E4

R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 12th May, 1990.

A good direct line which takes the arete to the right of Gudgeon. Start to the right of the tree start to that route and Decadent Days beneath a short crack springing from a niche between a holly bush on the left and a small tree on the right.

1. 25m, 5b. A flake-crack leads to the niche, then the short crack is climbed to move up and gain a horizontal handrail. Traverse right for 5m, ascend the wall past a crack to reach a left-slanting ramp, then move up to belay as for Gudgeon.

2. 35m, 6a. Climb the groove above to a flake, then step up right to a thin crack as for Gudgeon. Place a high wire, then traverse right to a peg and climb the arete and cracks leading to the top.

**Far East Wall -Glow Worm**

80m IV/V

A. Nisbet, S. Dring, 21st November, 1990.

A line based on Sidewinder but taking a parallel line below the rightward-slanting crack to belay near Sting, then crossing Sidewinder to finish on its left. Climbed under deep snow and partially frozen turf, the lower grade might apply in better conditions.

**BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Eastern Ramparts -Eastern Promise**

V

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 12th February, 1991.

By the summer route except that the roof above the girdle ledge was passed on the left instead of right. Intimidatingly steep but cooperative and well-protected.

**West-Central Wall -Wall of the Winds**

120m E1

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 15th September, 1990.

The route is based on a continuous line of grooves 10m left of Mistral. Start midway between the initial corner of Mistral and the Pinnacle of Twilight Zone.

1. 10m, - Climb an easy blocky groove.

2. 35m, 5a. Go up a continuation groove on to a pinnacle (looks like a flake-crack from below), then up to the Girdle ledge.

3. 45m, 5b. The continuation was unattractive so a flake on the left was taken leading into a shallow groove climbed for about 8m. A left traverse led to another groove which was followed to good runners (Twilight Zone is the groove left again). A short descent allowed a return traverse to the shallow groove (crux). A rightwards-trending line through the left end of a roof system gave access to a chimney not far left of Mistral Vee-corner.

4. 30m, 4b. Finish up this.

**-West-Central Wall (winter)**

350m VI

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 14th February, 1991.

A steep route based on Mistral. Start up West-Central Gully and where it widens above the sandstone, break out right by a short ice pitch on to the base of the wall. Go out right and easily up the left side of West Buttress until a ledge leads back left to the start of Mistral (second icy groove from the right). This is the start of serious climbing.

Climb the icy V-groove and the three-tiered overhanging chimney directly above. Traverse right and belay below another chimney (40m). Climb the chimney (it has a wide crack in its right wall) to the Upper Girdle. Return left to belay directly above the previous pitch and back on Mistral (25m). Climb Mistral crux pitch (20m). Traverse left and finish up the final chimney of Wall of the Winds (40m).

**-Far West Buttress**

IV

S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 9th January, 1991.

An excellent short route with 2 technical but well-protected pitches.



**BEINN EIGHE, Coire Rudha-staca -The Independent Pineapple**

IV/V

G. Ettle, A. Nisbet. 13th January, 1991.

By the summer route. Short but well-protected, a natural line.

*-Three Tier Chimney*

150m III/IV

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 15th February, 1991.

The gully parallel to and left of Thin Man's Ridge. Mostly easy but one strenuous pitch of 3 piled chockstones. The last short chimney pitch was common to The Independent Pineapple (winter).

**MEALL GORM, Eastern Buttress -Blue Moon**

200m III

S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 8th January, 1991.

The route follows the crest of the buttress to the left of the Trident Gully left branch. Start on the terrace left of the gully and climb two steep walls (crux). Follow the exposed left edge of the buttress to the top.

**SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, The Cioch, Upper Tier -Glover's Route**

III

A. Tibbs, M. Shaw, A. Matthewson, C. Huntley. 30th December, 1990.

Roughly by the summer route but without the 30m right traverse.

**North-West Buttresses -Jupiter**

390m IV/V

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 11th February, 1991.

A winter version of the summer route but the relationship is unsure. Completely frozen turf is unusual but close to essential. Start from the toe of the buttress about 50m right of Voyager.

Climb a turfey groove (40m), then a steep chimney (40m). Go up to the base of the largest tier (50m). Take a heavily vegetated trough left of the crest (45m). Go diagonally right passing a tree to a ledge. Climb a vertical wall with a good crack passing a roof on its right (45m). Up to the next tier and a corner on the left (60m). The wall left of the corner was climbed on big flakes, then a slabby wall on the right and up to the next tier (50m). A central corner, then a right slanting line of flakes led to easier ground (50m). Blocky ground to the top of the buttress (60m).

*-Dexter*

III/IV

G. Ettle, A. Nisbet. 12th January, 1991.

As for summer except that the wall on the right of the dark chimney was climbed leading to a short icefall at the right side of the slab.

**FUAR THOLL, South-East Cliff** - W. Moir and N. Ritchie note a free ascent of Tholl Gate in February, 1991. An excellent sustained steep ice route with the crux section providing 10m of very steep thick ice, modern V.

**FANNICHS, Sgurr Mor, East Face**

This tremendous Alpine like face rises 300m above a shallow bowl of a coire. It faces North-East and gets the morning sun which can affect conditions late in the season. Roughly triangular in shape, it has the following routes. Easter Gully, 240m II, takes the long narrow gully on the left side of the face; Resurrection takes an almost central line via the hanging snowfields, 450m IV; East Face Route, 300m III, takes the fine shallow gully on the right of the central snowfields.



*-Gelid Groove*

240m III/IV

J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 27th January, 1991.

Just to the left of Easter Gully is an icefall. Peg belay by a cave on the left. Climb the very steep initial bulge and then by pleasant ice to a stance and peg belay on the left (50m). Continue up to the top bulge and climb this to snow and peg belay a little higher (40m). Move up and right to gain a minor snow rib punctuated by rock islands (50m, peg belay). Between this rib and a more massive buttress to the right is a fine but optional ice pitch. Climb the ice and belay on the next rock island (50m). Continue to the top on snow (50m). Some nice climbing in good surroundings. Repeated quickly and considered IV.

**FANNICHS, Creag a' Mhadaidh, Carn a' Criche (NH 197729)**

The huge (270m) triangular crag which lies above Loch a' Mhadaidh is probably one of the bigger crags in the Fannichs. It faces North and from a distance appears monolithic and rather featureless. Closer inspection reveals both the true size and steepness of the crag. The lower 70m of the crag is an almost unbroken wall of over 75 degrees, whilst the upper two thirds consists of a central scoop bounded by two ribs with a flanking wall on the left. This main section of face lies at or over 60 degrees.

The lower cliff is cut in only a few places. On the left the chimney line taken by The Boundary keeps to the left of the rib bordering the central scoop whilst towards the centre of the crag some thin ice smears lead up the lower wall. Right again a ramp cuts up right, finishing on broken ground that forms the right flank of the cliff. Below the ramp another very steep wall contours right above the loch. This is broken by a narrow cleft near the left end, a thin icefall in the centre and another, still very steep, near the right end.

*-Grand Illusion*

310m V

G.E. Little, J.M.G. Finlay. 14th February, 1991.

The route takes a fairly central line on the crag. Start well left of the ramp at a shallow chimney a short distance left of a blunt projecting rock boss. A fine long mountaineering route with significant technical difficulty on the first 2 pitches.

Climb the chimney for a short distance to below an overhang. Move right on to a ledge on the edge of a parallel groove. Ascend the groove to gain the top of the rock boss. Trend left up a turf fault to below a short narrow chimney. Ascend this (not for the overweight!) to take a poor belay on a small ledge (45m). Climb the steep turf groove above the belay to below an ice slot cutting through overhanging rock. Climb this to gain a turf groove and the snowfield above. Trend right to a thread belay under an obvious roof (55m). Climb a narrow ramp trending right, then move back left to find a zig-zagging line up the centre of the face to the apex of the crag. Distinctive features en route are a left-slanting ice groove, a prominent dark rock and a steep groove cutting through the headwall.

*-Brumous Buttress*

280m III

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 12th January, 1991

Takes the ground just right of the right hand rib. Climb the lower ramp for 90m, easy but increasingly exposed, to where it begins to level off. Climb either of two breaks which lie just right of a prominent block, up an ice pitch and rock belays on the right (45m). Traverse up and left, then take the ice pitch in some narrows which lie just right of a jutting buttress, to belay on an isolated block above (50m). Climb up to the next band of rocks and either traverse off right, then up to reach easier ground or take the buttress on the left to reach the same spot, rock belays (45m). Climb up easily to finish (50m). On this ascent a combination of deep powder and wind produced a high misery factor. Probably quite pleasant in good conditions.

**Sgurr Breac, North-East Face (NH 162716)**

At the termination of its NE ridge, Sgurr Breac presents a large though somewhat broken crag. The crag is divided into two main sections by a deep snow gully with a short pitch low down (grade I/II). On the left of this gully is a rather discontinuous buttress, whilst on the right lies a wall of more continuous rock split by a chimney/corner and a short deep gully (John's Gully) near its right extremity.

*-Neverending Story*

300m II/III

J.M.G. Finlay, J.G. Finlay, G.E. Little. 16th February, 1991.

Tackles the wide buttress to the left of the easy central gully. Start under a rock roof below the easy gully just above the toe of the buttress.

Move left and ascend a wide snow ramp cutting out on to the face of the buttress (45m). Ascend a slabby wall (crux) and snow above to belay in a rock cave (45m). Move right into a short turf groove. Go up this and broken ground above to belay by a sapling (35m). Ascend the obvious icy corner (well left of the organ pipes icefall) and continuation groove to belay on the left (10m). Three long pitches, winding up between small outcrops, give access either to the fine NE Ridge of Sgur Breac or allow a traverse off to the right along a snowshelf.

*-Ptarmigan Corner*

110m III/IV

J.M.G. Finlay, G.E. Little. 16th February, 1991.

The obvious chimney/corner on the right hand side of the crag. Ascend the open corner and climb a steep chimney to gain a snowpatch. Belay under the overhang (45m). Continue up the corner to a sapling. Move right into a slot with a thin flake. Pull out right, then continue up a turf groove to belay under broken rocks on the left (40m). Steep snow leads to the top (25m).

**STRATH ORRIN, Creag a' Ghlasteil -Three Stroke Gully**

120m II

G. Cullen, M. Hynd, J.R. Mackenzie. 17th February, 1991.

To the right of the trees and near the right hand side of the face lies a shallow gully which is half ice, with pleasant bulges, and half snow.

Note: Ghlastail GTX was repeated in conditions of plentiful ice but little snow and the very steep top pitch was considered Grade V (first ascensionists agree).

**GLENMARKSIE CRAG -Dogg'Ed**

24m VS 4c

G. Cullen, P. Whitefield. 10th June, 1990.

A fine sustained line up the steep wall left of Dog Leg. Start in the gully and step onto the wall to climb via thin cracks to the traverse of Dog Mantle. Climb the wall above via wider cracks to the base of the Dog Head, and finish by the right corner as for Dog Leg.

*-Variation, Direct Finish*

7m E2 5b

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 17th July, 1990.

Climb the unprotected and spectacular arete direct to the Dog Head pinnacle, the final move being the crux. Hard for the short.

*-Little Teaser*

15m E2 6a

J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 3rd June, 1990.

Just left of the small corner at the right end of the crag is a rust coloured corner above a cleaned slab. Climb the slab pleasantly, then leap up the overhanging corner (PR in place on left, RP3 vital) to pull onto the slab by memorable moves. Extenders on runners will allow a falling leader to hit the slab below.

**SGURR A' MHUILIN, Creag Ghlas**

J.R. Mackenzie gives the following amended description of The Lizard, along with the added variation.

*-The Lizard*

148m HVS

Start at a cairned ledge beneath the central rib of the West Buttress, which has a steep pale side wall bottomed by a heather chimney.

1. 23m 4c. Climb the crest of the rib to a ledge (possible belay). Climb the fine curved crack which lies between two mossy corners to a ledge and belay.
2. 30m 5a. Continue up the mossy corner above to a ledge and belay.
3. 25m 4c. Step right and gain the right edge of the slab above, climbing shallow grooves to a heather exit left of a little tree, block belay on the terrace.
4. 25m 5a. Cross the terrace and climb the slab above on the right, which has an initially delicate section up a right diagonal fault. Trend back up left, step up right, then up left following a fault. An excellent pitch.
5. 45m 4b. Cross heather and climb a cracked wall. Cross more heather and gain a slanting groove. Climb this via a crack, then climb a prominent jam crack to the top. An interesting pitch making the most of the final walls.

*-Variation, The Loop Pitch*

33m E3 5b/c

M. Selwood, J.R. Mackenzie. 28th July, 1990.

From the stance above the first pitch, instead of climbing the mossy corner, climb it for a few metres, then make a delicate traverse right to the base of the right edge. Climb this (Friend 0) then make difficult moves up to a little pink ledge. From here make a step left into a blind crack and layback up an improving edge to a ledge and belay as for the original route. The pitch is excellent but has no protection above the Friend 0.

**STAC POLLAIDH**

After last year's improved description of Jack the Ripper, a further new pitch has been added, giving a direct route, for which John Mackenzie gives the following description. The pitch had been climbed before by R. Everett, D. Gaffney in 1989.

*-Jack the Ripper Direct*

120m E2

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie, M. Selwood. 14th July, 1990.

1. 24m 4c. Start at the grassy hollow at the foot of the very edge of the buttress which is right of the grassy groove of November Groove. Climb a wall and bulge to step left and climb a fine layback crack to a ledge. Step right and belay behind a detached pinnacle.
2. 24m 5a. Climb the wall above and make a loose step right into a groove. Climb this to a little overhang and move awkwardly over this. Make an exposed left traverse for a few metres to near the left edge and climb straight up to the broken ledges below the third (slab) pitch of the original route.
3. 36m 5a. Step to the right edge below the slab and step over the bulge to climb rounded cracks to a small ledge overlooking the East Face. Continue up the cracks to then step left and up to easier ground.
4. 12m 5a. The original route now traverses up left into November Groove to finish. Instead, climb up some slabs including a crescent shaped jam crack to reach a fine ledge on the right edge.
5. 24m 5c. Take the slender curving groove above (which is left of Felo de Se's final corner), past an old nut, to mantel left onto a good ledge. Climb the wide crack above and finish up a short curving crack. An excellent sustained pitch, well-protected.

NOTE: Beinn Bhan, Coire na Feola. J. Lyall's opinion is that Flesheater should be graded easy IV. The climbing is not nearly as good as indicated.

## CAIRNGORMS

**CREAG an DUBH LOCH, The Central Slabs -The Titan**

300m IV/V

G. Ettle, S. Blagbrough. 17th January, 1991.

Follows the ramp and corner system to the right of Nemesis. Excellent turf and protection. Start as for Nemesis taking the rightward-grooved ramp.

1. 30m Follow ramp to flake belay.
  2. 30m Continue steeply up ramp rightwards to shallow corner. Up this to ledges and belay below obvious wide corner on right of large wall.
  3. 25m Follow wide corner to small stance below a steepening.
  4. 40m Continue up corner to swing left on to easier ground and on up to belay at foot of corner above, just right of Minotaur chimney.
  5. 40m Climb corner for 10m past large hollow flake to a swing out right on to easier ground. Grooves above lead to a flake belay.
- Follow the easy crest of the buttress to the plateau (135m).

**BRAERLACH, Garbh Choire Mor -Phoenix Edge**

IV/V

A. Cunningham, A. Nisbet. 21st January, 1991.

A winter ascent close to the summer route. A good route taking a logical line chosen under the prevailing conditions of deep partially consolidated snow, but the line and grade may vary. A short chimney right of the initial corner led to a left-trending line on snow to the summer belay. The right edge of the slabby wall was climbed, including a mantelshelf on to the perched block, followed by a return left to finish up the summer route.

**Garbh Choire Dhaidh -Didgeridoo**

V/VI

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 28th February, 1991.

A good line, but thin and poorly protected. Ice may form in better conditions. The initial green slab was largely banked out and the line is better located as the central of three, left-facing, left-slanting corners.

1. 30m The corner was gained on ice and followed for 15m to belay at a huge triangular block on the right.
2. 45m The corner was followed past the dangerous wedge of blocks and a steep section on a thin stripe of turf (good locating feature). There is no good belay and tension was used to reach a belay in the corner to the right (belaying at the wedge of blocks, if trusted, would eliminate this).
3. 50m Continue up the corner and cracks above, then move 2m left into a parallel crackline and up this to a small bay. Climb the corner at its back, then go up rightwards by short slabby walls.
4. 70m Continue rightwards up the vague ridge, then easily to the top.

**GLEANN EINICH, Sgoran Dubh Mor, No 2 Buttress -Batchelor's Chimney** 140m IV

S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 24th November, 1990.

Follows the deep chimney seen high on the buttress 50m left of Rose Ridge. The chimney involves 3 pitches. The first climbs steep slopes to a through route. The second climbs a steep wall by a groove on the right and the last pitch leads to a cave which is negotiated by another through route. Finish up mixed ground above.

**BEINN a' BHUIRD, Coire nan Clach, Black Crag -Bete Noir**

30m E3 6a

N. Ritchie, C.G. Munro. June, 1990.

Start 10m up the gully left of Chocolate Girls at a large block and platform. Climb the uppermost of three left-slanting cracks to gain a hanging corner. Continue up this to reach a bulge which is surmounted awkwardly on the right. A strenuous and sustained pitch.

-Abdel Wahad

35m HVS 5a

N. Ritchie, C.G. Munro. June, 1990.

The obvious corner-crack right of Twisted Sister. Gain the corner in from the left on jugs. Make an awkward move on a slab to gain the main crack (dirty). Move left and up on a flake-crack to the base of a bulge. Surmount this on the right to gain easy ground.

**COIRE SPUTAN DEARG, Grey Man's Crag -Ferlas Mor**

120m V

S. Richardson, C. Cartwright (VL). 1st December, 1990.

The summer line was followed in 3 pitches to below the crux of Hanging Dyke. An attempt on the next pitch failed after 20m due to poorly frozen turf, so the natural winter continuation up the groove and chimney of Hanging Dyke (climbed free, see note) was followed, and the summer line gained above. A sustained and technical route. The second pitch was particularly fierce.

**Terminal Buttress -Next to Last**

30m HVS 5a

A. Fyffe, K. Geddes, N. Ritchie. 26th July, 1990.

Takes the main groove line on the wall about 30m up the gully from The Swing. Start at a distinctive recess of slabby rock. Climb into the recess, then out of it by the overhanging crack. Climb the groove and its continuation crack to the top.

**CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN -Talismanic**

30m E3 5c

W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 10th June, 1990.

Climbs the arete between Talking Drums and Talisman, starting at the foot of the latter. Pull on to the edge using obvious big holds and go up to a perch. Continue boldly for 4m, then follow cracks to the Talisman stance.

*Switchblade*

160m V

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1991.

A line of turfey cracks slanting right across Sheath.

1. 20m Start as for the winter Dagger and belay just right of Scabbard.
2. 40m Climb the right-facing corner which bounds the right side of Scabbard rib, then a wide crack which leads on to slabs just right of Scabbard. Make a thin traverse right into a turfey left-facing corner and follow it into a turfey bay (Sheath crosses leftwards here).
3. 45m Go over an overhang at the top right corner of the bay, up cracks, then diagonally left to belay on the Terrace just below its top.
4. 35m Climb a thin turfey crack left of the arete of Delicatessen.
5. 20m Easy to the top.

**CAIRN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier -Snakebite**

100m HVS

A. Nisbet, D. Gaskell. 1st August, 1990.

1. 40m 4c. Follow Python/Snakebite to the traverse ledge.
2. 35m 4c. Follow Snakebite to the foot of Python's final chimney (which can be climbed to make the route VS overall).
3. 25m 5b. Climb the rib on the right of Python chimney. It includes a short overhanging crack.

**SHELTER STONE CRAG -Games of Chance**

90m V

A. Fyffe, R. Mansfield. February, 1991.

Climbs the most obvious line up the centre of the face right of Unknown Gully. A variety of climbing types in a short way. Start in the big snow bay. Climb up and left to below the steep wall. A steep crack with bulges then leads to the foot of the big wide chimney. Climb the chimney mostly on ice in the right corner.

**HELLS LUM -Lion of Judah**

175m VS

J. Lyall, J. Pickering. 25th July, 1990.

Follows the rib left of Deep Cut Chimney. Start left of its Direct Start.

1. 45m 4c. Climb layback cracks up the left edge of the slab to a ledge. Climb the clean green slab above, moving left to a small ledge and belay.
2. 40m 4a. Go straight up over ledges, then follow a crackline slanting left to belay by large blocks.
3. 20m 5a. Step out right on to slab, then go up right to gain and climb the short cracked corner. Belay at its top on a tiny stance overlooking Deep Cut Chimney.
4. 20m 4c. Go straight up a short way, then work up diagonally left to climb a short hanging chimney.
5. 50m 4b. Finish as for Hell's Lump, climbing the rib adjoining Deep Cut Chimney.



**STAG ROCKS -Monarch of the Glen**

160m V

J. Lyall, R. Wild. 12th January, 1991.

The route follows a system of grooves up the left edge of the Pine Tree Buttress and is independent until the last pitch. Start 15m below Deception Inlet at the base of a steep wall with red streaks (spike belay).

1. 30m Climb the groove line up the right side of the wall to reach the right end of a diagonal roof. Move up left under the roof and break through at a V-notch. Climb the groove above and go up rightwards to a small stance between two grooves (a superb pitch).
2. 30m Pull up into the left-hand groove and climb it for 7m, then swing left to an easier groove. Follow this, then up right to a ledge and continue straight up to a higher ledge.
3. 40m A steep crack in the short wall above leads awkwardly into another groove system which is followed to a ledge overlooking Deception Inlet.
4. 30m Climb the obvious cracks in the wall above.
5. 30m Follow the easy ridge to the top.

**STAC AN FHARAIDH -Spirit Voices**

120m V

A. Fyffe, R. Mansfield. January, 1991.

A winter route based on Speakeasy. Climb the first pitch of that route to belay in the corner. Traverse under the roof, then follow ice smears up and back left to below the upper rocks. Work up into the short V-chimney and climb it to the roof and exit left. Climb a short wall, then continue more easily up and right to finish.

*-Ying and Yang*

190m HVS

A. Liddell, A. Maclean, A. Gerrard. July, 1990.

Good climbing but a bit disjointed. Finishes up the left side of the big prow at the top of Whispers. Start just to the right of Pushover below a blank slab with a scoop at 5m.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the slab to the ledge, move left and cross Pushover to climb the shallow crack trending left. Cross the slab on the right to belay on Pushover.
2. 45m -. Trend back left over an overlap and up corners to an easy slab which is followed to the belay corner on Bellows at the start of its crux pitch.
3. 45m 5a. Step on to the nose on the right at head height, then traverse right and pull on to the slab above. Easy climbing up left to a belay near Whispers.
4. 20m -. Move easily left round the corner to belay in the gully.
5. 15m 5a. Move up to a fine flake leading up left. quit this after 3m using a good undercut and climb straight the overhang on good holds to easy ground.
6. Easy to the top.

**NORTHERN COIRES, Coire an t-Sneachda, Mess of Pottage***-The Opening Break*

100m II/III

A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. November, 1990.

A slight, easily abandoned climb near the left edge of the buttress starting up the main left facing corner. Climb the cracks leading to the corner turning the first bulge on the right. Climb the corner to easy ground on the terrace, then go up right. Follow the fault going left below a steeper wall. Break back right up twin cracks to an easy finish.

*-No Blue Skies*

110m IV/V

A. Fyffe, L. Healey. 20th December, 1990.

A subtle route which finds a way through the roof system on the headwall. Start where an obvious diagonal line leads left to a shallow horizontal cave. Climb the diagonal corner to near the apex, traverse left, then up the left side of the apex to exit on to a ledge by the horizontal cave. Continue up the crack and corner to easier ground and belay by a squat pillar. Climb broken ground, then gain a fine flake crack (below and left of the big roof) and follow it to its end. Traverse left along it to a crack (Wachacha) and finish up this.

*-Mariella*

V

C. Forrest, G. Eittle, A. Nisbet. 6th January, 1991.

As for the summer line.

*-Droidless*

80m IV/V

C. Forrest, G. Ettle. 21st December, 1990.

Climbs the parallel crackline 3m right of Mariella, sharing belays but the pitches are independent and follow natural features.

Starting just on its left, gain and follow the fault line via a short steep chimney to a ledge (25m). Continue up the crack with a difficult start to an easing in angle and belay in a bay below an obvious right-facing corner (20m). Climb the corner, then easy ground (35m).

*-The Firefighter*

80m IV

G. Ettle, D. Jarvis. 10th January, 1991.

The line just to the right of Droidless. Unfortunately the direct start is blank. Start 10ft right of Droidless.

1. 30m Climb thin cracks to join Droidless for 5m. Traverse under the obvious roof on the right to pull into a tapering slot, then up to a belay ledge.
2. 20m Continue up the obvious chimney slot to belay as for Mariella.
3. 30m Exit out the right wall up easy grooves to the plateau.

*-Topless*

190m II/III

J. Lyall, R. Wild. 15th January, 1991.

A girdle of The Mess of Pottage. Traverse easily right to the base of Melting Pot groove. Traverse steeply right to the base of the final groove on The Message. A short descent, then right traverse on rock ledges leads to easy snow going down right.

**Aladdins Buttress -The Paramedic**

80m V

G. Ettle, D. Jarvis. 15th January, 1991.

A direct line heading for the grooves between the final corners of Doctor's Choice and Doctor Janis.

1. 25m Follow an iced crack system 5m left of the start to Doctor's Choice to a belay on the rib left of the cave.
2. 25m Continue up the bulge behind the belay and belay at the base of Doctor's Choice final corner (climbed before).
3. 30m Move into the slim groove on the right wall. Climb past two pegs to the roof and a wild swing right avoiding a perched block allows entry to an upper groove. Climb past an old peg to a belay on upper walls (1 axe rest).

*-Doctor Janis*

130m VS

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 26th July, 1990.

Slightly vegetated but good quality rock, closely following the winter line (Direct route)

1. 45m 4a. Climb the main groove until it is blocked by an overhang (3 old pegs in right wall of overhang)
2. 40m 4b. Pass the overhang by slabs on the left, then go straight up to gain the subsidiary hanging groove which leads into the base of the upper corner.
3. 45m 4c. Climb the upper corner.

*-Edgewood*

120m E2

D. Etherington, A. Nisbet. 23rd July, 1990.

Climbs the prominent arete right of Doctor Janis. Start at the base of the wall which forms the right side of the Doctors Choice alcove. This is just below and right of Doctor Janis start.

1. 45m 4b. Climb the arete and slabs to a big ledge on the right.
2. 25m 5b. Climb a flake crack, then a thin crack (which is obvious from the start and 20m left of Magic Crack pitch 2) to make a thin exit on to slabs which lead to the belay below Genic main corner.
3. 50m 5b. Go 2m up Genic main corner, then diagonally left across the undercut slab (crux) to the arete. Cross Doctor Janis and continue left to the next arete, followed to the top.

*-Brief Encounter*

35m III/IV

J. Lyall, M. Sclater. 7th January, 1991.

Start 7m down to the left of Honour Among Thieves at a crackline. Climb this crack initially on ice, then on turf to gain the top of Terms of Endearment.

*-The Flying Doctors*

160m V

G. Ettle, J. Lyall, S. Cameron. 16th February, 1991.

A girdle of Aladdin's Buttress which involves only short sections of new climbing but still gives a good adventure. Start 30m up Aladdin's Couloir and traverse right on easy snow ledges before descending to the inclined ledge of The Lamp. Climb this and traverse right to belay at the base of the Doctor's Choice corner. Descend the shallow chimney below the corner until possible to traverse right on to a large detached flake. From the tip of the flake, make a thin traverse right, then slightly up before traversing right to the foot of Genie corner. Climb Genie for 7m before breaking out right to a stance on White Magic. Follow the unlikely traverse right under the overlap to the top of Damnation corner. Traverse right into Original Route (winter), descend it for a short way and climb a groove on to the crest of Terms of Endearment. Finish up this.

*-Fingers Ridge Direct*

V

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 20th December, 1990.

A winter ascent based on the summer line, with some thin slab climbing. Start as for the normal winter route, going diagonally left from the base of Red Gully, but after about 15m, traverse right to a ledge next to Red Gully (25m). Climb a turfy crack to the summer stance by Red Gully (10m). Thin climbing leads to a perched block, then go left and up to a stance. (30m). Climb a thin crack in the slab right of the groove on the normal route and continue up to join the final crest.

Note: An easier version but closer to Red Gully was climbed by M. Garthwaite and G. Szuca on 28th November, 1990. A start up Red Gully to belay 1 was followed by about 30m common to the above but where the above route went left (its crux), continued up via a wide crack to rejoin Red Gully (IV).

**Fiacail Buttress -North-East Cruiser**

125m E2

D. Etherington, A. Nisbet. 31st July, 1990.

1. 45m 4c. Climb the flake chimney (winter route Stirling Bomber) to the right end of the Terrace.
2. 25m 5c. Go diagonally right along a continuous crack (the lowest of three diagonal lines, the highest being Fiacail Buttress Direct). Where this becomes blind, descend to a ledge above an overhang, then climb the corner on the right to regain the crack. Pull out right on to a slab and make improbable moves up the overhanging arete on the left to gain a ledge (Smokestack Lightning also belays here).
3. 25m 5a. Keeping on steep ground, go diagonally leftwards using big flakes and cracks (joining Fiacail Buttress Direct)
4. 25m 4b. Continue leftwards to the top of the buttress, passing the steep final wall by joining Houdini.

*-Burning and Looting*

75m IV/V

A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 13th February, 1991.

Climbs the rib between the corners of Rampant and Belhaven. Start at the beginning of the big ledge leading into Belhaven. From near a huge block on the ledge, go up steeply to a ledge going right, then into a hanging groove capped by a block. Surmount this into a short slot, strenuous, and up to a ledge (originally Rampant, Direct start). Climb the sharp rib above by cracks and blocks on the right of the crest.

*-Watch Out*

50m VS

G. Ettle. 14th May, 1990.

The route follows cracks up the obvious arete to the right of The Seam. Scramble in from Fiacail Ridge or abseil.

1. 15m Scramble up to base of cracks.
2. 35m 5a. Follow twin cracks right of The Seam (PR) up to roof. Swing on to right arete and climb overhanging crack (crux). Move left on to slab and easier climbing leads to ridge. Back-roped on FA.

Winter

V

G.Ettle, J. Fitzpatrick. 2nd November, 1990.

By the summer route. A belay was taken under the crux roof and corner, 2 rests and now 2PR in situ.

**Coire an Lochain -Ventriloquist**

80m HVS

J. Lyall, B. Kellet. 2nd August, 1990.

A good route, climbing cracks in the wall just right of Auricle (which may be VS).

1. 30m 4c. Start 5m left of Ventricle, taking the chimney/crack start of Auricle (summer), then move right to climb a crackline into a recess and pull out right to belay below a wide crack 3m right of Auricle crux groove.

2. 20m 5a. Climb the crack (crux), then move up right by two short corners to a ledge.

3. 30m 4b. Step up left from the ledge to a line of flakes and traverse right to a thin crack. Climb the crack, making a short detour on the right at the steepest section, cross the crevasse and finish up the deep crack to the top.

Winter

V/VI

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 21st December, 1990.

Strenuous but well-protected (3.5 and 4 friends useful). By the summer line in 5 pitches except that the thin crack on summer pitch 3 was climbed from its base, 2m right of the summer belay.

**-Big Daddy**

80m VI

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 25th February, 1991.

Climb the first pitch of Daddy Longlegs (sustained, poor rests except for one on aid near the top of the first groove). Climb the wide crack of Ventricle (avoided by Ventricle, winter), then traverse left to finish up Ventriloquist.

**-Conundrum**

50m V

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 19th December, 1990.

Climbs the bottomless groove system between Hooker's Corner and The Deviant. Very steep but amenable. Start as for The Deviant but below its bulging chimney, move up left into an overhanging groove. Clip a high PR, then swing out left on to an obvious small ledge on the left arete. Move up to a chokestone, then swing left again into a wide crack in a right facing corner. Go up this, then back right and up to a blocky ledge (30m). Return left to the wide crack and follow it to the top (20m).

**-Deep Throat**

Very Difficult

Miss H. Melville, A. Nisbet, N. Ritchie. 18th July, 1990.

As for winter but easier.

NOTES: **Coire Sputan Dearg:** A free winter ascent of Hanging Dyke by the summer route by C. Forrest and A. Nisbet in December, 1988. Grade unchanged at IV.

**Cairn Etchachan, East Face:** The narrow chimney in the defined buttress above the North west corner of Loch Etchachan was climbed at Grade III (low build up). It was presumed to be Lochside Chimney, in which case the Grade I in the Cairngorms guide is wrong.

**Shelter Stone Crag, Forefinger Pinnacle:** A free ascent of the direct route from below at MVS 4c by G. Ettle and A. Nisbet in October, 1990.

**Hell's Lum Crag:** A winter ascent of The Pothole in 1989 by C. Forrest and party at grade III.

**Hell's Lum Crag:** Repeat ascents of Damien, Prince of Darkness and The Devil's Alternative have considered their crux sections to be well protected 5b and the routes of good quality and worth E1.

## CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

**CREAG MEAGHAIDH, Pinnacle Buttress -Deadline**

180m V

A. Perkins, M. Duff (alt). 13th January, 1991.

Just right of 1959 Face Route is a large rib bounded on its right side by a prominent right facing, left to right curving corner system. Start below the corner on increasingly steep snow/ice-covered slabs.

1. Reach and climb the corner to where the ground eases.
2. Continue up the corner and bulging slabs to below the prominent chimney.
3. Climb the chimney.

Effectively the route finishes here although 60m of easy mixed ground reaches Easy Gully.

**Post Face -Postman Pat**

300m VI

A. Perkins, M. Duff. 10th February, 1991.

Right of North Post and Great Buttress is a shallow wide gully undercut by a steep wall, sloping shelf and overhanging wall. Two icicles hang down the overhanging wall from the shelf. Belay below the left hand icicle.

Climb the icicle (1 clip rest) to reach the shelf. Go up this to belay just below a narrow turf ledge on the steep retaining wall (45m). Traverse the ledge for 5m and up steeply to reach the gully (45m). Climb the gully (100m). A runnel reaches the summit snowfields.

Note: Inner Coire, Creag Meaghaidh. A. Annandale and J. Fuller note that a 15m corner left of the crux of Longfellow gives a good mixed variation to that route (III).

**AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain -Tinsel Town**

110m IV/V

S. Kennedy, P. Mills. 3rd February, 1991.

Climbs the fine groove line just left of Gondola With The Wind and right of Colgate Tripper, directly below the biggest cornice on the mountain. Climb a system of grooves just to the left of the obvious small amphitheatre. Continue up a deep groove to belay on the left. Move back right into the main groove and climb steep mixed ground to belay directly under the massive cornice. The cornice was eventually outflanked by a long awkward traverse to the right. The grade takes into account the cornice.

Note: Although difficult to be certain from the descriptions, Aquafresh was climbed by C. Millar, R. Webb on 27th January, 1990 and named White Shark (IV) while Colgate Tripper was climbed by R. Reid, R. Webb on 24th February, 1990 - both predating the reports in SMCJ, 1990.

**-Roaring Forties**

140m IV

S. Richardson, R. Everett, J. Wilkinson (var). 2nd March, 1991.

In the middle of Central Buttress is a broken depression which forms an icefall in good conditions. Start about 5m left of Typhoon and follow icy grooves into a recess. Climb the steep back wall by a groove on the right (25m), and climb the icefall above (50m), to reach the final snowslopes.

Note: Jet Stream with the Direct Finish was climbed by C. Grant and C. Rice on 27th January, 1990. Grade IV.

**-The Slever**

100m IV

S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 2nd March, 1991.

The area of cliff 15m to the left of Molar Canal comprises a large bay. A large icefall forms down the left edge of the bay which is climbed in one long pitch to easy slopes. Move right into a small gully and up to an easy cornice.

**North-East Face -Riptide**

IV/V

T. Gilchrist, E. McGlashan, S. McLean. 28th March, 1990.

The corner left of The Betrayal, as mentioned in SMCJ 1990.



**AONACH BEAG, Stob Coire Bhealaich, East Face (SMCJ 1989, p291) -Sideslip**

S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 16th February, 1991.

180m IV

Start 10m right of The Clare Effect and climb an obvious corner up rightwards for 60m. An iced slab on the left is climbed before moving back right to reach the faultline which crosses the upper part of the entire face. Traverse right along the fault for 10m to a large spike before moving back up leftwards into a large recessed area. Climb to open slopes above on the right. Finish up the narrow ridge (as for The Ramp) which is joined just below the top. No cornice.

**West Face, Raw Egg Buttress -Salmonella**

125m V

S. Richardson, R. Everett. 23rd March, 1991.

A difficult and strenuous climb which follows a crack and chimney system between Raw Egg Buttress Original Route and the left edge of the Chandelle wall. The route is at the top end of its grade, but the stances are good, and the protection mostly excellent. Start about 30m up and right of Original Route, and 40m down and left of Chandelle, below a prominent and very steep, right-facing corner which cuts the lower tier. Moderate mixed ground leads to its foot. Peg belay on right.

1. 35m Climb the corner which continuously overhangs for the first 20m, and continue more reasonably to a belay on easy ground above (possible escape down rake on right).
2. 15m Scramble directly up to the obvious V groove above, with an offwidth crack at its back.
3. 40m Climb the groove to a ledge, and follow the continuation chimney to a peg belay below a prominent overhanging offwidth (well seen from below).
4. 10m Climb the offwidth to a ledge (bold to start but not quite as hard as it looks).
5. 25m Reach an alcove, and pull over an overhanging block to easy ground.

**MEALL nan TARMACHAN, Creag an Lochain -Tote Gully**

140m III

S. Steer, M. Bryden. February, 1987.

Right of centre on the east facing crag above Lochain na Lairige is a wall with several ice smears below a snow basin. The route follows the icy gully on the left hand side of the wall, in two pitches to the snowfields. A choice of routes leads easily to an easy cornice exit.

*-Turf Accountant*

140m III

M. Bryden, S. Steer. March, 1989.

Left of Tote Gully is an obvious ice smear. 10m left of this is a thin chimney/gully. Climb this, then the turfy buttress above to an easy cornice exit.

**BEN NEVIS****Douglas Boulder -North-West Face Route**

260m V

C. Stead, D.F. Lang. 9th February, 1991.

The summer route was followed without the diversion into the Lefthand Chimney. The chimney and the traverse below the chockstone provided sustained difficulties. Thereafter, snow ramps and grooves led to the South-West Arete, 1 pitch from its top.

**North Wall of Carn Dearg -Keller's North Wall Route**

105m VI

M. Charlton, M. Burrows-Smith. 1st February, 1991.

A winter ascent, staying fairly close to the summer line. Pitch 3 is hard and serious but with good belays.

1. 25m Climb the flake chimney exiting by the window and up to the broad ledge.
2. 20m Climb a corner left of the crack of the direct start to Route B to finish on the flake terrace.
3. 30m Go 6m right along the flake and up to a recess. Go right to a steep groove and up this to join Diagonal Terrace at a good belay.
4. 30m Climb left along Diagonal Terrace and up a steep groove line on good turf.
5. Exit left into Waterfall Gully and out up this.

**North Face of Castle Ridge -Le Mechant**

140m IV

A. Perkins, M. Duff (alt). 9th February, 1991.

A thin gully on the wall 45m right of La Petite. Climb a small buttress to belay below the gully (35m). Scratch up a slab 5m to enter the gully. Go up this and over an icy bulge. (45m). Continue on an icy slab and groove to the crest (45m). Up the crest easily to the ridge (35m).

**MALLAIG CRAGS, Carn Mhic a' Ghille-chaim** (see SMCJ 1988, p70)-*Into The Light*

G. Latter, G.E. Little (alts). 22nd July, 1989.

100m E3

Start below the undercut base of the Central Pillar just left of a large pinnacle-like flake.

1. 15m 5c. Climb left trending overhanging cracks to a good rest Pull right and up strenuous bulging cracks to a ledge and belay above.
2. 20m -. Traverse right on easy ground, passing below a large flake to a second flake below a grassy groove. Belay on top.
3. 30m 5a. Move up, then follow a left trending fake crack to a niche. Climb cracks above and a short slabby wall to a commodious ledge.
4. 30m 5b. Up 2 short easy slabs (common with Edge of Perfection) then a flake crack splitting the final vertical wall. Thread belay well back on right.

**Sgurr Bhuidhe** (see SMCJ 1988, p70)-*Dawn Patrol*

30m Severe

G.E. Little. 25th May, 1990.

This route climbs the diagonal rib near the centre of the face (just left of a sapling at half height). Climb the rib with a move left to flakes at half height. Finish by a steep left-trending groove.

**GLENCOE****BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Stob Coire Altruim (NN 197532)**

This North-facing crag consists of a main rock buttress bounded by a snow gully on the left. A lower more broken buttress lies to the left of the gully.

*-Dalmation Couloir* 100m III/IV

G.E. Little, A. Baker. 2nd March, 1991.

An obvious deep chimney splits the centre of the main buttress. Climb the chimney in 2 pitches passing over several large chockstones (80m). Snowslopes lead to the cornice. A little gem, somewhat reminiscent of a mini Raven's Gully.

Note: The route was climbed the following day by R. Everett and

S. Richardson, a snowfall having covered any traces. It was graded IV and their name has been retained, being less suggestive.

*-Huandoy Revisited* 85m III

A. Baker, G.E. Little. 2nd March, 1991.

A short distance up the snow gully bounding the left flank of the main buttress, an open ice groove runs up the slabby face. Climb the ice groove to a snowfield (45m). Up steepening snow to below a large cornice, avoided by a long traverse left.

S. Kennedy notes:

In the prolonged cold spell this year the ice smear on the broken buttress just below Lagangarbh Buttress developed into a fine icefall. The route Infected (SMCJ 1990, p591) seems to have partially climbed the icefall. In any event the icefall was climbed direct by M. Macdonald, N. Morrison, S. Kennedy on 17th February, 1991.

**BEINN FHADA, Sentry Crag -Sentry Slabs Direct**

100m VS

S. Steer, I. Roberts, C. Scollick. 9th July, 1989.

Start at the lowest point of the lowest tier at a clean pink slab between two prominent water streaks. Climb an easy slab to a black bulge. Climb over this, then slabs to a belay at the top of a ramp which slopes down left. Climb the extreme right of the wall behind the belay, and continue directly up bulging slabs until an obvious traverse leads right to a tree belay. Climb a short pink wall behind the belay to easy ground.

*-Smiley's Indecision*

50m E1

S. Steer, C. Scobie. 13th May, 1990.

1. 25m 5a. Start at the same point as Showcase and climb easily up and left to the leftmost (turfiest) of two cracks. Climb the slab between the crack and the left arete of the wall until moves can be made right to the belay of Showcase.

2. 25m. Move left and climb directly on the same line to easy ground.

Descent by abseil or easy slabs and walls to terrace.

**GEARR AONACH, East Face**

The following 2 routes climb the clean wall between Slimcrack and Flake Groove.

*-Batura Wall*

60m HVS

A. Tibbs, H. Shannon. 2nd July, 1989.

Start immediately left of a large brown streak of rock a short way left of Flake Groove.

1. 30m 5a. Climb directly up through an obvious break in the wall 2m left of the brown streak to a small ledge below a bulge at

15m. Climb up rightwards on to brown rock until a short traverse left can be made above the bulge. A crack leads to a belay.

2. 30m - Finish up easier rocks.

*-The Burning*

60m E1

A. Tibbs, S. Cameron. 12th May, 1990.

Start midway between the left edge of the brown streak and Slimcrack (left of Batura Wall).

1. 30m 5a. Climb the wall fairly directly to a belay.

2. 30m - Continue up the easier wall above.

**North-East Face -Mad Mackerel**

60m E1

I. Roberts, V. Ross. 13th May, 1990.

The route lies some distance to the right of Hairy Kipper, on the approach to the Zig-zags. Start beside an obvious dirty corner with an obvious roof at 6m.

1. 37m 5a. Climb to the roof. Undercling the roof to its right hand end, step round right into the bottom of an obvious groove, and climb this to a good stance on the left of the groove.

2. 24m 5a. Follow the groove to the overhanging wall above. Pull through and up, then climb broken ground and heather to a sapling belay.

**AONACH DUBH, Far Eastern Buttress -Orient Express**

85m IV

R. Anderson, C. Anderson, R. Milne. 2nd February, 1991.

Takes the thin iced chimney up the left side of the main mass of rock. Start just left of an obvious corner.

1. 15m Climb easy angled ice left of the corner; belay on ledge right of steep ice.

2. 25m Move up left and climb steep iced chimney to ledge.

3. 15m Continue up ice to large boulder, threads.

*-Yen*

100m IV

R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 9th February, 1991.

Approximates the summer line. Start at foot of lowest rocks.

1. 40m Move right along base of crag, then follow easy ground up to base of obvious chimney. Traverse up left to belay at short corner.

2. 20m Climb corner and cracks to ledge beside gully (short technical section).

3. 40m Step left and continue up crackline/groove. Threads in large boulder over the top.

*-Satori*

55m VS

K.V. Crocket, G. Jefferies. 12th May, 1990.

Climbs the lefthand of two parallel and right-trending cracks, on the fine wall right of an obvious chimney groove. The arete of North-east Nose is on the right.

1. 15m Scramble or climb to stance at foot of chimney groove.
2. 40m 4b Step onto wall, move right then up to block at right end of small roof. Over this moving left to continue up crack. Block belay on top.

*-Shibumi*

55m VS

K.V. Crocket, G. Jefferies. 12th May, 1990.

Climbs the righthand crack, starting as for Satori.

1. 15m Scramble or climb to stance at foot of chimney groove.
2. 40m 4b Step onto wall, go right to good footholds before corner. Follow obvious crack above to easier ground at top of corner. Follow edge to block belay on top.

*-Farewell Arete*

80m VD

K.V. Crocket, A. Walker. 19th May, 1990.

The right wall of Hole and Corner Gully forms an arete, rising from the foot of the gully. Climb arete, with a step left at 6m then continue up superb rock to ledge and belay. Continue above on same line for two pitches.

**STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN** *-Double Entendre*

IV (hard)

A. Nelson, G. Szuca. 16th March, 1989.

Start about 10m left of and below Innuendo.

1. Move up and right along a slabby ramp, then make a hard move left. Go up and right to belay at a spike almost in Innuendo.
2. Move left for 2m, then up into a groove just left of the left arete of the steep tower. Go up the groove to belay in the gap behind the tower.
3. Move up to a good flake runner, then right up a slabby ramp. Belay on a block under the obvious hanging block 15m above.
4. Move up and right on more broken ground with better protection to an obvious off width chimney/crack. Squirm up this moving right at the top. Belay 10m higher.
5. Move right and over an awkward bulge to easier ground

*-Inclination*

145m VI

R. Anderson, C. Anderson, R. Milne. 17th February, 1991.

This route uses the original start to Tilt, on the right of the crest, then takes the wall on its left to finish up a chimney. Belay at start of Tilt.

1. 20m Move right to gain and climb a right-slanting, stepped groove up the right side of the crest to a ledge and large block.
2. 20m Move up the ramp on the left, step very gingerly up right on to a small block and climb cracks (formerly aid in summer) to a chimney. Climb this and easier ground above to join Tilt on the crest, chockstone belay.
3. 20m The unlikely looking wall on the left. Move up left to a foothold, then climb the wall to finish up a short groove.
4. 45m Climb the wide fault above (Direct Route and Chimney Route), then go left and up into a wide chimney. The right side of this chimney is formed by a huge fin of rock. Climb the chimney to belay on a boulder choke.
5. 40m Move up left and on to a large chockstone, then up right to easier ground, the crest, then the top.

**STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, No 4 Buttress** *-Isis*

55m V

R. Anderson, C. Anderson, R. Milne. 23rd March, 1991.

The summer line was followed via the flake crack in 3 pitches. Short, sustained and technically absorbing. Descend by the gully of No 4 Buttress.

**BEINN TRILLEACHAN, ETIVE SLABS** -*The The*

E3

G. Lawrie, G. Szuca. 13th June, 1990.

1. 25m 5b. Start right of Attila and climb the slab directly to a tree.
2. 20m 5a. Follow Attila for 10m to a tree, move horizontally right along obvious handholds to a grass ledge and poor belay (RP's).
3. 15m 4b. Go diagonally right to belay on the third pitch of Spartan Slab.
4. 6a. Move up and rightwards, then follow an obvious groove to an old peg. Go up the obvious steep corner to easier ground. Belay on a tree in a corner.
5. 4c. Pull over the overlap and follow the slab to the top of Spartan Slab.

-*Comatose*

90m VS 4c

I. Barron, S. Kennedy. 12th May, 1990.

This route lies on the clean area of slab approx 400m to the right of and at the same height as the main slabs. The slab is a short distance right of an obvious deep gully. A previous Severe appears to lie somewhere to the left of this route.

Start just right of the lowest point of the slab and climb past a small hole in the rock to reach an obvious right slanting faultline. Follow the faultline diagonally up rightwards to a horizontal fault near the right edge of the slab (45m, peg belay in situ). Climb back up leftwards to reach a grooveline which is followed to the top (45m). Abseil descent from convenient tree. Probably climbed before but worthwhile if time is short.

**BEINN CHAORACH, Glen Ceitlin Slabs** (SMCJ 1987, p497) -*The Whore's Apron*

S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 10th February, 1991.

250m III

Copious amounts of ice form down these slabs in a good winter, the best of which forms down the summer line of The Whore's Apron. Climb the icefall direct.

The following route lies on the same side of the hill

-*The Fall Line* 220m III

S. Kennedy, A. Paul. 14th February, 1991.

On the approach to the previous route an impressive icefall is seen on the right, about 400m before the aforementioned slabs. The ice forms down the largest of the watercourses. Climb the icefall direct, finishing up a narrow deep chimney just below the top.

**NORTH-EAST OUTCROPS**

With a new guide in preparation, no new routes from this area are included.

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AND ARROCHAR****BEINN A' CHREACHAN** -*Soft Option*

265m III

A. Baker, G.E. Little. 3rd March, 1991.

Climbs the front face of Coire an Lochain's right hand (westerly) buttress. Start at the first snow bay to the left of the bay below the imposing icicle.

Ascend a ramp trending left until steep but turfey ground can be climbed to belay at dubious jammed flakes at the right hand end of a short ledge (40m). Move left to the end of the ledge, go up a groove, then move back right to belay (25m). Move right and ascend a snowfield in 2 long pitches aiming for an ice groove breaking through a short rock band (95m). Climb the groove and snow above (35m). Easier ground runs off to the right but ascend an ice flow on the right flank of the upper buttress to belay at a cavelet (40m). Climb steep ice on the left, then over the final rocks to easier ground (30m).



**BEINN AN DOTHaidh, North-East Coire**

G. Muhlemann, R. Everett note the following straightening of Slow March. Climb straight up after the first belay to the foot of the overhanging triangular corner, then up this direct (crux) and the groove system above just left of the barrel-fronted buttress. Grade IV.

**BEINN DORAIN, Creag an Socach -The Prophet**

120m V

K. Howett, G.E. Little. 16th January, 1991.

A direct line between Kick Start and Scorpion. Start just left of the conspicuous rib' on the first pitch of Scorpion.

1. 30m Climb a snowy groove exiting right to gain a snow bay below an obvious open corner. Belay on a large block on the right.
2. 30m Climb the open corner until forced out on to the slabby left wall. Very thin climbing leads to easier ground. Ascend directly to gain a snow ledge with jammed flake thread belay.
3. 35m Step left 2m, then ascend to overhang. Cross the overhang moving right (clipped axe for aid). Go up to a second small overhang, make a long step left, then up to gain a snow ramp. Move right up the ramp for a few metres to take a poor belay.
4. 25m Continue to near the top of the ramp, then climb a slabby scoop (hard start) trending slightly left to finish.

*-The Sting*

120m V

K. Howett, G.E. Little (alt). 19th January, 1991.

Between Scorpion and The Promised Land lies an area of dark clean bulging rock low down on the face. A narrow rock ramp cuts across its right flank. Start at a fan of slabs below the clean bulging rock.

1. 30m Move up, then left across slabs to a block with a horizontal crack. Take a snow ramp trending right until it is possible to climb up to gain a small rock bay at the base of the above-mentioned rock ramp.
2. 25m Ascend the rock ramp, then directly up steep ground to belay at the right end of the central snow ledge.
3. 10m Cross to the left end of the snow ledge to belay below the slim corner of Scorpion.
4. 15m Climb the superb corner crack (large hexentrics give useful protection) to its top, then make an interesting move left to a ledge and belay.
5. 40m Climb to the base of a vague wide rock rib. Move slightly left, surmount a short difficult wall, then trend right up steepening ground to the top. A groove on the right of the vague rock rib would give an alternative and longer final pitch.

**BEINN UDLAIDH, Coire Ghamhnain -Hyde and Seek**

50m IV

S. Downie, G. Szuca. 16th February, 1991.

The most obvious steep icefall at the top right corner of the coire. Follow the ice out of a small cave on the right to a belay on top of a pinnacle. Finish up and rightwards.

**THE COBBLER, South Peak -Gibber Crack**

110m V

R. Milne, R. Anderson. 25th November, 1990.

Follows the summer line, a better winter description follows. An obvious winter line taking the open corner/groove towards the right side of the North Face. Start in the bay at the foot of the groove.

1. 10m Go up rightwards to a ledge on the edge.
2. 20m Climb corner/groove using crack in right wall, then move right at a block/bulge and go up to belay on its top.
3. 40m Continue above to climb a short crack, then move up right to follow easier ground to belay on the arete where North Wall Traverse comes in from the left.
4. 40m Ascend flake crack, move right, then go up short crack to ledge and move right again to climb to a larger ledge. It is possible to walk off here but is more fitting to climb to the top. Do so via the second corner crack to the right of the arete.

**North Peak, South Face -Right Angle Direct**

80m IV

C. Cartwright, S. Richardson (alt). 30th December, 1990.

A natural winter combination of the summer route Ramshead Ridge, followed by Right Angled Gully with the Direct Finish. The final pitch was excellent.

*-Fold Direct*

V

R. Anderson, T. Prentice (alt). 9th December, 1990.

A boulder problem start up the recess/corner some 4m left of the summer route gains the fault/chimney line which leads to the top in 4 pitches.

*-N' Gombi*

120m V

R. Anderson, R. Milne (alt). 6th January, 1991.

Follows the summer line.

1. 30m Ascend groove/crack to shelf, then traverse to overhung corner. Pull out right to gain ledge, then step up left and climb corner to belay at short chimney/niche.

2. 45m As for the summer line, out right to climb turf wall to gain large ledge. Up easy chimney to platform overlooking Great Gully.

3. 45m Move up left, then up turf ledges until it is possible to traverse left to reach easier ground leading to the top.

Note: K. V. Crocket and B. Dullea climbed MacLay's Crack (13/01/91) finding it an excellent, natural winter line at III/IV. Recommended.

**CREAG THARSUINN -Terminator**

70m IV/V

M. Garthwaite, G. Szuca. 13th January, 1991.

A fine ice climb, slow to come into condition.

1. 50m Climb the corner of Terminal Wall via iced slabs and bulges to gangway below steep upper wall.

2. 20m Climb a crack in the centre of the wall for 5m to a ledge. Traverse 3m left, then straight up a groove above and right into a niche. Step right just below the top to finish.

*-McLaren's Chimney, variation start*

III/IV

M. Garthwaite, G. Szuca. 12th January, 1991.

The right hand icefall.

**BEINN DONICH -Flakewalk**

60m V

C. Cartwright, R. Everett, S. Richardson. 31st December, 1990.

The summer route was followed in 4 short but sustained pitches, resulting in an excellent mixed route in the modern idiom. A specially modified No. 11 Hexcentric was carried to protect the 12cm wide offwidth on pitch 2, and reluctantly used as a handhold on the third (crux) pitch. Pitch 4 was climbed on ice. Attempted previously.

**BEINN AN LOCHAIN, Loch Restil Face - Frog**

200m II/III

T. Redfern, K. Schwartz. 10th February, 1991.

The obvious ice cascade immediately right of a small gully (II, ice) near the initial narrowing of the diagonal shelf. Climb the cascade direct in 2 obvious pitches to an easier-angled curving gully leading up right to join Toad above a wide ice slab. Cross Toad and continue up the steepening shallow gully just right of the narrow capped ice slab above. Leads eventually on to the upper slopes of the NE Ridge.

Note: Twin Caves Gully. T. Redfern notes that the through route of the first pitch is very artificial and it is more natural to climb the right wall of the gully. Also the ice pitch can be hard in thin ice. Grade III overall more realistic.

**BINNEIN AN FHIDHLEIR, Creag Coire an Creagach -Africa Gully**

60m III

S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 29th December, 1990.

Follow the summer line. The chockstone provided the only real difficulties.

*-Abyssinia Chimney*

60m III

G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 29th December, 1990.

As for the summer route. A good back and foot pitch.

*-Two-Step, Direct Start*

25m VS 4b

K.V. Crocket, J.M. Lackie. 13th May, 1989.

Climbs the lower tier, starting a few metres right of Heart of Darkness. Go up clean wall, passing obvious cavity to quartz veins, step right and finish directly. Excellent. The best climb on this section is now probably this pitch followed by Heart of Darkness.

*-Witch-Doctor*

85m VS

K.V. Crocket, B. Dullea. 2nd August, 1990.

Start 18m right of Serengeti. The route climbs the obvious clean slabby wall seen above, just left of a vegetative gully area. On the skyline is a chockstone straddling a narrow chimney.

1. 40m. Climb mossy slabby steps of rock up then right to belay below the wall. Cleaning would improve this pitch.

2. 35m 4b. The wall is now climbed on fine incuts by a dog-leg line; first up, then right to a ledge on the edge, then up and left to the left edge and corner beyond. Continue by the corner, now grassy, to belay below the chockstone.

3. 10m. Finish by a choice of routes.

**GLEN CROE Outcrops, Great Slab** *-The Incredible Hulk*

15m E5

S. Robinson, K. Lawson. April, 1989.

Very bold and strenuous. Round the left side of the main slab is an overhanging wall with a thin crack starting at half height. Climb the wall and crack (6a).

*-Rock Sculpture*

24m E3 6a

S. Robinson, K. Lawson. April, 1989.

At the right end of the main slab, go up a heathery flake crack to reach the left end of overhangs (PR). Go up on small holds (RP3 in thin crack), then trend right to a foot ledge. Climb boldly up to PR and finish. Peg belay just at the top.

**ARRAN****CIR MHOR, North-East Face** *-When The Going Gets Turf*

130m III

G.E. Little. 2nd February, 1991.

Follows a line of turfgy grooves just right of and parallel to Gully A. Although exposed, the line is a lot easier than it appears (good freeze required). Start on the grassy ramp leading into Gully A about 10m below the toe of April Arete. Move up turfgy slabs on the right, with one short difficult rock section, to gain a diagonal turfgy groove. Climb the groove in several pitches to the top.

**CAISTEAL ABHAIL, Buttress 1** *-The Rift*

115m II/III

G.E. Little. 2nd February, 1991.

A better route in winter than in summer. The lower part of The Rift is easy but as height is gained, it becomes progressively more interesting with the last 30m providing a bit of a tussle.

**Buttress 5** *-Hellfire Crack*

135m III/IV

G.E. Little. 2nd February, 1991.

The natural winter line on the buttress giving some strenuous climbing by the summer line. The steep V-chimney was the crux. Finish by the upper part of Rampart where the two routes join.

**Sannox Beach, Conglomerate Crag -Stranger than Fiction**

A. Connolly, G. Szuca. 29th September, 1990.

E2/3 5b

The route takes the slabby right hand wall with in situ gear. Start below a red runner. Move up to clip it, then traverse leftwards to a peg just before the large protruding boulder. Go up to a ring peg and follow the wall above slightly rightwards to belay. Abseil off. Four ascents that day.

**KING'S CAVE**

An impressive sandstone cave 2.5km north of Drumadoon Point. The rock is very sandy and needs cleaning. Stakes required for belays.

*-Cave Arete*

15m Hard Severe

A. Connolly, G. Szuca. September, 1990.

The obvious slabby arete on the left side of the big cave with the through route. Move left from the overhanging wall with 3 big jugs. Go up to a crack, then move right to the arete. Move up the slabby arete and finish leftwards on a sandy ledge.

*-King Swing*

15m E2 5c

A. Connolly, G. Szuca. September, 1990.

Start in the same place. Go up the overhanging wall just left of the thin crack to gain the rightmost of the 3 jugs. Traverse left to a crack (runner) and pull over to join the previous route.

G. Szuca admits that the crag doesn't warrant a special visit but is less lichenous than Drumadoon Point. Several parties have been disappointed with Drumadoon Point thinking that the lichen has grown back. This is not, however, true since it was never removed in the first place. It is therefore a very primitive crag and rock athletes (and other sane people) are advised to bypass or take a very large brush.

**CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SCOTLAND OUTCROPS****ABERDOUR -Psylocibia**

20m E2 5a

A. Connolly, G. Szuca. 13th October, 1990.

Follows the space between Gaucho and Rebel's Groove. Start below a pillar and climb this centrally via a crack to a ledge. Go up the wall above using sidepulls and a blunt black rib. Move left to clip the peg on Gaucho, go back right and climb the wall above, moving slightly right to small rugosities and an undercut. Move to a good slot just right of a loose flake. Go over a bulge to good holds and straight up to finish. There is a long runout from the peg (crux).

**Ross Point Quarry, Loch Lomond**

The quarry is very hard to find. From the University field station, follow the rough road over a hill to the next bay, then keep to the lochside until the quarry is found behind a pile of slates.

*-Forked Lightning*

VS 4b

S. Robinson, K. Lawson July 1989

Climb the left hand of the jagged cracks opposite the bolted wall. The right hand finish is Severe.

NOTE: The 2 pegs on One Way Trip are now missing.

**GALLOWAY, Portobello** (Map 82 Ref. 961664)

See SMCJ 1989 for details of the cliff.

**Main Cliff**

The following three routes are on the left hand, sea washed section, best approached by abseil.

*-Warsteiner*

11m Very Difficult

J. Thomson, A. Fraser. 9th December, 1989.

Climbs the left-hand arete of the cliff, above a small platform.

*-Surfin' Safari*

12m Severe

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 9th December, 1989.

Takes the two thin disjointed and rightward trending cracks.

*-Puffin Nuffin*

14m Severe

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 9th December, 1989.

Takes the large corner about 8m right of Surfin' Safari.

**Shark Fin Bay**

This is the next bay to the south of the Main Cliff, recognisable by a pinnacle resembling a shark's fin. The crag comprises a lower left hand area and a larger but more vegetated right hand area. The following climbs are on the left-hand section, finishing on a peninsula. From the top of this to the top of the crag is a 30m Diff. The left-hand section is split into four sections by corners. Routes are described from left to right.

*-Speed Limpets*

9m VS 4b

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 4th April, 1990.

Takes the left trending cracks on the leftmost sea-washed section of the cliff.

*-Basking up the Wrong Tree*

12m V. Diff.

J. Dickson, A. Fraser. 18th March, 1990.

Climbs the leftmost corner, sloping leftwards.

*-Sanity Clause*

20m Severe

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 9th December, 1989.

Climbs the second, rightward sloping corner. Undercut at the bottom.

*-Cutty Shark*

20m VS 4b

A. Fraser, J. Dickson. 18th March, 1990.

To the right of Sanity Clause is a wall, recognisable by a niche at one third height, and a left trending corner at its right edge. Start at the foot of the corner, traverse left into the niche, then up right to a spike in the corner, climbing the corner to the top.

**The U-Boat Pen**

This is the name given to the narrow tidal inlet between Shark Fin Bay and Cracked Block Cove. There are two routes.

*-Riverboat Gambler*

25m VS 4c

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 9th December, 1989.

Takes the fine crack which springs from the bottom of the easy leftwards sloping ramp at the left side of the crag. Climb the crack to its top, then traverse up and right to a corner at the top of the crag. Good.

*-Dead Sea Strolls*

20m Hard Severe 4b

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 4th April, 1990.

The left hand wall has a prominent right to left diagonal line across it. Climb this for 6m then follow the corner above, finishing to the right of the left-hand tower.



Many of the following routes are not new. None are however included in the Guidebook and are mentioned here for the sake of completeness.

**Barrow Head (NX 449341) -The Fin**

30m HVS 4c

C. MacAdam, A. Fraser. 24th September, 1980.

To the west of the main cliffs, and underneath the campsite, is a sea stack. This is a direct line on orange rock to the left end of the flat, narrow arete right of the summit. Good.

NOTE: The Python (12m Severe A. Fraser, G. MacAdam, 24th September 1980). A clarification to the Guidebook. The Newt is the right fork of Boozer's Chimney. The separate chimney to the right is this route.

**Meikle Ross, -Meikle Gorbachov**

40m VS 4c

A. Fraser, G. Robb. 4th April, 1988.

Start at the foot of Pigeon Chimney. Climb a flake on the left wall of the chimney, then continue along this above the chimney. At its end (overlooking the pinnacle) climb the tower above.

*-The Moosetrap*

30m VS 4c

A. Fraser, R. Webb. 18th September, 1982.

The 'shale delight' 3m left of Bumper Dumper. Climbs the corner, the top V. Diff. section being slightly loose.

*-Poison Ivy*

30m Diff.

Round left of The Moosetrap is a chimney. This takes the left wall and upper section of this, and provides as easy if foul way out of this area of the crag.

*-Barnacle Bill*

40m Severe

A. Fraser, W. Todd. 20th June, 1982.

The arete left of Blistering Barnacles, mediocre.

**Balcary Bay (NX 824487)**

*-The Cave Traverse*

150m Very Difficult

A. Fraser, D. Walker. 1st December, 1979.

Recommended for its superb and remote coastal scenery. Low tide is preferable. Start in the large bay at the above map reference (marked Lot's Wife on the map). The peninsula on the east side of the bay is reached by easy traversing from caves at the back of the bay, then a 30m climb to the saddle at the left side of the peninsula. From the peninsula continue round the corner to the top of a chimney (50m). Descend the chimney to a cave (30m). A further passage leads out through the cave and might give a difficult continuation at very low tides.

**Lot's Wife Area**

The climbing is in two areas, around the pinnacle of Lot's Wife itself (NX 909558), and underneath the cliff-top cottage known as The Lookout (NX 907557), a short way further to the west.

*-Lot's Wife*

30m

The seaward face is Moderate, the buttress at the left end of this face is Difficult and the north-east arete is a loose vegetated Very Difficult

*-Lot's Wife Slab*

40m Very Difficult

A. Fraser, W. Todd. 28th June, 1979.

Climbs the slab behind the pinnacle, and to the left of the waterfall.

**Lookout Area**

The first two routes are on the slab to the left of the steps leading down from The Lookout.

*-The Watchtower*

20m VS 4b

A. Fraser, W. Todd. 2nd October, 1980.

Climbs the crack up the buttress on the left-hand side of the slab.

*-Lookout Slab*

40m VS 4b

W. Todd, A. Fraser. 2nd October, 1980.

The slab to the right of The Watchtower is climbed centrally, being reached by a vegetated scramble.

*-The Tombstone*

20m VS 4b

A. Fraser, R. Duff. 30th August, 1982.

This route climbs the next clean slab east of the above two routes. The top of the slab is separated from the main coastline.

**The Railway Cuttings (NX 938739) -North Wall Traverse** 250m VS 4c

A. Fraser, D. Walker. August, 1977.

Most of the worthwhile climbing is on the south (i.e. north facing) wall, but the north wall gives this route, following a natural fault at two thirds height. The climbing varies from the sublime to the ridiculous.

**Dob's Linn (NY 196158) -Left Wall**

80m II

A. Fraser. 11th January, 1987.

Incomplete ice led to the vegetated left wall being taken on both steps of the fall