

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

SCOTTISH WINTER CLIMBS

Keynote Grades compiled by Simon Richardson

	Snowed-up Rock	Mixed	Ice Gullies	Thin Face	Ice
	Techniques mainly include torquing and use of frozen turf. Great care must be taken not to damage the rock with peg placements, axe and crampon scratches etc.	Mainly turf, iced cracks or sections of thin ice. Normally less well protected than snowed-up rock routes.	Classic Scottish gullies - mainly ice.	Typical of many Ben Nevis routes - thin ice or neve over steep open slabs. Often very bold with limited protection	Icefalls or ice smears. Harder routes may involve thin brittle ice or free hanging sections.
IV,3	-	Tough Brown Traverse	Green Gully	Brimstone Groove	Fahrenheit 451
IV,4	Fingers Ridge	Observatory Ridge	Emerald Gully	Platform's Rib	The Screen
IV,5	Aladdin's Buttress Original	Route Major (Etchachan)	-	-	-
IV,6	The Message	-	-	-	-
V,4	-	1959 Face Route	Zero Gully	Indicator Wall	The Pumpkin
V,5	Mitre Ridge	Scorpion	Point Five Gully	Orion Direct	Poacher's Fall
V,6	Savage Slit	Sticil Face	-	-	-
V,7	Hooker's Corner	-	-	-	-
VI,5	-	Die Riesenwand	North Post Direct	Slav Route	Astral Highway
VI,6	Parallel Buttress	Tower Face of the Comb	Minus One Gully	Galactic Hitchhiker	Mega Route X
VI,7	Fallout Corner	Crypt	-	-	-
VI,8	Savage	-	-	-	-
VII,6	-	The White Elephant	The Fly Direct	Pointless	The Shroud
VII,7	Central Grooves	The Shield Direct	West Central Gully	The Ayatollah	Tubular Bells
VII,8	Citadel	Trail of Tears	-	-	-
VII,9	Ventricle	-	-	-	-

OUTER ISLES

HARRIS, SOUTH UIST: Leac Shleamhuinn (NF 775147) – see SMCJ 1993.

The routes described in SMCJ 1993 were all repeated by B. Davison. Slippery Slab was considered overgraded and the routes over length by about 8m.

A new crag about 300m around (east) the hillside from the existing routes offers a 30m slab of around the same steepness. There are three or four lines of about Diff. or V. Diff. 20m right of the slabs (which are clearly seen from the road) is a short steep wall about 40m long. It is approx. 10m high with a crack up the left nose/arete and an overlap near the right end. The top of the slabs slope back giving rounded and often difficult finishes.

Arete Crack – 10m VS 4b. B. Davison. 22nd May, 1994.

Climb the crack at the left end of the crag.

Flakey – 10m HVS 5a. B. Davison. 22nd May, 1994.

Climb the line of flakes right of the last route.

Flakey 2 – 10m E3 6a. B. Davison. 26th May, 1994.

The line of flakes right again which end before the top of the crag. A long reach for small holds at the top.

Crack Route – 10m E2 5c. B. Davison. 26th May, 1994.

Right of the last route is a crack with heather in it. The crack branches at the top. Follow the left branch.

Wall and Crack – 10m E3 6a. B. Davison. 26th May, 1994.

Climb the wall right of the crack and cross the right branch of the crack to finish up flakes at the top.

Wall and Crack 2 – 10m E2 5c. B. Davison. 22nd May, 1994.

Climbs the wall to finish up the extreme right hand crack line of the right branch. A long reach in the middle.

Variations connecting the previous three routes have been done.

Crack and Roof – 10m VS 4c. B. Davison. 22nd May, 1994.

Right of the cracks and at the left end of the overlap is a vertical crack running through the left end of the overlap.

Roof and Crack – 10m E1 5b. B. Davison. 26th May, 1994.

Right of the last route, in the middle of the overlap, is a vertical line of flakes/crack. Climb to the overlap and through it and follow the crack. Avoid stepping left at the top.

Ledge Route – 10m E2 5c. B. Davison. 22nd May, 1994.

Climb the wall to the right end of the overlap, then pass this and step left on to a ledge above the overlap. From here finish directly (rounded).

Ledge and Crack – 10m HVS 5a. B. Davison. 22nd May, 1994.

Follow Ledge Route to the ledge, then move right along a diagonal crack.

The central of the three largest hills of South Uist (NF 819329), 1723ft contains the following route.

Chimney Buttress – 50m H. Severe. B. Davison. 19th May, 1994.

The west face of the peak contains a chimney. The route climbs the pink buttress immediately left of the chimney. Climb up cracks for about 20m until the angle eases, then continue to the top, finishing up a steep off width crack if desired. About a 90-minute approach walk in dry conditions.

IONA: Several descriptions have been received. Since there are many recent routes – and they will appear in the Skye and Hebrides Guide due out this year – they have not been duplicated here.

RHUM, Trollaval, Harris Buttress:

Left of Central Rib, the crag's most obvious feature is a small grey buttress low down, seamed by right-slanting cracks and bounded on its right by a big corner which fades in its upper reaches.

Peer Gynt – 110m VS. A. Hume, A. Matthewson. 23rd July, 1994.

Start at the toe of the grey buttress.

1. 50m 4c. Climb a crack to a slot, step left, then go up to an easing at 15m. Continue on slabs, heading slightly rightwards to a blocky ledge.
2. 25m 4a. Take the inset corner on the right for 3m until a move left gains a bigger ledge with a huge block. Work up to a right-facing corner which leads left to a ledge below a Y-groove – well seen from below.
3. 25m 5a. Climb the groove, smear into the right hand branch, and continue more or less directly up the nose above.
4. 10m. Scramble to the terrace.

The Dwarfie – 35m HVS. A. Matthewson, A. Hume. 23rd July, 1994.

Above the terrace, directly above the finish of Peer Gynt, is a small two-tiered buttress of impeccable rock which offers this excellent small route.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the wall between a roof and a thin crack on the left, then a steep flaky crack on the right.
2. 15m 4b. Continue up the middle of the cracked slab behind the ledge.

EIGG: The following two routes lie on the upper tier in the centre of Ocean Wall on the south side of An Sgurr. They both start near the left end of Le Jardin where the wall, although low, is composed of immaculate pitchstone assuming a smooth convex character.

Sense of Porpoise – 30m E4 6b. K. Howett, G.E. Little. 21st August, 1994.

Start right of centre of the smooth convex wall (just right of a shallow pocket), below an arching overlap. Pull over the bulge with great difficulty, then move up to the right end of the arching overlap. Gain a good flat hold above, then make a very thin move to gain the base of a left trending ramp. Climb the ramp, then move up and right on good pockets and then to the top.

Frolicking with Freddie – 25m E3 6a. G.E. Little, K. Howett. 21st August, 1994. Start in from the left end of the smooth convex wall, below a short knobbly groove,

where the skirting roof starts to relent. Move up and pull strenuously over the bulge (Friend 0 over the lip) into a short groove. Climb this with a difficult exit, then go straight up the face above on generous holds.

SKYE

SGURR MHIC COINNICH, Coireachan Ruadha:

Exiguous Gully – 145m V. M. Fowler, A. Cave (alt). 4th March, 1995.

Fine climbing up the obvious gully immediately left of King Cobra. It must be exiguous because it says so in the Skye Guide. Start at the foot of the gully just left of King Cobra.

1. 40m. Take the left hand corner of the gully until about 10m below a marked steepening. Transfer on to the right hand corner and belay 5m below an obvious groove-line forming the right-hand corner of the steep section ahead.
2. 25m. Steep strenuous climbing in the groove/corner leads to a good belay at a slight easing of the angle.
3. 45m. Continue up the groove/corner line. More fine climbing eventually easing on to a broad, snowy ramp.
4. 35m. Follow the ramp up to the left and break out right to join the ridge at the first opportunity.

West Face:

This is the short, clean face at the back of Coire Lagan just below the ridge. The routes start from a narrow ledge. The face was approached from Jeffrey's Dyke. At the right side of the face are three right-slanting corners, the right one is the descent.

Routes described right to left, climbed by C. Moody, A. Petrie, 7th August, 1994.
Vanishing Beads – 50m VS 4b.*

Right of the descent is a rib. On the right side of the rib is a short, wide bulging crack. Climb the crack, then the slab to reach twin cracks; follow these to a large ledge and climb the cracked buttress above.

Raven's Rib – 30m E1 5b.*

Start at the left side of the rib. Move up right and climb the rib to the large ledge.

Mud Wrestler – 30m V. Diff.*

The corner left of the descent is climbed after climbing past the chokestone.

Huffy Messiah – 30m Severe.*

The next corner on the left. Avoid the large overhang by stepping left and climbing the corner crack.

Up the Down Stoneshoot – 30m Severe.*

Start below a jutting overhang and climb the corner crack leftwards past hollow flakes; trend left and climb flake cracks.

Starless Bay – 40m VS 4c.

Climb the bay by a series of corners. To get from the base of this route to the next is V. Diff.

Flap Cracker – 60m HVS 5a.**

Start up a dyke, then climb the obvious corner crack leftwards; step left and finish up a corner. It should be possible to extend the route by adding a pitch below the start.

SGURR SGUMAIN:

Raynaud's – 110m HVS. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 2nd July, 1994.

Start close to Frostbite.

1. 45m 4c. Climb up to the left-hand corner and follow it moving left at the top to belay on the slanting fault.
2. 40m 5a. The bay above on the right is taken by Direct Route. Gain and climb the corner left of it (directly above the belay) which is guarded by a bulge. After mounting a shelf at the top of the corner, move out left and continue to a belay.
3. 25m. Climb easily up right. Traverse off rightwards.

SRON NA CICHE:

Helen – E3 6a. S. Hill, C. Moody. 31st July, 1994.

Climbs the arete between Trojan Groove and Spartan Groove. Climb the initial bulge of Spartan Groove, then move up left to a slanting crack which starts from a horizontal crack. Climb the slanting crack, then the wall just right of the arete to finish up the arete.

BLAVEN, Lower East Face:

Serious Picnic – 240m III. A. Cave, M. Fowler, C. Jones, D. Rcerz. 5th March, 1995.

The route takes the prominent left-to-right rising ramp-line low down on the north wall of the east ridge of Blaven. It almost certainly takes the other two arms of the Crucifix formation (SMCJ 1994). The route is obvious from the point where the approach track leaves the Elgol road and is above a lower ramp.

Approach: Ascend the snow slope leading up to the Prow area to the point where an easy gully leads up left to a notch on the east ridge and an obvious pitch gives access to the lower end of the ramp line. Easy soloing leads to the foot of the pitch. Climb up left and then back right on tufts to gain the ramp line (40m). Climb up the ramp line for several pitches over a col and on up past a short difficult step to the top (200m).

Al Gully – 300m II. D. Bunker, K. Law, M.E. Moran, A. Nolan. 9th March, 1995.

From the tourist path at 400m altitude, as it climbs steeply leftwards towards the upper coire, a deep gully line runs up rightwards into the broad cliffs at the base of the East Face. This cleft cuts through the cliffs and from a col drops down into the Crucifix gullies on the true east face. The cleft was well filled with snow and allowed a simple passage through its deep narrows and up to the col. Above the col on the left, a short fierce wall bars access to easier mixed ground and the top of the buttress. This was climbed with a nut for aid. It seems almost certain that this is the same col as Serious Picnic, but approached from the other side. It therefore can be climbed free at a higher standard.

CLACH GLAS, South East Face:

The Big Ramp – 400m II. M.E. Moran, J. Singh. 26th January, 1995.

Follows the big snaking ramp on the right hand side of the face. Needs a good plating of snow. Finishes 30m right of B Gully. From the top a steep, but simple, snow line was followed left across the top of B Gully and up ramps to finish at the summit cairn of Clach Glas. This avoids The Imposter, but needs a good banking of snow.

NEIST:

Warmer, Cleaner, Better – E3 6a. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 24th May, 1994.

Left of Patricia is a crack starting at a niche. Climb the crack.

Between Bays 2 and3:

Agfa – 30m HVS 5b. C. Moody, A. Petrie. 6th August, 1994.

Start left of Trilobite Groove below the left-facing corner crack. Climb the corner crack, then step left and climb the right-slanting crack to the top.

Bay 3:

Tourist Attraction – 25m HVS 5a. C. Moody, A. Petrie. 6th August, 1994.

Start just right of Solar Furnace. Climb the crack on the left side of the clean pillar which trends right to finish at the top of the pillar.

Cameras Clicking – 25m Severe. C. Moody, A. Petrie. 6th August, 1994.

The shallow chimney on the right side of the clean pillar.

KILT ROCK, Elishader Wall:

Easter Island – 30m HVS 5a. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 30th July, 1994.

Climb the corner crack left of Bandasky to the top of the statue, then climb the corner crack above.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

LURG MHOR:

The Far Side – 60m M. Severe. R. Blackburn, A. Keith. 13th June, 1993.

The route lies on a clean area of slabs some 200m east of, and slightly lower than, the start of Munroist's Reward. Starting at the lowest point of the slabs, climb directly up aiming for a notch to the left of the steep upper wall at the top. Belay below this wall (45m). Climb the wall by any of a choice of unappetising lines to the top (15m).

Note: Munroist's Reward was repeated, a route of high quality, grade about right.

GLEN SHIEL, Druim Shionnach, West Face:

Bow Peep – 100m V, 6. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 11th January, 1995.

On the face right of the obvious central gully (Cave Gully) is a left slanting, slightly bow-shaped fault finishing up a wide chimney. The fault was climbed throughout, the first pitch being the hardest.

Cross-Bow – 110m IV, 5. S. Dring, K. Grindrod, J. Lyall, Z. Webster. 8th February, 1995.

A left-to-right slanting line crossing Bow Peep. Start at the foot of Cave Gully.

1. 50m. Climb straight up on vegetated ledges until an easy traverse right crosses Bow Peep to belay.

2. 30m. Continue right and up a chimney to a ledge below a steep corner.

3. 30m. Avoid the corner to the right and regain the fault which is followed to the top.

Boxer's Buttress – 90m III. A. Nisbet. 25th March, 1995.

The central buttress on the crag, between Cave and Capped Gullies. Climb it direct by a central turfey line. Steep but helpful. Perhaps IV, 4, since an ascent of Cave Gully by M. Welch thought it IV, 4.

Silver Slab – 100m V, 5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 24th January, 1995.

The relation to the summer route is unknown but it is the buttress left of Capped Gully. A serious first pitch, then a steep but well protected second. Start up the right hand of two short chimneys at the base of the buttress. Trend slightly right to belay on flakes below a big right-facing corner (40m). Climb the corner (20m), and continue more easily to the top.

Deceptive Chimney – 70m III. S. McKenna, A. Nisbet, I. Stewart. 26th March, 1995.

A left slanting line of weakness close on the left of Silver Slab buttress. It contains a section of narrow chimney hidden on the approach from below.

Creag Coire an t-Slugain (SMCJ, 1994):

Left Ridge – 130m II. J. Hart, A. Nisbet. 16th February, 1995.

The blunt ridge bounding the left edge of the crag. Start at the lowest rocks, which are about 15m right of the base of the crest. Climb up right to a barrier wall (which could be climbed direct in better conditions, but hard?). Traverse left to the crest (25m). Climb the crest into a shallow gully on the left. Go up this to regain the crest, followed to the top.

Tipperary – 140m III. J. Ashby, M. Dennis, R. Jarvis, A. Nisbet. 1st February, 1995.

Start about 30m right of the left bounding ridge of the buttress (Left Ridge) where a ramp leads up left towards the ridge. Climb the ramp to a depression ahead of slabby ground before the ridge (35m). Go up the depression until forced by steep ground to traverse right (crux) and slightly up to a flake on a small ridge (35m). Climb the fault on the right (40m) and continue up to finish by the crest of the ridge.

The Triangle – 120m IV, 4. P. Clayton, A. Nisbet, A. Partington. 8th February, 1995.

Climbs through a big triangular niche/snow patch at half-height and right of centre on the cliff. Take a left slanting line into the triangle, out its top (crux) and straight up to the cornice.

Speckles – 120m II. A. Nisbet. 25th March, 1995.

A right-slanting line of weakness left of Pioneer Gully, which shows up as speckled

snow patches. Start just left of The Triangle, cross it rightwards and continue up the line to the top.

Flakey Ridge – 110m III. A. Nisbet. 25th March, 1995.

The unusual arete of stacked flakes between Pioneer Gully and the Grade I at the right end of the crag (which was descended). Start up a groove in its base, then follow the crest as directly as possible. Take many slings (and not much else).

AONACH AIR CHRITH, North West Face:

Mother Knows Best – 150m II. I. Foskett, G. Moore, M.E. Moran, I. Reid. 8th February, 1995.

Climbs the narrower gully just left of My Mother Says No. Identifiable by a large finishing capstone. The gully gave a short awkward chokestone on its third pitch. The final chimney and fierce capstone were avoided by climbing the sheaf-like ribs on its right-hand side.

THE SADDLE, Forcan Ridge:

My Learned Friend – 100m III. J. Gillman, A. McGuffie, A. Nisbet, K. Wigley. 22nd February, 1995.

Climbs the shallow continuous groove in the centre of the first and lowest buttress on the south east side of the Forcan Ridge (left of a shorter wider roofed groove). A good build up of ice meant low in the grade.

The winter ascent of Easter Buttress recorded in SMCJ 1994 was probably an ascent of a buttress noted as Diff. in the Northern Highlands Guide. Cioch Buttress seems a suitable name. Easter Buttress is probably a cleaner, sharp ridge up and left. Close on the left of this sharp ridge is a more broken buttress with two toes forming a bay and providing the following route.

Biped Buttress – 120m II. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 30th December, 1994.

Climb to the top of the bay and up the groove above. Below a steepening, move out on to the left leg. Up this and the main crest to the Forcan Ridge.

BEINN FHADA:

P. Grant and D. Morrison note that they climbed Instructor's Gully (SMCJ 1994, p. 451) in 1991.

FUAR THOLL, South East Cliff:

Fuar Folly Direct – 190m VI, 8. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 12th January, 1995.

This was the original intention of Fuar Folly, climbing direct up 'the great rock bastion' right of Fuhrer. It criss-crosses the summer route Fuar Feast to take the natural winter line. Start up Fuar Folly (which is harder than IV) for two pitches but belay on the crest just before the ledge curves round into Fuhrer (70m). Climb a left-slanting ramp (groove) to a short overhanging corner. Climb this and pull left on to a smooth rock terrace with a big block at its right end (20m). Fuar Feast crosses here and goes up a short overhanging groove on the left. Instead, pull up right on spikes to the base of a shallow right-facing corner with a perfect crack. Climb this (excellent protection) to a precarious finish on to the ledge above (10m). A long pitch straight up leads to the right-slanting break of Fuhrer (45m). Finish by this (45m).

Via Wellington – 100m HVS. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 18th July, 1994.

Climbs the slabby wall right of Pipped at the Post. Start just above the step in the Cold Hole introductory gully.

1. 45m 5a. Climb the wall just right of Pipped at the Post (avoiding wet streaks) to the big spike belay.
2. 35m 5a. Move 3m right and climb a thin crack to a ledge, then another wall to a ledge.
3. 20m. Finish straight up, keeping to rock.

East Cliffs:

Solicitor's Rib – 200m III. J. Gillman, A. McGuffie, M.E. Moran, K. Wigley. 19th February, 1995.

Climbs the buttress between the central and right hand of the three parallel gullies in the right-hand section of the face just before it turns to the north and bends back into Mainrechan coire. One interesting mixed pitch up the broad, lower tier, then pleasant scrambling up the rib above.

SGORR RUADH:

Academy Ridge, True Finish – 25m IV, 5. A. Keith, D. Bearhop. 2nd January, 1994.

The present winter description of Academy Ridge is brief, but implies that the summer line is followed throughout. At II/III, however, this seems this cannot incorporate the summer crux, 'the steep upper section'. At the grade described, the original winter line seems likely to have involved a short descent into the upper section of Post Box Gully, regaining the ridge above the steep section. Climbed direct, this upper section gave a sustained pitch. Gain grooves just to the right of the arete by a 3m traverse, then follow the grooves to a loose spike. Gain the arete by awkward steps, and follow the arete more easily to the top. Repeated by C. Dale and party in March, 1995; 'an excellent pitch'.

Raeburn's Buttress, North Wall:

Tophet Gully – 200m IV, 5. S. Duncan, A. Nisbet. 20th March, 1995.

The obvious left-slanting fault towards the right side of the face and mentioned in the description of Fox's Face. Access to the fault appears to be blocked by a big overhang but a thinly-iced slab tucked in on the right was used. A second barrier wall was climbed on ice at its left side leading to an easier upper gully. The upper crest of Raeburn's Buttress led to the top (not included in length).

The Key – 170m II. A. Nisbet. 18th March, 1995.

Start about 50m up the right-bounding gully (the name North Gully is suggested for this obvious Grade I), where an easy ramp leads out left. Follow the ramp to the first crest after which it continues as a traverse line. Traverse initially, then make a difficult move on to a higher ramp leading to the main crest. Follow this easily to the top.

Highland Scottische – 150m IV, 4. A. Nisbet. 18th March, 1995.

Start about 15m above the previous route and 5m below Tango in the Night. Climb the vague scoop in the buttress diverging slightly from Tango in the Night, to finish up the easy crest, joining The Key. Steep, but helpful.

Upper Buttress:

Riotous Ridge – 140m II. D. Bradshaw, J. Colverd, A. Nisbet. 1st March, 1995.
The right-bounding ridge of the Upper Buttress, started by a depression on the left.

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Feola:

Note: On an ascent of Suspense Buttress, A. Keith and M. Shaw note that after the initial traverse above the steep lower wall, a further traverse of about 40m was required to climb the upper section at Grade III. Grade III, not II/III, has been confirmed by others.

Coire nan Fhamhair:

The Magician's Boy – 150m IV, 5. R.G. Webb, N. Wilson. 4th March, 1995.
Immediately right of Der Rise and Shine, between it and another icefall just right of the crest of the buttress, is a steep turfey groove.

1. 30m. Climb the groove to a stance below a steepening.
2. 30m. Continue to reach a steep terrace and thread belay top right.
3. 30m. Climb a corner crack 2m left of the belay to a terrace.
4. 60m. More easily to the top.

Note: M. Welch and R. Clark note an ascent of the icefall just right of the above route. 50m, IV, 5. Two pitches of steep ice followed by an abseil off. Apparently this was climbed by B. Jardine and partner in 1986.

Coire Toll a' Bhein:

Right of the Main Buttress (with pinnacle) is a broad gully, Grade I and used for descent to the following route. This gully has a left branch, steep but looks Grade I, and between these branches is a buttress which provides the following climb.
Solitary Confinement – 130m III, 4. A. Nisbet. 10th February, 1995.

Start just inside the left branch and gain a shelf leading out right to the crest. Climb the crest or just right of it until blocked by a steep wall. Move right and up steep blocks (crux) to the crest again. On the right is a short, icy corner leading to the upper snow slopes.

Missing Persons – 250m II. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 10th February, 1995.

The big buttress right of the Main Buttress. Start left of the crest up a short gully, then slant up right to a horizontal section of crest overlooking Toll a' Bhein Gully. Continue generally up the line of the crest to an easy finishing section.

Toll a' Bhein Gully – 250m I. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet (in descent). 10th February, 1995.

The big deep gully right of Missing Persons. Has a rounded exit not prone to corning. The four big Grade I gullies in the coire have now been climbed or descended in recent years, and perhaps previously.

Criminal Trespass – 200m II. P. Clayton, A. Nisbet, A. Partington. 8th February, 1995.

The rightmost buttress in the coire (next right of Missing Persons, although there is a more broken one farther right) has a deep hidden gully cutting into its right side. One chokestone pitch (and cave belay below) and a smaller pitch higher up. The

start was reached by descending a Grade I gully from the col at GR 795 472 and traversing a terrace right (south).

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, A' Chioch:

North Gully – 160m III. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 23rd January, 1995.

North Gully is complex but only one line avoids big overhangs. Start by the right hand of three gullies (ice), as for Voyager. Climb this, curving left to merge with the central gully. Follow this to the Cioch col.

A' Chioch Ridge, South Face:

Yodel – 200m IV, S. M. Welch, R. Shillaker. 3rd January, 1995.

Most of this face is broken, with easy gullies leading down from cols on the ridge, most of which have been descended. At the top end, next to the descent slope from near the radio mast, is a well-defined steep straight gully. Pitches 3 and 4 involve steep ice.

Summit Buttress: P. Potter notes that his route Synergy starts approx. 20m right of Big Daddy between the two gullies (icefalls) and not where described in the guide.

The following description is agreed by several correspondents to be the same as Excitable Boy, although with a different finish:

Triple Echo – 70m V, S. M. Fowler, S. Sustad. 24th February, 1994.

Takes the central of three icefalls. Sometimes it seems that only two icefalls form. Triple Echo takes the main drainage line in the centre of the face and the shallow gully which continues down the slope below is the most prominent one hereabouts.

1. 40m Climb up to a very large ice umbrella at 25m. Pass this on the right and continue to take a stance on the right.

2. 35m Take the ice streak on the right wall (steep at first) to the cornice. The ice streak could be avoided by snow on the left.

Far North Buttresses:

North of the North Buttresses are two large, more broken buttresses separated by a descent depression marked on the map as a break in the cliffs at GR 788 430 (just south east of a small lochan).

The Gully in 3D – 400m II. A. Nisbet, D. Parr, D. Walsh, D. Williams. 26th February, 1995.

The left buttress has a well-defined gully and shallower left branch on its right side (next to the descent, directions looking up). Climb the gully, with one awkward pitch, past the fork to a big chokestone (which might ice in good conditions, steep)

170m. Traverse left on to the far side of the buttress between the branches, regain the crest and follow many short grooves and terraces to the top.

MEALL GORM:

Global Warming – 300m III. D. Bunker, K. Law, A. Nisbet, A. Nolan. 7th March, 1995.

Climbs the right hand of three big gullies at the bottom end of the cliff, just left of the buttress with the Spiral Terrace. The right branch was taken, the left being easy. The three chokestone section was avoided by a groove on the right.

The Vegetable Sheep – 270m III. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 25th February, 1995.
The obvious gully right of the Trident Gullies and before the 'broad buttress', strangely not mentioned in the Northern Highlands Guide. A chimney pitch at half-height and subsequent boulder choke were passed on the buttress on the left. Climbed semi-frozen; IV, 4 on the day.

Gormless Grooves – 130m III. P. Bass, A. Lockley, M. Welch. January, 1995.
The buttress to the left of Gorm Gully. Keep slightly left of centre up a series of stepped tiers following the natural grooves. The first tier is the crux. A. Fyffe notes that he and party climbed Gorm Gully in 1970. (This should be noted as first ascent –Ed).

BEINN DAMH:

All the correspondents below have found the Northern Highlands Guide difficult to interpret; the grid references in the guide do not refer to the cliffs. M. Moran has used the 1:25000 map, which names Beinn Damh's second summit Spidean Toll nam Biast and the cliff below it Creagan Dubh Toll nam Biast; in which case Creag na h-Iolaire is the wrong name. P. Biggar considers the top to be named Creag na h-Iolaire, and therefore also the cliff below the top. The routes in the guide, however, are on a steeper section of cliff farther left, just before (north west of) a huge snow bowl below the col between the two highest summits. If the snow bowl is Toll nam Biast, then only this section of cliff would be referred to as Creagan Dubh Toll nam Biast. The two sections of cliff are separated by Boundary Gully (see below).

The Professor's Lum (GR 883 521) – 135m II. P.J. Biggar, R.A. Biggar. 3rd January, 1991.

To the left (east) of the path leading to the first col on Beinn Damh there is a small compact buttress split by an obvious gully (near the name Creag na h-Iolaire on the maps). The gully is steep and interesting in places and contains a passage under a jammed boulder. Seldom in condition.

Stalker's Gully (GR 888 513) – 400m III. D. Bradshaw, J. Colverd, M.E. Moran. 28th February, 1995.

The big gully bounding the buttress of Traveller's Trail on the right. Two lower steps and a big cave at mid height were avoided by mixed climbing on the left wall. Above, a short awkward chockstone led to the narrow upper gully and finishing snowfield. In exceptional conditions all the steps might form ice and a direct ascent would be a fine climb.

Traveller's Trail – 200m III, 4 (GR 888 512). J. Ashby, R. Jarvis, M. Moran. January, 1995.

Climbs the broad buttress to the right of Stag Gully. Start at its right-hand side at the foot of Stalker's Gully and climb a left-slanting line of weakness through the steep tiers of the lower buttress, gaining the easier upper crest in five pitches. This is followed for 200m finishing by a variable line through bands of crags to emerge just a few metres north of the summit of Spidean Toll nam Biast (MM name).

Stag Gully (Left Fork) – 75m II. P.J. Biggar, R.A. Biggar. 13th February, 1994.

Stag Gully is the next main gully left. Below the main pitch of Stag Gully, make a leftward rising traverse on snow to beneath a chockstone; climb this and easy snow above.

Boundary Gully (GR 889 508) – 275m II. P. Moffat, P.J. Biggar. 3rd February, 1991.

Between the face containing Stag Gully and the steeper rockier buttress containing Aquila Gully, there is a long gully ending at a minor col to the left of the summit of Creag na Iolaire (PM name). The large ice pitch at its foot would make the standard Grade III but is seldom in condition. Avoid by turf on the right. Above there are icy steps and one good short ice pitch.

Note: Above the buttress containing The Professor's Lum, cradled between the north west ridge of Creag na Iolaire and the west ridge which runs down to the obvious col, there is a small coire containing a row of buttresses split by easy gullies and chimneys. Five of these (120m, Grade I/II) have been climbed by P. Biggar and R. Biggar between 1987 and 1994. GR 881 516.

LIATHACH, Coire na Caime:

Forking Gully – 160m IV, 4. A. Fyffe, J. Hepburn. 25th March, 1995.

This is the left slanting gully which starts from the snow bay of Jerbil.

1. 45m. Climb the left-slanting gully to the first terrace.
2. 30m. Move left and climb the deep fault on the left side of the main depression.
3. 45m. Above the gully forks. Climb the left fork on steep ice to reach easy ground and the next terrace. Move right to above the main fault. (With a good build-up it should be possible to climb the right fork which starts with a short step. This would probably make the climb Grade III.)
4. 40m. Climb the very open, turfey corner to a left slanting fault leading to the ridge.

Red Herring – 140m IV, 4. E. Herring, A. Nisbet, R. Perriss. 19th January, 1995.

The buttress right of Gully 5. Start just right of the toe of the buttress (which is next to Gully 5). Climb a steep, turfey groove until a narrow ledge leads left to the crest (30m). Climb a groove on the left leading to a pinnacle, its top gained by a narrow chimney. Belay just above (20m). Continue near the crest past a level section (45m). A shallow chimney on the right and the crest leads to the top (45m).

Bannock Gully – 150m II. I. Dillon, A. Nisbet. 15th March, 1995.

The well-defined but easy gully right of Bannockburn. One ice pitch.

Eagle Gully – 220m III, 4. K. Grindrod, J. Lyall. 9th February, 1995.

Start 30m left of Titanium Gully at an icy depression. Climb this (50m, crux), then go straight up and climb the left-slanting gully to the top.

The Faultfinders – 250m IV, 5. S. Blagbrough, J. Lyall. 13th April, 1994.

Follows a faultline between Fat Man's Folly and Valentine Buttress. Start below the chimney of Valentine Buttress. Slant up left on mixed ground and climb a bulging ice wall to gain the fault. Follow this to the top.

Bell's Buttress:

The Doctor's Ear – 230m IV, 6. K. Duncan, A. Nisbet, I. Stewart. 29th March, 1995.

Climbs the crest at the left edge of Bell's Buttress. Start about 10m left of Bell's Buttress Left Chimney below a narrow chimney. Climb the chimney to the terrace above the steep lower tier and move slightly right to a small bay round the corner from Left Chimney's block belay (30m). Climb a vague groove above to steep ground, then traverse right and go up another groove (40m). Turfy ground leads to a steep wall (25m). Climb a chimney formed by a distinct ear of rock (10m, crux). Finish easily up the crest to the top.

Cube's Chimney – 280m IV, 5. S. Blagbrough, J. Lyall. 13th April, 1994.

The central chimney on Bell's Buttress, which fails to reach the base of the cliff, despite the attempts of an icicle to bridge the 10m gap. Start up the right hand start to Vanadium Couloir and where it joins the left start, take a traverse line right on diminishing ledges. Cross above the start to Left Chimney (or start up this) and continue right to gain the central chimney just above the icicle. Starting steeply, then easing, the ice-choked chimney gives superb climbing to the buttress top.

Bell's Buttress – 150m IV, 4. I. Dillon, A. Nisbet. 15th March, 1995.

Climbs the buttress between Cube's Chimney and Last Orders – the buttress left of the following route. This seems the most likely buttress to have been climbed by the Bells. The very steep first tier was passed by starting easily up Last Orders and moving left. The crest was followed for two pitches before the route merged with Campanology for a final chimney pitch on the right of an isolated tower. As with Campanology, the length excludes easy ground at the start and finish.

Campanology – 150m IV, 6. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 10th January, 1995.

Climbs the buttress between Last Orders and Bell's Gully. Start above the first steep tier, passed by the easy start to Bell's Gully. Climb a fault just right of the crest, moving on to the crest higher up

The Final Gong – 200m III. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 10th January, 1995.

A good easier route up the terminal buttress right of Bell's Gully. Start up an easy chimney in the lower tier, then trend slightly right to avoid slabby ground on the left. Return left to the crest between two steep tiers, climb the second, then a right-facing corner and continuing line to easy ground.

Pyramid Buttress:

Busman's Holiday – 130m V, 5. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 24th February, 1995.

The icefall in the depression between Pyramid Right Icefall and Pyramid Right Edge. Steep thick ice left of the depression corner (45m), the continuation in the corner on thinner ice (35m), then a thinly-iced corner and right traverse into the finishing gully of Pyramid Right Edge, entering it lower than the latter (50m).

Spidean's Sting – 90m III, 4. M. Welch, D. Green, I. Grimshaw. 21st March, 1995.

Above the hanging coire south east of the summit of Spidean and east of the descent gully (opposite side from Way Up) is this crag with a prominent chimney in its centre. The chimney was climbed to a capstone. The traverse out right below it to a shelf and subsequent short steep wall was the crux.

BEINN DEARG, Carn na Feola:

North Ridge – 500m II. D. Broadhead. 6th April, 1994.

Hard to believe that this fine ridge has never been climbed in winter, but there seems to be no record of any ascent. Approaching from Coire Dubh Mor, skirt below the evil-dripping crag at the foot of the ridge, traversing back up a series of short icy steps to gain the crest.

Note: A. and G. Nisbet climbed the ridge in June, 1994. A scramble with some short tricky walls, the drier the better.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair:**Eastern Ramparts:**

Happy Ever After – 100m E1. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 17th July, 1994.

Climbs a prominent groove in the rib right of Fairytale Groove. Start right of Gnome Wall and below the groove.

1. 40m 5a. A crack in a pillar was chosen as a start, but there are other options.
2. 25m 5b. Traverse right along the Upper Girdle underneath the undercut rib. Climb a groove just before the Gnome Wall recess and traverse left on to the rib as soon as possible. Climb the rib into the base of the groove.
3. 35m 5b. Climb the groove using a wide crack on the left wall, then moving on to the right arete before finishing up blocky ground.

Central Buttress:

The Generation Game – E1+ 5c. A. Cave, J. Brown. 15th September, 1994.

A direct version of Central Buttress, picking good pitches. Climbed when damp; grade a little unsure. Start to the left of the grassy start to Piggot's Route. Go left to a vague/shallow groove, then trend right to a small ledge (4c). Go up an obvious pod, then straight up a vertical wall to belay just left of Piggot's lower ramp line (5c, thin). Cross Piggot's and climb easily up and right to the terrace. On the quartzite, start below a corner halfway between Piggot's and Hamilton's (which has some dangerous blocks). Climb the wall to the right of the corner and over a couple of overlaps (50m, 5b/c). Now a direct line to the final tower. This was climbed by a chimney and flake line starting as for Hamilton's but cutting back left on to the tower itself on gigantic flakes to the top (4c).

BEINN ALLIGIN, Sgurr Mhor:

Black Opal – 200m IV, 4. A. Gorman, S. Chadwick. 25th January, 1995.

On the right-hand side of this large north face is a buttress with a steep line of weakness clefting its centre.

- 1, 2. 80m. Approach by steepening snow slopes till beneath the main pitch.
3. 50m. Two icy steps lead to the ice runnel. Climb this and the continuing corner-groove to gain the wall below an overlap. Pull over into the upper groove, rock belay 5m up and left.
4. 30m. Steep snow to the exit gully.
5. 40m. Climb the gully and move right over final snows to reach the NW ridge.

Ruadh-Stac Mor, Creag Mhor:

Sidestep – 110m IV, 6. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 26th January, 1995.

By the summer route. Although a tower, it appears from below as a parallel ridge to Spog aig Giomach.

DIABAIG:

Grandad's Wall – 18m VS 5a. M. Moran, J. Copping, T. Rankin, B. Riley. 10th May, 1994.

Climbs the black, compact crag directly above the village, in the birch wood 120m above the Marine Harvest warehouse. Take a start just left of centre, up left past a black streak, then step right on to a cleaner shield of steeper rock, and go direct to the top.

Copping's Crack – 28m V. Diff. M. Moran, J. Copping, T. Rankin, B. Riley. 10th May, 1994.

On the left side of the crags overlooking the stream gorge up above Grandad's Wall. Takes a pleasant crack in a clean grey crag, with a steepish start.

Dental Trauma – 30m HVS 5a. M. Moran, J. Copping, T. Rankin. 10th May, 1994.

Takes the main central break in the crag above The Mynch at the left hand side of the main crags. Climb steeply through a bulge to the base of a heather-filled groove, then break out right and climb a clean wall to the top.

The Little Big Wall:

(Once upon a Time in) The Wild West – 25m E5 6a. S. Crowe (unsec). 1994.

Takes the left arete of the unclimbed right-slanting fault. Two No. 2 Friends useful. Start in the recess. A couple of layback moves lead to a comfortable ledge on the left. Move up rightwards to gain a bulge in the arete proper. From an undercut gain layaways over the bulge. Continue with decreasing difficulty up the groove in the arete to a comfortable position. It is possible to escape up left to the ledge with start of Diabaig Pillar etc. Move up slightly left, then step rightwards to gain the continuation groove. Up this to the top.

The Main Cliff:

Big Glossy Book Route – 50m Severe. C. Moody. 27th May, 1994.

The gully right of the main section of wall. Walk to the back of the gully, back and foot up and out to the edge of the chimney, then traverse back in. Step off a large chokestone and climb the gully wall; traverse in again and follow the easy gully.

C. Moody notes that Dire Straights was climbed by J. Brown and A.C. Cain in 1986. A. Nisbet notes that while writing the Diabaig section for the Northern Highlands Guide, he soloed around the slabs above the described climbs in search of easier routes but decided the lines were not distinct enough to be worthy of description. The following route is open to opinion, but persuasion will be required to accept any more.

The Gooseberry – 60m Severe. A. Tibbs, H. Tibbs, A. Matthewson. 28th May, 1994.

The route starts at a small bealach at the top of the gully which bounds the right wall of the Main Crag. Climb slabs directly to a large ledge (30m). Climb just left of a left-slanting diagonal crack on good holds, then up slabs to the top (30m). The diagonal crack can also be climbed at 5a.

SEANA MHEALLAN:

Sandwich – 30m E3 5c. I. Taylor, C. Moody. May, 1994.

Climb the arete left of Crack of Ages, pulling left out of the niche to finish up the final crack of Sandpiper.

The following routes were climbed by C. Moody and R. Watson on 3rd July, 1994. Walk west from the Main Crag, keeping at the same level, past several small crags till the sill changes direction after a large rowan. Right of the rowan is an easy shelf which slants up left and gives a useful descent.

Nasal Abuse – 20m E2 5b.* Start right of the descent, move up right to a ledge on the left side of the arete. Climb up from the left side of the ledge and finish up an easy corner.

Mechanical Sheep – 20m E1 5b.** Right of the arete is a clean-cut corner with an overhang at one-third height and another near the top.

Skate – 20m VS 4b.* Right of the corner is a short rib. Climb the rib then a crack past the left side of an overhang. Finish up a corner.

Polythene Bag – 20m V. Diff. Farther right is another overhang with a grassy corner just right. Climb past the left side of the overhang.

Clingfilm – 20m V. Diff.* Farther right is another grassy corner. The pillar right of it has a crack which is climbed.

Right of Clingfilm is a wide, grassy bay just beyond which is a clean, slabby buttress.

Moaning Minnie – 20m H. Severe 4b. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 16th July, 1994. Start left of the edge of the buttress and climb past an old peg (!) to a steepening. Traverse delicately right to the edge which is followed via a short groove on the left to the top.

A few feet right of Moaning Minnie is the most continuous and clean section of rock known as the Pink Walls.

Fleeced – 20m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 16th July, 1994.

Climb a prominent rib close to the left end of the wall to a crack in a steepening. Climb the crack and continue up the rightwards-slanting corner above.

Immediately right of Fleeced is a steep wall with a rightwards-slanting groove line and an obvious corner just right again. Beyond the corner is an obvious leftward-slanting corner.

Unmasked – 20m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 16th July, 1994.

Climb the slabby corner, starting up a wall on the right.

Flaky – 20m Severe. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 16th July, 1994.

Climbs the slabby wall a few feet right of Unmasked. Start just left of a dirty corner and climb flakes to finish up a crack on the left.

To the right of Flakey is a fine, steep wall and, right again, a very obvious overhung corner. On the wall just right of the corner is a steep crackline.

The Brotherhood – 20m E1 5b. S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie, S. Thirgood. September, 1994.

Climb the crackline to a small roof. Pull over the roof and finish up a small corner.

Right of *The Brotherhood* are more steep cracklines until a narrow, clean buttress is reached.

Big Cigar – 18m V. Diff. S. Thirgood, S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. September, 1994. Climbs the narrow buttress, starting about 20m right of *The Brotherhood*. About 20m right of *Big Cigar* is a wall with a large prominent roof in the lower section.

Mr Bean – 15m VS 5a. D. Ritchie, S. Thirgood, S. Kennedy. September, 1994. Climb directly up a crack to the left end of the biggest roof in the centre of the buttress. Pull steeply out left and finish up slabs.

About 90m right of *Mr Bean*, beyond some broken slabby rocks, is a small compact buttress with a prominent crack up the middle.

Archangel – 15m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 16th July, 1994.

Climb the prominent crack with an awkward steep start.

Bedrock – 15m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 16th July, 1994.

Takes the corner left of the arete to the left of *Archangel*.

BEN DAMPH FOREST:

A low-lying line of sandstone crags are well seen from the Ben Damph Bar about 250m above the A896 Torridon road (grid ref 888 535). Start up the hill from the road bridge about 100m west of the Bar car park. The climbs are situated on the upper buttresses which are partially obscured by trees. A lower band of smaller crags lie directly below. The crags are reached in 20 minutes from the road.

The upper crags are split into two distinct sections by a grassy gully/corner. The left-hand section is more slabby and the right section is characterised by two prominent groove lines on either side of a prow.

Crystal Horizon – 30m Severe. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 6th August, 1994.

Follows a flake line running left to right up the obvious slabby scoop on the left side of the left-hand section of crag. Start about 10m right of the fence line at the lowest point of the crag. Climb a short awkward corner. Pull out right and climb the flake line to the top of the scoop. Climb up and slightly rightwards to finish just right of a small roof.

Maculate Slab – 8m 4b. S. Kennedy. 6th August, 1994.

The short immaculate slab up and left of the previous route directly above the fence. Climb directly up the middle.

The following routes lie on the right hand section.

Tombstone – 25m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 6th August, 1994.

Climbs the prominent groove running up the left side of the prow. Start by climbing the left edge of a coffin-shaped rock directly below the groove (about 5m left of the

right edge of the crag). Step right into the groove and continue to a short overhanging wall. Step out right and climb around the wall into the upper groove. Climb the groove to below the prow. Swing out left to the left edge and climb directly to the top.

Fiery Cross – 25m E1 5a. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 6th August, 1994.

Climbs the short groove running up the right side of the prow. Climb Tombstone to below the prow. Traverse right past some loose blocks to the groove which is climbed directly.

Procession – 25m HVS 5a. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 6th August, 1994.

Takes the leftward-slanting groove line on the wall right of Fiery Cross. Climb slabby rocks at the rightmost edge of the crag to the foot of the groove. Climb a crack and follow the groove out leftwards. Pull over a block at the top of the groove. Finish up the wall above just right of Fiery Cross.

LIATHACH CRAGS, Creag nan Uaimh (894 570):

This south-facing cliff is on the hill 100m past the last house in Torridon village going west. It consists of several short ridges.

Reach the Road – 15m HVS 5a. C. Moody, I. Taylor. 23rd May, 1994.

Climbs the right hand of the left-hand buttress. Climb the corner crack, move up right on a large flake (left of the chimney with the holly trees) and finish up the wall.

Caterpillar Ridge – 20m E1 5b. C. Moody, I. Taylor. 23rd May, 1994.

Farther right is a prominent arete. Climb up just right of it, pull on to the arete and climb it.

En Route – 20m Severe. C. Moody. 23rd May, 1994.

Climb the wide crack left of Holly Tree Rib and the continuation corner to the ledge; climb the ridge on the left.

Holly Tree Rib – 20m Diff. C. Moody. 23rd May, 1994.

Climb the easy ridge, at the top move right and descend the easy gully.

Kanko the Bone – 20m E2 5b. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 23rd May, 1994.

Climbs the clean, east-facing wall. Start past the tree, pull left, climb to and follow a flake crack to the top.

Creag nan Leumnach (GR899569):

The crags can be seen directly above Torridon village shop at the top of an open gully; the approach is slightly faster than Seana Mheallan. There are two long crags; the lower is very steep, the crag directly above gives easier climbs. Both face south. As the village is directly below, trundling has to be avoided.

Lower Crag:

Descend by:

1. scrambling down a right slanting gully right of the water streak.
2. By scrambling down a chimney at the right end of the crag.
3. Walking right for a distance past all the rock.

Global Warming – 25m Severe.* C. Moody. 13th February, 1994.
There is an arete at the left end. Start left of it, step right and climb it.

Blind as a Frog – 25m E1/2 5b.** C. Moody, S. Kennedy. 14th May, 1994.
The slanting corner crack just right of *Global Warming*; start from a flake ledge.

Squeezin' Yir Hied – 30m E4 6a.** I. Taylor, C. Moody. 23rd May, 1994.
Climbs the wall just right of *Blind as a Frog*. A boulder problem start gains the flake ledge. Climb the middle of the wall (gear), trend rightwards to stand on a pinnacle (small flexible friends). Move up and left and continue to the top. It is possible to go straight to the top of the pinnacle but this would avoid some good climbing.

Torridown Man – 25m E2 5c.* C. Moody, I. Taylor. 25th May, 1994.
In the centre of the wall right of the access route is a steep crack. Climb the crack to a ledge, step left and climb another crack, move left and climb a third crack. Possibly E3.

The White Streak – 20m E1 5b.* N. Smith, C. Moody. 26th March, 1994.
Halfway up the wall left of *Warmer Cleaner Drier* is a white streak. Climb the crack left of it. A detour to the left was taken low down; a more direct route would probably be E2 5b.

Warmer Cleaner Drier – 20m E2 5b.* C. Moody, I. Taylor. 23rd May, 1994.
Climb the steep crack at the right end of the wall, trending right then back left. Upper Crag: The right half of the crag is split by a terrace. At the right end of the terrace is a structure, possibly a burial cairn. Descent is on the right.

Block and Beak – 25m E1 5b.* S. Kennedy, C. Moody. 14th May, 1994.
At the left side is a block; the cliff above it starts with a small overhang. Start left of the overhang, move right above it and follow the line of weakness above. From a ledge step right (crux) and continue to the top, or move left which reduces the grade to HVS 5a.

The Great Brush Robbery – 25m E4 6a.** I. Taylor, C. Moody. 25th May, 1994.
High in the grade. Climb the chimney of the next route; from the top of the block, place runners on the right. Move left to flat holds and climb straight up to a ledge. Finish up the cracked wall. there is a crucial rock 3 placement halfway up on the left hand crack.

A Million Years BC – 30m E1 5b.** C. Moody, S. Kennedy. 14th May, 1994.
Right of *Block and Beak* is a bigger block. Climb the chimney formed by its left side; move right and climb the obvious crack in the left facing corner, passing a large perched block.

Don't Just Sit There – 25m VS 4b. C. Moody, S. Kennedy. 14th May, 1994.
This route climbs the clean buttress above the terrace. Climb a right-slanting crack below the buttress. Move left, then step right on to the buttress and follow the line of weakness up right.

Big Tree – 25m Severe. C. Moody. 14th May, 1994.

Start below the biggest tree on the terrace; climb a right-slanting crack to the terrace. Climb the right-slanting crack up the ramp just right of the tree.

Sky a Jy – 25m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Moody. 14th May, 1994.

Start just right of the previous route. Move up to gain a flake, step right and climb cracks to the terrace. Follow the edge to the top.

SLIOCH, Coire an Tuill Bhain: *Reconciliation Gully* – 130m I. J. Groves, J. Fleetwood, S. Scott. 3rd April, 1994.

The obvious gully to the left of the summit buttress of Sgurr an Tuill Bhan and to the right of the large easy-angled snow bay at the left end of the main cliffs. Well defined for 70m, then opens out to a snow fan. Large cornice avoided on the left by a narrow snow arete at the head of the adjacent buttress.

Magellan's Gully – 120m II. R. Webb, N. Wilson. December, 1993.

The gully immediately left of Far Away Buttress.

GAIRLOCH, Raven's Crag:

Though admittedly curiosities, the crag was climbable when higher areas were stormbound.

Bright Star – 50m II/III. I. Davidson. 1st January, 1995.

Climb the slabs and grooves at the extreme east end of the crag. The entire end of the crag was under snow and ice and several variations were possible.

Constabulary Slab – 65m III. I. Davidson, J. Fraser. 2nd January, 1995.

Start as for Hydro Hek, then up and right to the large flake. Climb this on the left to easier slabs, then up the corners and grooves to the top (choice of corners to finish).

An Groban:

Alleyway – 80m H. Severe. D.F. Lang. 25th June, 1994.

This route takes a line parallel to the grassy grooves mentioned in the guide. Climb slabby rock immediately to the right of the grassy grooves, overcoming several steep steps, move rightwards and climb obvious corner at half-height. Exit left to emerge below a steep wall barring entry to a large recess. (Crack should be climbable in the dry). Move right and ascend via two jammed blocks, then move left into the recess (crux). Exit the recess by the left-hand wall and crack; proceed to the top.

GRUINARD CRAGS:

The numerous crags within the areas bounded by Gruinard Bay offer some excellent and easily accessible climbing. Though most of the outcrops are short, there are longer routes on more impressive crags as well. The rock is perfect gneiss, comparable to the main slab at Diabaig. Since the crags are isolated summits, there is little drainage and dry very quickly after rain. The crags will be described individually in order of increasing distance from the car park at Gruinard Bay (MR NG 953 899).

Very Difficult Slab (954 898):

This is the pink slab well seen on the hillside from the car park. It consists of a wall

of slab with a vegetated break left of the central rib. The routes are easier than they look and are described left to right.

Two Minute Slab – 20m V. Diff. J.R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1994.

Climb the rib left of the vegetated break to blocks and continue straight up.

Small but Perfectly Formed – 25m V. Diff.* J.R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 1994.

To the right of the break is a steep, clean rib, giving the best route on the slab. Step off a boulder and climb the rib direct avoiding a heather patch. Step left and climb a steepening to the top.

Five Minute Crack – 25m V. Diff. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1994.

This is the thin crackline just right of the rib.

Flakey Wall – 15m V. Diff. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1994.

A line of flakes lies right of the crack.

Gneiss Groove – 12m V. Diff.* J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 8th May, 1994.

The fine groove which cuts up the slab near the right-hand end.

Triangular Slab (954898):

This is just beyond the crest of Very Difficult Slab in a hollow. Steeper than it looks and with a central crack. The routes are described left to right.

Gneiss – 20m VS 4c.* G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1994.

Left of the crack is a water-washed streak. Climb the streak towards some parallel cracks and exit (crux) to the right of them.

Gneisser – 20m VS 4c.* J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 8th May, 1994.

Takes the central crack, climbing past a downward-pointing flake and exiting awkwardly at a notch.

Gneissest – 20m VS 4c.** J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 8th May, 1994.

Start right of the crack and climb up to an overlap; break through this at a notch and up to the top.

Not Bad – 30m V. Diff. J.R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 1994.

Start as for Gneissest and climb up to where it steepens. Traverse right to a break and climb this to a smooth slab finish.

Gruinard Crag (957 900):

This is the rather retiring crag that can be seen from the road. It is both bigger and better than it looks. The rock is less coarse, especially on the lower half of the upper tier, but makes up for it by having excellent holds. The crag is in three tiers, the lower being short, the second being a smooth wall with a break on the left and a thin vertical crack with a small tree on the right, and the upper crag being the highest with a prominent C-shaped recess in the centre.

Second Tier:

The routes are described left to right.

Halcyon Days – 25m HVS 5a.** R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 14th May, 1994.

The recessed break on the left has a prominent flake on its right edge. Layback the flake to a large jug. Step right on to the blank-looking wall which is covered in holds and either exit up right at a break or, better but bolder, go left and finish up the steep slab.

Utopia – 20m E1 5b.*** J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th May, 1994.

This is the thin, vertical crack near the right edge. Climb the wall right of the lower crack and step left below the upper crack. Climb the crack to the top. Well protected and low in the grade.

Simple Perfections – 25m Diff.** J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th May, 1994.

The right border of the wall is a slab, covered in jugs and the best line follows the left edge.

Upper Tier:

Lies above the middle tier and is much steeper than it looks. The climbing is generally well protected. Some of the lines have a certain amount of heather higher up but this in no way detracts. One of the characteristics of this crag is that some of the steeper lines are easier than they look, giving exhilarating climbing.

Baywatch – 45m E1. A. Nisbet, J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 28th May, 1994.

A short, sharp crux. Left of the holly tree of *Paradise Regained* is a slabby rib. Start as for *Paradise Regained*.

1. 25m 4c. Climb straight up the groove to belay on the large block.
2. 20m 5c. Climb the blank, red wall slightly left of the block and trend back right higher up to finish left of *Paradise*. A good route of VS can be made by joining the first pitch of this route with the last pitch of *Paradise Regained*.

Paradise Regained – 50m E3 5c.*** The open chimney on the left side of the crag with a holly tree at its base. Varied, but bold climbing.

1. 30m 5c. Climb the rib just left of the holly and step right into the groove above. Climb the groove and short chimney to a hard move on to the mantelshelf above. Move to the right end of the exposed shelf (0 Friend) and climb the bold crozzly wall to an easing. To the right of the blunt rib is a steep slab with a flake handrail. Climb the handrail to the top and step over a bulge, step left and finish up the rib to a pair of jammed blocks.
2. 20m 4c. Climb the wall 2m right of the blocks moving left, or better, climb the blank wall above the topmost block to the same spot (5a) and follow rough rock to the nose which is taken on the right.

The Big C – 30m HVS 5a.** R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 3rd May, 1994.

This is the central line taken by the C-shaped niche. Start directly below the niche and climb a shallow corner to step left into the niche. Swing right on to the airy wall and follow the right-trending line to below a holly. Climb up to the tree and step right. Climb up to a crack above and finish by a sporting mantle to its right.

Red John of the Battles – 25m E2 5b.*** J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown, A. Nisbet. 28th May, 1994.

Right of *The Big C* is a straight crack running up an overhanging wall. Climb this on excellent holds to gain a ledge and holly. Continue straight up to finish by the 'sporting mantle' of *Big C*.





Overlord – 25m E1 5b.*** R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie, A. Nisbet. 28th May, 1994. To the right of Red John is an overhanging corner. Climb into the corner and up it via crozzly holds to some blocks. The daunting wall above is climbed leftwards into a hidden crack and the climb finishes up a right slanting ramp.

Dome Crag (960893):

This south-facing crag is situated on the north-east shore of Lochan Duibh. By far the best of the outcrops in the area, it is composed of perfect rough gneiss with the occasional loose block; clean and devoid of vegetation. The crag is dome shaped and up to 65m high, with an overhanging wall running almost the full height, split by a slight crack, with more amenable ground to the right. With a great outlook to both hills and sea, this is a very pleasant place to climb.

Edgebiter – 60m VS 4c. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 14th May, 1994.

This climbs the left edge of the crag, with a good first, but scrappy second pitch. Start a few metres right of the edge at a prominent crack.

1. 35m 4c. Climb the overhanging rib just left of the crack (crux) and move into the crack above. Climb straight up to a broken corner and rib on the left edge.
2. 25m. Climb the corner, then step left on to the rib and follow this to the top.

The Silk Road – 55m E3 6a.** J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th April, 1994.

Left of the overhanging wall is a prominent leaning corner, which is taken by this route's second pitch. Left of a left-slanting rake is an overhanging wall of which the left side is taken by *Edgebiter*. *Edgebiter*'s crack borders a recess; start on the right rib of this.

1. 20m 5b. Climb up the overhanging wall slightly right to a prominent hold. Pull over the bulge and continue up the break on rough rock to a smooth corner.
2. 15m 6a. The smooth corner is as difficult as it looks; sustained (0 Friend useful). Mantel on to the airy slab on the right.
3. 20m. Pull over the bulge on the right and climb rough rock to the top.

Grand Recess – 65m E1 5c.** J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 8th May, 1994.

This excellent route follows the first line of weakness right of the overhanging wall. To the right of the overhanging wall is an easy-angled corner topped by a large block.

1. 20m 5c. Start up the corner, step right and climb a crack on the right of the block to gain a small ledge. The overhanging wall above is split by a pair of thin cracks. Climb the wall (crux) and gain the large recess.
2. 20m 4c. Move up to the ledge behind and step right on to a shelf. Follow the line up to the left.
3. 25m. Climb easier but pleasant rock to the top.

Abrasion Cracks – 60m VS 4c.* G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1994.

Takes probably the best line right of *Grand Recess*. Start at a pointed block near a tree growing from the loch shore.

1. 10m. Scramble up the open chimney on the left to reach an easy shelf which is traversed to its far left end.
2. 25m VS 4c. Climb the hanging corner, which has a projecting block on the left, to a slab. Left of the little tree is a pair of jam cracks. Climb these and step right over a block and slab to a rib. Climb the fine rib direct to a stance.
3. 25m. Continue up easier ground to the top.

Scrabble – 65m H. Severe 4b. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th May, 1994.

On the right of the crag is a well-defined corner. Start well right of the tree by the lochside at a recess right of an overhanging wall.

1. 25m. Climb the recess and continue up a slight bulge to belay above a slab at the base of the corner.
2. 20m 4b. The corner is steeper than it looks and gives a traditional tussle with small trees and an overhanging finish.
3. 20m. Straight up to finish.

Creag Carn an Lochain Duibh (961 888):

This is the smooth triangular face high up on the hillside overlooking the Inverianic River, easily reached by walking up the track on the east side of the burn. Like the other crags, composed of a rough sound gneiss. There is a lower tier of crag that blocks direct access to the main face, but the grassy shelf below it can be reached from the left by contouring or by a scramble up the gully walls from the right.

Pink Streak – 45m HVS 5a. *** G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. May, 1994.

A prominent pink streak can be seen running centrally up the full height of the face. Start from the grass shelf and climb a little wall on to the glacis. A slight rib lies centrally on the face. Climb this in a very open position to some cracks where the face steepens. Step right, then back left, following a crack that runs up the steepest part of the headwall. Good holds and protection where it matters.

LETTEREWE and FISHERFIELD, Creag Beag:

Into the Valley – E5 6b. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell, C. Forrest. 29th May, 1994.

Right of Central Groove are two cracks; the left one is E2 5b (C. Forrest, S. Turner) and the right one is E2 5b (R. Campbell, P. Thorburn). This route climbs left of the left hand crack. A scoop leads up into a short awkward wall and groove. Move left round an edge before following a fine crack in the headwall.

Creag na Gaorach:

The following routes lie on the small buttress mentioned in the guide just below the col just to the east of the large east (third) buttress (containing Zebra Slabs). All climbed by S. Kennedy and D. Ritchie on 24th July, 1994.

Ugly Duckling – 50m V. Diff. Climbs the rib at the right side of the buttress starting at a quartz-studded overhang. Trend up and leftwards from a small grassy bay at half-height.

Note: A Diff. done in 1967 climbed rock to the right of the above route.

The Little Mermaid – 45m VS 4b. Start up a small rib 5m left of Ugly Duckling, just right of a damp groove. Climb to a roof at 10m, then traverse hard left into a short corner containing a prominent flake. Up the corner, then trend up and slightly left to a corner crack. Up corner and easy slabs above.

Red Shoes – 45m VS 4c. Start up a black wall at the left end of the lower roof running across the middle section of the crag. Climb flakes to the next roof, then traverse 2m right to the foot of an obvious scoop in the centre. Pull into the scoop, then make a short traverse right to a prominent crack. Up cracks, pull out left at the top and finish up easy slabs.

BEINN A' CHASGEIN MOR, Torr na h-Iolaire:

Arabic – 100m Severe. C. Moody, M. Shaw. 23rd July, 1994.

Approx. 100m left of Hieroglyphics is a grassy gully leading to a cave. Start right of the gully and left of the black-streaked wall. Climb up to the ledge, follow a right slanting crack past an overhang and continue to the top.

AN TEALLACH, Toll an Lochain:

Fiona Verticale – 250m III. D. Litherland, M.E. Moran. 13th April, 1994.

The face between Sgurr Fiona and right of Lord's Gully holds three obvious ice lines, all gained from a big ramp which cuts across the face from the foot of Lord's Gully. This takes the right hand line, following the easiest line up the ice in two pitches and continuing by mixed climbing up a chimney line to finish by a narrow cleft at the north ridge of Sgurr Fiona 50m below the summit.

BEINN DEARG MOR:

An ascent is noted of the Grade I gully right of Flake Buttress (Grade II direct in lean conditions). It has been climbed several/many times before, certainly in March, 1992 by the New Routes Editor, and is usually known as Central Gully.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS**NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)****STRATHFARRAR, Sgurr na Muice, Coire Toll a' Mhuic, North East Face:**

Sty in the Eye – 190m III. G. Cullen, I.M.F. Smith. 11th March, 1995.

Mixed climbing, requiring only hard frost. Follow the 200m couloir (Grade I) right of the rib that separates the south east from north east faces to the rock band between the icefalls of Pearls before Swine on the left and Three Little Pigs on the right. Climb steep snow up a ramp left of the left-hand icefall (or, harder, climb the icefall) to rock belays above (40m). Step right and climb snow or ice to the snow apron above and belay to the right of a dead end snow groove which is left of Pearls before Swine's deeper entrance gully (50m). Climb up the groove and step left round the rib and traverse left to the foot of a square cut turfy groove which lies to the right of an easier snowy one with a prominent small pinnacle (25m). Climb the turfy groove up over chimneys and other narrowings (50m, a fine pitch). Continue up a narrow chimney and exit up a shallow one above which is right of easier snow (25m).

Three Little Pigs – 200m III/IV. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 10th February, 1995.

Climb the couloir for 200m as for Pearls Before Swine and Sty in the Eye to the rock barrier. Climb the icefall on the right of the rock barrier, crux (50m). Continue straight up the snow apron to the obvious gully/groove ahead (30m). Climb the delightful groove by jinks and turns to a small alcove on the rib on the right (50m). Step left and continue in the same line to the top (70m). If the lower icefall, which will vary in grade according to the build up, is avoided on the right, the grade is a soft III.

The Wolf – 165m IV, 5. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown, G. Cullen. 10th February, 1995.

To the right of the left hand couloir is a more pronounced gully running up to the crags, which gives 250m of quite exposed grade I climbing. Continue to the base

of a deep V groove on the right side of the face. To the right of this groove is another which provided a ribbon of ice running over an overhang via an icicle. Climb into the groove to an impasse. Traverse neatly left to below the overhang and surmount the strenuous icicle (crux) which is well protected. Continue up the unprotected and steep V-groove above, over the inevitable bulge, and up to an icefall. Step left to a snow patch (45m). Climb the icefall to snow and up a groove on the left (50m). Continue straight up to belay on the summit cairn. A useful but quite steep descent to the base of the face or to reach the snow apron below the main crags at Grade I is to descend just to the right (looking down) of Pigsty Gully and to curve right where that route forms a more prominent gully.

SGURR A' MHUILLIN, Creag Ghlas, West Buttress:

Salamander – 160m HVS. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown, C. Powell. 12th August, 1994 and 24th September, 1994.

The best and most enjoyable route on the cliff, taking a central line and giving sustained climbing which is quick to dry. To the left of The Lizard is a sweep of smooth slabs split by a prominent dog-leg crack.

1. 40m 5a. Climb the crack which is noticeably harder after the dogleg to a narrow ledge; a superb pitch well protected by Friends.

2. 25m 5a. Trend up right on hidden edges to a narrow heather ledge and creep left along this to some holds. Climb the bold slabby wall above, exiting left along a diagonal crack, block belays on the left.

3a. 40m 5b. There are two methods of climbing this pitch. Either climb thinly up to hollow flakes and climb straight up to the curved overlap. Traverse left under this and pull over on the left to shelves. Climb straight up to a narrow rake and a hollow flake right of a hidden corner. Vital $\frac{1}{2}$ Friend belay up the edge at a horizontal crack.

3b. 45m 5b. Harder but better. Step right from the belay and climb the thin crack which is difficult for the first 6m, but eases with the lessening of angle. Take a line directly to the overlap above and turn this delicately by the right edge. Easy climbing up left leads to a belay beside the hollow flake.

4. 25m 4c. On the left is a hidden corner; climb up the edge, step left on to the slab and undercut into the corner. Belay on the rock glacis below the top wall.

5. 25m 4c. Left of a big block is a superb narrow chimney which narrows to a crack. Layback the edge boldly (easier than it looks) to finish up the short steep crack. To the left and below the main crag is a subsidiary slabby wall seamed by cracks and with a square-cut recess near its right-hand end.

Centipede Crack – 20m HVS 5b. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th September, 1994.

On the left side of the slab is a heathery wide crack and a small pedestal. Start below a thin crack to its right. Climb thinly up to the crack (crux) and more easily up the crack. Finish delicately.

Gloaming Wall – 20m Mild VS 4b. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 24th September, 1994.

Left of the recess at the right end is a heathery crack. Start to the right and pull through the overlap. Climb a thin crack to the top.

BAC AN EICH, Coire Toll Lochain:

This scalloped coire lies above Glenn Chorrainn and presents a moderately graded slope of 150m in vertical height, the potential home of countless Grade I and II variations depending on conditions. The marginally-fiercer nose that forms the south east spur from the summit (GR 232 485) gives the following line.

Angel's Delight – 100m II. J.R. Mackenzie. 27th December, 1994.

The nose has a central rocky spur, shorter than it looks. Start centrally where initially awkward slabs weave through overlaps. This promising start is not sustained and easier ground leads to a steeper turf rib just left of a pronounced gully. Climb this rib to the top.

STRATHCONON, Glenmarksie, Top Crag:

Jumping Jack Splat – 10m E2 5c. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 3rd September, 1994. To the right of Gritstone Corner is a gently overhanging wall split by a very thin crack. A PR below the crux protects. Start in the corner below the crack and climb to the glaciais. Gain the niche and jump for the jug! (unless very tall).

Left Unprintable – 10m E2 6b. J.R. Mackenzie, J.M.G. Finlay. 3rd May, 1994.

A harder companion to Right Unprintable, taking the blank corner just left. The crux is trying to gain and sustain the finger lock just out of reach (medium RP and Rock 4 protect).

Red Ant Crack – 10m VS 4b. R. Biggar. 25th May, 1994.

At the extreme right end of Top Crag lies an obvious flake. Climb this and finish by the most obvious crack above.

Scatwell River Slabs:

Piles of Smiles – 25m MVS 4b. J.M.G. Finlay, Miss D. Henderson. 15th April, 1994.

Belay as for Boundary Ridge and climb small ledges on the arete for 3m until a short traverse left leads to the base of an obvious crack 4m left of the arete. Climb this to a good ledge and move right to finish up short slabs and ledges.

Meig Crag:

The Touchstone Maze – 25m E3 6a. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 22nd August, 1994. Between Nicked in Time and Gabbro Slab is a smooth slab. This gives the best delicate climbing on the crag. Start centrally and climb to a hole. Step right (side runners in Gabbro Slab) and pull up to a ripple. Step left and climb thinly to the break (crux) and then more easily straight up to finish rightwards by a ramp to exit as for Blueberry Hill. This avoids the heather cornice and is also the best finish for Gabbro Slab.

Milk and Alcohol – 20m E4 6a. N. Main, S. Raw. June, 1994.

The corner capped by a roof between Limited Liability and Yellow Streak. Very bold.

Hind Quarters – 20m E4 6b. N. Main, K. Grant. June, 1994. The overhanging cracked arete to the left of Meig Corner. Bold to start. Start at a spike to the right of the arete and go left into the crack.

THE FANNAICHS, Carn na Criche:

Boundary Rib – 360m IV, 4. J.M.G. Finlay, A. Huntington. 2nd January, 1995.
Climbs the rib bounding the left side of the central scoop.

1. 40m. Approx. 30m right of the start of The Boundary, climb turf and ice groove trending right. Step left to a large ledge and belay.
2. 50m. Continue up the groove for 5m, then move right to a wide shallow gully.
- 3 etc. Trend right to bypass a band of slabs and roofs. Continue to the top, keeping slightly to the right of the broad rib.

BEINN DEARG, Gleann na Squaib:

Edgeway – 220m IV, 4. M. Franklin, C.P. Schiller, M.R. Sinclair. March, 1994.
Start left of the start of Archway at an obvious icicle fringed cave.

1. 45m. Climb up to the right and over some short steep ice steps, heading for an obvious icicle forming down the rock band halfway up the crag.
2. 45m. Climb up to and ascend the 5m icicle and continue up to belay on the left.
3. 40m. Climb up to and into the start of the fault of Archway.
4. Move up through the Arch and climb very steep ice on the left wall to easier ground.
5. 50m. Bear slightly left and up across a steep ice wall to gain a runnel, leading past a large cracked block on the left, to the cornice. Diagram supplied.

Note: G. Strange notes that the route named No Surrender (SMCJ 1994) was climbed on 29th March, 1975 by Mike Freeman, Denis King, Greg Strange and the late Bob Smith. The ascent was never recorded partly due to our sympathies with the Rowe/Tiso moratorium and partly because the line did not seem particularly significant at the time. Judging by the name given by the 1994 ascensionists, they must have experienced similar snow and weather conditions to ourselves.

ULLAPOOL, Royal Hotel Buttress:

Crack and Corner – 12m E1 5b. A. Hardy, H.M. Yates.

At the far right end of the crag. Climb the flake-crack to a prominent horizontal break, then the corner above and right.

ARDMAIR, Big Roof Buttress:

Boreal Flipper – E3 5c. A. Wren, G. Szuca. 1992.

The wall between Grumpy Groper and First Fruits.

Note: The first ascent of Ten Seconds (SMCJ 1994) was by A. Wren, D. Gregg.
Blanka: In the first ascent list in the Northern Highlands Guide, P. Hanus should be added to G. Szuca and G. Lawrie.

Slabby Buttress:

The following routes were not in the guide because the location of the buttress was not known. It is situated a few hundred metres beyond and slightly down from the descent path from Big Roof Buttress (presumably the descent path direct to the road. The crag is therefore to the north of the main section in the gully and facing the road.).

Czech Mate – VS 5a. B. Reid, G. Szuca. 1990.

Follow the obvious crack on the small slabby buttress.

Pawn in the Game – H. Severe. G. Szuca.
The arete left of Czech Mate.

Evening Wall Access:

The crag is found about 2km west of Ardmail on the A835 and a large layby can be found below the crag on the left. A five-minute walk up the hillside reaches it.

Layout: A 20m-high wall of sound Torridonian sandstone, well equipped with holds and protection, very steep in the central and right-hand areas and giving excellent climbing. It receives much evening sun.

Descent: Walk off to the right. Routes described from left to right.

Gee Gee Rider – 25m HVS 4c. G.G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 1st October, 1994.

To the left of Natural Sculpture is a recessed groove with a small oak. Climb the edge of the wall left of Natural Sculpture for a few metres, then step left into the crack. Negotiate the oak and climb to a groove. A cheval the rib with determination and finish straight up. Given a clean, this will be good.

Natural Sculpture – 20m HVS 5a. *** J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th April, 1994.

The most enjoyable route on the crag, low in the grade and well protected. A clean cut left-facing corner lies near the left edge of the crag. Start at the left edge and traverse delicately up to the base of the corner. Climb the corner direct to a ledge near the top where there is a 'sculptured' runner. Gain the ledge on the left and finish up the ramp.

Sandstone Messiah – 20m E2 6b. * J.R. Mackenzie, G.G. Cullen. 1st October, 1994.

To the right of Natural Sculpture is a triangular niche. Climb a short overhanging wall below it and enter by a thin mantel (crux). Climb the back wall and a diagonal crack to exit via the short corner above.

Feint Attack – 20m HVS 5a. ** G.G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 1st October, 1994.

Just to the right of Sandstone Messiah are a line of flakes. Start below the right end of the overhang and climb up to and across it. Climb up the flake edge and finish as for Sandstone Messiah. Easier than it looks.

Stone Monkey – 20m E2 5c. ** J.R. Mackenzie, J.M.G. Finlay. 24th April, 1994.

This is the big corner in the middle of the crag. Start a short way left of the impending grooves and climb the overhanging walls to gain the corner. Climb the top corner on the right wall. A sustained and strenuous lower half with good, but fiddly, protection.

REIFF: Notes from T. Redfern.

Pinnacle Walls (Guide, P178):

1. A direct line up the wall from the start of Pop Out, and to the left of Puckered Wall, finishing by an obvious circular handhold. G. McEwan, T. Redfern. 25th May, 1993.

2. A shallow recess (black) between Krill and Xyles. Done before? Severe. T. Redfern. 25th May, 1993.

3. Wall between Midreiff and Descent Route. Severe. T. Redfern. 27th May, 1993.

4. Hy Brasil. A direct start from undercut base of arete. Up recessed corner and exit left on to original route. 5a. R. Cooper, T. Redfern. 25th May, 1992.

Seal Song Area:

Atlantic Crossing (p197). Should be a right-slanting crack, not left. Guttersnipe (p198) is left of Reiffer, not right.

Hawk – 15m HVS 5c. B. MacLaughlan, G. Szuca. 28th May, 1994.

After the initial starting moves on Every Which Way But Loose, move on to the short, left arete. Follow the thin crack in the wall above to a strange move through the bulge at the top.

Golden Wall Area:

Necrophilia – 20m E3 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 21st May, 1994.

The stepped crack line 5m right (south) of Necronomican (p212).

Stone Pig Cliff:

Headstrong – 20m E3 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 22nd May, 1994.

The arete left of Strongbow. Start up Strongbow and head out on to the prow.

Anchors Away – 8m E4 6a. W. Moir, P. Allen, M. Atkins. 22nd May, 1994.

Start up Hard Tack to the horizontal crack. Move in right and climb boldly up the line of flakes.

The Stoned Pig – 8m E4 6b. W. Moir, P. Allen. 22nd May, 1994.

The prow right of the prowl. Layback up to underclings and reach up to a horizontal break (good RPs just above). Powerful moves gain the top.

STAC POLLAIDH, West (No. 1) Buttress:

Egoterrorist – 130m IV, 5/6. S. Campbell, J. Walker, N. Wilson. 19th March, 1995.
Start below and right of the obvious square-topped pinnacle at the right side of the west face.

1. 40m. Climb up to the pinnacle, and up the corner above, to belay above chokestones.
2. 120m. Traverse left a few metres, climb a short corner crack and hand traverse right over a steep slab.
3. 25m. Climb a short chimney and the open groove above. Belay at the top of the wide terrace above.
4. 25m. On the upper tier, take a line trending right, swinging round a detached pinnacle to belay on ledges on the south face.
5. 30m. Traverse right and then climb steep walls trending right to finish by through route in a chimney (same finish as Party on the Patio).

Note: Party on the Patio, Variation. The first pitch can be improved thus: Having gained and followed the rib, instead of traversing up and left, continue up steep, clean rock on the rib to belay in the hidden chimney at the top of the second pitch in the guide (35m). Some good rock on this variation, making it out of character with the rest of the climb! The aid nut was not used on pitch 4 – combined tactics instead.

No. 3 Buttress:

Since there is confusion over this route, J.R. Mackenzie provides a description.
Summer Isles Arete – 120m V. Diff. J.R. Mackenzie, H. Murray. July, 1974.

This is the third buttress going east and just right of Pinnacle Amphitheatre. Start at a crack right of the lowest rocks and up this to a ledge. Climb a short chimney to level ground and then traverse the arete avoiding a big gendarme. Step down right at its end and climb a deep chimney with a chockstone to a niche. Go right up a groove and quit it for the steep face on the left and climb to a ledge. Climb up a crack and flakes to a small ledge and climb to the base of the 'monolith'. Avoid this on the right easily and climb a steep crack to finish on a level arete.

Slovo – 120m IV, 5. G. McKnight, R. Webb, N. Wilson. February, 1995.

Takes the turfy chimney to the left of the bottom left corner of the buttress.

1. 30m. Climb the chimney line to belay behind a large pinnacle.

2. 30m. Continue up the chimney, over chockstones, to belay on a ledge system (escape right possible at this point).

3. 15m. Climb a crack system in the steep wall above and belay on the narrow arete above.

4. 10. Pass two gendarmes on the arete on the right.

5. 35m. Continue along the arete for a few metres, drop off the left-hand side and finish up easy snow on the left flank to a notch on the main ridge of the hill.

QUINAG, Spidean Coinich, Bucket Buttress:

This small quartzite cliff lies directly below the summit of Spidean Coinich, curving round from a short east face to a longer and colder north face. Access is down a broad, rocky gully 10m east of the summit cairn and the toe of the buttress is on the left (looking down). A clamber over boulders gives access to a terrace curving round into a sheltered bay.

Although short, the crag provides some excellent sustained pitches on very helpful quartzite and has a real winter cragging feel if you do a couple of routes in the day.

Access (apart from the drive) is easier than other quartzite cliffs, with a walk of 1hr. 15min. from the car park at GR 229 266. A beautiful backdrop and friendly atmosphere make it a worthy training ground for the longer and harder routes on Beinn Eighe.

Buckets of Snow – 50m IV, 5.* J. Lyall, M. Sclater. 26th January, 1995.

Starts just right of the toe of the buttress at a deep chimney, which cuts behind the toe forming a large block.

1. 25m. Climb the chimney to a big ledge and go up the wall above to belay below large blocks.

2. 25m. Go left across the top of the blocks to gain the edge and climb this to the top.

The Frontline – 45m V, 7.*** J. Lyall, M. Sclater. 25th January, 1995.

1. 30m. Climbs the steep crack up the front of the buttress 5m right of Buckets of Snow and the continuation flake crack.

2. 15m. Move right and up a rock crevasse, then pull left on to a higher ledge and climb the headwall centrally by a niche and overhang turned on the left. Next are some large boulders forming a step at the foot of the crag. The next route starts on top of the boulders.

Kane Mutiny – 45m IV, 6.** J. Lyall (unsec). 3rd January, 1995.

Climb cracks up the wall and step right to climb a right-facing corner. Follow the continuation crack up the next wall and the short headwall at a rock cornice.

Bounty Hunter – 40m III, 5.** E. Kane, J. Lyall. 3rd January, 1995.

Next right is a small bay with a deep groove above. Climb the initial wall (crux) to gain the deep groove and follow this steeply to the top. Right of Bounty Hunter are twin hanging aretes with an off-width crack in a corner between them. The next route climbs the left side of the left arete.

Pick 'n' Mix – 45m V, 6.** J. Lyall, M. Sclater. 26th January, 1995.

Climb up under the left arete, pull over a chokestone and up a chimney. Exit the chimney and follow cracks up the left side to the top.

The Touchline – 45m V, 6.** J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 17th February, 1995.

Climbs the off-width crack between the aretes. Aptly named!

Pick Nicker – 45m V, 6.*** S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 3rd April, 1992.

Right of the twin aretes is an open fault leading into a corner. Start on the right of the open fault and move left to gain a wide crack behind a flake. This leads to the superb upper corner and the top. The terrace now narrows at a step before turning into a sheltered bay.

Peak Viewing – 45m III, 4.* S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 3rd April, 1992.

Climb straight up the rib above the narrow step, and follow the crest overlooking Pick Nicker.

The sheltered bay has a short deep chimney in the right corner, with a steep wall to the left with two obvious corner lines. The next route starts left of these below a horizontal block at 7m.

Picket Line – 40m III, 4.* E. Kane, J. Lyall. 3rd January, 1995.

Climb the block-covered wall to reach a big vegetated ramp which is followed leftward to the top.

Lightfoot – 40m VI, 6.* J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 17th February, 1995.

Climbs the lefthand corner/groove on the back wall of the bay.

Sworn to Secrecy – 40m VI, 7.*** J. Lyall, M. Sclater. 25th January, 1995.

Climbs the hanging corner to the right. Gaining the foot of the corner was bold, but more technical climbing followed. Very icy conditions; may be easier under powder.

Headline – 40m IV, 4. J. Lyall. 3rd January, 1994.

Start in the deep chimney below the first chockstone and climb the crack on the left wall. Airy climbing up the edge leads to an easier finish.

Barrel Buttress:

Y Gully Buttress is undergraded – should be III.

Several different starts, all easy, have been used to reach the big corner in the

centre of the upper buttress, the focus of attention for the following two routes (several attempts on Badazjoz). These include starting up Cave Gully, the buttress on its left, or even via Y Gully right branch – 200m, not described but included in length. Each was followed by a traverse right to the base of the corner.

Raeburn, Mackay and Ling Original Route – 270m VI, 7. S. Richardson, R. Webb. 3rd January, 1995.

This compelling line follows the exact route taken on the original ascent of the buttress in 1906.

1. 35m. Follow mixed ground for 15m to the base of the chimney-corner. Traverse a break in the right wall, and follow cracks and grooves past a large upright perched block for 15m until it is possible to make an unlikely step left on to a grass ledge in the main corner line.
2. 15m. Climb the chimney to a good platform.
3. 20m. Pull strenuously around a roof guarding the upper chimney and follow it to a short exit gully and the top.

Badazjoz – 285m V, 6. S. Steer, R.G. Webb, March, 1994.

1. 20m. Climb the corner of Raeburn's original route until stopped by a smooth-walled off-width crack.
2. 45m. Break diagonally left along the obvious steep ramp to gain an isolated pedestal, then up the hanging groove and climb this to gain a large ledge.
3. 20m. Finish by the chimney at the right end of the ledge (common with Raeburn's route).

Western Cliffs:

Lenin – 95m IV, 5. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. January, 1995.

The route lies on the square-topped tower.

1. 35m. Climb the gully lying to the right of the subsidiary buttress abutting the bottom of the face, traversing left at the top to belay below a right-slanting corner.
2. 35m. Climb the corner, initially by the right wall, and continue on the same line to climb the steep wall above and belay on a terrace.
3. 25m. Traverse easily left along the terrace to the left edge of the front face, and finish up easy ground.

SHEIGRA, First Geo, South Wall:

Acid Jazz – E1 5b. S. Younie. 13th September, 1994.

Start 3m left of Rescue Alcove, at a grey flakey handhold. Follow the thin crackline to the top, passing a ledge at mid height.

North Wall:

Just down from the descent groove is an obvious black gully, to the left of which is an angular, tower-like buttress which Haddie crosses. The following two routes are on this buttress.

Red Lead – Severe. T. Redfern. 13th September, 1994.

Start at the foot of the black gully and climb up the centre of the reddish slab on the left.

Rampart – VS 4b. T. Redfern, S. Younie. 13th September, 1994.

A direct line up the centre of the tower-like buttress, finishing at the top of Haddie.

The next route starts a few metres to the right of *In the Pink*.

Credit Zone – Diff. T. Redfern. 13th September, 1994.

Climb directly up the broken slab to its apex.

R & R Direct Variation – H. Severe. T. Redfern, S. Younie. 13th September, 1994.

Turn the small roof on the left and continue direct to the top. It is noted that the blocks and flakes where the original route rejoins are now shattered and loose.

Treasure Island Wall:

Guillemot Wall – 45m HVS 5a. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 1st May, 1994.

Climbs the wall left of Plum McNumb. Abseil approach from the first slight crest 20m north of the burn (which is more of an occasional trickle), down to a large boulder (covered at high tide, but one then belays on the initial flakey ramp of the route). Climb the left slanting line of flakes (the right of two similar). After 10m, break out right on to the steep wall (crux) and climb it. Go up a right-slanting corner, return left and finish up slabs.

FOINAVEN AREA, Creag Dubh:

Essential Travel only – 330m. IV. S. Pearson, I. Stevens. 2nd January, 1995.

Climbs a prominent left-to-right-slanting groove 20m left of the deep gully which bounds the main cliff on the right. It enters a snow basin at hlf-height. Belays awkward. Climb turf and ice to a narrowing (40m). Continue past a ledge to belay below easy ground trending left (30m). Go up left to finish on slabs below blocks (60m). Continue into a snow basin, then trend right to a continuation gully (40m). Climb the gully (30m). Trend left for 20m, then right round a corner to reach an arete (50m). Either continue up the arete or traverse 5m right into an easy gully which can be followed to the top (80m).

Seer's Corner – 200m V, 5. C. Cartwright, N. Wilson. February, 1995.

Climbs the summer route entirely on ice.

1. 45m. Climb a steep slab, runners under shattered overlap, step right and climb a groove to a belay on a spike on the right.
2. 45m. Climb the groove above. Continue halfway up the corner.
3. 50m. Exit from the corner and continue up broken ground.
- 4, 5. 60m. Finish up easier ground.

Columbian Couloir – 200m V, 5. J.L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. 31st December, 1993.

To the left of *Overseer* is an icefall. Climb this to a snow bay, then climb a hanging ramp on the rock tower bypassed to the right by *Overseer*. Finish by a narrow gully line, turning an impasse on the left.

The Third Way – 200m IV, 4. M. Harvey, P. Miller, N. Wilson. 3rd January, 1994.

On the slabs to the left of *Columbian Couloir* is an obvious icefall. Climb broken ground to belay to the right of it. Climb it in two pitches, and continue to the top via an icy cave and a square-cut chimney.

The Shining Light – 160m V. G. Cohen, D. Rubens. 20th February, 1994.
Follow *The Third Way* for about a pitch, then diverge leftwards up a steep ice choked groove. Very steep bulge to start, then sustained climbing.

Second Sight – 110m IV, 4. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. February, 1994.
Hidden to the left of the clean, rounded pillar mentioned in the crag description in Vol. 2 is a gully. Climbed in two pitches to finish up mixed ground.

Achned's Gully – 100m IV, 4. A. Forsyth, N. Wilson. January, 1994.
To the left of *Second Sight* is a gully slanting from bottom left to top right. This is climbed in two pitches, the second being the crux.

Lower Coire Duail:

Icefall – 250m IV. G. Cohen, D. Rubens. 18th February, 1994.
The obvious fall to the right of *Windfall* (with which it forms a twin). Where the fall steepens and divides at one-third height, the narrower right-hand fork was followed, giving a delicate move right at one point. A fine icefall.

Lord Reay's Seat:

The North Face – 200m IV. G. Cohen, D. Rubens. 19th February, 1994.
Approached from the north, *Lord Reay's Seat* presents a mixed face. There is a pinnacle about 30m below the summit. The route starts at the right-hand end of the face, climbs a left-trending ramp and aims towards a rocky bowl to gain the gap behind the pinnacle. The crux is the two mixed pitches gaining the pinnacle.

Creag na Faoilinn:

The Reluctant Accomplice – 25m E3 5c. R. Campbell. 1st May, 1994.
Climb an orange pillar straight up to a crack through the triple overhang. Nut lower-off above.

Ceannabeinne Crag (GR 442 657):

The crag is directly above a sandy beach a few km east of Durness. Numerous short routes up to HVS were soloed. The best worthwhile climb lies on the obvious east-facing wall of clean gneiss.

Rock Lust – 10m HVS 5a/b. A. Tibbs, A. Milne. 7th July, 1988.
The highest section of clean rock. Start on a large block and climb curving cracks above the left side of the block.

MID CLYTH, The Stack Area:

The Annunciation – 20m E2 5b. S. Clark, G. Milne. 26th June, 1994.
The arete right of *Sprockletope*, moving from the right side to the left at half-height (Friend 0).

Blood Hunt – 15m HVS 5a. S. Clark. 25th August, 1994. The prominent crack and V-groove right of *Frog Stroker*.

Overhanging Wall:

Psychedelic Wall – 10m HVS 5a. S. Clark, G. Milne. 31st May, 1994. Centre of buttress left of *Slow Boat*.

Seal Bomber – 12m E2 5c. S. Clark, G. Milne. 31st May, 1994.
Wall right of Thanksgiving, right to arete, then crack above.

LATHERONWHEEL:

S. Clark agrees with E2 5b for The Serpent (SMCJ 1994).

ORKNEY, Castle of Yesnaby Area:

Sea Hawk – 30m Severe. A. Tibbs, D. Bearhop. 21st July, 1994.

This route provides an escape back up the main cliff without resorting to climbing the abseil ropes. Start at low tide at the left edge of the buttress about 10m left of the abseil descent. At higher tide the start can be reached by a traverse in from the right. Climb up by short corners and ledges leading rightwards to belay 5m left of the abseil stakes.

SHETLAND, Grind o' The Navir:

Navir Direct – 25m E5 6b. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 9th August, 1994.

A direct on Navir-Navir Land. Start below and right of the niche. Climb up via tiny ramps and cracks to a short jam crack through the roof. Climb this and the thin crack leftwards to join the original route at the large bowl hold. Continue up the crack to the top. Superb protection, brilliant route.

The Peat Stack – 15m E3 5c. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 9th August, 1994.

The vague crack up the pillar from the starting ledge of Sylvi.

Shetland Times – 20m Hvs 5a. N. Ritchie, W. Moir. 14th August, 1994.

From the belay ledges of The Udge move left and climb the left edge of the wall to gain and climb the obvious chimney cracks.

Tushkar – 20m E4 6b. W. Moir. 14th August, 1994.

Climb the fine corner which Satori starts up, all the way.

Crabbie, Crabbie Is Do In – 20m E3 5b. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 14th August, 1994.

The bold arete right of Tushkar.

Nibon:

Shetland Silvercraft – 15m E2 5c. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 12th August, 1994. The prominent line of grooves on the south face of the Grey Pillar, Starting at a wide crack.

The Dancin' Water – 15m E3 5c. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 12th August, 1994.

The intermittent jam-crack just left of Silvercraft to gain a ledge on the left. Step back right to climb the edge of the pillar to the top (long slings desirable to extend runners at the top).

I See Foula – 20m E3 6a. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 11th August, 1994.

A line up the frontal face of the pillar between Black Magic and Bootie. Climb twin cracks direct to the grey niche, exit the left side of this and climb cracks and flakes to finish up a deep crack in the slab above.

The Tango o' The Isles – 22m E4 6a. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 11th August, 1994.
A line up the wall right of Bootie. Start up a distinct corner to gain a ledge. Continue up the vague crackline directly above to a horizontal break. Hand traverse left to climb a corner, then hand traverse right to gain the final corner.

The next two routes are on the big south east-facing wall opposite Puissance.

Yogi Braer – 30m VS 4c. N. Ritchie, W. Moir. 11th August, 1994.

Abseil down the landward side of the big slabby face to a good black ledge below a corner, 15m above the sea. Move left to gain a groove. Climb this and the continuation crack to gain the fine twin cracks up the slab, continuing directly to the top.

Boo Boo – 35m HVS 5a. N. Ritchie, W. Moir. 12th August, 1994.

Abseil down the seaward side of the face to a black ledge 8m above the sea. Climb a corner, then the continuation twin cracks over a bulge (crux). Continue up the crack system to the top.

Notes. Nibon: Slice of Life is not in the geo with the 'protruding buttress'. It is 200m south of the geo containing Cattle Rustler. The Cattle Rustler Geo would be better described as directly seaward from the obvious cairn. Route lengths here need sorting e.g. Cattle Rustler is longer than Hermless although it is given 40m as opposed to 60m in the guide.

Warie Gill: Vampire and Silly Arete are not on the same cliff as the other routes hereabouts but are on the other side of a small inlet (just north), facing south.

CAIRNGORMS

Since a new edition of the Cairngorms Guide is due out soon after this Journal, new routes have not been repeated here. The style is similar to the previous guide, in that not all routes have been fully described. It is, however, slightly expanded, particularly for crags which are currently popular. Most recent routes are therefore described, but for those which have been summarised, full descriptions, if useful, will be in next year's Journal.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

COVESEA:

Hacuna Matatta – 30m E3 5c. J.A. Hall, J.T. 3rd May, 1994.

From the coastguard lookout (as for Honeycomb Wall) walk west for approx. 300m until just before the second dry stream bed. Four old abseil stakes can be seen beyond the gorse on the north side of the path. The route ascends the obvious overhanging groove (invisible from above) in the seaward nose. Abseil down the east side of the nose of rock, small sloping grass ledge to ease take-off. Care with sharp edges. Clip *in situ* thread (after 10m) and a poor peg (after 20m) to allow the belay to be reached. Hanging belay just above the very soft lower tier of sandstone. Climb the first groove using the left wall and groove to the break. Poor peg only necessary on the abseil. Continue up to and past the thread (crux) into the top groove. Ascend the final groove and arete in a spectacular position. Well protected throughout.

BEN RINNES, Scurran of Well:

The hill forms a prominent landmark near Dufftown and the routes are located on the prominent granite tor located 1500m north west of Ben Rinnes summit.

The Curse of the Neep – 50m HVS 5a. I. Davidson, P. Heneghan, A. Ross, M. Sutherland. August, 1990.

Start at the toe of the buttress and follow a steep groove and flakes to a stance. Left over an overlap and up the long, easy slab to finish. Treat the flakes like your best bottle of malt.

Unnamed – 20m VS 4c. M. Sutherland, A. Ross. August, 1990.

Climb the open corner near the top of the gully wall, finishing to the right.

GLEN CLOVA, The Doonie:

Guinness – A. Fyffe notes that a tree is missing near the top of pitch 1. It is now much harder, unless this section is turned on the left.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

BINNEAN SHUAS:

Turning a Blind Eye – 50m E5 6b. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 11th June, 1994.

Climbs the arete right of Fortress Direct in one long pitch. Protection very hard to arrange for an on-sight ascent, so might be harder. Start at the toe of the buttress and meander up with no great difficulty to an overhang at the start of the vertical climbing. Climb first up and left to a jammed RP1; then up and back right to a flake on the right-hand wall. Finish straight up.

Native Stones – 115m VS. N. Kempe, D.F. Lang. 9th May, 1993.

About 50m right of Tip Top there is a prominent chimney. Start about 10m right of this, to the right of vegetated ledges and before the final arete of the crag, at the bottom of a leftward slanting corner.

1. 25m 5a. Follow the corner, pass over a projecting block and enter a groove for a couple of moves, then move on to the right wall and up to a ledge on the right with a prominent block.

2. 25m 4b. From the block, step right on to the face of the buttress, then up rightwards and back leftwards to a large belay ledge on the edge of the buttress.

3. 25m 4b. Follow the mossy crack above, then up, keeping a prominent corner-crack system to the left. Join this where it steepens to a vertical corner and follow up and left to belay. Easier ground then leads to the top.

Far Eastern Chimney – 115m HVS. N. Kempe, D.F. Lang. 22nd May, 1994. This is the prominent chimney about 50m right of Tip Top.

1. 35m 4b/c. Climb the mossy chimney.

2. 25m 5a/b. Gain a platform below the steep corner and crack above and climb these direct, exiting right at the top to belay by large blocks.

3. 30m 4c. Climb the chimney above directly (very airy) to a belay well back. Finish up easy rocks as for Native Stones.

CREAG DUBH:

A Lethal Affair – 150m IV, 5. S. Allan, M. Atkins. 3rd January, 1995.

Climbs the right-slanting fault which divides Great Wall and Lower Central Wall. A variable amount of ice forms slowly and the initial icefall has been climbed before. Start about 1m left of Rib Direct.

1. 10m. Climb ice for 6m, then left and up to a tree belay.
2. 35m. Climb the right slanting groove (ice) to a tree belay.
3. 45m. Climb directly left of the tree belay to reach round and into a corner, which is followed.
4. 40m. Continue up the corner.
5. 40m. Icicles at the top of the corner were not complete so a finish was made on the left.

STRATHYRE CRAG (OS Sheet 57, 555183):

Travelling northwards on the main road through Strathyre there is a garage on the left, then a small newsagent's shop. Immediately beyond the shop turn left, go over the narrow humpbacked bridge and follow the single track road up right to go northwards through the woods for about 3km. There is a house on the right (Bailefuill) and a straight. Just beyond the pines there is a small clearing on the left where the small lower crag becomes visible. The main crag sits immediately above this. Continue along the road for a few hundred metres, around a bend to where a forestry track goes off up left.

Park immediately opposite this on the right where there is space for two or three cars. Walk back to the clearing, through the pines and find a small footpath leading up to the left side of the crag.

The hotel opposite the single track road is good for cheap tea and toast. 50m up the road from this hotel there is an excellent little tea room with a fine selection of tasty cakes.

The routes are described from left to right.

Shock Horror – 7b+. R. Anderson. 1st May, 1994.

Wall left of arete.

Electrodynamic – 7a. R. Anderson. 24th October, 1993.

Prominent left arete.

Bridging the Gap – 6c+/7a. R. Anderson. May, 1994.

Prominent groove to lower-off of previous route.

Short Circuit – 6b. R. Anderson. 6th November, 1993.

Slim groove beside main groove (common start).

Clam Chowder – 6c+/7a. G. Ridge. 1st May, 1994.

Wall to right through ledge.

Unnamed – 7b+. P. Thorburn. 30th April, 1994.

Wall to finish up Static Discharge.

Static Discharge – 7b. R. Anderson. October, 1993.

Central line through diagonal crack.

Project – Line through crack (D. McCallum).

Project – Line straight up from base of crack (P. Thorburn).

Cracking the Lines – 7a+/7b. R. Anderson. 21st May, 1994.
The crack from its base.

Unnamed – 7a+/7b. R. Anderson. 21st May, 1994.
Short steep leaning wall and less steep wall.

Power Surge – 6c+. R. Anderson. October, 1993.
Leaning wall and scoop on right.

Spark Thug – 6b. R. Anderson. May, 1994.
Short corner and wall to lower-of of Power Surge.

GLEN NEVIS, Black's Buttress:

M. Garthwaite notes an ascent of Centrepiece without the peg. E6 6b.

TULLIEMET CRAG (NO 013 496):

The Sleeping Sickness – 20m E5 6a. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. October, 1993.
The leaning wall above a slab in the middle of the crag. Gain a standing position on the flake by swinging in from the left; crank up to the top.

GLEN LEDNOCK, Eagle Crag:

Cranium Wall Direct – 10m E2 5c. G. Lennox, C. Adam. July, 1994.
This route takes a line straight up the middle of the overhanging face left of the route Cranium Wall. Follow the large edge to a PR and finish slightly rightwards.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, East Face of Meall Garbh (named Carn Chreag on OS map):

Lozenge Buttress – 120m III. M. Shaw, A. Keith. 23rd January, 1994.
This buttress is the central and highest part of the Carn Chreag, and lies about due east of Meall Garbh (approx. GR 581384) and to the left (west) of the Meall Garbh-Meall nan Tarmachan col. Its lozenge shape is readily identified by the two gullies that start nearly at the same point and curve upwards to embrace the rock face.

Start underneath the overhanging rock at the lowest point of the buttress. Skirt the overhang on the left, traverse back right to above the belay and continue directly to the top. Warthogs in frozen turf used for runners and belays.

The buttress was first noted and named by W. Inglis Clark and J.W. Inglis in December, 1898. They declined to climb it, instead tackling the right-hand-bounding gully (article and photo in SMCJ Vol.5, Jan 1899, p153). A more recent sketch of the Carn Chreag is in SMCJ 1988 in which the buttress is clearly shown. Inglis Clark's gully is dismissed as I/II although the first ascentists seem to have had it tougher in early-season conditions.

BEN LAWERS, Coire nan Cat:

This wide coire holding Lochan nan Cat and a variety of crags and gullies belongs jointly to Ben Lawers, An Stuc and Meall Garbh. 1:50000 Sheet 51. The two main crags are the slabby Creag an Fhithich (GR 640 421), at the termination of a short spur jutting east from the north ridge of Ben Lawers, and the large but more broken Creag nan Cat (GR 640 427) on the south west flank of An Stuc. Both these crags lie at an altitude of over 800m and are turfy in nature. However, their easterly aspect tend to give best climbing conditions in early to mid winter.

Creag an Fhithich:

Felinity – 125m II/III. G.E. Little. 14th November, 1993.

Start well right of the centre of the crag where a low snow ledge runs out to the right. Follow the ledge for about 15m to below a shallow groove. Climb the turfy groove to reach an obvious small pinnacle on the right. Traverse right, then follow a ramp to reach an easy angled tapering snowfield. Ascend this to a pointed block, then climb a short section of mixed ground to the top of the crag.

Cool for Cats – 125m VI, 5. G.E. Little, C. Schaschke (alt). 27th November, 1993. The general line of this route can be identified by an obvious thin chimney, just below mid height, near the centre of the crag. To the right of the lowest point of the crag are two well-defined corners with a big block roof between them at 15m. Start farther right at a vague open groove (collinear with the aforementioned chimney).

1. 45m. Climb the vague open groove which proves a lot harder than it looks (poor protection) to gain a better defined turfy groove. Follow this to belay about 5m below the thin chimney.

2. 25m. Move right and climb an icy slab to under the right end of an overhang where protection can be arranged. Step right around the edge to the base of a turf-filled crack (running roughly parallel to the thin chimney). Climb this to a tiny ledge below a band of small overhangs.

3. 25m. Step left and up to good protection under a roof (this provides an alternative belay for pitch 2). Move left into a turfy groove and follow it to a ledge on the left.

4. 30m. Easy-angled snow leads to the top of the crag.

Cataract – 85m IV, 4. C. Bonington, G.E. Little (alt). 19th March, 1994.

The obvious wide icefall, left of centre, just below a low band of roofs running out left.

1. 40m. Climb a short ice step, then up to below the main icefall. Ascend this to take a good, but exposed, rock belay on the left before the top of the steepest section.

2. 45m. Step right, then climb steep ice to a rock overlap. Move right into a groove. Ascend this, then up an easier-angled snow scoop to belay at a big block on the left.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH**BEN NEVIS, North East Buttress:**

C. Stead notes that the start of Newbigging's 80-minute Route is some 200m downhill from the ledge leading out to the First Platform of North East Buttress, not 45m (p64 of the new guide). On p67, route 8 on the diagram should be 8a, Newbigging's Far Right Variation.

Orion Face:

Orion Directissima – 375m VI, 5. S. Richardson, R. Webb (AL). 16th April, 1994. A sustained climb to the right of Orion Direct, starting up Beta Route, and finishing up the prominent curving corner in the Orion headwall. Although many of the pitches have been climbed before, the complete route is a logical line and the most direct route up the face.

- 1, 2. 90m. Climb Beta Route to a stance just right of the Basin.
3. 50m. Step right, and follow wide icy grooves on the right side of a rocky rib to belay below the Second Slab Rib.
- 4, 5. 90m. Turn the Second Slab Rib on the right, then trend back right by icy grooves to a snowfield (as for Orion Direct).
6. 50m. Climb the snowfield and step right to belay below the steep bow-shaped corner on the right side of the headwall.
7. 45m. Climb the corner to its top. An excellent pitch.
8. 50m. Finish easily up snow to the top.

Indicator Wall:

Shot in the Foot – 50 V, 4. J.L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. 4th April, 1995.

A icefall starting on the left wall of Gardyloo Gully below the chockstone.

Gardyloo Buttress:

Murphy's Route – 130m VI, 6. R.G. Webb, A. Shand. March, 1983.

Between Kellet's Route and Smith's Route is a short, icy groove.

1. 50m. Climb the groove to its end, then up steep mixed ground to a shallow cave beneath the icicle fringe hanging down from Smith's Route Left Hand. Pull out through the overhang above to a precarious belay on Smith's Route.
2. 30m. Continue steeply trending left to the foot of Augean Alley.
3. 50m. Finish up Augean Alley.

Douglas Boulder:

Note: D.F. Lang and C. Stead repeated the North West Face of the Douglas Boulder, unaware of its earlier ascent, and considered the grade of IV, 5 to be a substantial undergrading. Certainly V. Two French parties also climbed the route and commented their agreement in the hut book.

West Face:

Jacknife – 90m Severe. D.M. Jenkins, C. Stead. 23rd July, 1994.

This climbs the V-groove with twin parallel cracks 30m right of the Cutlass corner.

1. 50m Climb slabs to the base of the groove.
2. 25m Climb the groove, finishing by the right-hand crack to a grass ledge.
3. 15m Climb a crack with a loose flake and move right to the South West Arete.

Walking Through Fire – 130m VS. D.M. Jenkins, C. Stead. 23rd July, 1994.

Climbs the groove system just right of Cutlass.

1. 40m 4b Climb slabs to the ledge below the Cutlass corner.
2. 25m 4b Traverse left along the ledge to its end. Climb the groove above, avoiding a loose block on the right and move left into a parallel groove which is climbed to a stance below an inverted V-overhang.
3. 25m 4b Step down right and climb the overhanging wall to easier ground and a belay some way up a long V-groove.

4. 40m 4b Continue up the groove, avoiding the final chimney on the left arete. Move right past dangerously -loose blocks to the SW Arete.

Note: It would be safer for the leader to belay at the top of the groove to avoid the risk of stonefall to the second, as happened on the first ascent.

Secondary Tower Ridge:

The Gutter – 110m IV, 4. R. Webb, S. Richardson (AL). 8th April, 1995.

The summer line regularly forms a prominent icefall on the right side of Glover's Chimney. Low in the grade. Start by climbing Glover's Chimney for 80m and belay at the foot of the icefall.

1, 2. 60m. Bear right to where the icefall steepens and climb it to its top (easiest on the left).

3. 50m. Continue up snow slopes to finish below the final steepening on Tower Ridge.

D.M. Jenkins and C. Rowland note that they made a winter ascent probably of this line in the early 1970s.

Number Two Gully Buttress:

The Blue Horizon – 100m IV, 4. S. Richardson, R. Webb (AL). 8th April, 1995.

A worthwhile ice climb taking the easiest line in the centre of the steep headwall above the traverse of Raeburn's Easy Route. Start 25m right of Le Panthere Rose below a short steep icefall.

1. 50m. Climb the icefall and continue up the gully on the right to an easing in angle.

2. 50m. Follow ice runnels up and right to the cornice. This was outflanked by a 70m traverse left to finish just right of Tower Ridge.

Creag Coire na Ciste:

Place Your Bets – 100m V, 6+. J. Blyth, J. Briel; G. Perroux, D. Colin. 12th April, 1994.

The obvious 40m overhanging icefall to the right of Wendigo. Seldom forms.

South Trident Buttress:

Rien Ne Va Plus – 50m V, 5. G. Perroux, J. Blyth. 10th April, 1994.

Prominent icefall on the right as you head up Number Four Gully. Seldom forms. Short vertical walls.

Jubilee Buttress:

Mega Reve – 60m V, 5. G. Perroux et al. 4th April, 1994.

Climb a narrow chimney to the left of Jubilee Climb, then snow and a short steep icefall, belay on left. Move up and left leading to the base of the central of three vertical icefalls. Climb this.

North Trident Buttress:

Note: In the description of Fifties Revival (SMCJ 1994, p488), pitch 2 should read: 'Climb the wall 2m left of a bulging crack.'

Carn Dearg Buttress:

The Bewildabeast – 130m VI, 6. M. Garthwaite, A. Wainwright. 21st March, 1995.

A superb route up ice and grooves to the right of Gemini featuring the most 'out

there' ice on the Ben on the top pitch. Better and harder than Gemini. Start halfway up Waterfall Gully at the base of a corner just above and to the right of the large detached flake of Gemini.

1. 30m. Climb the ice smear that forms down the left wall of the corner until it runs out at a steep wall. Traverse a thin ledge rightwards to a small ledge in the corner, then climb a short chimney to a larger ledge and belay.

2. 35m. Climb the thin corner, over a small roof, then move right into the base of another corner. Climb this moving over another roof and belay at a small ledge on the right.

3. 20m. Climb the very thin groove in the arete above (to the right of the main corner), then move right slightly to another short corner. Belay on the terrace below the final wall.

4. 45m. Climb the thin tongue of ice above and then move left on to the main icefall and direct to the top.

STOB BAN, Central Buttress:

Rampant – 250m IV, 4. D. Hanna, S. Kennedy. January, 1995.

Takes a line between Bodice Ripper and Skyline Rib on the large triangular face. Climb to the prominent left-slanting ramp and follow this until it fades (Bodice Ripper leaves the ramp at this point). Move up on to another ramp above and follow this to within 20m of the buttress edge. Another narrow ramp leads up steeply rightwards below the crest of the buttress. A steep step leads on to the narrow ramp which is followed for two pitches. A steep leftwards traverse across a small buttress leads to the buttress edge to finish just below the top of the Triad gully. Finish up the ramp of Triad.

South Buttress:

North Ridge Route – 150m IV, 4. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 29th January, 1995.

At the lower end of the steep central wall near the foot of South Gully are two corner lines. Climb the left-hand corner for 35m, then move out right to belay just short of the ridge (50m). Continue to the ridge which leads easily to a finish very close to the summit.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain:

President's Buttress – 120m III. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge (AL). 4th December, 1994.

The slabby buttress left of Hidden Gully. Start roughly in the centre and follow the well-defined depression and groove system to reach easier ground and the top.

Sprint Gully – 120m III. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright (AL). 8th January, 1995.

The wide gully/depression to the left of President's Buttress leads to the plateau in three pitches, with the second one providing a steep crux.

Ribbon on Edge – 120m IV, 6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright (AL). 8th January, 1995.

The elegant arete to the right of Hidden Gully.

1. 30m. From the foot of Hidden Gully, a break leads right on to a platform on the front face of the buttress. Climb the groove on the right (crux), and continue to a good ledge.

2. 45m. Climb straight up the turf wall above the belay to gain the crest of the arete. Follow this, turning two towers on the right.
3. 45m. Climb easily up the final arete to reach the summit snow slope.

Maneater – 90m V, 5. S. Richardson, R. Webb (AL). 14th January, 1995.

The prominent wide gully between the buttresses taken by White Shark and Gondola with the Wind. A good direct line.

1. 50m. Climb the gully to where it steepens at an overhung cave. Thin ice on the left wall (crux) leads to a groove and belay.
2. 40m. Climb steep ice directly above the belay to reach the top groove (previously climbed by Tinsel Town) and the plateau.

An Cul Choire:

South Spur – 150m IV, 4. S. Kennedy, S. Thirgood. 21st December, 1994.

The left (south) side of the prominent buttress containing Aonach Seang comprises three distinct buttresses. This route climbs the largest left hand buttress finishing close to the neck just below the plateau.

Start at the lowest point of the buttress and climb easy ground up leftwards to a narrow ramp which leads to a belay on the buttress edge. Climb up and leftwards into a vague depression left of the buttress edge. Continue in two pitches over short steps and a steep corner on the left to the easier upper slopes. Finish along the ridge leading to the neck.

Bishop's Rise – 80m IV, 5. P. Moores, A. Nelson. 8th February, 1995.

A small prominent buttress juts out from the back wall of the coire close to the Aonach Mor/Beag col. A two-tiered icefall forms down the buttress with a wide terrace splitting the two pitches.

AONACH BEAG, North Face:

The following two routes may coincide somewhat?

Dragonfly – 200m III. M. Duff. January, 1994.

Start 40m right of Mayfly where a wide gully leads to an iceflow (similar to the start of Mayfly). Climb this and then break left up a small, steep ice pitch. Move up the broken ridge overlooking the upper section of Mayfly and mixed upper face.

Queen's View – 250m III. P. Moores, A. Nelson. 8th February, 1995.

In the centre of the north face, on the area between Mayfly and King's Ransom, is a snow basin. Gain this via a runnel. Exit the basin by a narrow gully which leads directly to the highest point of the face.

BINNEIN SHUAS:

Squeezy – 85m IV, 4. P. Amphlett, M. Sinclair. 25th January, 1995.

Climbs the bottom fault of the summer route Second Prize (below the Terrace). Involves an interesting thrutch under a chockstone.

Fairy Liquid – 85m III. M. Sinclair. February, 1994.

Climbs the bottom fault of Eastern Chimney (below the Terrace).

CREAG MEAGHAIDH, Raeburns Gully Buttress:

Do What Thou Wilt – 200m IV, 4. A. Powell, S. Grayson. 12th March, 1994.

Start on the left side of the buttress behind a small tower. Climb the bay and take the obvious unlikely-looking ramp running across and through the roofs (excellent pitch). Head right, then climb a short wall to easier ground. The groove in the (avoidable) buttress 80m higher up also goes well at V, 6. Traversing right now leads straight to the foot of Smith's Gully.

MONADHLIATH, Carn Dearg, Loch Dubh Crag:

Tunnel Vision – 110m III. B. Findlay, D. Riley, R. Ross, G. Strange. 3rd January, 1995.

Climbs the left edge of Wee Team Gully.

1. 50m. Start immediately left of the gully and climb short walls and vegetation to an obvious rock pillar on the skyline.

2. 40m. Continue up the corner on the left to blocks below the plateau.

3. 20m. Climb either the steep wall on the left or a through-route in the blocks to the right.

BEN ALDER, North face, Maiden Crag:

Tour d' Alder – 300m II A. Nisbet. 22nd April, 1995.

Near the right edge of the crag is a big shallow gully which curves left in its top half. This is the route. A steep ice pitch near the start was avoided on the left but in colder conditions would be climbed – probably Grade III.

GLEN COE**BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Creag a' Bhancair,**

Cuirtearan Mairfheoil – 35m E6 6a. G. Farquhar, C. Carolan. 27th July, 1990.

A serious pitch, climbed on sight, up the wall between Twilight Zone and Meatbeater. Start below the grey groove 5m left of the red groove of Twilight Zone. Climb the groove and rightward-slanting diagonal crack through the bulge to join Carnivore (protection). Step right and climb directly up the steep wall above to a good ledge. Continue up and right to the peg belay.

Conga Reel – 50m E3/4 6a. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 8th August, 1994.

In the middle of the right-hand section of the crag, there are three parallel cracklines – close together – slanting up the wall. The rightmost, Cayman, is the biggest. The central crack is taken by Walk with Destiny after starting up Cayman. This route takes the leftmost crack. Start at a tree just below and left of the line.

1. 25m 6a. Climb the crack to a grass ledge.

2. 25m 5b. Step up into the groove behind the belay, swing out right and continue to join Cayman and Walk with Destiny at the large grass ledge. Continue up scrappy ground to the tree belay at the foot of the chimney on Cayman. Either continue as for Cayman or 50m abseil.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Gearr Aonach, East Face:

Mimsy – 120m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 24th January, 1995.

Follow the summer line.

BEINN FHADA, North Face:

Ice Gearr – 250m III. P. Harrop, P. Moores. 13th February, 1992.

Follows the obvious water course immediately right of the nose. Start at about 400m.

AONACH DUBH, East Face:

Basin Chimney – 100m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 25th January, 1995.

Follow the summer line.

Diamond Buttress:

Diamond Edge – 130m IV, 5. M. Robson, B. Ottewell. 14th April, 1994.

Start just at the narrows in the left branch of Central Gully, just before the top of Collie's Pinnacle.

1. 50m. Climb ice and turf in a continuous groove for 20m. Step left across a large block and climb ice above trending left to easy snow.
2. 35m. Move up and right to belay below three short, icy grooves.
3. 45m. Move up and climb either groove, then trend right up mixed ground to the top.

Church Door Buttress:

Redemption – 75m VI, 6. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 13th February, 1994.

Climbs the obvious groove just around the buttress crest, some 75m up Central Gully from the start of Crypt Route.

1. 30m. Climb the groove, first on the left, then on the right via a small recess to an easing. Step across left and continue up the groove to pull around a snow crest to a bay.
2. 45m. Step right and climb a stepped groove to a bay and continue up a shallow left trending groove to the top.

West Top of Bidean:

The Fang – 75m V, 6. B. Ottewell, I. Sutton. 26th March, 1994.

The prominent gully separating Bishop's Buttress and the steep buttress of Twilight.

1. 40m. Climb the iced corner exiting right at the icicle (the Fang). Move up over bulges to belay in a large cave. Thin ice on the left wall may have been essential.
2. 35m. Traverse left and climb the steep ice wall moving back right to the gully line. Exit by an icy corner and bulge on the left. The right exit may be slightly easier.

Surely – 60m II/III. I. Sutton, B. Ottewell. 24th March, 1994.

This route lies on the left wall of Hourglass Gully. Start 25m up the gully. Climb ice into a shallow gully leading to a rock wall (40m). Mixed climbing up a corner leads to the top (20m).

BEINN A' BHEITHIR, Sgorr Dhonuill:

Thirty Nine Steps – 100m IV, 6. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 18th February, 1995.

This good route lies on the steep granite buttress high up on the left (south) side of the north-most coire (GR 027 563). The buttress is approx. 100m left of the left-most of two wide gullies at the head of the coire. Start up a prominent corner line near the centre just left of a steep wall. Climb the corner for 10m, then traverse out

leftwards along an obvious ledge for 5m to reach a short steep corner. Climb the corner (crux), then move back right above and continue up a chimney to a ledge (45m). Traverse a few metres left to a groove which leads back up rightwards into the main corner line. Follow the corner to easier ground above (55m).

TRILLEACHAN SLABS:

Take Your Chances – 120m E2. C. Stead, D.F. Lang. 14th May, 1994.

This route lies on the left side of the upper slabs, left of Dan. Start at the foot of the leftmost of the three right-facing corners.

1. 45m 5c. Climb the corner (wet, RP runners) to reach holds leading right then left back into the continuing groove which leads to a stance.
2. 40m 5b. Climb the groove to a finger crack, step right and climb the slab to two small overlaps with a heather moustache. Traverse the moustache right and gain a fault line via three tiny finger pockets which leads to a flake belay.
3. 35m 5b. Climb the slab to a large overlap, traverse left and gain a dirty corner, climbed on its right wall to ledges (thread and spike belay). Three abseils to the path.

STOB COIR' AN ALBANNAICH:

Unnamed – 70m II/III. S. Kennedy. 26th March, 1994.

A nice icefall falls directly from the summit down into the north coire. Climb the icefall and vague depression above to the summit. An easy gully 30m to the left provides a convenient descent into the coire.

BEN STARAV, Stob Coire Dhearg:

Desperate Dan – 175m III, 4. I. Dillon, M. Sinclair. 25th January, 1995.

Situated on the right-hand buttress of three, to the right of Shadow Groove, following an obvious gully fault.

1. 25m. Up steep snow to a chockstone barrier. Surmount this at the right-hand side where the chockstone meets the slab. Continue up until a short steep thigh width crack bars access to the gully continuation above.
2. 25m. Thrutch up the crack and pull over into the gully. Continue up and belay to the left of the gully exit slot.
3. 50m. Up right through the slot and over short steep steps to easy ground. Scramble to the ridge (75m).

ARDGOUR, GARBH BHEINN, South Wall of Great Ridge,

The Contender – 50m E3/4 5c. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 11th August, 1994.

Excellent climbing up the wall between Pincer and White Hope. Start in the centre of the wall beside White Hope, at an embedded pointed boulder. Take plenty draws and wires, particularly in the Rock 1-5 range.

1. 50m. Climb directly to the right end of a short, left slanting crack at 6m and follow this to gain a jug up on the left. Move up to a large round pocket, step left, climb the thin crackline and continue directly above into a groove, access to which is barred by a boldish hard move over a double bulge. At the top of the groove an awkward move over a bulge gains a rampline beneath the headwall. Follow the ramp a short way, then swing out right and climb the short crack up the left side of the headwall to reach ledges and a wide groove. Climb the niche on the left, swing out left on to the rib and follow the slab to a thin grassy ledge just below the top.

North Buttress:

Too Old to be Bold – 110m V. Diff. E. Fraser, A. Keith. 3rd October, 1993.

The climb is located at the extreme left side of the crag, just right of the 'unnamed gully' p338, Glen Coe Guide. A good line on generally clean, sound rock.

1. 35m. Climb through steep slabs, making an initial traverse right for 5m into a V-groove, then follow this up, trending slightly left, past an awkward move at 20m, to a belay stance.

2. 35m. Climb up and left by slabs and cracks to the exposed edge overlooking the unnamed gully, then follow the edge over easier angled slabs to a niche below a steepening.

3. 40m. Climb steeper rock out of the niche for 15m, then scramble to the top.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**BEINN AN DOTHaidh, North East Coire:**

Valhalla – 150m IV, 5. S. Dicken, H. Pell. 29th January, 1994.

Climbs an icefall starting approx. 10m right of Haar.

1. 50m. Climb the icefall and belay on the right in the narrow gully above.

2. 50m. Trend right and climb steep rock and ice bulges to belay at the foot of the summit snow cone.

3. 50m. Climb the snow cone to the summit.

Note: The route was repeated, unaware of the earlier ascent, by M. Reed and M. Sawyers on 13th February, 1994. They note that the amount of ice varies greatly and some years isn't there. They graded IV, 4, which looks right on the photo provided, but also there was much less ice in January.

THE COBBLER, South Peak:

S-Crack – V, 7. I. Taylor, C. Lyon. 20th March, 1994.

Climb the summer route in two pitches. Well protected.

North Peak:

Right-Angled Chimney – IV, 5. A. Forsyth, B. Goodlad. 25th February, 1994.

By the summer route.

Wild Thing – 40m E5 6b. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 20th July, 1994.

'The true finish to Punster's Crack'. Start up Punster's Crack but continue without belaying up the impending crack. The off-width section is the crux (Camalot 4 very useful) but a rest can be contrived in the slot before a spectacular climax is achieved pulling on to the slab. Led on sight (second visit).

Trans-Am Wheel Arch Nostrils – 40m E4 6a. M. Garthwaite. 20th July, 1994.

Start up the first corner of Punster's, then straight up the wide crack to just before the step around on the second pitch of Punster's. Climb the steep groove to the right of the wide crack of Wide Country and pull on to the slab (crux). Easy to the top.

North Peak, South Face, Great Gully Area:

Gimcanna – 105m VI, 7. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 2nd January, 1994.

A good route based on the summer line of Gimcrack. Start as for North Rib Route some 7m right of the entrance to Great Gully, at a steep shallow recess.

1. 35m. Climb the recess and the groove on the right to easy ground leading to a ledge. Move left into Great Gully and go up this a short way to beneath an obvious V-corner.
2. 30m. As for Gimcrack, up the corner to a ledge (possible belay) and ascend the bulging crack to a spacious ledge.
3. 40m. Move up and where Gimcrack traverses the flake away left, continue straight up the left side of a huge block to reach a shallow fault leading to the top.

North Rib Route – 90m V, 7. R. Anderson, C. Anderson, D. McCallum, R. Milne. 4th January, 1993.

Follows the summer line, a first rate climb with good situations. Start some 7m right of the entrance to Great Gully, at a steep shallow recess.

1. 15m. Climb the recess and groove on the right to easy ground leading to a ledge and a belay on the right.
2. 35m. Move up into the obvious square cut recess, stand on the obvious block on the left and traverse round left, then up to the edge overlooking Great Gully. Climb straight up to slabby ground leading to a belay on the chockstone runner on the third pitch of Gimcanna.
3. 40m. Move back right, climb a short step via a nose, then go right and climb a steep crack up the right side of a huge block to finish up the shallow fault of Gimcanna.

Great Gully Groove – 95m. IV, 6. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 27th December, 1994. Climbs the obvious groove immediately beside North Rib Route, starting 10m right of that route.

1. 20m. Climb a short step into a shallow bay and continue up and slightly left to belay as for North Rib Route.
2. 35m. Climb the obvious groove up on the left. North Rib Route goes out left on to the rib after the initial block. Near the top of the groove swing out left around a roof with a chockstone and continue up the crack to belay as for North Rib Route.
3. 40m. Continue as for North Rib Route or move left and finish as for Gimcanna.

Lulu – 95m. IV, 6. R. Milne, R. Anderson. 27th December, 1994.

Climbs the groove just to the right of Great Gully Groove sharing its first pitch.

1. 20m. As above.
2. Enter the bay above as for the previous two routes, then pull out right and climb a shallow groove to belay beneath a short corner. Up on the left the short rib of North Rib Route provides an easier finish for those wishing to maintain the standard of the route.
3. 40m. Climb the short corner, and swing out beneath the capping block and gain the ledge. The crack on the left is taken by the other routes hereabouts. Instead climb the blunt arete to gain the top.

CREAG THARSUINN, Sugach Buttress:

Pulpit Grooves – 205m VI, 7. R. Anderson, D. McCallum, R. Milne. 8th January, 1994.

An excellent line approximating the summer route up the prow of the buttress. Start on the terrace beneath a groove, just right of the corner in the lowest rocks.

1. 45m. Climb the groove and pull out left on to the right end of the terrace. Move

up to the central of three possible lines. A small bush beckons from the easy ground ahead, head for this, then continue up the prominent groove over a steepening to belay below another steepening.

2. 30m. Continue up the groove to gain the right side of the Pulpit.
3. 35m. Just left of the edge and above the belay is a short steep groove. Climb it (Original Buttress Route et al are assumed to take the easier groove on the left) and follow easier ground up the blunt crest to the start of the knife-edged arete.
4. 45m. Climb the arete and ensuing easy ground to the top of the buttress.
5. 50m. Cross the neck (don't fall down Maclay's Chimney!) and climb easily to the top.

V Groove, Variation Start – IV, 5. D. MacLardie, G. Szuca. 23rd February, 1994. Start 5m left of the normal winter start, below an obvious right-slanting corner. Follow the right edge of the slabby wall via a crack until a hard move right on to the arete gains a small niche. Follow the short ramp above until possible to move on to a large ledge. Follow the right edge of the slab above to a large block belay. Traverse rightwards to the original route below the final bulge. This was climbed and the shallow chimney above.

BEINN IME:

Unnamed – 170m V, 6. S. Richardson, C. French, T. Prentice. 21st January, 1995. The steep buttress to the right of Ben's Fault.

1. 50m. As for Ben's Fault to belay in a cave beneath a steep triangular wall.
2. 30m. Follow Ben's Fault for 15m, then break out on to the slabby buttress on the right and belay in the right-hand of twin turfgy grooves.
3. 20m. Climb the groove to a ledge beneath the headwall.
4. 30m. The headwall is cut by two prominent grooves. Move up and left into the left-hand groove and climb this for 15m to where it overhangs. Move 5m right along a turfgy break and step into the top of the right-hand groove. Climb this to a good stance.
5. 40m. Continue up short walls and grooves to the crest of the buttress and the top.

Friday the Twelfth – 130m IV, 5. A. Ogilvy, E. Robertson. 12th January, 1995.

A route right of Buttress Route.

1. Start at the lowest rocks on the buttress just left of a small recess. Climb the wall direct to the base of a prominent chimney.
2. Climb the chimney to belay under a groove on the top right of the terrace.
3. Gain the groove strenuously and follow to a second terrace. Move up and left to a thread belay on the left under an undercut corner.
4. Climb the corner and continue on easier ground to the top.

MULL OF KINTYRE:

Graham Little with Kevin Howett, Bob Reid and Bill Skidmore have climbed more than 50 new routes on the schist outcrops of the Mull of Kintyre. Mainly single-pitch climbs ranging from Severe to E4, many of good quality and great character in an attractive setting. Full descriptions in the new edition of the Arran, Arrochar and Southern Highlands Guide due out late 1996.

ARRAN

BEINN TARSUINN, Full Meed Tower:

Baron Samedi – 50m HVS. A. Fraser, K. Douglas. July, 1994.

An Arran off-width, although not the most brutal of its type. Directly underneath the main tower are slabs. At the left end of these slabs is a prominent off-width crack. A gritty and somewhat vegetative start leads to a traditional struggle up the off-width into a niche (25m 5a). Climb the overhang above to a ledge, then the continuation crack above (25m 5a).

Flat Iron Tower:

Corbie Steps – 30m V. Diff. K. Douglas, A. Fraser. July, 1994.

The 'ancients' recorded routes on the right-hand tower. The middle tower is a fine, narrow pinnacle. Climb this by its frontal face. Enjoyable.

Meadow Face:

Meadow Slabs – IV. P. Hyde, G. Szuca. 15th January, 1994.

Follows the summer line. Climbed during a thaw; should drop a grade in better conditions.

Note: Boggle: G. Szuca and A. Wren did not avoid the through route by choice (SMCJ 1992). It was partially blocked, possibly by rockfall, and future ascenders are recommended to carry an ice axe to attempt clearance.

CIR MHOR, South Face:

Sou'wester Slabs – V, 6. A. Forsyth, B. Goodlad, J. Turner. 10th April, 1994.

Winter ascent by the summer route.

Coire na h-Uaimh, Lower Slabs:

The Key – 115m HVS. G.E. Little. 15th October, 1994.

Start at an elongated pocket to the right of a large, pointed block beneath the slabs (between Hode On and Polhode).

1. 45m 4c. Climb straight up a clean slab to below the overlap. Step right on to a projecting block. On the slab above a thin flake runs out left. Ignore this and climb straight up a slight rib on small pockets and dimples to a wide heather ledge.

2. 30m 5a. Climb a clean slab in two steps (a perched block lies to the left) to a small turf patch left of a small corner. An incipient crack runs out left. Follow it for 3m, then climb boldly up a steep slab, on minimal holds, to gain a keyhole thread belay just above a big crumbly flake.

3. 40m 4a. Ascend the pocketed slab above the belay, then cross an overlap to gain a thin rock crevasse (joining Polhode). Move slightly right, then climb straight up the centre of a narrow slab to finish.

SANNOX BEACH, Conglomerate Crag (SMCJ 1991):

Sci-Fi – E2 5c. G. Szuca. May, 1994.

On the second sandstone buttress on the right past the crag. Start 2m right of the *in situ* peg. Climb to the peg and pull over the roof leftwards. Finish rightwards to a good tree.

Fallen Rocks (NS 006 483):

Howk Howk – VS 4c/5a. G. Szuca. 28th May, 1994.

At the right side of the rocks there is an obvious orange sandstone buttress. The route follows the obvious groove finishing by an interesting move in a good position through the top bulge. Round the corner is a shallow cave with a slabby right wall. Two VS routes were climbed on this wall by G. Szuca.

BEINN NUIS:

Nuis Chimney. J. Irving and F. Bennet note a free winter ascent of this route at IV, 6.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS**GLASGOW SOUTH AND AYRSHIRE, Loudon Hill, West Face:**

Planet X – 12m E1 5b. P. Brown, S. McFarlane. December, 1994.

The corner immediately right of Sadist's Groove.

THE GALLOWAY HILLS, Mullwharchar, The Tauchers:

To the right of the Giants Staircase, situated between the two burns in the coire, is a broken area of hillside, identifiable by a pale concave slab at its foot and a tiered headwall at its top.

Concave Slab – 30m HVS 5a. R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 10th May, 1994.

The pale concave slab, the first feature encountered when approaching from Loch Doon. This route takes the shallow corner immediately left of the smoothest part of the slab, reached by the wall directly below the corner.

Tiers for Fears – 40m E1 5b. R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 10th May, 1994.

Good if avoidable climbing up the three tiered steeper side of the headwall. Start 3m left of a boulder perched above the first tier. Climb the thin slab (crux) to gain a finger crack and the top of the first tier. Take the next two tiers directly by steep walls and cracks.

Where Beagles Dare – 15m VS 4c. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 10th May, 1994.

About 100m down and left of the headwall is a smaller steep wall. This route takes the left-hand crack system.

Craigencallie, Flake Buttress:

At the bottom corner of the buttress is a wide, vegetated crack with two starts (Raven Seek Thy Brother is the left start). Left of this is an undercut slab steepening into a wall, the steepest feature on the buttress.

The Empty Quarter – 50m E2. A. Fraser, S. Mearns. 23rd June, 1994.

A superb route giving unexpected and improbable climbing up the undercut slab and wall. Low in the grade. From the left end of the slab, traverse right into the centre of the slab above the initial overhang, then continue up the centre of the slab and wall, angle and difficulties increasing with height (30m 5b). From the left end of the ledge, traverse 5m left and climb a cleaned crack and slabs to the top (20m 4a).

Corbie Steps – 60m HVS. A. Fraser, K. Douglas. 6th July, 1994.

A fine route taking a direct line up the buttress between the right start of the wide

crack and Cranium Edge. Start 5m right of the wide crack. Climb into a scoop at 5m, traverse right across the top of the scoop, then directly, crossing the diagonal fault of Cranium Edge to gain a steep corner. Up this, exiting left on to the wall, then up to gain a leftward trending grassy crack. Follow this for a couple of moves, then up the wall above to belay on a huge flake (30m 5a). Move left and up the centre of the wall (3m right of the wide crack) to a large grass ledge. Climb the steep wall at the back of the ledge, then slabs above to the top (30m 4b).

Main Wall:

Heinous Venus – 25m E3 5c. R. McAllister, A. Fraser, W. Todd. 14th October, 1994.

The blocky shallow edge 3m right of the crack of Delta of Venus. A steep but civilised lower section leads to a blind and precarious crux.

Odd Mortality – 25m E2 6a. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, W. Todd. 14th October, 1994. Technical and well protected. To the right of the main wall is a huge roof, immediately to the right of which is a smooth corner. Climb this, then the bulge above. Continue up walls rightwards to the top.

Dungeon of Buchan:

Well worth the effort to get there. Do not walk straight across the bog.

Dungeon Buttress:

Take a double rack of Friends and tape up.

Parcel of Rogues, Variation to pitch 1 – 30m E3 6a. ** A. Shand, R.D. Everett. 17th July, 1994. An obvious challenge which, when dry, is a little easier than the original way. Climb the original route to the small ledge at the top of the crack. Make hard moves into the hanging niche above, then struggle up the impressive overhanging slot.

Cooran Buttress:

Note: The Direct Finish to Heir Apparent is E3 5c. ** Excellent climbing but leave your brain at home. The first pitch of Cyclopath is probably 5b.

Craigencallie:

Note: The Scottish Natural Heritage warden points out that the bird restriction here should run from the beginning of April to mid-July, not as stated in the guide.

THE SOUTH-WEST SEA CLIFFS, Kiln o' the Fuffock:

Note: This crag provides some exciting adventures. Point Break is E2 6a. * Total Immersion is well worth its grade and stars. It is better to pre-clip the protection peg of Burning the Boats by climbing the corner to its right and leaning across to clip it. Then climb back down to the start of the hard climbing. If this is not done, the climbing is not well protected and worth E5.

The Kiln:

The Kiln is the grassy depression or hole inland from the main cliff and separated from the sea by an arch. The following two routes lie in the Kiln on the steep left side of the arch.

The Niche – 6m E2 5c. M. Reed, R. McAllister. 26th June, 1994.
The lefthand crack line.

Suggestive Digestive – 7m E3 6a. M. Reed, R. McAllister. September, 1994.
The right-hand crack.

Money Head, Ecu Wall:

The following two routes may coincide somewhat but Cash Flow Crisis was received too late to check.

Jug Jive – 20m E1 5b. R.D. Everett, D. Gaffney. 3rd June, 1994.

A good climb which is less fearsome than it appears. About 10m left of Slot Machine is a hanging yellow prow with a grey overhanging recess to its left. Move rightwards into the recess, then cross its overhanging right wall on surprising holds to reach the yellow prow. Traverse across the lip of the roofs to gain and climb the corner which lies left of the arete of The Root of all Evil.

Cash Flow Crisis – 15m E2 6a. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. August, 1994.

Fine athletic climbing over the lowest point of the overhang 6m left of the corner of Slot Machine. Above the roof finish straight up by easier climbing.

Note: Slot Machine is VS 4c. The parking place identified in the guide has a new building on it. Since the farmer is extremely aggressive about people parking on his land, it would be better to park at the cross roads.

Laggantalluch Head, Main Cliff:

The Holy Grail – 35m HVS 5a. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser. 6th October, 1994.

The huge corner at the left edge of the slab gives superb and well protected laybacking and chimneying.

Lunch Bay:

Truncheon Muncher – 15m E2 5c. R. McAllister, A. Fraser, D. McGimpsey. 6th October, 1994.

Thin chimneying up the wall right of Sciatic Nerve. Start 2m down and left of the large boulder jammed in the gully. Climb to the left end of the roofs, move left round a rib, then climb the wall above.

Island Walls:

PC Plummet – 10m E1 5b. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser. 6th October, 1994.

A good although often wet route up the steep, cracked wall at the back of the gully between the two Island walls.

Crammag Head, Lighthouse Walls:

Firefly – 10m HVS 5a. R.D. Everett, D. Gaffney. 3rd June, 1994.

Start at the right hand end of the ledge. Climb the wall, keeping as close to the right arete as possible.

Razamatazz – 10m HVS 5a. R. Smith, A. Munro. 24th July, 1994.

A direct line up the middle of Hourglass Slab. Poorly protected.

Gabarunning Zawn:

Note: Matador (25m, E1 5c) was climbed. Details next year.

Viking Zawn:

Ultima Thule – 30m HVS 5a. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 23rd May, 1994.

A fine continuous route tackling the steep ground at the left end of the face, left of Ragnarok. Climb the initial 6m of the gully of the Four B's until it widens and it is possible to step right on to a slab. Climb this, then up a left-trending corner above. Continue directly to a roof, surmount this, then up the slab to the top roofs. These are split by a leftward fault (just left of Ragnarok), which is climbed to the top.

Kittiwake Zawn:

The steep south-facing wall of the zawn has a wide horizontal ledge at 8m. Down Under starts up the grey corner which springs from the right end of this ledge. To the right of this is another right facing corner, which starts as a wet overhanging chimney low down. Right again is the corner at the back of the zawn. The following route climbs the middle corner, starting at a sloping ledge where the wet chimney closes.

Violently Happy – 20m E3 6a. R. McAllister, S. Mearns. September, 1994.

A magnificent impressive route, steep on large holds. Abseil to the sloping ledge. Climb a short corner to a small ledge, then up to a roof (Friend 1). Climb the left side of this, then move slightly right (wallnut 3) up to an obvious hinged spike, then pull steeply up on large holds to a rest. Finish boldly up the wall above.

Note: Down Under lies some 10m to the right of Stingray and is approached from the foot of that route.

Carrick Walls:

The Krapton Factor – 10m Severe. M. Reed. April, 1994.

The short steep wall right of Yosemite Sam.

Rocky Relations – 25m E1 5b. S. Mearns, R. McAllister. 28th July, 1994.

A very good route. Start just right of the pinnacle of Fragile Edge at a pod. Climb this, then follow cracks up the wall above.

Maiden's Stone – 20m V. Diff. M. Shaw. 17th April, 1994.

This prominent sandstone stack is a geological landmark on the Berwickshire coastline (OS sheet 67, 967604). Walk southwards below the cliffs from Ross, near Burnmouth village. The stack is accessible on foot at lowish tide (west face). A series of three mantelshelves, each one harder and more guano-ridden, takes one on to the north ridge which is followed via another mantelshelf to the top. Best avoided during the nesting season. Wellies recommended.

CENTRAL OUTCROPS, Cambusbarron West Quarry:

The Assassin – 20m HVS 5a. G. Lennox, C. Adam. July, 1994. Climbs the dirty looking slab left of Cha via an overhanging crack on the left-hand side. A second ascent throughout E1 5b.

The Accomplice – 20m EI 5b. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 9th April, 1995.

Climb the corner below and right of the slab taken by The Assassin. Follow the diagonal crack round on to the slab and finish straight up.

Left Crack – E1 5b. P. Brown, K. Archbold. August, 1994.

On the left end buttress, immediately left of Cha. Jamming to a niche. Poor rock above.

Wrong Crack – 20m. E1 5a/b. P. Brown, K. Archbold. August, 1994.

The right crack leading to the same niche. Very loose in places.

Cherry Popping – 20m HVS 5a. C. Adam, G. Lennox. 8th April, 1995. This takes the small corner immediately right of Gobi Roof. Climb past two small trees and finish straight up. Despite the FA claim, it has previously been soloed.

Frustration – 15m E2 6a. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 8th April, 1995.

Takes the arete on the left of the main face. Climb up to a small ledge in a corner and reach round to a crack on the face. Climb straight up, finishing up Easy Contract.

Bo's mantel – E1 5b. C. Adam, G. Lennox. 25th July, 1994.

Start up Easy Contract. Where this traverses left into a corner, move right and mantle on to a small ledge on the face.

Crack Attack – E3 6a. G. Lennox, S. Baker. 8th August, 1994.

Mantel on to a detached block, climb small pockets in cracks to an undercling and join Slot Shot after its rightward traverse.

Decidedly Dodgy – 20m HVS 5a. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 9th April, 1995.

In the back wall of the quarry 20m left of Scaresville is a solid-looking slab. Climb up left of this to a sloping ledge below the slab. Traverse right below the slab and up the right-hand side, finishing up the corner above.

Bo's Girdle – 35m E2 5b. C. Adam, G. Lennox. 7th April, 1995. A diagonal traverse of the main face of the quarry. Start up Easy Contract and aim for the ledge on Not Easy Contract. Climb the layback crack until it is possible to step right. Traverse to the corner of Malky the Alky and round the arete; finish straight up.

EDINBURGH OUTCROPS, Ratho Quarry:

Wounded Knee – 15m F7a. I. Taylor, S. Munro. 19th July, 1994.

Climbs the excellent bolted arete between Wally 2 and Cornered. Start on the right side. At the second bolt, move awkwardly round to the left side, climb up, then swing back on to the arete to finish on large blocks.

THE FAST CASTLE SEA CLIFFS, Fast Castle Head, The Soutar Area:

Something Fishy – 20m VS. A. Matthewson, A. Hume. 12th September, 1993.

An entertaining route up the prow right of the Second Sight descent chimney.

1. 12m 4c. Flounder up a shallow chimney, past a constriction, to belay on a ledge at the base of an obvious wide crack.

2. 8m 4c. Follow the crack steeply and muscle over the final overhang on giant holds.