

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

OUTER ISLES

LEWIS, Mungarstadh Sands area (Map Ref. 008 309):

Two routes on the obvious triangular pillar seen on the north side of the beach. Care is needed with loose rock near the top. The belay is on a rope from boulders well back.

Ocean Drive – 18m E1 5b. K. Archer, A. Norton. 28th July, 1996.

Takes the crackline on the front face. Follow this to a niche, then follow the diagonal crack to ledges.

Body Surfin' in a Body Bag – 16m VS 4c. A. Norton, K. Archer. 28th July, 1996. The pillar forms a corner 3m to the right at its junction with the face. Follow the corner passing a bulge at two-thirds height.

Painted Geo area (Map Ref. 005 334):

The Seventh Wave – 80m HVS. K. Archer, A. Norton (alt.). 1st August, 1996.

Traverses the south-facing wall that forms a seaward extension of the north wall of Painted Geo. From the top of the latter, walk westwards and descend slightly to gain the neck of land that joins the geo to this wall. The wall can be identified by a central gully and a rising band of pink quartz in its right-hand section. Walk to the seaward end of the wall and abseil down to a ledge on the left arête, the start of the route.

1. 35m 5a From the ledge descend to a line of flakes that leads to the break and follow this to cross a section of rounded holds. Regain the break, now less continuous, and follow it to black ledges that lead into the gully. Descend slightly to a stance.

2. 45m 5a From the stance cross the gully, traverse below a block overhang. Continue traversing rightwards to a short corner, passing this to gain the rightwards-rising pink band; follow this to belay on the arête.

MULL, Balmeanach:

Is it Safe was climbed by J. Fisher and C. Moody on 18th July, 1996 (missed out of FA list in new guide).

Scoor, Dune Wall:

The Crystal Ship – 10m E4 6a*. T. Charles-Edwards. 1996.

The blind groove just right of Troglodite.

Creag Eilean an Duiligh:

Calluna Cornice – 12m VS 5a. D. Brooks, L. Gordon-Canning, C. Moody. 12th September, 1996.

Well left of Nest Trundling, climb a juggy arête. Runners are in the shallow corner on the right. Move right across the corner for the last section.

Eye of Toad – 15m E2 5b**. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 29th September, 1996. Round left of Nest Trundling are twin cracks. Climb the left-hand crack with a little help from the right-hand crack high up.

Screech Owl – 15m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 10th September, 1996.

A jam crack. Belay as for Golden Eye.

Goldeneye – 15m VS 4c*. A. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 10th September, 1996. A jam crack with a block at its base. A belay stake is 8m back.

Bloody Louse-Bird – 15m E1 5b*. C. Moody, D. Brooks, L. Gordon-Canning. 12th September, 1996.

The corner-crack right of Golden Eye runs up left of a nose high up; a finger crack just right is also used. Belay as for Golden Eye.

Take me to the River – 20m E2 5c**. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 25th September, 1996.

The line of the waterfall is sometimes dry. Climb twin cracks, then awkward bulges. Belay as for Donald Duck.

Feathers McGraw – 20m E2 5b**. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 29th September, 1996.

Right of the waterfall is an overhang; start below this. Good varied climbing. Climb up, then hand traverse right to a jam crack which leads to the top of a pillar. Step left, climb a finger crack, then finish up a shallow chimney. Belay as for Donald Duck.

IONA, Aoineadh nan Struth:

Gully Wall – 20m E1 5b**. D. Brooks, C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 22nd September, 1996.

Scramble into the gully until under the chockstone. Follow the crack which slants out left below it.

Blood Donor – 20m VS 4b*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning, D. Brooks. 22nd September, 1996.

Start at a puddle in the gully, gained either by scrambling past the start of the previous route or abseil. Climb straight up.

Haemoglobin – 20m VS 4c *. D. Brooks, C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 22nd September, 1996.

Start at the puddle, move farther into the gully, easily past the chockstone. Climb straight up.

SKYE

AM BASTEIR, North-West Face:

Hung, Drawn and Quartered – 75m E4. I. S. Dring, M. E. Moran. 16th September, 1996.

A classic struggle up the striking chimney line starting 10m left of King's Cave Chimney.

1. 15m 6a. Climb the slanting slot just right of the main chimney. Belay 6m higher at a cave.
2. 17m 5c. Swing up left, climb a ladder dyke, then follow the chimney to a grassy break.
3. 18m 5c. An impressive chimney pitch.
4. 25m 4c. Up the dyke above to finish over a chockstone just west of the summit.

SGURR DEARG, South Buttress:

The following route was recorded in 1995 but the cliff was uncertain. Sgurr Dearg, South Buttress seems a possibility. 'The central chimney on the west shoulder (W-SW) of Sgurr Dearg (IV, mixed), exit via mixed ground on the right.' Perhaps the chimney between South Buttress and East Corner? C. Givannel, R. Page, P. Maurichon, Y. Astier. 27th March, 1995.

SGURR SGUMAIN, West Buttress:

Blazing Saddles – 185m Severe. D. Hanna, S. Kennedy. July, 1996.

Follows a line between West Trap Route and Sunset Slab to the right of the 'white blaze', aiming for a conspicuous groove near the top. Start up West Trap Route. Climb the small chimney at 27m until below the open slabs on the right (passing two old pegs). Pull on to a narrow ledge on the left wall and follow this round to a wide ledge above the vertical section of the buttress (45m). Climb grooves and walls to the base of the conspicuous groove (45m). Struggle up the back of the groove, then move out and up a slabby wall to reach an obvious trap dyke (45m). Finish up the dyke and broken rocks above (50m).

BLA BHEINN: NORTH-EAST WALL OF THE EAST RIDGE:

The new guidebook descriptions of routes in this complex area are rather confused. Access Gully, as described and as located in the diagram, shares the same start as the winter line, The Crucifix – climbing the deep gully below a huge chockstone to an 'X' shaped junction. The continuation of Access Gully leads to a col, which A1 Gully reaches from the SE side, and directly above the col on the R is the short hard step by which A1 Gully reached easier ground.

The other half of the 'X' formation is almost certainly the line of Serious Picnic which comes over a small col from the left, stays on the NE side and crosses diagonally up to the right, sharing its last two pitches up the ramp with The Crucifix. To the R of the 'X' and above this upper ramp is a chockstoned gully.

Teddy Bears' Gulch – 70m III,4. M. E. Moran and M. Welch. 10th January 1997. Start up Access Gully/Crucifix, and climb to the 'X' junction; go right for 10m on to the ramp of Serious Picnic to a short step, then leave the ramp and climb directly up the obvious chockstoned gully in two interesting pitches, exiting R on to the top of the East Ridge.

SGURR NAN GILLEAN: KNIGHT'S PEAK:

West Ridge of Knight's Peak – 150m III,4. P. Franzen, M. E. Moran, S. Potter. 26th February, 1997.

A good mountaineering route, gaining the ridge by the obvious ramp trending up right from the foot of 3/4 Gully, then weaving up grooves just left of the crest and finishing by two steep mixed pitches, the first on the crest and the second a chimney 1m right of it, which lead to the summit arête.

SGURR NAN GILLEAN: THE BHASTEIR FACE:

Flutings Climb – 90m IV,6. P. Franzen, M. E. Moran, S. Potter. 26th February, 1997

Right of Forked Chimney there are three further lines, a roofed chimney, a left-slanting chimney with bulging chockstone at its foot, and a longer chimney, shallow at start and with a leftward kink at half height. Whether this last chimney is Flutings Climb is not certain, but it gave an excellent winter climb at the top end of its grade.

1. 40m. Climb steepening and poorly protected mixed ground into the shallow chimney. At its top move left across the kink and go up the deeper upper chimney for 5m to a chockstone belay.

2. 50m. Climb the iced chimney to a steep exit, then the continuing snow gully to block belays just below the West Ridge.

NEIST, The Upper Crag, The Financial Sector:

Worm's Eye View – 40m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 17th August, 1996.

Well left of Earthbound, a dyke forms a flake/chimney. Start left of the left side of the flake and climb the fault, taking the flake at mid height on the left.

Earthbound – 35m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, M. Tweedley. 13th June, 1996.

The groove left of Terminal Bonus. Start round left of Terminal Bonus, climb an easy slab, two steep cracks, then the groove.

STAFFIN, Staffin Slip South:

Babe – 13m E2 5b*. B. Taylor, C. Moody. 18th September, 1996.

The wide crack right of Lateral Thinking. Chockstones will take a downward but not an outward pull.

Jugs of Deception – 18m E4 6a**. M. Tweedley, C. Moody. 10th June, 1996.

The pillar left of Hand Jive using thin cracks. The final bulge is climbed by a layaway off the edge to reach a hidden hold on the right.

Glorious Five-Year Plan – 35m E2 5c**. C. Moody, M. Tweedley. 10th June, 1996.

The corner right of The Latvian, starting between a birch tree and an ivy.

Sgeir Bhan (Map Ref. 497 676):

Approaching from Staffin slipway, walk up to the foot of the obvious north-facing buttress, then about 50m farther on the east side where there are two pinnacles. The right-hand pinnacle is nearly the height of the cliff; the left-hand one is about 20m high. The crag is a dolerite sill.

Loose Woman – 30m Severe. R. Ascroft, Z. Parkin, G. Ashcroft. 4th June, 1996.

Climbs the large pinnacle. Start on the NW side of the chimney between pinnacle and main cliff. Bridge up following an obvious off-width crack which divides the pinnacle in two, until the gap widens and it is necessary to commit oneself to the pinnacle alone. Continue to the top. A few metres of old rope round the top is recommended as a better abseil anchor.

Persistent Vegetated State – 30m E1 5a. R. Ascroft, G. Ashcroft. 4th June, 1996.

About 8m right of the short pinnacle and 3m left of the taller one are two parallel cracks which rise vertically up the face providing excellent climbing to about half height. From here on it is vegetated and loose and the top is particularly nasty, taking the right-hand of three possible exit lines as the least obnoxious.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS**SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)****KNOYDART, Sourlies Bothy Crag:**

A Good Day Spoilt – 40m E3 5c. M. Harris, M. Ballance. 26th June, 1996.

The climb is on a large slab/wall situated low on the hillside a few hundred metres east of the bothy. It is prominent on the approach to Sourlies but not visible from it and lies just below and right of an obvious pillar with a horizontal roof. The lower slab is very smooth; the climb starts 5m farther left and thrashes rightwards up jungle. From the top tree, move right in a wide diagonal crack, then up to a thinner break a few feet higher. Move left in this for about 3m, then up a flake-crack to a cleaned jug in the next break. Go left again to another excellent flake-crack and up this past a good spike, finishing up a blunt arête to trees and abseil descent.

CLUANIE DAM SLABS (Sheet 34, GR 177 094):

These slabs can be clearly seen across the loch from the road at the north end of the dam. They are bigger than they look and offer good climbing on rough granite with the occasional quartz seam. The slabs face north and require a day or two to dry after rain. Cross the dam and follow a faint path west to the foot of the slabs (approx. 20 min). From the path the slabs present a steep north-east face with two obvious cracklines. Around to the north the angle eases and the slab runs into a short upper north-east face forming a long corner, an excellent climb.

Persistent Reward – 55m VS. R. Simpson, D. Morrison. 14th May, 1996.

Start at the foot of the north slab, next to a blackened corner and below a roof.

1. 10m. Climb up to and over the first overlap, follow a groove over the second overlap and move right to a peg belay.

2. 45m 4c. Go up the corner (peg runner) to a roof. Move left into the main corner and up this to a small stance. Continue up to a short overhanging crack, move down and pull up into the upper corner (strenuous). Follow cleaned cracks to the top.

The small slab with a huge boulder at its foot and about 50m east of the above gives a 10m climb of V. Diff.

CREAG LUNDIE (Sheet 34, GR 152 110):

Just below the summit are some clean slabby crags, best seen from the road at GR 144 100. The crags and slabs face south and extend well to the east, becoming less steep and more discontinuous the further east one goes. Quick drying rough granite. At the west end of the first crag there is a prominent tree at mid height with a large heather patch to its right. Right of the heather is a conspicuous white slab with a short V-chimney and crack running up its left side. Above the slab is a deep vertical crack. These features give the following route.

The Lost Knuckle – 40m MVS 4b. D. Morrison, R. Simpson. 2nd June, 1996.

Start at the lowest rocks directly below the white slab (small cairn). Climb a short overhanging crack on to a small slab. Go up this and left along a heather terrace to the V-chimney. Go up the chimney and cracks to a good ledge. Climb the deep crack above to heather.

CREAG COIRE AN T-SLUGAIN:

Ploughshare Groove – 130m V,5. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 15th February, 1997.

Start at the base of Rowaling and climb the first groove (left-facing corner/chimney) on the left (25m). Continue left to reach and climb a steep turfgy groove (45m). Move right to a wide slot; climb this, then more easily to the top (60m).

Rowaling – 135m V,6. A. Clapperton, A. Nisbet. 3rd January, 1997.

Climbs the most prominent groove towards the left side of the crag and a regular ice forming line. The groove is right of a slab with wide crack set against a vertical wall. Climb the groove, on this occasion on thin ice to a ledge on the right (45m). Return to the groove, pull over a bulge and climb the next wall by a turfgy pull-up on the left. The final section of groove may be possible with more ice. Instead, a short overhanging chimney on the right led to an easier turfgy fault, climbed to easier ground (45m). Easier turfgy climbing to the top (45m).

Rose Garden – 120m IV,4. J. Gillman, A. Nisbet, D. Roberts. 20th February, 1997.

Climbs an ice line between the deeper grooves of Rowaling and Ridge and Furrow. Continuous ice; perhaps a grade harder if mixed. Start 5m right of Rowaling and climb direct to a barrier wall, taken at its top left corner. Move right on to a big inset

slab above Ridge and Furrow and obvious from below (45m). From the top of the slab a short iced rib led into a long groove, the source of the ice. The angle slowly eased (40m, 35m).

The Ridge Direct – 130m III. J. Ashby, J. Hubbard, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1997. A fairly continuous line of shallow grooves just right of the crest of the blunt ridge in the centre of the crag, sharing about 10m with Ridge and Furrow (after its easy traverse).

Right End Buttress – 130m II. A. Nisbet. 31st December, 1996.

The crest immediately right of the Grade I gully at the right end of the cliff.

Hidden Gully – 120m I. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 15th February, 1997.

On the right side of Right End Buttress and well hidden is this deep, narrow but easy gully.

AONACH AIR CHRITH, North-West Face:

Boa Constrictor – 270m IV,4. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 30th November, 1996.

Takes a constricting line up the tower at the top left of the crag. Start at the base of the left buttress, left of the 'Mother' routes. Climb the shallow gully which splits the lower buttress and leads to the central snowfield, followed to its top and a belay below the big left-facing corner on the left of the crest of the tower (120m). Start up the corner until forced left by a big bulge. Climb a line of cracks parallel to and about 6m left of the corner to a flake (40m). Continue up the crackline until one can go easily back into the corner. Go up this into a wide slot, an apparent *cul-de-sac*. An unexpected chimney splits the steep wall on the right and involves wriggling behind a chockstone leading to the crest (40m). The crest is unhelpful, so traverse a ledge rightwards with an awkward step down and climb the first sensible option, a thin crack filled with turf and leading to a big spike (40m). Easy to the top.

Note 1: The rib on the left has been climbed in summer followed by a traverse right to the unexpected chimney and a finish up *Boa Constrictor* (Severe and vegetated) – A. and G. Nisbet, 6th May, 1995.

2. J. Burton, S. Collins and J. Preston climbed *Mummy Knows Best* finishing direct with a belay in a cave under the final capstone and passing it by ice on the left (20th, February, 1997). Grade III,4.

CISTE DUBH, South-East Face:

Rest in Peace – 80m IV,6. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 20th November, 1996. Climbs the left-hand parallel fault, the right being *The Undertaker* (SMCJ, 1996). Start 10m right of the fault.

1. 25m. Gain a left-slanting ramp which leads into the fault. Climb this until close to an overhang and belay out right.
2. 25m. Climb through the overhang (excellent runners) and up another hard step.
3. 30m. Continue up the fault passing through a short chimney to finish past a big spike on the right.

SGURR A' BHEALAICH DEARG:

Solution Gully – 200m III. A. Nisbet, N. Smith, R. Storm. 20th March, 1997.

The 'left branch' of Resolution Gully, but really a separate route since the fork is at the start. Climbed in poor conditions; might be Grade II when iced. Two steeper pitches, then two easier leading to the crest of the north-east ridge which makes a fine easy finish to the summit.

Beinn Gunn's Buttress – 150m III. R. Cooke, C. Darwin, A. Nisbet. 25th February, 1996.

The buttress between the branches of Resolution Gully. Start just inside the left branch and climb a steepening groove followed by a right-sloping ramp to the crest (50m). Follow the crest in two long pitches to reach scrambling up the north-east ridge.

CREAG AN DUISILG: PLOCKTON (GR: 836336):

The imposing face of Creag an Duisilg was first explored in 1971 and several routes recorded in the SMCJ, all of which have fallen into disuse and are overgrown. Later in the 1970's, Ginger Cain and friends climbed here but their routes are not recorded. In the 1980's Jim Kerr is reported to have climbed on the crag but, again, did not record what he did. A lower crag next to the Plockton-Stromeferry road at GR 838338 was equipped with a few bolts some years ago and has been used by local climbers.

The upper crag is so luxuriantly vegetated and it's base so well defended by near-vertical woodland that further exploration has been deterred until 1996, when an easy approach was discovered from Fearnag Cottage to the east (GR 846336), where there is parking space for two or three vehicles. By climbing the brackened slopes diagonally right up and over an obvious knoll, a broad terrace is gained which runs below the crags for 600m to a deep gully.

Just beyond the knoll, a vile and grossly overhanging section of crag is passed, the Left Wing. This peters out into a broken and slimy tier of crag, but 300m farther along the terrace a more compact and continuous section of cliff is reached, first a black-streaked section of wall, the Black Walls, then an impressive slim wall with a square-cut overhang and ivy at its base, the Animal Farm Wall. Beyond is a shorter overhanging section with a big terrace at third height, then a fine white-lichened wall, the 007 Wall, a tree-filled bay and a large verdently vegetated ramp which gives access to a much higher section of cliff some 100m high. Right of this ramp is another steep 35m wall, the Brigadier's Redoubt, then a stone-filled diagonal ramp.

The terrace can be followed for another 150m to the big gully, beyond which it peters out.

All the recorded routes, from both 1971 and 1996, are in these zones of the cliffs. Despite the prevailing vegetation, the quality of some routes is considerable, and the situation and beauty of the crag are exceptional. The rock is of a slaty texture with plenty of flat holds and, despite some loose flakes and superficial debris, is surprisingly solid. The crag doesn't get any sunshine until mid-afternoon even in midsummer, and takes a few days to dry out after a really wet spell. Once dry the rock will not be affected by light rain or showers because of its overhanging angle. The midge rating is extreme! All of the new routes required gardening, but are graded for on-sight leads. Descents should be made by abseil from the many birch and rowan trees at the top of the routes. A few slings have been left in place for this, but extras should be carried.

The 1996 ascensionists were Ian Dring (I.D.), Martin Moran (M.E.M.), Andy Nisbet (A.D.) and Martin Welch (M.W.)

LEFT WING:

Bungle in the Jungle – 50m E2 5b. M.E.M. and A.N. 27th June, 1996.

At the left end of this section, just left of a big bay festooned with trees, is a bulging

grey wall. Gain the ledge below the wall, move slimily right to the left edge of the big bay, then climb up left on to the wall and up to a sloping break. Go right along the break for 5m and up a flake crack on to a long narrow ledge (possible belay here). From 3m along the ledge climb a bulge on big pockets then move right and finish into the trees. Abseil quickly off. Can only improve with traffic.

THE BLACK WALLS:

Crocodile Shoes – 40m E2 5b. M.E.M. and A.N. 26th June, 1996.

At the right hand end of this section, just right of the area of black rock, is a steeper tower with a ledge at a quarter height. Climb on to the ledge, then up the face of the tower, moving R through bulges to a finishing slab (tree belay).

ANIMAL FARM WALL:

This lies 8m right of Crocodile Shoes and is easily identified by the block overhang at third height with ivy beneath it. The wall is steep and imposing and bounded on the left by a tree-filled corner line.

My Sex Romp with Llama Sid – 40m E5 6a/b. M.E.M. and A.N. 26th June, 1996. Climb the left bounding corner for 8m to a holly, then follow the seams and thin cracks direct up the wall of black rock on the right (sustained, Friend No. 0.5 useful). Finish up right to trees or, better, go slightly L through final bulges of sooty rock.

Seals Guaranteed or your Money Back – 40m E2 5c. I.D. and M.E.M. 26th May, 1996.

Start at a tree just left of the square-cut roof. Pull up into the bay beneath the roof, then make thin moves left and up alongside the overhang and a delicate crux step on to a hold on the lip. Follow a good break up right, go up the side of a flake then back left and finish up a massive flake in the final wall. A good route, probably at the top end of its grade.

Hamish Quick-Death – 30m E4 5c. I.D. and M.E.M. 25th May, 1996.

Right of the Animal Farm Wall there is a shorter wall with a terrace at 8m. In the centre of this is an obvious bulging crack. Climb this to a gripping finish; prior arrangement of a rope loop from the top is recommended to avoid an exit on vertical heather.

THE 007 WALL:

The next obvious feature is a fine white wall with an overhang split by a groove at its top. The two routes are cross-diagonals, described as such for consistency of grade, and finish on a wooded terrace just left of the main section of crag.

Jim Kerr Knew My Father – 35m E2 5b. M.E.M. and A.N. 11th May, 1996.

Start up the corner on the left, then break out steeply up cracks in the wall. Traverse right at two-thirds height and pull through the roof into the obvious groove to finish. (J.K. may have done this in the 1980s).

James Bond is Alive and Well and Living in Plockton – 35m E4 6a. I.D. and M.E.M. 26th May, 1996.

Start at the right-hand side of the wall at a blunt rib. Go up the rib trending left (runners out right), then utilise hidden slots to climb the bulging wall above, mantleshelfing on to a small ledge to easier ground. Move left, crossing JK Knew My Father, and go up into a niche below a bulging roof. Swing strenuously over this and exit left to the terrace.

THE MAIN CRAG:

Cypress Avenue Direct – 100m E1 5a, 5a, 4c. M.E.M. and A.N. 11th May, 1996. Just right of the 007 Wall is a black bay with a tree directly below an open groove in the upper section of the crag. This direct version of a 1971 route climbs a bulging flake in the lower wall to gain the groove direct.

1. 40m 5a. From the top of the bay go up right and ascend the flake line to a ledge, then up a delicate lichenous wall to gain a ledge at the foot of the main groove (the original route climbs vegetated corners to the left to gain the wooded terrace, then went back right to the lichenous wall).

2. 20m 5a. Climb the corner groove to a wide crack and belay behind a detached monolith.

3. 40m 4c. Go left and up a steep wall and corner, finishing on good holds (belay 20m on top of crag).

The Original Route was climbed by S. Docherty and N. Muir. 29th May, 1971. From all routes finishing at the top of the Main Crag the easiest descent is to abseil off trees at the left-hand side down heathery outcrops to the wooded terrace, and then down the Animal Farm Wall to the base of the cliff.

To the right of Cypress Avenue is a steep ramp of luscious vegetation, just beyond which the full height of the Main Crag can be viewed. There are three obvious corner crack lines. The left-hand line, Shenaval (Schipper and Chambers 1971), takes the prominent crack in the middle of the crag leading to the detached monolith common with Cypress Avenue and was repeated at HVS 4c, 5b, 4c. Unfortunately, this line can only be accessed by scrambling 50m up the ramp and, due to the fragile and possibly precious vegetation here, the start is not recommended.

Chanter (Muir and Schipper 1971) crosses Shenaval from the left to gain an obvious overhanging chimney corner, then aids up the final overhanging tier. This was not repeated, but since it starts from the bottom of the ramp it offers an alternative way of getting on to Shenaval.

The highest and rightmost of the three lines is Easy Rider (Crymble and Schipper 1971), which takes the corner starting at the top of the ramp beneath the overhangs at the top of the crag. This was accessed by climbing It Ne'er Rains but it Pours, and traversing across the top of the ramp. On repeat it was considered to be a worthwhile HVS 5a, 5a, 4c.

The impressively overhanging headwall of the Main Crag has a right diagonal break sandwiched between roofs which is best gained by climbing a route on the Brigadier's Redoubt and the first pitch of Easy Rider.

The Hanging Traverse of Babylon – 40m E4 6a. M.E.M. and M.W. 24th June, 1996. From the finely-poised stance at the top of the corner climb the 'hairy' wall on the left and pull out on to the ledge, as for Easy Rider. Then, go straight up the brown wall above to gain a break, which leads rightwards into a corner directly above the belay. Move out along the top of a hanging flake, then swing across the impending wall and follow the fault for 5m to a break in the final overhangs. Pull through this to the top. An impressive pitch.

THE BRIGADIER'S REDOUBT:

This is the wall to the right of the vegetated ramp which terminates in a diagonal stone-shoot. The routes here are worthwhile in themselves, but are equally useful for getting to the top section of the Main Crag

Brigadier Braggart's Little Secret – 35m E3 5c. I.D. and M.E.M. 27th May, 1996

Takes the central line. Pull through a flake overhang at the right-hand end of the wall, then traverse left until below a hanging groove. Go up this to a roof (peg runner), and then launch out left with conviction to gain a ledge. Step left, then go straight up with continuous interest to finish at a tree belay.

The Queen's Garden Party – 30m E1 5b. I.D. and M.E.M. 27th May, 1996.

Start as for Brigadier Braggart. Pull through the roof, then go up the arête on the right edge of the wall to gain big sloping ledges out right. Finish up the corner above and go left at the top to tree belays.

It Ne'er Rains but it Pours 35m VS 4c. I.D. and M.E.M. 28th May, 1996.

Start 10m up the diagonal stone-shoot and step out left onto the face. Go up a short corner to roofs, then traverse left to sloping ledges and finish up the corner above, as for *The Queen's Garden Party*. Climbed during a deluge. A good warm up for the upper Main Crag.R

MORUISG, Coire nam Mang, The Great Grey Slab of Moruisg:

A large reasonably-angled grey schistose slab lies above Loch Cnoc na Mointeach at approx. 800m about 1hr 30min from a layby off the A890 at M. Ref. 125 542. The slab is of a remarkably smooth undulating appearance with steeper sections. Despite the rock being onion-layered into flags which precludes heavy-footed climbers, the slab and its setting and scale give it more than a passing attraction.

The slab is approx. 140m high on the easier-angled right to about 90m on the left near a grassy corner. Above this corner lie further corners and inset slabs, diminishing in height leftwards. A remarkable property about the rock is the friction which is relatively unaffected in the wet owing to a lack of lichen. It is perfectly possible to ascend the easier routes in the rain with little change in grade. The rock is very clean but protection is almost entirely lacking and when found, often worthless due to the layering which easily splits from the slab underneath. Short thin blade pegs and smallish Friends and wires can be satisfactory if placed with precision and care. Taken in the right spirit, it is all rather exhilarating.

The slab has certainly seen some ascents before, an ancient peg near Disposable Slab pointing to either a summer or a winter line, but nothing is known.

Disposable Slab – 100m Moderate. J.R. Mackenzie. 27th June, 1996.

Climbs the right edge of the main slab, starting above broken rocks. Follow the best line just left of the edge.

Close to the Edge – 140m V. Diff. J. R. Mackenzie. 27th June, 1996.

Probably the best of the easier lines, this follows the left edge of the dirty groove which cuts up the slab left of Disposable Slab. Start to the left of a large flake above the broken rocks and climb a steep slab to gain the edge overlooking the groove. Follow the edge all the way to a terrace, move left to the edge above and follow this either up the edge, or easier, up a crack to step back right below the edge at a dirty chimney-crack (good flake belays). Step right and climb the sandwiched groove to the top. A pleasant excursion with a fair amount of disposable rock and some easy friction, but quite seriously unprotected.

Variation: – Diff. W. McKerrow, J. R. Mackenzie. 31st August, 1996.

From the terrace, instead of moving left to the edge, continue up the slab on the left between two corners and climb the dirty chimney to the flake belays. Less good but a more obvious line.

The President's Men – 95m VS. J. R. Mackenzie, W. McKerrow. 31st August, 1996.

Walk left below the main slab up a rake to a steeper narrow slab near the left where the terrace descends to the rake, cairn.

1. 25m 4c. Climb the smooth slab right of loose flakes and left of a small corner on friction to an overlap. Step over the overlap and continue straight up to the terrace.
2. 45m 4a. Continue straight up on the slab, easy at first then steepening, to belay below a double overlapped right-trending corner.
3. 25m 4c. The slab above steepens with good friction to the crackless corner, which is climbed to the next overlap. Step right and climb the next corner through an overlap and better holds and protection to the top. A fine pitch.

FUAR THOLL, Mainreachan Buttress:

Enigma – 240m VII,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 4th January, 1997.

A sustained mixed route up the front face of the buttress. There appears to be some confusion as to the whereabouts of the original winter line on the face. The Northern Highlands I Guide suggests the 1969 Fyffe/MacInnes/Spence ascent followed the first pitch of Enigma and then traversed left to enter the groove of Nimrod (clearly possible and a natural way to go). MacInnes's description and diagram in his selected winter guide states that after the first pitch of Enigma they joined Sleuth on the right (the next guide will describe it as such, probably VII,7, and notable as the hardest route in Scotland at the time). The route described below is loosely based on the summer route of Enigma, and lies between the above two lines. Above the Great Terrace, the 1969 route was followed which is the natural winter way. Start just left of the first tier below a short gully (about 5m right of Nimrod).

1. 20m. Climb the gully to a terrace.
2. 15m. Continue up the prominent V-groove to ledge.
3. 20m. Move up and right along a narrow slabby ramp to below a steep wall (junction with Sleuth, which traverses left to reach this point and then goes back right along a horizontal ledge). Move left below a big square flake and continue up and left to niche overlooking the corner of Nimrod.
4. 15m. Climb the groove just left of the niche to a bay.
5. 15m. Nimrod takes the corner up and left. Instead, traverse horizontally right for 3m below an overlap, and move up to a small ledge. Climb the short groove above to flat ledge.
6. 20m. Climb the bulging groove just right of the left edge to reach the Great Terrace which girdles the cliff at two-thirds height. Move up to belay below a steep pillar.
7. 45m. Traverse right along the dwindling ledge for 20m, then trend diagonally right on mixed ground to reach a right to left diagonal line of weakness where the angle eases.
8. 30m. Climb up diagonally left for 15m to below a steep tower. Traverse horizontally left along a ledge for 10m, then move up to the left edge of the buttress.
- 9 and 10. 60m. Straightforward mixed ground leads to the top.

SGORR RUADH:

Spanner in the Works – 240m V,6. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 21st December, 1996.

Climbs the buttress between the Superdirect and Tophet Gully. Start midway between the two at a 5m icefall at the base of V-shaped diverging faults. Climb the icefall to a ledge, then traverse left into the left fault, almost a shallow chimney. Follow this to a bulging section which forces a 6m traverse left to a large flake against the wall. Climb steep cracks above the flake to a terrace (45m, could be

split). The fault continues left to join the Superdirect, so traverse easily right and up to the right-hand of parallel grooves (35m). Climb the right-hand groove to a notch on the skyline and easier ground (70m). Follow the easy buttress to the crest.

Gopher's Gully – 200m IV,4. M. E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 28th November, 1996.

Takes a shallow gully starting below First Blood and just outside North Gully. It has the very obvious feature of a large chockstone on the first pitch underneath which one must chimney. The second pitch continues up the gully, also steep and leads to an easy broad rib and the crest of Raeburn's Buttress.

The Sandstone Virgin – 130m V,7. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 26th November, 1996.

Climbs the line which is erroneously described in the Northern Highlands Guide as being Tango in the Night. Tango climbs the very impressive fault 'formidable *cul-de-sac*' which is the right branch of the starting gully of Splintery Edge. This route is the next gully down, between Highland Scottische and Ruadh Awakening. It was climbed in four pitches, the second being steep but helpful (and crucial that many blocks are frozen in place) while the third involved a big chockstone with a very hard exit on to scree which would be a lot easier with a little ice. Arguably VI,6.

The Last Waltz – 110m V,6. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 21st December, 1996.

Takes an unexpected easing in angle between Tango in the Night and steep walls higher up the gully. Start as for Tango but at the start of its difficulties, traverse right along a narrow grass ledge above a steep wall to a spike (30m). Take a line of cracks slanting slightly right and leading to a right-facing slabby corner with a fine crack. A belay was taken in a niche above the corner (45m). A strenuous pull out of the niche, then a right-trending line via a groove to an easier finish (35m).

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Poite:

Consolation Buttress – 130m IV,5. G. Ertle, P. Munford, A. Nisbet. 24th November, 1996.

Climbs the buttress left of North Gully, taking a line of weakness which forms intermittent chimneys and corners about 30m left of the gully. In better conditions of fully frozen turf and taking an easier finishing pitch farther left, the route might be Grade III.

North Buttress – 375m IV,4. A. and G. Nisbet. 28th December, 1996.

The crest right of North Gully, close to the summer route initially. Start just inside North Gully on the right wall. Traverse easily round to the front, then climb the crest through four tiers to below the clearly steepest tier (100m). Climb the steep tier by a turfy corner just left of a small tree on a ledge (25m). Traverse away right until possible to breach the next tier by a short steep wall (100m). Return left diagonally through the next tier and continue trending left until an easy chimney on the crest leads to A' Chioch.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, North Buttresses:

Tomahawk – 170m IV,6. J. Lyall, M. Sclater, D. Williamson. 31st December, 1996.

Climbs the right side of Totem Buttress. Start midway between the 5m chimney of Totem and No. 4 Gully. Climb a shallow gully line until easy ground leads to a deep wide chimney. Move left below the chimney to climb a steep left-facing corner with a wide crack and helpful chockstones. Follow the continuation fault to the top.

High Domain – 110m III,6 (?). S. Allan, J. Lyall. 3rd January, 1997.

A big groove line running straight up the buttress between the forks of No. 5 Gully,

which can be descended for access to this route. The first pitch leads to a terrace, then the upper groove gives superb climbing with the crux near the top.

Summit Buttress:

Wanda Lust – 80m IV,6. S. Allan, J. Lyall. 3rd January, 1997.

A mixed line slanting left up the buttress, starting 50m right of Blade Runner. A short easy pitch leads to a terrace. Gain a ledge leading left to a short chimney/crack. Climb it and move right on another ledge until the diagonal fault is followed back left to a terrace. The final steep wall is climbed by a tricky move to gain an icy recess.

South Face:

Roadhog's Wall – 20m E3 5c. M. E. Moran (unsec). 14th June, 1996

Close to the gullies just right of the main section of crag (with Sword of Gideon) is a steep clean wall split by a thin crackline, clearly seen from the road below. Well worth the 150m approach scramble. Enter the crack from the right and climb it direct to the top. Sustained and well protected.

MEALL GORM, Cobalt Buttress:

The Lamppost – 90m HVS. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 6th September, 1996.

Scramble up vegetation through the easy lower tiers to the big ledge below the steep upper wall. At the right edge of the wall is slightly slabbier ground bounded on the left by the first right-facing corner which is about 20m left of Rattlesnake. Start left of the corner.

1. 10m. Climb vegetation rightwards to the base of the corner.
2. 40m 5a. Climb the slabs right of the corner to a long roof with a fine crack splitting it and the clean wall above its left side. Climb the roof and crack, then move left past some unpleasant large jammed spikes, and further left to a large flat block sitting on a ledge.
3. 40m 5a. Climb the crack above, initially offwidth and awkward, until a step left is made into a shallow chimney with wedged blocks (not a bigger one further left). Climb the chimney back into the crack and continue until it is easier to trend right to finish close to Rattlesnake's left arête.

Blue Velvet – 275m V,6. R. and C. Anderson. 27th December, 1996.

A direct line on the crest between Rattlesnake and Cobalt Buttress, joining Cobalt Buttress for the last tier but taking a more direct line. Start 10m left of the lowest rocks at the right side of the crag. Above the initial turf field are three corners, the central and most obvious having a wide crack in it; head directly towards this for two easy pitches to steepening ground (100m).

3. 25m. Climb to a short corner and wide crack, then pull out left and continue to beneath the main central corner.
4. 15m. Climb the corner and the crack in its right wall to gain a terrace and belay on the left beneath the most obvious corner in the crest.
5. 15m. Climb the corner to reach a terrace beside a huge block.
6. 30m. An obvious fault line slants up rightwards in the crest. Start just to the right of this and climb up left into it, then traverse left around the edge to find easier ground and climb this to gain another terrace.
7. 50m. Find the easiest line to another terrace below the final tier (joining Cobalt Buttress at some point?).
8. 20m. Above is a huge poised block just left of the crest. Climb up and left to reach

the block, then pull carefully around beneath this and climb easily to a ledge.
9. 20m. Move right, then climb up to the crest and easier ground.

Note: The gully immediately right of Cobalt Buttress, between it and Wedge Buttress, was climbed at Christmas, 1996. It has been climbed several times before by parties thinking they were climbing The Six Track Mono Blues and has been named Turquoise Gully. The grade was given as III, but it has often been climbed at II by bypassing the first pitch on the right.

Boulder Problem Buttress – 130m III. R. Cooke, A. Nisbet. 27th February, 1997. The buttress between the broad easy gully and The Six Track Mono Blues, climbed by grooves and turfey walls generally on the left side of the crest and finished by a boulder problem wall.

BEINN DAMH:

Aquila Gully – 370m VI,7. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 8th January, 1997.

Aquila Gully (Northern Highlands Vol. 1) and *Boundary Gully* (SMCJ 1995) are almost certainly the same route. Although *Aquila Gully* was the first ascent (1979), the name *Boundary Gully* is more descriptive, particularly since there is a big gully immediately right of the summer route *Aquila*, taken by the following route.

The gully contained some very awkward chockstones (easier with some build-up?) leading to a big pitch (100m). The sharp crest of *Aquila* on the left was climbed with difficulty to bypass the pitch (which might have been easier?) – 40m. The gully was regained above and climbed past a right-angle right turn to a chimney pitch (70m). The buttress on the right was climbed (60m) to easier ground leading to the quartzite (100m).

BEINN ALLIGIN:

Wall of the Outcry – 105m VI,8. M. E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 5th December, 1996.

Climbs the steep right wall of upper *Eag Dubh*, aiming for a big right-facing corner which forms high up at the right side of a shield of rock, the left side being a left-facing corner and well seen from the main ridge at the top of *Eag Dubh*. Start on the immediate right of the entrance to the narrow upper gully between *Sgurr Mhor* and *Sgurr na Tuaigh* (flake belay close against the wall).

1. 30m. Bridge past a good spike and awkwardly up grooves to the left. Go up to a steeper rock tier and traverse 5m left to a flake belay.
2. 25m. Just right of the stance pull into a vertical corner with a large flake on its right-hand side and climb it strenuously to a terrace. Move out right on turf ledges and make thin moves back left to a bay directly beneath the big corner.
3. 35m. Make hard moves off the right side of the stance to an easement, then move into the corner. Bridge up to a roof and from a spike, use tension to swing down to a ledge on the right. Make a hairy mantleshelf up right again to a thin footledge. Traverse this right for 6m and pull into a ramp which leads back left to a terrace.
4. 15m. Traverse 6m left and climb a left-trending line of flakes to the top.

LIATHACH, South Side, Coire Liath Mor:

The Tight One – 60m IV,5. I. Grimshaw, T. Hawkins. 2nd January, 1997.

Climbs the narrow cleft 20m left of *Spidean's Sting*, starting with an offwidth crack, then into the fault, starting up its left side, then traversing right and ending up a narrow chimney topped with a chockstone.

Coire na Caime:

WPC Gully – 120m II. A. Lockley, J. Moore, A. Nisbet. 11th February, 1997.

The shallow gully that runs from Gully 7 up the left side of PC Buttress to reach its crest at the final col.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Far East Wall:

Sting – VII,7. M. E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 6th January, 1997.

A sustained route by the summer line.

Eastern Ramparts:

Samurai – VII,7. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 9th January, 1997.

Sensational and helpful as ever, perhaps VI,7. Start about 6m left of the summer route at a shallow right-facing corner with the first move gaining the top of an awkward block (same as Forgotten Warrior).

1. 20m. Climb the corner and traverse right to the cave of Samurai.
2. 30m. Climb directly out of the cave and up its fault to a steep wall below the Upper Girdle. Go up and traverse a flake on the left to gain the Girdle. Walk along the Girdle to regain the summer line.
3. 35m. The 'overhanging chimney' was climbed direct followed by the move under the 'perched block'.
4. 35m. As for summer, finishing at the square-cut notch.

Central Wall:

East-Central Ribs – V,6. J. Hubbard, A. Nisbet. 4th February, 1997.

Following the summer route except that the second tower was climbed direct but the third less direct; after the overhanging chimney, a ledge was traversed right into the top of another chimney which led up and left back to the crest.

Central Buttress:

Dusk – 65m E1. G. Latter, A. Clapperton. 17th July, 1996.

A fine finale up the final tower. Start round right of the large detached flake, beneath a smaller such feature a short way up the wall.

1 25m 5b. Climb up to just right of the flake, then head up rightwards on good edges into a slim left-facing groove. Ascend this by a fine finger-crack to belay on the ledge just above.

2 40m 5b. Continue up the open chimney/corner above, with difficult moves above a large ledge near the top. Belay a long way back on the right.

Note: The Ed. is unsure how much of this is new. The final tower is very confusing in the guide and other lines have been climbed recently. Probably Parker's and Piggott's Routes are different descriptions of the same line; Parker's may well have originally finished up Collie's Route as there seems only to be one obvious line up the crest at a suitable grade. The next guide will clarify.

West Buttress:

Junior Direct Start – 10m E3 5c. C. French, T. Prentice. 25th July, 1996.

A desperate and badly-protected start which avoids the green slime. Start left of the corner and climb steep rock to gain a prominent jutting horn of rock. Hard and unprotected moves lead right into the Junior corner.

Maelstrom – 90m HVS. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 5th September, 1996.

A summer ascent of the winter route with a direct start. Start about 15m left of the mossy groove of Blood, Sweat and Frozen Tears at the next but shallower groove left.

1. 25m 4c. Climb the groove which splits into two. Take the right-hand which leads to the lower of the Girdle ledges.

2, 3. On the left is the mossy groove of winter. Much more pleasant is to go 5m right to a clean arête, climb it and return right to join the winter route at its chimney. Continue up the winter route to the top.

Grade opinions (T. Prentice): Sumo – E3 4b 6a 5b and at least **. Junior – second pitch 20m 5a. Shoot the Breeze – 5b 5a 5c ***. Turkish Delight – second pitch 5b, *.

Spidean Lochans (M. Ref. 964 600):

Two lochans are located on a shoulder on the north west side of Spidean Coire nan Clach, Beinn Eighe. The outlet from the northern one flow over a rock band and offer two 80m icefalls; Christmas Day Special III (25. 12. 96) climbs the left-hand of the pair and has a large ledge and block after about 30m. The right-hand one Whiteout, IV,4 is slightly steeper with poor rock belay potential (27. 12. 96).

Above these is a rock band leading to open slopes and to two craggy areas leading to the summit. The right hand crag is split by a narrow gully which trend left near its top at II (25. 12. 96). A start was made up a chimney at the right end of the lower rock band though its easy to walk round it. The best gully on the left-hand section cuts up its centre and has a few rock steps in it, III (27. 12. 96). The four routes described above were soloed by B. Davison.

Sgurr nan Fhir Duibhe, North-West Face:

Approached by the Coire an Laoigh footpath, diverging to the col between Sgurr Ban and Sgurr an Fhir Duibhe. An easy traverse leads to the base of the cliffs. Well seen from the col is a smooth steep wall at the base of a ridge. Left of this ridge but hidden from the col is an easier angled but very pinnacled ridge, Ragged Muffin Ridge. This was climbed by Tom Patey at Diff. in August, 1957.

Rockhoppers Ridge – 130m III,4. C. Kempster, J. Preston, S. Snowden. 3rd March, 1997.

The ridge left of Ragged Muffin Ridge, starting with a steep wall (crux), then a chimney, huge square-topped block and easier to the top.

Note: The gully at the right end of the cliff, right of the smooth wall, finishing by the right branch, gave the above team a 100m Grade I.

Ragged Muffin Ridge – 110m IV,4. R. Callard, S. Hinshelwood, A. Nisbet. 3rd March, 1997.

Follows the crest of the ridge over several pinnacles including chimneying behind an alarmingly slender tower on pitch 3.

TORRIDON CRAGS, Creag nan Leumnach:

Cross Dressing – 20m E3 5c. I. Taylor, T. Fryer. 26th May, 1996.

Climbs the bold wall left of Warmer, Cleaner, Drier. Five metres from the top, traverse right and finish up Warmer, Cleaner, Drier.

The Vanishing Frog – 30m E5 6b. I. Taylor (unsec). 8th August, 1996.

Climbs the streaked rounded nose in the centre of the wall right of Squeezin' yer Heid. Bold and not obvious. Start up the second groove right of a wide flake-crack to gain a break. Climb the shattered wall to the next break and using hidden holds above, make a hard move rightwards round the nose. Climb the right-hand side of the nose until a move left at the top gains a ledge.

DIABAIG, The Main Cliff:

The Dominie – 35m E1 5b. G. Latter, A. Clapperton. 15th July, 1996.

On the upper right side of the wall, above the gully is an orange-coloured wall with

three vague discontinuous cracks. Approach by climbing out of the flat upper gully bed, or by one of the routes on the right side of the wall. Follow the central crack. Only the middle section presents any difficulty, with the lower section about Severe and the upper crack easing back to about Diff.

Evasion and Bogie, extended finish – HVS. G. Latter, A. Clapperton. 15th July, 1996.

2. 12m 5a. From the belay, traverse the lip of the roof above the ledge leftwards to reach an easier crack. Follow this to tree belay on the spacious grassy ledge above. (This would be best run together with pitch 1).

3. 10m 4c. Climb the short awkward corner above, moving out right to finish easily up the rib.

Note: Instead of moving out right on Evasion, the top crack of Bogie was gained by traversing left along the prominent horizontal break – E1 5b.

The Domes:

Glandular Problems – 30m E2 5b. T. Fryer, I. Taylor. April, 1996.

Climbs a pitch right of Boab's Corner pitch 2. Start 5m right of Boab's Corner and climb a thinly-cracked black wall to gain a short hanging corner. Go up the corner, then follow a curving ramp on the right. At the top of this, go right to another crack, climb this for a couple of moves, then go straight up to finish.

CREAG RUADH (Kinlochewe, M. Ref. NH 037 631):

This small crag lies on the skyline above the Slioch car park at Kinlochewe. At the first gate across the path ascend the hillside beside a fence, then up and left to the crag – 20 mins. This route takes a central line on the right-hand buttress.

Watch Ma Sheep – 10m E1 5b. C. French, F. Wolfenden. Spring, 1996.

Start at a shallow corner and swing up onto the wall to a diagonal crack. Follow this to finish left.

BEINN A' MHUINIDH, The Bonaid Dhonn:

All routes get the afternoon sun and dry very quickly. Approach from the bottom is tedious. However, approaching from the top by fixing an abseil rope to the excellent first belay on Vertigo allows a number of routes to be climbed in a day.

Dream Ticket – 70m E3***. T. Prentice, C. French. 17th July, 1996.

Fine climbing up the immaculate wall right of Vertigo (see photo Northern Highlands Vol. 1). The rock is the finest quartzite in Torridon, the climbing pleasantly sustained and quite intimidating, and the position superb. Protection is good, but spaced, and a double set of Friends up to 2 useful. Start at a large block at the base of the wall.

1. 50m 5c. Climb ledges to a prominent pair of thin cracks, then move up and right to the left end of a long overlap. Return back left into the centre of the wall and continue to a small overlap level with the top of the Vertigo flake. Pull over this, climb the crack above and follow the scoop right to belay on the right edge of the wall.

2. 20m 5b. Move back left and follow the right edge of the wall and easier ground to the top.

Balances of Fate – 70m E2**. C. French, T. Prentice. 17th July, 1996.

Another excellent route starting up the wall left of Vertigo and finishing up the steep crack directly above. Start as for Dream Ticket.

1. 30m 5b. Climb up and left below the flake crack of Vertigo. A small overlap

guards access to the wall. Pull over at the narrowest point, continue straight up the wall and follow a small slab to belay on top of the flake as for Vertigo.

2. 40m 5c. Traverse right and climb a steep, undercut crack to slabbier ground above. Follow the prominent diagonal crack through a steep bulge to an awkward exit. Follow the groove and easier ground to belay right of a large block.

Grades of Shey – 50m E1*. C. French, T. Prentice. 17th July, 1996.

Two pleasant pitches on the wall right of Safari, lead to a fine finishing corner in the left arête of the prominent recess. Start under the overhang at the end of pitch 1 of the Tallon (reached by a 50m abseil).

1. 25m 5b. Pull over the overhang 2m left of The Tallon and climb the crack and rib above to a stance.

2. 10m 5b. Move left along a large projecting block and step off on to the wall which leads to a stance in the large recess, below the corner.

3. 15m 5b. The prominent hanging corner in the arete is steeper and harder than expected.

Note: The first two pitches are similar to a line climbed by Roger Everett and Kim Kaiser in the late 1970s, but not recorded.

MEALL LOCHAN A' CHLEIRICH, Stone Valley Crag, Rum Doodle Crag:

Juniper Slab – 25m Severe 4a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 24th July, 1996.

Immediately left of Rum Doodle Arête is a narrow red slab. Start left of the central crack and climb directly up the slab keeping left of Rum Doodle Arête.

Roman Wall – 35m Severe. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th July, 1996.

To the right of Rum Doodle Arête is a clean slabby wall with a central rib leading to a small tree, all on superlative rock.

1. 10m. Climb the central rib.

2. 20m. Step left on to the wall and climb upwards to a right-slanting ramp. Follow this to below a vertical wall with thin cracks and step left to take the final few metres of the arete direct (crux) to the ledge.

3. 5m. Climb the optional central crack (4b).

Chleirichal Error – 25m VS 4c/5a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 11th August, 1996.

To the right of Roman Wall lies a gully/groove with a steep right wall. To the left of a pair of short cracks is a groove. A steep entry gains the base of a thin grass-filled groove. Step right on to the wall and climb this to step back left above the grass. Excellent rough rock to the top.

Red Wall Crag:

Bold as Brass – 25m E3 6a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 9th May, 1996.

This is the red-coloured left bounding pillar of the wall. It gives a sustained and technical climb with the crux near the top. Gain a small ledge just left of Flaming June, step up right to below the flange, then climb it stepping left to below a thin curved crack. The crux section continues up the wall just right of the crack, then follows it to the top.

Lucky Strike – 25m HVS 5a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 3rd May, 1996.

The most enjoyable steep route on the crag, sustained and varied. Start at a pronounced groove right of Flaming June and climb up it on smooth rock to a large spike. Stand on this and climb the seemingly blank wall up and right on hidden holds to the ledge.

Short Sharp Shock – 8m E1 5c. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 3rd May, 1996.

A steep shallow corner above the finish of Bold as Brass.

Gas Bubble Wall – 30m V. Diff. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 3rd May, 1996.

At the top of the heather rake right of Bold as Brass is a black vesicular wall. Climb it and up a corner on the left, then step back right and climb tiered slabs to the top. Pleasant but a bit artificial.

Stone Valley Crag:

The Beer Bottle Dilemma – 30m E3 5c. I. Taylor (unsec). August, 1996.

Start a few metres right of the second pitch of Melting Pot. Climb cracks trending slightly rightwards to gain a ledge. Easier pleasant climbing to the top.

The Domes:

Controlled Steering – 20m VS 4c. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown, D. Wilby. 18th June, 1996.

Left of the thin red slab is a lower wall, increasing in height leftwards before tailing off into the hillside. Near the left end of this wall and left of the highest point is a pronounced V-groove above a slanting heather rake. Surmount the rake and enter the groove via an overhang with some loose blocks. Continue to the capping roof and move left to another groove and finish up this.

Demon Razor – 20m E3 6a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie (both led). 24th July, 1996. To the right of Controlled Steering is an overhanging wall split by a thin flake crack. This is an excellent exercise in positive thinking! Start in the 'cave' and burn to the ledge. Continue up the pleasant arête above.

Mellow Ambler – 30m VS 4c. D. Wilby, R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 18th June, 1996.

To the right of Demon Razor there are some boulders with a grooved arete above. Climb the groove on the left of the arete to exit right by a small tree. Continue up the edge to rough rock and climb the right side of the topmost arete via cracks to the crest.

The Thug – 35m E2 5c. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 9th May, 1996.

To the right of The Thin Red Line is an overhanging wall, the top of which is split by a striking crack. Start left of the crack at a curved groove.

1. 15m 4c. Climb the groove and ease back right to a small ledge below the crack to a semi-hanging belay.

2. 10m 5c. The crack yields to a no-frills approach and has plenty of gear with the crux at the top.

3. 10m. Finish up the straight-forward arête.

The Lum – 70m V. Diff. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 9th June, 1996.

To the right of The Thug the crag turns a right angle which contains a vertical chimney. Climb the fine chimney to a stance on the right below a shallow red corner (25m). Left of the corner is an overhung crack. Surmount the bulge and follow the crack around to the front face and follow to a terrace (20m). Either walk off leftwards or continue up easy but pleasant rocks to the summit of the dome (25m).

Lumside Phew – 40m E2 5c. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th July, 1996.

To the right of The Lum is a red wall. Start directly below a shallow groove near the left-hand end.

1. 10m 5c. Climb up the wall and groove to make the crux moves (thin) left into a scoop. Continue to a ledge.

2. 30m 4c. Climb straight up, then left across The Lum to surmount some poised blocks, then straight up the slab to the terrace.

Questionable Crack – 65m H. Severe 4b. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 9th June, 1996.

To the right of The Lum is a red wall split by a crack at its right-hand end.

1. 25m 4b. Climb the crack to an awkward landing and then more easily to the stance below the shallow red corner.

2. 15m 4a. Climb the steep corner to the terrace.

3. 25m. Either walk off left or continue up easy but pleasant rock to the summit of the dome.

Pink Wall – 25m Diff. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 3rd May, 1996.

The upper right wall of the right-hand dome offers numerous routes up to Diff. in standard, the best line being approximately central.

RAVENS CRAG:

N. Hodgson and B. Williamson climbed four routes at V. Diff and Severe on a 10m crag about 500m north-west of Ravens Crag (sheet 19, M. Ref. 793 716). A photo was supplied.

LOCH TOLLAIDH CRAGS, Creagan Dubha (sheet 19):

This is the collection of gneiss crags overlooking Loch Tollaidh, just off the road on the south side of the Gairloch to Poolewe road a short way before the turn-off to Tollaidh Crags at Tollie Bay on Loch Maree. The hillside is named on the OS Map as Creagan Dubha but the crags are best referred to collectively as Loch Tollaidh Crags. They are reached by a 10-15 minute walk across boggy ground passing the northern end of Loch Tollaidh where there are stepping stones across the outflow, the Tollie Burn. There are a number of places to park just off the road at the northern end of the loch – don't try the track which leads down to the boats at the lochside unless you fancy grounding your car.

From the road, four main bands/escarpments can be seen running diagonally south westwards (left to right) up the slope, away from the road. The Main Band is closest to the road, with Bands 2 and 3 lying just behind. To the right of The Main Band, there is a collection of crags, The Inlet Area, most of which face the road, grouped close to a narrow inlet on the loch, the lowest of these lies just to the right of the inlet. A few routes showed signs of others having pottered about here.

THE MAIN BAND:

Closest to the road, this is the main band of crags, running from the first crag, the Eyrie Wall, away up rightwards to The Laraig Wall on the skyline, identifiable by the large block just out from its base.

THE EYRIE WALL (M. Ref. NG 8495 7828):

This is the first crag reached after crossing the outflow from the loch and walking across the flat, boggy ground. Unfortunately, there is a large eyrie sitting in the middle of the crag blocking one of the main lines and thereby preventing development of the central section. The right edge of the crag is formed by a fine 40m slab – a metal stake at the top of the slab would tend to indicate that the slab has been climbed.

The following four routes are tightly packed together at the left-hand end of the crag, up the slope, left of the eyrie.

Rushed-up – 20m HVS/E1 5a. R. and C. Anderson. 21st July, 1996.

The flaky groove at the left side of the wall.

Slowed-down – 20m E2/3 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 21st July, 1996.

Immediately right of the groove, climb the edge and continue up this to some protection before pulling round right and continuing to a thin crack which leads to the top.

Squeezed-in – 20m E4 5c. R. and C. Anderson. 22nd July, 1996.

Eliminate in the upper part and bold in the lower section. Start in a shallow recess with a crack, climb up, step right, then go up a thin crack (RP1 and Stopper1) to the jug on Boldered-out. Climb directly up a vague crackline between the routes on either side with good gear in Slowed-down.

Boldered-out – 20m E4 6a**. R. and C. Anderson. 22nd July, 1996.

The thin crack up the right side of the wall. Boulder directly to the crack at 5m, then climb this to the top.

On the section of cliff right of the eyrie there are two short, right to left-slanting cracks starting at ground level, then two grooves just before the fine 40m slab marking the right end of the cliff. Stake belay at the top of the slab.

Super Sleuth – 40m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 8th August, 1996.

Climb the short left-hand crack, then step right and follow the ramp-cum-groove of Semi-Automatic all the way up right onto the edge of the crag. A slim groove on the crest leads to heathery ground, then the top.

Semi-Automatic – 40m E4 6b**. R. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson, C. Anderson. 8th August, 1996.

The right-hand crack. Start at the base of the left-hand crack and climb boldly up to the right-hand crack. Follow the crack to a ramp cum-groove and go up this to near its top. Move left to breach the bulge and continue directly above to reach heathery ground on the crest which leads to the top.

Feathering The Nest – 40m E5 6a**. R. and C. Anderson. 16th August, 1996.

This route climbs the groove just left of a short groove leading onto the slab marking the right side of the crag. Climb to the bulge (nut in dubious rock in groove – back-up Friend or large nut, high on left in obvious crack), pull up onto the right wall, then move up into the groove. Step left and climb the groove to the slab, which leads easily to the top.

THE EWE WALLS (M. Ref NG 8493 7824):

An area of slabs and walls just to the right of the Eyrie Wall, before the slope rises to The Gairloch Wall. From the top of the routes a heathery ramp leads back down rightwards to the base of The Gairloch Wall.

Ewephoria – 30m VS 4c**. R. and C. Anderson. 8th June, 1996.

The fine, dark coloured, narrow slab at the left side of the crag is climbed by a central line, protection is scant but there when required.

Ewereka – 25m E1 5c*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th June, 1996.

Around to the right is a corner with a small holly tree part way up it. This route climbs the thin crack which springs from above a small roof at the start, passing just left of the holly tree.

THE GAIRLOCH WALL (M. Ref. NG 8491 7820):

Lying just to the right, this wall is located above a slight rise in the slope, just above

some large boulders. Undercut at its base, the cliff has a vertical wall at its left side and a ramp slanting up rightwards from beneath the undercut section. The base of the crag is sheltered from the elements.

Balding Oldie – E6 6b 35m**. R. and C. Anderson. 19th May, 1996.

The left-hand line on the vertical wall at the left side of the cliff. A flake-line springs from a slanting break at half height. Stopper 1s and small wires essential. Stand on an embedded flake and climb to a good but hollow sounding hold (good RP1 deep in slot to right). Stand on the hold (sideways RP3 on left – bombproof Stopper1 in slot on right) and continue directly to the break. Gain the flakeline and a poor, tied-off PR, then make a hard move to reach a crucial nut placement in the base of a small undercut directly above, similar sized placement in horizontal slot just on right. Continue directly up the thin crack, small wires, to pull over onto easier ground leading to a belay just below the top.

El Passe – 35m E5 6a**. D. Cuthbertson, R. Anderson. 12th May, 1996.

The obvious crackline up the right side of the vertical wall, a slime streak springs from a niche at the start. Swing right into the niche, from good holds, PR and back-up nut in hold in niche, and continue up, then left to reach the break. Step right and climb the crack to easier ground leading to a belay just short of the top.

Old El Pastits – 35m E6 6b***. R. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson (both led). 11th May, 1996.

The obvious undercut crackline up the middle of the leaning wall. Pull into the crack and awkwardly place a crucial Rock 6 above the obvious slot, then continue to a point at mid-height where a span across left gains a jug and a good nut placement just above. Pull up right, then climb the crack to the top and pull over onto easy ground. Either belay here, or continue easily up left to the belay of the previous routes.

Conquistador – 35m E7 6c/7a***. D. Cuthbertson. September, 1996.

The crackline immediately to the right of Old El Pastits. Stickclip the peg and try to climb to it, then past it to a breather before tackling the vague crack in the leaning headwall.

Aging Bull – 35m E4 6b**. R. and C. Anderson. 26th May, 1996.

The thin crack which cuts through the bulge above the start of the slanting ramp. Gain the crack after a bouldery start, then follow this through the bulge and on up the groove to easy ground.

The Imposter – 35m E3 5c/6a*. R. Anderson. 26th May, 1996.

Just right of Aging Bull is a short hanging groove in the lower wall leading to the ramp and a thin crack in the headwall. Bouldery moves gain the groove and then the ramp. A good wire on the right protects the first pull onto the rock, after which each of the moves can be protected with small wires. Move up the ramp a short way, step left onto the wall and climb to easy ground. The thin crack provides some protection but the holds are on the wall to the right.

Avoidance – 35m E1 5b. R. And C. Anderson. 18th May, 1996.

Start immediately to the right of The Imposter below some jugs. Gain the jugs by bouldery moves, then move up right into the niche of Zig-Zag. Move up and left around the roof, then go right onto the edge, avoiding the block above, and climb directly to the top.

Zig-Zag – 35m HVS 5a. R. and C. Anderson. 18th September, 1995.

The right end of the crag is formed by a pleasant-looking rough slab, this route takes a line immediately to the left. Climb a short corner up left to a niche, move right and surmount the roof, then move left onto the edge and climb to the top.

Rough Slab – 35m VS 4c*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th September, 1995.

The slab at the right-hand end of the crag via a central line.

THE CURRA WALL (M. Ref. NG 8490 7815):

The extension of The Gairloch Wall is a low band of steep rock which is useful for bouldering on. There is a slabby upper tier.

RED ROCKS (M. Ref. NG 8490 7810):

Immediately right of the Curra Wall is an area of fine reddish rock, beyond which the crag merges into the hillside before rising up towards the Laraig Wall. The base of the crag is a bit boggy in places.

Crack Bush Chimney Route – 30m VS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 17th September, 1995.

Crack and chimney at the left end of the crag, passing a holly.

Scarlatina – 30m E2/3 5b*. R. and C. Anderson. 17th September, 1995.

Bouldery moves lead directly onto a ledge just right of Crack Bush Chimney Route. Move right, then up and left to the roof. Continue up the crack above.

In The Pink – 30m E1 5b**. R. and C. Anderson. 17th September, 1995.

The obvious crack in the middle of the crag, awkward to start.

Red Faced – 30m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 17th September, 1995.

The next crack just around the edge to the right leads to a finish, either up the easy wide groove, or the arête and slab.

Rouged-up – 30m E3 5c*. R. and C. Anderson. 17th September, 1995.

Line up the wall immediately right of the crack.

Flushed-out – 30m E1 5b**. R. and C. Anderson. 17th September, 1995.

The crack, groove and slab at the right end of the crag

THE LARAIG WALL (M. Ref. NG 8482 7785):

This crag, visible in profile from the road, lies higher up at the far right end of The Main Band, beyond where Red Rocks merges into the hillside. A huge shattered block lies just out from the base of the crag. Opposite this block is a small alcove, occupied by a split boulder. Routes are described from here. The left side of the small alcove forms a blunt rib with a steep slab leading to a roof on its left. There are two routes on this side wall.

Brush-Off – 25m E2 5b*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th August, 1995.

Climb up the left edge of the slab, close to heathery ledges on the left, then up a slim corner and out onto the wall to make an awkward finishing move to reach easier ground leading to the top.

Rain Drain – 25m E2 5b*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th August, 1995.

Climb the centre of the slab to the roof, move right, then out left and up to the next roof. Move out right and climb cracks to the top.

The following routes lie just to the right of the alcove.

Heave-ho – 25m E4 6a*. R. and C. Anderson. 12th August, 1995.

Climb the thin crack just right of the split block, pull through the roof and continue up the crack to the top.

Lean-to – 25m E3 5c. R. and C. Anderson. 13th August, 1995.

The leaning, cracked groove immediately right of Heave-ho is climbed steeply to easier ground and a deep crack leading to the top.

Push Over – 25m E1 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 12th August, 1995.

Just right of *Lean-to* is a short leaning crack whose right side forms a pedestal. Climb a short crack on the right to a holly bush, pull out left onto the pedestal and climb the groove above. Easier cracks lead to the top.

The following routes lie a short way further right. Just beyond some roofs is an attractive smooth bulging wall. The first route climbs the right side of the smooth wall.

Peek Practice – 25m E4/5 6b**. R. and C. Anderson. 13th August, 1995.

Just above ground level at the right side of the smooth wall is a small overlap, on the right of which is a short groove with a small boulder at its base. Climb the groove, then move right to an alcove and go up left with difficulty to easier ground. Go a short way up a slabby groove, climb to a recess under a roof, then pull out left through the top of this and continue to the top.

Intrusion Zone – 25m E1 5b**. R. and C. Anderson. 13th August, 1995.

Immediately to the right of *Peek Practice* is a reddish coloured intrusion running up the wall. Climb this, pull out left and continue above by a short groove and easier slabby ground.

The next route lies along at the right-hand end of the cliff just before some slabs where the rock merges into the hillside.

Reddy Ribbed – 25m VS 4c**. R. and C. Anderson. 13th August, 1995.

Just right of a heathery crack is a short V-groove. From the top of the groove pull out left and climb the rib to easier ground and the top.

BAND 2:

The line of crags running parallel to and about 100m behind the main band of crags, overlooking a flat boggy area – The Meadow. They can either be reached from the left side of the Eyrie Wall, or from the right side of Red Rocks. The crags and the routes are described from left to right.

SIREN SLAB (M. Ref. NG 8515 7820):

This is the obvious large, steep slab which lies at the left-hand side of this band, set back and a little higher than the rest of the crags. Buttock Buttress on Band 4 lies just behind it.

Lorelei – 35m E4 5c*. R. and C. Anderson. 16th June, 1996.

A line up the middle of the slab. Good climbing but somewhat marred by having to dodge about a bit to get gear. Start at the lowest rocks and climb up, then left to a heathery ledge beneath a short groove in the middle of the wall. Climb the groove to a good hold, small wires right and left, then run it out, up, then left and back up right to a thin break, good small wire (RP3 sized) just below break. Move across left to a break with fail-safe gear. Now, either move straight up to a diagonal crack, or go back right and up to another thin break for gear, before coming back left and up to the crack. Move up left along the crack and finish straight up.

Alternate Finish: – 5c. From the start of the diagonal crack near the top, step right and climb straight up passing some thin horizontal breaks which take gear, including a Rock 4 on its side and an RP3 in the top one.

Strip-teaser – 35m E4 5c**. R. and C. Anderson. 15th June, 1996.

The very thin right-slanting crack, right of centre on the slab. Start at the lowest rocks and climb straight up to a heathery ledge below a shallow groove/flakeline just right of Lorelei. Climb this, stepping right for gear, then go up and around the leftside of the obvious overlap to reach the thin crack which leads to a bulge just below the top. Pull out, up left to finish more easily.

Temptress – 35m HVS/E1 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 15th June, 1996.

The right-slanting crackline which leads to the right edge of the slab. Start as for Temptress and climb up and slightly right to pull into a short groove with a crack in it. Continue to the overlap, go around the right side of this and climb the crack to a finish up the easy edge of the slab.

THE CLOICHE WALL (M. Ref. NG 8510 782):

The wall some 50m to the right of Siren Slab, from which it is set slightly farther forward and lower down. The crag appears to incline to the right with slanting faults either side of it.

Pump Action – 40m E3 5c**. R. and C. Anderson. 8th June, 1996.

The obvious groove and crack which slants up rightwards.

White Fright – 40m E4 5c*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th June, 1996.

The shallow quartzzy groove just to the right. Move up and boldly right into the base of the groove which leads with interest to easier ground.

BOOR BUTTRESSES (M. Ref. NG 8509 7815):

Two small but steep buttresses down the slope a short way right.

FEOIR BUTTRESS (M. Ref. NG 8508 7810):

The bigger buttress a little farther right, steep at the bottom and slabby above. The steep lower face is split by two obvious cracklines which finish beside each other.

Rock Bottom – 40m E3 5c**. R. and C. Anderson. 17th August, 1996.

The left-hand crack which springs from above a wet streak. Either finish up the slabby rib of Zeazy Top or find another easy line to the top.

Zeazy Top – 40m E3 6a**. R. and C. Anderson. 17th August, 1996.

The right-hand, z-shaped crack, then the slabby rib above.

THE THOLL WALL (M. Ref. NG 8504 7802):

This crag sits at the right-hand end of this line of crags. It lies just behind Red Rocks and is best reached by crossing the slope just beyond that crag and cutting across The Meadow to it. A tall, reddish coloured wall is cut by a number of prominent cracklines.

Buena Vista – 40m E2 5b**. R. and C. Anderson. 18th September, 1995.

The prominent vertical crackline which lies immediately right of a crackline springing from a series of soggy sods of turf.

Malpasso – 40m E3 5b**. R. and C. Anderson. 18th September, 1995.

Move up onto the ledge just to the right of Buena Vista and boldly climb the short initial wall to better holds and protection. Climb the vague crack in the wall, step right to another crack and continue to the top.

BAND 3:

This is the highest level of crags, on the left. Viewed from the road, the tops of the crags form the left-hand skyline. The crags are described from right to left.

BUTTOCK BUTTRESS (M. Ref. NG 8528 7820):

This is the right-most crag on this band, lying just below the highest point on the left-hand skyline (208m). It is best reached from Siren Slab, which it lies just above and behind. Smallish looking but clean, the crag is split into two halves by a diagonal fault, a steeper left half and a less steep right half.

The Drying Game – 20m E2 5b*. R. and C. Anderson. 25th May, 1996.

The shallow, chocolate coloured groove at the left side of the crag.

Inclement Proposal – 20m E1 5a*. R. and C. Anderson. 25th May, 1996.

The thin cracks in the wall immediately right of Fair Enough, leading to a thin slanting crack, passed on the left, at the top of the crag.

Dangerous Lesions – 20m E5 6a**. R. and C. Anderson. 25th May, 1996.

A line straight up the middle of the wall. Start at the foot of the fault. Pull left onto the wall, then gain a break beneath the left side of a small roof and pull around this to enter a shallow groove. From the top of the groove a Black Diamond Steel 5, or possibly an RP5 and then a good RP2 can be awkwardly placed on the right. Continue up, then right to good but hollow sounding holds. Above is a small triangular feature with a thin crack taking a good Stopper 1, or similar. Place this, then reach holds from where a more satisfying nut can be placed high in the crack up on the right to protect the moves up to easier ground.

CHEEKY SLAB:

Just left of Buttock Buttress is a small slab of clean rock split into two parts by a central crack. A few lines were soloed on this slab by unknown climbers on 24th July, 1996.

THE INLET AREA:

These are the crags grouped around the head of a narrow inlet on the loch. Most of the crags face directly toward the road.

THE RECESSED WALL (M. Ref. NG 8472 7796):

This wall is located just to the right of the Inlet Wall from which it is a little higher and set back a bit. Although it can be reached by scrambling rightwards up heather from beneath that crag it is best reached by following the path up from Red Rocks towards the Laraig Wall, then cutting across right and climbing up past the level section at the top of the Inlet Wall to a level section above slopes which descend to the top of the wall. Just to the west a shallow gully/ramp descends between slabby ribs to meet heathery slopes cutting back right to beneath the wall. The first route lies on the slabby rib running up the left side of the descent gully, facing up.

Descent Gully Rib – 20m Severe. R. Anderson. 24th July, 1996.

Climb a shallow groove in the lower buttress, then climb the slabby rib to the top.

The next three routes take lines up the centre of the fine wall and are described from left to right. A large boulder lies at the base of the wall.

Hollow Heart – 25m E3 5c**. R. and C. Anderson. 24th July, 1996.

The obvious central line, starting at the boulder. Make a move up a thin crack, then pull out left to flake holds and continue up to reach the left side of a ledge girdling the wall at one third height. Move up, then right to the base of a line of flaky holds and follow these to the top.

Simple Mind – 25m E3 5c**. R. and C. Anderson. 26th July, 1996.

Start as for Hollow Heart and climb straight up the thin crack to a good hold and good protection with a poor RP 3 just above. Gain the girdling ledge, move right,

then up to a junction with Hollow Heart. Move up right and climb the obvious line just right of Hollow Heart.

Tortured Soul – 25m E2/3 5c *. R. and C. Anderson. 26th July, 1996.

Start to the right of Simple Mind where a diagonal crack slants up right at the base of the crag, a black streak comes out of a small hole above. Climb to the hole, good protection, and climb the wall just to its right to reach the girdling ledge. Step left, then pull up right and climb up to the right side of a block type feature at the top of the wall just right of Simple Mind. Finish up the edge of the wall.

WEE LOCHAN CRAG (M. Ref. NG 8450 7800):

This small crag lies low down, just beyond the small inlet on Loch Tollaidh. It lies in front of the Recessed Wall and slants in the same direction as the crags in the other bands. After crossing the river, go a short way towards The Eyrie Wall, then rightwards across boggy ground and around the head of the small inlet. A short slope leads up right to where the crag becomes visible around the corner. The rocks are low to start and increase in height rightwards. The crag is in two sections, with the right portion set back a little. The start of this right section is denoted by a corner with embedded blocks at its base. A tiny lochan lies out from the base of the crag.

Left-hand Section:

Solo – 10m VS 5a. R. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

In the centre is an obvious flakeline. Pull out right onto this and climb it to where it goes heathery, then climb thin cracks straight to top.

Duet – 10m HVS 5a*. R. Anderson, 1996.

Climb the centre of the steep wall just to the right of the flakeline.

Trio – 12m Severe. R. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Just right of another flakeline, easy rock slants up right, before the crag turns the corner. Climb this a short way then go straight to the top.

Right-hand Section:

This is in two parts, a left and a right, with the central area being heathery and less high. The first four routes lie on the left side of this section, all climbing to the highest point.

First Amendment – 20m VS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Start just right of the embedded boulders at the foot of the corner. Climb thin cracks just right of the corner, then slant up and right to the top.

Second Charge – 20m E2 5b**. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Start in the centre of the wall beneath a small curving overlap. Climb to the overlap and gain a short left slanting crack. Move left up the crack a short way, then climb directly to the top.

Third Degree – 20m E1 5a. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Just right of the previous route, climb past the left side of a right slanting crack to a blunt spike, then up a thin crack. Move up left to a jutting block type feature and climb straight to the top.

Fourth Dimension – 20m HVS 5a*. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Climb the right slanting crack to gain a spike, then up a short, shallow right-facing corner and on directly to the top.

The following three lines lie on the highest piece of rock on the right side of the crag.

One Up – 20m HVS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Start in line with the crack in the headwall. Climb a dark streak with flaky holds for 3m, step right and continue over a small overlap and on directly to the top using the crack.

Two Down – 20m HVS 4c*. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Climb straight up the middle of the wall.

Three Across – 20m HVS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 20th May, 1996.

Gain a small overlap, pull left around this, then up and slightly left and on directly to the top.

CREAGH MHOR THOLLAIDH, Farm Crag (sheet 19, M. Ref. 859 785):

Go about 200m down the Tollie farm track (park here) and walk up the stream for about 300m to the crag, which overlooks the stream and is nice and clean, particularly Spider Corner.

Spider Corner – 30m VS 4c. N. Hodgson, B. Williamson. 15th June, 1996.

Follows the main corner system half way along the crag. Go straight up the corner passing a couple of overlaps.

Westie – 30m H. Severe 4b. N. Hodgson, B. Williamson. 15th June, 1996.

Follow the crackline left of Spider Corner round an overhang and up to slabs, which are followed to the top.

BEN LAIR:

Bat's Gash – 220m V,6. F. Bennet, J. Fisher. 2nd January, 1997.

Follow the summer route throughout. Two through-routes not described in the guide were used, the first requiring a partial undressing. Passing the chockstones on the third pitch constituted the crux (well protected). Some of the sections are so recessed they hold little snow, however a route of great character.

Dragon's Lair – 240m V,6. F. Bennet, J. Fisher. 3rd January, 1997.

The first obvious line right of Wisdom Buttress. Climb Cavity Chimney to the large snow bay – Wisdom Buttress takes the left fork. Climb the right fork in three sustained pitches, a narrow off-width section and an overhanging chockstone were avoided by moves on the right wall. Exit right at the chimney's conclusion finishing up an easy snow ridge. A good winter climb.

BEINN DEARG MOR:

Central Buttress – 240m V,5. C. Cartwright, I. Stevens. February, 1995.

A winter ascent of the summer line. Enjoyable climbing with amazing ambience, coming out virtually on the summit of Beinn Dearg Mor. The crux may be crossing from Shenavall over the burns at the head of Loch na Selga, the level of which can rise and fall rapidly later in the season.

AN TEALLACH, Glas Mheall Liath:

Rhoddies Fault – 150m III. E. W. Brunskill, H. Ellen. 28th January, 1995.

The route is situated on a north-facing crag at the bottom of the eastern spur of Glas Mheall Liath and takes the obvious icy fault line up its centre. Poor protection and belays.

LOCH BROOM (West):

The following two routes gave roadside ice, five-minute walk-in and unique views.

Dutch Courage – 150m II/III. D. Whalley, McPherson, Holland. 7th January, 1996.

GR on Sheet 20, 169 860.

1. 30m. Steep ice to ledge below ice pillar.
2. 35m. Climb pillar and up to bay.
3. 25m Scramble up the river bed, then a short pitch.
4. 35m. Two steep steps and a ramp.
5. 25m. Scramble to top and descend by the left-hand side.

Heavy Handed – 90m III. D. Whalley, Holland. 8th January, 1996.

GR on Sheet 20, 162 874. Just visible from the road, this icefall is hidden by the village of Letters. A black garage marks the starting point to walk in. Walk up to the left shoulder and traverse in via a faint path to a bay.

1. 30m. Start up thin ice and tree belay on the right.
2. 25m. Climb up more thin ice to the left of 'The Icicle', traverse past this (quite tricky) to a fallen tree belay on the right.
3. 35m. Climb 'The Icicle' direct, short-lived fun, warthog runner in turf. Continue up another short steep icefall to the top.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)

SGURR NA MUICE, North-East Face:

Swine Fever – 150m III,4. J. R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 24th November, 1996.

This is the leftmost of the lines on the North-East Face, being a well-pronounced gully/groove blocked by a vertical wall. It lies to the right of Piglet and can be approached either as for that route or (as on this ascent) via the lower snow ramp of Sty in the Eye. Interesting climbing which is not sustained; excellent belays.

1. 15m. Climb over a short bulge.
2. 25m. Continue up the gully/groove to the blockage.
3. 20m. Step down and traverse across the smooth left wall (crux). Continue up the groove in the arête to a flake belay.
4. 45m. Above are two grooves. Climb the left one to an inset stance.
5. 45m. Step left and climb up to a snow ramp, cross this and trend right to climb steeply up a rib which forms the left edge of a very narrow slot which runs straight up the crag.

Sty High – 190m III. G. Cullen, J. R. Mackenzie (alt.). 29th December, 1996.

A direct line up the left side of the face taking a line between Swine Fever and Sty in the Eye. Follow the left-hand couloir to the lower barrier and take the left-trending ramp as for Sty in the Eye (40m). Climb the ice bulge on the left and gain the snow ramp above. Belay at the base of the left-hand of two grooves about 12m right of the wider entrance of Swine Fever (30m). Climb up this groove, up an interesting slot and step right to belays higher up (45m). Continue up the groove to a small overhang, turned on the left to another which is turned on the right via a spike. Continue up another steepening with chockstones (45m). On the left is the final slot of Swine Fever; instead take the interesting rib to the right which has an awkward bulge (crux) and continue more easily to the top (30m). Pleasant and varied climbing which is not sustained.

Gammon Gully – 100m II. G. Cullen, J. R. Mackenzie (alt.). 29th December, 1996.

This narrow gully lies on the right of the face and well left of Pigsty Gully. Either climb up the right-hand couloir and traverse right or descend from the little col below the summit and descend the slopes to trend right across a ramp to gain a bay with short, steep groove lines. The gully lies on the left of the bay and is sometimes

bottomed by a sheet of blue ice. It can also bank up in full conditions. On this occasion the ice sheet led to the gully which gave copious ice.

STRATHCONON, Scatwell River Slabs:

Note: A. Matthewson notes that he considered The Joust (SMCJ 1994) to be nearer E1 5b, and the best route on the crag (the older routes seem to have reverted to their natural state).

Creag Dubh (Map Ref. 280 515):

This steep north-west facing valley slope has four burns that in periods of frost form discontinuous icefalls of more than 150m. A sustained moderate frost produces the most ice.

Allt Mhairi – III.

This is the burn to the left (north-east) of Creag Dubh and usually sports one good 30m ice pitch. It forms much less readily than the burns on Creag Dubh itself.

Centrefall – IV. J. Burns, S. Travers. 1986 or 1987.

In the middle of the face there are two prominent narrow streams. Centrefall takes the less prominent left-hand one over ice pitches to below the top icefall which can be seen from the road falling from the summit rocks and facing right. This gives 50m of ice with three near vertical sections, providing the crux of the route and offering excellent climbing.

Rightfall – III.

This lies just to the right and usually forms more readily. A series of icefalls of between 10m and 20m leads to the summit. A short traverse left then leads to the top icefall of Centrefall.

CREAG GLAS, West Face:

The pitch gradings for Salamander (SMCJ 1996, p79) should have read 4c 5a 4c/5a (5b) 4a 4c 4b.

FANNICHS, Carn na Criche:

Blood on the Tracks – 200m IV, 6. F. Bennet, J. Fisher. 28th December, 1996.

Start between The Boundary and the left end of the crag at an obvious open chimney. Climb the chimney in two sustained pitches, mixed, to a snow bay on the left. Climb up to an overhang and climb it direct (crux) exiting right on to easier ground. Follow open slopes to the upper finishing gully.

BEINN DEARG, West Buttress:

West Buttress – IV, 5. J. Currie, E. Lawson. 10th February, 1996.

Based on the summer route. Start at the base of the rib which separates the two starts of Penguin Gully, below a crack bounded on its left by a curious curl of rock.

1. 45m. Climb the crack steeply to gain the rib. Follow it to belay below an overhanging corner-crack.
2. 25m. Climb the corner-crack and crest above to below a concave wall.
3. 45m. Climb the wall just right of centre (crux), then follow the rib to its finish where the dog-leg start of Penguin Gully comes in from the right. Move right along an obvious diagonal ramp to gain the buttress proper.
- 4 etc. Thereafter follow the crest of the rounded buttress. 50m from the top the buttress levels and a short tower bars the way. Climb the tower by an obvious corner/groove, then continue easily to the top. The tower can also be bypassed on the right.

Windpipe – 55m V,6. J. Currie, A. Crofton. 19th February, 1996.

This route climbs the obvious chimney-fault tucked into the right-hand side of the bay where Vanishing Shelf starts. Rucksacks should not be worn.

1. 20m. Climb the fault easily until it steepens.

2. 35m. Continue up the fault and climb the squeeze chimney (crux) until below an impressive roofed niche. Exit easily out right. Abseil, move into Penguin Gully on the right, or scramble to the top.

Coire Lair:

Troubled Waters – 70m III. A. Nisbet. 27th December, 1996.

The frozen waterfall above Loch na Still at Map Ref. 292 812.

Note: The gully on the crag below Loch Prille at Map Ref. 287 813 was climbed by A. Nisbet on 27th December, 1996 but contained only one short pitch, Grade II.

Cadha Dearg:

The following routes are situated on the North West facing cliffs opposite Meall Glac an Ruighe, encountered on the right side whilst descending into Gleann a' Chadha Dheirg from the head of Coire an Lochain Sgeirich.

The following two routes are situated on the continuation cliff (Map Ref. 272 862) round the corner from the north-facing cliff containing Geddes's Gully and Captain Patience. The cliff is then split by a broad gully/slope before commencing to taper off to the right.

The Mercy Seat – 130m VII,6.

C. Cartwright, S. Campbell. 29th December, 1996.

The left hand of the two obvious ramps trending right to left, the apex of which forces a swing onto the face containing Geddes's Gully.

1. 25m. Climb the ramp on steepening turf, trending left, to belay at a short groove.

2. 25m. Continue up the ramp, staying to the left, then trend right back to the main corner line leading up to a ledge cutting the right wall and an inconspicuous but good belay. The corner above and to the right is a tempting belay point but not recommended.

3. 20m. The corner above curves left to become a capping roof. Climb the ramp trending left to its apex. Make hard, airy, committing moves up and around the cap, pulling on the North face, and then up steep heathery ground before gaining a spacious ledge.

4. 30m. Climb the deep groove above, choosing the right hand option where the groove splits. Where this peters out surmount perched blocks on the edge of the buttress, pulling back on to the North West face. Easier climbing leads to a belay below the final short wall, overlooking Ruighe Ramp.

5. 30m. A series of short, turfy steps leads to the top.

Ruighe Ramp – 120m IV 4.

B. Goodlad, C. Cartwright R. Clothier. February, 1995.

The right hand of the two obvious, broad turfy ramps dominating the North West facing cliff of Cadha Dearg.

1. 2, 3 – 90m. Climb the obvious ramp in three meandering pitches to belay on the headwall overlooking the ramp.

4. Surmount headwall by devious, airy, but reasonable rocky ramps.

The next two routes are situated on the cliff (Map Ref 271 860) to the right of the broad gully/slope.

Looking Glace Gully – 50m II.

D. Harvey, A. Faulk. 29th December, 1996.

Obvious, second easiest gully right of centre of crag.

Judas Gully – 50m III.

D. Harvey, A. Faulk. 29th December, 1996.

Less obvious gully just to the right of Looking Glace Gully.

ALLADALE, Meall nam Fhuaran, NE Face:

Parasol Route – 100m III. D. J. Allan, A. Todd. 9th February, 1991.

The short right-hand icefall at the north end of the crag.

The Fhuaran Shroud – 270m V,5. D. J. Allan, B. MacKenzie. 27th December, 1993.

The obvious steep icefall and shallow gully above, up and right of Campsite Cleft and below and left of Parasol Route.

An Socach:

Summit Gully – 200m II. D. J. Allan. 7th April, 1990.

The prominent gully in the corner of the corrie and leading to the hill's summit with three ice pitches.

Smear Test – 150m VS 4c. D. J. Allan, B. Mackenzie. 23rd May, 1993.

Takes the left-hand of the two left-facing corners right of Snowdrop. Start right of Snowdrop and climb into the corner. Go up this halfway, then traverse right to the arête and on to a slabby wall. Continue above by thin slabs. Four pitches.

RHUE SEA CLIFFS:

Rhue-Rhapsody – 25m E4 6a. W. Moir, G. Latter (on sight). 21st September, 1996. Climb grooves up the left side of the prow. Pull over an overhang and go rightwards under the massive roof, finishing up a crack on the right side of the prow.

The following routes were received, but have been climbed many times by locals, hence the names are omitted. 200m inland from the first climbing area is a clean compact crag with several obvious lines. This provides a good alternative to the sea cliffs when a high tide is running, and offers a number of routes in the easier grades. The outcrop catches the sun and has generally excellent protection. Routes are 8m long and described from left to right.

1. V. Diff. The obvious corner-crack.
2. V. Diff. Starting 1m right of Crack Wun, follow the crack past a small ledge.
3. V. Diff. The blunt arête, easier than it looks.
4. HVS 5a. Climb the centre of the wall just right of Rhue Arête.
5. VS 4c. The chossy-looking wide crack with an awkward exit.
6. VS 4c. The obvious right-slanting crackline.
7. H. Severe. Climb the slightly grubby crack right of the last route, with an exit left at the top.
8. M. Severe. Just right again, the crack and triangular pod on the broken arête.
9. E2 5c. On the right-hand side of the buttress is an obvious hanging groove above a crack, taken by Groovy. Start at the crack and follow it up and left over the arête.
10. HVS 5a. The hanging groove is easy after an awkward start.
11. HVS 5a. Follow the right-hand shallow groove, starting from the right end of the block.

BEN MOR COIGACH, Sgurr an Fhithleir:

Castro – 180m VS. D. J. Allan, B. MacKenzie. 13th June, 1993.

The right-facing corner 70m left of The Magic Bow. Follow the obvious fault to the bottom of the corner which is mid way up the face. Climb the layback corner, 25m, 4c, crux. Continue right below overlaps. Continue up the corner via a layback up a flake etc.

Nero Gully – 250m II. D. J. Allan. 18th February, 1994.

This climb is in the small corrie one mile SE of Sgurr an Fhithleir and is the second from the left of the four gully lines. 60m of water ice, then snow.

Note: I. Taylor sends a revised description for Nose Direct Route. There are a number of variations in the middle section which have been taken both summer and winter and it seems an unsuitable route for a pitch-by-pitch description.

STAC POLLAIDH, West Buttress:

Fear of Flying – 40m E6 6a. G. Latter, W. Moir. 22nd September, 1996.

A direct line breaking through the apex of the prominent roof at the right side of the wall. Start at the same point as Expecting to Fly, at a vertical tongue of heather. Move up to follow a flake and shallow grooves over a bulge to a small ledge beneath the roof. Follow the tiny groove using a good edge on the lip on the right to reach a good hold, then slightly right to a good flake and reasonable rest (2 PRs at foot level in diagonal break on left). Shuffle left and climb direct above the PR's past small sidepulls (RP #3 3m above PRs) to good rounded holds. Traverse diagonally left on rounded holds to finish up an easy crack.

No. 2 Buttress, Upper Buttress:

Pretty Pollaidh – 35m HVS 5a. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser. 14th May, 1996.

At the left side of this buttress is a wide chimney, the route. It is better than it looks, with some good, if thrutchy climbing.

REIFF, Stone Pig Cliff:

Clatterbridge – 20m E5 6b. P. Tattersall. 17th May, 1996.

The smooth black concave wall right of Strongbow. Start right of centre of the wall below a ragged crack. Climb easily to a large ledge (which can be reached by abseil at high tide). Climb the ragged crack to a horizontal break, move up and left to the next horizontal break. Tricky moves gain the right-hand end of a higher break, move slightly left (small Friends), then direct past two more breaks to reach the top.

POINT OF STOER (Map Ref. NC 023 356):

The prominent cliff clearly visible 600m north of the Old Man. The cliff and more particular its neighbours are inhabited by a thriving seabird population. The Great Corner is less affected (by fulmars), but Haramosh is only really climbable outwith the nesting season.

Descent: Make a 45m abseil from block at top of The Great Corner to large platform just above the high tide mark.

The Great Corner – 50m Severe. P. and M. Ross. 1995.

Gain the main corner by the obvious diagonal left-slanting line of small corners on the right (25m). The corner (25m).

Direct Start – 25m E1 5b. G. Latter, C. Murray. 14th June, 1996.

Start under the prominent left-slanting V-groove left of the original start, (halfway down the slabby ramp leading to the base of Haramosh). Awkwardly up the groove

to exit left onto ledge by a diagonal crack. More easily up rightwards to belay at the base of the main corner. Useful to avoid fulmars on the lower pitch.

Haramosh – 55m MVS P. and M. Ross. 1995.

A great little route taking the slabby left-trending corner 12m left of The Great Corner. Descend the slabby ramp to a lower platform at the base of the corner.

1 35m 4b. Follow the corner to a ledge below some roofs.

2 20m 4c. Make 'a very exposed scary looking traverse' right under the roof. Right of the roof go up a little groove and traverse back left above the belay, then direct for 3m (past fulmar's nest) to finish.

BEN KLIBRECK, North-East Face of Creag an Lochain:

Crampon Cleft – 200m II. D. J. Allan. 4th February, 1996.

The right branch of the Y-shaped cleft on the left side of the corrie. 150m of water ice, then snow.

The Breck – 200m III.4. D. J. Allan, B. MacKenzie. 31st December, 1992.

The prominent gully in the corrie centre and with a cave halfway up.

Don's Downfall – 250m IV.4. D. J. Allan, G. Cumming. 24th February, 1994.

The steep left-facing corner and icefall right of The Breck.

Route 3 – 250m III. B. MacKenzie, G. Cumming. 3rd January, 1994.

The shallow right-facing corner and buttress right of Don's Downfall and left of Anniversary Gully.

Anniversary Gully – 250m II. D. J. Allan, B. MacKenzie. 31st December, 1993.

The obvious gully at the right side of the corrie.

West Face:

The Fox – 100m III.5. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. 3rd February, 1996.

A winter line on Eyrie Buttress. Start at an obvious stepped chimney in the centre of the lowest rocks. Climb the chimney (crux). Follow the crest above in three pitches to the top.

CREAG AN SGRIODAIN (Sheet 15 Map Ref. 351 341):

This interesting crag lies close to the east end of Loch More in Sutherland and a five-minute walk north from the A838, which has limited parking in laybys opposite the crag. Despite a rather vegetated air the crag is both bigger and better than it looks, having much clean rock lower down with heather ledges higher up but clean rock in between. Some of the routes are well worth climbing being in the sun for most of the day and very quick drying. It is composed of a very compact schist which is curiously eroded into shallow pockets and horizontal breaks. The climbing is mostly on flat or incut holds giving routes which are much easier than their appearance from below would suggest. Protection is often scanty or well spaced and mostly limited to camming devices. Descents are to the right. The routes are described from left to right.

Western Front – 100m HVS*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown (alt.). 17th September, 1996.

The crag is highest to the left and presents an apparent edge. To the right is a tree-filled gully/groove. Between the two a slim ramp cuts up the lower rocks. Start at a vertical wall with a prominent hold below the ramp and beneath a clean sweep of slabs above.

1. 40m 5b. The problem start is to get established on the slab above the prominent

hold (crux). Continue straight up the fine slab which gives good delicate climbing to gain the ramp. Climb this to the top and then up more vegetated rock to belay just right of a bay with small trees.

2. 25m 5a. Continue into the bay and take the thin slabby ramp up right to gain the tree-filled gully and tree belay. A serious pitch.

3. 35m 4a. Traverse out on to the right wall from the gully and climb the clean rippled slab heading straight up to a headwall. The headwall is taken steeply and slightly to the left in an exposed position on good holds.

Friends Essential – 85m E1*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown (alt.). 29th August, 1996. The best feature on the crag is a pronounced silvery rib on the right of the crag and at its lowest point. Start on the edge immediately left of a recessed scoop.

1. 25m 5a. Climb the edge to trend back right above the scoop towards a small platform, old peg runner, vital Friend 1 below. Step back left round a rib and climb the unprotected crux slab to a patch of heather below a small tree.

2. 35m 4b. Step right on to the rib and climb up a crack to an easing on the edge before climbing the steep lichenous edge on good flat holds to a final clean slab and belays above by a flake.

3. 25m. Continue up the much easier rib above which avoids heather.

Absent Friends – 70m VS. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown (alt.). 12th September, 1996. Start a couple of metres right of the toe of the rib.

1. 45m 4c. Climb up to a short vertical crack. Continue on good rock keeping near the left edge of the rib to meet a heather mantle. Continue up on rock and lichen to gain the edge and clean slab of *Friends Essential* and belay beside the flake.

2. 25m. Finish as for *Friends Essential*.

To the right is an overhang-topped bay with a steep clean rib on the right with a beak-like overhang high up. The holds here are incut and the routes more strenuous and better protected, giving exhilarating climbing on rock which is easier than it looks.

Predator – 40m VS**. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie (alt.). 12th September, 1996. An excellent climb that has a most fierce appearance. Start at the back of the grassy bay.

1. 20m 4c. Traverse right on a heather ledge and climb the fine white slab to the overhanging headwall. Step left to a block and surmount this to a curved crack. Traverse back right (crux) to the lip of the beak in a great position.

2. 20m 4a. Step right and climb the exposed arête on excellent holds.

Raptor – 55m E2*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown (alt.). 12th September, 1996.

Start at the foot of the grassy bay to the right of *Predator* below a short overhanging chimney.

1. 35m 5c. Climb the chimney on gigantic holds to gain the white slab. Climb the slab to the headwall. Step right to below a thin crack and climb the overhanging wall to its right to a difficult mantle on to the floor of the beak.

2. 20m 4a. Continue up the overhang above and finish as for *Predator*.

Scavenger – 60m E1**. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie (alt.). 17th September, 1996. Another good climb taking in the best positions.

1. 35m 5b. Climb *Raptor* to the headwall but instead of climbing the wall, move up right into a scoop to the right of the beak (crux). Continue up the groove to belay on the floor of the beak.

2. 25m 5b. Step left and climb a wall to a loose ledge and traverse left (care with

loose blocks) to below the roof with a hanging corner above. Climb up to and over the roof on sound rock in a tremendous position.

CREAG AN FHITHICH (near Kinlochbervie; Map Ref. NC 258 538):

Gaff – 25m HVS 5a. N. Wilson, N. Stevenson. 27th June, 1996.

Climbs the prominent diagonal crack in the grey wall at the left end of the crag. Start at a steep groove right of the crack. Climb the groove, then the crack to finish left of the vegetated niche at the top.

Gropist's Boulevard – 30m E2 5c. Climbs the obvious right to left diagonal line across the steep central red wall. Start right of the obvious black swirl and follow the fault to its end. Belay on vegetated ground above. Low in its grade.

EILEAN NA H-AITEAG:

Swim Two Birds – 25m VS 4c. S. Campbell, N. Wilson. April, 1995.

Start as for Pebble Dash. Traverse left below the roof; continue up a corner to a ledge. Step left and finish by a short steep crack. For the full experience, observe that the tide has come in, abandon all climbing gear and swim ashore.

SHEIGRA, First Geo:

Turning left at the bottom of the descent is a small steep red buttress (containing Second Option – VS) and the following two routes.

Wind Frazzled – 10m E3 6a. I. Taylor, T. Fryer. 13th June, 1996.

Start just left of a large white boulder and climb a line through a number of roofs, finishing with an awkward pull out left.

Note: Here and Now (1996 SMCJ, p 82) has been reconsidered as E6 6b (not E5).

Short and Crappy – 10m E2 5c. T. Fryer, I. Taylor. 13th June, 1996.

Start just right of the white boulder and climb a groove, keeping to its left side.

Second Geo:

Dolphins and Whales – 30m E4 6a. G. Latter, P.T. horburn. 16th June, 1996.

The pocket-infested wall above the slabby corner of Shark Crack. Belay higher up the slabby lower ramp of Shark Crack, beneath the centre of the wall. Follow a line of huge pockets diagonally leftwards to a break running across the centre of the wall. Continue up in the same line to a huge pocket just right of the arête. Move up to a good finger pocket, then head out rightwards to a good vertical slot. Directly above on better holds to a sloping finish. Many large friends useful. The final short crux wall could be avoided by escaping up the left side of the arête, giving a superb E2 5b.

Treasure Island Wall (From right to left):

Pieces I've Ate – 35m E3 5c. G. Latter, C. Murray. 13th June, 1996.

Start from near the left end of a tapering reddish ledge just above the high tide line, opposite the north end of the long rocky ridge that forms a narrow turbulent inlet along the base of the right side of the crag. (Spike belay, or nut belay 5m up and R if tide high). Climb a line of pockets just right of the prominent thin crack to some sharp pockets on the right. Move hard left to better holds, then direct to a small ledge. Continue much more easily in a fine position up the rib midway between two shallow grooves above.

Billy Bones – 55m VS 4b. G. Latter (solo). 13th June, 1996.

Continuing farther left is a large low ledge system which peters out.

1. 30m. Traverse diagonally left then up on huge pockets to a steepening near the

top. Step left and up to a ledge. Continue up the shorter right-most of two black corners to a large ledge above.

2. There is a choice of lines to finish, with the best looking a quartz crack in the slab.

Long John Silver – 45m E2. G. Latter, K. Martin. 16th June, 1996.

Start from the left end of a lower, narrower ledge, beneath a flake system just left of a thin crack system (often wet). A sparsely-protected pitch.

1. 25m 5b. Up the flakes and good pockets to good incut holds in the tiny left-slanting ramp. Move slightly right and up to large ledge.

2. 10m. Scramble up right to below a small wall.

3. 10m 4c. Climb on good holds near the right side of the wall, past a spike on the right near the top.

CREAG RIABHACH:

Jackercrack – 165m E1. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. 19th August, 1995.

An entertaining route for the traditionalist involving chimneys and off-widths. Used on pitch 5 were a Camelot 4, a car jack (Halford's Big Jumbo) and large hexes (9,10,11). Start 20m left of the central bay at a dirty chimney with a parallel left-facing corner 5m to its left.

1. 25m 5b. Climb the left-facing corner. Exit left below an overlap and up a rib to belay in a grassy niche.

2. 20m 4b. Climb the corner behind the belay, then scramble across a terrace to belay below an open chimney.

3. 20m 4c. Climb the excellent chimney to a good stance.

4. 25m 5a. Climb the narrowing chimney above, through the roof to a good ledge.

5. 30m 5b. Climb the widening corner crack to grovel on to a grass ledge at its top. Escape out right. Climb up leftwards past a small roof to belay.

6. 45m 4a. Corners and slabs above lead to the top.

FOINAVEN, Creag Dubh:

Gully of the Dogs – III. S. Campbell, N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. 31st December, 1996.

The huge gully left of NE Buttress, splitting the crag. Numerous short pitches, including a cave pitch.

Creag Coire na Lice (Map Ref. 330 491):

Original Route – 80m VS 4c. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. 24th June, 1996.

Climbs a chimney line towards the left end of the terrace, left of a huge wet dripping area. As seen from the lochan at Map Ref. 330 493.

1. 45m. Start below the prominent chimney-slot at the top of the crag. Aim for this via a rib, groove and short left traverse. Belay in the base of the chimney.

2. 35m. Climb the chimney to the upper terrace. Escape by scrambling up right.

CREAG NA FAOILINN:

God Slot – 170m H. Severe. N. Joss, J. Walker, N. Wilson. June, 1995.

To the left of Monkey Gull is an obvious deep slot in an area of multi-coloured rock. Climb loose rock, vegetation, bluebells etc. to this slot. Slither up the slot (crux). Continue upwards to easier ground.

CREAG SHOMHAIRLE:

The Flying Fensman – 100m E2. J. L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. June, 1995.

Start beneath an obvious cave 50m right of Harrier.

1. 35m. Climb the rib to the left of a grassy ramp to the foot of a small wall. Climb to belay 5m below and left of a large cave.
2. 30m 5c. Make hard moves leftwards over the wall and on up a slab to a small cave. Exit the right end of this cave to reach a spike. Stand on this and make thin moves on to and up the small slab above. Climb a short groove and move rightwards and climb another groove, awkward and sustained.
3. 35m 4c. Continue up slabs, climbing a steep crack, to a tree belay at the start of easy ground. Abseil, or climb the jungle above (150m).

The Black Crack – 75m E1. J. L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. June, 1995.

Well to the right of *The Flying Fensman* is an obvious slanting crack.

1. 25m 5a. Climb the crack to before it trends left.
2. 25m 5b. Continue up the crack/chimney to slabs.
3. 25m 4c. Traverse left over the slabs, then up into the forest. Abseil off.

BEN LOYAL, Sgor Chaonasaïd, North Face:

The Great Game – 300m V,5. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. 4th February, 1996.

A direct line. Start by following the line of a stream issuing from a large gully in the centre of the face. Follow this, then break out left to gain the base of the rocks. Start near the centre of these overlapping slabs at a large spike below right-trending turf ramps.

1. Climb a zigzag line through the slabs for 30m to a belay at an undercut groove.
2. Traverse up and right to the skyline, then follow easy mixed ground into the central depression below the headwall. Belay below and left of a prominent left-facing corner.
3. Climb into the corner, then back left to a parallel groove. Go up this to exit right and finish straight up.

BEINN CEANNABEINNE:

In the Land of Mince and Tatties – 30m E2 5c. I. Taylor, T. Fryer. 14th June, 1996.

At the right-hand side of the crag is a discontinuous crackline. Climb brittle pink rock to gain the crackline and follow it to the top with minor deviations.

CREAG ARNABOLL (Sheet 9, Map Ref. 461 596):

Thin Boy – 25m VS 4c. S. Myles, N. Wilson. June, 1995.

Climb the obvious open-book corner, traverse right across the wall below the roof and finish up the arête.

Lightning Crack – 20m VS 5a. J. L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. June, 1995.

About 8m right of *Thin Boy* is an obvious jagged crack. Not sustained.

SKERRAY SEA CLIFFS (Sheet 10, Map Ref. 669 632):

These crags lie to the east of Skerray. Park up a small side road, on the bend of the road, just beyond a gate. The climbing is in three main areas, all lying to the NE. Walking over the brow of the hill to the NE, the first area reached is a geo with a smooth slabby east-facing wall. The routes are as follows:

Unnamed – 30m H. Severe 4b. N. Wilson. June, 1987.

Starting from the high tide mark, climb the cleanest area of rock.

Unnamed – 30m H. Severe 4b. R. Wild, N. Wilson. 1985.

There is a broken scrappy corner halfway along the slab. Climb the slab to its left. Access by abseil.

Unnamed – 30m VS 4b. R. Wild, N. Wilson. 1985.

Climb the slab to the right of the corner over a steepening at one third height. Access by abseil.

The next area reached is a grassy prow with the remains of a wall visible at the neck of an isthmus. The prow contains a large east-facing red cliff, with a prominent grassy cone at the base. Access either by scrambling down a stream to the east, or abseiling off the in situ peg set in a boulder well back from the cliff edge (placed in 1992), or use the wooden stake.

Rumblefish – 45m VS 4c. A. Forsyth, N. Wilson. April, 1992.

Just to the left of the base of the grassy cone is an obvious slot. Climb this and continuation grooves, slanting left, before breaking out right at half height.

Asthe daygo Zawn – 30m E1 5a. S. Campbell, J. Walker, N. Wilson. April, 1992. From the top of the grassy cone, pick a line trending slightly left to the top.

Walking farther east, one comes to a picturesque area bounded on the west by a narrow ridge with a small sea arch, and on the east by a larger promontory, also with a sea arch. Most of the routes are in this area (plan provided). Routes described NW to SE, from fin tip to inland. Access by abseil, except the first route.

Unnamed – 15m Diff. N. Joss, J. Walker. August, 1996.

Climb the east face of the obvious fin.

Wee Arête – 20m H. Severe. A. Forsyth, N. Wilson. April, 1992.

Climb the slabby arête at the start of the main section of the cliff.

Angens Corner – 20m HVS 5a. A. Forsyth, N. Wilson. April, 1992.

The corner to the left of the previous route.

Whale Arête – 20m VS 4c. A. Forsyth, N. Wilson. April, 1992.

Climb the arête to the left, delicate at first.

Monks in the Gym – 25m HVS 5a. S. Campbell, J. Walker, N. Wilson. September, 1992.

The pink wall immediately to the left of the previous line gives a tremendous route.

Wall of Attrition – 25m E2 5b. J. L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. April, 1995.

Start as for the following route, then swing across the roof to the right, utilising a small spike, and continue up the steep wall above.

Arch – 25m Diff. S. Campbell, J. Walker, N. Wilson. September, 1992.

Climb the obvious left-slanting grooves to finish above the arch.

Cradle Snatcher – 15m Severe. Same party as for Arch.

The corner to the south of the arch.

Native Tongue – 15m HVS 5a. As above.

The thin corner-crack to the left. Excellent.

Farther SE is an east-facing smooth cliff with a chimney towards its NW end. Again, access by abseil. Next four routes by S. Campbell, J. Walker, N. Wilson in September, 1992.

Unnamed – 25m HVS 5a.

Lies just to the right of the chimney.

Unnamed – 25m HVS 5a.

Just left of the chimney.

Unnamed – 25m Severe.

Climb the easier area of rock.

Unnamed – 25m E1 5b.

The smooth wall to the left of the previous route, crux at one third height.

Farther east, the rock is less friendly. There is a pink and black streaky wall facing west. The smooth corner at its left end gives the following route, the best here. The pink slab to the left of the east sea arch gives Pink Slab, 25m, V.Diff, by S.C., J.W., N.W., Sept 1992.

Ishmael – 35m E2 5c. N. Stevenson, N. Wilson. 27th August, 1995.

A superb sustained pitch up the huge corner in the prow of the buttress. Climb the corner to the capping overhangs. Move right and up a loose groove to finish. Large selection of micro wires essential.

ORKNEY Mainland, Castle of Yesnaby:

Yes Please – 25m E3 6a. M. Fowler, J. Freeman-Attwood, C. Jones. 19th July, 1996.

The route takes the flying finger crack in the seaward edge of the stack. Start from a sloping ledge at the seaward end. A very fine pitch. Start on the right-hand side. Move up and swing round to the left-hand side on a good hold (poor peg runner). Climb boldly up right to a resting place on the arête. Follow the strenuous finger crack on excellent rock through an overhang and up a final overhanging hand jamming crack.

HOY, St. John's Head:

M. Fowler and C. Jones note a free and one-day ascent of Original Route on 15th July, 1996. There was one pitch of 6a.

Rora Head:

Action Replay – 55m E3. C. Jones, M. Fowler. 16th July, 1996.

Takes the front face of the buttress just round the corner from Rosamund's Birthday. Approach as for Rosamund's Birthday and walk easily round the corner. Start just right of the arête.

1. 20m 4c. Climb sandy corners and breaks to the right of the arête, then make an awkward traverse right to the base of a groove which marks the right-hand side of a black bulge.
2. 20m 5c. Climb the groove and its capstone. Move up to flakes on the steep wall above (rest point) and then climb diagonally left to reach a ledge at the foot of another groove.
3. 15m 5b. Up the groove to the top.

Roarer – 40m E1. M. Fowler, C. Jones. 16th July, 1996.

Takes the right-hand prominent crackline in the east-facing wall of Gully 3. Approach by abseiling down the gully to a line of ledges leading out to the foot of the crack.

1. 10m. Traverse the ledge system leftwards to belay where it ends.
2. 30m 5b. Step up and hand traverse leftwards for 3m to gain the crack. Follow it to the top. A good pitch.

The Berry:

Beri beri – 220m XS. M. Fowler, C. Jones (alt.). 17th July, 1996.

The route lies up the huge red wall which forms the skyline edge of The Berry when viewed from the clifftop above The Needle. The approach given is that taken by the first ascensionists and is only possible for a couple of hours either side of low tide. Abseil directly into the sea from an stake (in situ) and swim across the narrow geo

to ledges on the far side (as for The Needle). Continue traversing at greasy 5b to reach exposed boulders. On the far side more greasy 5b leads to tunnels leading through the next buttress. Continue until an awkward diagonal abseil from a poor peg (in situ) is necessary to gain exposed boulders. Walk through the arch/tunnel to gain the next bay. The route is now clearly visible. On the far side of the bay a surprise geo cuts deeply back into the cliff and necessitates a 25m swim to gain ledges which lead easily to beneath the route. Scramble up to the start of a crackline just right of the left-bounding arête.

1. 25m. Climb up through an awkward overhang to a ledge beneath large projecting plates of crenellated rock.

2. 25m. Tackle the difficult overhangs above via the right-hand weakness. Move back left and continue up the main fault line to more overhangs. Traverse 5m right to belay.

3. 25m. Move up right from the belay, traverse right and break through a further band of overhangs to gain a grass ledge.

4. 25m. Make a rising traverse rightwards across slabs and climb a short awkward corner forming the left side of a prominent block. Belay on the block.

5. 25m. Steep pulls above the belay lead to ledges. Climb up and left to belay directly beneath a prominent overhanging corner capped by a bomb-bay chimney (this is about 15m right of an obvious crackline close to the arête).

6. 10m. Climb up to and aid (about 4 points) a short overhanging red bulge to gain the foot of the corner proper.

7. 25m. Climb the corner to the seriously overhanging upper section (leader used some aid to rest/clean – second free climbed). Use 3-4 points of aid, the last one being a very fortuitously-positioned natural chockstone, to gain the outer edge of the bomb-bay chimney which leads quickly to a stance.

8. 10m. Climb easily up right to the foot of a prominent grey corner.

9. 30m. Up the corner to the roof, then traverse left across the unprotected wall to a small ledge. Make a series of strenuous moves to reach a ledge.

10. 20m. Move back right into the grey groove and follow this to the top.

CAIRNGORMS

LOCHNAGAR, Central Buttress:

White Wizard – 120m V,6. S. Richardson, S. Venables. 29th November, 1996.

A worthwhile mixed climb to the right of Sciolist, finishing up the fine hanging V-groove on the left edge of the square-topped tower just below the pinnacles on Central Buttress. Start at the foot of Shallow Gully.

1. 45m. Move up for 10m, trend right along a narrow ramp and continue in the same line up turf and snow to a stance below the left of two steep fault lines, about 15m left of Shallow Gully.

2. 45m. Climb a short steep groove and continue over a steep bulge. Trend up and right over easier ground to the foot of the square-topped tower.

3. 30m. Climb the V-groove on the tower's left edge, and pull over the capping roof on the left. A sustained pitch in an excellent position. Continue up Central Buttress to the plateau.

Shadow Buttress A:

Doldrum – 75m VI,7. B. S. Findlay, G. S. Strange. 27th December, 1996.

The right-hand of the three groove lines on the lower buttress. Go up short steep walls to a ledge with good belay cracks on the right (20m). Climb awkwardly to gain

a large pointed flake in the left-facing corner. Continue up the corner and make a hard turfey exit out left to reach and climb a ramp to belay right of the shallow continuation groove (25m). Traverse right, climb the narrow chimney of Vortex, then go up left to another ramp and the Spiral Terrace (30m).

Note: An ascent of Shadow Buttress B by starting up Raeburn's Groove, then taking a diagonal line right to join Bell's Route at its crux moves, was thought to be the most aesthetic line at V,6 by J. Currie and G. Robertson, February 1997.

Black Spout Pinnacle:

The Extremist – 40m E5. W. Moir, P. Allen, J. Lines. 16th June, 1996.

Start just right of Nihilist Direct Start.

1. 18m 6b. Climb an awkward corner/ramp, then make hard moves up and right to gain the obvious niche. Continue up the steep crackline to belay above the overhanging wall.

2. 22m 5b. Continue in the same line up twin cracks veering leftwards to join, and finish up, the final corner of An Saobh-Chreideach.

Steep Frowning Glories – 155m E5/6. W. Moir, N. Morrison (alt. on sight). 21st July, 1996.

Start 5m up from Black Spout Wall.

1. 14m 5c. Climb a crackline up a pillar (just left of a shallow corner) to a ledge.

2. 18m 5c. Continue up the crackline to a roof. Go left under the roof and pull out to ledges leading left to the Black Spout Wall belay.

3. 18m 6b. Go back right along the ledge and climb cracks up rightwards, gaining the pedestal beneath the roof-crack from the right. Climb the roof-crack, belaying just above (full set of Friends up to 4 desirable).

4. 45m 5c. Climb the continuation crack and corner just left of the belay and continue up to join Black Spout Wall at the slabby shelves, moving right to gain the arête which is climbed to belay beneath the gable-end wall.

5 and 6. 25m 5c, 35m. As for Black Spout Wall to the Pinnacle crest.

Note: The Existentialist was repeated by N. Morrison, grade confirmed and thought outstanding despite a persistent wet streak in the initial groove.

The Stack:

The Undertaker – 115m VII,7. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 10th November, 1996.

A superb natural line, taking a left to right rising traverse across The Stack with a sensational finish up the right edge of the buttress. Start in Black Spout Left Branch, about 10m below the start of Crumbling Cranny, where a horizontal shelf cuts across the impending right wall of the gully.

1. 40m. Follow the shelf for 10m to a steep step. Climb this and continue traversing right to a stance on the edge of the buttress directly above the fork in the Black Spout.

2. 15m. Climb the line of cracks on the right to join The Stack at the 'alcove above the jammed boulders'.

3. 40m. Step down 3m and gain the lower of two traverse lines. Follow this for 15m to steep left-facing corner. Climb this to an exit on a slab, then move up and diagonally right to the cave belay of Torquing Corpse.

4. 20m. Move right up a curving shelf, transfer to an upper shelf to reach a small exposed niche on the right edge of the buttress. Move steeply up and left (crux – bold and wild) to reach a turfey groove which leads to the top.

Black Spout Buttress:

Queue Jump – 80m IV,5. G. S. Strange, B. S. Findlay. 10th November, 1996.

A variation start to Black Spout Buttress on the side wall opposite the Black Spout Pinnacle. Go up an obvious easy ramp alongside the Black Spout, then climb up and slightly left following short walls and narrow ramps to gain the crest about 25m below the level section of the normal route.

The Stuic:

New Boot Groove – 90m III,4. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 19th January, 1997.

Start just right of The Stooee Chimney and follow the line of turf grooves with several steep steps to easier ground and the top.

Bathtime Buttress – 70m II. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 8th December, 1996.

The buttress just left of centre on the north-east face of The Stuic. Start up a short groove left of a prominent 30m pillar, then move right and up to reach the crest and the top.

Plug Groove – 70m III. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 12th January, 1997.

The icy depression in the centre of the north-east face. Climb a groove on the left side of the depression to a belay on the left (40m) and continue up easier ground on the right to the top.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Central Gully Wall, Frontal Face, 'The Buff Slabs':

The following routes lie in the area of clean rock between Dragonfly and Caterpillar Crack. All give excellent, if bold climbing, finishing on The Caterpillar. All follow faint cracklines and are most easily described going right to left from the base of Caterpillar Crack. Another useful and interesting point of reference is the large arch or hole at the base of the cliff, formed by a huge exfoliating flake. Until an abseil point is established, Stark and Naked require an exit up and right into False Gully.

The Holiday Boys – 30m E3 5c *. N. Morrison, N. Ritchie. 15th July, 1996.

The faint rightmost crackline, reaching Caterpillar Crack just below the first rock section, is climbed in its entirety. Runners (RPs) appear just when you really need them. Descend Caterpillar Crack. Climbed on sight.

Naked – 50m E4 5c**. N. Morrison, N. Ritchie. 16th July, 1996.

The next line left, starting right of the hole, passing the right side of a steeper red wall and finishing up a cracked red headwall. The crackline is followed with moves up a slab on the right to gain the base of a steepening (a traverse left and step down to a lower slab provides a good runner). Climb the steepening using a hollow hold and move boldly up left to cracks and a left-slanting ramp. A short corner (Friend 0 on left at the top) and crack in the headwall lead to The Caterpillar. Cleaned on abseil.

Stark – 100m E3*. N. Morrison, J. Wilson. 27th July, 1996.

This route is based on the twin crackline/seam starting at the left side of the hole and passing the left-hand side of the steeper red wall. Start 5m left of the hole at a small red corner.

1. 20m 5b. Climb the corner on to a bold rippled slab, then cracks on the right until a traverse right leads to a belay below the twin cracks.
2. 30m 5c. Climb the twin cracks, initially up a corner, to bolder moves on to the slab above. Belay below the upper wall; an awkward step up is required to place gear for this. A superb pitch.

3. 50m 5b. Step left from the belay, then move up to follow the junction of the slab and wall to a nose (as for The Prowl). Go up the nose and corner above to gain a belay on The Caterpillar.

Climbed on sight, the obvious direct start awaits a lightweight team while a true finish requires drier conditions and the attentions of a scrubber.

North-West Gully Buttress:

Baal – 50m E4. W. Moir, J. Lines (alt.). 15th July, 1996.

A direct line starting as for Jezebel.

1. 10m 5c. Climb jugs rightwards through the overhanging wall, as for Jezebel.
2. 20m 6a. Climb Jezebel cracks direct with a final move up and right from the top of the left-hand crack to reach a good break. Traverse left to belay in the big corner.
3. 20m 6a. Climb the thin crackline up the arête above and the continuation flake curving right on the the bare slab-arête which leads to a belay. Easy to the top.

Forte Declivite – 55m E5. W. Moir, N. Morrison, J. Wilson. 27th July, 1996.

A quick-drying direct line through the Sous Les Toits buttress. Scramble up the first pitch of The Caterpillar to belay by a dark seep patch.

1. 30m 6b. Go over the bulge and climb the right-slanting corner to join Sous Les Toits. Move left up twin cracks, then pull out right on to a shelf beneath the big A-shaped roof. Climb the roof, going up to its apex and pulling out left. Go across the slab rightwards to gain a layaway hold at the base of the groove. Make bold moves up into the groove and continue to belay at a good slot below some flakes.
2. 25m 4c. Go up the flakes to a heather ledge. Step left and climb twin slabby cracks to belay at the top right end of the buttress.

Note: From D. Wright. The original winter ascent of Pink Elephant (SMCJ 1994, p483) is to be renamed Chuchulain in honour of the late Norman Keir.

Note: From N. Morrison. Baal repeated and thought to be E5 due to the nasty ledge waiting below the crux on the second pitch. Jezebel is normally climbed in three pitches to avoid rope drag, the first being to the belay at the base of Late Night Final corner. The Crowd on the Diamond Slab should be 6b for pitch 1. Howff Dweller climbs a right-facing corner, not left as described in the Guide.

EAGLE'S ROCK:

Numbod – 80m III,5. G. Robertson (unsec). 2nd January, 1997.

A good, but highly escapable, route following the four-tiered icefall immediately right of Green Gully, approximating to the line of Nimrod. The second tier is the steepest, a short free-standing finger of ice.

DRIESH, Winter Corrie:

The Vice Squad – 150m V,6. P. Thorburn, A. D. Robertson. 5th December, 1996.

Climb an obvious 30m icefall on the buttress right of Easy Gully (probably done before), then 80m of easy ground to the foot of the steep cracked buttress between the two branches of Easy Gully. The wide left-trending diagonal crack leads to a recess which is passed with difficulty (crux). The off-width above is laybacked precariously to easier ground.

Sun Rock Blues – 165m IV,5. A. D. Robertson, J. Currie. 5th January, 1997.

Ascends the obvious cracked, stepped pillar to the left of Wiggle. Start below the line at a small rock pedestal.

1. 40m. Climb the crackline past three steep steps, the middle providing the crux, to a good ledge.

2. 45m. Climb directly behind the belay on turf to reach a steeper corner which leads to a small cave.
3. 35m. Traverse left 3m beneath a steep wall, then climb directly to easier ground.
4. 45m. Easy mixed ground leads to the top.

Note: A steep direct finish to Wiggle at IV,6 by G. Scott and A. T. Robertson in January, 1997.

CREAG OF GOWAL:

It's Good to Torque – 190m V,7. A. D. Robertson, P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 22nd December, 1996.

Ascends the diamond-shaped slabby buttress about 100m up and right of The Gowk. Good varied climbing, particularly on the crux pitch. Start roughly in the centre of the buttress.

- 1 and 2. 70m. Climb mixed ground to the base of an obvious pair of leftward trending cracks in a steep slab.
3. 40m. Climb the cracks (turf in places, but technical) past two small ledges to a pull-out left into a small left-facing corner.
4. 50m. Continue up, then slightly right to a final steep icy headwall, easiest on the right.
5. 30m. Easy snow to the top.

GLEN CALLATER:

The Bastion – 200m II. S. Richardson. 23rd February, 1997.

A fine natural mountaineering line up the right side of the central bastion – exposed and open. Climb the left-to-right ramp in the lower half of the face, and exit by a short step on to snow slopes. Trend left up mixed ground and to gain a second snow field which curves up and right to reach the apex of the face.

BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire an Dubh Lochain:

The Whip – 110m VII,7. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. 1st December, 1996.

The obvious groove system between The Scent and Bloodhound Buttress, becoming more defined higher up, gives an excellent and serious route following a good natural line. Start 20m down and left from Bloodhound Buttress and climb turfgy grooves up and slightly leftwards past an awkward section at a prominent spike, then continue rightwards up easier ground to belay just below a large recess forming an impasse (40m). Step delicately out right, then continue up past flakes moving left above the level of the recess to regain the groove line and mantle on to a sloping ledge. Continue straight up until a bulge forces moves right to a steep off-width crack which leads strenuously to a short chimney and rest on a Hex 10. The chimney ends immediately above so move strenuously out right to mantle on to a ledge (30m, crux). Make a few moves across right to enter the final groove/gully of Bloodhound Buttress and follow this to the top (40m).

Fever Pitch – 30m E4 5c. J. Lines. 25th June, 1996.

Climbs the clean slab to the right of The Streak. Start directly below the left end of a tiny curving overlap at 8m. Climb up to it, cross its left end and smear delicately diagonally leftwards up a faint line to gain a hold. Stand on the hold, then move up and right to below a large overlap. Pull over this in the centre and finish by scrambling up and right.

Garbh Choire, Squareface Buttress, North Wall:

The face below the Crucible contained four parallel icefalls in perhaps exceptional

conditions. The two regular icefalls directly below and thinner ones either side. Each route had a big 50m pitch requiring ice-screw runners (the rock has few cracks). Descent was easy via The Sneek or the big ramp diagonally down under Squareface.

Pot Luck – 190m IV,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 10th March, 1997.

The thin far left fall running up a right-sloping ramp. Start up the gully as for Gold Coast, then briefly up the left side of its slabby ice pitch until possible to move up left over ribs to the well-defined section of the icefall. Climb the icefall and up to snow left of the Crucible. Traverse rightwards across this to the break in the cornice.

Gold Coast Direct – 180m V,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 10th March, 1997.

The left icefall climbed direct.

Crucible Direct – 180m VI,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 10th March, 1997.

Two consecutive iced grooves in the slabby ground right of the initial gully of Gold Coast led to the right-hand Crucible icefall, climbed direct. Steeper for longer than the Gold Coast icefall, but low in the grade.

Fool's Gold – 170m VI,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 10th March, 1997.

The thin far right fall. Start up iced slabs right of Crucible Direct to gain the icefall. Climb this (on this occasion thin ice covered with crusty snow - serious and scary!) which leads into a left curving groove which enters the Crucible at its extreme right edge (and therefore catches drainage from it).

Mitre Ridge:

West Side Story – 180m VII,8. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 22nd December, 1996.

A sustained expedition taking a natural left-to-right rising line across the West Wall of Mitre Ridge. Start as for Mitre Ridge, Original Route.

1. 35m. Climb Mitre Ridge, Original Route to the top of the initial chimney.
2. 20m. At the top of the chimney take the slanting chimney-slot on the right to gain the top of the first chimney of the Cumming-Crofton Route. Continue across the shallow groove of the Cumming-Crofton Route to a small stance below a corner leading up right on the edge of the West Wall.
3. 20m. Climb the corner to a large ledge (The Chancel pitch 3).
4. 10m. Climb the blank vertical wall just left of centre starting from a short rock spike to reach a stepped series of flat edges leading left to a good narrow ledge (The Chancel pitch 4).
5. 50m. Traverse right for 5m to reach the slanting fault line. Follow this to where it joins the gully of Commando Route. Cross this and continue in the same line up a diagonal fault to beneath the headwall on the west side of the Second Tower.
6. 15m. Climb the wall above to enter a right-facing chimney-corner. Follow this to its top and step left to reach the top of the Second Tower. (Bell's Variation finishes here).
7. 40m. Continue along the crest to the top.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Coire Mor:

Coronet Arête – 120m IV,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 15th December, 1996.

An enjoyable mixed climb up the well defined arête to the left of the upper groove of Crown Buttress. Easier than it looks from below. Start 10m left of the buttress edge.

1 and 2. 70m. Climb easy grooves to where the buttress steepens.

3. 20m. Continue up the corner system above, and belay on a small platform below the steep headwall.

4. 30m. Move up to a ledge, step left and climb a short wall to reach a steep groove on the left side of the headwall. Follow the groove and its continuation to the top.

Cherokee Chimney - 90m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 17th November, 1996.

An excellent technical climb up the overhanging chimney-slot to the right of Little Big Chimney. High in the grade, but easier and better protected than its more imposing twin to the left. Start 5m right of Little Big Chimney.

1. 25m. Climb the chimney over a bulge with a chockstone, to a niche.

2. 25m. Continue up the overhanging slot and short continuation corner to a ledge.

3. 40m. Move up the slabby wall above, and climb the right-hand of two corners to reach easy ground and the top.

Custer Corner - 50m IV,4. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 15th December, 1996. The square-cut corner 20m right of Cherokee Chimney completes the triptych of lines on the steep left wall of Great Gully. Good sustained mixed climbing up the corner leads to an exposed step right at the top to finish.

Great Gully, Right-Hand Finish - 50m III. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 15th December, 1996.

The narrow groove which cuts into She-Devil's Buttress starting opposite the foot of Custer Corner. Climb the groove to a steep exit and pass the cornice on the right. Late in the season the route will bank out, but in these conditions the cornice is likely to be impassable.

Femme Fatale - 120m VI,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 1st February, 1997.

A superb mixed route following the line of grooves on the right edge of She-Devil's Buttress overlooking the prominent corner taken by the original winter route.

1. 50m. Follow easy grooves 20m right of She-Devil's Buttress to below the right edge of the steep upper buttress.

2. 20m. Climb the stepped groove system left of She-Devil's Buttress, Corner Line to a good stance on the left.

3. 20m. Continue up the steep corner on the right and gain a groove on the right arête. Follow this to a ledge, then move up and left to a slabby stance.

4. 30m. Climb short groove for 3m to top of a block, then traverse right to the edge overlooking the corner of She-Devil's Buttress, Corner Line. Climb the narrow groove for 10m to reach a sharp spike. Swing left on to easier ground and finish up a short snow arête to the cornice. An excellent pitch.

Coire Bhrochain:

The Compleatist - 90m IV,6. N. Wilson, N. Stevenson. 10th November, 1996.

Approximately follows the summer line of Braeriach Direct: its relationship with Midwinter is unsure. Climbed in early-season conditions. Start at the lowest point of the crest above Bhrochain Slabs. Climb the slabs to belay on a large ledge. Climb a left-rising ramp above to the crest, then traverse horizontally right to belay left of a prominent slab in a niche. Cross the slab rightwards, climb the left-hand groove above to the crest, then swing right into an overhung niche. Climb the groove above and another on the right to the Terrace.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

Spectre – 90m E1. W. Church, G. S. Strange. 14th July, 1996.

On the rocks right of Pilgrim's Groove (Grey Man's Crag). Start just right of Pilgrim's grassy entry.

1. 45m. Climb an easy slab ramp for about 8m, then go up right to gain a higher ramp. Follow this to an optional belay in a slight bay. Continue up the ramp, break out right and climb slabby rock through a bulge to belay on a large platform at the apex of the lower buttress.

2. 45m 5b. Follow Lucifer Route to the traverse of Grey Slab, then continue up right and climb a rising slab ramp round the headwall to finish at the top of Ferlas Mor.

Grey Man's Crack – 30m E1 5c G. S. Strange, W. Church. 14th July, 1996.

The prominent crack in a left-facing groove just left of Hanging Dyke. Climb the crack to either join the second pitch of Ferlas Mor or, as on this ascent, move out right at a small square overhang to belay on Hanging Dyke.

Rootin' Tootin' Sputin' – 120m III. A. Nisbet. 13th December, 1996.

Climbs a ramp with shallow chimneys tucked in to the left side of the Janus buttress. Follow the ramp and chimneys until it steepens towards the top. Bend right via two awkward short chimneys to reach the crest of the buttress at the plateau.

Note: A. and G. Nisbet made a free ascent of Janus at III,5 on 13th December, 1996.

CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN:

Talismaniac – 40m E4 6a. J. Lines, S. Harper. 4th August, 1996.

Essentially an extended start to Talismanic, which gives a superb bold pitch. Start right of Talisman Direct Start. Climb up the centre of the scooped wall to a bulge. Pull through the bulge to gain an obvious quartz blotch, move delicately right, then up the arête to better holds to join the normal route.

Green-House Effect – 110m VII,7. G. Lennox, D. Alexander. 25th January, 1997. Climbs a version of The Dagger without ice. Climb the first pitch of Stiletto using bulging turf-filled cracks, then traverse right to belay on The Dagger (25m). The Dagger corner to the spike belay (35m, crux). Pull out right and climb a turfy corner (initially same as Scabbard winter) passing two overlaps on their left. Where the corner peters out, step left into the turfy groove of The Dagger. Continue to the top of The Terrace (50m).

CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:

Nathrach Dubh – 100m VI,6. G. Ettle, J. Lyall, J. Preston. 16th December, 1996.

A good direct crackline running straight up the amphitheatre between Boa and The Guillotine. From the terrace the finish can be seen as a W-shaped notch on the skyline. Start just left of The Guillotine and follow a ramp left until possible to break out right and climb the cracks up into the central right-facing corners (35m). Follow the three-tiered corners, the last being the hardest, to below the headwall (30m). Follow the groove, crack and chimney to finish just left of big roofs at the W-shaped notch (35m). Sustained and well protected.

Summer: H. Severe. E. Kane, J. Lyall. 14th September, 1996.

A good top pitch but better in winter.

Snake Charmer – 90m VI,6. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet, E. Pirie 23rd December, 1996.

The back left corner of the above bay, just right of Boa. Start as for Guillotine, then trend left crossing Nathrach Dubh at its middle corner to belay below the final crack of Boa (this is the summer line of Boa, taking the easiest choice) – 55m. Climb a

turfy crack just right of the corner right of Boa for about 10m, then make a short traverse left into the corner and follow it to the top, finishing by a flake and chockstone (35m).

Red Garter – 80m VI,6. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 20th January, 1997.

A faint parallel fault up the wall right of Pagan Slit. A ledge leads right from the base of Pagan Slit ending at a large block. Start 4m left of the block and climb twin cracks to a turf ledge. Move right and up cracks to a big ledge (20m). Climb straight up a shallow slabby chimney and continue up the fault to belay in a gully (25m). Follow the gully and gain Hairpin Loop at the short crack. Finish up this.

SHELTER STONE CRAG:

Consolation Groove – 160m VII,7. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 21st January, 1997.

The original winter ascent climbed all bar 50m of Raeburn's Buttress, where it abseiled into Consolation Groove to climb a pitch. This seems a much better winter version. Start as for Threadbare, at the same place as Rib Tickler, immediately beside the rock column.

1. 40m. Climb the left-hand and turfier of two corners and move left to a ledge (this is the first pitch of Threadbare). Work up and leftwards, keeping immediately under short steep walls until about 6m below the pitch 3 groove of Consolation Groove summer.

2. 30m. Move left and up the right corner of a slab to below a well-cracked overlap. Pull over this to a block and step right to a turfy groove with an overhanging start. Climb this and at its top traverse right to a big flake just left of the Consolation groove. Climb this flake to a second flake, the summer belay and to where the previous winter ascent abseiled. Though a less direct pitch than the summer line (which should be feasible), it contains some good climbing and we were lost.

3. 40m. Continue up the grooves of the summer route.

4. 50m. Move left to finish up the deep narrow chimney of Raeburn's Buttress (as did the original ascent) to the platform.

Central Slabs:

Immortal Start (to Thor and other routes) – 35m E4 6a. J. Lines, R. Campbell. 20th July, 1996.

Start at the left end of the lower slabs at a right-facing corner leading into an arching roof. Climb the corner easily to the roof, pull over and follow a crackline upwards to its termination (RP1 at top). Move right to gain better holds, step up above a small overlap and delicately traverse right to gain a huge loose flake/block on the original route.

Notes: N. Morrison notes an ascent of Run of the Arrow and considers it E6. Also that the E6 opinion outnumbers E5 (*agreed-Ed*). The hammered wire has now disappeared and there is no alternative at this point. A Friend 0 is an important runner for the crux, not mentioned in the Guide.

A free winter ascent of Citadel by A. Cave and Slovak partner in February, 1997. Citadel Winter Variations. The new Guide does not say that R. Anderson and G. Nicoll freed what they considered to be a complete route from Citadel lower crux through to their independent finish.

Western Union – 210m IV,6. A. Cave, G. Ettle, J. Jeglic, A. Stremfelj. 14th February, 1997.

An easy, yet direct, line between Clach Dhian Chimney and Western Grooves.

Follow an easy gully system for 100m to a point where one can move right into a shallow groove. Climb this direct into and up the large chimney which joins Clach Dhian and Western Grooves. Climb directly to a steep cracked groove just right of the deep V-groove of Clach Dhian Direct Finish. Climb this cracked groove, crux.

HELL'S LUM CRAG, Low Slab (SMCJ 1996):

Hell's Gate – 50m HVS 4c. P. Allen, N. Morrison. 14th August, 1996.

Climb the cracks left of Cerberus to easier ground, trend left to finish directly into a right-facing corner.

Notes: From N. Morrison. Pluto was repeated and thought to be 50m, E1 5a.

Cerberus was thought 50m, E3 5c, but perhaps not the same line, as it is possible to move off right after 25m and this ascent continued up and left for a fine finish.

STAG ROCKS:

Bambi – 70m IV,5. G. Ettle, J. Finlay. 18th December, 1995.

The large groove immediately right of Final Selection. Start 5m right of the main groove.

1. 30m. Ascend a few metres to traverse right across a slab to gain the base of the groove. Climb this till it steepens, then climb a thin crack on the slab to the right. A few insecure moves on the rib gain a good ledge.

2. 40m. Climb the corner-crack on the right, moving right to easier ground.

Bambi Variation – 70m IV,5. A. Fyffe, G. MacEwan. December, 1996.

Links the start of Bambi with the finish of Final Selection. Climb Bambi to the foot of the big corner. Climb the corner a short way and gain the steep flake-crack on the left wall. This leads to a ledge and Final Selection which is climbed to the top.

Note: Final Selection is probably IV,5, or even harder.

STAC AN FHARAI DH:

Broad Buttress – 140m III. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 28th December, 1996.

Follows a long shallow fault line up the left side of the broad broken buttress to the left of Narrow Gully.

COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, The Mess of Pottage:

Crystal Gale – 45m V,6. D. Jarvis, D. Sanderson, B. Fyffe. April, 1996.

Climbs the slab to the left of No Blue Skies by the large right-facing corner. Start 3m right of Wachacha Direct Start beneath the right-hand end of the roof. Climb a short wall and sloping ledge leading rightwards into the corner. Follow the corner passing a small cave (roof) on good ice. Follow cracks above and move left into the easy ground of Wachacha. From the small cave, a short traverse right would lead to No Blue Skies.

Aladdin's Buttress:

Original Summer Route, True Finish – 60m IV,6. G. Ettle, B. Goodlad, A. Huntington. 4th November, 1995.

Previously, the summer route extended to the plateau via the steep rib just right of Aladdin's Couloir, rather indirectly. This winter ascent climbed the rib direct with one excursion on the right wall via a doubtful flake.

Fiacail Buttress:

Straight to Jail – 55m V,6. D. Jarvis, B. Ottewell. April, 1996.

Takes a steep groove above the start of Escapologist. As for Escapologist past the

obvious ledge, then move right to gain the steep groove, followed to the terrace. Sustained but on good ice.

White Dwarf – 45m VS 5a. J. Lyall, S. Roberts. 7th September, 1997.

Followed the winter line, except for one short deviation on the left. Much better in winter.

Northern Whites – 35m V,7. G. Ettle, P. Munford. 23rd November, 1996.

Ascends the tapering wall to the right of The Hurting via an obvious roof. From the right-hand end of the wall east ground leads up to a big flake under the roof. Gain the roof and good protection, then traverse left underneath to pull up on to a ledge on the left. Move left 3m to ascend a crack rightwards and a further large flake to finish.

COIRE AN LOCHAIN:

Ventricle – VII,9. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 8th March, 1997.

A free ascent of the original winter line, providing a series of desperate technical, but well protected, problems separated by ledges. The first overhanging groove was climbed by using a thin crack on the right (summer line), then stepping left into it. Ideal conditions; ice in the grooves and ledges was helpful, as was the lack of snow on the smooth walls.

Adventure – 50m V,5. G. Ettle, R. Mansfield. 19th November, 1996.

This route ascends cracks and grooves on the rib to the right of Inventive.

1. 35m. Ascend a short chimney to a step left to gain good cracks. Follow these to steep corners with precarious blocks and climb to ledges.
2. 15m. A continuation groove to finish.

Lateral Thinking – 100m IV,6. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 23rd January, 1997.

A girdle traverse of No.1 Buttress. Start in The Vent immediately above its difficulties. Go diagonally out left on to the buttress and up to the base of the final corner of Inventive. Descend left until under the wide crack of Ventricle. Climb a blocky crack starting from the lip of the Ventricle corner below to gain a ledge on the crest. The ledge has a flake traversed until under the thin crack of Ventriloquist, climbed for one step (crux) to allow a further traverse left into Auricle. A short awkward chimney allowed a continuing traverse, finishing by a short descent into the easy finishing gully of Iron Butterfly.

Minute Man – 100m VI,7. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 25th January, 1997.

Climbs a crackline in the tower left of Appetite for Destruction. Start up Milky Way and belay below the line. Climb an overhanging inverted V-groove and continue up the crack in two stages. A short crest and wall leads to the top.

Rear Entry – 60m IV,6. G. Ettle, A. Hyslop. 7th December, 1995.

Ascends the groove on the right wall of The Couloir, below the narrows. A good early season route, as it will shorten later.

1. 30m. Ascend a steep orange groove to join the crest of Ewen Buttress.
2. 30m. Climb the crest direct over two interesting pinnacles and a short wall to finish.

Migrant Direct – VII,7. W. Garrett, A. Coull. 13th December, 1996.

The huge corner-groove which Migrant avoids. Sustained. Gear adequate but hard to place.

Nocando Crack – VII,8. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 20th January, 1997.

Finally climbed free. The second pitch (previously free) was the crux. The third

pitch was started up a crack in the wall just right of the big flake to gain a back and foot rest, then continuing up the flake to its top and traverse left as for summer.

Siberia – 60m E3. I. Taylor, C. Forrest. August, 1996.

Climbs the stunning arête between The Vicar and The Demon. Start as for The Demon.

1. 30m 5c. Go up for 3m, then step left into a groove and follow it to the roof. Pull leftwards over the roof, follow cracks in the arête and pass the next roof round on the left.

2. 30m 5c. Follow twin cracks until a move left gains the edge. Climb the roof using a flake on its left side and continue more easily to the top.

Never Mind, Mindless Finish – 25m E3 5c. A. Nisbet, A. T. Robertson. 25th June, 1996.

A corner, right of the crest and well seen from the other side of Y-Gully Right Branch, provides an alternative and free finish to the original line. The start of Never Mind is best reached by one abseil from the plateau at the tip of the pillar down the Left Branch side. Below the final pitch, belay just to the right beside a detached pillar. Traverse right round the pillar into a right-facing corner. Climb the corner for about 10m (well protected) past an overhanging section and an unexpected rest until a sloping hold can be gained on the slab out left. Traverse left past a bulge and go up to a scary mantelshelf finish (on the original route).

Transformer – 90m VII.8. G. Ettle, A. Huntington. 16th December, 1995.

Based on the summer route, this audacious line gives an outstanding experience to rank with any.

1. 25m. Gain the groove of Bulgy direct, which is followed to belay at the same level as twin cracks going right.

2. 25m Move right on the arête and follow twin cracks into Savage Slit. Cross a ledge line out right to a step down into Prore. Ascend a wall rightwards to a ledge round the arête.

3. 10m. Traverse right to a large block and descend into Fallout Corner. Descend the right arête to a ledge.

4. 30m. Move right, starting low to traverse a mossy break which eases on to blocky ledges rightwards, crossing War and Peace to gain the roof on Procrastination. Turn this on the right to traverse right to a block belay on Third Man. Abseiled off from here (failed headtorch). Finishing up Sidewinder or continuing right would be easy.

Note: R. Anderson notes that the winter ascent of Inquisition did not involve a rest point. G. Ettle says that he fell off and was lowered to a good ledge. Not knowing whether yo-yoing counted as a rest point, one was declared. Since falling off has not often in the past been declared, it would seem fair if the rest point was ignored. But it is a difficult issue, since rest points could often be missed out by yo-yoing. So can either be left to conscience or a policy can be decided (opinions welcome) but it should be noted that many of the Grade VIIIs have involved a fall (e.g. Guerdon Grooves, Rat-Trap, Needle etc.). R. Anderson's free ascent of Citadel's lower crux (a previous note) also involved a fall and yo-yo, although the rope was pulled through. The free ascent this winter is also rumoured to have involved a fall. R. Anderson also notes that The Executioner was climbed in winter conditions, not snowy but heavily verglassed.

Gaffers Groove: The winter ascent of the summer route was by R. Anderson, P. Long on 6th December, 1987.

Grade opinions (G. Lennox): Prore – VII,8. No Blue Skies – VI,8. Nightline – VI,7.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

With page reference to the guide.

North Doonies Yawn, North Face (p.30):

Rufus – 8m E3 5c. W. Moir. 9th May, 1994.

A slanting roofed corner from the only real platform below the wall.

Fettie Freaks – 10m E3 6a. W. Moir. 7th May, 1994.

The overhanging crackline.

Shady Proposition – 10m E1 5a. W. Moir. 9th May, 1994.

Move right from below Fettie Feaks on to a slab and climb up to a notch via a quartzite layback flange.

Red Rocks, Long Slough (p.37):

Polka Dot – 12m E3 6a. W. Moir, P. Allen. June, 1995.

Start up Blue Dot, then bridge up over the overhang and up a thin crack to reach left and rejoin Blue Dot.

Rednecks – 12m E5 6a. W. Moir. June, 1995.

The arête left of Blue Dot. Start on the right side and climb boldly to a break. Use the thin crack above to gain a little groove and finish more easily.

Liquid Dancing Firelight – 13m E5 6a. W. Moir, G. Elrick. June, 1995.

The undercut knife-edge at the seaward end of the crag. Climb easily up the left side, then traverse right on the lip of the overhang. Swing round and climb the right side of the edge to the top.

Seal's Hole (p.42):

Ello's Desert Island – 20m E3 5b. W. Moir. 26th June, 1996.

Abseil to the flake island to belay at the narrowest gap between the island and the main cliff. Step across the gap and find a way up into the corner above (loose). Pull out right around the prow. Short wall to the top.

Cove, The Priest (p.58):

Invertebrates Wall – 15m E5 6a. W. Moir, P. Allen. 27th June, 1996.

The wall between The Mitre and Spinechiller. Belay at the foot of The Mitre. Start up the initial moves of the corner, then go right along a shelf to its end. Pull up to enter a tiny corner leading to an undercut horizontal crack. Gain jugs above, then go left and climb a groove. A quartzite edge leads to the top.

South Cove (p.64):

Procreation – 33m E6. W. Moir, P. Allen. 11th June, 1994.

1. 18m 6b. Start up Procrastination. Where this route goes left under the small roof, continue up the crackline to gain the perch on Space Rats. Continue up Space Rats over its crux roof to belay.

2. 15m 5c. As for pitch 3 Space Rats.

Existentialism – 25m E2 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen (on sight). June, 1995 (p.65).

Belay as for The Hedonist. Climb a crackline up the slab-pillar to a ledge. Move up the stepped right-slanting corner, then pull left round a rib to finish up an open corner.

Beyond The Fringe – 11m E5 6b. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 10th September, 1994 (p.68).

The wall below Lunatic Fringe. Belay on barnacled ledges below the right arête.

Start briefly up The Waterfront, take the hand traverse break right to the arête and move up to another break. Pull right round the arête on a little flake (crucial RP 3 on right). Layback up to a horizontal break and continue up the quartzzy wall to belay below Lunatic Fringe.

Sickle Row (p78):

Obvious Risk – 15m E4 5c. M. Reed. 9th February, 1997.

Start just left of Mao and climb directly up the wall between Mao and Trunk aiming for a short vertical crack. From this, reach up to a break (crux), then easy to the top. Top-roped then soloed.

The following route was missed out of the guide by the type-setters.

Demokratisatsiya – 25m E4 6a. W. Moir, C. Stewart. June, 1989.

The left-facing corner right of Perestroika is climbed to reach a sloping ledge on the right. Make a couple of moves up, then climb the left-slanting ramp to the ledge of Glasnost/Perestroika. Finish as for these routes.

Findon, Rock Band Cliff (p98):

A steep slab adjoining the Red Band Cliff (to its south) gives the following routes. From left to right. All August, 1994.

Extreme – 12m V. Diff. W. Moir. The obvious crack via a quartz block.

Nirvana – 13m E2 5c. P. Allen, W. Moir. The vague central crackline.

Soundgarden – 13m E3 5c. P. Allen, W. Moir. Overlap and left-facing, left-slanting grey corner.

Stone-Temple Pilots – 15m HVS 5b. W. Moir. Undercut black corner, beak, slab and V-notch.

Orchestra Cave (p.103):

Unchained Melody – 20m E5 6a. W. Moir, N. Ritchie (on sight). 8th October, 1994.

At the right-hand side of the crag at the junction between the pink and black rock is a crack. Climb this to a rest on the slab, then the left-slanting corner above.

Findon contd. (p.104):

Armistice – 25m E2 5b. W. Moir, N. Morrison. 5th August, 1994.

Just left of Armed Conflict is a crack. Climb this, then the thin right-hand crack in the gold wall to ledges. Finish up the slabby arête above.

Pow Kebbuck (New Crag, see map, p.77):

Pow-Wow – 18m E3 6a. W. Moir, P. Allen. September, 1996.

The obvious right-slanting line of the crag. The first 3m are loose. Thereafter excellent climbing up the diedre and roof-crack.

Berrymuir Head (p112):

Visiting Jo – 20m HVS 5a. D. Borthwick, O. Clem. 23rd February, 1997.

Start as for The Notch and climb steeply up to the large recess/cave. Step left under the roof until possible to follow a corner-crack through the roof on delightful holds to the upper steep wall.

Craig Stirling (p.126):

Hell and High Water – 40m E5. W. Moir, P. Allen, N. Morrison. 20th August, 1994.

1. 15m 5c. Pitch 1 of Between the Devil, or Jack Sprat if the tide is in.

2. 25m 6c. Go up from the belay to a horizontal crack. Climb the twin converging cracks and slap for a break above. Pull over and climb the right-facing corner, then veer right over bulges to gain ledges. Move right and finish as for Between the Devil.

The Terminator – 16m E5 6b. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 28th August, 1994.

The wildly overhanging arête right of When the North Wind Blows.

Jeux Sans Frontiers – 20m E3 5c. W. Moir. 19th June, 1994 (p.127).

The twin roof cracks 5m left of Petite Diedre. Continue up twin cracks above and climb the right side of the arête to the top.

John's Heugh (p.136):

Veinspotting – 25m E4 6b. W. Moir, P. Allen. 5th October, 1996.

Start 4m right of Jaded Ledge Lizard. Climb up to a huge hold at the base of the brown scooped corners. Use a layaway here to reach for a good hold up on the left (crux). Continue up the corner and exit left. Follow the obvious line leftwards and up to the top.

Clochindare Crag (p138):

CID Wall – 12m HVS 5a. W. Moir. November, 1996.

The line of intermittent cracks right of The Secret Policeman's Other Ball.

Vespa Vulgaris – 14m E4 6a. W. Moir, G. Elrick. November, 1996.

The overhanging corner and crackline left of Wasp Slab.

The Secret Policeman's Ball (Direct) – 14m E1 5b. W. Moir. November, 1996.

The overhanging groove in the arête. Continue up the edge (original route) to the top.

Solar Eclipse – 14m E1 5a. P. Allen, A. Robertson, W. Moir. November, 1996.

The thin crack up the steep slab (the original Secret Policeman's Ball started up this).

Willie Truthful – 20m E1 5a. P. Allen, J. Reid, W. Moir. November, 1996.

The line just left of Billy Liar, joining that route at mid height.

Veracious Vera – 20m E2 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen, J. Reid. November, 1996.

The hanging black corners just left of Willie Truthful.

Hellgate Cliff (p.187-188):

A massive chunk of this cliff has fallen into the sea. The following routes no longer exist. The Left Hand of Darkness, Right of Way, Green Void. Also, The Beast/Pretty Vacant finish looks decidedly inadvisable at present.

Akimbo – 20m HVS 4c. G. Latter, J. Reid, P. Allen. 9th October, 1996.

Bridge up the centre of the deep Hellgate Chimney, utilising the newly-formed crack-line splitting the pillar for protection. At the top, step onto the pillar and finish carefully up this.

Red Wall (p194):

Hundred Acre Wood – 15m E5 6b. G. Latter, J. Reid (both led), P. Allen. 9th October, 1996.

A powerful technical problem breaching the roof left Pooh Corner. Start directly beneath the tiny groove. Up to a good break under the roof (Fs #0 and #2), then place a clutch of small nuts in the groove. Make hard moves to gain good diagonal breaks over the lip. Finish more easily rightwards up the wall.

Crimson Tide (p.196) – 20m E2 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 5th October, 1996.

The crackline between Pink Fink and Pinkosubversive.

Red Tower (p.210):

Wasted Years (aka. The Bare Necessities) – 20m E6 6c. M. Ingham. 29th November, 1994.

The wall right of Bagheera. Climb right trending cracks and move left to the horizontal break (Bagheera peg available on left). A tricky step up reaches a good hold. Make a hard move to stand on this and reach a triangular hold in the grey rock out right. Move up to jugs and finish easily.

Meackie Point (p224):

Route One – 10m VS 4c. M. Reed, T. Rankin. 20th March, 1997.

Takes steep cracks just around the corner left of Thieves Like Us.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

Most routes have been passed on to the author, Kev Howett. Apologies, but a large number of routes have not been published over recent years and, despite the new policy of publishing all the year's routes, whether or not they are about to appear in a guidebook, it seems pointless to do so for this area.

CREAG DUBH, Bedtime Buttress:

Cup of Tea – 25m VI.8. M. Garthwaite (unsec). 30th December, 1995.

The very wet steep wall on the extreme left hand side of the crag forms a thin icicle in very cold years. Hard mixed moves with marginal gear to gain the ice, which is followed to where it runs out, then up the thin crack on the left.

BINNEIN SHUAS, West Sector, The Fortress:

The Rubaiyat – 70m E2. G. Latter, J. Hartley. 30th August, 1996.

A direct line up the right edge of the dome shaped buttress containing Kubla Khan. Start down and right of that route, beneath twin parallel cracks.

1. 20m 4c. Climb direct, passing a tiny rowan sapling near the top to pull onto a heather terrace.
2. 50m 5a. Climb an easy niche which leads to a flared crack in the slab. Follow this past a thin section low down (poorly protected crux) and continue in the same line to a prominent right-slanting break. Shuffle right along this and continue in the same line, to finish up a wider crack. Move out left to belay as for Kubla Khan. Either continue up this, or abseil off. Not easy to protect.

The Keep, Alternative Start – 25m E1 5b. G. Latter, R. Kerr. 21st June, 1996.

Start at the toe of the buttress, on the front face, to the left of the long grassy ramp that leads up to the normal start. Follow twin parallel cracks up the front face, to finish on good holds on the arête. Scramble up heather to the block belay at the base of the main pitch.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

BEN NEVIS, The Comb:

Tower Face of the Comb, Direct Start – 80m VI.6. A. Clarke, J. Main. 28th February, 1993.

A logical but harder alternative to the original route.

1. 30m. Start as for Don't Die of Ignorance along the obvious ramp at the bottom of the buttress, and climb a left slanting crack (delicate) to a ledge below a short wall.
2. 50m. Climb the short wall to join the groove of the original winter line. Belay at the collection of broken blocks.

Tower Face of the Comb, Central Wall Variation – 45m V.5. A. Clarke, J. Main. 28th February, 1993.

A winter ascent approximating to Kellett's 1943 variation. From the top of the steep

wall which is turned on the left (pitch 3 in Ben Nevis Guide), traverse right to enter a chimney. Climb this to join the original route at the flake window.

Secondary Tower Ridge:

Stringfellow, Direct Finish – 50m V,5. J. Currie, A. Crofton. 2nd April, 1996.

The logical finish up the final headwall avoided by pitch 5 of the original route (due to unconsolidated snow). Start from the large platform at the top of pitch 4.

1. 15m. Climb up to the steep headwall, and move left to a notch. Swing up and left, then traverse left along an awkward narrow ledge to gain a prominent wide gap formed by a pinnacle.

2. 35m. Pass through the gap to gain a groove which leads up and right to the top of the buttress. Follow the level broken crest to reach the Western Traverse.

Creag Coire na Ciste:

Cornucopia – 100m VII,9. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 14th April, 1996.

The smooth, steep corner on the right wall of Number Three Gully. Very sustained and technical, especially pitch 2. Start at the foot of Number Three Gully, opposite Winter Chimney, below the left edge of Creag Coire na Ciste.

1. 20m. Climb up and left of some large blocks to reach an awkward slabby corner which leads to a small stance below the main corner-line.

2. 25m. Follow the crack-line in the right wall of the corner for 5m, then step left into the corner (thread runner used for rest on first ascent). Climb the impending corner with increasing difficulty (crux) to a welcome alcove. Traverse right along a narrow ledge, and move up to a good, but small and exposed stance on the edge of the buttress.

3. 20m. Climb the booming flake above the stance to its top (3m), then step down and left into the corner which is now a narrow chimney. Climb this, past two chockstones, to gain the large platform above. Another difficult pitch.

4. 35m. Move up over blocks and snow to the top right corner of the platform. Pull up an overhanging wall just left of an arête with a large spike, and continue up easier ground to the top.

Darth Vader – 100m VII,8. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 30th March, 1997.

This outstanding mixed climb takes the striking-chimney crack which slices through the blank vertical wall at the left end of Creag Coire na Ciste. Start at the left end of the crag, directly below the chimney and just right of Number Three Gully.

1. 25m. Climb an open icy groove to a ledge running beneath the vertical wall. Move right to belay on blocks just right of the chimney-crack.

2. 20m. Entry to the chimney is barred by a 3m wall. Climb this (awkward) and continue up the chimney to a magnificent hidden cave stance.

3. 25m. Pull over the roof of the cave and enter a bottomless groove (crux). Continue up the chimney above to belay on a large platform (as for Cornucopia).

4. 30m. Continue in the same line by taking the chimney at the back of the platform, and move up and right to finish.

South Sea Bubble – 110m VII,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 8th March 1997.

A very steep and intimidating icy mixed route up the previously unclimbed wall to the left of South Gully. It links two prominent right to left ice ramps with a free-hanging icicle that leads through the overhanging headwall.

1. 30m. Climb the initial ramp of South Gully and belay directly below the hanging icicle (old peg).

2. 40m. Traverse up and left across mixed ground to reach a groove line leading to the first ice ramp. Climb the ramp for 5m then climb the vertical wall above (bold and strenuous) to gain the foot of the second ramp. Climb this to its top, then traverse right to belay on the right side of the hanging icicle. (Hanging stance – large nuts useful).

3. 40m. Climb the icicle and continue up the snow basin to the top.

Tinkerbell – 100m IV,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 2nd March 1997.

A counter-diagonal to Wendigo. Start 10m right of Wendigo directly below the final tower of Central Rib.

1. 40m. Climb mixed ground then a narrow left-facing icy corner to a snowy depression. Junction with Wendigo.

2. 45m. Continue in the same line up the steep icefall directly above to reach an icy groove. Follow this to where it ends below the final tower of Central Rib.

3. 15m. Climb easy snow left of the tower and avoid the cornice on the right.

Carn Dearg:

The Blind – 100m VS*. D. Brooks, C. Moody. 7th September, 1996.

1. 45m 4b. Climb the corner of The Curtain for 35m, traverse left 4m, then move up on damp rock (bold). Step left to reach a belay.

2. 25m 4b. Move up left to climb a groove, then easily up right to pegs (in situ).

3. 30m 4b. Go right to the watercourse, follow it for 4m, then move right and climb a wall to the top.

Note: Mourning Slab (not described in the 'comprehensive' guide) starts up the same corner, then traverses well left after 20m on to the rib. The groove on pitch 2 of The Blind is shared with part of pitch 3 of Mourning Slab.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain:

Spider Rib – 90m II. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 16th November, 1996.

The buttress between Easy Gully and the icy chimney of The Web. In common with other routes on this part of the cliff, most of the climb will bank out under heavy snow. Start just left of Easy Gully.

1. 45m. Climb an easy snow gully to where the buttress steepens. Move up and left to the foot of a short wide crack. Climb this and exit left at the top.

2. 45m. Finish up easy mixed ground, then snow, to the cornice.

Hammerhead Pillar – 100m VI,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 9th February 1997.

A good direct line up the buttress taken by Gondola with the Wind. The steep headwall provides an exciting finish. Start as for Maneater.

1. 40m. Move up into the base of the amphitheatre, then follow Gondola with the Wind for 10m up the ramp to the right. Climb a short open groove on the left edge of the buttress to a stance below a steep headwall.

2. 30m. Climb the wall and continue up the groove above to a stance below the headwall.

3. 30m. Climb the steep groove in the centre of the wall (difficult to start), then step left at the top to gain a hanging V-groove. Climb this and finish up a short snow slope to the cornice.

Alien Abduction – 120m VII,8. A. Powell, A. Benson. 22nd December, 1996.

Takes the grooves and stepped corner right of Hurricane Arête. Start 5m up Left Twin at a platform on the left.

1. 35m. Climb the groove and crack line up the right edge of Central Buttress. Belay

on the right (level with the belay on Hurricane Arête) below a right facing corner containing several overhangs.

2. 25m. Step left to enter the corner system. The second roof is large and very smooth above (1 axe rest and 1 PA - in situ). Above the third roof step up and left to a block belay. A very taxing pitch.

3. 40m. Continue 5m up left and pull onto a slab which leads to easier ground.

4. Climb increasingly snowy ground to the cornice.

Note: The second roof is 6a/6b terrain. The best chance to free it could be with monopoints for the cracks as there are no handholds for 12ft.

West Face:

The Red Eye Routine – III. O. Metherell, J. Marsham. 13th December, 1996.

Start 30m right of Solitaire at a small snow bay just right of a large pink block. Climb up the snow bay and move left up the short gull – serious (30m). For the next seven pitches continue up by the line of least resistance (mainly on turf). There is a short chimney on the sixth pitch. Easy ground leads to the plateau.

AONACH BEAG, West Face, Raw Egg Buttress:

Stalking Horse – 70m HVS. J. L. Bermudez, N. Wilson. June, 1995.

At the toe of the buttress, left of the existing summer routes, is an obvious chimney-corner, the route.

1. 35m 5a. Climb the initial wall, then thrash up the chimney.

2. 35m 4c. Climb the right-angle corner above to easier ground.

MAMORES, STOB BAN, North Buttress:

Foxtrot – 150m III. M. Cooper, C. Bailey. 5th December, 1996.

The broad north-facing ridge that descends from the upper section of the East Ridge. An obvious gully (grade I) can be seen immediately to the left of the route. Start just right of the foot of the ridge below a narrow chimney. Climb to the base of the chimney then make moves out left and up to the crest of the ridge, block belays (20m). Follow the crest of the ridge for two pitches to easier ground which leads to the upper slope of the East Ridge.

South Buttress:

North Groove – 160m III.4. S. Kennedy, A. Paul. 30th December, 1996.

Starts about 30m up from the foot of South Gully at a prominent rocky recess on the right. Traverse out rightwards below a steep wall, then move up and back left into a deep groove which runs up to the top of the buttress (45m). Continue directly up the groove over a steep step to more broken ground (45m). Climb to the ridge (North Ridge) which is followed easily to the summit (70m).

SGOR AN IUBHAIR, North Face:

Solo Gully – II. P. Azzi, M. Kann. 19th December, 1996.

Follows the obvious long and narrow gully on the right hand side of the face.

AM BODACH, North-East Face:

Solstice Gully – III. P. Azzi, M. Kann, A. Snell. 21st December, 1996.

Climbs a gully hidden behind a buttress when seen from Glen Nevis direction but becomes apparent from below the face. It joins the more visible gully to the left shortly beneath the upper snowfields. Once here, the central option was taken to the summit ridge, climbing up the left side of a rocky outcrop, then left to a break in the cornice.

MONADHLIATH, Carn Dearg, Loch Dubh Crag:

Note: A. Keith notes that he and P. Brownsort climbed Tunnel Vision (SMCJ 1995) on 24th January, 1988 and called it The Wee Walk, Grade II ('aiming for an obvious keyhole on the skyline which turns out to be a chimney'). The location of The Great Trek (Nevis Guide, p284) is a mystery to him, but presumably, must be similar to this route, although overgraded.

He also soloed The Broken Link (SMCJ 1996) on the same day. It was named Loch Dubh Waterslide and the poor impression of its quality was improved by a recent ascent in icier conditions 'quite good, although extremely escapable'.

BEN ALDER, Maiden Crag:

Melting Maiden – 250m III. N. Anderson, A. Bratt. 2nd March, 1996.

A mixed route which takes the far left branch of the snow bay at the foot of the icefall of Ice Maiden. Start as for Ice Maiden.

1. 40m. Climb a snowy gully to the back of the snow bay at the foot of Ice Maiden icefall.
2. 25m. Exit the bay by the far left branch, a slanting ramp. Belay below an icefall.
3. 50m. Climb the first icefall to an easy snow gully, then up a second icefall.
- 4, 5. 100m. The large upper snowfield leads to the rock headwall.
6. 35m Exit to the plateau by a narrow iced gully in the left-hand side of the headwall.

AONACH BEAG, North-East Face, Loch Cheap Crag (Sheet 42, GR 480 752):

The crag is not named on the map and lies above Loch Coire Cheap. It is up to 200m high and is dominated by a large ice sheet cascading down its centre. Stairway to Heaven takes the obvious direct line. Descent is by the wide gully on the right side of the crag (The Ocean). Protection is generally poor.

Stairway to Heaven – 130m IV,4. N. Anderson, A. Bratt. 16th March, 1996.

1. 45m. Climb the left-hand side of the icefall direct. Belay at an outcrop on the left.
2. 50m. An easy snow slope leads to a second icefall. Climb this into a large snow bay. Belay at the base of the final rock headwall.
3. 35m. Exit the snow bay on its left side by a gully with a third ice pitch.

Gallows Pole – 130m III,4. A. Bratt, N. Anderson. 16th March, 1996.

Start 7m to the right of Stairway to Heaven and to the left of the prominent rock arête.

1. 50m. Climb the ice sheet direct to an overhang in the rock outcrop at 25m. Avoid this on the right by an iced ramp.
2. 50m. Climb easy snow slopes to the headwall at the top of the bay.
3. 30m. Exit to the plateau directly through mixed ground.

Misty Mountain Hop – 125m III. N. Anderson, A. Bratt, A. West. 17th March, 1996.

Start 10m right of Gallows Pole on the right-hand side of the central arête.

1. 50m. Climb an icefall to the right wall of the arête. Continue up a groove to an iced chimney and climb this.
2. 50m. Ascend the easy snow slope on the far right side of the snow bay to the headwall.
3. 30m. Mixed climbing through the right side of the headwall.

Ramble On – 120m II. N. Anderson, A. Bratt. 3rd March, 1996.

A large snowy recess lies 20m right of Gallows Pole. This takes the iced gully at the top of the recess.

The Ocean – 70m I. N. Anderson, A. Bratt (descent). 16th March, 1996.

The far right-hand side of the crag is split by a wide snow gully which provides a rapid descent back to Loch Coire Cheap and the base of the crag.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Great Gully Upper Buttress:

Curried Yak – 40m HVS 5a. D. Gardner, G. Robertson. Summer, 1993.

The broken crackline to the right of May Crack.

Coire na Tulaich:

A fairly compact group of crags exist high on the eastern slopes of the corrie, the first of which are about 100m up and right of the obvious slab containing The Dial. The crags comprise small individual buttresses and are grouped roughly in the shape of an arc. The area gets the benefit of any afternoon or evening sun. The first route described is on a small clean buttress just below the main crags and is the first reached.

Pinball Wizard – 30m HVS 5a. C. Grindley, S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 5th September, 1996.

Start at the lowest point of the buttress and climb a short steep wall by some flakes to a horizontal break. Step right and climb directly to a prominent right-facing corner. Climb the right wall of the corner to the top.

The following routes are located on the rightmost (southmost) buttress which is pale-coloured and has a large 'blotch' (recess) on its left side. A small pinnacle sits at the foot of the buttress. The crag has become known as Blotch Buttress.

The Shield – 35m HVS 5a. C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 31st August, 1996.

Follows an obvious flakeline starting just right of the pinnacle. Climb the flake, then traverse rightwards along the top of the flake before climbing the wall directly above. Step right just below the top wall to finish up the crest.

Crack Cocaine – 30m E1 5b. C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 7th September, 1996.

Climb the obvious crackline immediately behind the pinnacle. Finish by a small ramp on the right, below the final wall. Alternatively, finish out left.

Slack Alan – 25m E2 5b. A. Findlay, A. Nelson. 7th September, 1996.

Start just left of the pinnacle. Climb a thin flake, then cracks through a bulge at mid height to a peg belay on a grass ledge. Peg left in place for abseil descent.

The Sentinel – 30m E1 5b. A. Findlay, A. Nelson. 29th August, 1996.

Start at a juniper bush at the bottom left side of the buttress (left side of recess). Go up a thin flake into the recess (the Blotch). Exit the recess on the right by a crack which is followed to the top.

Stob Coire Altruim:

Cerberus – 80m V,7. M. Bass, J. Clamp, S. Yearsley (alt.). 6th December, 1996.

This route climbs the steep buttress to the right of Dalmatian Couloir by the corner and chimney system on its right hand edge. Start at the foot of the first corner to the right of Dalmatian Couloir.

1. 10m. Climb mixed ground to the foot of the rightwards curving corner. Climb the corner and then the bulging right wall by thin moves to a poor stance and good belay at the foot of the obvious narrow chimney.

2. 20m. Thrutch up the chimney and make strenuous moves to gain the groove above. Climb this (on this ascent up unconsolidated snow and good turf) over several short steep steps to a snow terrace. Follow the right hand edge of the terrace to belay under a chockstone.

3. 50m. Go under the chockstone, then up onto it, and follow the groove above

passing two chockstones and a col overlooking Dalmatian Couloir to finish up easier ground below the summit.

Note: Good ice and consolidated snow will probably be found above the narrow chimney later in the season. However, as the hardest part of the route lies below the narrow chimney the overall grade will not be affected.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Beinn Fhada, North Face:

Most of the routes on Beinn Fhada come into condition quite often, can easily be identified from the road and are very accessible. Descent from most routes can be made by abseil. Routes described right to left.

Time for Tiffin – 150m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 27th January, 1996.

Climbs the rightmost icefall.

Time for Tree – 150m III/IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 28th January, 1996.

Climbs the central ice smears.

Solicitors Slot – 150m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 29th January, 1996.

Starts up St Valentine's Climb for one pitch and branches off rightwards into an obvious rocky chimney.

St. Valentine's Climb – III. The next line left.

Andy's Folly – 140m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 31st January, 1996.

Climbs the uppermost ice smear at the top of the rocky parallel (to St. Valentine's?) gash. The first pitch was a rocky mixed pitch.

Kriter – 120m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 1st February, 1996.

Climbs the lower ice smears in the middle section of the parallel gash as seen from the road.

Lost Valley Buttress:

Cold Feetus – 80m V,6. M. Garthwaite, N. Gresham. 24th February, 1996.

1. 20m. Start up right from Tyrannosaur at the base of a deep cleft. Climb the left wall via a slim groove to the base of a prominent vertical corner.

2. 10m. Climb the corner to the buttress crest.

3. 50m. Finish up Directosaur.

Klu Klux Cleft – 100m V,7. M. Garthwaite, N. Gresham. 28th November, 1996.

1. 30m. Climbs the obvious deep chimney on the left of the rib left of Pterodactyl. Climb the steep wall at the back of the gully past a peg into the deeper part of the chimney. Back and foot to a pull out right on to a balcony on the rib.

2. 10m. Climb the groove line of Pterodactyl to belay below an overhanging chimney-groove.

3. 10m. Climb the chimney-groove to the buttress crest.

4. 50m. Snow grooves to the top.

Barbarian – 80m V,6. M. Gray, R. McAllister. 29th December 1995.

Start 8m right from the ramp of Barracuda/Savage.

1. 30m. Go up a groove for 10m (start of Trilobite?) until it is possible to pull left round an overhanging bulge on to a block. This gains the base of a chimney crack parallel and right of Barracuda and which leads to a turfy ledge and belay.

2. 50m. The chimney leads rightwards to easy snow slopes and the top.

AONACH DUBH, Far Eastern Buttress:

Hu-a-Choy – 85m IV. B. Ottewell, D. McCarthy, S. McCarthy. February, 1996.

Starts just left of Orient Express.

1. 50m. Climb an iced chimney and short steps to a ledge on the left.
2. 35m. Take the wide corner-crack leading up and right to belay to the large boulder as for Orient Express.

Variation: 1a. 35m III. Start from a ledge round and left up a rightward-slanting groove to the belay. Photodiagram and photos supplied.

STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN:

E. Brunskill notes that on an ascent of Spectre, it was thought to be V,6 and a lot harder than it's neighbour, Scabbard. A more logical direct start was also climbed at V,6 taking a shallow corner crack directly into the main line. (Conditions were lean? Significant? – Ed)

STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, West Buttress (see SMCJ 1996, p104):

Arthur's Corner – 95m IV,5. A. Paul, G. Reilly. 31st March, 1996.

Climbs the open right-facing corner bounding the right side of the buttress, to the right of The Gathering. Steep moves at the bottom and a tricky finish. Probably the hardest of the routes here.

AONACH EAGACH, South Side:

Findlay's Tail – 130m IV. P. Moores, A. Paul. 27th January, 1996.

The icefall to the right of Blue Riband.

SRON NA CREISE, North Face (Map Ref. 242 525):

Two icefalls form low down to the left of the North Ridge.

King's Tear – 170m III/IV. P. Moores, W. Samuels. 4th January, 1997.

The right-hand icefall, taking the steepest line.

The Weep – 250m II/III. P. Harrop, S. Kennedy, D. Sinclair. 5th January, 1997.

The left icefall. Continuous easy-angled ice.

STOB COIR' AN ALBANNAICH, North Coire:

Plumline – 70m IV,4. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson, S. Thirgood. 22nd December, 1996.

Takes the line of the prominent corner which is situated roughly in the centre of the buttress below the summit. Climb mixed ground directly to the base of the corner (25m). Climb the corner directly to a large block belay (30m). Finish up easier ground (15m). Probably a grade easier with a large build-up later in the season.

Note: The route described in SMCJ 1995, p682 lies to the left of the above route and is called Plumeline.?????

GARBH BHEINN, ARDGOUR:

Banangle – 90m M. Severe. K. M. Edgar, K. Schwartz. 27th May, 1996.

On the obvious curved narrow slab near the bealach. Go steeply up to and along the left edge of the slab for 50m. Then zigzag up between bits of vegetation (40m).

South Wall of the Great Ridge:

The Epeeist – 50m E5 6b. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 23rd June, 1996.

Excellent varied climbing up the central blocky crack in the leaning wall, directly above the very prominent black seep. From the top of the initial chimney of Sgian Dubh, first hand then foot traverse the shelf out right with increasing difficulty to the base of the crack. Pull the ropes and move the belayer to below (or drop a third rope). Up the crack with a hard move low down to follow excellent holds which lead out left near the top. Finish up the easier wall above on excellent rock to spike belay. Scramble off.

Lower Tier:

The Gay Blade – 40m E3 6a. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 24th June, 1996.

The prominent thin crack-line up the wall left of Scimitar. Start 3m left the broken rising ledge system of Scimitar. Climb the initial cracked wall with difficulty (crux) to move right at the prominent horizontal break to join Gralloch. Continue up the crack, moving right on sidepulls into the steep finger-crack which soon relents. Continue more easily in the same line, past a short steep wall near the top

BEINN NA SEILG (Ardnamurchan), Hebrides Wall:

Rhumb Line – 35m H. Severe. D. Kirk, L. Snowdon. 6th April, 1996.

Climbs an obvious crackline in the steep wall between Trident Climb and Faradh Dubh. Start at the foot of an obvious slanting ramp leading diagonally right to the main crack. Move boldly up the ramp to gain the crack. Follow the crack up the steep wall until the angle eases (this point is just to the right of Trident Climb 2nd pitch traverse). Continue directly up slabby rock, passing a large flange, to the end of difficulties (25m). Easy to the top (10m).

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**BRIDGE OF ORCHY, Beinn an Dothaidh, North-East Coire:**

Jobseekers Allowance – 125m IV,6. E. W. Brunskill, D. Crawford, S. Burns. 23rd November, 1996.

A varied line threading the large overhangs on the leftside of the North Buttress. Start just left of the large square snow bay, at the bottom of a shallow right-facing groove.

1. 15m. Climb the groove to a recess below a bulge.
2. 30m. Climb the bulge (crux) and continue up the groove exiting out left just below the start of the overhangs, to reach a small terrace. Traverse left along the terrace for about 10m to reach a deep and narrow chimney.
3. 40m. Climb the chimney and steep continuation groove above exiting out right to reach easier ground.
4. 35m. Trend leftwards to reach easy ground.

A choice of finishes is possible, either continue up the broken buttress to join Taxus near the summit or if conditions and visibility allow, traverse leftwards to reach one of the easier gullies and descend.

Emel Ridge – 200m II. J. Mount, K. Schwartz. 9th February, 1978.

The ridge between East and Central Gullies, climbed directly to the summit.

The Beechgrove Garden – K. Schwartz, 24th January, 1978.

Pedant's Corner – 110m V,7. A. Powell, R. Cross, S. Elworthy. November, 1996

Climbs the prominent edge left of Haar.

1. 40m. Climb the edge of the buttress left of Haar to the foot of a prominent steep corner.
2. 20m. The corner is very strenuous. Easier turf walls follow above.
3. 50m. Steady climbing leads to easier ground near the summit.

Haar – The right-hand corner climbed at IV,4 by K. Schwartz, T. Groves, 13th January, 1984. (See new Guide).

West Buttress:

Stormbringer, Direct Start – 50m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 24th November, 1996.

Good steep climbing following the true line of the Stormbringer fault. Start midway between Haar and the fault line of West Buttress Direct Start, below a vertical right-facing corner.

1. 25m. Climb the corner, and pull over a bulge to a good ledge.

2. 25m. Continue over an impending wedged block to enter the lower section of the main Stormbringer corner. Follow this for 20m to where the original line comes in from the left.

Can't, Won't, Shan't – 65m VII,6. M. Garthwaite, N. Gresham. 30th December, 1996.

Climbs a very thin streak up the right edge of the slab right of Cirrus and right of Carte Blanche. Scramble up Far West Buttress for 20m to a small flat belay ledge below the slab.

1. 25m. Climb precariously straight up the slab linking small blobs of turf heading for the 'frogs eyes' above. Belay up and left. Tied off warthogs and a Bulldog hook for gear.

2. 40m. Finish up the obvious steep chimney-groove system taken by Carte Blanche.

Missplaced – 135m III,4. M. Boyle, E. Kane. 23rd December, 1995.

Starts right of Quickstep, then crosses it to finish. Climb broken stepped rock bounding the right side of Far West Buttress to belay below a steep wall (35m). Traverse right to a steep corner/chimney breaching the wall and climb it (15m, crux). A rising traverse left leads back into the corner, crossing Quickstep and belay above Clonus (45m). Continue up a corner/gully to the top.

Coire an Dothaidh:

Highway to Hell, Right Branch – 200m II-III. K. Schwartz. 3rd February, 1996.
The escapable right branch is climbed throughout.

BEINN UDLAIDH:

Hot Keks – 95m IV,5. K. Schwartz, K. M. Edgar. 3rd April, 1996.

Between White Caterpillar and West Gully. Climb steep ice on the left to a diagonal traverse up and right to a vague rib (50m). A long traverse right and up a two-step icefall (45m).

THE COBBLER, South Peak:

Viva Glasvegas – 50m VIII,7. M. Garthwaite, A. Coish. 13th January, 1996.

1. 25m. Start at the very base of Gibber Crack after the initial scramble. Follow the diagonal crack on the left wall over a small overlap to a turfy ledge (warthog for protection). Climb straight up, then rock over right (hard) to gain the base of a hanging groove. Follow this to belay. Serious pitch.

2. 25m. Climb up and move left round a small roof, then straight up to belay on North Wall traverse. Easy escape right.

Centre Peak Buttress:

Drugs are for Mugs – 90m V,6. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. December, 1996.
A line just left of Cave Route with good climbing on pitch 1. Full description in new guide.

THE BRACK:

Resolution – 145m VI,7. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser. 1st January, 1997.

A superb mixed line up the great slab right of Great Central Groove, followed by a technical corner through the headwall immediately above. Start at the bottom toe of the slab.

1. 40m. Climb to, then up an easy right-trending turf ramp and move up to a higher turf ledge. Follow this left to its end. Difficult moves lead left, then directly to a ledge.

2. 45m. Move right above the ledge, then traverse hard left above the ledge. Continue more directly by the line of most turf and least resistance to belay on a good ledge at the top of the slab. An excellent pitch.

3. 35m. Traverse right for 3m until possible to gain, with difficulty, the left end of a narrow ledge. From this ledge move directly up turf ground above, heading for a right-trending corner capped by an overhang (there are three corners in the headwall, the left being the right-hand finish of Great Central Groove, this being the central one and the right one being the tapering corner of Mainline). Difficult moves lead across the slab under the overhang to gain a turfy groove; belay at its top.

4. 25m. Move right and surmount a rock step to gain a good ledge. To the right is a blocky rightward-trending and surprisingly easy crack splitting the final headwall.

Plunge, Variants – R. McAllister, A. Fraser, S. Mearns. 9th January, 1997.

Direct start: The lower section of the gully was climbed directly (25m IV,5), avoiding the initial two turf pitches to the right.

Alternative finish: The icicle was not present and the steep turfed wall 7m to the right was climbed (V,5).

Small Fry – 100m III. K. Schwartz. 21st December, 1995.

Climb the gully right of Big Game to a chockstone, passed with difficulty to a 5m slab and easier gully above. Chockstone would be easier with a bigger build-up but can be avoided by an easier branch to the right.

BEINN AN LOCHAIN:

K. Schwartz notes that Twin Caves Gully deserves Grade III in lean conditions.

GLEN CROE:

K. Schwartz notes that Cosmic Corner deserves VS 4b.

KNAPDALE, Creag nam Fitheach:

The Changeling – 25m E5 6a. D. Griffiths, I. Griffiths. 16th September, 1995.

Climbs the left arete of Metamorphosis. Start at the crack just right of the rowan tree to gain the top of a detached block. Climb directly up the arete to a semi-rest on a large foothold. Continue up the slabby wall before moving right to gain a hanging crack. Just before it meets Metamorphosis move left to a ledge and up a ramp to finish. Bolt belay.

BEN CRUACHAN, Stob Dearg, North-East Face:

Angel Face – 200m IV,4. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. March, 1995.

The route climbs the open slabby face between Original Route and Central Grooves. Start just right of the icefall which forms the direct start to Original Route. Climb diagonally up rightwards to belay below a groove line almost in the middle of the face (50m). Climb directly up the groove (45m). Traverse out left to a snow bay below a steep wall which is passed on the left (45m). Finish up broken ground (60m). Climbed in very icy conditions.

Meall nan Each, North-East Face:

The main cliff (100m in height) is dominated by a band of overlaps at two-thirds height. Right of this, the crag falls back into easier-angled gullies and ribs before ending at a deeply recessed left-slanting gully (possible descent, Grade I).

Epona Gully – 90m II. A. Matthewson, J. Andrew. 24th February, 1996.

The open gully just to the right of the main cliff. At the final impasse, exits are possible left or right.

White Horse Grooves – 120m III. J. Andrew, A. Matthewson. 24th February, 1996. Mixed climbing following a right-slanting line up the lower section of the main cliff to the edge overlooking Epona Gully. Start at the lowest rocks.

1. 45m. Zigzag up and right via a turf-tuft slab to belay in the fault line.

2. 35m. Pass a thin spike by a groove on the left, then traverse right under corners to a notch on the buttress edge; belay above.

3. 40m. Move up, then step right into Epona Gully, finishing directly.

ARRAN

BEINN TARSUINN, Meadow Face:

Blunderbuss Finish to Blundecral (SMCJ 1996) – 150m HVS 5a. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 31st August, 1995.

This long finish gives a spectacularly positioned mystery tour. The Blundecral/Blunderbuss combination is 215m, E2 5c** and perhaps the best route on the crag.

4a. 25m 5a. Climb the fine diagonal rock ramp of pitch 4 of the original route, step left on to the continuation ramp and follow this for 6m to a spectacular position on the ramp.

5a. 25m 4b. Continue up the ramp for 3m, then move up to a higher ramp. Follow this left until it leads to a wide grassy fault (Brobdignag). Go up this for 7m to a cave belay under a rock arch.

6a. 25m 5a. Depart the herbiage of Brobdignag by jumping on to the grass ledge to the right of the belay. Follow this right and down to its end. Above is a crack which leads to a chimney, then another chimney where the left chimney is followed to a good ledge.

7a. 50m 4c. Climb the slab at the extreme left end of the face to its apex, move right with difficulty, then continue to and up leftward-trending flake cracks above.

8a. 25m 4a. Pleasant climbing up walls and cracks to the top.

Blundecral, True Finish – 25m E5 6a/b**. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. July, 1996.

The best and most direct finish. From the poorish flake belay after pitch 4 of Blundecral, climb directly up the middle of the steep slab to a rounded break. Traverse this leftwards with increasing difficulty to a hard step up and foot traverse round the blunt arete. Climb up to an obvious short chimney (good runner) and spike belay at its top – bold. Now in the cracks (which lead to the chimneys) on pitch 6a of the Blunderbuss Finish.

Gulliver's Travels – 300m E2**. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 20th September, 1995. A natural rising traverse, using the leftward trend and ledged nature of the cliff. A fine adventure with good climbing and spectacular positions making up for the relative shortage of new ground.

1-5. 140m 4b 4b 5a 5b 5c. Start as for The Rake Alternative Start and follow this for five pitches to belay in Boggle.

6. 30m 5a. Move up to a ledge on the left and follow this left to a crack (Brachistochrone). Descend this for 3m past a chockstone, then follow a ramp up left past an awkward break to belay as for Blunderbuss Finish pitch 4a.

7. 30m 4b. Pitch 5a of Blunderbuss, then traverse left to a block belay overlooking The Blinder.

8. 40m 5c. A sensational and intimidating traverse leads into The Blinder (a rope looped over the top of the arch lowers the fall potential). Continue to a chimney which is climbed via a chockstone to exit on to the floor of a great square recess (Hanging Gully).

9. 30m 4c. Finish as for the last pitch of The Blinder.

Note: The 35m crux pitch of The Rake was thought worthy of E2 5c without the original protection pegs, which have long gone. The initial slabs, minus the scrambling at the bottom, were 90m rather than the quoted 65m.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

THE GALLOWAY HILLS, MULLWHARCHAR:

Brigadoon – 70m E1 5b. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 4th May, 1995.

The huge corner on the left side of the crag, 7m left of Yucatan (SMCJ 1996), climbed in two pitches (25m, 5b: 45m, 4b). A somewhat gothic classic.

Unnamed – 20m E1 5b. P. Brown. May, 1995.

The corner to the right of the initial corner of Dungeonmaster. Thin.

CAIRNSMORE OF FLEET (Guide p152; Map Ref. 501 671; Sheet 83): Clints of the Spout (Map Ref. 509 667):

Very remote with a wonderful atmosphere. The easiest approach is to turn off the A75, just south of Palnure, to Muirfad. At the old viaduct, fork right up the private road towards Cairnsmore House and then fork right again, circumnavigate the old coach house and take the second left to a car park (Map Ref. 471 641). From here follow the tourist path to the summit of Cairnsmore and descend north-east to a col between Cairnsmore of Fleet and Meikle Mulltaggart (Nick of the Saddle) and then southward to the cliffs (2hr.). A much harder but very spectacular approach is from the car park near Dunkitterick Cottage (MR 502 720). Follow the footpath to the ruined cottage and a break in the forest to open land. Strike up the hillside diagonally rightwards to the summit of Craignelder and descend to the plateau beyond. Contour the north-west slope of Meikle Mulltaggart to a col and descend into the east-facing corrie (3hr.).

The Clints of the Spout is too broken to offer good rock climbing but it provides a classic gully and one other excellent winter route. The crag is east facing and catches the sun all morning. A prolonged freeze of a fortnight would seem to be essential for good conditions.

Spout of the Clints – 160m VS. S. Reid, A. Moore, J. Campbell. 19th May, 1992.

The obvious watercourse in the centre of the crag may become easier in a drought.

1. 50m 4b. Scramble up the gully bed with a hard move to overcome a chockstone.

2. 60m 4c. Can be split. Climb the waterchute first on the left, then on the right.

3. 50m 4c. Climb the left wall of the gully, well back from the fall to gain a right-slanting ramp. Follow this back into the gully and the top.

Note: The route was originally named Lost Pilots Gully after the debris from a crashed aircraft that litters the climb and the corrie floor – Spout of the Clints is the correct name.

Winter: V,4. C. Bonington, S. Reid (alt.). 5th January, 1997.

A superb sustained climb. The final pitch is the crux and not well protected.

Smear Test – 120m IV,4. S. Reid, D. Scott (alt.). 7th January, 1997.

The spectacular ice smear on the right of the crag gives an excellent climb with the final pitch the crux.

1. 40m. Climb easy ice, steepening to a heather ledge.

2. 50m. A steep start eases to a ledge (possible belay). Climb steepening ice above to a groove which leads to a stance.

3. 30m. Climb the thin smear up the slab to the top.

DUMFRIES OUTCROPS, CLIFTON CRAG, Dirl Chimney Area:

Gramercy – 13m Severe 4a. S. Reid, J. Reid. 9th May, 1996.

A pleasant route with a fine finish up the buttress left of Dirl Chimney. Start below Dirl Chimney. Climb the short crack on the left of Dirl Chimney's start and follow an easy ramp up leftwards to a huge block. Climb the crack on the left side of the block to a ledge. Follow the crack on the right on to the front of the buttress and a bold direct finish. Taking the crack on the left from the ledge reduces the grade to V. Diff.

SOUTH-WEST SEA CLIFFS, MEIKLE ROSS, Main Cliff:

Spectacular Bid – 40m E5 6b. R. McAllister, S. Mearns, E. Brunskill. 1995?

A last great problem taking the blank wall between Crack Track and Sidetrack. Serious in its lower half. Start midway between Crack Track and Sidetrack. Step off a boulder into a horizontal break, then move up to a good hold (skyhook, not tied). Make a committing thin traverse left for 3m, then climb up until a traverse left leads to a break (Friends 1, 1.5). Step off a rib on the right and move leftward up the wall to an intimidating rock up into a small niche (walnut 3 in slot on left). Climb out of the niche on small edges (crux) to mantle on to a ledge, then ascend a fine thin rightward-slanting crack on fingerlocks to finish.

ROADSIDE CRAG, Yellow Lichen Wall:

At the end of this wall there is a pillar buttress.

Ranti-Crack – 8m E2 5c. T. Rankin. 28th May, 1995.

Climb the obvious thin corner on the right side of the buttress.

Variation: E1 5b. Climb the crack to the sloping ledge at 5m, then step right to the holds on the arete. Finish leftwards.

Catapult Suzie – 10m E3 5c. T. Rankin. 28th May, 1995.

Bold and committing with groundfall potential. Climb the shale-filled crack on the left to a handrail on the main face above a small roof (runners in the thin corner-crack on the left). Make hard moves up using both arêtes to stand on a handrail, then straight up to finish.

Trainspotters Traverse – 12m VS 4c. T. Rankin. 14th October, 1995.

Right of Wee Pig are four parallel cracks. This climbs the third crack until underneath the overhang, then traverses left on good holds to finish at the top of Wee Pig.

Pause for Thought – 10m E2 6a. T. Rankin. 14th October, 1995.

This climbs the third crack direct to the top through the overhang and open groove.

FINNARTS POINT (Sheet 76, Map Ref. 044 742):

A series of cliffs situated on that isolated section of coast south of Ballantrae. The *piece de resistance* is the main cliff, a ferociously steep wall of perfect rock. This is definitely a cliff in the modern idiom, ranking with the best outcrops in Galloway, if not elsewhere. The other cliffs, while less stunning, provide good routes in interesting situations. Outlook is pleasant on to the north end of Loch Ryan (a must for ferry

spotters). The cliffs dry quickly after showers but after prolonged rain there will be seepage and two-three days of dry weather is advised. There are seabirds and the crags are worth avoiding during the nesting season (end April to start August).

Access: From Ballantrae follow the A77 (Glasgow to Stranraer road) south. South of Ballantrae the road winds uphill through some bad corners. About three miles south of Ballantrae, 0.5 mile after the road straightens out, there is a right turn signposted to a pottery/craft shop. Follow this for 200m to a junction at the pottery. Take the left turn and follow this for four miles along a gradually deteriorating road, then a track, through a number of gates (at three miles the road forks and the left fork is again taken). The track swings southwards and eventually Loch Ryan and the top end of the Mull of Galloway/Stranraer peninsula becomes visible. Shortly thereafter and situated between two gates, there is an area of gorse bordering the road, immediately before the track swings sharply uphill to the left. Park here and walk SW towards the Mull/Stranraer peninsula, towards a small rocky cleft on the edge of the moor. From this cleft descend the fern gully directly to the sea. Walk south (left) above the main cliff until possible to gain access from its southern end – 15 minutes. It will come as no surprise that the cliff was discovered from the sea.

Main Cliff:

Access to the main cliff is from its southern end, down an easy rib on the seaward side of the cliff. This provides a grandstand view of the cliff. The main features from the left are:

1. The overhanging arête at the left end (Edge of the Abyss).
 2. A central area of slightly easier angle, with a corner running nearly the length of the cliff.
 3. A final undercut area with an obvious hand crack at its top left end (Lloyd Quinan).
- Routes can all be accessed from the end of the rib except for a short period at high tide when access is by abseil or by a traverse from the north at Severe. Routes are described left to right.

Edge of the Abyss – 25m E4 6a***. R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 22nd August, 1996. An outstanding route, macho fantastico, both strenuous and sustained. Protection is good if you are strong enough to place it. The route takes the overhanging grooved arête at the left end of the face. Climb the arête to a spike and step left off the spike into a hanging groove. Difficult moves up this lead to a ledge. The final wall is climbed on the arete to the left.

Red Hot and Blue – 25m E3 6a*. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. 28th August, 1996.

To the right is an uncompromisingly steep area of rock, with a ledge leading rightwards across the middle of the face to join the top of a crack. This crack runs nearly the length of the cliff and is this route, a fine climb up an obvious feature. The crack is reached by boldish climbing. The crack itself is sustained but excellently protected. At the top of the crack a swing left leads to an easier finish.

I Should Coco – 25m E2 5c. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. 18th September, 1995.

To the right is an apparently easier-angled area with a large corner. The route climbs the corner, reached directly from below by a wall. While not as sustained as some of the other routes, the top steepening of the corner is technical.

Rhythm Nation – 25m E2 5b*. R. McAllister, S. Christie. September, 1995.

An interesting and varied route. Start as for *I Should Coco* and climb its initial wall to the foot of the corner. Traverse right round a rib and climb up and right to gain a

corner. Follow this for a few moves until possible to traverse out left on to the arête. This is followed to the top.

Lloyd Quinan is a Weatherman – 22m E3 5c**. D. McGimpsey, R. McAllister, S. Mearns. 28th August, 1996.

Another fine line of contrasting styles. To the right of the previous area the crag steepens and is undercut. At its top left side is a fine and prominent fist crack. Start 3m to the right of the fist crack. Step off a flake and climb a short but very intimidating undercut wall on underclings to a flake. Traverse left along the flake to the fist crack and finish up this.

Baywatch Babes – 20m E1 5b. S. Mearns, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 18th September, 1995.

A good introduction to the wall. Start at the extreme right of the crag and traverse left (the traverse line would eventually lead to the crack of Lloyd Quinan) to below a short corner. Climb this, then continue above to the top.

Surfin' Seal Bay:

This is the next large bay south of the main cliff. There is only one short route to date, situated on the south face of a block at the north end of the bay (i.e. nearest the main cliff). The block presently has a stake on its top. Access is from the top of the rib to the main cliff, then turn left and down short cliffs with difficulty. Alternatively, and probably preferably, abseil from the block down the route.

Bustin' Surfboards – 8m E2 5b. R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 29th March, 1995.

On the southern (left) side of the bay is a small block of good rock. This route climbs the centre of the face and, while short, has some excellent moves. Start at the left of the face and climb up to clip a peg above an overlap. Move up and right to a precarious mantelshelf on to a small ledge. Continue directly to the top.

Smugglers Zawn:

This is the next bay to the south, difficult of access from either land or sea and with a large unfrequented cave at its head. The best access is by abseiling from blocks at the top of the following route.

Electric Brae – 45m HVS 5a**. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 22nd August, 1996.

A good route in a remote setting. A further curio is the changing geology on the route. At the back of the zawn, about 50m left of the cave, is the biggest sweep of clean rock on the crag. At mid height on the right side is an obvious capped corner. This route climbs the face below the corner, then the corner. At the top of the corner swing out left and continue more easily up the friendly rock above.

Smugglers Ridge – 40m V. Diff. A. Fraser. 15th August, 1996.

This is the ridge to the right of the large cave at the back of the zawn. While useful as an escape out of the zawn and is not a bad route, the top moves are on turf and definitely not recommended as a descent route.

PORTOBELLO, Slab Cove:

The following two routes lie on the wall on the north side of the cove, on the opposite side from The Man from Del Monte cliff.

Brain Dead Fred – 10m E3 5c. R. McAllister, S. Christie, D. McGimpsey. April, 1995.

This is the intermittent crackline in the centre of the wall. Bold moves up the grey shield of rock gain twin pegs. Continue up on small edges to exit with difficulty.

Grim Reefer – 10m E1/2 5b. R. McAllister, S. Christie. April, 1995.

Climbs the wall to the left via long reaches on pockets. Poorly protected.

Cracked Block Cove:

A Close Shave – 13m E1 5b. A. Fraser, C. French, D. McGimpsey, T. Prentice, R. McAllister. 10th March, 1996.

At the right end of the loose and stratified wall at the back of the cove. To the right of the cracked block are twin cracks. These give steep and unusual climbing, better than appearances might suggest.

Carrycots of Fire – 12m E1 5a. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, R. Rankin. 16th March, 1997.

Climbs the left side of the block's seaward wall, moving slightly left at the top to cross the bulge at its widest point. Worthwhile, with adequate if tricky protection.

St. Elmo's Fire, Right-Hand Start – E2 5b. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser. 10th March, 1996.

An easier though unsatisfying start. Climb the wall immediately left of the gully until it is possible to rejoin the parent route at the good holds above its crux.

KILN O' THE FUFFOCK, The Orange Wall:

Fifty metres north of Main Cliff is a north-facing steep and compact wall. The rock is very good quality.

Stonehead – 10m E3 5c*. R. McAllister, M. Reed (both solo). September, 1996.

Climbs the central line to a rounded finish.

Ocean Colour Scene – 10m E4 6a**. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. September, 1996.

Climbs the left arête of the main face. Poorly protected.

Spinning Wheel – 10m E2 5c. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. September, 1996.

The crack to the left. Climb the crack until possible to step right 2m below the top and finish up Ocean Colour Scene.

Hate Thy Neighbour – 10m E1 5b. M. Reed, R. McAllister, J. Hagan. September, 1996.

The crack left of the previous route.

LAGGANTULLACH HEAD, Small Bay:

Stolen Moments – 25m E1 5c. M. Reed, R. McAllister. 17th September, 1995.

A fine well-protected and sustained route. At the back (landward) end of the bay is a prominent corner which gives the route.

CRAMMAG HEAD, Kittiwake Zawn:

Beers, Smears and Queers – 25m E4 6b. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 1st May, 1995.

A magnificent route. Though prone to seepage, direct sun will temporarily dry it. Well protected. This is the main open corner line in the back of the zawn. Access from the south by traverse or by free abseil. Climb a fine overhanging flake crack for 3m, then step rightwards into a niche. Make a committing high step up on to a good foothold. Using undercuts, climb up the wall to some sidepulls. Hard moves gain a pocket and good flange, then pull up on to a hanging ramp. Go up this to sloping ledges, then move out right on to a rib. Climb this to its top, then undercut up and right until below a roof. Exit via an awkward and precarious slab, then leave this on big sloping holds to ascend the much easier finishing corner.

CENTRAL OUTCROPS, CAMBUSBARRON QUARRY:

The line described as Rats up a Drainpipe (SMCJ 1996) had previously been climbed

by M. Worsley and C. Pettigrew in May, 1994 and named Pig Route but had accidentally been missed from the guide.

Blockbuster – 15m MVS 4c. C. Adam, S. Baker. June, 1994.

In the large corner to the left of Power of Endurance, scramble over large boulders to the obvious wide crack at half height and climb it.

Bo's Groove – 12m MVS 4c. C. Adam, C. Lennox. 14th May, 1996.

About 10m left of Power of Endurance a blunt arete protrudes. Climb the groove with a thin crack on the right to a tree belay.

Bo's Arête – 12m HVS 5a. C. Adam, C. Lennox. 14th May, 1996.

From the bottom of the groove make an interesting move out right to tackle the blunt arete face on. Gear out on the right, then left.

Bo's Arête Direct – 12m E1 5c. C. Adam. 14th May, 1996.

The face returning to the right of the arête provides an interesting variation. Climb to the hold above the V-shaped pocket, then swing left to join Bo's Arête.

Contortionism – 20m E6 6c. G. Lennox, D. Parr. 30th August, 1996.

Climbs straight up the corner right of Economy Drive. The route is well protected but very sustained with a vicious crux section.

Anabolic Steroids – 20m E7 6c. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 14th May, 1996.

Climbs the overhanging crackline above the friction boulder problems at the back of the quarry. Bold dynamic climbing leads to a break at 4m. Hard and sustained but well protected climbing follows.

CAMBUSBARRON WEST QUARRY:

High on the west wall is a prominent squat pillar with two short but striking cracklines on its right flank. It is level with the north end of a fenced-off planted area on the quarry floor, and above the north end of the biggest of the piles of rubble below the west wall of the quarry.

The Rock of Crack – E3 5c. M. Worsley, T. Wood. August, 1996.

The left-hand crack.

Confessions of a Speed Freak – E2 5b. M. Worsley, T. Wood. August, 1996.

The right-hand crack.

Gear Freak – 15m E6 6c. G. Lennox. April, 1997.

An ascent of Production Line without pegs, which seem to have been removed in revenge for the bolt chopping. Climb the crack on the right placing a high side runner. Climb down and across to horizontal crack. Move up to small roof and make very hard move to triangular hold. Pull up to crack and carefully scale loose ground above.

Bird Nest's Crack – E1 5b. M. Worsley, T. Wood. July, 1996.

On the east wall and 14m right of Production Line, just left of Assassin, is a pillar split by a vertical off-hand crack. Requires care at the top.

FASTCASTLE SEACLIFFS, The Soutar Area:

Tubigripper – 12m E1 5a. C. Pasteur, A. Matthewson, J. Andrew. 20th May, 1996. Sustained climbing between Sentry Box and Daytrippers (SMCJ, 1996). Start 4m right of Sentry Box, and directly up the centre of the huge protruding block above.

BENARTY HILL (Fife):

The cliff remains an esoteric backwater, probably justifiably.

Pamela Anderson – 15m E4 6b. J. Andrew. 13th June, 1996.

The curvaceous off-width crack right of Dolly Parton is harder than it looks, even more so in the nesting season (fulmar). A car-jack runner was employed.

Wizard – VS 5a. A. Matthewson, A. Hume, C. Pasteur. 13th June, 1996.

A short clean prow near the left end of the cliff.