

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

OUTER ISLES

LEWIS, Tahaval, South West Ridge:

C. Rumsey notes that it is the south west ridge of Tahaval which offers climbing, not the south east ridge, and sends the following route on the west side of the ridge.

All About Lewis – 90m M. Severe. C. Rumsey. June, 1990.

1. 45m. Climb the slab just right of the prominent corner (on the lower right side of the face). 2. 45m. Trend leftwards and up short walls to the summit.

HARRIS, Creag Dubh Dhibadail:

Cold Start – 180m E1. A. Macfarlane, J. Norgrove. 28th April, 1991.

Start 20m left of Via Valtos. 1. 5a. Up and slightly right to a faint crack/groove. Ascend this to a belay stance below a smallish roof. 2. 5c. Step right into a corner and up to the right hand side of a large sloping shelf. 3. 4c. Re belay at the left side of the shelf. Traverse left 5m and up slabby rock to belay left of a long roof. 4. 5b. Up and left to an obvious corner/crack system. Climb this to belay. 5. 6. 4a, 4b. Trend right and up.

Sgurr Scaladale:

Sideshow – 105m HVS. A. Macfarlane, D. McGimpsey. July, 1990.

Takes the rock face to the right of the deep cut Eastern Gully. 1. 40m 5a. Break through a small roof and up. 2. 25m 4c. Up to a quartz vein and move right. 3. 40m 4c. Move right to a continuous line of rock. Up this to finish.

Note: Borealis, reported in SM CJ, 1991 as being on Creag Dubh Dhibadail, is in fact on Strone Ulladale.

Gillaval Glas:

Black Face Gully – 200m I. A. Macfarlane. 1991.

The mountain has five gullies on the face above the Ardhasaig/Clisham bridge. This is the middle gully.

Clisham, Aonaig Mhor Crag:

Numerous possibilities for Grade II-III routes exist of length 60 -110m. At least two routes have been climbed.

Pairc – 90m III. A. Macfarlane. December, 1989.

The obvious icefall on the right hand side of the crag

Leodhas – 110m III. A. Macfarlane, P. Macfarlane. 13th March, 1992.

The right hand buttress, immediately right of Pairc.

SOUTH UIST, Leac Shleamhuinn (NF 775 147):

An area of discontinuous granitic gneiss slabs on the southern slopes of Easaval on the very south of South Uist. Approach from near the jetty at Ludag and walk up to the slabs in 10 minutes. They stretch across the hillside and unfortunately the majority of the longer lines are too easy angled to afford anything but climbs of Diff. and below. The one area that is distinctly steeper is a diamond shaped slab well seen on the approach and roughly centrally placed in the slab mass. The rock belies the Gaelic name slippery and is of first quality. Not worth a special visit but easily accessible for short routes whilst waiting for ferries. Protection is entirely lacking on most lines.

Slippery Slab – 24m HVS 5b. J.R. Mackenzie (solo). 29th July, 1992.

A fine climb with an intimidating initial section. Start in the centre of the diamond shaped slab 2m left of a slanting crack. Step over an overlap and continue straight up.

Eriskay Crack – 20m Diff. J.R. Mackenzie (solo). 29th July, 1992.

Climb the pleasant slanting crack right of Slippery Slab.

Ludag Slab – 24m V. Diff. J.R. Mackenzie (solo). 29th July, 1992.

Climb the slab right of Eriskay Crack.

Saltavik Slab – 22m V. Diff. J.R. Mackenzie (solo). 29th July, 1992.

Near to the left of Slippery Slab is another slab set lower down. Climb this with an interesting middle section. A much longer slab lies to the right of the diamond shaped slab but apart from an interesting overlap at the start, the friction is such that the rest can be walked up.

RUM, Coire nan Grunnnd:

The crag lies below Coire nan Grunnnd and is not shown on OS sheet 39 although the contours are phased out. It faces north of east and is between the two main burns that drain the coire. Approaching the crag from the Kinloch to Dibidil path, along the Allt na h-Uamha, the most notable feature is a big blank slab. At the extreme northern end of the crag is a short wall (with an interesting hard route), then a grassy gully. On the left of this is a north facing wall which is taken by the following route.

Pineapple Wall – 30m Severe. M. Beetham, C. Smart, M. Wakeman, R. Weare. 16th July, 1991.

Start at the base of a wide greasy oblique crack. Once off the ground, traverse left a few feet to the next crack where it widens into a scoop. Climb the wall following the crack. On reaching broken ground, step right and continue up the arete.

Rum and Pineapple – 20m Severe. M. Beetham, C. Smart, M. Wakeman, R. Weare. 16th July, 1991.

Start about 8m left of the end of the wall below a skyline boulder and a vague groove. Climb the groove, then step right to follow the obvious thin crack to the top.

MULL, Scoor:

White Thing (SMCJ 1992, p84) is VS 4c.

SKYE

COIR' A' GHRUNNDA:

S. Kennedy and D. Ritchie climbed a V. Diff route (45m) up the small buttress just beyond a small gully to the right of The Whet. Start up a short corner on the left.

SRON NA CICHE, Eastern Buttress:

Pocks – 85m E2. G. Szuca, C. Moody. 13th June, 1988 (first pitch). C. Moody, N. Smith. 7th June, 1992 (complete).

Fine varied climbing. 1. 35m 5b. Start up Creag Dubh Grooves, then climb a crack on the left to an overlap (Dilemma goes over the overlap here). Move right to a ledge, step right, then boldly climb the overlap. Move up right to CDG belay. 2. 50m 5c. Climb a steep crack just right of CDG to a slab. Follow the slab right to an arete, then continue up right to reach a crack (or Enigma) and the top.

Mistral Buttress – 105m VS. N. Horn, C. Moody. 16th June, 1992.

Good climbing up the buttress right of Shangri-La. Start approx. 15m right of Shangri-La. 1. 40m 4c. Follow a crack in a ramp up right, step right and follow a corner up to an overhang. Move right to belay at a block (the corner can be gained by moving left from the abseil point in Eastern Gully). 2. 50m 4b. Stand on the block and step left on to a slab. Move left to a dyke which is followed left to the buttress crest. Climb this to a ledge. 3. 15m 4c. The left hand corner above is taken by Shangri-La. Left of the right hand corner are twin cracks. Climb the right crack to an overhang, step left and follow both cracks to the top.

SGURR MHICCOINNICH:

King Cobra Direct – 140m E3. B. Davison, H. Day. 28th June, 1992.

1. 45m 5b. The first two pitches of King Cobra. 2. 45m 5c. As for pitch 3 up the rib to the shelf at the left end of the big overhang. Go through the left end of the overhang into a groove (crux) and follow this to a ledge with a chockstone in a wide corner crack. 3. 50m 4c. Climb the corner and chimney to a large ledge, then up a corner at the back of the ledge to belay on easy ground a few feet short of the top, gained by scrambling.

CARN LIATH (Trotternish):

Carn Liath is a recently developed cliff in the Trotternish area of North Skye. The cliff is situated on a spur leading northwards from the summit of the Storr on the Trotternish Ridge, and is named on the OS map (sheet 23, 495 560). The main section consists of a compact steep face about 60m high in an open situation facing north. Its top is about 450m above sea level. At its foot is a hidden valley leading northwards, whose floor consists of giant blocks which lie jumbled below the cliff as if spilled from a sack. The whole presents an awesome spectacle and has been described by Derek Cooper as 'possibly the wildest carn in the Scottish Highlands'. The east side of the valley is an inward facing escarpment of about 20m height featuring the sensational Blade pinnacle, visible from the road as a curious church shaped feature (with blade as spire).

The rock is a rough dolerite, reminiscent of Kilt Rock in quality and texture, though lacking the columnar structure. The friction is good and there is very little vegetation on most routes. Several lines of seepage seem to flow all year round, the most notable being the repellent Snoozing Crack which splits the cliff in two, resembling the Black Cleft of Cloggy. Approach the cliff on the A855 road from Portree towards Staffin and park about eight miles from Portree (512 562), where the Rigg burn goes underneath the road. Walk due west (inland) and after the first rise, the top of the cliff can be seen directly ahead on the skyline, across steepening ground, reachable in about 40 minutes from the road.

Blade Area:

Below the church feature on its eastern side are three obvious catacomb entrances, easily found as one approaches the cliff from the road. These are what Murdo Campbell, the Rigg shepherd referred to when he spoke of 'stone steps hewn out of these rocks which led to an underground chamber'. The following route starts in the central of these catacombs.

Mummy's Church, Crypt Start – 25m V.Diff. M. Hudson, D. Hudson. 7th May, 1990.

A unique expedition, at least half the climb is underground, and requires headtorches. Enter the narrow cleft and follow the passage as it deepens. Turning right at the end and descending sharply brings one into an earthen floored chamber 10m underground, below a skylight. The climbing begins here, at the far end of the chamber. Bridge up the crypt,

past a lateral shaft of light, and emerge on to ledges. The pinnacle above is gained directly by further bridging and wedging up an open ended chimney, or by the columns on either side.

The Thirteenth – 25m Severe. M. Hudson, A. Holden, R. Brown. 26th May, 1992.

A second slightly more sustained underground climb, following a crack in the west wall of the 'crypt'. Start below ground as for the previous route but 3m further south. Back and foot up the well protected crackline to a constricted exit between boulders. The leaning corner above provides a reachy finish on to the top of the church.

The Blade – 25m HVS 4c. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 21st October, 1991.

Climbs the western edge of the Blade, serious and exposed. Start below the Blade on its right hand side. Move up the gully over a protruding lip till moves leftwards up the wall gain shattered ledges. A difficult mantelshelf gains a smaller sloping ledge leading on to the Blade proper. The last protection for 10m is here. Gain the knife edged arete which is climbed to a visible notch at 20m (runners). Layback to the top.

Sixties Special – 20m Severe M. Hudson, D. Hudson. 7th May, 1990.

Takes the gently overhanging chimney-crack which forms the corner left of the Blade. Finish either inside or outside the massive jammed block at the top.

Variant – 20m Severe. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 21st October, 1991.

Take the wall left of the chimney by a diagonal crack.

Main Cliff:

The White Criterion – 40m VS 4c. M. Hudson, R. Brown, P. Brown. 2nd August, 1991.

Takes the obvious corner chimney and the wall above, at the extreme east end of the main cliff. Climb the corner chimney to an awkward exit at 15m (possible escape). Continue straight up the wall above to grass ledges at 30m. Continue up the undercut wall and over ledges to a stake belay 2m back from the edge.

Staffin Cowboy – 50m HVS 5a. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 1st August, 1991.

Start at a system of shattered grooves 5m left of the eastern arete (right end of the face). Climb the lower grooves, moving into the left hand groove, to a spike on the right at 20m. Carry on up the shattered corner past two bulging sections (second as crux) and from its top, swing right on to the arete and up a ramp to a grass ledge. Continue rightwards up the wall to the same stake belay.

Hearts Highway – 60m HVS M. Hudson, A. Holden (alt). 26th May, 1992.

The system of grooves up the eastern arete. Start from a pedestal at the toe of the arete. 1. 30m 5b. Climb the grooves until a step left can be made on to a small shelf at 12m. Continue left and up a shattered chimney. Step delicately back right and continue in a rising traverse. Surmount overlaps at their right hand end (crux) and continue up the groove above to a stance on a small ledge. 2. 30m 4b. Up the crack behind the stance, moving delicately right to gain a rising ramp. Finish up a wall on the arete to the stake belay.

The Prospect of Rona – 60m HVS. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 8th August, 1991.

The north face contains the Snoozing Crack and a huge fallen slab just right of it. The route takes the line of least resistance up this face, trending leftwards through the overhangs and across the undercut headwall. Start at the toe of a subsidiary buttress halfway up the steep scree between the fallen slab and the western arete.

1. 25m 4b. Climb easy initial rocks to a swing left at 12m. A groove above leads to spacious ledges. 2. 35m 5b. Move left up the wall to the obvious weakness in the overhangs. Pull over to a nest and traverse left on to a curious pocketed wall. Move up to a leftwards traverse on footledges making for a large notch on the skyline. Climb the corner 5m before the notch to an overhanging finish to block belays.

Direct Start – Starting higher up the scree (i.e. on the right), climb a direct crack line to the belay ledge. Better but 5a. An aged Moac was found.

Western Arete – 40m VS. M. Hudson, D. Hudson, R. Brown. 6th August, 1991.

1. 20m 4c. Start at the foot of the western arete and traverse in to an obvious jutting block. Zig-zag up the wall above and passing a small diamond overlap (crux) to reach a ledge.

2. 20m 4b. Climb the right hand of two grooves above, pass a roof and move into the left groove. Move back right to finish on the vertical blocky arete.

The Notch – 30m H. Severe 4b. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 8th August, 1991.

Start in the western gully 6m right of the arete below a crack system. Climb the crack system through the initial bulges, heading for the obvious notch on the skyline. Avoid grassy sections to finish up a bulging jam crack (crux) below the easier overhanging notch.

Cracked Rib and Slab – 35m Diff. R. Brown, D. Hudson. 24th May, 1992.

The obvious rib on the west side of the gully. Start 6m right of the jutting block. Climb the rib to a large stance. Climb the slab above, trending left then right to finish directly up the right edge of the slab.

NEIST POINT, Upper Crag:

Myopic – 30m E2 5c. G. Szuca, A. Wren. 21st May, 1992.

Start just right of Seagulls and climb straight up the arete to a bulge. Go up the finger crack above, then continue up the arete finishing as for Seagulls.

Panorama – 30m E2 5c. A. Wren, G. Szuca. 21st May, 1992.

Start as for Myopic but move straight into the middle of the buttress as soon as possible. Go straight up to the top, finishing as for Seagulls.

Primeline – 30m E2 5b. G. Szuca, A. Wren. 21st May, 1992.

The arete just left of Temptation. The following route is 15m right of Temptation. It goes up the obvious slabby arete, just left of a green corner/chimney crack.

Gruinard Mutant – 35m E1 5b. G. Szuca, A. Wren, D. Gregg. 21st May, 1992.

Follow the cracks in the arete and finish up the obvious crack.

Eastern Crag:

Heavenly's Pleasure – 45m E4 6b. M. Garthwaite, D. Gregg. 21st May, 1992.

The superb crack on the Fin mentioned in the Anderson/Latter book. Probably 6c for the short.

Sheep Tick – 40m HVS 5a. D. Gregg, G. Szuca, A. Wren. 20th May, 1992.

Straight across from the Fin, on the main face, is a chimney/corner crack in the back of a groove. There is a black stake above this route (backed up with pegs for an abseil). Start 10m up from the toe of the corner on a big ledge. Climb the groove to a big ledge and finish up the layback crack above.

Route with a View – 35m E3 6a. M. Garthwaite, G. Szuca. 20th May, 1992.

Lies on the superb wall 30m right of Temptation. The shallow corner 5m left is Monkey Hanger (HVS 5a). Start at a small block lying against the wall. Go straight up, moving slightly left at 8m, then sharp right to good holds. Go straight up to an inverted V-slot, pull into this (crux) and pull through the roof rightwards. Finish straight up.

Neist Bay 3, South Face:

Tinderbox – 30m HVS 5a. N. Horn, C. Moody. 18th June, 1992.

Climb the face left of Jotul to gain a crack which finishes left of the square nose.

Jotul – 30m VS 4c. N. Horn, C. Moody. 18th June, 1992.

Follow grooves left of Lushious slightly leftwards to finish right of the square nose.

Disturbing the Wildlife – 30m HVS 5a. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 20th June, 1992.

The wide crack right of Lushious. Either start directly up the chimney or move up right from the start of Lushious. The crack leads to a slab, then a short wall.

Solar Furnace – 30m VS 4b. N. Horn, C. Moody. 18th June, 1992.

Start up a shallow corner right of Disturbing the Wildlife, step left and continue up cracks to the slab and short wall.

KILT ROCK:

The unnamed route in SMCJ 1991, p664 is called Ask Fire-Eater.

SGEIR BHAN, Staffin Slip Buttress:

At the right side of the right buttress is a short wide chimney. Left of this are two wide cracks. The right crack has been climbed (J. Mackenzie).

Post Marital Blues – 25m E2 5b. N. Horn, C. Moody. 15th June, 1992.

The left crack.

The Swelling – 30m E1 5b. N. Horn, C. Moody. 15th June, 1992.

Further left the crag changes direction on an arete. Climb the crack right of the arete.

MACLEOD'S MAIDENS, IDRIGILL POINT:

The largest of these three prominent stacks (The Old Lady) can be approached at low tide after abseiling 75m down the cliffs on the south side of the headland. The original, and only route (70m, Severe), first climbed by Ian Clough in 1959, is very loose at the top and possibly merits E1. The outer two stacks can be reached by a 50m swim. The middle stack can be climbed by a variety of routes at about V. Diff in standard. The outer stack, an impressive slender finger of basalt, showed evidence of a prior attempt that had been defeated by loose rock just below the top.

The Outer Maiden – 30m E2 5b G. Muhlemann, E. Grindley, S. Richardson. 30th May, 1992.

Follow a line of cracks on the south face to enter the prominent final clean-cut corner. Climb this steeply to a very loose finish, and pull out right at the top.

RUBHA HUINISH, Bodha Hunish:

Eilean Groove – 35m E1 5b. S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 31st May, 1992.

A sustained climb up the well defined north facing corner on the central of the three prominent stacks. The rock is a little loose, but it should improve with more traffic! Approach by abseiling down the cliffs north of a prominent corner to a small platform, followed by a 20m swim.

UIG, The Mitre:

Mitre Groove – 30m E2 5b. S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 1st June, 1992.

There is a prominent square cut corner on the north corner of the stack. Gain it from the right and climb it to its top. Move right on to a ledge and continue up the crack above to the rickety summit.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS**SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE):**

The guide has now been published. Routes in the guide have not been duplicated here. The following were too late for the guide's main text.

AN TEALLACH, Coire a' Ghlas Thuill:

The Magnificent Seven – 200m III. N. Kekus, A. Andrew, D. Taylor, C. Brook, T. Wagg, I. Forth, P. Buck. 25th March, 1993.

The leftmost of the narrow buttresses left of Major Rib (third buttress left of Fourth Prong). Takes the obvious line up the buttress, with an easy first pitch on to the buttress proper, leading to a narrow rock chimney and vertical corner on the penultimate pitch.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Far East Wall:

Nightcap Groove – VI.7. G. Ettle, A. Nisbet. 24th October, 1992.

Short and well protected, suited to the conditions of deep powder covering unfrozen ground.

Central Wall:

Assegai – 120m V.6 M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 29th January, 1993.

Based on the summer route. Start 5m right of Cool Cleft. Climb a wide steep chimney, then go rightwards to belay below the summer chimney (35m). Move left into a corner, then cracks just to the right, before returning right to the summer route above its chimney (40m). Finish up the summer route (15m, 30m).

West Buttress:

Note: The Upper Girdle across West Buttress consists of two parallel ledges. The Girdle route uses parts of both ledges but the newer route descriptions in the recent guide refer only to the upper ledge. The following route description refers to both. Also there is a mistake in the description of Maelstrom in the new guide. It starts from the Second Terrace, not from either of the Girdle ledges.

Blood, Sweat and Frozen Tears – 100m VII.8. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1993.

An outstanding and very sustained mixed route up the big vegetated groove right of Earth, Wind and Fire. Above the Upper Girdle, the groove continues between the inset slab of Earth, Wind and Fire and the arete of Shoot the Breeze. The route can be

approached via West Central Gully at easy II, or by two abseils using 50m ropes. The abseil line can be seen from the top of Central Buttress although the groove is less obvious face on than from below. The first abseil point is 6m right of a big perched block and the second is a block which is also the belay below pitch 3. The groove occasionally fills with ice (easier?) but this time was heavily verglassed.

1. 30m Up the groove, at times on its right wall, to belay on the lower ledge of the Upper Girdle. 2. 20m Continue up the groove. Move left on to a steep slab to gain the upper ledge of the Upper Girdle. Pull through the capping overhangs above the ledge, at the same point as Earth, Wind and Fire, but immediately swing into the continuation groove on the right. Climb this and move left to a block belay (abseil point). 3. 50m Earth, Wind and Fire crosses here and climbs the chimney above. Instead, go left and climb a big left facing corner past a difficult overhang (which would be easier with more ice).

LIATHACH, Coire na Caime, Am Fasarinén:

The Shining Path – 160m IV,6. M. Moran, S. Birch. 3rd March, 1993.

A big icefall forms right of Toll Dubh Chimney close to the left edge of Twisting (No 6) Gully. Start just left of the gully at a slanting groove. The groove proved thinly iced and awkward. Easier climbing trended left up iced steps, then a short steep ice corner led to the foot of the main fall. This was split by a diagonal weakness running from left to right and gave a fine 40m pitch. Two pitches in turfy corners gave access to the summit ridge.

Note: Andes Couloir was repeated by S. Birch, C. Collin and M. Moran on 1st March, 1993 by a new line right of the original. V,6. Two icefalls, the second one short but vertical, and a right facing turfy corner led to the upper couloir which was found to be a 100m ribbon of grade II ice.

Fat Man's Folly – 200m IV. D. Broadhead, D. Rubens. 30th January, 1993.

Start about 40m left of Valentine Buttress at a deep gully. The climb breaks right out of the gully and follows a line of weakness via a short slot and a slanting corner. Go easily up the gully for about 40m and start below an obvious short slot. Climb fairly directly to belay at the slot (30m). Climb the slot and the pitch above (30m). Easier for 60m to the slanting pitch of 10m.

BEINN ALLIGIN, Eag Dubh:

Hatchet Man – 80m III. A. Nisbet, S. Chiles, H. Davis, P. Worthington. 27th January, 1993.

Midway up the long right wall of the Eag Dubh is the only easy break, a slabby ramp which gave three ice pitches.

Under the Hammer – 110m V,6. A. Nisbet, G. Ollerhead. 27th February, 1993.

The left side of the final gully of the Eag Dubh is a buttress which is steeper and larger than it looks. The route is based on a central corner system but with frequent deviations on to its right wall. Climbed in five short pitches using one rope doubled to save weight on the rough approach under the right wall of the Eag Dubh. In better conditions a shallow gully on the left leads to the route (easy II).

FUAR THOLL, South East Cliff:

Sandstorm – 170m VII,7 (1PA). M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 23rd March, 1993.

Aims direct for the steep groove cutting the walls mid-way between Tholl Gate and The Fuhrer. Steep compact rock makes this a demanding climb which requires liberal snowfall as well as frost. Start 20m left of Tholl Gate.

1. 45m Follow a vague left trending ramp, then back right to an easement. Continue direct until stopped by a blank 5m wall just below an obvious cracked corner. An 8m dogleg to the right gained good crack belays at the corner. 2. 30m Climb the corner to a ledge, then go direct up a very steep groove (1PA) and swing left on to moss ledges. Further strenuous moves lead up and right to a small stance just left of the main groove. 3. 45m Swing up to the exit of the groove, then go direct up the walls to a stance in a right facing corner where the cliff steepens. 4. 30m Go up right on flakes, then back left to the crest of the buttress and a hard exit to easier ground. 5. 20m Short steps to the top. **Note:** A. Nisbet and G. Ollerhead repeated Cold Hole in one long pitch, then moved left to finish up an easier icefall (III, January, 1993). VI,6 confirmed.

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Feola:

Indigenous – 170m IV,6. P. Mnych, M. Moran. 14th January, 1993.

The obvious diagonal line rising rightwards from the bottom of Y- Gully. Start up an easy chimney, then follow mixed ground up to the foot of the ramp (In XS must go straight up from here). The ramp gave one turf and one iced pitch, and an evil chockstoned slit to finish. Easier steps then led to the top of the A' Chioch ridge.

Note: In XS is almost certainly wrongly located in the guide. It goes up a well concealed corner line to the right of Y-Gully, not the left as described.

SGURR a' CHAORACHAIN, The North Butresses:

Totem – 150m IV,5. A. Nisbet, D. Coburn, R. McFadden, R. Peak. 3rd March, 1993.

A series of pitches up steep blocky grooves just left of the crest, finishing past the right side of the Totem pinnacle. Easier options were possible further left.

Note: No.3 Gully is a scramble in summer and easy II in winter. No.5 Gully is grade I by its right branch and II by its left. The above party reached Totem by descending No. 5 Gully left branch which reaches the crest of A' Cioch Ridge at the first col. A better descent would have been from two cols further on, the top of No. 3 Gully.

MEALL GORM:

Gorm Gully – 150m II.

The narrow deep gully left of the three tiered buttress (third gully left of Blue Pillar). Easy snow leads to a final ice pitch which can be up to 40m in cold but lean conditions. Climbed several times (the first known at present by M. Moran and party) but recorded as a good wee route and the best snow holding gully on the mountain. The obvious 25m icefall below Meall Gorm and to the left of the hairpins has also been climbed (grade IV).

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH AND EAST (Volume Two)

SHETLAND:

Orkney and Shetland are to be included in the forthcoming guide, Northern Highlands volume two. Several Shetland sea stacks and 3 sea cliff routes were climbed in May, 1992 by combinations of N. Dugan, M. Fowler, C. Jones, J. Lincoln and A. Nisbet. Descriptions have been submitted to the guide but are available if required. One other route has been recorded.

St Ninian's Isle (HU 359 210):

Stack of the Ship – 80m V. Diff. G.E. Little. 7th July, 1992.

On the west coast of St Ninian's Isle, opposite the island of Hich Home, lies a stack linked to the coast by a knife edged rock arete. An ascent of the stack via the arete provided an exposed traverse and short steep wall with the odd fulmar providing additional interest.

FAR NORTH EAST COAST:

About 50 routes on this coast were described in last year's Journal. A mini-guide with over 180 routes, including these, has been supplied. The information has been passed to the Editor of Northern Highlands volume two, but with apologies to the obviously keen Caithness climbers, there is not room to reproduce here. As a summary:

MID CLYTH. (ND 286 358):

Lighthouse Wall. 100m north of the lighthouse. Three routes, 15-25m.

The Shelf. Just south of the lighthouse. One route, 20m.

The Stack Area. 16 routes, 12-20m.

South Bay. 13 routes, 10-16m.

Overhanging Wall Section. Nine routes, 10m.

LATHERONWHEEL (ND 187 317):

Pinnacle Area (nearest the harbour). Five routes, 10-14m.

Big Flat Wall. Nine routes, 12-20m.

Little Flat Wall. Five routes, 14m.

The Stack. 13 routes, 8-15m.

Bedrock (just south of The Stack). Eight routes, 12m.

South Corner (South Bay). Nine routes, 8-14m.

OCCUMSTER (ND 268 352):

Main Buttress. Seven routes, 15-20m.

East facing wall south of Main Buttress. Seven routes, 10-20m.

The Gully. North of Main Buttress. Two routes, 10-12m.

Sabbath Wall. Wall above ledge just north of Main Buttress. 13 routes, 5-15m. Also four routes to south, 15m.

Lower Wall. Next area north. 17 routes, 10m.

Cave Area. Just south of headland 200m north of Main Buttress. Six routes, 8-15m.

The Ramp. Above ledge south of Main Buttress. Nine routes, 6-10m.

Roof Area. Sea level wall south of The Ramp. Five routes, 8-10m.

SKIRZA (ND 399 698):

Two routes, 40-45m.

NOSS HEAD:

The headland two miles north of Wick. Climbing is south of the car park for Noss Lighthouse. 26 routes, 5-10m.

Also three routes to north.

STAC POLLALDH, No. 2 Buttress:

Calum the Clansman – 45m HVS. I. Hartley, J. Lyall. 8th August, 1992.

A line to the right of Nosferatu but starting on the rightside of a rocky ridge next to the big scree filled gully. 1. 15m 5b. Climb a curving layback crack up a slab, then a narrow rock ridge to belay in a small gully (a short way above Nosferatu chimney). 2. 30m 4c. A right slanting crack is followed until moves left gain another crack at an overlap. Follow this and slab to large ledge. Traverse right into gully to descend, or finish by Vlad.

ULLAPOOL, Creag nam Broc (NH 147958):

This unusual gneiss crag, standing on a limestone platform, lies to the north of the Ullapool River opposite a deep limestone quarry. It faces south west and the rock is predominantly clean and solid, offering superb friction. The crag's main feature is a huge central roof, the debris from its creating rockfall lying below. The easiest access is from a bridge (private road) at 154 953. A pleasant walk of under 1km leads to the crag. Routes were climbed by G.E. Little and J.M.G. Finlay on 30th March, 1991 except Very Gneiss Wall on 29th March.

Very Gneiss Wall – 25m Severe.

This route climbs a wedge of clean red rock between a sapling filled groove and a tree sprouting crack. Start on a limestone plinth by a brier. Climb directly up the centre of the red slabby wall on good holds.

One Armed Bandit – 40m HVS.

A largely amiable route with a sensational and strenuous crux. Start at the same point as Very Gneiss Wall below a sapling filled groove. 1. 22m. Climb up and left to gain a cracked slab leading to a detached block on an exposed edge (at the left end of the huge roof). 2. 18m 5b. Round the corner, above a small roof, a horizontal horn of rock is just out of reach. Gain the horn (crux), then move left to a small ledge. Climb directly to the top on superb rough rock.

Dancer in the Fire – 20m E3 5c.

On the left flank of the crag two obvious lines of weakness break a steep multi-coloured wall. The left takes the form of a diagonal fault running up to a slim corner, the right is an open overhanging groove leading to a thin crack. Climb the deceptively overhanging glassy groove by a series of very strenuous moves (reasonable protection). Finish up the much easier thin continuation crack. An excellent route.

Head to Head – 25m E2 5b.

Start just to the right of the left end of the diagonal fault. Go up the wall to gain the fault. Move right on sidepulls to gain the slim corner (protection difficult to arrange). Climb the corner to below the capping block (of dubious stability). Pull left on to the edge to finish. A fine route.

Short and Sweet – 12m VS 5a.

Start at a rounded flake on the left flank of the crag, just left of the diagonal right trending fault. Ascend bulging red rock to better holds on the wall above. Climb to below a shallow groove cutting through overhanging rock. Up the groove (strenuous) to belay on a ledge right of a sapling.

FANNICHS, Creag a' Mhadaidh (see SMCJ 1991):*Into the Groove – 95m IV. J.M.G. Finlay, G.E. Little. 21st December, 1991.*

Lying on the lower right hand wall (rising directly above the loch), this route ascends the groove left of centre, demarcating steeper cleaner rock on the right from slabby, more vegetated rock on the left. Climb the groove in three pitches, the final pitch taking the right hand exit up a shallow blocky slot. The left hand exit is a deeper chimney blocked by several large roofs. Descend to the left down the obvious ramp dividing the upper and lower crags.

A Saucer Full of Secrets – 240m IV. J. Finlay, G.E. Little (alt). 31st January, 1993.

A surprisingly good route starting at an obvious icefall half way up the ramp that divides the main crag from the lower right hand wall, then continuing up an open groove above on the same general alignment. Climb the initial icefall by a zigzagging line to belay on the left (45m). Continue up to gain a wide snow ramp. Up this to belay at a short rock wall on its upper side (40m). A short distance further on an open icy groove runs up to the right from a snow bay. Gain and climb up this belaying on the left (45m). Continue up the groove, belaying on the right (40m). Continue up and out of the groove on to a small snowfield, belaying on the right (45m). Easy snow leads to the top (25m).

BEN WYVIS, Creag Coire na Feola (NH 470 668):

Approach: From Newhouse (NH 501 602), which lies off the Achterneed road, the Forestry Commission track (with permission) can be taken through the plantations, taking the first right, for 2.7 miles to a small car park. This track is usually blocked in snowy weather. Cross straight across the moor to the second fire break and follow this through trees and then diagonally across more moor to join a track, exiting at a gate which is diagonally to the north east from the car park. Contour up the slopes of point 890m to the east, rounding the shoulder into Coire na Feola. The crag is on the east wall above some small lochans. Two hours in good conditions. In poor light, the forestry track is extremely hard to find on the return. The Forestry Commission gate is directly below the shallow gully that splits the southern slopes left of point 890m. Avoid the temptation to swing too far right once on the moor, but cross directly to small trees opposite and follow the moor to the narrow fire break. The crag is remote and in some conditions it may be quickest to head over the summit from the usual Garbat approach.

Layout: The crag faces north east, is 200m in height with a base at 650m. It is a large wedge of rock tapering to a snow arete, flanked by icefalls on the left and right. Extensive cornices run the length of the coire and exits in some conditions may entail much traversing or lengthy tunneling.

Descent: There are no foolproof descents apart from the contour in at the mouth of the coire due to the considerable avalanche potential of open slopes either side of the crag. If descending from the summit, beware the potentially dangerous slope that falls south. An often safer alternative is the slopes of An Socach opposite the crag.

Discovery Butress – 255m III/IV. D. Broadhead, J.R. Mackenzie. 29th December, 1992.

Start left of the toe of the butress at the apex of a bay and climb a right trending groove to a snow patch (30m). Move right and climb a steepening groove to below an icefall, move left to a well positioned belay stance (30m). Depending on conditions, either climb the icefall above or traverse right and climb iced rocks (30m). Climb a narrow icefall above with a steep exit on to mixed ground, traverse left round a rock nose and gain easier ground above a short corner (45m). Climb up a snowfield and belay below a rock tower (60m). Climb the left hand runnel through the tower and gain a fine snow arete which steepens to a corniced exit (60m). A good mountaineering route.

Gael Force Grooves – 225m III. J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind. 31st January, 1993.

The broad icefall to the left of Discovery Butress varies with build-up; in full conditions a fine plume forms centrally. Climb the plume to traverse left to belay (35m). Climb up to the icefall above, taken on the right side, to enter a shallow gully, ice screw belays (50m). Climb a fine ice pitch up left and continue up more open ground to a central rock bay (50m). Climb the open slopes, then steepening snow to a massive cornice, penetrated by a deep crevasse. Without this feature, traverse right from the bay and finish at the snow arete of Discovery Butress?

Walking on Air – 190m IV/V. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 28th February, 1993.

Towards the right end of the main buttress is a hanging corner which forms an icefall; this is to the left of a much shorter icy corner. Climb up the steepening corner to a recess on the left. Step up right to a ramp which is followed right (40m). Climb the steepening icefall above to rock belays on the right below a watertight cave (55m). Climb past the cave on ice to a shelf below a steep barrier wall and traverse left to a slanting crack which lies left of centre on this wall. Climb the crack and ice groove above to the crest (35m). Climb the snowfield to the summit rocks and belay near a groove at the right end (35m). Climb the groove to the plateau (30m). A very fine route but pitch 2 was unprotected thin ice (grade V but IV expected in full conditions).

SGURR A' MHUILLIN (Strathconon), Creag Ghlas, West Buttress:

Evening Arete – 90m VS. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 20th May, 1992.

To the left of Spare Rib is a fine-looking clean cut edge that appears to form the right hand boundary of the cliff when approaching from below. Scramble up broken slabs to the base. 1. 30m 4b. Climb the edge awkwardly to a heathery groove. Move up this to a prominent bollard on the arete. Climb the slab direct to the bollard and belay. 2. 40m 4c. Climb the imposing edge above, initially up a crack, then by thin cracks just right, until possible to climb the bold arete directly but quite easily to level with the leaning overhang on the left. Follow shallow grooves that cut up left above the overhang to an awkward landing above (4 Friend belay back in the corner). 3. 20m. Scramble up the easy gully above which has a traditional but avoidable wide crack. Descend the steep heather gully which runs down behind Spare Rib.

Wandering Minstrel – 70m VS. M. Hind. 7th June, 1992.

A pleasantly indirect line taking the easiest climbing on the face. There is little protection. Start as for Spare Rib and climb the broken slabs up and left to a terrace (35m). Above is a pale slab; climb cracks slanting up right which run left of two shallow corners. Traverse up and left across the right hand corner and continue traversing above the second corner to reach a square-cut sentry box on the left of the buttress. Finish up this (35m, 4b).

Glass Slipper – 85m HVS. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie, M. Hind. 7th June, 1992.

A very fine route taking an implausible line for the grade. To the left of Evening Arete is a steep slab with a prominent curving overlap running up its right side. Start below the introductory slab which has a central crack. 1. 10m 4c. Climb the slab by the crack to a flake below the curved overlap. Alternatively, climb the right edge of the initial slabs at 5a to the same point. 2. 20m 5a. Gain the overlapped corner above by the crack and follow this tenuously to an easing and traverse left along the handrail to a narrow stance. 3. 35m 4c. Climb the steepening cracks above which are well protected to a stepped ledge. Climb the spike on the right and traverse left below the top slab avoiding heather to a wide crack (optional belay). Finish up this easily and belay back in the corner. 4. 20m. Scramble up the gully with the option of the short traditional crack to finish.

EASTER ROSS OUTCROPS, STRATHCONON CRAGS, Scoop Crag (NH 374 565).

Approach: Take the minor road either along Strathconon and cross the Meig dam to the first large layby on the left opposite a Forestry Commission gate or drive along the minor road that leads to Glenmarksie which leads the A832 beyond Contin and marked Loch Achilty, to the same layby. Walk through the gate and follow the forest track which

zigzags through the trees to exit by a gate up on the right; Scoop Crag lies up right, allow 15 minutes. The crag faces south and is a suntrap, drying quickly and climbing is possible for much of the year.

Layout: A sinuous curving scoop is the obvious feature with a steep headwall above, steep rock to the left and a sharp arete to the right. A shorter section of crag lies to the left of a slanting corner. The crag is quite narrow but gives routes up to 24m. The rock is a particularly smooth schist. A line of metal fenceposts above provide good belays. The routes are described left to right.

The Spike – 20m VS 4c. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 23rd February, 1993.

A good line on the left of the main crag. Start below a lobe of slab right of a tree and right of the slanting corner. Climb the lobe and gain the scoop. Follow a left slanting break on hidden holds and climb the left arete to the top.

Fleetstreet Hack – 20m E1 5b. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie, R. Scott. 7th March, 1993.

To the left of The Scoop is a short steep wall. Climb the wall via an inset corner and then more easily to the headwall. Step right to its centre and climb the thin wall to a recess and the top. A high side runner in The Scoop's crack provides the only protection until the recess. Some fine climbing.

The Scoop – 24m HVS 5a. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Scott, R. Brown. 7th March, 1993.

A fine delicate climb of considerable interest. The obvious scoop provides the line and is initially delicate padding to a horizontal break. Traverse left along this to the easier slab above and follow this up left to below a crack. Climb up to the crack and finish up it.

Brass Monkey – 20m E3 6a. M. Hind, R. Scott. 14th March, 1993.

The very bold and thinly protected wall to the right of Fleetstreet Hack. Climb the scoop of The Scoop and then ever thinly up the slab to the wall. A scattering of small RP's provides the only protection; probably better not to fall off. The adjectival grade assumes prior knowledge of the obscure gear placements.

Confectionary Arete – 20m V. Diff.

The attractive right arete of the crag has that weighty E number look about it. In fact it is a piece of for the grade. Start at the break a few metres up level with the top of the lower scoop; for an unprotected slither, climb the arete from the base.

Hidden Crag (NH 372 562):

Approach: As for Scoop Crag to exit by gate up on right. Hidden Crag lies down to the left; allow 10 minutes.

Layout: The crag is quite unlike anything else in the glen. It is a long smooth black wall set at 80 degrees, split by several striking left slanting crack lines and covered in small positive holds giving finery yet delicate climbing. The crag is 13m in height by 40m in length. Having a flat grassy base and facing south the crag has a pleasant feel about it. A smaller outcrop adjoins the main crag to the right. There are two in situ belay spikes in the heather, one near the centre and one nearer the right hand end of the main crag. The crag takes drainage from the hillside and takes a day or two to dry out. The route are described from right to left.

Hoist by one's Own Bullshit – 13m HVS 5b. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen (all led). 7th February, 1993.

Towards the right end of the main crag is a flat topped pedestal below a left slanting crack. Start immediately right of the pedestal and climb straight up fingery flakes, step right to a ledge, finishing up the pleasant rocks above. A well protected crux and quick drying.

Chinese Eyes – 24m E1 5b. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 7th March, 1993.

A fingery climb taking the prominent left slanting crack. Start as for Hoist and climb to the crack, making initially difficult moves along it. The crack eases with height and then exits up the wall. A good climb but slow to dry.

Shield Bug – 13m E1 5b. M. Hind. 9th February, 1993.

To the left of the left slanting crack is a shield of flakes. Climb these and the wall above.

The Barker – 13m E2 5c. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Scott, R. Brown. 7th March, 1993.

A climb with considerable bite. To the left of the flakes of Shield Bug is a narrow crack. The crack provides most of the protection and some of the holds whilst the wall to the left provides most of the holds and some of the protection. The best climb on the crag with constantly sustained and interesting climbing.

The Pledge – 13m E1 5b. M. Hind. 9th February, 1993.

Well to the left of The Barker is a smooth wall with a small overlap and ledge above at about one third height. Climb up the smooth wall to the ledge and finish directly above; a sustained route.

Creepy-Crawly – 12m E1 5b. M. Hind. 9th February, 1993.

Near the left end of the crag is a slanting crack. Climb the wall to its right direct.

Aspen Crag:

Sloshed in Action – 20m E2 5c. J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind, R. Brown. 29th April, 1992.

An exciting excursion over the overhang right of Shadow Grasper. Start at the tree belay at Meridian's start and climb up to the roof, PR. Surmount this on the left, strenuously, then continue more easily up a groove and slab to finish up a short groove.

Gobstopper – 20m E3 6a. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 16th May, 1992.

Climbs the big roof between Sloshed in Action and Licking the Lip; a most unlikely looking line for the grade giving the most exciting and serious climbing here. Start at the tree as for Meridian and climb straight up to the roof, poor PR above. Commit yourself to the unknown and gain the lip, cut loose, swing round to jugs (1 Fr runner above) and pull up and over. Straight up the slab to the big tree and have a rest.

Licking the Lip – 16m HVS 5a. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie (both led). 29th April, 1992.

A very unlikely looking climb for the grade. Start to the right of Meridian's tree directly below a block beneath the roof. Climb delicately to it, step right, then swing through the overhang on the largest holds on the crag to finish up the slab above.

Meig Crag:

Gabbro Slab – 22m VS 5a. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 11th June, 1992.

Probably the best of the easier lines, being on excellent rock with more than ample protection. Climb the centre crack of the slab to a fault and step right to the crack's continuation to pull up to a small tree and heather.

The Rake – 18m V. Diff. M. Hind (solo). Summer, 1991.

The obvious slabby rake at the right end of Gabbro Slab.

The Promenade – 20m VS 4c. M. Hind (solo). 2nd July, 1992.

Climb *The Rake* to a stance below a steep headwall which has a left slanting break to its left. From the stance, climb a cracked wall and move left to gain the break which is followed to the top.

Dancing in the Rain – 20m E3 5c. M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie. 3rd July, 1992.

A bold poorly protected pitch up the steep headwall. Start up *The Rake* to the stance. Climb the initial crack of *The Promenade* but continue straight up on underclings to reach the tempting but oh-so-far away crack above.

Sidewinder – 20m VS 4b. M. Hind (solo). 13th May, 1992.

Lies up the buttress bounding the left of *Limited Liability*. Start below the corner and scramble left over the blocks. Climb up and trend right towards the edge before traversing left below the final wall to finish on the grass ledge below the short top rocks. Either abseil off or traverse right to the end of the crag at this level. The bay behind has a couple of obvious finishes, the left bounding corner being V. Diff and the chimney being Severe.

The Wee Nibble – 10m HVS 5b. M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie (both led). 14th June, 1992.

Start from the ledge above the blocks of *Sidewinder* and climb the wall direct via a crack to the finish of *Sidewinder*. Only a few moves but in a good position.

Yellow Streak – 22m E3 5b. M. Hind, R. Brown. 10th June, 1992.

Between the corners of *Limited Liability* and *Meig Corner* are a central groove and a yellow streaked one to the right, both overhanging considerably. Climb the yellow streaked groove which gives serious but technically reasonable climbing (vital 3 rock runner) to a strenuous pull over the bulge to a rest. Continue straight up the bulging top wall which has better protection. As good as any climb here but needing a positive attitude.

Angst Arete – (new description, more direct).

Right of *The Birch* is an overhanging arete with a horizontal gash at three quarters height. Start left of the birch tree and climb flakes left and up to a big hold. Climb the thin but well protected crack above to below the overhang and climb this on positive holds to finish up a glacis. An elegantly strenuous route packing in much interest.

The Go-Between – 10m VS 5a. M. Hind, R. Scott. 13th May, 1992.

The short wall just right of *Angst Arete*. Start at the birch and climb the wall to a sapling. Continue straight up to finish.

CAIRNGORMS

LOCHNAGAR:

Sunset Buttress – 75m III,4. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson (AL). 21st November, 1992. A short winter route based on the summer line. Easier than it looks from below. Start directly below the prominent right facing corner in the upper half of the buttress. This is a few metres right of the summer start.

1. 35m Climb a shallow right facing turf fault (1PR) to a ledge. Move up and left to a belay at the foot of the corner. 2. 45m Climb the corner, at first on the right, to reach the top of the buttress. An easy ridge leads to the plateau.

Shadow Rib, Direct Start – 70m V, 5. G. Strange, W. Church. 31st January, 1993.

Start at the foot of the slabby rib just right of Shallow Gully. Climb twin left facing grooves overlooking Shallow Gully and continue directly up the crest to join Shadow Rib Ordinary.

Moonshadow – 225m V, 5. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge (AL). 21st November, 1992.

The well defined buttress between Shadow Chimney and Giant's Head Chimney Direct. Start at the foot of Giant's Head Chimney.

1. 40m Climb diagonally up and left for 15m to enter a steep right facing corner. Climb this and exit left on turf. Continue behind a large boulder to a belay in Shadow Chimney. 2. 25m Immediately leave the chimney by climbing an awkward wall on the right which leads to a hidden ramp which cuts back right on to the crest of the buttress. Pull over the small roof above to reach a good ledge. 3. 40m Continue easily for 15m to reach a steep slabby wall cut by parallel cracks. Climb the right side of the wall up a left facing corner and finish up easier ground to reach a ledge. 4. 40m The steep 5m corner behind the belay leads to a right trending line of weakness. 5,6. Continue up mixed ground to reach Shadow Buttress A below the final steep step. Climb this to the plateau.

The Pinnacle:

White Mischief – 120m VI,8. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 24th December, 1992.

An unclimbed feature but close to Pinnacle Face at times. During the third pitch, it merges with Winter Face but all the routes are interchangeable here. A little thin ice was present. Start 10m down from Pinnacle Face, at the same point as Katsalana, which goes out diagonally left.

1. 20m. Climb straight up a shallow right facing corner. Just before reaching Pinnacle Face, swing out left into the start of a left slanting corner line. 2. 20m. Pull out above the corner and climb cracks in the rib next to Pinnacle Face, then move back into the corner above a step and follow it past a bigger step to belay. 3. 45m. Climb straight up on thin ice (on this occasion) to join and follow Winter Face. 4. 35m. Winter Face was followed and a short descent made to the Springboard, from where an abseil descent was made.

Note: A free ascent of Pinnacle Grooves by S. Richardson and J. Ashbridge on 23rd January, 1993. A superb line climbed under very snowy conditions. VII,7 on the day, but the grade could drop to VI,7 with less ice in the crack and therefore better protection.

West Buttress:

Bell's Pillar – 120m V,5. B. Findlay, G. Strange. 25th October, 1992.

This is the old Gargoyle Chimney Variation with an independent start. It climbs the narrow rib between Gargoyle Chimney and the shallow gully of Gargoyle Direct. Start

just right of Gargoyle Chimney and climb a shallow left facing corner until possible to swing right on to the crest. Follow the line of least resistance for three pitches to below the Radar Wall. Skirt left below this and finish up the fault just right of Gargoyle Chimney's central depression.

BROAD CAIRN BLUFFS:

Two's Company – 40m E3. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge. 5th September, 1992.

A technical route up the wall and arete right of Solitaire. Start 3m up and right of the toe of the buttress below a prominent corner.

1. 15m 5a. Bridge up the corner to a good jug on the right and continue up past the block to belay as for Solitaire. 2. 25m 6a. The wall right of Solitaire is cut by a small discontinuous crack system. Climb the crack past a peg to a good hold on the right (crucial rock 3 runner in crack on left). Continue to a small niche, step right (crux), and climb the arete above on good but hidden holds to the top.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH:

The Last Oasis. The obvious direct finish up steep ice was climbed by D. Hawthorn and F.R. Malcolm in January, 1993.

Broad Terrace Wall:

The Sting – VII,6? D. Dinwoodie, D. Hawthorn. January, 1993.

A very steep icefall forms near the summer route and was climbed straight up to finish at the same point on the plateau as Bower Buttress.

Central Slabs:

Dragon Slayer, alternative finish – V,5? D. Hawthorn, C. Ord. January, 1993.

The great pink diedre above the Terrace often fills with ice. Its relevance to Dragon Slayer is even less in winter.

BEINN A' BHUIRD, Garbh Choire:

The Sacrement – 175m E2. S. Helmore, S. Richardson. 13th September, 1992.

A traditional mountaineering route between Mitre Ridge Direct and Cumming-Crofton Route.

1. 30m -. As for Cumming-Crofton Route pitch 1. 2. 25m 4c. Climb the wall above the belay to enter the corner which leads to a ledge on the crest. 3. 15m 4a. Straight up the edge (as for the Archbold/Towler variation) to the foot of the first tower. 4. 25m 5b. Climb the right hand of twin cracks to the top of the tower – a strenuous and serious pitch. 5. 20m Scramble along the ridge to the notch below the second tower. 6. 20m 4c. Climb the crest of the ridge to the left of Bell's Variation. Delicate to start. 7. 40m Scrambling leads to the plateau.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

Zircon – 120m E2. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge (VL). 7th June, 1992.

A good line to the left of Amethyst Pillar. Excellent sustained climbing. Start 10m below the chimney of Amethyst Wall.

1. 10m 4c. Step on to the slab on the right and climb up to a large ledge. 2. 35m 5c. Follow Amethyst Pillar for a few metres and then take the crack system trending left. Pass below a long narrow rectangular roof, climb the steep crack system 3m to its left and make a strenuous exit on large holds to reach a ledge. 3. 25m 5a. Continue up the left facing chimney groove directly above, which is left of the flake pitch on Amethyst Wall. 4. 20m

5c. The next pitch climbs the steep wall between the crux pitch of Amethyst Wall and McCartney's Variation. Gain a small sloping triangular ledge from the right and follow a line of flakes diagonally left across the wall to a steep finish on the left arete. 5. 30m
4a. Easy cracks and grooves lead to the top.

Joker's Buttress – 40m HVS 4c. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge. 7th June, 1992.

Between Flake Buttress and Spider Buttress is a three tiered triangular slabby wall. A fun route on perfect granite, but considerably harder than it looks. Start in the centre of the buttress and climb a chimney formed by a large flake. Continue up the crack on the left and make an awkward mantelshelf on to a ledge. Surmount the next wall by a fierce layback (crux - Friend 2). Climb the final tier by a ramp which trends from right to left leading to the apex of the buttress. Scrambling (40m) leads to the plateau.

CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN, The Bastion:

Original Route Direct – 150m V,6. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson (AL). 29th November, 1992.

Follow the summer route exactly. A good winter line, perhaps the most logical on the face. The V-groove on the second pitch was the crux, but may ice to become easier. The Red Slab was banked out and exit on the right wall gave a good ice pitch.

Pioneer Buttress:

Cambridge Route Direct – 180m IV,5. S. Richardson, S. Helmore (AL). 6th December, 1992.

This mixed climb is a more direct version of Cambridge Route. It starts up the original summer line, which was the first recorded route on the cliff, but continues directly where the original escapes left to join the easier angled edge overlooking Square Cut Gully. Start just left of the initial gully of Pioneer Buttress Direct.

1. 45m Climb a slab to gain a large groove which slants up left. Follow this for 10m to reach the base of a wall (the original route escaped left from here). Climb the wall and continue directly up a series of steep grooves to a snow shelf beneath a steep cracked wall. 2. 15m Traverse right beneath the wall and move up to join the left facing corner system of Pioneer Buttress Direct. 3-5. 120m Follow the corner to the top of the crag.

The Red Snake – 90m V,4. A. Nisbet, G. Ollerhead. 28th December, 1992.

A line of ice which passes the left edge of the big overhangs above the upper meadow. Gain the upper meadow (60m) and belay as for The Serpent/Umslopogaas ie. just right of Carmine Groove.

1. 50m. Climb ice just right of a corner (start of Umslopogaas) but continue direct towards the overhangs. Step left on to the top of Serpent's initial V-groove, then go diagonally left up a slab past the left edge of the overhang into a shallow groove. Up this to belay. 2. 40m. The groove soon becomes easier and is followed to snow.

Umslopogaas – 95m V,7. A. Nisbet, G. Ollerhead. 29th December, 1992.

Serpentine variations on the summer route to avoid the slabby base of the big corner. Start as for summer, at the same place as The Red Snake.

1. 30m. Climb ice overlaying the summer route, then break out right on thinner ice to a short wall below Serpent corner. With no ice, a line further right could be taken. Climb the wall strenuously into the base of the corner. 2. 10m. Climb the corner to Serpent's traverse into Red Chimney, then make an improbable pull out left on to the 'nook' on Umslopogaas's right arete. The belay here is optional. 3. 10m. Cracks in the slab led to a big ledge above the corner. 4. 45m. Step left and follow grooves parallel to Red Chimney to the top.

Djibooty – 140m V,3. A. Nisbet, G. Ollerhead. 28th December, 1992.

In good conditions (and these were excellent), there are twin icefalls in the Djibangi area. One forms down Djibangi and its direct start. The other (this route) forms down the summer route In The Pink (named after pink water-washed rock) and continues down the normal summer start to Djibangi. It has often been used in winter to start Djibangi. It gave three long ice pitches, deviating to take a belay at the base of Djibangi corner, then moving back left for 30m of superb but unprotected climbing up the slab (hence the unusual grade) to iced grooves leading to the top.

STAG ROCKS:

Monarch of the Glen – 160m VS. E. Lawther, J. Lyall. 16th September, 1992.

As for the winter line, except on pitch 2 where the swing left is avoided by going straight up the initial groove, finishing by steep blocky rocks to gain the first ledge. 5a,4b,-.

CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:

Solstice – 90m VI,8. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 22nd December, 1992.

Climbs the crackline in the wall between Time Traveller and Equinox. Start about 10m right of Equinox.

1. 35m. Climb a turfey fault to a huge ledge. Go left along the ledge to belay on Equinox.
2. 20m. Climb the crackline with a very thin start, then sustained to a good ledge.
3. 35m. Continue more easily up the crackline, then step right and up a corner leading to steep snow and the cornice.

Apogee – 90m V,7. G. Ertle, J. Finlay, A. Nisbet. 4th January, 1993.

Climbs the right side of the Equinox fault. Start as for Solstice and belay at the right side of the huge ledge (30m). Continue in the same line with a hard start, then a chimney about 5m right of Equinox to belay below a bigger chimney (35m). Climb this constricted chimney (as for Equinox) but finish direct (25m). Finish out left as for Equinox if there is a big cornice.

STAC AN FHARAIDH:

Pushover – 140m IV. C. Steer, S. Steer. December, 1992.

The crux was the overlap, climbed by an icicle and thinly iced wall.

Note: S. Steer and J.J. also climbed Pippet Slab at II/III the same month.

COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA, Aladdin's Buttress:

The Third Wish – 60m V,7. G. Ertle, J. Finlay. 26th January, 1993.

A line between The Lamp and Prodigal Principle. Start 5m right of The Lamp.

1. 30m. Climb through very steep scrappy ground (crux) to grooves which lead on to the diagonal ramp of The Lamp.
2. 30m. Follow The Lamp up right to where you can see its top pitch. Step left into an obvious wide crack which leads to easy ground.

Kuryakin's Corner – 45m VI,7. N. Main, J. Preston. 21st November, 1992.

Start 5m left of Honour Among Thieves (near Mirror Direct) at a corner with two right leading roofs. Climb the corner and round the roofs. Continue up the corner, gain the arete just below where the corner merges with the slab, then finish up the slab.

Fluted Buttress:

Piccolo – 70m V,6. S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 30th March, 1992.

Eliminate, but good climbing with a bold crux. The main feature of the route is a groove line running up the right side of the Fluted Buttress chimney. Easy short walls lead to

a belay before a slab which blocks the foot of the groove. Gain the slab and cross it leftwards (crux) to the groove. Climb this surprisingly steep line to belay at the top of Sax Appeal (40m). Climb the steep rocky crest above and finish by Cruising.

Note: G. Ettle and J. Lyall note the following finishes to Spiral Gully, climbed on 31st March, 1993.

Where Spiral Gully bends right, the original direct finish goes straight up through the upper rocks (III). The first groove right of this leads to a ledge on the left (20m). A blocky wall on the right, then a finish up the arete (25m). Grade V,7. The next groove right of this is steep but very helpful, 35m, IV,5.

Note: Smokestack Lightning was repeated by climbing the steep corner to the right of the aid point. Very strenuous, 1 rest (G. Ettle, J. Finlay, N. Hitchins).

Note: Two routes have been submitted from the more broken buttresses in Coire an t-Sneachda. These have been climbed before, probably several times by Glenmore Lodge parties and certainly by the Editor. The next Cairngorms guide will be more specific but for now, the following have been climbed at low grades.

Mess of Pottage, right section. Four routes. Buttress right of Jacob's Ladder. Several lines left of Aladdin's Couloir. Slabby lines right of Aladdin's Mirror. Buttress between Central Gully and The Runnel. Buttress between The Runnel and Crotched Gully. Several lines on Fiacail Buttress right of The Seam.

COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No. 2 Buttress:

The Inquisition – 80m HVS. J. Lyall, D. Bulmer. 20th June, 1992.

A surprisingly worthwhile summer route despite the reputation of No. 2 Buttress for loose rock and vegetation. Pitch 2 is different from the winter line.

1. 50m 5a. The superb smooth corner followed by easy ledges to below a steep prow just left of the cul de sac gully. 2. 20m 4c. A steep crack up the prow, followed by moves left to a ledge. Go leftwards up the wall and on to the higher of two platforms. 3. 10m 5a. Overhanging crack and flake to plateau.

Snow Bunting – 90m III. R. Anderson, G. Ettle. 26th January, 1992.

Climbs the easy ground between Central Crack Route and Crow's Nest Crack. Start in The Couloir, beneath the short dead-end left branch.

1. 45m. Climb the left branch of The Couloir and move up left to a ledge as for Crow's Nest Crack. Belay at the left end of the ledge. 2. 45m. Step left and climb the easy angled snow bay until a wide stepped crack on the left can be climbed. Move right under a roof and then up to easier broken ground leading to the top.

No. 3 Buttress:

Nocando Crack – 80m VII,8. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 9th December, 1992.

A superb and sensational route; gravity defied previous attempts.

1. 25m. As for The Vicar/Nocando summer route, with precarious moves exiting from the initial overhanging corner, to belay on the first ledge after moving right below a jutting block capping a short overhanging corner. 2. 15m. Continue up the summer route to belay below the huge flake. Strenuous but safe. 3. 40m. The free summer version goes up the right side of the flake. The original summer line was taken, aiding directly up the 5m wall just left of the roof formed by the base of the flake. Poor pegs initially, then good nuts, and the second half might go free in daylight. From the subsequent ledge, traverse left to avoid a wide crack and return right to finish at the top of the gully of Ewen Buttress.

Note: The subsequent ascent of The Vicar proves that the wall right of the flake is possible, probably free but certainly with only IPA and future ascensionists are recommended to try that way.

The Vicar – VII.8. G. Eittle, A. Nisbet. 20th December, 1992.

An even more sensational route, perhaps harder than Nocando Crack but climbed in better conditions.

1. 20m. As for summer but belaying below the jutting block. 2. 10m. The rest of summer pitch 1. 3. 40m. Strenuously up the corner using the wall on the left to where the corner crack becomes blind. Move out on to the left wall and climb cracks which lead close to Nocando Crack summer route. The chokestone at the top of the Nocando flake was lassoed with slings, then thin moves made back to The Vicar summer route. This was followed to the top.

Overseer Direct – 60m IV,6 N. Main, A. Nisbet. 28th November, 1992.

A direct and independent finish to Overseer which should become the normal route. After the two corners, climb direct to the base of a capped chimney. Pull out left and climb a vertical corner to emerge on easier ground. The grade applies to both the finish and the complete route.

No. 4 Buttress:

Prore – VII.8. G. Eittle, R. Milne. November, 1992.

By the summer route. The crux is moving up the wall near the arete after the initial traverse out right. This is very thin and protection hard to arrange. Unsure of grade.

Torquing West – 115m. VI,7. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 2nd December, 1992.

Climbs the front face of the buttress, right of Western Route. Direct but escapable. Short hard sections, with good protection though not always obvious. Start just left of Torquing Heads.

1. 15m. Work up and a little left on ledges (thin, some ice will assist) to the base of a short right leaning corner. Climb this strenuously to belay on the ledge above. 2. 15m. Climb the steep wall above and right of the corner and pull strenuously into the easier angled fault above. 3. 40m. Continue up the fault and where it leads into the top chimney of Western Route, move right and belay below a steep band. 4. 25m. Go right towards Torquing Heads, then climb blocks which give access to a ledge leading precariously back left. Pull over a bulge and climb a short chimney to easy ground. Scramble to the top (20m).

Western Slant – 120m III/IV. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 1st December, 1990.

Start up right from Torquing Heads at the right hand end of the crag where an obvious short chimney is visible up on the left.

1. 30m. Traverse left to gain the chimney which is climbed over a chokestone to a fault leading left to a belay beside the groove of Torquing Heads. 2. 30m. Traverse left across Torquing Heads, climb up then left to drop down into the wide gully fault of Western Route. Move up to belay. 3,4. 60m. Continue up the fault to the top.

SRON NA LAIRIG:

Sinclair's Last Stand – 150m III. B. Findlay, G. Strange. 15th March, 1992.

Climbs the central grooves on the face immediately right of Lairig Ridge. Start about 30m up right from the lowest rocks at an ice smear. Climb the smear and the groove above to belay below a short wall (50m). Turn the wall on the left, then go up slightly right and climb the next groove (40m). The smooth final groove is very thin so traverse left to a big flake on the edge and climb to the crest of the ridge (20m). Continue up the ridge to the top (40m).

Note: The right groove is Gormless, Grade III.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

Another guidebook in production. A large number of routes have been climbed but space limits their reproduction here. The guide will include the crags in the Creag Dubh and Creag a' Barns guide (Cuthbertson) plus crags near Polldubh, Binnein Shuas (summer), Strathspey and Inverness (south of Great Glen). Scheduled for mid 1994.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

BEN LAWERS, Creag Loisgte (NN 632412):

This small crag lies on the south flank of the south west ridge of Ben Lawers and is well seen when approaching Ben Lawers from Beinn Ghlas. The main feature is a narrow crested rib right of a snow bay, delineating the west side of the crag.

Balcony Rib – 80m III. G.E. Little. 4th April, 1992.

A delightful little route climbing the tower-like front face of the rib to gain the perfect knife-edged snow arete above.

Front Stalls Gully – 80m II. G.E. Little. 4th April, 1992.

The gully immediately right of Balcony Rib with one ice pitch.

Back Stalls Gully – 70m II. G.E. Little. 4th April, 1992.

The second gully to the right of Balcony Rib with one short pitch near the start (may bank out).

Aisle Gully – 60m III. G.E. Little. 4th April, 1992.

Steeper and narrower than the previous two gullies with a difficult constriction at half height.

BEN NEVIS

East Face of Tower Ridge:

Chimney Groove – 90m IV,6. D.F. Lang, A.C. Stead. 27th February, 1993.

There is no record of a winter ascent of this route, although it frequently sports an abseil sling. The groove was gained by a traverse from the foot of The Great Chimney and climbed to a flake belay below a bulge (old peg on left wall). Climb the bulge (crux) and easy ground to the ridge crest. The route is mostly grade II, with a short crux which could be avoided by the slabs on the right in a good build-up, with a subsequent drop in grade.

The Comb :

The Good Groove – 140m VII,7. S. Richardson, R. Everett (AL). VII,7.

This excellent icy mixed climb takes the striking curving groove which cuts the triangular headwall of The Comb. Start by climbing Comb Gully for 70m to the beginning of Hesperides Ledge.

1. 40m The only line of weakness cutting the steep wall above Hesperides Ledge is a tiered ramp which slants up right, then left. Climb delicately up to the start of the ramp, then move left with difficulty along the second narrow ramp which leads to a corner. Follow this to a belay at the left end of the curving groove, just to the right of the icefall of The Comb, Left Flank. 2. 25m Follow the groove up and right to a small stance below a steep tapering corner. 3. 25m Move up into the corner and climb it with increasing difficulty to its top (crux, 1 rest). Continue up the continuation corner and step left at its top to reach a good platform. 4. 50m Climb the wall above the belay to reach a sharp horizontal ridge which leads to the plateau.

South Trident Buttress:

Kellet's Groove Climb – 80m V,6. A. Clarke, J. Main. 22nd December, 1992.

Above the left end of the snow slope under the middle tier is a deep chimney groove identified by a small pinnacle at its exit. Follows the thinly iced groove to a deep cave chimney with an awkward exit over a capping chockstone to easier ground. The summer line follows easy cracked slabs right here; the winter line follows a leftward slanting iced ramp.

Carn Dearg, North Wall:

The Shroud – 200m VI,6. A. Clarke, J. Main. 2nd February, 1993.

Climbs the impressive overhung icefall left of Harrison's Climb Direct.

1. 50m Climb an ice gully and slope above to belay at the right side of the icefall. 2. 25m Climb the centre of the icefall to belay on a narrow ice ledge right of the free hanging fang. 3. 25m Follow the free hanging fang to reach the upper ice wall. Semi-hanging belay on ice screws. The icicle was 1m short of connecting with the ledge. 4. 50m Continue up the ice wall to reach easier angled ice. Belay below an ice wall. 5. 50m Climb the ice step above to easy ice leading into the hanging snow coire.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain:

The Ribbed Walls area. Between Muddy Waters and the deep cleft of Temperance Union Blues is a small recess defined on the right by a sharp narrow arete and on the left by a broad buttress.

Barrel Buttress – 60m IV,4. S. Kennedy, S. Thirgood. 7th February, 1993.

Climbs the broad buttress on the left of the recess. Start just right of the foot of the buttress and climb the buttress direct, avoiding a steep rock wall near the top on the left. Climbed entirely on ice in unusual conditions.

Nid Arete – 90m IV, 5. S. Kennedy, S. Thirgood. 7th February, 1993.

A good well protected route following a groove line just to the left of the narrow arete mentioned above. Climb the grooveline throughout, finishing up the rightmost groove at the top (overlooking the final section of Temperance Union Blues).

AONACH BEAG, Stob Coire Bhealaich, East Face (SMCJ 1989, p291):

Helter Skelter – 240m IV,4. S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 21st February, 1993.

A serious route following a wandering line up the steep face between The Ramp and Sideslip. Frozen turf essential as is some route finding ability. Start a short distance left of The Ramp and take the first feasible looking line leading out rightwards on to the face. Climb up and rightwards aiming for a prominent rocky beak projecting from the middle of the face. Belay on top of the beak. Follow a vague grooveline above the beak to a shallow cave. Climb up to a rockband running across the face and follow a hidden ramp back up left. Climb back up rightwards below another rock band before pulling out left above by a narrow shelf. Continue up broken mixed ground to reach the ridge. A grassy shelf on the left of the ridge was followed to finish by the narrow exposed ridge above.

North Face:

Camilla – 230m V, 5. S. Richardson, R. Everett (AL). 31st January, 1993.

To the right of Royal Pardon are twin icicles which hang down the overhanging wall at mid height on the face. This serious ice route, which takes a direct line up to and past the icicles, was climbed under exceptionally icy conditions and could be harder in leaner winters. Start at the toe of the buttress about 25m right of Royal Pardon.

1. 45m Climb snow, then steep ice to reach the crest of the buttress.
2. 50m Continue up the snow slope above and climb ice to below the twin icicles. Belay on the right.
3. 50m Climb the right hand icicle and continue up easier angled ice to the crest of the buttress.
4. 50m Continue up ice on the left to reach a snowfield.
5. 40m Climb this to the top.

West Face:

Aonacrack – 150m IV, 5. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson (AL). 21st March, 1993.

A good mixed climb taking the prominent crack on the right side of Broken Axe Buttress. Start near the top of the snow bay to the right of Axeless.

1. 15m Pull awkwardly on to a ramp which leads left to the base of the crack.
2. 25m Climb the crack, passing a steep bulge after 15m, to reach a ledge below a huge perched upright block. Climb a crack on the left and belay on top of the block.
3. 40m Continue up the crack and exit by a steep bulging groove to reach a ledge.
4. 40m Climb easily along the broken ridge to reach the snow arete of Axeless.
5. 30m Follow the arete to where it merges with the summit slopes.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Stob Coire Altruim:

Traverse of the Dogs – 95m II/III. G.E. Little, D. Saddler. 21st March, 1992.

Start at a large spike belay just right of Huandoy Revisited on the east flank of the main buttress. Follow an obvious narrow exposed ledge curving out to the right, with one difficult step, to reach a ledge with blocks (45m). Climb an easy angled groove to blocks (30m). Ascend snow to the summit (20m). NOTE: Stob Coire Altruim. G.E. Little notes a mistake in the new Glen Coe guide. The excellent if short route Huandoy Revisited does not share ground with Dream Topping but is on the opposite side of the Central Couloir i.e. on the left side of the main buttress (page 44).

Creag a'Bhancair:

Vaguely Vegan – 20m E2 5b. R. Anderson, J. May. 31st May, 1992.

The cleaned streak left of Carnivore, the only route on the crag not to touch meat! Starting just left of Carnivore, climb to a hole, then reach jugs above (runners) and move right across a groove on to a ledge. Reach a jug up on the left and move up to a break (Friend 4 and good wire). Continue up, then rightwards on ledges to stretch directly over a bulge and go through the breach in the turf cornice to a ledge and nut belays.

Creag na Tulaich:

Colon Therapy – 40m E2 5c. M. Garthwaite, D. Greig. 5th September, 1992.

Starts up the shallow corner 5m right of Easy Going. Climb to the corner and move up and slightly left to gain a line of good handholds. Follow these a few feet right, then finish straight up climbing several short walls on the way to the top.

Fergie's Flush – 40m E3 6a. M. Garthwaite, D. Greig. 5th September, 1992.

Starts 3m right of the previous route at a jammed block on the terrace. Climb straight up the bubbly brown rock passing a small overlap on its right side to a rest. Move up and slightly right to better holds and gear before finishing straight up over several short walls.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Stob Coire nan Lochain:

Nessie – 120m IV. D. Jarvis, B. Ottewell. 27th January, 1993.

Takes a groove line up the centre of the side wall right of Innuendo and overlooking Broad Gully, starting at the same place as Innuendo.

1. 55m. Follow the broken groove line up right, with a step left leading to the base of a blank wall. Continue up rightwards to easy snow and a large block beneath the hanging chimney of Innuendo. 2. 45m. Move up just right of the hanging chimney and take a direct line through the steep ice wall above. Easy snow to the top. Alternative Finish. 2a. 50m. From the block, move up diagonally right for 10m to a corner (passing under a capped chimney). Climb the corner, moving up left to finish above the chimney. Diagram supplied.

West Face of Beinn Fhada:

V. Ross notes a direct start to Eugallt, pulling through the initial roofs, and thinks the route is of good quality though undergraded (very serious).

Church Door Buttress:

The Last Crusade – 60m E3. R. Anderson, J. May. 30th May, 1992.

The obvious V-groove and wall right of Temple of Doom. Start just below the huge block at the base of the crag, beneath a wide crack in a shallow corner.

1. 10m 5a. Climb the corner-crack, pull out left to ledges and move out left to the foot of an open corner. 2. 30m 5c. Move right, then up to the foot of the V-groove. Climb the groove to its top, swing out left, then move across to climb steeply up the left side of a small roof (Friend 4 useful though not essential) and pull on to a small ledge. 3. 20m 5c. Climb the cracks in the wall above.

Stob Coire nam Beith:

Pharaoh's Rib – 150m III.4. J. Main, A. Clarke. 19th December, 1992.

Follows the crest of the buttress immediately right of Deep Cut Chimney. 1. Start up a steep off-width crack (short and hard). Go up easier ground to belay below a wide groove. 2. Go up the groove and a small step to belay overlooking Deep Cut Chimney. 3. Follow the arete to easier ground. 4. Go up an easy gully to the crest of No.4 Buttress.

The Mummy – 60m IV, 5. A. Clarke, J. Main. 20th December, 1992.

The steep obelisk of rock splitting the right branch of North West Gully. Follows the summer line in two 30m pitches.

GARBH BHEINN OF ARDGOUR, South Wall of Great Ridge, Upper Tier:

Cutlass – 60m E4. R. Anderson. 6th May, 1992.

Climbs the leftmost crackline on the big smooth leaning wall immediately to the right of The Peeler. Good climbing, though a bit close to The Peeler at times. Start beneath the corner of Sgian Dubh.

1. 40m 6b. Climb the awkward short groove in the arete just left of Sgian Dubh to gain ledges. The crux above is protected by two wires (Rock 1 high in the vague crack and Rock 4 down to its left in a horizontal placement). Climb to beneath the roof, pull round left, then move up and right to follow the obvious left slanting crack to a junction with The Peeler. Either belay here or move up and right to grass ledge. 2. 20m. Easy ground to top.

Sabre – 60m E5. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 6th May, 1992.

Excellent climbing up the thin crack in the centre of the big smooth leaning wall; gained by a traverse from Sgian Dubh.

1. 40m 6b. Climb the corner of Sgian Dubh to the ledge. Place the high runners on

Cutlass and extend them, then hand traverse out right for 3m and attain a standing position below the crack. Climb the crack to beneath a small roof, step up left and pull up to easier ground. Move up and climb the cracks in the wall to the right of Cutlass to reach a grass ledge. 2. 20m. Easy ground to the top.

BEINN NA SEILG (Western Ardnamurchan), Hebrides Wall:

Identity Crisis – 45m VS 4b/c. C. Stead, B. Chrystal. 14th August, 1992.

Start at the very prominent thin crack between Trident Climb and Faradh Dubh. Climb the crack to a flake overlap and move left to a stance (35m). Climb easily to the top. It would be surprising if this had not been climbed before.

Happy Return – 35m MVS 4b. C. Stead, B. Chrystal. 14th August, 1992.

Start at the foot of Trident Climb where a thin fault line strikes up and left. Climb the fault over several bulges to a stance (30m). Climb easily to the top.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

BEINN AN DOTHaidh, North East Coire:

Coup de Grace – 120m V.7. A. Robertson, S. Richardson (AL). 28th February, 1993.

This good technical mixed route takes the bulging groove line to the left of the prominent right facing corner of Menage a Trois. Start directly below the groove. 1. 40m Climb a short wall and continue up turf and snow to a belay at the top of the first chimney of Far West Buttress. 2. 20m Climb the crack above, pull round the bulge, and move up a turf depression to belay below the second bulge. 3. 20m Make a difficult series of moves up the smooth vertical wall above, step right on to the arete and bridge up the impending corner. A fine pitch. 4. Traverse left for 10m to the foot of a right slanting turf ramp. Follow this to the top.

BEINN UDLAIDH:

Suspended Animation – 90m III/IV. J. McLaughlin, J. Stevenson. 27th December, 1992.

The line of icefalls between Sunshine Gully and Antiques Roadshow. Start from a large shelf right of Sunshine Gully. 1. Climb a vertical icefall direct to an ice screw belay at the foot of a steep iced slab. 2. Climb the slab to a sloping platform. Continue on up the icefall to gain easier ground. Traverse left to belay behind a rock toadstool overlooking Sunshine Gully. 3. Return to the original line and climb direct to the plateau.

SUB STATION CRAG:

C. Moody thinks White Meter is E4 5c.

LOCH SLOY CRAGS, Floating Buttress:

The Ascent of Yan – 15m E3/4 5c. I. Taylor, G. Stanworth. October, 1992.

Lies on the left side of the front face. Climb a slab to a quartz scoop, then move right to gain a flake (RP's). Move back left to gain another flake and finish through a break in the overhangs.

Note: Connoisseurs of the Journal have observed that Rock Sculpture at Glen Croe has been mentioned in the last three journals and tradition requires a continuation.

ARRAN

CIR MHOR, Lower North East Face:

Crystal – 140m VS 4c. G. Szuca. 27th May, 1992.

Start below a clean white slab at an obvious deep pocket (small cairn). Go straight up the slab to a grass ledge (30m). Go down the ledge for 15m to another slab (small cairn).

Go up this for 35m to a belay at a circular depression. Traverse 10m rightwards to an overlap, pull through this on pockets and continue up and rightwards through a couple of small laps to belay at a block (35m). Finish straight up via some thin cracks to a grassy recess. Good climbing, poor belays.

BEINN BHARRAIN, North West Ridge:

A. Fraser notes that the routes in the Arran guide are of very poor quality (Route 1 and Route 2) and only 50m long. The north east side of the ridge has three buttresses, the two existing routes being on the left hand one. The following route is on the steeper central buttress, has much grass, but is better than the existing routes.

Grimly Fiendish – 65m VS. A. Fraser, S. Figget. 7th October, 1992.

Start 5m right of the right toe of the central buttress.

1. 35m 4c. Climb 3 short walls directly to a steeper wall which is turned on the left with difficulty to a grass ledge. Follow the ledge left, then climb a crack to further ledges which are followed rightwards to belay on a large moss ledge beneath a detached block adjacent to the prominent upper corner of the crag. 2. 30m 4b. Move right into the corner and climb it for 4m to a ledge. Move left along the ledge, climb a layback crack, then continue up short walls to the top.

GLEN SANNOX, Coire na h-Uamha, Lower Slabs:

Slapstick Wall, variation start – VS 4c. G. Szuca. 27th May, 1992.

The steep little east facing slab mentioned in the guide is climbed close to its left edge.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

Dalmahoy Hill:

The Lemming – 18m HVS 4c. J.D. Inglis, D. Buchanan, J.C. Eilbeck. 20th May, 1992.

The rib and shallow groove 2m to the left of Cleaned Sweep. Sustained, steepening to a bulge at the top where a long step right joins the exit of Cleaned Sweep. Little protection.

Note: Transcription (SMCJ 1992) is the same as an older route Frustration.

Rosyth Quarry:

The Rust Bucket – 7m E2 6a. I. Taylor. June, 1992.

Right of Matinee Cracks is a tree. The route climbs the cleaned wall behind the tree without using the right hand wall.

Auchinstarry Quarry:

The Seven Year Plan – 10m E2 5c. I. Taylor, S. Munro. 29th May, 1992.

Left of Block Pillar is a hanging ramp. Gain the ramp (old peg), then climb it finishing directly over an overhang.

Note: Dream Machine has lost a good hold at the base of the crack, making it harder 6b.

Cowden Hill Quarry:

Earth Summit – 30m E4 6a. M. Garthwaite, A. Wren. 18th August, 1992.

The route follows the obvious flake up the black wall at the back of the quarry, passing two pegs. Move right below a small roof to the top of a small pinnacle. Finish direct up the wall above passing another peg.

GALLOWAY

A. Fraser and Kyle MC members have climbed about 80 routes in Galloway. As the new Lowland Outcrops guide is scheduled for this year, they have not been duplicated here.