

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

ROUTES from the Outer Isles, Skye and Highland Outcrops (again!) have not been included due to the imminent appearance of the two guides. There have been many complaints about this practice in that the Journal is no longer a complete record of Scottish climbing, but space is limited. The concern is the possible loss of the original description. The opposite point of view is that there is no point in reproducing chunks of guidebook after its publication. The question is being considered before next year's Journal.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

DRUIM SHIONNACH, West Face:

Silver Edge – 100m IV,5. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 24th December, 1995.

A slightly easier route on the Silver Slab, but high in its grade. After the same start as Silver Slab winter (SMCJ, 1995; this route is renamed Silver Corner) up the right-hand chimney, a line working up left was taken to reach a prominent easy snow trough which bounds the upper silver slab on its left.

Silver Slab – 100m VI,7. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 14th March, 1996.

A winter ascent close to the summer line. The route started in the left-hand chimney but pulled out steeply on to its right rib before moving back left to its top and joining Silver Edge. This was followed up left to its belay (35m). The line is now a fault central to the slab but on the right of the belay. It has a prominent small flake low down and leads up to a crack through a steep smooth girdling wall. Gain the fault by following Silver Edge for a few metres, then traversing right (thin). Climb the fault and the crack (nut for aid) and continue up on flakey ground until a ledge leads out left (45m). Easy to the top (20m).

Creag Coire an t-Slugain:

Far Left Gully – 100m I. D. Morrison. 2nd April, 1996.

The leftmost gully on the crag, left of and touched by Left Ridge. A difficult corniced exit.

Note: Well to the left of this route, about midway between the two main crags in the coire is a smaller west-facing crag with two gully lines. The left-hand gully, with a chokestone at mid height, was climbed by P. Grant and M. Lee on 24th March, 1996. Grade II, with a through route.

AONACH AIR CHRITH, North-West Face:

The slabby and larger right section of this face has three main groove systems right of the existing route, Mica Schist Special (which also follows a big groove on pitch 2). Each starts from a triangular bay and the rightmost is the deepest.

Thin Groove Alley – 250m IV,5. S. Ainsworth, A. Inglis, M.E. Moran, N. Veitch. 29th January, 1996. Takes a series of corners parallel and to the right of Mica Schist Special and forming the left-hand groove system. Start at the left toe of the main slab face just right of a brown rock scar and 20m right of Mica Schist Special. Climbed when lean; could be a grade easier when well-plated.

1. 50m. Climb the open groove with increasing difficulty, escaping left after 25m on to a ledge. Go up left again and back right to belays above the top of the groove.
2. 30m. Climb easily up and right into a big open book corner. Belay out right at a spike.
3. 30m. Climb the thin corner to a steep but easier exit.
4. 40m. Follow the continuation groove to belays at a terrace below the final slab wall of Mica Schist Special.
5. 50m. The continuation groove is the logical line but is Mica Schist Special. The big groove on the right is Get into the Groove. Between these two and 5m right of the belay is a shallow groove, the best independent line has been joined and crossed). Climb the groove to easier ground.
6. 50m. Easy to the top.

Note: On the third ascent by R. Brayshay, C. Milne and A. Nisbet in March, 1996 – in icier conditions – the groove of pitch 1 was climbed direct on ice, thin at times, grade IV,4, only one good runner. Pitch 2 and 3 were also combined.

Get Into The Groove – 250m IV,6. K. Burch, E. Herring, A. Nisbet. 23rd January, 1996. The middle groove system, about 25m left of the big right-hand one.

1. 35m. Climb the groove to below a 3m step into a clean-cut groove (if ice here, the route could reduce to III). Move out right to a flake.
2. 25m. Stand on the flake and step left awkwardly on to turf next to the groove. Continue up beside the groove to easier ground.
3. etc. 190m. Continue in the same line, ignoring the bigger groove on the right (Deep Freeze).

Variation: *Rib Start* – 50m III,4. R. Murray, A. Nisbet, G. Stockbridge. 22nd March, 1996. Starting up the rib on the right gives a better start when lean and reduces the whole route to Grade III. Start up the bigger groove on the right (Deep Freeze) but soon move left along the lower of two traverse lines to below a shallow chimney-slot (15m). Climb the left side of the slot (15m). Move right and up a turf slot to join the original route.

(*Dreaming of the*) *Deep Freeze* – 250m V,4. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 13th March, 1996. Climbs the big right-hand groove. The start requires some consolidated snow/ice, for which it is graded, but on this occasion was slushy and serious.

The Deerstalker – 250m IV,4. E. Herring, A. Nisbet. 25th January, 1996.

Climbs the rib to the right of the big right-hand groove (Deep Freeze), then moves into it. From about 10m up the big groove (depending on build-up), traverse right to gain a steep line of turf which leads to a ledge below a smooth groove (50m). The smooth groove had no ice so an easier groove on the right was climbed (50m). Easier ground now led back left over the rib into the top part of Deep Freeze, which was followed to the top.

Coire na Eirechanach (Map Ref 043 086):

Airy Icefall – 120m IV,4. C. Kirk, M. Knowles, A. Jones, A. Nisbet. 17th March, 1996. Low down on the headwall of the coire is a slabby buttress with a prominent icefall. This route climbs the thickest ice, which forms from a slabby gully, down a wall, then down the centre of the main slab and finally over a short steep wall at the base. The first pitch was the crux with a strenuous start (4), then unprotected up the slab (40m, 3).

Airy Corner – 85m III. C. Kirk, M. Knowles, A. Jones, A. Nisbet. 17th March, 1996. The corner at the right side of the slab gave two long pitches on thinner ice. Could be easy with more snow.

SGURR AN LOCHAIN, North-East Face:

Direct Evasion – 150m IV,4. M. Welch, A. Britton, M. Grange, A. Lowry. 4th April, 1996.

Climbs the buttress right of the wide, easy gully. Start 20m left of the right slanting scooped ramp (SMCJ 1994) and climb slabs to a narrow well-defined gully (15m). Continue up to a steepening of the gully. Cross a wide ledge and up to a narrow cave. Climb out on the right wall and continue up steep ledges above to a wide belay ledge. Climb up via a wide notch directly above to an easing snow slope and the top.

SGURR A' BHAC CHAOLAIS:

Mayfly – 100m V,7. S. Allan, A. Nisbet. 27th December, 1995.

A line based on the summer route but staying just right of the crest throughout. The 'rising traverse left on a slab' was quit to climb direct up a pillar of wedged blocks into the corner of pitch 2 and the pull out right at its top (40m). A right-slanting turf ramp was then gained and followed to increasingly easy ground.

THE SADDLE, Forcan Ridge:

Easter Buttress – 100m IV,5. P. Franzen, A. Nisbet, M. Wight. 6th February, 1996.

Good technical crack pitches but one can walk off after pitch 1. Start on the left side of the toe at a large block. A short awkward corner and subsequent ramp leads to the crest, followed via a smooth slab to below a prominent crack on the right of the crest (35m). The crack was climbed to a platform just left of the crest (25m). An overhanging step ahead was passed on the left, then the final step taken by a turf groove on the right (40m).

SGURR NAN SAIGHEAD, Coire na h-Uaighe:

Babylon Buttress – 220m III,5. T. Archer, E. Ewing, P. Toniolo, S. Walter. 18th November, 1995.

Approximately follows the summer route. There is one very hard move off the third belay, and the final slabs can be climbed direct by twin torque cracks (again hard but only 5m before easy ground) or outflanked to the right by an easier groove. Possibly Grade IV.

SGURR AN FHUARAIL:

One for the Road – 130m II. J. Ashby, P. Thorogood, M. Welch.

The right hand frozen stream coming out of Coire na Cadha, bypassing a vertical section (not frozen). Altitude 400m, Map Ref 055 125 (also followed by New Routes Ed. and three others).

CISTE DUBH, South-East Face:

The face is well seen but distant from the A87 road. A deep gully, Grade I and climbed previously, splits the cliff into two halves. The left half is broken, the right provides the following routes.

Kissed Ye Quick – 70m II. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 23rd December, 1995.

The left edge of the face, almost overlooking the gully, has a prominent turf groove, though not well seen from below. Near the top it splits into parallel turf grooves; the left was taken.

The Mantleshelf – 70m V,6. C. Constable, R. Hinde, A. Nisbet. 22nd February, 1996.

Climbs the crest on the right of the deep gully (and right of Kissed Ye Quick). Short but sustained. Start at its base and move out right to a turf line, followed to a flake (30m).

Return left to reach a turfy ledge. Axe traverse the ledge left to a key foothold (crucial warthog in the ledge) and mantleshelf. Belay on huge flakes above (20m). Take the line of flakes diagonally right to finish (20m).

The Undertaker – 70m III.4. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 23rd December, 1995.

The front face is split roughly into three by two parallel faults, almost shallow gullies and best seen from immediately below. Between them is a line of intermittent right facing and leaning corners. This route climbs the right hand fault, initially easy, then a deep groove, and finishing by the right of two options, with a long step into the left as the final move (crux; a right finish perhaps easier).

MULLACH FRAOCH-CHOIRE, South-East Face:

Frayed at the Edges – 150m II. A. Nisbet. 17th February, 1996.

The scrambling section on the south ridge has three buttresses on its east side. This takes the rightmost (northmost) buttress, with a tower and col towards the top. It finished immediately north of the trickiest section of ridge. Spoiled by an easy gully on the left leading to the col. The leftmost of the three buttresses was also climbed, starting by a short gully between two toes but petering out on to open slopes near the top.

SGURR NAN CONBHAIREAN:

East Ridge – 200m to walking terrain II. P. Benaiges, C. Constable, R. Hinde, A. Nisbet. 18th February, 1996.

Start from the same snow bay as Ceannacroc Couloir but take a shallow gully on the left (initial icefall avoided on the right). Follow the gully to the crest on the left, which soon becomes scrambling, then a pleasant snow crest to the summit cairn. The gully has a longer right-hand fork, which looks good in better conditions.

North-East Face:

Misty Byway – 200m III. S. Elworthy, R. Cross. 21st January, 1995.

Climb the obvious icefall at the left-hand side (lower end) of the face (50m). Continue up the groove above (50m). Traverse diagonally right on snow to the foot of a gully, followed to the ridge (70m, 30m).

Fog Monster – 200m V.5. A. Powell, M. Dickenson, N. Williams. 21st January, 1995.

Take the line 20m right of Misty Byway turning the ice column on the right (possible direct in more clement conditions) 50m. Step across the wall into the right hand groove and follow this (50m). Traverse right on snow as for Misty Byway (70m). Climb the obvious steep chimney in the buttress left of Misty Byway (40m).

Crystal Couloir – 120m II. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 26th January, 1996.

An easy slope slants up left from the cliff base above the lower section of the previous two routes, providing an escape from them. This route is a gully right of the upper section of Misty Byway. Climbed in cold but thin conditions, it provided a lot of ice, but might have much steep snow normally.

At the top right corner of the face are two prominent icefalls which form in shallow gullies. They were climbed during a big thaw when very little snow remained so may bank up and become easier (or even disappear) under heavy snow. On the day they offered continuous water ice (and water) and were possibly the only climbs in condition in the Northern Highlands.

Icestasy – 150m III. I. Appuhamy, A. Nisbet. 14th January, 1996.

The left icefall gave two long ice pitches, the first easier, the second steeper. A shorter third on frozen turf, then easy turf to the top (normally steep snow and cornice?).

Liquid Gully – I. Appuhamy, A. Nisbet. 14th January, 1996.

The right icefall. Easy-angled ice, then a short steep section leading to an ice runnel. Turf to finish out right on the north ridge.

Lochan Uaine Butress (NH 132 145):

Approached by descending from the North ridge of Conbhairean south of the buttress. It is clearly seen in profile from the north east face of Conbhairean but most of it, including the steep section containing the following route, faces away (north east).

Anne Frank's Chimney – 90m IV, 4. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 26th January, 1996.

About 10m from the left end of the steep section of face is a fault with sections of chimney high up. An initial steep step, then turf (45m). Chimney under a small chokestone (a distinctive feature seen from the route base, but small) and continue into a left-slanting steep upper fault (45m).

SGURR NAN CEATHREAMHNAN (Glen Affric): Technically, Northern Highlands Vol. 2, but approached from Loch Cluanie.

Cross Stone Gully – 100m II. M. Welch, I. Douglas, J. King, C. Trotter. 7th March, 1996.

Just below and 200m east of the summit on the south face of the mountain is a steep compact cliff. It holds this deep gully which is only visible from straight on. Climb up to a steepening capped by two crossed rock slabs. Climb this strenuously on the right, then continue up easier ground to the main ridge.

LURG MHOR:

The Dreaded Lurgi – 125m VS. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 27th May, 1995.

Start about 5m left of Monar Magic at a distinctively red slab.

1. 30m 4c. Climb the slab, which slants left, and cross two small overlaps to belay below an obvious flange of rock which protrudes out from the main overlap.
2. 25m 4c. Move left and pull through a small overlap until level with the flange. Continue up and pull out right above the flange. Go up a slab and pull out right again.
3. 30m 4b. Move left and climb a clean raised slab.
4. 40m -. Easier slabs, blocks and vegetation leads to the top.

MORUISG:

Moruisg Icefall – 40m V, 6. J. A. Sumner, P. Lester. 29th December, 1995.

The icefall is situated in a slot-gully in the north-west facing slope of Moruisg at MR 095 505. The top section of the icefall can be seen from the road.

1. 15m. Climb steep ice to gain a cave stance on the left of the main fall (peg in situ).
2. 25m. Move right and slightly down from the stance to climb a vague scoop in the steep ice wall. Peg in situ on the right at the top.

Note: on the second ascent on 27th March, 1996 by R. Brayshaw, C. Milne and A. Nisbet, when water was flowing down the original line, a line about 6m right was taken and the climb done in one pitch. Same grade but less sustained. The iced corner 10m farther right has been climbed by M.E. Moran and party at Grade IV.

SGURR NA FEARTAIG, Coire na h-Eilde:

The head of the coire has several waterfalls, marked on Sheet 25 at NH 030 454. Approach is by the stalker's path up the east side of Coire Leiridh from Lair. Very cold weather is required for a full freeze but it then offers a superb ice climbing venue. The biggest feature of the face is the main watercourse set in a gully - The Stonker. A wide steeper icefall to the left is more obvious, however, from the approach col and briefly visible from the A890 just east of Craig. Either side of the wide fall are thinner falls and leftmost of the set is an ice filled gully. Routes described right to left.

The Wee Nipper – 170m II. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet, M. Welch. 3rd February, 1996.

In the centre of the broken ground right of the main falls is a less steep ice gully. Its crux was a steep pitch towards the top.

The Stonker – 180m IV,5. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet, M. Welch. 3rd February, 1996.

The tremendous icefall that forms in the main stream bed right of the more visible icefalls. It drops into a small gorge so its full height is not immediately obvious. It gave four long ice pitches, continuous water ice between 50° and 70°, finishing through some huge ice umbrellas (crux). The first pitch in the gorge may be reluctant to form, particularly after wetter weather, but one can traverse in.

High Flier – 110m IV,4. M.E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1996.

The thinner fall right of the wide fall (The Fast Lane). A low-angled initial pitch may bank out (25m). The fall then steepened to below a crest (20m). This was climbed direct (technical 5, but the second ascent took its left side, less steep but more sustained) – 35m. Then an easier section, followed by a steep finish out left. Initially soloed, but ice screw belays used throughout on second ascent.

The Fast Lane – 90m IV,4. M.E. Moran, A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1996.

Very sustained – but never vertical – up a vague groove towards the right side of the wide fall. Ice screw runners will have to be placed on steep ground.

The Big Dipper – 90m V,5. M.E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1996.

Two consecutive pillars on the left side of the wide fall led to a relatively easier middle section and a capping bulge (led in a 60m pitch). Easy-angled to finish.

Aerial Runway – 70m III. A. Nisbet. 8th February, 1996.

Start at the same place as The Big Dipper but take a big left-slanting ramp below Damoclean icicles, passing behind the largest (40m). The ice peters out into stepped mixed ground, climbed up and out right.

Running on Empty – 90m III,4. M.E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1996. The left hand thinner fall has an impressively steep section low down which was passed by 70° ice on the left and a short bulge to gain a long easier-angled finish.

The Ice Channel – 80m III. A. Bull, M. Kinsey, M. Welch. 2nd February, 1996.

Forms in a gully as the leftmost main ice line. A steep entry leads to a long runnel of approx. 60° ice.

In The Pink – 160m II. J. Ashby, P. Thorogood, M. Welch. 30th January, 1996.

Left of the icefalls is a deep gully with a big step. The route lies between here and a north pointing spur at MR 035 453 and is fourth gully right of the spur.

Willy Wonka – 220m III. L. Atchison, R. Avis, S. Challoner, S. Potter, M. Welch. 8th February, 1996.

The gully left of In The Pink. Start up the narrow well-defined gully, then follow its right-trending fork up steepening ice steps to a wide ice fall. Take this direct to an easier left trending gully, then through mixed ground to the top.

Coire Leiridh:

Whites of Their Ice – 85m IV,5. C. Kirk, M. Knowles, A. Jones, A. Nisbet. 18th March, 1996.

At the right end of the cliff is an icefall featuring a prominent icicle. The route takes a zig-zag line up ice ramps passing the icicle on the left and stepping on to its top (exposed crux) before moving up to a good thread belay on the left (40m). An easier second pitch followed an ice groove (45m).

SGURR RUADH:

Battersea Buttress – 250m V,6. R. Brayshay, C. Milne, A. Nisbet. 24th March, 1996. Climbs the buttress right of Croydon Chimney. Start about 30m right of Croydon Chimney where an easy turfey ramp leads up right. Climb the ramp (30m), then work out left by a devious line on steep ground, always keeping right of a slabby right-facing corner (30m). Once through the steepest ground, climb up right to a big terrace (50m). There is a Grade I escape rightwards up a gully here. Instead, cross the gully leftwards and go up a turfey line on the buttress above (50m). Continue to the crest on the left and climb it steeply (25m), then to the top (25m).

FUAR THOLL, South-East Coire:

Butcher's Dog – 80m II. B. Cowie, I. Gray. 26th March, 1994.

The route is situated approx. 200m below and left of the diagonal ramp which forms the lower left end of the South-east Face. It takes the obvious gully for 60m to a shallow terrace, then up a steeper gully for 20m to the top.

Note: the icefall between this route and the ramp has also been climbed at a similar grade: (Ed.).

AN RUADH STAC, East Face:

Left Icefall – 90m II. C. Constable, R. Hinde, A. Nisbet. 21st February, 1996.

On the east face of the mountain, at MR approx. 925 482, is a recessed slabby area which forms twin icefalls. These looked good under cold snowless conditions but banked out considerably and this, the left one, was disappointing on the day.

MEALL NAN CEAPAIREAN, North Face:

Restful Buttress – 200m II. P. Franzen, A. Nisbet, M. Wight. 7th February, 1996.

The steep central section of the face forms a nose cut horizontally and near its base by parallel ledges. Climb a short gully to reach the left end of the upper ledge. Traverse it to where it curves up at its right end, then take a left trending line to finish near the crest of the nose.

GLAS BHEINN:

Greenhorn Gully – 190m IV,4. J. Ashby, P. Thorogood, M. Welch. 29th January, 1996.

A long north-facing gully seen high on the left from the Bealach a Glas-chnoic. Easy-angled ice terraces led to an obvious large ledge on the right (40m). The gully now steepened for two long pitches, with a short vertical crux low down, before narrowing and trending left. The finish was by broken and turfey ground out right.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, Far North Buttresses:

Chocks Away – 150m II. G. Bardsley, H. Davies, A. Nisbet. 25th February, 1996.

On the south side of the right-hand (northern) buttress (see SM CJ 1995), facing the descent depression, is this gully. All easy bar 15m of chokestone chimney, passing behind the first choke and outside the second.

Very Y-Gully – 220m III. G. Bardsley, H. Davies, A. Nisbet. 25th February, 1996.

The obvious gully on the east (facing Coire nan Arr) side of the same buttress. It splits into right and left gully finishes below a steep wall at the top. The very lowest shallow

section of gully was not climbed; a traverse from the left led to the deeper section. The two steepest steps were bypassed on the left, otherwise the gully was followed, finishing by the easier right branch.

BEINN DAMH:

Stirrup Gully – 400m III. A. Nisbet. 20th March, 1996.

The long gully on the face north of the end of the north-east ridge of Beinn Damh summit, well seen on the walk-in. It forms the left edge of the steepest section of the face at MR 894 506. Despite lean conditions, the lower half had several short steep ice pitches leading to east snow in the top half.

Moonloop – 450m IV,5. J. Graham, N. Bullock. 30th December, 1995.

Follows a shallow narrow chimney starting some 100m right of Boundary Gully at MR 891 508. The chimney slants easily up left for 75m. Here it steepens and curves right over an ice bulge (25m), then up a sustained icefall (50m) and up the turf wall on the left to reach open slopes and rocky steps (included in length). The route forms ice readily in cold conditions.

LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Mor:

Note: A variation to Salmon Leap taking a parallel icefall on the left of the middle section by R. Page and Y. Astier, VI,6, 29th March, 1995.

Coire na Caime:

West Face of the Dru – 140m III,4. S. Ainsworth, A. Inglis, A. Nisbet, N. Veitch. 1st February, 1996.

As per title. Start below the steep lower tier, about 30m right of Dru Couloir, at the first easier break right of steep smooth walls. Step out right into a crackline leading to turf ledges. A sort awkward corner on the left gains a turf terrace 25m, (crux). Trend left to a shallow fault just right of the face's left bounding crest (45m). Climb the fault to the peak (20m, 50m).

Bell's Buttress:

Bell's Left Buttress – IV,4. R. Brayshay, C. Milne, A. Nisbet. 25th March, 1996.

The last unclimbed buttress i.e. between Left Chimney and Cube's Chimney. The same start was used as for Bell's Buttress (SMCJ 1995 – renamed Bell's Right Buttress) i.e. the initial chimney of Last Orders followed by a (longer) traverse left to the buttress. A left-slanting line gained a higher terrace. A slabby corner on the left side of the buttress led to a flakey chimney and terrace above (45m). A short chimney on the right led to the easier upper section.

Holy Ghost – 150m III. C. Constable, R. Hinde, A. Nisbet. 20th February, 1996.

Climbs the buttress between Central and Right-Hand Trinity Gullies. Start on the left side of the buttress, next to the base of Central Trinity Gully. Traverse a ledge horizontally rightwards to the centre of the buttress, then go diagonally left to a barrier wall (50m). Pass this on the left and return right to a vague groove line. Follow the groove line for two pitches, then finish up the final crest over several small pinnacles.

Trinity Arete – 110m III,5. A. Nisbet, A. Partington. 3rd March, 1996.

Climbs the sharp-crested buttress between Left-Hand and Central Trinity Gullies. Very helpful and well protected when necessary. Starting at the very toe, the first pitch held a barrier wall climbed by a central thin crack (crux) and higher up a steep shallow corner (40m). The easier crest (50m) led to an overhanging rock nose passed by the first groove on the right (20m).

Meall Dearg, North Face:

Icicle Gully – 280m IV.4. G. Bardsley, H. Davies, A. Nisbet. 26th February, 1996.

H. Davies notes that North Flank is just left of the small watercourse, not right, and is quite good, perhaps Diff. if sticking to the crest overlooking the small watercourse, which is a left-slanting shallow gully widening with height. The shallow gully and two others to its right form a diverging set of three; this route is the central one. It is well-defined to half height, where it bends right and peters out on to mixed ground. The third pitch is the crux, involving 15m of 75° ice, so perhaps low in the grade.

Spring Gully – 300m II. A. Jago, A. Nisbet, S. Watts. 7th April, 1996.

The right-hand of the set of three contained several short ice pitches, one with a 5ft icicle from the lip of an umbrella (presumed to be very unusual). The gully combined well with the Northern Pinnacles in a circuit from Coire Mhic Nobuill car park.

South Side, Coire Liath Mor:

The Potter's Apprentices – 80m IV.4. M. Welch, M. Arkley. 24th February, 1996.

The following two routes are on the buttress with Spidean's Sting (see SMCJ 1995). This route goes up grooves right of centre of the buttress. It starts 5m right of a roof low on the buttress and about 30m right of Spidean's Sting. Climb the shallow gully direct, steeper than it looks, make delicate moves through a steep chimney to a terrace (45m). Trend right through steep mixed ground, finishing up a chimney (35m).

Pottering About – 70m II. M. Welch, M. Arkley. 24th February, 1996.

Climbs the icefall on the left of the buttress, finishing up corners. Start just right of the big Grade I.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Far East Wall:

Hydroponicum – 100m E1. J. Allott, A. Nisbet. 16th June, 1995.

Takes an improbable left slanting line through overhanging ground. Well enough protected but a touch exposed. Start about 20m right of Sundance.

1. 40m. Climb thickly turfed ledges leading up left to an apex below a short steep corner.
2. 25m 5a. Climb the corner and continue diagonally left on a ramp to belay below the last roof.
3. 35m 5a. Pass the roof on the left, close to the big right arete of Sundance and climb a crack/groove line to the top.

The Root of all Evil – 100m E2. J. Allott, A. Nisbet. 28th June, 1995.

Climbs the big left-facing corner on the wall just right of Sundance to join and finish up Hydroponicum. Typical Coire Mhic Fhearchair – sustained, overhanging, excellent holds and protection, but slow to dry. Start as for Sundance.

1. 30m. Climb the right slanting crack but break off right and belay under a smaller corner right of the big corner.
2. 20m 5b. Climb the smaller corner until obvious holds lead out to its left arete. Pull round the arete into the big corner just above its second roof. Climb the big corner until 3m below a big roof.
3. 15m 5c. Traverse left to a hidden crack and climb it (sustained) until a step out right gives a rest below the main roof system. Pull out right to belay as for Hydroponicum.
4. 35m 5a. Finish as for Hydroponicum.

Fascist Groove Thang – 105m E7. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 26th June, 1995.

Climbs the wall left of Ling Dynasty. Start at the obvious groove 20m left of Birth of the Cool.

1. 45m 5b. Climb the groove, loose at first, past two ledges to belay on a slab or the inset ledge above.
2. 25m 6c. With a runner in the corner above, traverse right under a small overlap to a good hold. Move up left on to a ramp, then follow a hairline crack to a spike. Gain the right end of the overlap above and make difficult moves through a bulge into the base of a holdless groove (Fascist Groove). Continue with difficulty up and across the right wall of the Fascist Groove, moving up to belay below a large crack.
3. 35m 5c. Climb the steep crack until the angle eases, follow the left arete, then a crack to broken ground.

Body Heat – 90m E4. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 25th June, 1995.

Climbs the wall right of Sumo.

1. 35m 5a. Climb Sumo to a ledge. Traverse right, then straight up to belay at a pointed block.
2. 20m 6b. Climb above the block and follow ramps up right to a stopping place at large flat holds. Move slightly left on to a steep wall (RPs in thin horizontal crack), then straight up to a flake hold (good nut). A hard move leads to better holds and a hanging belay on the slabbier rock above.
3. 35m 5b. Follow a flake line above to an overlap. Move right and follow a shallow groove and wall to the top.

Eastern Ramparts:

Siege Tactics – 110m E1. J. Allott, A. Nisbet. 24th June, 1995.

Takes a line parallel to Pale Rider and forming an X with Rampart Wall. The lower and left of the two square roofs above the Upper Girdle and mentioned in the description of Rampart Wall is a key locating feature. Start midway between Eastern Promise and Rampart Wall/Pale Rider; 10m left of a point below the square roof.

1. 40m 5c. Climb fairly directly to the Upper Girdle via a vague depression which is the right hand of several pale lines of smooth rock. One hard move stepping out right on to a small square orange slab; there may well be an alternative easier line.
2. 25m 5b. Climb directly up past the right end of the square roof to a good recessed ledge.
3. 35m 5a. Pull out above the ledge and take a slightly right trending line to belay below the chimney at the left end of the capping wall (close to Pale Rider).
4. 10m 4b. Climb the small tower just left of the chimney on huge holds.

Central Buttress, Quartzite Tier:

Porcine Connection – 100m E1 5a. D. Rubens, C. Rubens. 26th July, 1995.

This started about 25m from the right edge of the buttress, below a corner-crack about 20m above. Trend up right to below a very prominent right-facing corner (25m). Climb delicately up into the corner and follow it (35m). Trend right via a crack to join Hamilton's Route.

Note: The corner described above is not the one described as dangerous in *The Generation Game* (SMCJ 1995), as it gave a very fine pitch. The fine direct version on the final tower has probably been ascended before as it is an obvious way to go.

Sail Mhor:

Sailing Buttress – 200m to 'scrambling' III,4. A. Nisbet. 30th March, 1996.

Climbs the buttress left of Morrison's Gully to finish easily over the tower and upper crest of the buttress i.e. joining Lawson, Ling and Glover's Route. Pass the vertical wall at the base of the buttress by starting up Morrison's Gully and traversing left at the first

opportunity. A left-trending line was then taken to a pinnacle on a big terrace below a barrier wall. The terrace was then traversed right to near its end to find (with difficulty) the easiest line through the wall. Above the wall, the difficulty eased quickly.

MEALL AN GHUIBHAIS, Lower North-East Flank: Allt Bhanamhoir Fall:

This waterfall lies in an overhung alcove of crags at 370m just above the pine woods of the Nature Reserve (MR 978 655). It is approached direct up the side of the burn from the A832, and froze into an impressive icicle topped by a cluster of canopies after a week of continuous frost. There were other icefalls hereabouts. During the hind culling season (Nov. 1 to Feb. 15) climbers should first call the SNH ranger at Kinlochewe to check access as shooting is carried out on these slopes (Tel: 01445 760254 day, 01445 760244 evening).

Bhanamhoir Fall - 35m VI,6. S. Chadwick, M.E. Moran. 5th February, 1996. Climb 75° ice into a recess to the right of a free-standing section (peg and screw runners). Climb the pillar (thin and watery) up leftward into a niche, then battle through organ pipes and umbrellas to the top. To finish, either climb left out of the burn on a slab of ice spray or climb ice pitches a little higher in the burn.

BEINN ALLIGIN, North Face of First Horn:

Depth Charge - 130m VI,8. S. Chadwick, M.E. Moran. 20th February, 1996.

Climbs the headwall of the Horn which overhangs Deep South Gully. Fine situations and a tough finish. Climb Deep South to just past the narrows where the gully bends rightwards. Start at a corner ramp. Directly above, a black crack splits the final headwall; the route aims for this.

1. 55m. Climb iced corners and steep mixed ground, finishing by the left of two shallow chimneys; belay at a block. The pitch can be split at 20m.
2. 40m. Follow an icy gully above for 20m. Where it peters out traverse 10m right and go up a cul-de-sac to belay at the foot of the black crack.
3. 35m. Climb the left-slanting V-groove immediately left of the black crack to a ledge. Continue in the same line up a second overhanging groove to the top.

Sgurr Mhor, North Face:

Curve Stone - 350m II. S. Chadwick, S. Gorman. 10th March, 1996.

Left of centre on the face is a long shallow gully, initially left-trending, which ends on a shoulder of the NW ridge of Sgurr Mhor. An ice pitch leads into the gully. After another 150m, the line turns right and enters the icy narrows. Two pitches lead to the exit snows.

SEANA MHEALLAN:

Hadrian's Wall - 20m E1/2 5b. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 11th July, 1995.

Gain the top of the small pinnacle right of Skate (SMCJ 1995). Climb the crack on the right, moving over an overhang to finish up a short steep wall. The split grade is uncertainty (hot thundery weather).

BEN DAMPH CRAG (SMCJ 1995):

Gem Find - 25m VS 4b. T. Leggat, A. Nisbet. 24th May, 1995.

Start behind the big tree closest to the base of the left section. Pull out left on to a ledge at 2m. From its left end, gain and climb a shallow groove, then continue straight up to the top.

Congregation - 20m H. Severe. T. Leggat, A. Nisbet. 24th May, 1995.

The slab right of the prow section of cliff. Start at a small pine 5m up and climb as directly as possible, the difficulties soon easing.

Note: A. Nisbet notes that he repeated the existing routes (except Procession) and would have described the flake line of Crystal Horizon as straight up, not left to right. Maculate Slab was considered as 4c and Fiery Cross as VS 5a.

DIABAIG:

Continuation Route - 55m VS. A. Andrew and party. 21st May, 1995.

Start to the left of Red Wall, at the foot of a large angled block below a rowan sapling. Climb past an overlap to the rowan (20m). A heather terrace leads to: climb the obvious slab trending rightwards to a grass ledge (10m, 4b). Walk up grassy slopes to the next buttress: an obvious corner and slabby face to the right of an overhang (15m). The obvious corner on big jugs (10m). Scramble to the summit.

SLIOCH, Main Buttress:

The Sea, The Sea - 240m VI,7. R. Webb, N. Wilson. 24th March, 1996.

The large triangular face of Main Buttress is taken on the left by Skyline Highway. This route takes the easiest line up the hardest facet of this cliff, outflanking its steep upper section. From the right edge of the buttress, walk left from beneath the start of Skyline Highway until below a very obvious corner system about three-quarters of the way to the left-hand arete. Slightly right of this point, the overhanging lower wall is threaded by a turf line that runs about 15m up the cliff to end at a vertical wall. Start here.

1. 25m. Climb the turf line until stopped beneath an undercut blank corner. Traverse right on turf for 10m to another corner.
2. 20m. Climb the corner, partly on the left wall, until possible to step left (protection). Climb the wall above to gain a steep terrace.
3. 20m. The rock is overhanging above. Traverse easily right to a bay, identified by a small chimney on the left and a high fist-sized crack on the right.
4. 10m. Overcome the initial bulge to a ledge below the crack.
5. 20m. Climb the left wall before moving right to the crack; climb this to a ledge system.
6. 10m. Move right below overhangs to a prominent groove trending slightly left.
7. 15m. Gain the bottom of the groove from the left.
8. 40m. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty to gain the traverse line of Slioch Slimplan.
- 9,10. 80m. Ascend grooves with increasing ease to the top of the buttress.

MEALL LOCHAN A' CHLEIRICH, Stone Valley Crag. (Sheet 19; GR 870 716):

Access - The crags lie to the south of the A832 west of Loch Maree. Follow the Poca Buidhe track for about 1km and the crags will be seen facing south-west on the craggy hillside of Meall Lochan a' Chleirich. The rock is gneiss similar to Diabaig, solid, clean and rough but slightly gritty on first ascent. It has a splendid outlook both to Baosbheinn and the sea. The crags are a suntrap and due to their hummocky formation, dry rapidly after rain. Due to the numerous crags of all shapes and sizes which form a rocky wall on the hillside, the name Stone Valley seemed appropriate. The various crags are described in relation to Stone Valley Crag.

Rum Doodle Crag:

This lies several hundred metres left of Stone Valley Crag and is easily identified by the prominent arete which can be seen from the approach track.

Rum Doodle Arete - 35m H. Severe 4a*. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 14th May, 1995. Start below the arete at a little groove to the left, gain the arete and follow the narrow edge directly, which is both bold and airy but with splendid friction. The last few metres are mossy and can be turned by a crack just to the left. Walk off at a ledge above or climb a straight-forward groove on the left.

Trotter's Slab – 40m V. Diff. A & G. Nisbet. 20th May, 1995.

Start 20m left of Rum Doodle Arete and follow the right edge of a smooth slab to move right and up a bigger pale slab.

Red Wall Crag:

This is the steep wall left of Stone Valley Crag. The rock is more fissile but essentially sound.

Flaming June – 35m VS *. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 11th June, 1995.

1. 30m 5a. The red wall lies on the left of the crag and is much steeper than it appears. Climb up to a small ledge at its right end. Continue to an obvious flange above, then traverse right to a ledge with small trees. Climb up the flake-crack and step left into a niche below a small roof, then step back right towards heather. Climb up and left into a well-positioned open corner to a ledge.

2. 5m. A short arete provides a pleasant finish.

Stone Valley Crag:

This is the biggest and best crag, easily identified from the track by the silvery arete of Open Secret which lies down and left of the apparent summit crags. The base of the crag is a short steep wall with a short crack on the left, a central chock-stoned gully and some cracks on the right near a little tree. Above this wall the angle falls back into undulating steep slabs with a prominent water-washed groove right of centre.

Descent: Easiest by the open grassy gully on the left (facing). The central chock-stoned gully provides a Moderate ascent or descent to the upper crag and is useful if routes on the right wish to be reached rapidly. The routes are described left to right.

To the left of the silvery edge of the main slabs is a side wall of steep rock and a superlative pink slab, gained by a grassy gully.

Cheesegrater Slab – 10m VS 5a *. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 10th March, 1996.

Below the following lines and forming an excellent approach to them is a small slab, climbed centrally.

Hidden Agenda – 25m VS 4c. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 11th June, 1995.

Left of the slab is a steep wall. Start in the corner on the left of the slab and trend up left, aiming for a slanting crack. Once at the crack, the climb finishes thinly by stepping left (crux). Rather bold.

No Beef – 18m E4 6b. R. McHardy, R. Brown. 24th March, 1996.

Start on top of the boulder left of Touch and Go and climb the wall to a ledge. Climb a shallow groove to a flat ledge, step right and up to an overhang with an undercut hold. Surmount the overhang to a groove and then make the bold crux moves diagonally left to finish by mantleshelves.

Touch and Go – 25m HVS 5a**. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 11th June, 1995.

The obvious slab. Climb the slab's centre and step left to a shallow corner at three-quarters height, to gain the edge of the main slab above at a niche. Step right and finish up the crux of Open Secret.

Open Secret – 40m VS 4c**. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th May, 1995.

Climb the short crack on the left of the lower wall and trend left to below the left edge (optional belay). Climb the crack to where it bends right. Now follow a thin snaking crack which trends left up the steep slabby headwall.

Bald Eagle – 55m E1***. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie (alt). 11th June, 1995.

The seemingly bald slab between Open Secret and Stone Diary. The best route here, on peerless rock and much easier than would appear.

1. 15m. Climb the initial pitch of Open Secret to belay at the base of a 'musical' corner on the right.
2. 20m 5a/b. Climb the corner and at its top step left and climb a thin crack to its end. Climb straight up over the two small bulges above and belay on a small exposed stance below a thin crack.
3. 20m 5a/b. Climb the thin crack to its termination, then boldly attack the red slab above centrally, climbing straight over the wall at the top.

Stone Diary – 45m HVS*. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th May, 1995.

Two splendid pitches on faultless rock. Start just left of the central chockstoned gully in the lower wall.

1. 20m 5a. Gain a plinth and climb the steep rib between the gully and a smooth pod. Step left above and friction up a fine slab.
2. 25m 5b. Step left and friction up a steepening scoop to gain holds up right (crux) and exit centrally below a crack that runs up the headwall slab. Climb the crack to the top.

Inside Information – 55m HVS*. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 14th May, 1995.

1. 25m 5a. Climb the steep jamming crack on the right of the lower wall to exit by some blocks. Step left and climb an easy rib to avoid the heather, stepping right at the top to belay below the waterworn groove.

2. 20m 5a. Climb the excellent groove.

3. 10m 4c. Step left and climb a flake-crack to an awkward exit by a little corner.

Melting Pot – 50m E3*. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown, G. Cullen. 24th June, 1995.

To the right of Inside Information is a steep buttress with a shield of rock on its left wall and a pair of thin cracks. The rock is uncharacteristically smooth. Start to the right of Inside Information at a rib to the right of a tree.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the wall and continue to step right to a ledge. Climb the short wall above and scramble up heather to the flake belay as for Inside Information.
2. 30m 6b. Step on to a ramp and climb the left crack to a sloping hold, move right and climb the right crack to the shield. Holds now begin and pleasant climbing leads to the top. Sustained to the shield with good protection but few holds.

Divided Loyalty – 30m H. Severe*. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 10th March, 1996.

This route is most easily reached by scrambling up the central chockstoned gully and traversing right below the top pitch of Melting Pot to a narrow chimney. Climb into the chimney and up this to step left on to the front face. Continue up a slab and then a ramp on the right to the top on excellent rock, a fine pitch, much easier than it looks.

Updraught – 25m MVS 4b. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 10th March, 1996.

To the right of Divided Loyalty is a prominent corner. Climb the corner to where it eases, then step right on to the fine edge and follow this on rough rock to the top.

The Domes:

Higher up above Stone Valley Crag is the apparent summit buttress which is two dome-like crags separated by a gully. Near the base of the left dome and 20m left of a big corner is a rightward-slanting thin red slab.

The Thin Red Line – 45m HVS 5a. A & G. Nisbet. 20th May, 1995.

The thin red slab was climbed on gritty rock to finish up more broken ground.

Dome Corner – 40m Severe. A & G. Nisbet. 20th May, 1995.

On the left wall of the gully and starting immediately at the top of the gully's steepest section, is a corner. Climb the corner until it becomes vegetated, then move on to the right arete.

RAVEN'S CRAG, GAIRLOCH:

Shield Direct – 40m VS 4c. S. Richardson, R. Webb. 21st May 1995.

A counter-diagonal to Badachro. Something of an eliminate, but good climbing nevertheless. Start 5m left of Badachro and climb the brown slabby wall crossing the crack of Badachro, then trend right to the base of the shield crossed by Hydro Hek. Climb this directly to the top.

The Morning After – 50m HVS. R. Webb, S. Richardson. 21st May, 1995.

The wall between Lonmore and Badachro.

1. 20m. Climb up to the tree belay of Lonmore by a short slab and walls to the left.
2. 30m 5a. Climb the wall directly behind the tree to finish at the same point as Badachro.

GRUINARD CRAGS, Dome Crag:

Call of the Wild – 50m E3 5c. M.E. Moran, M. Welch. 28th April, 1995.

Climbs the left-hand weakness of the central wall. From the ivy-filled recess pull over the roof to the right, and climb the impending wall to a resting ledge. Layback through the flaked roof above, and swing left to easier ground and belays (35m). Easy scrambling to the top (15m).

Major Domo – 50m E5. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1995.

The striking niched crackline-cum-groove provides a tremendous climb. Take plenty small wires.

1. 25m 6b. Climb the niched crackline to a ledge.
2. 25m 5b. An easy groove slants up left. Climb the buttress on the right via a central line which trends left and up to a ledge. Climb a juggy crack in the final short wall to reach a platform.

Dead Calm – 50m E6. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 6th August, 1995.

The obvious discontinuous crackline in the centre of the wall provides a stunning route.

1. 30m 6b. Follow the line past a blankish section to an easing and continue up bulging rock above to easier ground where moves up, then left gain a large niche.
2. 20m 4c. Climb up rightwards and follow the best line to the top.

The Missing Link – 60m E1. A. Andrew, M.E. Moran. 26th May, 1995.

Follows the right edge of the central wall with a deviation into the recess to the right. Start 5m left of Grand Recess.

1. 20m 5b. Climb cracked blocks to the roof, and pull over to a handrail which leads right into the recess.
2. 25m 5b. Traverse out left on to the steep face and gain a crackline which leads to easier ground.
3. 15m. Pleasant scrambling to the top.

Recess Corner – 25m HVS 5a. A. Andrew, M.E. Moran. 26th May, 1995.

The black corner at the back of the recess makes an alternative finish to Grand Recess. Also climbed: a direct line up the lower tier to link with the second pitch of Silk Road.

Edged Out – 40m V. Diff. R. Anderson. 3rd August, 1995.

Just up the slope from Edgebiter is a smooth slab with a crack up its right side. Climb the crack to a ledge, step left and climb the blunt rib on rough rock with good holds.

Note: Several of the 1994 routes were repeated by M.E. Moran and their grades considered as follows: Paradise Regained E2 5b, Utopia HVS 5b, The Silk Road E2 6a, Grand Recess HVS 5b, Pink Streak VS 4c.

J.R. Mackenzie notes that he has reconsidered Paradise Regained as E2 5c.

Grand Recess: R. Anderson climbed directly up the steep crack of pitch 2 and ran it together with pitch 1 – 40m E1 5b.

The Apron:

A pleasant apron of easy-angled slab on the next knoll/hummock to the north of Dome Crag (this lies on the other side of the wide descent 'gully' from Dome Crag). The slab reaches the ground in two tongues with an inverted V of heather and turf between them. *Smashy* – 50m V.Diff. R. & C. Anderson. 6th August, 1996.

Climbs the right-hand tongue which starts as a short pillar. The skyline block-type feature is climbed by a thin diagonal crack leading to easier angled ground and a common belay with Gneissy.

Gneissy – 50m Diff. C. & R. Anderson. 6th August, 1996.

A very pleasant route starting from the base of the left-hand tongue, climbing to a short corner on the skyline and continuing to a belay.

Dog Crag (MR Sheet 19, NG 958 893):

This crag is reached by walking up the Inverianvie River from the main Gruinard Beach car park for 1km, then striking up the hillside on the NE side of the river. The crag lies directly below Dome Crag, just to the left of the stream which issues from the lochan. Descriptions have been written by J.S. Robinson in 1988 and the grades vary so much from those of R. Anderson (1995) that climbers are recommended to provide an independent opinion.

Chimney Crag:

Presumably, the same as Creag Carn an Lochain Dubh. Certainly reached by walking up the Inverianvie River path past waterfalls and a gorge until it opens out into a meadow. The crag is above the footpath on the left and features a prominent chimney. *Glam Rock* – 20m E4 6a. R. & C. Anderson. 16th September, 1995.

The crackline just right of the chimney with moves out right to reach the wider upper crack.

Grunge – 20m E1/2 5b. R. & C. Anderson. 16th September, 1995.

The mossy open groove between the two cracklines on the left-hand portion of the crag.

Inverianvie Crag, The Bayview Wall:

The following four routes lie on the upper wall (NG 955 896) of the knoll a short way south of the two slabby crags. The wall is seen in profile from the car park. There is quite a lot of rock under this knoll. A rising path from the car park leads up under the rock to the right side of the upper face (the path continues up rightwards to a stream draining from the boggy ground just west of Dome Crag). Traverse left beneath the upper wall and along past a huge wedged block to a ledge beneath a wall with a fine crack.

Barrel of Fun – 20m E3 5c. R. & C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1995.

Climbs the wall just right of the crack to much better rock and protection.

Root Beer – 20m E1/2 5b. C. & R. Anderson. 3rd August, 1995.

The obvious fine crack.

Cask Conditioned – 20m E1 5b. R. & C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1995.

The line just left of the crack and right of a heathery crack sporting a small tree. Climb to the roof and pull leftwards through this to the edge, then more easily to the top.

Gneiss and Easy – 20m HVS 5a. R. & C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1995.

The crackline up the wall just left of the heathery break provides a pleasant climb with a few awkward moves rightwards into the upper crack.

DUNDONNELL QUARTZITE CRAGS:

The Dundonnell Quartzite crags form a long ridge of quartzite that stretch from GR 114 884 to 118 880, Sheet 19. Access is from the Badrallach road that leaves the A832 near Dundonnell house. The crags are most easily approached either side of the gorge that separates The Golden Wall, the farthest right and best crag, from the others on the left. The rock is Cambrian quartzite, essentially smooth and square-cut with a tendency towards brittleness. Though in essence sound, there are numerous loose blocks.

Golden Wall Crag (118 880):

The best of the crags and consists of a steep edge overlooking the gorge with an overhanging right wall. To the right the crag rounds the hillside and lessens in angle. *Silver Shadow* – 35m VS 4c. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 5th May, 1995.

This is the prominent edge facing the gorge. Start a few metres left of a wide heathery crack. Climb the slab and step right under a roof to climb a crack. Step left and climb the crack that splits two huge flakes and belay behind them (15m). Step right on to the wall and climb the crack, taking care of wedged blocks under a small overhang. Pull through the overhang and continue in the same line to the top (20m).

The Golden Wall – 25m E2 5c. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown (both led). 5th May, 1995. This is the striking orange wall to the right of Silver Shadow. Start by some cracks and then step right to creaky flakes. Continue to the right edge under the roof by a detached block. Traverse left to a prominent square block and continue up the wall in an exhilarating position, using the flexible flake, to exit up left at a skyline notch. An excellent route low in the grade.

Old Faithful – 20m V. Diff. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 5th May, 1995. This is the chimney crack to the right of The Golden Wall.

False Spring – 35m VS 4c. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 3rd March, 1996. To the right of The Golden Wall is a rounded buttress that has seen some activity in the past. Its right hand edge is bounded by a rickety ridge and a tree and to its left is a fine clean slab left of a shallow corner. Climb the fine steepening slab past a crux bulge to a ledge above, possible belay, step left up a slab and exit up a rounded wall. A discreet cairn marks the start.

CREAG BEINN NAM BAN (MR Sheet 19; 107 897):

Access: Leave the A832 opposite An Teallach and take the Badralloch road to a large layby directly below the crag. The steep hillside is followed directly, turning crags to the right.

The crag forms a fine, sound, south-west facing, A-shaped slab of Torridonian sandstone approx. 50m high that is a natural sun trap. The crag is convex and has two distinctive shallow corners either side.

Blockbuster – 40m E1 5b**. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 6th April, 1996.

The left hand corner has a steep jamming crack. Follow this, step right on to a slab, then traverse right under an overhang. Surmount the overhang above a large block and follow the easier crack which runs up parallel with the apex of the A to the top. An excellent and strenuous route; very well protected.

Long Distance Runner – 45m E1 5a**. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 6th April, 1996.
This varied and quite bold route takes the shallow corner which forms the right leg of the A. Start left of the corner above a bollard belay and climb the steep slab heading towards a short crack by the corner. Gain the corner and follow it to the top in an open position.

CARN A' BHIORAIN, North-West Face:

Goat Falls – 85m IV,4. M. Carroll, N. Kenworthy. 4th February, 1996.

MR 135 843. A frozen waterfall requiring a hard freeze. A prominent waterfall breaks through the north-eastern end of Coil a' Bhun crags (500m NE of Fain Falls).

Climb an iced slab (25m). Walk along the gully bottom for 25m. Climb another iced slab (20m) to a shelf and then the steep shelved icefall (45m). Exit left at the top.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)

COIRE TOLL A' MHUIC, Sgurr na Muice, South-East Face:

Pipsqueak – 75m II. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Weld. 11th February, 1996.

On the left side of the South-East Face near the exit of the descent couloir that runs behind the crags is a narrow icefall that lies at the same angle as the hillside, forming readily. Climb the escapable icefall direct over all the bulges, steepest at the top.

Sgurr na Muice, North-East Face:

Three Little Pigs. Direct Starts (SMCJ 1995). To the right of the icefall start are two left-slanting corners. These form easier alternatives, more in keeping with the rest of the route and can be used when the icefalls have not formed.

Left Start – 60m II/III. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 28th January, 1996.

The better of the two starts held ice and frozen turf and steepens at the top.

Right Start – 50m II. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 28th January, 1996.

Climbs the easier-angled slabby ramp to the right, mainly on frozen turf and a little ice.

Note: Three Little Pigs takes the open chimney well to the right of the following route, Tusker, and has a prominent block high up on the right skyline.

Tusker – 192m IV,5. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 28th January, 1996.

Climb the initial icefall of Three Little Pigs to belay directly beneath a steep V-groove with a slabby side wall (50m). This is left of the easier chimney of Three Little Pigs. Gain the entrance of the V-groove and climb a very thin ice runnel up its back to below an overhang. A difficult right and upwards traverse then leads to the crest of the saddle (35m). Climb the scoop and crack right of a turf overhang over a bulge directly above to a small platform (7m, crux). Continue up the open chimney, trending slightly left near the top, to a superb cave (50m). Step right from the cave and climb a blocky chimney to the summit (50m). Well protected technical moves in a good situation.

Pigsticker – 230m IV,4. D.J. Broadhead, J.R. Mackenzie (alt.). 3rd February, 1996.

Take the left-hand couloir to the lower barrier. To the right of the two left-slanting grooves used as starts to Three Little Pigs, is a shorter right-slanting one, very near the right-hand end of the barrier wall. This pitch could be avoided more easily on the right,

but should not be missed. Climb the innocuous groove with considerable interest (25m). Continue easily up snow to below a wide icy gully/groove (25m). Climb the ice directly, then move right to the continuation (40m). Climb a steep chimney and then up to an overhanging rock wall. Move left under the overhanging wall and gain a thin turf groove on the left. Climb this to a small bay (40m). Climb the deceptive narrow V-groove above, sustained (25m). Climb the wider groove to a steep section up on the left (50m). Easily to the summit (25m). A fine sustained route giving good mixed climbing and climbed under thin but firm conditions.

Pygmalion – 175m IV.4. D.J. Broadhead, J.R. Mackenzie (alt.). 15th March, 1996.
To the immediate right of Pigsticker is a blunt arete. This has an easier lower continuation which bounds the bay containing The Wolf etc. but was not climbed and would extend the route by 60m or so. Climb the arete parallel to the first pitch of Pigsticker and belay as for that route (40m). Step right over the bounding edge and cross the next groove to the right, climb up the right wall to a square-cut recess and 'kickstep' up the right wall to a rib. Climb this for a move or two, then step delicately back left to the main groove and belay higher on the right (40m). Sidle left from the belay and mount a narrow turf strip to gain a prominent V-groove. Climb this (well protected, a superb pitch) – 20m. Above is a short, but wide, chimney, difficult to start. Climb this, stepping left to exit and continue up to belay on the right wall (25m). Step left and climb a wide crack with a perched chokestone and continue to the top (50m). An excellent and varied climb.

Crackling Groove – 160m IV.4. R. Weld, J.R. Mackenzie. 11th February, 1996.
To the right of The Wolf is a final icy groove that is bounded by an edge. Reach this by climbing the right hand of the two approach gullies and traversing right along the snow apron to the edge. The dead-end icy groove has a narrow subsidiary groove to its right. Climb up this subsidiary groove steeply to belays (30m, crux). Continue up the wider groove (50m). Continue in the same line (50m). Easily to the summit cairn (30m). A good first pitch followed by pleasant open climbing.

Sgurr na Fearstaig, South Top, East Face:

Sorcerer's Apprentice – 165m V.5. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Weld. 13th February, 1996.
To the left of the original route, Sea Pink Gully, is a steep central buttress with easier groove lines to the left again. A prominent icefall bottoms the only break in the lower rocks. Climb moderate ice for 40m to the break. Climb the vertical ice funnel to reach turf, step left and curve back right to a recess (20m, crux). Follow a right-leaning ramp which bends back up left near a corner (45m). Continue up and left in an exposed position to near where the gangway ends (30m). Climb the break above to the top (30m). A difficult start leads to a natural line up the buttress in a fine position. More ice might lessen the difficulty.

GLENMARKSIE CRAG RIGHT (Sheet 26, GR 384 581):

Approach: Park as for Glenmarksie Crag but since the crag lies to the right of the main crag and at the same level as Top Crag, go directly up the hillside to it. The crag is less obvious than the main crag but has some interesting lines, usually on good rock. Protection is a problem and RPs and small Rocks might be useful. A recent curiosity was the *in situ* sheep which had lived on the same ledge for four years; this recently took flight and jumped but survived and restricts its diet to coarse heather.

Optical Illusion – 25m E2. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie (alt). 2nd April, 1995.

Definitely the best route on the crag and the most varied of any route in the area, being

thin on the first pitch and juggy on the second. The route is possible in one pitch but would lose some of its character. Protection is very sketchy on pitch 1 but abundant on pitch 2.

1. 15m 5c. Roughly at the centre and directly below a small lonely tree is an overhanging green wall bottomed by clean grey slab with a guarding overhang. Surmount the overhang at some layaways and step right. Move up left and traverse left boldly below a small overlap and belay below the green wall.

2. 10m 4c. Climb the wall on the biggest holds imaginable to the tree.

UPPER STRATHCONON, Allt Gleadhraich MR 274 510):

The Strathconon Experience – III/IV. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 29th December, 1995.

Due to the volume of water and low altitude, this requires a sustained hard frost to fully freeze (temperature maximum -17° that day). The burn follows a steep-sided deep gorge for its lower section which provided four escalating ice pitches separated by flat but nerve-wracking iced pools. Much running water below the icefalls but superb ice which took ice screws readily. 15m, 20m, steeper 25m, crux 40m, top fall broad and taken centrally.

CREAG GLAS, West Face:

Victory Crack – 70m E4. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 20th August, 1995.

To the left of Salamander and at a higher level is a steep slabby wall split by a pair of cracks towards the right-hand end. The terrace below can be reached by climbing a chimney-corner or more easily the next corner left, then scrambling up a break in the wall. It is possible to scramble off left above the main pitch along a narrow ledge.

1. 25m 6a. Climb the left hand and steeper crack which is discontinuous, narrow and sustained but well protected.

2. 20m. Step right from the belay to gain and climb a crack that runs right of the roof forming a hidden corner.

3. 25m 4b. Climb up the broken slab behind the stance, reaching an unprotected, quartz-studded slab which is followed to below a curving crack left of the corner pitch of Salamander.

4. Scramble off leftwards or finish up Salamander's last two pitches.

Spoils of War – 90m E2 5c. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 4th November, 1995.

The very pronounced crack to the right of Victory Crack that lies to the left of Salamander slab. Start to the right of the crack to avoid heather and traverse left by a flake hold to the main crack. Climb the crack past a wide section to a little tree and step left to the crux section which is parallel and holdless but very well protected (45m 5c). Finish as for Victory Crack. The grade was uncertain due to damp rock.

Note: The pitch gradings for Salamander (SMCJ 1995) should be 4c 4c 5a (5b) 4c 4c.

BEN WYVIS, Creag Coire na Feola:

Four Cornice Gully – 150m II. J.R. Mackenzie, J. Finlay. 28th April, 1995.

Immediately left of The Snick and 250m left of the main crag is a deep gully. A small introductory pitch, then straight-forward snow led to the headwall composed of four cornices more than 35m. Might well be impossible mid-season.

THE FANNAICHS, An Coileachan, Garbh Coire Mor:

Illusion Wall – 150m V. Diff. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 18th August, 1995.

Climbs the slabby left wall of the coire with occasional rock moves among the turf. The best feature of this featureless wall is a depression situated roughly centrally, access to

which is barred by steep smooth ground. The rib on the left of this depression has a small tree; the rib on the right provides this route. Scramble on to a right-rising terrace and go up it to start well right of the rib via a ramp which slants left to the crest. Follow the crest to the top.

Winter – IV,5. A. Nisbet, S. Richardson. 18th November, 1995.

By the summer route except that a deviation down left from the ramp was used to avoid a short slab on pitch 1. The short crux was a 5m wall when the crest was first reached.

Flying Carpet – 150m V,7. J. Allott, A. Nisbet. 9th December, 1995.

The rib on the left of the depression. Start from the bottom left of the terrace at the base of the depression (often thin ice on smooth slabs). Trend left on to the rib and up a corner to steep ground (35m). Trend back right on increasingly narrow turf ramps until next to the depression and climb a short vertical corner with a turf stripe, the flying carpet (strenuous bridging as the turf was not sufficiently solid to pull up on) –40m. The line continued just left of the depression, passing the solitary tree to big blocks (50m). The finish was a less steep turf corner (25m).

ARDMAIR, Big Roof, Side Wall:

Old Dog, New Tricks – 20m E2 5c. A. Fyffe, J. Hepburn. 15th June, 1995.

Balancy climbing up the blunt arete right of Bolshie Ballerina. Climb that route to where it goes left round the edge and continue up the edge just right of the arete all the way.

SUILVEN, West Face:

Land and Freedom – 145m V,7. R. Webb, N. Wilson. 23rd December, 1995.

The face is defined by the line of Western Approach Route on the right and is divided into three tiers. The difficulties are in the second tier. The route is highly recommended. Start at a right-slanting ramp in the middle of the lowest tier.

1. 20m. Climb the ramp and move right beneath an enormous block to belay.
2. 20m. Climb a short corner, exiting right to gain the first terrace. Continue to the foot of the main buttress.
3. 30m. Start at the second corner in from the right (small cairn as for Rose Route). This point can be reached avoiding the first two pitches by a long traverse from the right. Climb the corner, go left to a ledge, then back hard right to gain the crest of the buttress (obvious block). Gain the corner system right again and move up to belay at the base of a short chimney.
4. 25m. Climb the chimney, go straight up the corner above, exit right at the overhangs and up the corner above to gain the second terrace and easier ground.
5. Cross the terrace and go up a turf groove to a large bay on a smaller terrace.
6. 15m. Traverse right along the terrace to below a 2m chimney.
7. 15m. Climb the chimney, move left and finish easily.

QUINAG, The Western Cliffs:

Tenement Ridge – IV,5. A. Nisbet, S. Richardson. 29th December, 1995.

The crest was generally followed but deviations left were occasionally forced.

Drumbeg Tower – 120m V,6. A. Nisbet, S. Richardson. 29th December, 1995.

Left of Tenement Ridge is a left-slanting gully with a short, narrow step (descent route, one abseil). Left again is another ridge which forms the right edge of the section of cliff with The Pillar of Assynt. The route started at a bay left of the ridge's base and below a big corner with overhangs. A turf line was taken up from the bay and curving right

to join the ridge crest (50m). The crest was followed, initially with difficulty (30m), then easily (40m).

CLACH TOLL (NC 037 267):

This is the well known curious geological feature, much photographed by postcard producers and the like. It is a wedge-shaped sandstone block that has slid about 50m down a slabby shelf into the sea. Aspect: East. Access: From Lochinver turn off left (west) along the B969 towards Stoer and follow this past Achmelvich to the tiny hamlet of Clach Toll. Drive through the camping and caravan site to the car park adjacent to the toilet block and little wooden information hut (6 miles/10 km). Approach: Cross the first beach and follow a path by old fence line south (500m/5min.).

Slip Sliding Away – 15m E3 6a**. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 22nd August, 1995.

The gradually widening crack just right of the left arete of the landward face. Approach a couple of hours either side of low tide. Climb a short groove to the left side of a large ledge (5a, 5m). The crack, on improving holds. Abseil descent from nut and sling left *in situ* at top of route.

REIFF, Pinnacle Area, 1st Geo:

Absent Friends – 15m E5 6b**. N. Clement. 11th May, 1995.

Traverse into the middle of the wall, as for A Walk Across the Rooftops, to an obvious hole. Move right up off a big undercut past two breaks to finish slightly left.

Black Rocks:

Cross-town Traffic – 15m VS 4c. A. Fyffe, J. Hepburn. 24th May, 1995.

Takes a lower line parallel to the top of Barrel of Laughs. Start on the far side of the flat topped arete of Chillli Puds at a recess. Gain and follow the diagonal crack right then finish straight up the wider crack.

Seal Song Area:

The Mystic – 15m E6 6b***. N. Clement, G. Latter (both led). 18th May, 1995.

Spectacular climbing up the left arete of the south wall. Easily up the left side of the arete, then swing round right at the second roof and up to ledge. Pull out right and up to a good slot, then make hard moves up the arete to finish.

Second Sight – 15m E5 6b*. N. Clement, G. Latter. 18th May, 1995.

The thin diagonal crack 3m right of the arete, starting just right of Modern Thinking. Up just right of the crack, with a long reach (crux) to a break level with the ledge on Modern Thinking. The crack above, on improving holds.

An Faidh – 15m E6 6c**. N. Clement, G. Latter (both led). 14th May, 1995.

Fine sustained climbing up the wall midway between Modern Thinking and The Executioner. Start in the centre of the wall, right of a right-slanting ramp. Up to and climb the thin crack to good break. Move slightly left to the next break, left along this and up with difficulty (RP #3 1m above good sidepull) to better holds. Step right and easier up centre of wall.

An Fiosaiche – 15m E6 6b**. N. Clement, G. Latter (both led). 14th May, 1995.

The right-hand line on the wall. As for An Faidh to the good break, then out rightwards to two good jugs (small friends and good skyhook). Make hard moves to stand on the top jug, then step left and more easily up centre of wall.

The Leaning Block Cliffs:

The Quickening – 18m E5 6a***. G. Latter, A. Wren. 6th May, 1995.

A diagonal line across the grossly overhanging wall bounding the left side of the crag. Start beneath a prominent flake at 3m. Up on good breaks to reach an obvious line of holds and follow these rightwards to underneath the roof on the arete. Swing round and finish up the left edge of the slab. Well protected with friends.

LOCH NAN CAORACH WATERFALL (MR 286 277):

Sirius Falls – 200m II/III. M. Carroll, R. Bale, N. Kenworthy, J. Forder. 3rd February, 1996.

The waterfall on the opposite side of Abhainn an Loch Bhig to Eas a' Chual Aluinn. It seems to freeze more readily than Eas a' Chual Aluinn, and although almost as impressive a watercourse in summer, it freezes at an easier gradient. The fall is wide and there are many variations. Climb easy bulgy ice, starting on the right to a cave belay (60m). Negotiate a break in the hanging chandeliers (crux) and belay below steeper ice (50m). Take the steep pitch direct in the centre and belay at a large boulder (45m). Exit either left across a slab and up a chimney finishing on a steep wall or right up a narrow groove and across a slab leftwards (45m).

SHEIGRA, The First Geo:

Steep for 5 Minutes – 25m E6 6c**. G. Latter. 1st July, 1995.

A direct line attacking the capping roof in the centre of the wall. Start directly under the roof. Up a grey ramp and rightwards through a niche to a brilliant incut pocket. Follow the vague crackline on good holds to the roof, and make some very powerful moves through this (small nuts) to a superb pocket and large jug in the break above. The short wall above leads to a superb finishing jug.

Dying in Vein – 25m E4 5c. G. Farquhar, C. Carolan. 30th June, 1995.

The steep orange quartz-veined wall between Blind Faith Direct and Road to Ruin. Climb up the line of a thin crackline trending rightwards to finish through the right hand side of the overhang (left of the pink groove of Blind Faith Direct). Steep climbing on good holds with adequate protection.

Ape Escape – 25m E5 6b*. G. Latter. 6th July, 1995.

The thin seam 3m right of Monkey Man. The crux to reach the small roof is very powerful and reachy, and was protected by an escape on to Monkey Man to place a high runner. Above the roof, follow the left hand crack on good edges to a fine finishing jug.

Here and Now – 25m E5 6b***. G. Latter, R. Campbell. 29th May, 1995.

Superb steep and strenuous climbing with reasonable protection. The right side of the south face has a shallow orange hanging groove at the top. Start up a prominent diagonal crack and move right to good undercuts and flake (also possible to climb direct to here, but runners in crack useful higher up) to gain a good hold just above. Move slightly left and up a flared crack with a hard move to gain a good flat hold (good nuts, including Walnut 10 or 9 on side). Move slightly left and up a further flared crack to good incuts, then right and layback sharp flakes to better holds and protection. More easily up the final groove to finish on superb holds.

What the Pool Said (on Midsummer's Day) – 30m E5 6a**. G. Latter. 4th July, 1995.

Bold steady climbing up the right edge of the Inner Walls. Start on top of a boulder near the right edge. Up to a pocket (Rock 5) and move up leftwards past a further pocket to

good holds leading to a break level with a small roof on the left. Step right and up shallow grooves, then direct on good holds to pull on to a sloping ledge. Move up an easy slabby groove leftwards and finish up a jug-infested slab.

The Outer Walls:

Farther right where the geo opens out at a large pool is an extensive overhanging wall, with a long-ledge system at the base. Approach can be made from the back of the geo at mid-tide, or by the approach for Shelob's Lair etc. In the centre is a stunning golden wall, with black-streaked cracks either side.

The Sound of the Surf – 25m E4 6a**. G. Latter, R. Campbell. 27th May, 1995.

The left-hand crack system. Scramble up to the base from the left. Climb the crack with a hard section low down. Higher up, it is possible to bridge into the groove on the left. Pull over the capping roof direct at a good slot and finish on good holds.

Looking for Atlantis – 25m E5 6c***. R. Campbell, G. Latter (both led). 27th May, 1995. Superb climbing up the black-streaked crack bounding the right side of the orange wall. From the right end of the ledge, move left and up to a large flat ledge, then up and left to the base of the crack. Up this to a steep thin crack in the headwall which leads with difficulty (crux) to a good fingerlock. Stand on the ledge and finish easily.

About 100m north towards the Second Geo is a perfect corner.

Crackin' Corner – 12m VS 4c***. G. Latter, K. Martin. 4th July, 1995.

The short but perfectly-formed corner, with a parallel crack up the left wall.

About 50m farther on, just south of the start of the Second Geo, is a long platform about 10m above the sea. Approach from the right (south) and scramble down to reach the right end.

Under the Pink – 15m E1 5b***. G. Latter. 4th July, 1995.

The shallow right-facing groove at the left end of the ledge leads to the right end of a long sloping ledge. Thin cracks in the arete above.

In Between Days – 15m VS 4c*. G. Latter, K. Martin. 4th July, 1995.

The line between, following a blocky crack with a bouldery start.

Above the Blue – 15m E1 5b***. G. Latter. 4th July, 1995.

The crack near the right arete leads to a good break, then easier up the superb shallow groove above.

Glop – 20m E2 5b**. P. Thorburn, P. McNally. July, 1995.

Climb *Above the Blue* until a traverse can be made above the lip of the leaning arete. At a large pocket, move up and gain a slab and belays.

The Second Geo:

Wanderings – 35m E2 5b***. G. Latter. 2nd July, 1995.

Start up the same point as *May Tripper* to a good break. Traverse this diagonally rightwards to an obvious large pink juggy break. Move up then right and follow the right edge of the orange rock to better holds. More easily up a wide crack past a large spike to finish.

Note: Something similar may have been climbed before. As the wall seems climbable almost anywhere, described routes in the guide were rationalised to choose the best lines (Ed.).

The Dark Flush – 45m E2 5b***. R. Campbell, G. Latter. 26th May, 1995.
Start as for Exorcist, but continue traversing the entire lip of the roof to follow a line of huge pockets up the prominent wide black streak.

The North Geo:

Black Slabeth – 20m E1 5b. P. Thorburn, P. McNally. 17th July, 1995.
Climb the thin crack in the black slab at the back of the geo.

Daehgar – 20m E2 5a. P. Thorburn, P. McNally. 17th July, 1995.
The slab right of Black Slabeth direct through overlaps, gained by a short crack on the right.

Streamlined – 15m VS 4c/5a. A. Nelson, S. Kennedy. May, 1995.
There are two corners immediately to the left of The Ramp. This route climbs the slimmer left-hand corner. Climbed in heavy rain; the grade is uncertain.

Ebony Corner – 15m VS 4b. A. Fyffe, B. Fyffe. July, 1994.
The larger right-hand corner, which is directly above the start of The Ramp. Climb the slab slightly left then back right to gain the thin crack which leads into the corner. At the top step right and finish up the larger corner.

AM BUACHAILLE, Coastal Cliff:

Opposite the Am Buachaille stack there is a large cliff extending south towards a smaller squat stack. Its left edge is a prominent square-cut arete. Just right of the arete is a big groove.

- Dream of the Desert* – 90m E2. P. Nunn, M. Richardson. 27th May, 1984.
1. 40m 5a. Climb a big corner, passing a frightening wedged-block overhang.
 2. 30m 4c. Go out right on to slabs and belay below a line of roofs.
 3. 20m 5b. Climb the small roof (Friend *in situ*) and cracks above in an impressive situation.

Note: About 300m north of Cnoc an Staca is a steep south face with by an obvious crackline left of an area split by a groove and ledge system. The crack is *The Ome*. 35m, E2 5c. M. Boysen, R. Carrington, G. Birtles. May, 1987.

CREAG SHOMHAIRLE:

In Woods and Wild Places – 55m E5*. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 25th August, 1995.
A line up the pillar on the right side of the crag, where the wall turns from west to south-west. Start by a slabby right-facing ramp beside a small rowan right of Dance of the Dead.

1. 30m 5b. Easily up past small rowan and slabby ramp to a left-slanting diagonal crack, then by a flaky crack past a large keyed in flake to a small groove. At the capping roof step right round a rib to belay on ledge.
2. 25m 6a. Traverse left above the lip of the roof to two good pockets. Make committing move up leftwards to a large rounded hold, and continue in the same direction with a further tricky section to good holds. Continue up cracks in the arete to belay on ledge. An abseil descent was made from a nut and carabiner, left *in situ*. 50m ropes just reach the ground.

The Pyramid:

The following three pitches are all on the prominent undercut triangular-shaped buttress about 100m left of the right end of the cliff. The first three lines lead to a belay below

a slabby crack (VS) which gives access to a vegetated ramp. Abseil down this from a small tree.

The Other Landscape – 25m E3 5c. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 26th August, 1995.

Start directly beneath the shallow right-facing groove at the left side of the crag. Pull over roof by a huge jug on the lip, and up groove to a good slot near the top. Move out rightwards heading for a horizontal break, then back left on undercuts to finish direct.

The Shadow – 25m E3 5c**. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 26th August, 1995.

Pull over by a jug near the cave like recess, and up the slightly left to a shallow left-facing groove. Up this and continue in the same line to the top. Bold and sustained, on superb rock.

The Lost Glen – 25m E3 5c*. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 26th August, 1995.

The prominent right to left crack across the buttress. Start just to the left, and up past good holds to gain crack. Follow this (good nut or friend in slot out left), moving left and up pegmatite vein to better holds in crack above. Finish up this.

The Silver Bough – 12m VS 4c**. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 26th August, 1995.

A convenient top pitch to the three preceding routes. Follow the crack in the slab and pull out right to a good flake, then by a line of good pockets past a break to top. Belay on tiny rowan. Abseil descent down easy-angled gully on right.

BEINN CEANNABEINNE (NC 420 643, Aspect: West) (28.9.95).

A fine 40m sheet of Lewisian Gneiss, set at an angle of 80-85°. The crag is visible (and was first spotted) from the cafe in Durness.

Approach: Leave the A838 at a rough driveable track 400m SE of Smoo Cave Car Park. Drive 0.6km to park on the right just before gate. Continue following the track until about 100m after it starts to descend, and head up the hillside towards the crag (30min.).

Descent: Traverse diagonally right on the heathery slopes above and climb right into the top of an easy gully. If in doubt about the route, go higher up the slope to an easier descent.

See the Arctic Bear – 52m E1 5b***. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 28th August, 1995.

A brilliant full-length pitch, taking the big diagonal crack in the upper half of the wall. Start at a small right-facing groove formed by the curving arch. Up the groove to gain a small ledge on the arete. Move up to a break, then to two huge pockets (F #3.5 or 4). Move up right then back left to base of the crack. At the top pull left and up heather to belay at the bottom left of a huge leaning flake. A 50m rope doesn't reach, though it should be possible to move out right from the top of the crack to find a belay.

Larger than Life – 40m E5 6a**. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. July, 1995.

Bold run-out climbing taking a line through the centre of the curving overlap just left of the centre of the crag. Climb up the wall to gain break in overlap. Continue up and right to a big sidepull, then direct up wall left of water streak. Skyhooks useful, and 2 RP #3's required on top wall.

Cranial Cavity – 40m E2 5c*. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. July, 1995.

There are two huge flakes leaning against the base of the wall in the centre of the crag. (The lower one provides reasonable shelter during rain). Gain the short right-facing groove above the upper flake, and up this then its left rib. Finish up the shallow groove or its right wall, whichever line is drier.

CAITHNESS SEA CLIFFS, Mid Clyth, The Stack Area:

The Fearful Void – 20m E3 5c. S. Clark. 19th August, 1995.

Between Maelstrom and Raccoon Kicker. The striking thin crackline in the frontal part of the North Wall, with a rightward step above the second roof. Sustained and well protected on fine rock after the first few feet, which weep (but are climbable) in early season.

Freak Power – 7m E2 6a. S. Clark. 19th June, 1995.

Between Comedy of Thirst and John's Peel. A short technical line up the front of the Very Large Block. Take twin cracks through the slate band to a ledge, then step right and climb the next crack and wall to its right on to the top of the block.

Latheronwheel, The Big Flat Wall:

Morning Tide – 20m E1 5b. G.Latter, P.Thorburn. 24th August, 1995.

The wall left of The Other Landscape. From a belay in the cave, traverse left to a small thread runner and pull direct over the bulge (avoidable at 5a farther left) and straight up the wall. At the large ledge near the top, move left and finish up the short left-facing corner

ORKNEY, Yesnaby, Qui Ayre Point:

Situated about 200m north of the Castle of Yesnaby, a wall of compact sandstone 35m high projects west. A small cairn marks the site of some old quarried 'flag' workings. A few metres south-west is a short steep chimney for descent to the wave-cut platform. *Definitely Maybe* – 30m E2 5b. A. Park, N. Gilman, N. Kekus. 6th May, 1995.

From the bottom of the descent chimney walk 20m left along the wave-cut platform to beneath the first groove on the steep wall. The route starts up the groove for 5m before moving left on to a rib, then left again to climb the crack to the top.

*Handbags and Gladrag*s – 30m E2 5b. N. Gilman, N. Kekus, A. Park. 6th May, 1995.

From the bottom of the descent chimney, walk right for 30m. The steep wall has a crescent overhang at 20m with a thin crack coming from its right-hand end. The route climbs the steep wall and open groove directly below the right-hand end of the overhang and takes the crack above to the top.

Freelader – 30m E1 5b. N. Kekus, A. Park. 7th May, 1995.

Reached by abseil down the line. Situated 150m east of the descent chimney described above. A depression on top of the route and cairn 15m from the edge mark the location. From a small stance just above the sea, climb a left-facing corner for 10m, pull steeply up and right on to a wall with small pockets. Move right and finish up a shallow left-facing corner to the top.

CAIRNGORMS

Errors in the new guide: Escapologist as described is easier than VI,7, perhaps IV,6. Azalea Rib should be IV,5. The Sword of Damocles should have **. There are definite opinions that The Ascent of Man and Flodden should be ***, and Flodden E6. Certainly, stars have been applied more meanly on Creag an Dubh Loch than Shelter Stone Crag. Some duplications in the graded list: score out Devil Dancer as a high VS and Windchill as a middle VS (both now HVS and correctly placed as such). The FWA of Epitome was by Fijalkowski and R.A. Smith, B. Sprunt made the second ascent.

LOCHNAGAR, Sunset Buttress:

Quick Dash Crack – 100m IV,5. B.S. Findlay, S. Richardson. 11th December, 1994.
Start at the left side of the front face below a vegetated chimney/groove.

1. 25m. Climb the groove, past a chokestone to a good ledge.
2. 15m. Step left and climb the prominent wide crack on the left edge of the buttress to a stance.
- 3, 4. 60m. Continue up the crest of the buttress to the plateau.

Perseverance Rib – 80m III. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 7th January, 1996.

This rib is the best-defined feature between the Red Spout and The Cathedral and is characterised by gullies either side and a small tower in its lower half. Start 20m right of Red Spout and climb a gully to the left of the tower. Continue up the right side of the rib to the plateau.

Sinister Buttress:

The Hacker – 90m V,6. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 10th January, 1995.

On the right side of Sinister Buttress is a prominent corner which bounds the right side of a smooth wall. The wall is split by a vertical fault, almost a shallow chimney, 3m left of the corner. Start up the fault until it peters out, then take a rising traverse left to gain a ramp which leads back right to belay above the wall (35m). Continue up the ramp to easy ground near the top of Gully Route (50m). Finish as for this route.

Central Buttress:

Chevalier – 110m V,7. S. Richardson, R. Webb (alt.). 4th February, 1995.

The narrow V-groove left of Centrist (only summarised in new guide).

1. 45m. Start at the foot of Central Buttress Direct and trend up and right to reach the foot of the groove. Enter it from the right with an unusual *a cheval* move (crux), and climb to where it eases.
2. 25m. Continue up the groove which parallels Centrist on the right. Belay in a snow bay.
3. 40m. Finish up the groove line left of Centrist, passing a steep turfy bulge at 10m. An easy snow trough (as for Centrist) then leads to the crest of Central Buttress below the pinnacles.

Black Spout, Left Branch:

Chinook – 80m IV,4. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge. 10th December, 1995.

The broad rib to the right of A Slice of Ice.

1. 35m. Start directly below the gully face of the rib and climb a steep crack, at first slightly left then right, to reach a snow slope. Block belay.
2. 45m. The slabby wall above is cut by a prominent fault. Traverse left below this to reach a wide hanging crack on the very left side of the wall. Climb this, exit right at the top, and trend right up easy ground to the plateau.

Early Bird – 35m II. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 5th November, 1995.

The well-defined gully left of Crumbling Cranny. Extremely short and banks out in full conditions. Has merit in forming ice readily, and is possibly the first route to come into condition on the cliff.

West Buttress:

Black Velvet – 120m V,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 4th February, 1996.

A direct line up the steep left crest of the lower section of Black Spout Buttress.

Worthwhile as a route in its own right, it can also be used as an alternative start to Black Spout Buttress. Start at the lowest point of the buttress, below a line of left facing grooves overlooking the Black Spout.

1. 25m. Climb the grooves, passing several steep steps, to where they finish at a good ledge.
2. 15m. The line now continues up the vertical corner above. Move up to the base of the corner, and climb it (crux) exiting left at the top to reach the crest.
3. 40m. Climb up easily at first, then continue just left of the crest along an obvious series of ramps. Climb a steep wall to reach the crest of the buttress.
4. 40m. Continue easily along the crest, and descend into the col as for Black Spout Buttress. From here, either descend down and left into the Black Spout, or continue up the ordinary route. (Climbing the two towers above the chimney pitch is more in keeping with the standard of the lower section).

THE STUIC:

The Stooee Chimney – 90m IV,7. S. Richardson, G.Scott. 14th January, 1996.

This deep chimney is the most prominent feature to the right of the crest of the Stuic. Climb it for 25m to a roof beneath a huge bridged chockstone. Climb the right wall of the chimney on flakes and make a difficult exit (crux) on to the top of the chockstone. Continue up the chimney and finish up snow slopes to the top.

Twilight Groove – 90m III,4. S. Richardson. 19th November, 1995.

Start 15m left of The Stooee Chimney and climb a groove to a ledge. Pull over a bulge to enter a shallow left facing groove. Exit right at its top to finish on the right side of a small tower.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, South-East Buttress:

Souls on Fire – 150m IV,5. G. Scott, S. Richardson. 2nd January, 1996.

A natural winter line up the right facing prominent chimney gully to the right of Dogleg. Start 30m left of South East Buttress below a ramp which runs up right to left (South-East Buttress, Alt. Start).

- 1, 2. Follow the ramp to a terrace, then trend up and left over several short steps to a belay at the foot of the chimney.
3. Climb the chimney to its top.
4. 50m Continue up the V-groove above, step right at its top, and continue up easy ground to the top of the buttress.

Central Slabs:

Medusa – 130m E1. W. Church, G.S. Strange. 1st July, 1995.

A climb on the lower slabs only. Start 5m right of Black Mamba at the left end of a low overlap.

1. 20m 5b. Climb a thin straight crack to the grass terrace.
2. 25m 4c. Walk right and climb pink cracks left of the deep fault of Vixen to reach a shallow bay.
3. 20m 4c. Trend up left following cracks to below the big overlap. Traverse left and step round on to Black Mamba.
4. 20m 4b. Climb pitch 3 of Black Mamba to a belay ledge.
5. 45m 5b. Follow a crack, bearing right to join Vixen below its V- groove. Continue as for Vixen to the terrace.

Buddha – 40m E7 6c. J. Lines. 31st August, 1995.

Climbs directly up the slabby wall below and right of Howff Dweller (new guide, p132).

Climb scoops in the centre of the slab, then move right to arrange protection in cracks. Gain twin converging cracks and climb them until they disappear. Make desperate moves out right to easier ground, then follow the easier cleaned corner and headwall (as for Howff Dweller) to finish. Low in the grade.

BROAD CAIRN BLUFFS, The Diamond Slab:

The Crowd – 35m E4. N. Morrison, J. Duncan. 29th July, 1995.

Makes the best use of the rock left of Solitaire, independent on its first pitch but squeezed in on the upper slab.

1. 10m 6a. Ascend the obvious finger crack, with the help of the groove on the left, to a mean rockover into a niche. Follow the slab above to belay as for Solitaire.
2. 25m 5c. Follow an easy ramp left to the edge, then climb diagonally rightwards to gain the obvious left hand branch of the Solitaire crack system. Follow this to finish up the left arete. Bold to start.

EAGLES ROCK, Likely Story Slab:

Ripping Yarn – 80m E1. J. Lines E. Mctavish. 31st August, 1995.

A direct line through A Likely Story, starting 5m right of it.

1. 30m 5a. Pad up a blank slab to holds, move up and right into a V-shaped notch and above this step left to the base of a smooth slab. Climb the slab via a line of small features until the angle eases. Step left to belay as for A Likely Story.
2. 50m 5a. Climb A Likely Story for 5m, then pull out left through a V-shaped notch. Climb the smooth slab direct to the curving overlap of Fraud Squad. Pull out left and climb the slab to finish up the final crack of A Likely Story.

JUANGORGE:

Grand Inquisitor – 115m VII.7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 23rd December, 1995.

A difficult mixed route up the previously unclimbed front face of the crag. The line follows the left-slanting series of cracks on the right side of the face. Pitches 2 to 4 are very sustained and become progressively bolder.

1. 20m As for Good Ship Venus pitch 1 to small patch of trees.
2. 20m Climb the strenuous crack-line above, passing several jammed flakes, and follow the thin, left-trending ramp to a stance just beyond the continuation of the crack system.
3. 15m Step back down and right into the crack system and climb this (first crux) to an easing below roofs.
4. 15m Move up and left into a slanting break through the roofs. Climb this (second crux – bold), then step up and right onto a slab. Cross this to reach a crack on the right and belay on the ledge above.
5. 45m Climb the vegetated cracks above, continually easing, to the top.

GLEN SHEE, Craig of Runavey:

Three distinctive ribs are seen from the A93 a couple of miles short of Spittal of Glen Shee. Approach via Westerton of Runavey farm road. Map Ref 128 694.

Central Rib – 60m V. Diff. D.F. Lang. 18th June, 1995.

The most prominent and finest. Ascend the narrow rib to a heather clump below a V-gap. Straddle up this to easier ground. Continue to the final prow. Ascend to a loose spike, then move back left to climb the left side of the prow to the top beside a fallen larch tree.

Western Rib – 45m Severe. D.F. Lang. 18th June, 1995.

Looks scrappy. Ascend the broad rib to below a steep wall. Gain a ledge, then climb the slab on the right to easy ground. A crack in the wall proved just too hard.

Eastern Rib – 60m V. Diff. D.F. Lang. 18th June, 1995.

Go directly up the rib to a steepening. Climb this at its left side to emerge into saplings. Continue on the left to gain the crest of the rib and continue to the top.

Craig of Runavey, Main Crag (MR 135 697):

The main crag is to the east of the three ribs, beyond a stand of trees. Approach as before but continue on a track that runs well below the crag. The crag is split by a fierce gully and the following climb is to the left.

Runavey Arete – 25m H. Severe. D.F. Lang, A.C. Stead. 1st July, 1995.

Start where a stone dyke abutts the arete and climb to a pinnacle (crux). Gain the slab on the right and continue to the top.

Trees Essential – 50m VS. A.C. Stead, D.F. Lang. 1st July, 1995.

At the right-hand side of the crag is an overhanging dark wall with trees below it. This route takes the first line of weakness to the left of the dark wall. Climb the wall until a step right can be made on to a slab with two conspicuous lichen patches. Continue past a tree and surmount the wall on the left with the aid of a tree. Continue up the rib on the left (with care) to the top.

Runavey Pinnacle – 30m H. Severe. D.F. Lang, J. Fuchter. 23rd July, 1995.

Ascends a conspicuous pinnacle well seen on the approach. Start a few feet below Runavey Arete and climb behind a rowan tree to the foot of a wide crack. Ascend the frontal face of the pinnacle to its top. Surmount a short wall, move left and climb to belay at the top of a crazy rib. Good protection and climbing.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Mor:

Little Big Chimney – 90m VI,7. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 21st January, 1996.

The prominent steep chimney on the right flank of Crown Buttress. A short route with a big feel! Start 40m up Great Gully below the chimney.

1. 25m Climb the lower chimney and back-and-foot up the smooth V-groove above to a cave stance.

2. 35m Move up and right onto the wall right of the cave. Climb up directly on steep turf (bold) to regain the chimney line above. Climb up to a second cave, step right, and struggle up the overhanging groove on the right (crux).

3. 30m Finish up the easy gully to the top.

CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN, The Bastion:

The following full descriptions were only mentioned in the new Cairngorms guide. An earlier route, Bastion Cross, started as for Blinkered and finished near, or as for Bastion Rib. Diagrams provided.

Bastion Rib – 150m IV,4. G. Scott, M. Cadman (alt.). November, 1993.

Takes a line to the right of Bastion Wall (may be close – Ed.). Climb a series of icy grooves to belay on the right side of a slabby wall (70m). Traverse left across slabs (delicate) and after a short corner, climb a rib initially on the left then on the right. Belay above a short chimney (40m). Easier to the top via short walls and turf ledges (40m).

Blinkered – 155m IV,4. G. Scott, M. Pennlington (alt.). November, 1992.

An attempt to get on to the prominent rib of Blinker. Start just left of the start for Original Route, about 20m up from the foot of the buttress. Follow a line of grooves going up and left towards a prominent wall in the middle of the face (40m, 40m). Continue up the groove until forced right. Make a traverse right across a slab, then upwards by a corner,

then its left-hand rib – crux (35m). Traverse right over mixed ground and finish up a final corner system.

Bastion Cross – 150m IV. R. Renshaw, G.S. Strange. 29th January, 1977.

A winter climb between Original Route and Bastion Wall, made under powder-snow conditions. Start left of the lowest rocks and follow a left-trending line of weakness. This became impracticable after two pitches, so a rising left traverse was made before continuing more directly to the top.

Not For The Home Boys – 85m III. C. Smith, D. Grant, S. Murray. 10th December, 1995. Located on the separate buttress left of Quartzvein Edge and left of Foxy Groove. Start 15m up and left from the foot of Quartzvein Edge at a prominent icefall.

1. 45m. Climb the icefall trending left to reach a cul-de-sac. Make an awkward move left on to a pedestal which leads to a slim ice runnel. Climb the runnel exiting left on to rocks.

2. 15m. Directly above the belay is a small capped overhang. Bridge up and take the overhang direct.

3. 25m. The steep icefall above is climbed direct to a ledge at half height. Traverse left and finish up the ice bulge above.

CARN ETCHACHAN:

Crystal Groove – 100m IV,6. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 5th April, 1996.

The big groove parallel and just left of the Diagonal Shelf; Crystal Maze uses its lower part. A small ramp between the Crystal Maze starts led left into the groove which was followed to an awkward finish on the left though a chimney-slot. Easy to the Terrace.

Bastille – B. Davison and A. Nisbet note a free winter ascent at VI,7 on 5th April, 1996.

SHELTER STONE CRAG:

Note: P. Thorburn and G. Latter climbed a variation to pitch 4 of The Needle. From halfway along the traverse, pull straight over the roof into a shallow hanging groove and up this with difficulty. E4 6b.

Shelter from the Storm – 110m V,7. A. Fyffe, I. Peter. 27th March, 1996.

Lies between Unknown Gully and Games of Chance. Start in the large snow bay as for Games of Chance.

1. 40m. Slant up and left via ledges, ramps and short corners to belay below a large pinkish slab.

2. 50m. Go diagonally left on a hanging slab into a short steep right-facing corner. Climb his corner (crux) on to an upper ramp and follow the obvious weaknesses to easier ground.

3. 20m. Move right and climb a ramp to finish.

HELL'S LUM CRAG:

Below Hell's Lum is a slabby diamond-shaped buttress, approx. 100m long and 40m high in its centre. Both ends taper into the hillside.

Pluto – 35m VS 4c. J. Lines. August, 1995.

Start at a white streak at the lowest point. Climb up to a left-facing corner and move right to a hairline crack. Climb the crack, which eases after 5m, and head for a right-facing corner at the top. Climb the corner and pull out left to finish.

Cerberus – 25m E1 5b. J. Lines. August, 1995.

Thirty metres from the right end of the buttress is a smooth black slab. The route climbs the crackline in the left side of the slab, gained from the right and easier after 15m.

Firestone – 25m E7 6c. J. Lines. August, 1995.

Climb the obvious pink waterworn streak directly up the black slab just right of Cerberus. Holdless and protectionless.

Note: J. Lines notes a 50m route starting as for Damien but continuing up to a glaciais at E2 5b.

Two Little Devils – 30m E1 5c. J. Lines, K. Crymble. 21st September, 1995.

Ten metres right of Escalator is a steep slab with a Y shaped crack system. Climb this to easier ground (superb gear). Climb the wide crack above to a glaciais.

Highway to Hell – 20m E2 5b. J. Lines. August, 1995.

At the far right end of Hell's Lum and 50m right of Escalator is a slabby right angled arete, climbed on its right side (bold).

STAG ROCKS:

Lost in the City – 25m E2 5c. J. Lines, K. Crymble. 21st September, 1995.

Fifteen metres right of Cascade is a clean right angled corner (4m high). Climb this (technical crux); move up and right to gain curving layback flakes which bend leftwards and finish up a sentry box

Truly, Madly, Chimbley – 90m III. S. Frazer, J. Lyall, M. Twomey. 12th February, 1996. This surprising climb lies on the left wall of the Y shaped gully right of Cascade. Start a short way up the gully below a large block (sometimes banked out).

1. 25m. Climb an icefall left of the block and move left into a bay below the chimney.
2. 25m. The back of the icy chimney is climbed until blocked by an overhang. Pull out on to the higher set of chokestones (a brilliant pitch for the grade).
3. 40m. Easy gully to the top.

STAC AN FHARAIDH:

Not Fade Away – 120m V,6. S. Blagbrough, A. Fyffe. 14th February, 1996.

This lies between Rectangular Rib and Mack's Dilemma and follows a slabby corner left of the vertical wall forming the edge of the main slab. Start at the foot of Rectangular Rib.

1. 25m. Climb the shallow tapered chimney till the right wall can be climbed to a large block.
2. 45m. Climb the slabby corner line to an easing in angle.
3. 40m. Go up right to below the vertical wall and climb the corner via several short wide cracks to a huge block by a steepening.
4. 10m. From the toe of the block climb the short crack going up right and exit on the left of the capping block.

COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA:

Saturation Point (new Cairngorms guide, vol 1, p35) had been previously climbed by D. Lockie, J.R. Mackenzie on 1st December, 1990.

Fiacail Buttress:

King of the Swingers – 150m VI,7. A. Powell, R. Cross. 11th March, 1995.

A route which cuts through the start of Smokestack Lightning to finish up Fiacail Buttress. Start 8m right of the left-slanting gully on the lower buttress.

1. 25m. Climb steep double cracks (*in situ* wire), then traverse left to a large block belay.
2. 35m. Traverse 6m left and climb the right-slanting ramps and walls above the belay (stenuous), then head straight up to the crest of the buttress.
- 3, 4. 90m. Follow Fiacail Buttress to the top.

CREAG AN LETH-CHOIN:

K9 – 180m IV,4. A. Fyffe, B. Fyffe. 23rd March, 1996.

This route lies between Central and North Gullies and links a lower and upper icefall. Start midway between the two gullies and climb a wide icefall to where it narrows 6m below an overhanging wall. Traverse left across mixed ground to easier terrain and climb this up and left to the fine upper icefall which forms in a corner. Climb this to the top.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

GLEN CLOVA, Juanjorge:

Time's Arrow – 30m E5 6b. G. Farquhar, C. Carolan. 30th June, 1995.

The central line through the triangular niche in the centre of this immaculate granite wall. Start down and left of Roslin Riviera, below the niche. Move up, then step right to the base of a thin diagonal crack. Up this, passing a Lost Arrow. Make difficult moves (crux) through the niche to gain the crack sprouting from its apex. Continue up the sustained crack to join Roslin Riviera at its final moves. Sustained and well protected.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

BEN NEVIS, The Little Benva Face:

Cresta, Direct Start – 70m IV. K. Wilson, N. Harper; J.R. Mackenzie, D. Lockie. 1st February, 1987.

Start left of Cresta at the base of the rocky spur and climb a steep ice pitch for 35m (crux). Continue up easier angled ice for a further 35m to reach the snow fields. This makes a more logical route when combined with the Direct Finish.

North-East Buttress, First Platform:

Newbigging's Route, Right-Hand Variation – 60m V,6. D.F. Lang, A.C. Stead. 23rd March, 1996.

Start about 30m left of the groove of the Far Right Variation where a parallel groove slopes down to a short barrier wall. Climb a shallow groove with twin cracks to a ledge in the main groove. Climb this turfy groove to belay in a short corner (25m). Step left and climb the continuation groove on loose rock (2 aid pegs) to gain the base of a corner with a wide crack. Climb left of the crack to a belay (35m, junction with Newbigging's 80 Minute Route). Climb delicate grooves above, left then right for 30m to join the final groove of the Far Right Variation.

Minus Two Buttress:

Long Division – 250m E1 5b. W. Hood, C. Moody. 20th August, 1995.

A good direct line up the buttress right of Subtraction.

1. 35m. Climb the rib right of Subtraction to belay below the bulge.
2. 35m 5b. Climb the bulge (just right of centre), then follow the obvious steep crack to a belay below the overhanging nose. The last part of the crack was grassy and avoided by a step left.

3. 30m 4b. Go left round the nose, then move right above it. Climb the rib past the right end of the roof to belay above.

4. 40m. Up trending rightwards towards the gully.

5. 50m 4b. Climb cracks left of Minus Two Gully.

6. 50m. Finish up.

Subtraction was repeated by the same party. They thought E1 4c, 5a, -, -, 5b, - and one star was enough (Long Division two stars).

Douglas Boulder:

Note: Walking Through Fire (SMCJ 1995, p676) starts just left of Cutlass.

Secondary Tower Ridge:

Stringfellow – 240m VI,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 11th March, 1996.

An outstanding mixed route up the crest of Pinnacle Buttress of the Tower. Sustained with exciting positions. The route is graded for helpful ice plating conditions, but it is also possible in more mixed conditions when it could be a grade harder (as on the first ascent). Pitches 2 and 3 follow the line of the summer 1902 route. Start 30m left of the icefall of Pinnacle Buttress Direct in a small snow bay, below a shallow gully.

1. 50m. Climb the gully, passing a steep section at half height to the terrace. Cross this to below the rake which cuts right to left through the lower part of the buttress.

2. 50m. Follow the rake to its right end. Pull through a short steep wall and continue easily to a cave belay.

3. 25m. Climb the shallow gully leading back left to a platform just left of the crest of the buttress.

4. 40m. From the right end of the platform, climb a short icy wall cut by a vertical crack, then move to the foot of steep twin grooves. Climb the right-hand groove, then move up to a block with a wide crack on its left side. Climb this and continue up the gully above to a large platform on the crest of the buttress. A difficult and sustained pitch.

5. 25m. Avoid the steep headwall above, by gaining the narrow ramp on the right side of the buttress. Take the right of two grooves, then step right and down at its top to gain a short gully on the right which leads to the crest.

6. 50m. Follow the easy angled crest to the foot of the Great Tower on Tower Ridge.

Fatal Error – 230m IV,4. G. Dudley, S. Richardson. 24th March, 1996.

A good mixed climb up the line of weakness on the left flank of Pinnacle Buttress of the Tower. The climbing is technically reasonable, but overall the route is a little intimidating for the grade. Start in the small snow bay below the gully of Stringfellow.

1, 2. 60m. Move up and left over flakes and snow and break through the short wall above which leads to easy mixed ground and the snow terrace. Belay below the prominent gully-line which runs up left of the steep central section of the buttress.

3. 40m. Climb a short icy slab to gain the gully and follow it for 35m to where it steepens, then move left along a short ramp to its top. Block belay.

4. 45m. Move awkwardly right along an upper ramp to gain the upper section of the gully. Climb this to its end, then traverse up and left below a smooth wall of slabs to reach the left edge of the buttress.

5. 35m. Follow the buttress edge to a snow platform.

6. 50m. Traverse easily left across snow to gain Tower Ridge about 30m below the Great Tower.

The Comb: Tower Face of the Comb:

Bell's Chimney: Variation – 65m V,5. R. Everett, S. Richardson. 31st March, 1996.

This worthwhile variation follows an elegant line up the crest of the buttress. Possibly

climbed before. Start from the snow slope at the top of the crux pitch (pitch 3 in SMC Ben Nevis guide).

1. 40m Traverse horizontally right for 5m and climb the groove and chimney system on the crest of the buttress to a stance on the arete.
2. 25m Climb the arete (awkward) over a series of steep steps to where the angle eases and the original line comes in from the left.

South Trident Buttress:

South Flank Route – 150m IV,4. A. Kimber, N. Hicking, C. Collin. 29th March, 1994. Immediately to the left of the steep rocks of the middle tier of South Trident buttress overlooking the approach to No. 4 Gully are some steep ice smears. Follow the steepest of these and snow slopes and chimneys above to the flat section on the crest of South Trident Buttress whose fine narrow shattered arete is followed to the top.

Devastation – 80m E1 5b. C. Moody, A. Nelson. 12th July, 1995.

The steep crack right of Pink Dream Maker. Fine varied climbing.

1. 40m 5b. Climb the corner right of Spartacus till it ends at the flake; move left to a niche above the overhang. Climb the steep crack above.
2. 40m 4b. On up.

Carn Dearg:

Red Rag, True Finish – 50m E2. G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 20th August, 1995. An independent finish to Red Rag through the roofs to the left of Centurion. A spectacular outing, totally illogical but sensationally exposed. It can be used as an alternative finish to any of the routes which terminate on the Route II traverse. High in the grade, because of exposure and spaced protection, it is also slow to dry. Start at the end of Red Rag pitch 8 (Centurion pitch 5) on the Route II traverse.

1. 35m 5b/c. As for Centurion climb up to the overhang, surmount the first awkward bulge and step left onto the steep slab. Instead of climbing the flake above, traverse horizontally left for 15m above the lip of the roofs. Cross a groove (good runners) then step down into a niche. The crux follows. Step delicately up and left below a roof, exit left and then pull up into a hanging V-groove bounding a slab. Climb the slab to a belay under more roofs.
2. 15m 5b. Pull through the overhang on the left, and step left into a groove. Finish easily up the slab above.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, North-East Face:

The Wave – 70m V,5. A. Clarke, M. Thompson. 11th January, 1995.

Takes a fairly direct line up the prow between The Betrayal and The Guardian.

1. 40m. Climb an icy groove over steps to a slabby left slanting turf groove, followed to a ledge.
2. 30m. Continue up leftwards below a steep rock wall to reach the right hand side of the small bay of The Betrayal. Gain the wide V-groove in the prow directly below a large cornice. Finish by a bulging rock wall right of the cornice.

Homo Robusticus — 60m VI,7. M. Garthwaite, A. Clarke. 31st December, 1994.

Climbs the crest of the barrel-shaped buttress approx. 20m right of Stirling Bridge. Start below an obvious wide crack at the toe. Cracks and steps lead to the wide crack. Exit left from the top of this to steep climbing over bulges. Easier to the cornice.

AONACH BEAG, West Face, Broken Axe Buttress:

Anaconda – 160m V,7. J. Currie, S. Richardson. 3rd March, 1996.

This steep mixed route winds its way up the steep ground between Axeless and Aonacrack.

1. 20m. Climb the initial ramp of Aonacrack to below the ice pitch of Axeless.
2. 50m. Between the second pitches of Axeless and Aonacrack is a steep rib split by a wide crack. Start on the left side of the rib and climb up to the crack. Follow this (steep but good holds) to its top. Trend left on snowy slabs to gain the foot of the steep chimney which cuts through the centre of the headwall.
3. 20m. Climb the chimney pulling over a bulge at 10m (crux). Move up to a ledge and exit out left.
- 4, 5. 70m. Finish along the rocky ridge and snow arete as for Axeless.

Viper Edge – 160m IV,4. S. Richardson, J. Currie. 3rd March, 1996.

A worthwhile mixed line up the right edge of the buttress. Could be harder if the slabs at the top of pitch 1 are not iced. Start at the top right side of the small snow bay of Aonacrack.

1. 45m. Climb a short ramp slanting right, then take the discontinuous crack system above to gain icy slabs. Climb these, at first trending left then right, to gain a platform on the right edge of the buttress.
2. 35m. Continue up the gully system on the crest and finish directly up the final tower.
- 3, 4. 70m Finish along the rocky ridge and snow arete as for Axeless.

Blind Faith – 120m III. E. Ewing, T. Archer. 18th February, 1996.

Up and left of the deep gully defining the left edge of Broken Axe Buttress is a narrow buttress. Start up a chimney-groove with a small chockstone, and continue up the crest above, over several small steps, to reach the plateau.

SGURR FINNISG-AIG, Allt na h-Aire Waterfall:

Smoking the White Owl – 450m IV,5. M. Pescod, T. Barton, R. Haynes, S. Marsden, A. Dodd. 29th December, 1995.

The frozen waterfall (rare) is approached from the Nevis Range base station. Follow the forestry track to its crossing of the Allt na h-Aire and follow the right bank of the burn to MR 196 765 where the fence crosses the burn. It is easily possible to walk to pitch 2 at the start of the main difficulties. The best descent is via the top Gondola station and walking down the well-marked path. The climb provided steep sections and large stances, with protection and most belays on ice screws. The crux was the last pitch, up the centre of the steep headwall (50m). A slightly easier line on the left may have been possible.

Incidental Fall – 130m IV,4. S. Dring, J. Lyall. 1st February, 1996.

Left of the main (right-hand) waterfall is a diagonal descent line. Left of this were two thinner ice lines, the left-hand of which was climbed, finishing by two icicle steps (crux). **Note:** Glen Gloy (MR Sheet 41, 230 860). Three frozen stream courses were climbed at this location just above Glenfintaig Lodge. They were 50m-150m long and Grade III – climbed by K. Grindrod, J. Lyall, D. Till.

CREAG MEAGAI DH, Bellevue Buttress:

Eastern Wall – 300m IV,4. R.G. Bell. J.W. Strange. January, 1994.

Start 10m left of Eastern Corner. Climb the wall direct, avoiding the corner up reasonably steep ice for 150m. Easy snow to the cornice.

The Post Face:

Post Haste – 100m IV,4. B. Drinkwater, S. Banks. 20th February, 1996.

The short multi-tiered icefall at the left end of the Post Face. Start 20m below the top of Easy Gully.

1. 50m. Climb the icefall and belay on a ledge to the left of an ice cave.
2. 10m. Traverse right below the cave (exposed) to easier ground.
3. 40m. Continue easily to the top.

The Inner Coire:

Pantomime – 230m IV, 4. J. Lyall, D. Williamson. 19th March, 1996.

Takes a line up the buttress left of The Wand. Start up the initial gully of The Sash, but break out left after 30m to climb a long corner. The corner ends at a long roof which is easily breached at its right end, before moves lead up left to easy slopes. Go straight up and climb a short steep ice pitch on the right wall of The Sash. At the top of the ice move right on a terrace to gain an open corner/groove, which is climbed on excellent turf (crux). Easy to the top.

Stob Poite Coire Ardair:

The Soldier's Song – 160m II. I. McCulloch, M. Wood, M. Wood. 24th February, 1996.

Looking up from the lochan in Coire Ardair, the cliff on the south side of Stob Poite Coire Ardair has three main gully lines cutting the cliff near its highest point. The one to the right of the highest point weaves about slightly; this route is the central which is straight and falls just from the left of the highest point. It contained several steep but short ice pitches, the highlight being an ice cave after 90m.

Note: The ascenders find it difficult to believe it has not been climbed before, but there are no records.

BINNEIN SHUAS, The Fortress:

Wild Mountain Thyme – 50m E5 6b. N. Craig, G. Latter (both led), R. Campbell. 29th July, 1995.

Right of the central roofs is a steep wall with three prominent cracks. This follows the left to right diagonal one. Go up an easy slab to the crack, and move along this to an undercut. Move up to better holds, then make a hard move back right which soon leads to easy ground. Finish up the vertical crack over the bulge, as for Bog Myrtle Trip.

Bog Myrtle Trip – 45m E4 6b. R. Campbell. 6th July, 1995.

The deep crack on the right side of the wall.

BEN ALDER, South Buttress of Garbh Choire (MR 504 710):

In winter this 200m-high buttress is split by a prominent right-trending gully line (Raeburn's Gully) starting from a broad snow terrace. Easy broken ground, which can be climbed by a variety of lines, leads to the lower snow terrace. Above this in the centre of the crag is a higher but smaller snow terrace. Diagram provided.

Raeburn's Gully – 200m II. M. Bass, J. Clamp, S. Yearsley. 22nd March, 1996.

The prominent right-trending gully splitting the crag is climbed with a short steep step at half height. Above the step, the higher snow terrace leads off left. Continue up the gully to the top, passing a narrow left branch which remains unclimbed.

Crabsticks – 120m IV, 5. M. Bass, J. Clamp, S. Yearsley. 23rd March, 1996.

This route takes the central corner system which splits the top section of the crag, and is reached by climbing the lower part of Raeburn's Gully to the higher snow terrace. Start 10m left of the gully continuation, and climb the steep left-facing corner in two pitches to a snow basin. An easier pitch up the continuation corner leads to broken ground below the summit. The route is probably based on the summer route Crabwalk.

Left Gully – 200m II. M. Bass, S. Yearsley. 9th March, 1996.

The prominent Reaburn's Gully forks almost immediately. Follow the square-cut left branch for three pitches, avoiding an ice choked crack on the first pitch by a detour out left. Continue to the summit by a right-trending turf groove line.

Eastern Ramp – 200m III,4. M. Bass, S. Yearsley. 9th March, 1996.

Start in a short corner at the left edge of a sweep of slabs, 15m left of Raeburn's Gully. Climb the corner and groove above. Follow the ramp to the left of the buttress crest for three pitches over a series of short steep corners. At the top of the ramp, continue more easily rightwards to the summit.

Garbh Choire Beag:

Right of Alderwand and at the right edge of the main section of cliff is a defined buttress, almost a ridge, with a gully either side and formed above a terrace about half height on the cliff.

Left Gully – 300m II. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 9th March, 1996.

The gully left of the buttress was approached by a shallow gully to its left followed by a traverse right along the terrace. The easiest line naturally led to the top of the buttress and a break in the cornice.

Never Ending Story – 160m III. A. Findlay, A. Paul, G. Reilly; R. Hamilton, S. Kennedy. 9th March, 1996.

This route climbs the buttress, up an obvious open groove slanting leftwards. Climb the groove in two pitches to the left edge of the buttress. Continue up rightwards to below the final tower which can either be turned on the left by a steep crack (4) or more easily by a chimney on the right.

Right Gully – 300m I. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 9th March, 1996. The gully on the right of the buttress was descended to the more broken lower half taken by a left trending line (looking down).

Enigmatic Buttress:

The Cross Spur – 250m III. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 9th March, 1996.

Close to the crest of the buttress and right of The Walker's Spur is a left-slanting slab ramp forming a chimney slot. The route started up this, reversed the 'move right' of The Walker's Spur and continued up left on a ramp which led to a steep section, climbed to reach the common easy ground on the top half of the buttress.

The Central Couloir – 250m IV,4. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 9th March, 1996.

On the right of the crest is a bigger left slanting ramp, which was climbed to a barrier wall (50m). The more direct right continuation was gained by a turf deviation on the right and led to the common easy ground.

MONADHLIATH, Carn Dearg, Loch Dubh Crag:

The Broken Link – 165m III. D.F. Lang, N.W. Quinn. 4th February, 1996.

The route follows the frozen watercourse in a series of tiers and was climbed in four long pitches. Ice screws used for belays. The hillside was devoid of snow; some banking would occur under heavy snow.

CREAG DUBH:

Silk Road – 100m III. T. Caine, J. Lyall, M. Twomey. February, 1995.

Starts in the gully below Silicosis and slants up leftwards on a continuous line of ice and some turf.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE EIVE MOR:

Crowberry Gully, Centre Rib Finish – IV,5. M. Robson, T. Ward. 9th March, 1996.
From the stance at the foot of the left/right fork split, take the crack on the right of a chockstone leading to a groove. Continue past a large downward-pointing rock spike to belay in the right fork. Regain the right edge of the rib and climb up before traversing left on to the crest of the rib. Follow the crest to the top.

Raven's Edge (Complete) – 170m VIII,7. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 30th March, 1996.
A complete ascent of the route taking in the 'open book' corner. Start at the foot of Raven's Gully.

1. 55m. Move right and climb a line of weakness just right of the edge overlooking Raven's Gully (the summer line takes this edge). Move left around a projecting rib and belay at the top of a shallow left-facing corner (summer route belays just above, 60m pitch, not 30m as in guide).

2. 15m. Move up left, then step down and follow a thin traverse line into the base of the corner (6m above the gully; summer line higher).

3. 35m. Climb to the roof, step down and traverse across the wall and then go back up left into the base of the 'open book' corner. Climb the corner and pull over on to a large shelf at its top.

4. 35m. Follow the corner above to its top and traverse left to the thread belay of the summer line, beneath the roof. Continue left around the edge to a cramped but better placed thread belay below the final pitch.

5. 30m. Move up left and climb the deep crack to a platform on the buttress crest.

6. A final short step.

Note: Pitches 2, 3 differ from the original ascent. Grade in doubt, perhaps VII,7.

Creag A'Bhancair:

Tunnel Vision – 30m E4 6a***. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 4th September, 1995.

Traverse the prominent break from the belays of Carnivore to The Risk Business. Fine positions and very well-protected. Climbed on sight.

Symbiosis – 25m E7/8 6b***. P. Thorburn, D. Cuthbertson (both led). 11th September, 1995.

The shallow groove system right of Uncertain Emotions. Very serious in its lower half, sustained with difficult but sound protection above – a comprehensive selection of microwires required. Start below an undercut left-trending flakeline above a rocky ramp. Follow the undercuts, then move up (poor skyhook) to gain a poor bashed nut. Move up left, then back right to gain better protection in a flake. Traverse left to near Uncertain Emotions, then follow the faint crackline to the bulge guarding entry to a scoop. Gain this, then exit right and move up to follow Risk Business to its stance.

Misteaken – 35m E4 6a**. R. Anderson, J. May. 30th August, 1995.

A very good and quite well protected pitch based around Curtairean Mairtheoil but, unlike that route, the result of extensive cleaning. Some 5m left of Twilight Zone is the weeping blackish rock that Curtairean climbs. Between the two is an area of clean white rock. Start at a large flat hold and boulder for 5m to holds and protection on the right. Continue to the bulge (Friend 2.5 on the right, sideways Rocks 6 & 1 in diagonal crack) and pull out rightwards to join Carnivore at a thin diagonal crack. Move up and right for 3m and where Twilight Zone continues in this direction, climb straight up to first one

set of big holds and then another (presumably squeezed in between Twilight and Curtairean). Pull up and climb through what was once an extensive area of moss, passing a small spike, not to be confused with the one mentioned in Twilight Zone farther right, to a ledge and belay on the left. Abseil off the tree, down the vegetated ramp.

GEARR AONACH, East Face:

Silver Surfer – 40m IV, 5. A. Clarke, R. Morrall, N. Gresham. 30th January, 1995.

The prominent icefall which can be seen from the shelf beneath the Mome Rath face. It essentially provides a direct finish to Rev. Ted's Gully. Start steeply on ice to gain the ice choked groove which is climbed with interest to the summit plateau.

West Face, Yosemite Wall (New Crag):

The left wall of the crag is continuously overhanging, with a wide impregnable roof low down on its right side.

A Sweet Disregard for the Truth – 35m E6 6b**. P. Thorburn, G. Latter (both red-pointed) 13th June, 1995.

Follows a direct line through a series of roofs in the centre. Start beneath a short right-facing groove at the left end of the long roof. Up easy slab and groove to break. Step left and pull up leftwards to good slot (R#9). Pull right and up to a good hold, then direct to good undercuts under the first roof. Undercut rightwards, then up to good jams. Step left to good holds at a large perched block, then either direct or leftwards to a good small ledge, then on good incut holds to incut ledge. Step right and more easily up right side of crack to nut and tree belay on cleaned ledge.

(Battle My –) Glorious Youth – 30m E5 6a*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell, N. Craig. 20th August, 1995.

There is a long thin groove on the right of the steep cliff; this is Boiling Point, gained by a traverse from the right. This route is the curving line of weakness left of Boiling Point. Make a difficult direct entry to the groove of that route (thread runner), traverse the break leftwards to a good rest, then climb a shallow groove system. Step left to gain and climb the right end of the overlap system, then follow the right facing groove to a block belay well back.

Boiling Point – 35m E4 6a*. R. Anderson, C. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson. 25th June, 1995.

The slim groove in the wall which runs into a crackline just left of the arete. Direct entry to the groove is possible but prevented by very wet slabs beneath the bulge. Climb up to the right side of the arete, swing around left and traverse to the base of the groove. Climb the groove and the ensuing crack to reach the top of the crag.

The Mystery Trend – 25m E4 6a*. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 9th August, 1995.

The right arete. Scramble up easy slab to belay underneath the arete. Move up groove to gain and follow left slanting crack through low blocky overhang. A thin crack leads to the right side of the mid height roof. Traverse left under this and make difficult moves round arete. Continue up then right to easy ground.

Three Tarp Shugs – 35m E2 5b. P. Thorburn, G. Latter, P. McNally. 12th June, 1995.

The steep, cracked arete, right of the central alcove. Follow the arete with awkward moves to gain incut ledges. Move up and right to hollow flake, step left and up cracks to ledges. Walk right and abseil off trees.

Avon Walls:

The following routes start from the terrace above the lower walls, at its right end, just before it merges into the hillside at a shallow gully. The route start at a large tree, reached either by climbing Prelim or by going left and scrambling up right before traversing to it.

Prelim – 20m HVS 4b. Start along the terrace at the lowest rocks. This is just right of a mossy groove leading directly to the largest tree on the terrace above and left of a ramp slanting leftwards. Climb rough rock to a shallow scoop, pull out right to the edge of the slanting ramp and go up and left to the first runner and then the large tree.

Higher Still – 50m E1 5a. R. Anderson, C. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson. 1st July, 1995. From the tree, step left and climb a short wall to a ledge, step left and climb up, then left to a blocky crack. Move up and left, then straight up to better holds. A slim groove leads to the top of the wall, ledge and belay on the right, or continue up easy slabby ground to the top.

Examination Result – 50m E1 5a. R. Anderson, C. Anderson, J. George, D. Cuthbertson. 1st July, 1995.

From the tree, step left and climb a short wall to a ledge, step right, then climb up and stretch left around a bulge to good protection and holds. Pull into the base of a shallow groove, move up this a short way to better holds, junction with Higher Still, then step up right and climb directly to the top of the wall. Either belay on the ledge or up easy slabs to the top.

AONACH DUBH, The Lower Walls:

Charlotte Anne – 25m E4 6a**. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 12th June, 1995.

Follow the Direct Start to Lady Jane (Mr Bates), then direct up the wall heading for a shallow pale groove (3m left of tree). Gain the groove with a hard move, then boldly on better holds to finish.

Weeping Walls:

Triceptor – 50m E4*. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 14th June, 1995.

Adding two new upper pitches, with the new second pitch now the crux. E3 5c for the lower pitch.

2. 20m 6a. Climb the shallow steepening groove directly behind tree to a hard pull left at the top to good holds. Belay on ledge above.

3. 30m 5a. The right-hand crack, then easy ground to top.

Far Eastern Buttress:

Euro Star – 85m V,6. P. Toniolo, S. Walter, T. Archer. 9th March, 1996.

Perhaps a variation on Orient Express, good when the latter is in poor condition. Start up the obvious groove (Eastern Slant) to a ledge. Traverse left along the ledge past the chimney of Orient Express and climb the wall left of the chimney to a very narrow turf ledge. Go right back across the chimney to a block and good thread. Right of this is a groove; climb it to the top finishing in the same place as Orient Express.

North Face:

Repossessed – 40m E5 6a***. M. Crocker (unseeded) 30th June, 1995.

A sustained and superb pitch, following a direct line above the roof where Eldorado steps left. Follow the main pitch of Eldorado for 10m to the roof. Step right to an undercut and up wide crack to better holds. Continue more easily to the overhanging wall above

and up this to awkward sloping jugs (crux). A long reach gains better holds and easier ground leading to the long shelf.

Note: This description, grade and stars are from the second ascent by P. Thorburn and G. Latter on 8th August, 1995.

Amazonia – 325m V.5. A. Clarke, C. Smith. 7th February, 1996.

Superb varied ice and mixed, following a steep continuous fault line right of Mr Softee. The line is obscured for most of its length by a fin of rock. Long, cold snap and low snowline essential. The overhanging entry is avoided by a turfy ramp on the right (50m). Pitch 2 starts with a fragile ice pillar leading to a thick ice smear (45m). Rock and ice to pitch 4 (100m), where an escape can be made. Above, an awkward mixed groove leads to thin ice on pitch 6 with poor protection (80m). Pitch 7 provides entertaining moves around chockstones to finish on another terrace (50m). Abseil off trees and zig-zag down terraces rightwards, or continue up more broken ground to the girdling shelf; traverse right to Dinnertime Buttress.

Conquistador – 300m V.5. A. Clarke, L. Collier. 14th February, 1996.

After a long cold spell a narrow ice flow forms down the upper two thirds of the face, towards the right-hand side. Approach as for Dinnertime Buttress, then traverse along the second terrace on the face. The initial icefall was insufficiently formed; this was avoided by climbing turf on the left to join the ice flow above. Rambling ice to a steep iced corner (100m). This led steeply to another icefall (45m). Climb this and another runnel (50m). The flow continues to a terrace (40m). Above is a turfy groove. Traverse right and climb a steep iced groove and easy ground to the girdling shelf (65m).

STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN, Pinnacle Buttress:

The Struggler – 60m V.7. A. Clarke, N. Gresham. 24th February, 1995.

A line based on the summer route The Juggler. The off-width crack in the steep arete right of Pinnacle Buttress Groove.

1. 25m. Climb the crack and a chimney to a pinnacle on the right. A superb pitch.
2. 35m. Opposite can be seen a slabby V-groove. Follow this to a high ledge; finish as for North-east Face, up the awkward chimney.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Church Door Buttress, West Face:

Lost Arrow – 100m E3 6a***. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 10th August, 1995.

The crack and corner system up the left side of the clean face, left of Kingpin. Start at a block belay at left end of grassy ledge.

1. 25m 4c. Up groove and wide crack to belay on slab below small roof.
2. 35m 6a. Pull through crack in lower roof to slabby ledge beneath crack in right side of roof. Pull through this and up crack (crux) past old PR on left. Continue up the crack to a long sloping ledge on the right wall, where the crack narrows and bends. Pull out right to the edge of groove, and up midway between both to the easier groove. Thread and nut belay beneath main corner. A superb well-protected pitch on immaculate and very rough rock.
- 3 40m 5c. Climb the rib 3m right of the corner (good nut high in corner) and move back into the corner. Easily up this and traverse right under first roof and up flake to large capping roof. Undercut this right with a hard move pulling round the right edge of the flake to belay. Scramble up then left to summit screes.

The Holy Grail – 35m E5 6b**. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 8th August, 1995. A fine sustained pitch with good protection, between The Lost Ark and Temple of Doom.

Climb the prominent easy lower V-groove and the shallow white groove above to a roof. Pull out left to a good rest, then make hard moves up rightwards into the stepped upper groove, and up this to pull to belay as for Temple of Doom.

STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, North Face, No. 2 Buttress:

Left Wall – 150m IV,6. A. Nelson, A. Paul. 19th March, 1996.

Follows the general line of the summer route. Start at the left end of the grassy ramp of Centre Route. Climb the obvious corner above, then a steep groove to a V notch visible on the skyline. The notch forms a snow bay. Step right, then up to a chimney which is climbed to a block belay on the wide ledge at the top of the buttress.

Note: The line of Centre Route is wrongly shown in the Glen Coe Guide diagram. An ascent of Centre Route was received as a new route. A. Paul has provided a diagram of Left Wall and Centre Route.

The Causeway – 450m III. A. Findlay, S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 24th March, 1996.

The dominant feature of this route is the spiral terrace which snakes leftwards round the upper part of the Sphinx buttress. Start in North-west Gully and climb into the gully running up the right side of The Pyramid. A traverse was made on to the buttress on the right along a ledge from about halfway up the gully. Climb the broken buttress to a snow arete overlooking Summit Gully on the right. Climb the snow arete and slopes above to a small buttress just right of the steep central cleft of Cleftweave. Climb the buttress on the right side to the top of the cleft. The spiral terrace can be seen on the left. From a large chockstone at the top of the cleft move left (crossing Cleftweave) on to the narrow terrace which is followed to the buttress edge. Fine positions. Climb an awkward cracked wall above and some further steps to the top of the Sphinx Buttress. A finish was made up the narrow upper pitch of Cleftweave on the right to the easier summit slopes.

No. 4 Buttress:

Rolling Stone – 55m E1 5b. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 10th June, 1995.

Climbs the fine slabby wall immediately left of Isis. Climb the initial groove of Isis for 15m to belay just above a small prominent roof. Traverse 3m left on to the slabby wall, then take a direct route up the wall via grooves and short walls to the top.

Torquing Heads – 75m Severe. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 10th June, 1995.

Takes a line right of Isis. The right-hand section of the buttress is undercut. Start in the gully on the right and break through the undercut section near the right end. Traverse hard left along a wide ledge for 30m below a prominent roof, then move up and slightly left to a belay (40m). Move back right just beyond a small chimney and follow a line of cracks to the top (35m).

Upper Part of North Face:

Sunset Strip – 90m HVS 5a. C. Grindley, S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 28th June, 1995.

A prominent steep slab with a corner running up its left side can be seen on the buttress located high up the north face between the Left and Right Forks of North-west Gully (Right Fork leads to The Mummy). This route finds a way up the slab. Scramble up No. 4 Buttress beyond the Sphinx buttress on the right to enter North-west Gully just beyond the point where it forks. Climb the gully until about 20m beyond the fork. Start up a short gully which ends in a cul-de-sac below a cracked wall. Climb the deep cracks to the foot of the slab. Climb a small bulge and pull on to the bottom left of the slab. Take a diagonal line rightwards up the slab (45m). Continue directly up the slab to reach a roof which overlooks the slab. Pull steeply out left to reach easier ground (45m). Scramble to the summit. An old piece of hemp rope was found in the corner on the left side of the slab.

West Buttress:

The following routes lie on a prominent steep slabby buttress situated low down on the west buttress between the lower part of Summit Gully and the start of Adagio. All the routes offer good, generally well protected mixed climbing with the option of a straight-forward abseil descent allowing a number of routes to be done. Alternatively, continue up the easier upper ridge of Adagio or descend Summit Gully. Ideal when doubtful snow conditions prevail higher up.

Voie Crombie – 160m III,4. S. Kennedy, M. Thomson; R. Hamilton, A. Paul. 19th February, 1996.

Takes the open banana-shaped groove bounding the left side of the slabby buttress. Start in a recess and climb the groove in a long pitch to a wide ledge. Belay on the right at a large square block (The Junction) 50m. Exit the ledge at the left end and make awkward moves to reach an obvious snowy ramp leading to the left edge of the buttress. Climb up to a large block belay on the right (40m). Climb easily up rightwards across a snowy bay to reach a narrow chimney which leads to the easier upper part of the Adagio ridge (70m).

Team Machine – 90m IV,5. J. Grieve, P. Harrop, A. Paul; S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 17th March, 1996.

The buttress just right of Voie Crombie is cut by an obvious chimney/groove. Either climb the initial chimney direct or the rib immediately to the left to reach the upper groove which is followed to the Junction belay (50m). Move left along the ledge and climb the initial awkward moves of Voie Crombie on to the snowy ledge. Instead of continuing left, climb steeply up right by a narrow ramp. Move right across a slab to reach a groove which is followed to a block belay (40m).

The Gathering – 95m IV,5. S. Kennedy, A. Paul, A. Nelson. 24th March, 1996.

Takes the slim hanging corner defining the right edge of the slabby buttress (not to be confused with a larger open corner just to the right). Start about 10m right of Team Machine and climb mixed ground up leftwards to a belay at the foot of the corner (10m). Climb the corner in one long pitch to the Junction. A good sustained pitch (45m). Climb a blocky wall on the right and traverse horizontally right to a groove which is followed to a ledge. Move back left over a short steepening to reach the block belay of Team Machine (40m).

An t-Sron, East Face:

A long, slabby, black streaked wall can be seen low down on the east face almost directly opposite Hidden Gully. The rock is waterwashed and mostly of excellent quality.

Coco Leaf – 70m VS 4b. C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 15th June, 1995.

The lower section is defined on the right by a clean-cut corner. Climb the corner for 18m until it starts to fade. Traverse left on to the slab to a grassy ledge and belay (40m). Above the ledge is a black groove. Climb the groove via a large flake to finish in a small recess (30m).

Poppy Straw – 70m HVS 4c/5a. C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 23rd June, 1995.

The middle section of the lower slab contains a short, hanging corner. Gain the corner directly up the slab. Climb the corner until it peters out, then pull out right. Continue directly up the slab on excellent rock to belay at the right edge (right of a prominent overlap) 35m. Climb the groove running up the right edge of the slab for 10m. Traverse back left horizontally left for 8m by a fault line, then climb directly up to a prominent roof split by a crack. Surmount the roof by the crack and continue to the top (35m).





North Face:

Blind – 80m III. M. Duff, R. Nowack. 14th February, 1996.

About one-third height on the gorge section of An t-Sron North Face are three icefalls clearly seen from the road and which fall down the right wall. Access by abseil. This route climbs the lowest i.e. first reached.

THE GORGE AREA, Allt-Doire Bheith:

Neeh – 20m E1 5a*. G. Latter, P. Thorburn, P. McNally. 9th June, 1995.

Right of The Smouldering is a cleaned slab and a very shallow left-facing groove. Up the slab or the easier groove, then the wall direct to good break. Direct above past another break to finish easily.

Glen Coe Gorge:

The Sprinter – 40m E2 5c. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 10th June, 1995.

The broken crackline up the wall right of Chariots of Fire. Move up past a large pedestal to a ledge on the right. Up the crack above with a hard move to better jams, then more easily above. Belay far back on trees.

Notes: The following grading revisions are offered by G. Latter: Eldorado; Spacewalk; Le Monde all E4. Freak-Out E3 6a – not harder than The Lost Ark or White Hope.

TRILLEACHAN SLABS:

The Lap of the Gods – 160m E2. C. Stead, D.M. Jenkins. 6th August, 1995.

This route lies on the Upper Slabs and takes a direct line left of Monsoon, crossing Dan to finish to its right. Start at the central of the three right-facing corners.

1. 35m 5b. Climb the corner with a deviation right then left at mid height. Belay on the left 3m below the capping overlap.
2. 25m 5c. Climb the black slab on the left to the overlap, cross this using a flake and follow a fault to rock ledges leading right to a flake.
3. 45m 5a. Return left 5m to the fault line and climb this, a slim corner and its continuation groove to a large grass ledge on the right and poor belay (better to belay lower in the groove).
4. 30m 5a. Climb a groove and cross its right rib 5m below a big triangular roof and continue easily to a belay (this pitch just right of Dan).
5. 25m. Climb unpleasant heathery ground to belay below a headwall. To reach the abseil thread on the left-hand terrace, climb up and left on a ramp of mixed heather and rock and descend heather to a rock ledge leading left to more heather and a short descent to the terrace (*in situ* wire for last 6m), 50m.

ARDGOUR, Garbh Bheinn:

The route in (SMCJ 1995, p683) should be called Too Cold to be Bold.

BEINN NA SEILG (Western Ardnamurchan), Cuillin Buttress:

Grigadale Groove – 50m Severe. C. Stead. 21st August, 1995.

Start below a large green V-groove halfway up the right side of the buttress. Climb a wall, crack, and the groove.

Hebrides Wall:

Cop Out – 45m Severe. C. Stead. 21st August, 1995.

Just right of the crack of Identity Crisis (SMCJ 184, p298), three tiny ramps rise rightwards. Climb these and step round to a ledge on Faradh Dubh. Climb diagonally left, crossing an overlap to the top.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

BEN LAWERS, Creag nam Fitheach, Coire nan Cat:

Catalyst – 95m V.6. G.E. Little, K. Howett. 4th February, 1996.

Start at the lowest point of the crag at a slabby toe left of an open easy groove (Cataract).

1. 40m. Climb turfey slabby rock to belay (warthog) just below the top of a turfey ramp.

2. 15m. Move up, then ascend a short bare slab to below the long band of overhangs. Move right, then pull up left to merely vertical rock (crux) to gain a niche.

3. 40m. Climb an ice bulge just above the belay to gain a shallow groove. Ascend this, then progressively easier ground above to the top.

Note: may become a grade easier with better ice build-up.

BRIDGE OF ORCHY, Meall Buidhe, North-West Coire.

Eldritch – 100m II. K.V. Crocket & B. Dullea (alt.). Winter 1994.

Uncomplicated open groove line left of Rock Scar Groove.

Beinn an Dothaidh, North-East Coire:

Spring Fever – 115m III.4. G.E. Little, J. Lowther (alt). 2nd March, 1996.

Start at the lowest point of the wide buttress that lies below and to the left of Taxus (i.e. the very lowest point of the crag).

1. 25m. Climb straight up by the line of least resistance to belay below and just to the right of a distinctive wide slot.

2. 30m. Climb through the wide slot, then follow a right-trending groove to belay on a ledge steeply overlooking the snow slope that runs up into Taxus.

3. 40m. Ascend slabby vegetated ground to reach a small snowfield. Move up and right to belay at a wall just left of a bay.

4. 20m. Move right into the bay, then climb a short steep scoop to reach snow above. An easy left traverse at this point allows a descent or alternatively carry on climbing via broken ground for several hundred metres to reach the summit ridge.

West Buttress, Direct Start – 45m V.6. S. Richardson, R. Everett. 25th February, 1996.

The undercut wall bypassed by the initial ramp of West Buttress is cut by a prominent overhanging chimney. Climb this, stepping out right then back left to avoid an awkward section. Bridge past a roof at 25m to gain an easier deep continuation chimney and the original route above. A good pitch. Continuing in the fault line throughout when following the original line, results in a fine logical route.

The Screaming – 135m VIII.8. R. Everett, S. Richardson. 24th February, 1996.

A very steep mixed route taking the front face of the barrel shaped buttress of Pas de Deux. The route is sustained throughout, but the highlight is the compelling crackline in the final tower. Start at the foot of Cirrus, below an undercut ramp, 15m up and right of Pas de Deux.

1. 25m. Climb into a niche, then edge out left to below a short overhanging wall. Climb this to the ramp which leads to horizontal ledge. Move right along this for 5m to a thread belay on a large block. A steep pitch.

2. 40m. Climb the wall directly above the belay to a horizontal break (junction with Pas de Deux). Step right to gain a left slanting chimney-groove and follow this to a good ledge. Step left to a fine steep corner. Climb this to below the final tower, then step right to the spacious ledge of Pas de Deux.

3. 20m. The front face of the tower is split by a prominent crack. Gain a niche from the right and continue up the crack above. At its top, move right to a second niche then pull

through the overhanging slot to the top. This pitch continuously overhangs and is very strenuous – three axe rests taken on first ascent.

4. 50m. Continue up the straight-forward upper buttress to the top.

Bête Noire – 120m V,7. S. Richardson, R. Everett. 11th February, 1996 (complete ascent). (Pitch 1 previously climbed by S. Richardson and J. Currie, 27th January 1996) A direct line between Cirrus and Carte Blanche, with a spectacular and unlikely finish through the headwall. Start directly below the left-facing groove which cuts through the great slab of Carte Blanche.

1. 15m. Scramble up easy ground to the base of the slab.

2. 50m. Climb up directly on turf to reach the foot of the groove. Climb the lower section (common with Carte Blanche), and continue up the upper groove to a roof. Pull round this on the right and continue directly up the snow field above. Belay below the steep headwall about 10m left of the upper chimney of Carte Blanche.

3. 25m. Pull onto the ledge above, step left, then move right onto a ramp. Climb this up and right, then move across a hidden turfy break across the wall on the left to a steep exit. A good pitch.

4. 40m Finish up easy ground to the top.

Creag an Socach:

Deliverance – VI,6. A. Powell, S. Elworthy. 29th January, 1995.

A direct variation to The Promised Land. Climb the steep turf wall, then instead of traversing left, climb the chimney followed by a left-trending open groove, then make a steep step left and move up to belay at the foot of the upper icefall.

Note: Messiah. The above party lassoed a large blunt block about 8m above the flake traverse and thereby did the route in two rather than three pitches without rope drag.

To The Future – 130m IV,5. C. Smith, S. Murray. 27th December, 1995.

Although the main difficulties of this route are confined to the first pitch, it provides excellent sport requiring a prolonged freeze to bring it into condition. Start at the extreme right-hand end of the main crags and about 50m below the terminal buttress. The icefall is climbed direct to a block belay (35m). An easy snow slope leads directly to the buttress above (50m). Climb the buttress via easy mixed ground on the left (45m).

BEINN IME, Fan Buttress:

Headfault – 190m VII,7. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 29th January, 1995.

A direct line up the middle of the frontal face taking the central line through the headwall. Start beneath a slim corner/groove line just right of Ben's Fault.

1. 50m. Climb the cornerline and its easier middle section, then continue over another steepening to easy ground and belay beside a snow bay.

2. 50m. Step left and climb to gain a snowy fault slanting up right. Move up and out of the fault, around a small rock wall to climb a line of turf slanting leftwards up the wall above. Move right to belay just right of the central line through the headwall.

3. 45m. Step left and climb the fault to a shallow niche. Move up and across right to ledge beneath a wide flake crack. Climb the crack (large Hexes/Friends useful) and continue up the steep fault with sustained interest to easy ground. Move up right to find good cracks on a sidewall.

4. 45m. Step back down to climb a turfy runnel and short steps to then find the easiest line to the top.

BEINN NARNAIN, Summit Buttress:

The Twilight Zone – 70m III. T. Archer, A. Dyke. November, 1993.

On the approach to Beinn Narnain or Creag Tharsuinn up Coire Sugach, there is an approximately diamond-shaped slab at the right hand end of the Summit Buttress. The climb goes straight up this, stepping left at the top to avoid the final overhang.

Cruach nam Miseag, North-East Face:

Hume's Buttress – 200m III,4. T. Archer, E. Ewing. November, 1993.

To the right of the obvious central gully (now named Philosopher's Gully) is a wide buttress, climbed up a line of chimney faults. Start at the lowest part of the buttress in a chockstone-capped gully. Climb the gully and cross a snowfield to an overhanging chimney, outflanked on a turf ramp to the left. The unavoidable crux is above the chimney followed by easier pitches.

THE COBBLER, South Peak:

Nimlin's Direct Route – IV,5. T. Archer, O. Prodan. 4th January, 1995.

Climbed close to the summer route, and recommended.

Ardgarten Face:

Ethereal – 45m E6**. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 21st June, 1995.

Steep bold climbing up the imposing scooped wall in the centre of the face.

1. 30m 6b. From a flake at the base of the wall, climb up, right then back left, to pocket (F #3). Move up left to shake out (Roller #4 and nuts in slot down left). Climb with difficulty up wall to gain top of ramp. Follow flakes up then right to belay.
2. 15m 4a. Direct up occasional rock to top.

Sleeping Gas – 30m E6 6b**. P. Thorburn, I. Pitcairn. 17th September, 1995.

The centre of the scooped wall taken by *Ethereal*. Where that route moves out left, move out right to place a good nut and return. Move up (skyhook), then right, up and leftwards past two poor pegs (rest down and right before first peg – hard to clip). Continue direct reaching good runners, then the belay of *Ethereal*.

Geb – 35m E4 6a**. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 2nd June, 1995.

A left to right diagonal line across the slab. Start up *Gladiator's Direct* to the quartz band. Traverse this past two PRs, then up the vague crackline, as for *Osiris*, but continue rightwards to finish up the right side of the block.

Ra – 65m E4**. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 1st May, 1995.

A direct line up the left side of the slab. Quite bold and runout, despite the proliferation of pegs. Start down and right of *Gladiator's Direct*.

1. 35m 6a. Up past peg onto sloping ledge. Step left and up onto small ledge above (skyhooks 2ft above peg and out on right). Climb direct past three PRs to the rising traverse shelf on *Gladiator's Direct*. Arrange protection (thin crack out on left, or block on right) and climb directly up wall above on improving holds to belay ledge.
2. 30m 5c. Follow *Gladiator's Groove*, but where that route traverses left onto the ledges, climb directly by a vague crack to finish up the last few metres of that route.

North Peak:

Right-Angled Groove – V,7. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 11th February, 1996.

From the foot of Club Crack squeeze through a fissure to emerge at the foot of the climb.

1. 25m. Climb the groove over a roof moving on to the edge near the top and continue to a large platform, belaying beneath a short flake crack.
2. 6m. Climb the flake crack and gain the top.

Dalriada – 40m E8 6c***. G. Latter. 20th September, 1995.

Spectacular, very sustained climbing up the wildly undercut prow directly under the summit of the North Peak, with a very hard powerful crux. Start at the base of the arete, at the same point as Right-Angled Groove. Up the groove for 3m to ledge, then the flake crack above to two PRs. Move right round arete and up to superb thread. Straight up the thin finger crack and the arete past a poor PR to a good rest under the roof. Make very hard moves left and up to reach the prominent diagonal crack and a line of incut jugs which lead past more PRs to the final capping wall. Continue with interest past two small finger-pockets to pull out right to ledge. Scramble up ridge to belay just short of the summit. Redpointed (graded for an on-sight ascent).

North Winds – 30m E3 6a*. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 5th June, 1995.

Directly north of the summit lies a steep buttress split by a large groove and crack system (unclimbed). This route lies to the left. Start at a flake below the left edge of the buttress. Climb a shallow groove to a small overlap, step right and climb the wall to good breaks (crux). Move left to the arete and finish easily above.

The Sugar Walls:

Lumpy Custard – 15m E1 5b**. G. Latter, P. McNally. April, 1995.

The centre of the wall, between the arete and the corner. Start beneath a small flake, and follow a direct line to finish at a small notch in the top of the crag.

A Crack in the Clouds – 20m E3 6a***. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 16th September, 1995.

About 100m north of the Sugar Walls is a north-facing gully wall. (Chockstone Gully) containing a perfect hand-and-fist crack above a roof low down. Approach from above by cutting down diagonally left then back right to the base. Belay on the slab behind the route. Gain niche left of crack via large initial roof on good holds. Pull into the thin finger crack with difficulty and follow it on widening jams. Belay on boulder far back on right.

Note: T. Archer, E. Ewing, O. Prodan and P. Toniolo made the second ascent of Artgarten Wall at Grade III with an easier finish up a groove on the right to avoid the crux crack (graded 5).

BEN CRUACHAN, Drochaid Ghlas:

Into the Fire, Left-Hand Finish – IV. D. Ritchie, I. Stevenson. 18th March, 1995.

Follow the original route to pitch 3, then continue trending up and left to finish up a chimney-groove and open fault to the top.

ARRAN

BEINN NUIS, East Face:

Anvil Gully – 50m III (impossible for the stout!). G.E. Little. 28th December, 1995.

The through-route can prove even more demanding when choked with snow.

Gully 1 – 95m III. G.E. Little. 28th December, 1995.

After ascending the initial open groove, with one constriction, take the gully flanking the cyclopean wall on the left. At the top, step down on to a boulder jumble. Scramble over this to reach a bay below the final wall. Climb this by a thin chimney on the extreme left, exiting by a tight through route.

Gully 2 – 95m II. G.E. Little. 28th December, 1995.

Climb the easy shallow gully to a point where a left traverse into Route 1 is possible.

Instead move right over a chockstone, then climb the thin gully to reach a boulder jumble. Squirm through this (several through routes) to reach a bay below the final wall. The gully continuation is blocked so take a groove and ledge to its left, then up to finish.

The Strand – 175m V,6. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 29th December, 1995.

This route follows a prominent rampline running across the lower part of the buttress between Gully 2 and Nuis Chimney. A good climb in a fine position. Start on the left near the crest of the buttress about 30m above the toe of the buttress. The most prominent of a number of ramplines which run across the face overlooking Nuis Chimney is climbed. The first pitch involves a thin slab and thereafter, a hard move round a block just beyond a corner (50m). Continue by a rising right traverse line aiming for the far right edge of the buttress just above a prominent overhung niche (close to Nuis Chimney). This pitch includes a difficult corner and some thin moves across a slab to reach the edge by a large block (50m). Climb directly upwards to reach an obvious ledge system below the steep headwall which runs rightwards into the upper reaches of Nuis Chimney (45m). Finish by the last pitch of Nuis Chimney by a through route (30m).

BEINN TARSUINN, Meadow Face:

Blundecral – 115m E3**. G.E. Little, K. Howett (alt.). 5th August, 1995.

This varied and interesting route climbs a line on the wall between Brobdingnag and Brachistochrone, taking the obvious break through the band of overhangs at the end of the long roof running left from Brachistochrone (gaining this point by scrambling up the groove to below the chimney, then traversing left).

1. 25m 4c. Climb a flake, then move right to an obvious groove (which runs parallel to the Brachistochrone chimney). Ascend the groove, then move left to belay at a pointed turf ledge.
2. 25m 5c. Follow the line of a thin diagonal crack up and left to a left-trending ramp which leads to the base of a right-facing corner. Climb this, then step left to grasp a huge (detached!) block/flake. From its top make a difficult slap right to gain a rock ramp.
3. 15m 5c. Climb the diagonal undercling to reach a hidden left-trending groove. Ascend this for 3m, then traverse back right across the wall to gain the obvious thin rock ramp. Move right to belay at a small turf ledge. A spectacular pitch.
4. 25m 5c. Climb the fine diagonal rock ramp above to step left on to a continuation ramp. Go up this to a knobbly vein on the wall above. Pull up on to a shelf and move left up this to gain the obvious flake-crack which is climbed to a ledge above. Belay on the right. A bold pitch.
5. 25m 4c (for the jump!). Walk right along the ledge until a *mauvais pas* is reached. Jump down on to a grass ledge and grab an enormous flake. Ascend this, then blocks, to belay on Brachistochrone (at the end of the difficult climbing on this route). Scramble up a grassy groove, then traverse off right clear of the crag.

A' CHIR, Coire Daingean:

Fat Man's Dilemma – 85m VS. G.E. Little, D. Saddler. 29th April, 1995.

Start at the very lowest point of a thin chimney below the corner line of Giant's Staircase on the right side of the buttress.

1. 20m 4b. Scramble up to the base of the chimney, move left to an obvious flake, step up then climb to a vegetated ledge. Move right round an edge to belay.
2. 25m 4c. Move back left and climb to gain a big flake (not visible from below). Step up and left to move behind a semi-detached flake. Climb heathery rock to a juniper ledge.
3. 20m 4c. Traverse up and right on flakes until a step right across a groove on to a slab

allows a heathery ledge above to be gained. Scramble up and around to the right to gain and climb a deep crack which separates an enormous block from the rest of the crag. Belay on the flat top of this block.

4. 20m 4b. On the left is a distinctive horizontal spike. Pull up to this, move left then back right to crawl into a restricted through route behind a boulder (in common with Afterthought) and then to the top.

GLEN ROSA, South Slabs:

Blankist – 110m HVS***. G.E. Little, K. Howett. 20th August, 1995.

The best route on the slabs, taking a direct line up the centre on perfect rock. Start 10m right of Route 1.

1. 30m 4c. Climb straight up the holdless slab, immediately right of a black streak, to reach flakes. Ascend these to belay on a small gravelly ledge in a heather groove (this pitch shares the same line as Pussyfoot).

2. 25m 4b. Step left and climb straight up a line of perfect pockets, moving left to gain an obvious long thin downward-facing flake. Thin moves above this lead to a fine flake belay on the girdle line.

3. 45m 4b. Climb straight up a bare slab to gain and follow an obvious rib (overlooking a long corner to the right), then up on easier-angled slabs to a small rock ledge at the base of a short banana-shaped groove.

4. 10m. Easier climbing up broken slabs leads to the top.

Long Hot Summer – 115m HVS*. G.E. Little, K. Howett. 20th August, 1995.

Start 15m to the right of Route 1 at a slight rib.

1. 30m 5a. Climb boldly up the slight rib, then continue up easier slabs and flakes to belay on a small gravelly ledge in a heather groove.

2. 45m 4a. Traverse right, then climb a brown slab, cross an overlap, to continue up slabs to reach a belay on a ledge on the right.

3. 30m 4c. Move left, climb a short tricky rib, then follow slabs leftwards to belay on a small rock ledge at the base of a short banana-shaped groove.

4. 10m. Easier climbing up broken slabs leads to the top.

COIRE NAN CEUM, Cuithe Mheadhonach:

Icarus – 55m E5**. K. Howett, G.E. Little. 22nd July, 1995.

Takes a sustained line on the wall between Ulysses and Achilles, moving left to the belay of the former, then tackles the headwall to the left of Ulysses. Start, as for Ulysses, 6m right of the vegetated crack.

1. 30m 6b. Trend right, bypassing the right end of a thin roof, to gain a slight right-facing scoop and small ledge above (Ulysses goes up and left from here). Traverse hard right to gain big flat holds. From the top of these traverse slightly left then move up via a finger pocket to reach an undercling. Move left to an incipient flake, climb this, then make precarious moves over a bulge and up to reach a deep horizontal break. Traverse left strenuously to below twin flakes (Friend 0). Pull up to stand in the break, then teeter left to reach the left traverse leading to the bolt belay of Ulysses. Very sustained climbing.

2. 25m 6b. Climb up the flakes and cracks of Ulysses to a jug where that route traverses right. Traverse left to a big flake. Pull up, then ascend a line of small pockets in the wall above with desperation to a horizontal break. Finish straight up.

Achilles – 50m E5 6c***. K. Howett, G.E. Little. 6th August, 1995.

A spectacular and excellent climb taking a fairly central line on the pale wall on the left side of the crag. The crux sequence is probably the hardest in Arran. The description is for the free variation of the route superseding the original line (which employed two

points of aid). A double set of small Friends is required to adequately protect this pitch. Start about 9m right of Ulysses at the highest point of the vegetated terrace. Climb the slabby wall to reach an easy left-facing flake system. From the top of this, a second and fragile flake is gained by difficult moves on the left. A long stretch allows a step up on to the toe of the flake, from where a bombproof Rock 9 (optional belay) can be placed in a short deep vertical crack. This crack curves left to become a horizontal break. Hand traverse this break until a step up can be made on to a higher break. Move right, then make desperate moves to gain a flat left-facing flake (crux). Pull over this to reach a horizontal break, then reach left to gain another flake edge. A horizontal crack, becoming a rail, runs out left. Follow it to reach the obvious crack and flake system which leads strenuously but more easily to the top.

Spirits Colliding – 60m HVS*. G.E. Little, C. Woodrow. 4th August, 1995.

Well to the right of Stoic, as the crag bends round and decreases in height, there is a short chimney holding a large chockstone. This is the start of the route.

1. 15m 4c. Climb the deceptive little chimney, then scramble up grass to take a belay at the base of an open flake/groove in the wall above.

2. 20m 5a. Climb the flake/groove passing two clumps of grass to reach a huge hollow right-pointing flake. Traverse right to its point, move up to an undercling, then pull left on to a small rock ledge. Move slightly up and right to belay at the start of a grass ledge (this ledge is traversed by Pompiere).

3. 25m 5a. Move slightly right along the ledge, then traverse back left to enter a slim groove on the right flank of an obvious rib. Climb this until it becomes a crack, then make a difficult left exit on to a small rock ledge. Climb straight up to finish.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

GLASGOW OUTCROPS, Loudon Hill, West Face:

Messiah – E2 5b. P. Brown. 12th April, 1995.

Go directly up the blunt arete which flanks the right side of John's Last. Start below a sharp incut V-niche. Continue straight up to the upper wall and climb the crack in the left end. Sustained.

Hobbit Crack – E1 5b. P. Brown. 12th April, 1995.

Start up Cave Crack to two-thirds height. Step right under the large block. Traverse right (under and around) the block. Strenuous placing gear.

Leftover Crack – HVS 5a. P. Brown. 3rd May, 1995.

From the ledge of Young's Stairway go directly up a thin diagonal crack using the arete on the left to start. Committing.

Central Wall:

The Vein – VS 4c. P. Brown. 1995.

Gain the inset overhanging corner via Jackdaw Chimney. Follow the crack up on to the face.

Lambchops – VS 4b. P. Brown, J. McCulloch. 11th May, 1995.

To the immediate right of Mij. Start down 2m under the left end of the overhang. Go up to the overhang and turn it into a shallow corner.

The Eastern Buttress:

Painless – A1. P. Brown. 25th April, 1995.

Follow the fault through the left end of the huge roof of Suicide. 3PA. Harder than the A1 to the right.

Boulder Suicide – E2 5b. P. Brown. 26th April, 1995.

Up and right around from Suicide (roof), an overhanging face on the left side of a large boulder. Straight up the centre of the face; turn the lip by a crack.

THE GALLOWAY HILLS, Mullwharchar, The Tauchers, The Organ Pipes:

Phobos Mask – 25m E4 5c. P. Brown. 1995.

The featured face left of Behind the Mask. Up grooves to some cracks high and right. Pull out left to gain the roof. Climb the crack above and exit left to finish.

Yucatan – 30m HVS 5b. P. Brown. 1995.

P. Brown considers Behind the Mask E2 5b. This route starts 15m right and 15m up broken ground from it at a deep, vegetated corner capped by a large block. Climb the corner and the cracks in the left wall. Turn the block on the left into a short groove leading to a terrace. Climb the rightmost of three grooves up to a large overhang and follow the crack above. Sustained.

The Pagan – 35m E1 5b. P. Brown. 1995.

10m right of Yucatan. Up a corner to a stance. Step right and up the left side of the arete, then right side. Step left to Yucatan's belay.

The Throne – 20m E1 5b. P. Brown. 1995.

At the far right end of the crag, to the right of Dungeon Master. Climb a slab up a corner. Protect the moves through the overhang by pockets on the wall above. Turn the overhang via the crack and break on the left. Finish up the slabby walls direct via finger pockets.

Craigencallie, Main Wall:

The Heretic – 20m E3 6a. P. Brown. 22nd June, 1995.

Start around the corner from the arete on the overhanging face. Climb the obvious finger crack. Layback left or right to gain the overhang and spike. Finish up the break on the left for good gear.

DUMFRIES OUTCROPS, Clifton Crag, Dirl Chimney Area:

Monkey Business – 12m E1 5a. S.J.H. Reid, J. Grinbegs. 26th May, 1995.

Start as for Dirl Chimney. Spectacular. Climb the corner crack on the right and fight up leftwards via brambles and dubious rock to a junction with Dirl Chimney. Fix a runner and traverse sensationally left via a hollow flake to pull round into the top section of Lemur. Leftwards to the top.

The Main Area:

Moss Trooper – 20m V. Diff. S.J.H. Reid, W. Phipps. 2nd June, 1995.

Good climbing despite a heavy coating of bryophytes. Start at the foot of The Esplanade. Traverse left 1m to a wide crack and climb this to a junction with The Esplanade. Go directly up the mossy wall to a roof. Traverse right to a short groove and climb this, moving left and up to a heather ledge. Finish up the shallow scoopy groove above.

Pegasus, Direct Start – 20m H. Severe. S.J.H. Reid, W. Phipps. 2nd June, 1995.

From the start of The Esplanade, climb directly to the left end of the slanting crack and finish as for the ordinary route.

Twin Cracks Area:

Bullet – 15m HVS 5a. S.J.H. Reid, W. Phipps. 2nd June, 1995.

Takes the thin crack up the right hand side of Revolver's Flake. Start as for Twin Cracks. Climb to the crack and struggle to its top. Avoid the tree on the right and continue more easily.

Jugular Vein Buttress:

The Pinnacles – 15m M. Severe. J. Grinbergs, S.J.H. Reid. 26th May, 1995.

At the left-hand side of the buttress is a series of blocky pinnacles. Climb the pinnacles to a steep wall. Surmount this via a spiky block.

Essence of Giraffe – 15m E1 5c. S.J.H. Reid, J. Grinbergs. 26th May, 1995.

Immediately right of *The Pinnacles* is a lichenous groove. Climb the groove to below the steep wall on *The Pinnacles*. Traverse rightwards under the overlap with a hard move to gain a foothold on the arete (tiny wires useful). An extraordinary move right gains a large block near the top of *The Slash*. Finish up this.

CAMBUSBARRON QUARRY:

Cumacoma – 20m E5 6b. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 12th June, 1995.

Right of *Visions of Monaco*, climb a small corner to a sloping ledge and up to a thin crack. Climb up to a break and traverse right to join *Big Country Dreams*.

Rats up a Drainpipe – 25m E3 5c. C. Adam, G. Lennox. 10th May, 1995.

The off-width chimney between *Quasi Pulls Through* and *Both Ends Burning*.

CAMBUSBARRON WEST QUARRY:

The *Accomplice* and *Left Crack* were second ascents of *The Assassin* and *Wrong Crack* (Journal error).

WOLFCRAG QUARRY:

Snakebite – 15m HVS 5a. C. Adam, G. Lennox, D. Parr. 22nd April, 1995.

Climb the groove immediately left of *Kalahari* to a small cave. Traverse right to the top peg of *Kalahari* and abseil off.

Hair of the Dog – 12m E3 6a. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 30th April, 1995.

A direct line up to and over the small roof below the bolt belay of *Thirty Frames a Second*. PR below roof.

Seriously Silly – 25m E3 5b. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 20th April, 1995.

A large edge is visible in the middle of the face 10m right of *Thirty Frames a Second*. Climb straight up this to a large roof and pull over its left side to loose ground above.

ARTHUR'S SEAT, West Face of Lion's Haunch:

Excalibur – 550ft III. H. Raeburn, W. Naismith (essence of). 8-9th February, 1996.

This grand outing gives perhaps the longest urban winter climb in Britain. Climbed at night to avoid alarming local subjects. A pen torch may be useful to examine deep cracks for runners but there is generally sufficient artificial light. Conditions had been freezing for several days giving reasonable turf placements but some snow cover had been stripped by the afternoon sun. Not often in condition. From the col between *Salisbury Crag* and *Arthur's Seat* proper (the *Lion's Haunch*), traverse along a path below the gully of the *Gutted Haddie* to a buttress about 200yds from the col. It is the rightmost of two or three spurs and lies directly above a small signpost. Gain access from a small wooden scree barrier. Turn the steepest part of the front of the buttress (a direct attempt on the rocks failed) on the right and follow turfgy grooves to a belay (90ft). Easy for half a pitch, then bear left to the skyline and gain a shallow gully on the prow of the buttress in a fine position to gain the top of the lower difficulties (150ft). Ascend slightly leftwards through gorse (animal tracks) to snow slopes and gain the final headwall at

Nose Chimney, which appears as a notch from below. The chimney does not hold much ice but gives a magnificent finish in a splendid position. A long stretch allows a belay from the summit indicator.

FAST CASTLE SEA CLIFFS, The Souter, Main Fin Area:

Shades of Yellow – 14m VS 4b. M. Robson, T. Ward. 3rd March, 1996.

On the NW face of the Main Fin. The crack and arete on the right (facing out) at the base of the descent gully, moving right at the top.

Fluorescent Flake – 9m E1 5b. M. Robson, T. Ward. 3rd March, 1996.

On the NW face of a small fin behind (NW of) Main Fin. The obvious line of flakes up the wall.

Second Sight Fin, North-West Face:

The following routes have been climbed on the previously unclimbed (?) NW face of the Second Sight Fin, which is accessible after low tide via ledges from the right. Routes described left to right. Diagram provided.

The Sentry Box – 10m HVS 5a. M. Robson, T. Ward. 10th March, 1996.

Climb a crack to a sentry box, then a right-slanting crack to mantelshelves and finish up a crack behind a big block on the right.

Daytrippers – 10m VS 4b. B. Ottewell, J. Vince. 10th March, 1996.

Climb twin cracks to finish up the corner on the right of the big block.

Pot Bellied Sheep – 10m VS 4b. B. Ottewell, J. Vince. 10th March, 1996.

Climb the next crack right, starting beside a small corner.

The Pig Thing – 10m Severe. J. Vince, B. Ottewell. 10th March, 1996.

The next crack to the right, starting at a wider crack.

Splice the Mainbrace – 12m HVS 5b. M. Robson, T. Ward. 10th March, 1996.

Start 4m left of the right arete. Climb direct to the first ledge and follow a crack to the left crack in the headwall.

Severence – 12m HVS 5b. M. Robson, T. Ward. 23rd March, 1996.

Start 1m left of the arete. Follow a crack, move right and follow the arete to gain the right crack in the headwall.

Doll Fin:

This is the small fin opposite the NW Face of the Second Sight Fin. The fin is accessible at low tide and a speedy ascent of the routes at the seaward end is required to avoid a wetting. The first two routes finish at the obvious terrace which is followed leftwards to descend. Diagram provided. Left to right.

Flume – 8m V. Diff. B. Ottewell, J. Vince. 10th March, 1996.

The crack at the left side of the slab.

Plume – 8m V. Diff. J. Vince, B. Ottewell. 10th March, 1996.

The next crack right.

Spume – 10m V. Diff. M. Robson, T. Ward. 10th March, 1996.

A leftward-slanting crack in the centre of the slab. Step right at the terrace and chimney a wide crack to the top. Reverse to the ledge to descend.

Sea Spray – 10m V. Diff. M. Robson, T. Ward. 23rd March, 1996.

The crack at the seaward end of the fin. Move left at the terrace and follow a wide crack to the top. Reverse to the terrace to descend.