

## NEW CLIMBS SECTION

### OUTER ISLES

#### LEWIS, Creag Dubh Dibadale:

Rob Archbold and Geof Cohen note the following two items.

**Note 1:** We write this in an attempt to clarify the relation between Panting Dog Climb and the earlier Joplin's Wall. A full description of Joplin's Wall was submitted to SMCJ in 1974 but, in accordance with the post-moratorium policy operating at that time, only an abbreviated version was published. The routes are essentially common, up to, and including the 'excellent rock niche' and the 'black corner above' in the description of Panting Dog Climb. Thereafter the first difference seems to be in the vicinity of the 'sloping overhang'. For Joplin's Wall: Move right and up beneath the middle of an overhang. Traverse left on underclings to a small perched block, above which a short wall leads to easier climbing into a prominent depression. Continue diagonally right to a belay in a chimney/crack system at a point level with a horizontal fault on the right (5b). (This belay is probably in the 'line of weakness' at the start of pitch 3 of Panting Dog Climb.) Make an exposed traverse right along the horizontal fault (with bulging rock above) for about 25ft, then climb steeply up to gain easier ground (5a). Climb up and right to gain the big ramp which runs diagonally right towards the top (about three pitches, 110m, 4c).

**Note 2:** With regard to the History section of the guidebook, while it is indeed the case that we made a free ascent of Via Valtos in July 1974, we feel impelled to point out that we have neither climbed nor claimed to have climbed Solitude.

#### HARRIS, Glen Scaladale, Creag Mo:

Wee Gommie is 100m and modern grade HVS 5a 5a 5a -. The last two pitches (5a, -) are the same as Herbivore pitches 4 and 5. An independent finish would be much harder and was unlikely to have been done. The route is good despite vegetation and worth a star.

*Lost Gandulf* – 20m MVS. C. Stupart, M. Moss. 27th July, 1997.

Situated on the smaller crag at the right edge of the main cliff. Two obvious diagonal cracks run rightwards for the full height of the crag from a terrace. Climb the crack, with two deviations out right on to a slab.

*Shelob* - 15m Severe. M. Allan, S. Marvell. 27th July, 1997.

The right-trending crack 15m to the right of Lost Gandulf, most interesting at the top.

**Sgurr Scaladale:** A. Nisbet notes that from a distance (Creag Mo), it seemed obvious that the huge central gully is Central Gully, not West Gully as marked in the New Guide diagram. Therefore Central Rib (the original rock climb) is the rib on its left, a very obvious line and dry when everything else was wet, and West Buttress is on its right before West Gully.

#### LEWIS SEA CLIFFS, Painted Geo:

On the south side of the Geo left of Black Foot, the following three routes start from the right end of a spacious ledge gained by a scramble down a chossy bay towards the back of the Geo. From right to left.



*Stripper* - 25m Severe\*. R. Henderson, E. Pirie. 27th April, 1995.

After climbing the chimney crack of Rub Down for 5m, take the obvious right-trending crackline.

*Rub Down* - 25m V.Diff. E. Pirie, R. Henderson. 27th April, 1995.

Climb the chimney crack at the right end of the ledge.

*Bristles Arête* - 25m Diff. R. Henderson, E. Pirie. 27th April, 1995.

The arête left of Rub Down.

*Veinous Trap* - 20m HVS 5a\*. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 27th April, 1995.

About 500m to the NE of Painted Geo (MR 010 334) and well seen from the top of the climbs around Mick's Corner is a small cliff with a distinctive diagonal pink quartz vein. This route hand traverses the top of the vein starting from the lowest point.

### **The Hooded Wall and the Channel Walls (MR 004 333):**

These Walls lie just west of the Painted Wall Geo, on the tip of the headland 100m beyond the Radio Mast. From the car park go north-west in the same line as the road and descend slabby rock a short way to the start of a shelf slanting down northwards. Near the top of this shelf there is a notch which looks out over a recessed area. An abseil through the notch deposits one at the foot of the Hooded Wall at the start of a thin crack (Black is Black) running up the left (facing in) retaining wall. An easy scramble around this retaining wall, in fact a fin of rock, leads to a deep channel going right through to the north side of the headland; the Channel Walls lie either side. Both areas appear largely non-tidal with waves tending to be broken up by the seaward wall on the other side of the channel, although spray does fly about a bit in heavier seas.

### **The Hooded Wall:**

*Black is Black* - 30m E1 5b\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 28th June, 1997.

The thin crack running up the black wall just left of the abseil ropes.

*Paint it Black* - 30m E2 5b\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

The groove just to the left forces one out right onto a good ledge near its top. Climb the wall above onto the edge and climb up left to the top of the 'fin'.

*Buoys in the Hood* - 30m E1 5b\*. R. and C. Anderson. 28th June, 1997.

Takes a line up the right side of the hooded section starting from the centre of the wall. Climb stepped grooves up and then rightwards to the base of a groove with a thin crack in it at the right side of the hooded section. Climb this and continue to the top.

*Buoyancy Aid* - 30m HVS 4c\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

Follow Buoys in the Hood (the two lower shelves are blind and often greasy) to just below its groove/thin crack leading to the edge and traverse around right onto the edge where a crack leads to the top.

*Buoys From the Black Stuff* - 30m VS 4c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

The obvious crack leading out onto the lower right side of the hooded section. Climb the crack to the edge (a line links up with the previous route from here), step right and climb a crack which leads to fine slabby ground and the top.

### **The Channel Walls:**

*Blind Alley* - 25m E3 5c. R. and C. Anderson. 28th June, 1997. This climbs the centre of the right hand section of wall on the other side of the 'fin' from Black is

Black. From the channel climb to a spacious ledge, then awkwardly up a short corner in the centre of the wall. Continue directly above to the base of a quartz vein, then go up and around left passing the base of a blind groove to climb a pink quartz flake to the top.

### **Eileen Geo (MR 013 335):**

A lovely little Geo just before the small island of Glas Eileen where the Ard More Mangersta cliffs dip into the sea at Uig Bay. From any of the parking areas along the final stretch of road to the transmission aerial walk north eastwards following the high ground (avoiding the drop down and climb back up from Toras Geo) out to the end before the island. The Geo is a long tidal inlet with a south west facing wall of rock dissected by quartz seams. The rock at the eastern end (right) is not as good as that farther left moving seaward. Routes at the eastern side of the inlet are accessible from the boulders for a while, however, at other times and for other climbs on the wall abseil directly to ledges above the waterline. An abseil down the north eastern corner of the Geo gains the first routes.

*Flakeout* – 20m E1 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

Climb the obvious left to right slanting flake on the back (seaward facing) wall of the Geo, just right of the abseil. From the ledge at two-thirds height, step left and climb to the top.

*Breakout* – 20m E1 5a. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

The first section of the main wall is a slab of grey rock. Some 5m left of the abseil corner, climb a quartz streak to an accommodating ledge from whose right side a quartz streak leads through a notch to a quartz ledge. Finish up the right side of the groove above.

The next routes are gained by abseiling down an obvious corner further along the Geo, to good ledges. The first route starts from a ledge in the corner.

*Sea Pink* – 20m E3 6a\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

The crack up the quartz pink wall right of the abseil is excellent, but unfortunately, near the top the holds force moves away from the centre up onto the right edge.

Just to the left of the corner is another ledge.

*Deep Blue* – 20m HVS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

Climb the quartz streak springing from the right side of the ledge.

*Aqua Marine* – 20m VS 4c\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1997.

From the left side of the ledge, gain the crack up on the left and follow this to the top.

### **The Seal Walls (MR 012 335):**

This wall extends north-eastwards from a narrow entranced, deep sea cliff on the other side of Toras Geo where there is another Geo split by a ridge of rock with an arch under it. The wall is severely undercut where it overlooks the tidal trench entering the sea cave, then it turns the corner to a tar black vertical section before turning into another cave before decreasing in height by slabby rocks running into Eileen Geo. The tar black section has a number of cracks running up it with non-tidal ledges just above the sea, gained by abseil from directly above.

*Flapping About* – 30m E4 6a\*. R. and C. Anderson. 4th July, 1997.

The crackline just to the right of the main central crackline

*Signed Sealed and Delivered* – 30m E2 5c/6a\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 4th July, 1997.

The main central crackline is only slightly flawed by some suspect rock near the top.

*Slippery Customer* – 30m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 5th July, 1997.

The crackline up the left side of the wall. Start as for Signed Sealed and Delivered and go left to another crack. On the initial section the climbing is perhaps slightly easier on the left but the gear is better just on the right. Move up left into the easier upper section. Some suspect rock.

### **Painted Geo (guide p69):**

The next five routes are on the small friendly 20m wall down and left as you face Painted Wall. Approached by scrambling or abseiling down a broken gully in the centre of the wall. The first three are right of the descent (facing in).

*Callum's Grasp* – 20m HVS 5a. K. Pyke, G. Huxter. 9th July, 1997.

Start at the centre of the crag at a shattered left crack line. Follow this, then straight up the final flake with great jugs and gear.

*Named by Proxy* – 20m HVS 5b. G. Huxter, K. Pyke. 9th July, 1997.

Start 2m right of Callum's Grasp directly below a small overhang. Pull through this, then continue more easily to the top.

*Crimp Cocktail* – 20m E2 5c. G. Kirk, D. Howard. 10th July, 1997.

Start midway between Callum's Grasp and the descent. Climb a small flake and pull on to a tiny ledge at 6m. Climb the crack and wall above, then move rightwards to beneath an overhang. Follow the crack leftwards through the overhang to the top.

The next two are left of the descent.

*Isle be Back* – 20m E1 5b. A. Leary, G. Kirk. 9th July, 1997.

Start at the left end of the sloping ledges. Climb a short corner for 2m and step left on to a small ledge. Climb up and leftwards to reach the base of a groove/crack. Pull out leftwards and climb the wall to the top.

*Swell Time* – 20m E1 5b. G. Kirk, A. Leary. 9th July, 1997.

Start just left of the descent under a hanging arête. Pull over the overhang on to the wall above, then move leftwards and follow the left side of the arête to a fine steep finish.

Moving northwards from Painted Geo across the next zawn, this route has the same start as Ladies Who Lunch (p73).

*Out All Night* – 35m E3 5c. G. Huxter, K. Pyke. 9th July, 1997.

Start as for Ladies Who Lunch. Climb 6m above the belay to gain a right-facing corner system. Follow the corner for 14m until it steepens, then step right into a hanging groove (suspect rock) to finish.

### **The Flannan Area – Aurora Geo, The Cioch Wall (p75):**

*Grease a' Break!* – 20m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 1st July, 1997.

A line just left of the slimy wide crack, left of The Chicken Run, was followed for a short way until the rock (or grease) forced moves into the wide crack which was finished up. Probably easier to climb the wide crack, in any case much of the climbing is on the edge of the crack away from the slime.

### **Landlubber Geo:**

**Note from R.Anderson:** Guidebook page 78 – Landlubber Geo is correctly stated as being just north of the Flannan Area but is in the wrong place in the guide between

Magic Geo and Aurora Geo. It should be described on page 74 after the access notes where it states 'the northern edge of this ridge has a distinct black tail dipping into the sea'. This slabby black tail forms the west side of Landlubber Geo and is used to access it down the west side not the east as mentioned in the guide. MR 003 330 – Dry Dock is obvious and looks fine but the rock to its right is certainly very brittle and deterred an ascent.

The following is also on Landlubber Geo and received from K. Pyke (MR 002 330, the same wall? She prefers the name Geodh' an tamana). It is 10 minutes south of Mangersta headland parking lot. A SW wall in a sheltered mini-Geo above large boulders.

*Birdsong* – 25m E3 5c\*\*. G. Huxter, K. Pyke. 11th July, 1997.

Start on a large flat-topped boulder beneath a prominent orange corner. Follow the grooved crack to gain the orange corner and climb this on good holds to a ledge. Step right and go up 5m, then move right on to another sloping ledge to gain the base of an overhanging corner. Move left along the ledge and pull on to an easy ramp to finish. (Alternatively, finish direct up the corner at 6a – done as second).

The next two routes are hidden away to the seaward side north of Aurora Zawn. Here lies a hidden wall banded on its south side by a deep chimney (abseil).

*Sidewalk* – 25m E1 5b\*. K. Pyke, G. Huxter, A. Leary. 11th July, 1997.

Start at the base of the large crack/cleft. Follow the crack to thinner moves diagonally right. Continue on a rising rightward line following the length of the wall on good holds and ledges.

*Mutineer's Return* – 25m VS 4c\*. G. Huxter, G. Kirk. 11th July, 1997.

The aesthetic arête in an exposed position. Start at its seaward base.

### **Screaming Geo:**

Descriptions have been received that fit Pinky and Perky (p87). Pinky at E1 5b\*\*; Perky at HVS 5a\*\*\*.

The following routes lie approx. 15m to the right, just left of the descent route.

*Screaming Sandhoppers* – 10m Severe\*\*. M. Sullivan, J. Garbutt. 22nd July, 1997. Starts at a prominent 2m monolith with a shallow cave to the left and a deeper one to the right. Climb the crack direct, sustained.

*Screaming Miss Molly* – 10m VS 4b \*\*. M. Sullivan, J. Garbutt. 22nd July, 1997. Start from the right-hand side of the deeper cave. Bridge up between the monolith and the right-hand wall of the cave to reach a crack which is climbed direct. Easier for the tail.

*Katrin's Cream* – 10m V.Diff \*\*. M. Sullivan, J. Garbutt. 22nd July, 1997.

Start 2m further right. Climb a left-slanting crack into a right-facing groove.

### **The Screaming Wall (p92):**

*Necromancer* – 60m E3\*\*. K. Pyke, G. Huxter (alt). 10th July, 1997.

This route links the prominent black crystalline bands and crackline on the left side of Screaming Wall Geo. Best viewed from the hut lookout. To reach the start: abseil 60m to black ledges (non-tidal) which are 8m diagonally down and left from the start of Dark Crystal.

1. 30m 5c Follow black crystalline rock always trending up and left steeply at times on a faint prow. For the final 5m, move right up a corner to gain an airy square-cut perch.

2. 30m 5b Move left to gain the crack system and jam securely until stepping left into an obvious corner line. Finish directly as for Dark Crystal.

### **Rubh'an Taroin (North Bay): Guidebook page 93-94:**

This is the small bay which lies just to the north of the Rubh an Taroin promontory, the south side of the bay forms the dark north wall of the promontory which is clearly visible from further up the coast. The route described below is on the same south facing wall as Moac Wall and Twelve Years On and lies just to their right. The shelf at the base of the routes appears to be free from the tide for a long time and although it can be approached by scrambling down the headland and traversing in right, it is probably better approached by abseiling down slabs at the top of the cliff and over a short, steep, grey coloured seaward facing wall at the western end. Traverse right. On turning the corner the cliff gains height, changing colour and appearance to that of quartz lines, steep grooves and roofs. The first obvious breach in the lower wall, just on turning the corner, is thought to be the start of the two original routes but due to poor descriptions it is hard to match these up.

*Achevalier* – 30m E3 5c \*. R. and C. Anderson. 4th July, 1997.

This lies a short way along the shelf from the earlier routes, nearer the middle of the cliff, just before the going becomes more awkward as the shelf reduces in size. There is an obvious 5m high open book corner at the base of the cliff, thread belay on the shelf below this. Climb the groove/right rib of this open-book corner to a ledge and continue awkwardly up the narrow capped groove into the prominent deep V-groove above and on up a left slanting line to finish.

### **AIRD UIG AREA, Geodh' a' Bheannaich (Map Ref 037 377):**

On the north side of the Geo that the burn from Loch a' Bheannaich drains into, is a fin of rock with a cave halfway along on the slabby south side and a scrambly descent in the middle of the steeper north side which leads onto a large platformed bay. The best climbing on the south side of the fin is to the west/seaward side of the cave and access is by abseil to ledges at the base of the slab. Moving left/west from the cave.

*Ride a Wild Starfish* – 25m Diff. E. Pirie, R. Henderson. 28th April, 1995.

Climb the arête on the left of the cave.

*Nightmare of Prickly Starfish* – 25m Severe\*. R. Henderson, E. Pirie. 28th April, 1995.

Start up twin cracks to the left of the arête and finish via the left one. **Note:** Juggy Crack, 25m Severe\*\* (1993) climbs the fine wide crack just left of the above route.

*Echinoderm* – 25m VS 4c\*. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 28th April, 1995.

A few metres left again climb into a hanging left-facing corner moving right round the bulge and finish up the top crack.

*Feather Star* – 25m Diff\*. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham. 28th April, 1995.

Start 3m right of the left edge, taking wide cracks and avoid the bulge on the left finishing via the final moves of Small Fry.

On the end of the fin accessed from the platform on the north side is a pink vein on the right and a dark vein on the left split by a deep fault (a line of descent).

*Small Fry* – 20m H. Severe. T. Walker, I. Sherrington. 28th April, 1995.

Climb by ramps on the right side of the pink vein.

*Langustine* – 15m Severe\*. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 28th April, 1995.

Climb via a narrow pink quartz vein on the right of the dark area.

*Squat Lobster* – 15m Diff\*. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham. 28th April, 1995.  
Cracks up the middle of the dark area.

*Rock Goby* – 15m V.Diff\*. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham. 28th April, 1995.  
Cracks up the left side of the dark area.

The next routes are on the steep north side of the fin and at the back of the platform bay where various dark and light 'liquorice allsort' veins are obvious.

*Baltic Tellin* – 25m E1 5b\*. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 28th April, 1995.

A few metres to the left of the descent is a steep deep crack. Take to the wall on the right of the crack moving leftwards onto easier ground. Finish by the steep crack through the top bulge.

*Saltire Right* – 25m Severe 4b\*\*. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham. 28th April, 1995.

At the back of the bay is a white quartz cross high up, with wide quartz veins running up either side. Climb by the stepped quartz rib through the right side of the cross with hard moves over the first step.

*Saltire Left* – 25m M. Severe\*\*. T. Walker, I. Sherrington. 28th April, 1995.

Takes the stepped rib through the left side of the quartz cross.

Farther left of the Saltire (30m) are a number of corners and grooves.

*Seal Dive* – 35m VS. E. Pirie, R. Henderson. 28th April, 1995.

Takes the big right-facing corner high up with a black ramp below.

1. 20m 4b From sea-facing ledges climb a clean crack to a ledge below the corner.
2. 15m 4c/5a Climb the corner.

*The Abyss* – 35m HVS\*. R. Henderson, E. Pirie. 28th April, 1995.

To the left of Seal Dive is a deep narrow slot dropping to the sea.

1. 20m 4b Bridge the slot and climb the left-hand corner to a ledge.
2. 15m 5a Continue up the steep fault line to easier ground.

The rock becomes more broken past this area until it heightens again into an impressive Geo, May Day Geo (MR 037 379). The south side consists of a steep, cracked black wall followed by a series of corners and arêtes running into the back wall of the Geo. Above is a diagonal fault/ledge line with shorter routes starting from this higher ledge. The first routes are described right to left descending the fault.

*Shortie* – 5m Diff. R. Henderson. 1st May, 1995.

A broken right-facing corner where the crag starts to heighten.

*Gale Force 8* – 8m VS 5a\*. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. 1st May, 1995.

A few metres left of Shortie, pull over an undercut nose into thin cracks.

*May Day, May Day* – 10m E1 5a/b\*\*. F. Fotheringham, A. Cunningham. 1st May, 1995.

Round the edge from Gale Force 8 is an overhanging corner crack. Strenuous.

*Stickybeak* – 20m Mod. R. Henderson. 1st May, 1995.

From the end of the ledge below May Day, step left into slabby left-facing corner. Climb this to the top.

Scramble down the fault a few metres to gain access to the next two routes.

*Classic Overtrousers* – 25m VS 4c\*\*. I. Sherrington, R. Henderson. 1st May, 1995.

The stepped series of ramps and corners 6m left of Stickybeak, trending slightly left.

*Australian Snowballs* – 25m E1 5b\*. R. Henderson, I. Sherrington. 1st May, 1995.

Start 3m left again and climb yet another corner system with the crux at 5m at a short overhanging corner.

Access to the bigger lower wall is via a scramble off the end of the promontory cutting back right under the climbs. The ledges here will be awash at high tide with the usual Atlantic swell.

*Rites of Spring* – 25m E1 5b\*\*. I. Sherrington, R. Henderson, 1st May, 1995.

This route takes the right-hand groove on the first major steep black wall. Finish via the fine thin crack in the headwall.

*Whitewater Groove* – 25m E1 5b\*\*. R. Henderson, I. Sherrington. 1st May, 1995.

On the left of the wall is another groove which curves rightwards to the same finish as *Rites of Spring*.

*Snakes and Ladders* – 30m HVS 5a\*\*. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. 1st May, 1995.

About 20m left of the first wall is a series of steep short corners and arêtes with a short black wall barring access. Climb the wall moving left into the corners in a fine position.

*The End of the World is Knee High* – 25m E1 5b\*\*\*. I. Sherrington, T. Walker. 1st May, 1995.

Traverse left along the platforms to corners before it narrows at a patch of seaweed. Climb a layback crack system until forced to step right. Continue up the top system.

*Hard On Yer Heels* – 20m H. Severe. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. 1st May, 1995.

On the opposite side of the Geo towards the seaward end is an inviting set of vertical cracks. Abseil down to a tidal ledge below the cracks and take the more obvious right-hand crack.

From the top of the previous route a ramp leads down under a short wall north to the last area of climbing where the cliff gains in height.

### **CAMUS UIG AREA, Torcaso, The Pool Wall (MR 030 354):**

This is the lovely tidal pool which is mentioned on page 100 of the guide. Just north of the cairn at the top of Torcaso is the large Geo mentioned in the guide (MR 029 353). Some 50m north of this Geo is a shallow bay above a tidal pool. The base of the wall above the pool appears to remain unaffected by the tide for quite a number of hours and there is a good high ledge at the base of the three routes described. Approach by abseil down the north corner of the bay, past a platform and down a wide, deep crack to the edge of the pool. A fine wall forms the back of the bay and the three following routes start from the same place after a scramble up to a good ledge on a huge 'boulder' forming the base of the wall. All three routes are very close together.

*Pond Life* – 30m E2 5c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 29th June, 1997.

Step left, climb an awkward leaning section and continue steeply up the thin crackline.

*Pool Shark* – 30m E1 5b\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 29th June, 1997.

A few feet right of the previous route climb onto the very top of the 'boulder' and follow another crackline straight to the top with a steeper middle section, always just right of the previous route.

*Puddle Duck* – 30m E1 5c. R. and C. Anderson. 29th June, 1997. Eliminate climbing immediately right of *Pool Shark*. Step up right into a steep groove and

make an awkward move to holds, then continue directly up a groove with an awkward exit onto a small slab. Continue to the top.

### **Fiavaig Bagh (MR 031 354, p100), Deep Zawn:**

*Consequences* – 30m E4 6a. K. Pyke, G. Huxter. 12th July, 1997.

The route lies on the west-facing wall and follows a hanging corner-crack system. Best viewed from the opposite side of the zawn. Approach by abseil to a hanging stance down the large corner some 30m from the south end of the zawn. Make tricky moves up a blank wall and corner (RP protection) to a semi-rest under an overhang. Turn the overhang on its right to gain the arête and step back left to follow the final groove line in an excellent position.

*Fright of the Cormorant* – 25m E1 5b\*. G. Kirk, D. Howard, A. Leary. 12th July, 1997.

Climbs the crack in the left wall of the descent corner. Approach as per *Consequences* and start from sloping ledges. Climb the corner for 4m, then follow the crack in its steep left wall to the top.

### **Geodha Gunna (p102):**

Brutal Reality is wrongly described as in this Geo; it is in the next Geo northwards. The following two routes are on the impressive south-facing wall. Approach by abseil to ledges at sea level.

*Rabid Wanderings* – 45m E3 5c. G. Huxter, K. Pyke. 14th July, 1997.

Climb the central crack/groove for 20m before moving out rightwards and taking a diagonal line up to the right end of an overhang. Pull through this (crux) and continue straight to the top.

*Lucid Visions* – 45m E4\*\*\*. G. Huxter, K. Pyke (alt.). 14th July, 1997.

A brilliant 'out there' route on a rising and exposed traverse leftwards through hanging grooves and finishing up a steep headwall.

1. 25m 5c. Climb *Rabid Wanderings* for 3m before weaving up and leftwards into hanging grooves to gain a good and exposed stance.

2. 20m 5c. Move left and on to the headwall. Follow a thin crack leftwards on steep ground to finish.

### **DALBEG, Small West Wall:**

Left of Original Route are a number of short routes.

*Zosta Slab* – Diff. \*. I. Sherrington, T. Walker. 26th April, 1995.

From the start of Original Route traverse left along the base of the undercut slab and up cracks in the left edge.

*No Choice* – MVS 4c. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 26th April, 1995.

The first corner crack left of the slab. Pull through the initial bulge and turn the next on the right to finish up *Zosta Slab*.

*Pringles* – Severe\*. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham 26th April, 1995.

The third corner crack left of the slab - good.

On the seaward face right of Mongrel are a number of short cracks.

*Good Crack* – HVS 5a\*. R. Henderson, E. Pirie. 26th April, 1995.

The obvious vertical crack in the centre of the face.

*Just for the Crack* – VS 4c\*. E. Pirie, R. Henderson. 26th April, 1995.

To the right of *Good Crack*, pull over the nose to climb the right-trending crack.



*Ian's Easy Time* – M. Severe. I. Sherrington, T. Walker. 26th April, 1995.  
Climb the right edge of the slab of Henry's Hard Times.

*Hard to Swallow* – E2 5b\*. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 26th April, 1995.  
The crackline just right of Endurance, steep and strenuous.

**Note:** Ruth's Lazy Day was thought to be H. Severe 4b and Outlaw E1 5b.

### **NORTH UIST, Eaval:**

*Waters of Illusion* – 50m Severe. D. Rubens. 20th July, 1997.

Although difficulties are short, the climb enlivens an expedition to this fine viewpoint. There appeared to be minimal protection. Approaching by kayak across Loch Obisary, a small, but prominent, white scar is seen towards the right-hand end of the summit cliffs. Start below and right of the steep buttress which has the scar on its lower left. Climb an easy ridge for about 30m. Near the top of the ridge, traverse left and on to the steep buttress. Climb the buttress (12m) by the line of least resistance (trending left, then right). Scramble up to finish.

### **PABBAY, Allanish Peninsula (MR 592 881):**

*Hypnotize* – 35m HVS 5a\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll. 28th May, 1997.

Start four metres left of Squeeze Job. Climb a blunt arête and the easier ground above.

*Vitrified Cinders* – 40m HVS 5b\*\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes. 28th May, 1997.

Romp up the ramp below Sugar Cane Country and climb the fine corner bounding the right side of the smooth wall.

### **The Poop Deck (MR 589 871):**

*The Notorious B.I.G.* – 30m E3 6a\*\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll. 24th May, 1997.

A fierce route tackling the overhang on the left side of this part of the wall. Start just to the right of The Immigrant and climb a crack line to the roof. Make hard moves to surmount this then step right and climb a blunt arête to the top.

*The Raven* – 30m E5 6a\*\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 25th May, 1997.

Three cracks lie to the left of Bogus Asylum Seekers. From the left of a pool, gain and climb the left hand crack to a roof. Pull through this at a hairline crack, then move up to the large break. Follow this down and left then move up and follow pockets to the top.

*Corncrakes for Breakfast* – 30m E3 5c\*\*. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 25th May, 1997.

Start between Bogus Asylum Seekers and the left facing corner. Follow a flake to head for a small overlap in the leaning headwall, passing it on the right.

*The Stowaway* – 30m Severe\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes. 24th May, 1997.

This is the deep corner forming the left hand side of the projecting buttress. Wide bridging leads to easier ground then a steep finish up another short corner.

*Poop* – 20m Diff.\*. G. Nicoll. 24th May, 1997.

The left end of the Poop Deck is formed by a strange projecting nose. Climb easily up the crest of the nose, move left and finish up a short V-chimney.

### **The Galley (MR 590 872):**

*Unnamed* – 30m E2 5b. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 28th May, 1997.

Takes the middle of the wall between The Abridged Version and Wiggly Wall. A bold eliminate with good climbing.

*Wu-Tang Will Survive* – 30m HVS 5a\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll. 25th May, 1997.  
Start as for Winos in a Barren Land and take a diagonal line rightwards across the wall to finish at the right hand end of the big roof.

*Conch Corner* – 25m VS 4c\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes. 25th May, 1997.  
To the left of Winos in a Barren Land are two parallel, disjointed corners. This route climbs the right hand of these. Start by climbing rightwards to gain and climb the steep flaky corner.

*Wu-Tang Forever* – E1 5b\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll. 25th May, 1997.  
Follow Conch Corner for a few metres then pull left through a bulge (crux) to gain and climb the left hand corner line.

### **The Great Arch:**

*Sturm und Drang* – 115m E5\*\*. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn (alt). 25th May, 1997.  
This serious route climbs an impressive line on the south flank of the pillar forming the left side of the big corner. Abseil down the corner to the lowest foothold, below the lowest black biotite band. Belay on nuts and the abseil rope.

1. 25m 6a. Taking a high side runner, traverse left just above the level of the belay to gain the top of a large slot. Follow cracks up the wall then move left past a loose block to belay on a ramp on the left.

2. 45m 6b. Climb up to a prominent spike and then ascend the twin grooves above, moving left onto jugs below the roof. Move right into a bottomless corner with care (loose block and crux!) and gain the groove above. Follow this to belay on a vegetated ramp.

3. 15m 4b. Traverse right to belay on the left-hand side of a large ledge. 4. 30m 5b. Climb to a large flake on the right, step left, then follow the cleanest crack to the top.

### **Banded Geo (MR 592 870):**

*The Swabber* – 25m HVS 5a\*\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes. 26th May, 1997.

Start at the left edge of the back wall of Banded Geo, close to where the grass meets the slabs. Climb a richly pocketed groove to below the leaning headwall. Trend leftwards up the obvious ramp to pull over a bulge.

*The 36th Chamber* – 20m E4 6a\*\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll. 26th May, 1997.  
Start up The Swabber then launch up the leaning headwall. Climb to an obvious flake, then rightwards, then straight up to finish.

*Endolphin Rush* – 60m E4\*\*\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little (alt.). 27th May, 1997.  
A magnificent and strenuous route on excellent rock. Start on the long low ledge (below and to the left of the start of Spring Squill). Abseil access.

1. 25m 6a. Climb up to and follow the right-trending wide band of pegmatite across the wall until moves can be made up into a crackline. Follow this, with increasing difficulty, to belay on a small ledge directly under big roofs. A very pumpy pitch!

2. 35m 5c. Move up to the big roof then step down and left onto the lip of another roof. Climb a short overhanging wall, using a fat, black spike, to gain a ledge below another (worryingly detached) roof. Move left to bypass this and then climb straight up on big holds to the top.

To the right of Spooky Pillar is an unclimbed flakey corner then two long smooth walls separated by an obvious left facing corner. A horizontal grassy ledge runs across the top of these walls.

*Hyper Ballad* – 55m E2\*\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll (alt.). 27th May, 1997.

This route takes a line up the wall just right of the left-facing corner. Abseil to a foot ledge four metres to the right of the base of the corner, calm seas preferred.

1. 30m 5b. From the footledge climb directly up to an overhang, traverse 6m left and pull spectacularly through the overhang at a crack. Continue to the grass ledge.
2. 25m. Climb easy cracks and slabs to the top.

*Mollyhawk* – 55m HVS\*\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes (alt.). 27th May, 1997.

Abseil to the foot ledge as for the previous route.

1. 30m 5a. Move up and right and climb a right-facing groove. Move left to an obvious break in the overlap, pull through and continue to the grass ledge.
2. 25m Climb easy cracks and slabs to the top.

### **Pink Wall (MR 596 869):**

*The Tomorrow People* – 110m E4\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett (alt.). 26th May, 1997.

At the top of Pink Wall there are two short rock steps with grass ledges in-between them. The higher ledge holds a small pool, the lower holds a flat block that abuts the wall. Abseil from this block into space.

**Note:** This route is effectively on the westerly flank of Pink Wall where the cliff is most continuous. It has a serious feel and some very strange rock. Start at a cluster of big spikes above a black glacis about 10m in from the left side of the crag.

1. 25m 5b. Trend up and left on weird rock to a large spike. Climb a shallow chimney then hand traverse right to gain another chimney. Climb this then traverse right across a ledge to belay on a strange pillar (thread) in the far corner.
2. 25m 5c. Step up and make a hard move left. Pull up a steep wall to a jug then step right to gain a big flake edge. Climb this and then a short corner to below a big roof. Traverse hard left below the roof to take a hanging belay on 'fired' rock just after blind downwards moves.
3. 20m 5c. Move left then climb a strenuous shallow chimney line to a capping overhang. Pull over this then move up into a recess. Trend left to belay by a big semi-detached block.
4. 40m 5b. Step right and climb the obvious crack up the edge (seen as a black streak when viewing the cliff from afar). Ascend easier but enjoyable slabs to the top.

*The Guga* – 90m E6\*\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 27th May, 1997.

Climbs the large open corner (the only weakness) to the left of the junction between the overhanging pink front face and the overhanging grey sidewall on the right. On the first ascent the wide terrace at the base of this feature was gained in a circuitous manner. However, a direct abseil should just about reach the outer edge of the terrace. Some fulmar dodging is then required to gain the base of a black overhanging corner, 10m to the left of the arête.

1. 20m 6a. Climb the corner with a difficult exit left onto a ledge. Move up the overhanging wall on the right to belay on a ramp.
2. 25m 6b. Climb the corner system on the right, then make hard moves through a bulge to gain the left-arching pegmatite bulge. Follow this to a crack, move up then rightwards to gain a ledge. Belay on the ledge above on the left.
3. 45m 4c. Climb up left from the belay then follow a direct line to the top.

### **Shag's Geo (MR 597 869):**

This Geo lies between Pink Wall and the deep inlet of Sloc Glamari Geo. Its west-flank forms an overhanging wall in the back of the Geo which becomes a

wall, of diminishing height and seamed with corners and grooves, towards its outer end. A sloping grass ledge, about 10m down, runs across the top of the wall and all abseil descents start from it and all routes finish on it. This ledge can be easily accessed by descending towards the tip of headland on its east side and then traversing around to the foot of the ledge on the west side. A scramble descent directly to the ledge is also possible. The routes are described from left to right – from the back of the Geo out.

*Up Before the Beak* – 70m E3\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett (alt). 24th May, 1997.

Set up an abseil just down from the grass bay near the upper end of the grass ledge. Belay at a small cave a couple of metres above the sea.

1. 35m 5b. Climb a left-slanting ramp to a wide ledge. Move left along the ledge for a few metres to below another ramp. Climb this, crossing an overlap and the juggy wall above to belay at a rounded spike at a band of pink rock.

2. 30m 5c. Climb up into a short corner below a deep horizontal fault. Step right and up onto the break. Pull up on big jugs then move 2m left to an incipient corner. Climb straight up this line into a small bomb bay corner under the big roof. Exit left.

*Shags with Attitude* – 60m E3\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little (alt.). 28th May, 1997.

To the left of an obvious long corner (Cracking Corner) is a huge black roof. Left again is a short, steep, narrow ramp just above sea level. Abseil to take a hanging belay at high watermark at the base of this ramp.

1. 25m 5c. Move up the ramp and then pull up onto an overhanging wall. Continue up to a short left-facing slot formed by a large flange. Pull right then climb straight up to belay on a ledge.

2. 35m 4c. Climb an open corner to a roof. Traverse left below it then climb up on slightly messy ground to reach the grass ledge.

*Cracking Corner* – 50m Severe\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 24th May, 1997.

Mid way up the grass ledge is a triangular block a short distance beyond a semi-detached pinnacle. Abseil from the block to just above sea level at the foot of an obvious long corner. Climb the corner on excellent holds to its capping roof. Move right, then continue on the same general line to the top and belay on the abseil block.

### **Big Block Sloc (MR 600 869):**

This small Geo lies to the east of Sloc Glamari Geo and holds a very distinctive west-facing wedge of clean rock. A huge jammed block defies gravity on the upper seaward side of this wedge. The landward side of the wedge is defined by a deep sea cave. Both the recorded routes are on the clean, vertical, outer face of the wedge and are of excellent quality and situation.

*Lifeline* – 25m E3 5c\*\*\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little. 26th May, 1997.

Abseil to a half-foot ledge (at barnacle level) at the foot of the striking arête forming the landward edge of the wedge. Pull right and climb the crack. Step right and climb the continuation crack to a ledge just below the top of the wedge. Superb!

*Immaculate Conception* – 25m E2 5b\*\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 25th May, 1997.

Abseil to a small ledge on the outer (southerly) edge of the wedge just above high water line. Move left onto the face to gain a thin ledge. From this ascend 3m to reach a layaway hold in a small hole (from where critical protection can be placed). Traverse hard left to reach good holds. Climb up into a slim right-facing corner then pull out left, just below its capping roof, to reach good pockets (in common with Lifeline) and then a break in a second roof. Step right into the final corner and climb it to the top. Brilliant!

**Rubha Charnain – Small Bouys Geo (MR 604 868):**

This little Geo lies on the west side of Rubha Charnain. A slabby shelf runs down the east side of the Geo below a low wall. Initially, this wall is broken, then seamed with grooves and corners, finally becoming slabby as it bends round to face south. Access to the first few routes is down the shelf (low tide) but most are accessed by abseil. The rock is excellent and the climbing friendly. In marked contrast, the west side of the Geo holds a seriously undercut wall promising sterner action.

*Spare Rib* – 15m Severe\*. G. E. Little. 28th May, 1997.

This is the left bounding rib of the obvious recess holding three grooves.

*First Groove* – 15m Severe\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 28th May, 1997.

This is the leftmost of the three grooves in the obvious recess.

*Third Groove* – 20m VS 4b\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 28th May, 1997.

This is the rightmost of the three grooves in the obvious recess.

*Designer Rib* – 20m HVS 5a\*\*\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little. 28th May, 1997.

This superb little route climbs the right bounding rib of the obvious recess holding three grooves.

*Deceptive Corner* 20m Severe\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 28th May, 1997.

This is the corner immediately right of Designer Rib and bounding the slabby south facing section of the wall. Easier than it looks.

*What Doing?* – 20m E1 5b\*\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little. 28th May, 1997.

Climbs the excellent left-hand side of the slabby south face.

*Friends in Tibet* – 15m VS 5a\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 28th May, 1997.

Climbs the right-hand side of the slabby south face.

**MINGULAY, Guarsay Mor (MR 548 842):**

*Lost Souls Direct Finish* – 20m E4 6b\*\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 29th May, 1997.

Follow the top pitch of the parent route to the roof, pull left onto the break, then climb directly out to reach gargoyles on the lip and over to finish. Named Swimming to America.

*Longships* – 25m E5 6b\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 29th May, 1997.

An eliminate line between Crystal Daze and Ossian Boulevard – the best one-star pitch on the cliff. Start at a small ramp below a small roof at 5m. Climb to the roof and make hard moves up right to gain better holds at the base of a short, flared crack. Move up then right to a deep slot below a bulge. Pull over the bulge and climb the wall above to belay on Ossian Boulevard.

**Dun Mingulay (MR 534 820):**

*Perfectly Normal Paranoia* – 105m E6\*\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell (alt.). 30th May, 1997.

This worrying route takes an impressive diagonal line across the great wall between The Silkie and Rory Rum the Story Man. From the plinth at the foot of The Silkie cross ledges to the right for 10m to belay below a left-facing blocky groove.

1. 25m 6b. Climb the groove through the square recess in the left-hand side of the lower roof, then make increasingly difficult moves right under the final overlap until a shallow groove can be followed to reach a projecting block ledge. Belay under the roof above.

2. 15m 5c. Traverse right under the roof, rising slightly, to a semi-hanging stance at the start of a left to right diagonal line of undercuts.
3. 25m 6a. Follow the undercuts to the obvious fault in the roof, pull through this and continue to a 'shake-out'. Climb rightwards up the wall then left under the roof to an uncomfortable belay in slanting breaks under the main weakness.
4. 40m 5b. Pull through the weakness then climb directly to the top (sustained).

### **BERNERAY, Sotan Head, Puffin Buttress (MR 555 795):**

This is the big cliff girt headland to the west of Barra Head. Its most southerly tip presents a buttress of excellent rock in its upper half (surrounded by darker, shattered rock). At the top of this buttress is a wide vegetated ledge riddled with puffin burrows which can be easily accessed from above. The abseil descent starts from this ledge.

*Huffin and Puffin* – 65m E2\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett (alt.). 29th May, 1997.

Start below a big triangular roof on the edge of the buttress at the top of the shattered rock that comprises the lower half of the cliff.

1. 25m 5b. Move left from the belay and climb strenuous and gritty twin cracks (crux). Step left onto the front face then hand traverse farther left to gain a short corner/groove. Ascend this then climb diagonally left to belay on a good ledge.
2. 40m 5a. Traverse horizontally right along a break then move up into a short right-facing corner. Climb this over a small roof then move right across the lip. Ascend a slabby section to a bulge then climb it to gain a horizontal break. Step left then climb to a roof. Pull round this to reach a ledge. Move out left and take the line of least resistance to the top. An excellent and sustained pitch.

### **Sotan Head, Creag nan Clamhan (MR 556 796):**

This distinctive, heavily-roofed crag lies on the east flank of the headland close to its termination and is more akin to an inland crag than a seacliff (give or take the odd resident auk!). Its base can be easily accessed by descending a wide ramp. The most obvious feature at the foot of the crag is a detached pillar 'supporting' a low roof. The routes are described from left to right – as they are approached.

*The Frotteur* – 30m E5 6a\*\*. L. Hughes, G. Nicoll. 31st May, 1997.

A strenuous, but well-protected route, with the crux coming just when you think it's all over. Start 4m left of the detached pillar. Climb a crack to the overhang. Traverse the break rightwards to the lip, pull round and make hard moves up onto the slab above (crux). Climb up to the left of the roof then escape rightwards to finish.

*The Mauking Bird* – 30m E1 5b\*\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes. 30th May, 1997.

Climb the left side of the detached pillar then a crack 2m left of the big corner. Make a long reach over a bulge onto the slab below the big roof. Traverse the fine slab leftwards until past the roof then climb up and away rightwards to finish.

*Auxiliary Force* – 30m HVS 5a\*\*\*. G. Nicoll, L. Hughes. 30th May, 1997.

This superb route tackles the big corner below the biggest roof on the crag. Start by climbing the right side of the detached pillar then up the corner, moving out onto the right wall to pass the roof. Step right above onto an arête and climb a small overhang at an obvious break. Traverse left then right to finish.

*Exit Stage Right* – 30m HVS 5b\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 30th May, 1997.

This is the slim, heavily-roofed corner about 6m down from the detached pillar 'supporting' the low roof. Climb the corner to twin stepped roofs high up. The first is turned on the right. More improbably, the second is also turned on the right by stepping onto a vertical edge then climbing the short wall above (crux).

*Millenium Man* – 35m E1 5b\*\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 30th May, 1997.

Start about 9m up from the lowest corner at a slim, right-facing corner. Climb this and straight up the wall above to a big ledge. Move left onto a clean rusty wall and climb a direct line to the top on good holds (finishing at the same point as Exit Stage Right).

*Not So Aukward* – 35m VS 4c\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 30th May, 1997.

This is the lowest corner. Climb it directly to exit right below the capping roof. The following notes were sent by M. Tighe. The New Routes Editor cannot tell what, if any, coincides with the above, and leaves it to future visitors and guidebook writers.

28th April: Bernerey: C. Fowler, K. Harding, M. Tighe went to Barrahead – Air Cholla – and did four or five routes on the immaculate rock on the extreme south end of the island. They called it Ocean Wall. Routes followed prominent crack and groove lines, one pitch and in the VS/HVS range.

29th April: Bernerey: A 10-15m crag at Keromada produced six excellent little routes, including a sea-level traverse. Also a short, but fine, crack on the east wall of Tresivick Bay, by traversing in from the south at very low tide.

30th April: Pabbay: Allanish Peninsula: Could not follow the guidebook description but did some good routes.

1st May: Bernaray: C. Fowler, K. Harding, S. McNeil: Climbed near a big arch at Rubha Ghralish, and one more route on Ocean Wall.

2nd May: Mingulay, Guarsey Mor: At MR 549 841 is a big arch with a V. Diff descent leading to a sloping ledge running down into the sea from the north (perhaps to the south of Grey Rib). C. Fowler, S. McNeil climbed just south of the Grey Rib; K. Harding and M. Tighe climbed the following two routes.

*McCall of the Wild* – VS 4c\*\*. Abseil to a sloping ledge just above the high-tide line and to the left of a huge arch. Step across a small inlet and climb a short wall to a big 'dance floor', which is a big open cave. Exit left on to a tricky wall and climb straight to the top of the crag in two more pitches.

*The Arch Deacon* – 140m HVS 5a\*\*\*. Describes a wonderful arc across the roof of the arch, initially above the serried ranks of guilliemots, and then above space! Abseil partway as for the previous route and belay. Traverse right towards a brown-coloured perch below overhangs – belay. Go right again on a grey band of immaculate rock on the very lip of the arch with an overhang above and a yawning abyss below. Take a hanging belay at the end of the band and praise the lord. Climb straight up to the top.

3rd May: Climbing at Rubha Liath (MR 552 814), immediately opposite the eastern tip of Geirum Beag. There is a 10m crag on which C. Fowler and K. Harding did several routes up to E2. S. McNeil and M. Tighe also did two routes.

### ST KILDA:

The following routes were climbed in 1987 on an expedition organised and led by Pete Whillance (not Chris Bonington, as described in the Hebrides guide, p7). There were 18 routes on the main island of Hirta (map included) and one on the neighbouring island of Soay.

### Ruaival, South-West Face:

This is a gabbro crag of excellent rock, usually running to many good holds and protection. It lies immediately above the sea but has convenient ledge systems just above high-tide level.

**Approach:** Walk round the bay from the village to the col to the west of Ruaival and follow the ridge to the Mistress Stone. Go through the arch and drop down the dyke to a grassy bay. There is a good block anchor on the arête to the right (west) to make a long abseil of around 80m to the bottom of the crag. The routes are described from right of left.

*Brief Encounter* – 110m HVS. M. Mortimer, M. Allen. 31st August, 1987.

A rising leftwards traverse to the arête overlooking the zawn which bounds the left-hand side of the cliff.

1. 20m 5a. From the foot of the abseil, move left on to slabs which go straight to the sea and take a rising leftward diagonal line under a roof to belay under a corner.
2. 20m 4c. Continue leftwards in more or less the same line to reach a fine ledge overlooking the zawn on the left.
3. 20m 4c. Move left and climb the arête to a ledge.
4. 20m 4c. Continue up the arête to a large grass ledge below the final headwall.
5. 20m. Move right and climb up to and through a small roof to another ledge.
6. 10m. Climb a short crack and either continue up another crack or traverse easily right to reach the top of the abseil.

*Sideline* – 90m E2. P. Whillance, I. McMullen (alt.). 1st September, 1987.

Start below the second groove to the left of Maiden's Corner.

1. 35m 5b. Up steeply to enter the groove above the overhang. Climb the groove to a junction with Maiden's Corner. Move up a few feet and take the crackline leftwards (loose) to a ledge.
2. 30m 5b/c. Move up into a groove on the slab above, then go rightwards to a ledge (junction with the top of Maiden's Corner). Up a short wall above, then over an awkward roof and step out left to a grass ledge.
3. 25m. Climb rightwards to the final crack of The First Route. Up this and continue leftwards to the top.

*Maiden's Corner* – 95m E1. C. Bonington, B. Hall (alt.). 31st August, 1987.

Follows the conspicuous corner that bounds the left-hand side of the steep main crag.

1. 35m 4c. Climb the hanging chimney to reach the base of the corner and follow it more easily to a ledge on the slabby glacis in the middle of the crag.
2. 20m 5b. Climb the steep corner, trending right then left to a ledge.
3. 40m 5a. Move right along the ledge into the back of a corner. Move right again, pull over the overhangs, and keep trending right along the overhanging wall on huge holds to an right-facing corner. Ascend this and the corners and grooves above.

*The First Route* – 95m E3. I. McMullen, P. Whillance (alt.). 18th August, 1998.

Start in the groove line of Maiden's Corner.

1. 35m 5b. Climb the chimney's initial overhanging section for 8m and move right to a ledge below an overhanging crackline. Start this on the right and follow it to a bulge. Climb the flake-crack on the left to a ledge and continue up to a large glacis.
2. 20m 6a. The obvious groove/corner above. Climb up into the groove and pass an awkward bulge to a resting place. Bridge up the corner above to better holds and a large ledge.
3. 40m 5a. Move up right to a slab below overhangs. Pull over and move rightwards on good holds to a ledge. Climb the obvious grooved crackline above until possible to step up rightwards to the top.



*Easy Virtue* – 90m E1. C. Bonington, B. Hall (alt.). 31st August, 1987. Direct Finish – M. Mortimer, M. Allen. 1st September, 1987.

Start at the foot of the corner of Maiden's Corner. The route weaves up the face on the right, heading towards the conspicuous flake-crack in the upper wall.

1. 5m. Pull up right on to the ledge system crossing the face. Belay about 3m along this.

2. 35m 5a. Move a farther 5m right to the foot of an obvious crack. Climb this steeply to another ledge. Traverse right, then back left (to a point above the crackline) and climb upwards to the leftward-facing corner on the smooth slab. Belay on a small ledge on the glacis below the obvious flake-crack.

3. 20m 5a. Trend left towards undercut holds and then go back right towards the foot of the flake-crack. Climb this until possible to exit right of a ledge.

4. 35m 5b. Step right to the obvious roof crack, where the roof is at its smallest. Pull over it into a right-facing corner. Exit left on to the arête, climb directly to a loose dyke, then break slightly right over the dyke (5b) to the top.

*A Bit on the Side* – 75m E2. S. Boyden, H. Lancashire (alt.). 31st August, 1987. Start at the foot of Maiden's Corner.

1. 30m 4b. Climb up rightwards a few feet and traverse the obvious ledge 25m to the foot of a prominent V-groove.

2. 20m 5c. Climb the groove and crack on the left to gain slabs. Trend slightly right up a shallow groove.

3. 25m 5b. Move left 2m, then up and diagonally right into the base of a corner. Climb this on to easy slabs. Go up and slightly left to a block belay.

*Continental Drift* – 90m E2. P. Whillance, I. McMullen (alt.). 1st September, 1987. Start as for A Bit on the Side.

1. 30m 4b. Same.

2. 10m 5c. As for A Bit on the Side but exit left at 10m to a small ledge.

3. 30m 5b. Move right on to a ledge system and follow this to where it ends. Step down and continue along a horizontal crack to a good ledge. Move down, across and up into the huge corner.

4. 20m 4c. Follow the corner-crack to the top.

### **The Dun Face:**

*Blackface* – 35m HVS 5a. P. Whillance. 10th August, 1987.

Round to the right of the main south-west face opposite Dun is a large sea cave with a clean-cut black slab on its right-hand side. From the abseil point go down to the foot of the large grass terrace. Scramble or abseil down from its right-hand edge to sea-washed platforms. Start 6m right of the huge roof. Climb the slab to a ledge at the right-hand end of the overlap. Pull over leftwards and up the slab via a thin crack to reach a break. Move left and up bubbly rock to where the angle eases. Traverse left below an overhang to regain the terrace. Farther right in the Dun passage is a large, grey slab which tapers to become a prominent ridge higher up. The base is best reached by an easy traverse from the right at low tide.

*Soay* – 45m H. Severe. P. Whillance. 10th August, 1987.

Start below the narrowest point in the overlap. Move up and pull over the overlap on large jugs to gain the slab proper. Follow thin cracks in the slab to join the ridge at the top (several variations possible at Severe to VS).

**Upper Tier:**

Above Blackface and the large area of grass slope is a black gritstone-like buttress seamed with deep cracks.

*Old Men's Dreams* – 40m Severe. J. Curran, P. Frost, D. Miller. 5th September, 1987.

Start at the toe of the buttress.

1. 20m 4a. Climb the cracks trending left to an obvious stance below overhangs.
2. 20m. Exit easily right and climb the upper slab direct to finish.

Two other routes of a similar standard were climbed on this buttress by the same party (6th September, 1987). A number of short cracklines on the left-hand side of the Upper Tier were also climbed but do not warrant detailed description.

**Oiseval, South Face:**

This is a granite cliff of excellent rock, with well-defined groove lines and good protection. It is set about 150m above the sea and is easily approached by contouring around the hillside. Routes are described from left to right.

*The Amazon* – 40m E2 5b. M. Mortimer, M. Allen. 14th September, 1987.

This strenuous route takes the groove system on the left-hand side of the crag. Left of the central steep section of the crag, the grass slope steepens to join a gully. Start at the foot of the gully. Climb the gully until possible to step right on to the wall to reach a steep groove with a jammed flake. Climb the groove until the angle eases. Step right again to climb the hanging groove strenuously to easy ground. Scrambling remains.

*The Harp* – 40m E3. C. Bonington, B. Hall (alt.). 5th September, 1987.

To the immediate left of Central Route is another groove line that peters out about halfway up the crag. The Harp climbs the groove and then breaks out to the left up the line of the arête. Start part way up the grassy gully on the left, below the groove itself.

1. 25m 5c. Climb a steep 5m wall to a grass ledge at the foot of the groove. Then climb the left groove which steepens into a bulge near the top. Step right below a small overhang into the continuation of the overhanging crack just to the right of this pitch. Stance on large foothold in the crack.

2. 20m 6a. Step back left below the bulge and pull awkwardly round the arête, up for 2m to a line of good holds leading 3m to the left. Move back right with a long reach for a spike to the crest of the arête. Step round to the right, then up and back left pulling back round the arête and up delicately until possible to move left to better finishing holds.

*Lady Grange* – 45m E2. M. Mortimer, M. Allen. 14th September, 1987.

Interesting and varied with an exciting finish. Start as for The Harp.

1. 30m 5b. Go up the steep wall to the foot of the groove. Climb the overhanging crack on the right and the groove above to reach the stance on Central Route.
2. 15m 5c. Climb up to the roof, traverse left and climb through the roof on big holds when a few feet of more delicate climbing leads left to join the finish of The Amazon.

**Note:** The prominent arête in the centre of the crag was climbed except for the final 3m by M. Mortimer – should give an excellent route.

*Central Route* – 45m E2. I. McMullen, P. Whillance (alt.). 24th August, 1987.

Takes the left-hand of two prominent corner lines in the centre of the crag.

1. 15m 5c. Climb the steep corner past a small overlap and continue to a stance.

2. 30m 5c. Continue up the corner-crack to the roof and climb the widening crack with difficulty to reach easier ground. Scramble up to a belay.

*Right-Hand Corner* – 45m E1. P. Whillance, I. McMullen (alt.). 31st August, 1987. Takes the obvious right-hand corner line.

1. 25m 5a. Bridge up the groove to the start of the crack and climb this to a ledge on the right.

2. 20m 5b. Climb the corner-crack to the roof and jam leftwards around this to a sloping ledge. Traverse right and up to a ledge and belay on easy ground.

*Botany Bay* – 45m E1. B. Hall, C. Bonington. 8th September, 1987.

Takes a groove line starting from the right-hand side of the bay in the lower part of the face.

1. 30m 5a. Climb the groove and two obvious cracked corners until possible to pull out left on to a sloping ledge.

2. 15m 5b. Step back right into the groove, up to the small triangular overhang and step left, treating a semi-detached flake with great respect. Climb the wall above diagonally right to the bottom of the groove. Up this to the top.

### **Mullach Bi, Summit Cliff, South-West Face:**

This is the cliff facing westwards from near the summit. It is reached by traversing grass slopes above the sea from the col near the Lover's Stone.

*Rainbow Warrior* – 90m E1/2. S. Boyden, H. Lancashire (alt.). 6th September, 1987.

A steep diagonal crack starts just right of centre of the cliff. Start by scrambling right across grass ledges to the crack.

1. 25m 5b. Reach the crack by dubious grass tufts and follow it – awkward in its middle section – to a ledge.

2. 10m 5b. Climb the groove on the left to a crevassed stance.

3. 25m 5b. Above on the right is a black-streaked wall. Attain a ledge up on the right, pull into a bottomless right-leaning groove, then go direct up the blank wall, moving left at the top. Easier climbing leads to the large ledge below the final headwall.

4. 30m 5a. A crackline crosses the headwall diagonally up leftwards from the right side of the large ledge. Follow the crack, strenuously at first, to some prominent grass tufts. Pass these carefully and follow the crack more easily to the top.

*Nuclear Arms* – 35m E5 (Two rest points). H. Lancashire, S. Boyden. 7th September, 1987.

An extremely strenuous route, continuously overhanging on its first pitch. Start by abseiling to the big ledge system below the final headwall. Traverse left to the end of the ledge and belay below the shorter left-hand crack splitting the overhanging headwall.

1. 15m 6a. Jam the crack, good Friend protection, past the niche and over jammed blocks to a small ledge (one rest below the niche and one above).

2. 20m 5c. Step out on to the right arête. Pull up with difficulty on to the slab, then out left on to a ledge and climb an easier slab to finish.

### **The North-East Face of Conachair:**

From The Edge of the World cleit, descend the obvious long ridge on the right-hand side of the main face for about 300m, keeping to its grassy northern flank (hand line recommended). From a prominent col in the ridge, an 80m abseil leads to the slopes

at the foot of the face. Alternatively, an inflatable boat is needed.

*The Edge of the World* – 330m E6. P. Whillance, I. McMullen (var.). 15th September, 1987.

Start from shelving slabs about 15m right of the large sea cave.

1. 45m 5b. Follow a groove/crack line in the slab for 20m to a triangular ledge. Traverse left to another groove, then up this past a loose flake to a narrow ledge on the right (three peg runners, removed).

2. 30m 5c. Step back down to the flake and traverse left into a V-groove. Up this and the prominent dyke system above to reach a small ledge in a corner (bolt belay, three peg runners, removed).

3. 55m 6b. Climb the slab diagonally leftwards for 20m to a rib. Move left for 3m and up a short wall to a peg runner. Step down and go left below a small overhang, then up into a niche below a roof. Move right and climb a short groove, then go steeply leftwards to gain a rib and easier-angled rock. Climb the slab to a good ledge and bolt belay (seven peg runners, left in place).

4. 40m 5b. Traverse left into the big corner line and climb this to a large grassy ledge on the right. (Bolt belay, three peg runners in place).

5. 30m 6a. Climb flakes on the left wall to where they end. Move up the steep wall to a bolt runner and make a long traverse left to reach a big ledge below a prominent groove in the centre of the pink wall. Bolt belay.

6. 40m 5c. Climb the slim groove to a break and traverse the ledge leftwards to a good stance and bolt belay (three peg runners in place).

7. 45m 5b. Move up the groove above for a few feet, then swing left and climb a crack in the left wall to a grass terrace. Go left for 5m, then follow cracks and broken rock to a corner. Up this and exit left to a large ledge.

8. 45m 5c. Climb the short overhanging crack above and move up to the corner system which leads to the top.

### **The North-West Face of Soay:**

This is defined as the stretch of coast between Creagan and Gob a' Ghaill. Midway between the two is a smooth 150m wall which drops directly into the sea. The rock is superb and immaculately clean. The large grass platform at the top of this wall is still only halfway up the face but the upper section is of little interest to climbers.

**Approach:** A landing is made on the shelving slabs on the southern side of the Gob a' Ghaill promontary. Scramble up rocks to reach grass slopes, then ascend right and up to a prominent col on the ridge. Climb down the opposite side or abseil for 45m to gain a wide ledge system. Follow this for about 200m to the grass platform above the wall. Abseil close to the left arête to ensure finding belays.

*Shipwrecked* – 105m E2. I. McMullen, P. Whillance (var.). 25th August, 1987.

This route takes the left-hand of two obvious cracklines on the wall, although it was started at a good ledge system some 60m above the sea.

1. 45m 5c. Follow the crack to where it meets the left arête.

2. 15m 5c. Step back down and cross the wall on the right, then up leftwards to sloping ledges. Follow the ledges leftwards to below a corner.

3. 45m 5a. Take a diagonal line of weakness rightwards until a crack leads to the top.

**Note:** The missing bottom pitches and the escape line taken on the top pitch were the result of a storm breaking and a desperate need to evacuate!

**EIGG, Ocean Wall:**

*Taking the Minke* – 35m E4 6a\*\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little. 20th September, 1997. A large cone of rock ruptures Le Jardin separating its upper and lower levels. Start on the right side of this cone. Climb a pale knobbly wall to near the right end of the fading overlap. Pull over to grasp a good right-facing flat-topped flake. Stand on it, then make increasingly difficult and improbable moves up and left on the blank wall to reach two elongated slots (Rock 3 and 4). Pull up on small flakes, then climb more easily to reach a heather ramp. Continue straight up the face.

*East of Eden* – 40m E3 5c\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 21st September, 1997.

Start right of the lower section of Le Jardin, just left of the cairn marking the start of Paradise Lost. Climb straight up by slight cracks to make an interesting pull over on to a sloping ledge. Move up and left via a vague scoop, then climb straight up a broad rib with a difficult exit on to the rock stairway of Paradise Lost. Finish by the rock rib on the right of the stairway.

**ISLAND OF MUCK, Camas Mor:**

**Introduction:** The sea cliffs forming the east side of Camas Mor bay are composed of gabbro, approximately one kilometre in length and on average about 30m high. Most of the climbing to date has been towards the southern end of this line of cliffs. The climbs are generally of a friendly nature being on excellent rough rock, south-west facing, free of vegetation and fairly easy of access. The first known rock climbs to be completed on these cliffs were ascended by Ross Greenwood and islander Simon Graves in May 1996. Several productive visits since by Ross Greenwood, Pete Whillance and friends has resulted in most of the 45 routes recorded here. A lot of potential for new routes remains. The cliffs are best approached from the harbour at Port Mor by following a footpath which leads up behind the small cemetery and over the headland – about 20 minutes pleasant walk.

**Access:** The small headland at the southern end of the cliffs terminates in a long narrow gully inlet. The gully is overshadowed throughout its length by an impressive overhanging wall of jet black rock, aptly named The Dungeon. This gully provides an easy descent route to reach a sea-level traverse and access to all routes as far as Hurricane Cove. A quicker means of descent is via a grassy bowl and easy rocks in the headland 30m west of The Dungeon. Most of the sea level traverse is on big ledges, well above the high-tide mark, with only two tricky moves.

1. A jump down to a small ledge (covered at high tide), or an awkward traverse move (4b) to gain access to ledges in Plunder Bay.
2. A bold move (4b) across a high corner to reach a big ledge leading into Hurricane Cove. In many cases the quickest and best approach to routes is to use a spare rope and to abseil from the nearest belay stake.

First Ascentionists: Ross Greenwood (RG), Pete Whillance (PW), Simon Graves (SG), Pete Swanson (PS), Tony Wright (TW)

Cliffs and climbs are described from right to left, as viewed from the sea (south to north).

**The Dungeon:**

The Dungeon is the name given to the black overhanging wall of the gully inlet at the southern end of Camas Mor. The wall is seamed with prominent crack lines and provides some of the steepest climbing of the island. It has the advantages of being

sheltered from prevailing winds, non-tidal and often remains dry in showery weather. However, some lines suffer from seepage after prolonged periods of rain. After descending steep grass to reach the top of the gully, the first route begins about 2m down from where the grass gives out to boulder scree.

*Chain Reaction* – E2 5c\*\*. PW, RG. 29th September, 1997.

Start at a small square recess below a steep left-slanting crack. Follow the crack for about 5m to where the angle eases. Ascend directly up the obvious cracks above to the top.

*Iron Maiden* – E1 5b. PW, RG. 29th September, 1997.

The next reasonable line of weakness lies some 20m lower down the gully and is marked by two large spikes, one above the other, in the middle of the wall. Start just left of these and climb the steep wall to a sloping ledge. Traverse delicately right and up to reach good holds and the first spike. Pull up to reach the second large spike then continue directly up the twin cracks to easy ground.

*Sentenced* – E1 5b\*\*. PW, RG. 29th September, 1997.

The next route begins at the very bottom of the gully, behind a large detached ridge of rock. Start below a prominent square roofed overhang at 7m. Climb up and slightly rightwards to below the roof then swing up right into the hanging crack and follow this on good jams to the top.

*The Keeper* – HVS 5a. RG, PW. 29th September, 1997.

Start 3m left of the prominent square-roofed overhang at a small cave. Ascend the steep wall following two diagonal left-slanting cracks to beneath a small roof. Move left around the arête and finish up the easy gully.

### **Castle Walls Area:**

This area encompasses the headland from the Dungeon to the Yellow Walls. It consists of mainly broken, easy-angled cliffs which offer none-too-serious routes on good-quality rock. Climbs are possible almost anywhere and descriptions have been confined to the best and most obvious lines. The first two climbs lie on the square-shaped buttress, just left of the Dungeon inlet and between the two described descent routes.

*Gargoyle Grooves* – M. Severe. RG, SG. 25th May, 1996.

Takes a line up the front of the square buttress. Follow an easy-angled groove to a line of overhangs. Pull up through an inset corner in the roof and continue up a steep cracked wall above.

*Castle Corner* – V. Diff. RG. 11th July, 1997.

On the left side of the square buttress, 5m left of Gargoyle Grooves, is a prominent corner system. Easy climbing leads to a large ledge. Follow the short steep corner to the top. The next obvious feature is an apron of slabby rock hemmed in by short overhanging walls. It lies 30m left of the square buttress where the cliff regains its full height.

*The Drawbridge* – M. Severe. RG, SG. 25th May, 1996.

Follow a stepped groove line up the right side of the apron to reach a short, leaning corner at its top. Steeply up this then easy scrambling to finish.

*Bastille* – VS 5a. PW. 25th September, 1997.

Takes the short overhanging groove in the wall immediately left of the finishing corner of The Drawbridge. Easy climbing up the left side of the apron to below the

groove. Pull in from the right and up steeply on surprisingly good holds to reach easy ground.

About 15m farther around to the left, a large grey slab leads up to a steeper wall containing three protruding noses of rock.

*Ramp Art* – Diff. RG. 25th September, 1997.

Start up the right side of the grey slab and climb diagonally rightwards below the rightmost of the steep noses of rock until an escape can be made by pulling out left to a ledge and up to easier ground.

The next two routes take the gaps between the noses.

*The Barbican* – Severe. RG. 11th July, 1996.

Ascend a crack up the centre of the grey slab to where is steepens. Climb the wall via a groove line just left of the rightmost nose.

*The Turret* – Severe. RG. 11th July, 1996.

Go up a crack in the left side of the slab and continue up a steep groove formed between the central and left hand noses.

An area of more broken rock now extends leftwards for 30m. Many easier grade routes are possible.

### **Yellow Walls Area:**

The next main feature is a distinctive yellow wall in the upper part of the cliff, split by a series of prominent cracklines.

#### **Yellow Wall:**

*Route 1* – Severe. RG, PW. 30th September, 1997.

Start from some broken bird-limed ledges below the rightmost crackline. Climb the crack in the slab then step right and up a steeper crack in the headwall to finish.

*Route 2* – Severe\*. PW. 25th September, 1997.

Starting from the same ledges as Route 1, follow a diagonal break leftwards and continue up the obvious crack in the middle of the wall.

*Route 3* – Severe. RG, PW. 30th September, 1997.

Start 6m down to the left at a prominent right-slanting crack. Follow the crack/groove line to reach a short chimney at the halfway break. Climb the chimney groove and a short steep corner to finish.

*The Catalyst* – H. Severe 4b. TW, PS. 25th September, 1997.

Start at the same point as the previous route and climb the crack on the left to the halfway ledge. Move across left to the next crack line and up via a small corner crack to the top.

*Hard Luck Cafe* – E1 5c. PS, TW. 26th September, 1997.

Climb the steep thin crack in the wall just left of The Catalyst to reach the break. Step right and follow the crack to beneath an overhang. Move right and up a short corner to finish.

About 5m farther left, the Yellow Wall ends at the prominent right-facing corner system of The Promise.

*Simon's Slip* – H. Severe 4b. PW, RG. 30th September, 1997.

Takes the broken groove and crackline 2m right of The Promise.

*The Promise* – Severe\*. TW, RG, PW. 27th June, 1997.

The obvious right-facing corner system at the left hand end of the Yellow Wall.

Climb the steep initial groove on the left or the rib on it's right. Continue up the main corner to the top.

### **Plunder Bay:**

An awkward sea level traverse move on the buttress left of Yellow Walls gives access to ledges in Plunder Bay (see Introduction). The steep dark walls of this bay contain a fine array of superb cracks and corners.

*Pieces of Eight* – Diff. RG, SW. 25th May, 1996.

On the right-hand side of the bay is a broken left-facing corner. It forms the opposite side of the buttress to The Promise. A series of ledges leads up into the corner and so to the top.

*Trophy Crack* – E2 5c\*. PW, RG. 27th June, 1997.

In the back of the bay, a few metres left of *Pieces of Eight*, is a black bulging crack in a convex wall. Climb this to easier ground.

The next two routes take the obvious right-facing corner lines in the upper part of the wall left of *Trophy Crack*.

*Treasure Trove Corner* – HVS 5a\*\*. PW, TW, RG. 26th June, 1997.

A fine climb. From the foot of *Trophy Crack* trend leftwards up ledges to the base of the prominent corner. Climb this, awkward to start, and past a small overhang to gain a good ledge. The leaning corner above to the top.

*Rich Pickings* – E3 6a\*\*. PW, RG. 27th June, 1997.

Takes the next corner system starting a few metres left of *Trophy Crack*. Climb a steep crack and step up left to below a hanging corner. Difficult moves past a peg runner lead to a small overhanging ledge. Continue more easily up the corner above.

*Plunder Crack* – HVS 5a\*. PW, TW, RG. 27th June, 1997.

The striking crack and chimney line starting 5m around to the left of the previous routes, on the front face of the buttress. Follow the crack passing a steep bulge on good holds to enter a chimney. Finish up this.

*Ill Gotten Gains* – VS 4c\*. RG, TW, PW. 27th June, 1997.

Start from a big ledge 5m left of *Plunder Crack*. Move up left into a corner and follow this up into a square-cut recess capped by an overhang. An awkward pull over the small roof leads to easier ground.

### **Hurricane Cove:**

Continuing the sea-level traverse left from *Ill Gotten Gains* requires a bold move across a high corner to reach a large ledge (see Introduction). Easy scrambling for 10m leads around the front of a tapering yellow tower to a big platform in Hurricane Cove.

The first three climbs are on the front face of the yellow tower.

*Mellow Yellow* – H. Severe 4b. PW, RG. 25th September, 1997.

Start below the right-hand side of the face and climb a short awkward crack to reach a good ledge. Follow the stepped groove line leftwards to the top of the tower and finish up the arête.

*Yellow Peril* – HVS 5a. PW, RG. 25th September, 1997.

Climb directly up the thin cracks in the centre of the face to the top of the tower. Step right and up a wall to finish.

*Yellow Fever* – HS 4b. PW, RG. 25th September, 1997.

Follow the crackline close to the left edge of the face. Finish up the arête.



*Thunderpants Corner* – Severe\*\*. RG, PW. 12th July, 1997.

The obvious left-facing corner forming the right side of the cove. Climb a short steep chimney to a ledge. Follow the stepped corner above to the top. An excellent route.

*Greased Lightning* – E2 5c\*\*. PW, RG. 28th June, 1997.

The steep right-slanting crack in the back wall of the bay provides a fine, sustained climb. Start from the left hand end of the platform 3m left of Thunderpants Corner. Climb the crack throughout.

This last route marks the end of the sea-level traverse. Access to climbs beyond this point requires an abseil approach.

*Gale Warning* – VS 4c\*. RG, PW. 29th June, 1997.

Takes the easiest line up the front face of the buttress some 5m left of the previous route. It follows a crackline which leads into a broken right-facing corner in the upper part of the cliff. Abseil to small, bird-limed ledges about 7m above high tide mark. Climb a crack-seamed wall to reach better holds then the easier corner above to finish.

*Atlantic Fury* – HVS 5a\*. RG, PW. 28th June, 1997.

The prominent crack and chimney system 7m left of Gale Warning. Abseil down the line of the route to a large ledge just above high tide. Follow the steep right-slanting crack for 10m to good ledges. Continue more easily up an open chimney to the top.

### **Shark's Tooth Cove:**

This cove can be recognised by a square-cut recess of black rock about 4m across and running the full height of the cliff. On it's left is a 15m high pillar ending in a flat-topped ledge and to it's right are slabby yellow walls.

*Barracuda* – E1 5b\*. PW, RG. 28th June, 1997.

Start 5m right of the black recess where a thin crackline in the slabby wall leads up to some short steep corners. Abseil down the line of the route to a sloping ledge about 6m above the sea. Delicate climbing up thin cracks for 8m leads to better holds. Follow the crack to where it steepens, make an awkward move past a flake and go up a short corner to a large ledge. Step right to finish up an open corner containing a few doubtful blocks.

*Predator* – E2 5c\*. PW, RG. 29th June, 1997.

Abseil straight down the back of the overhanging black recess to a sloping ledge just above some overhangs, about 10m above high tide mark (in calm seas it will be possible to start from lower down). Traverse right for 2m to the base of a slabby corner forming the right hand side of the recess. Climb the corner for 3m to a small overhang and pull over rightwards to gain an exposed ledge on the arête. Make delicate moves up the arête to a peg runner, then traverse right across the wall to a ledge on Barracuda, just below it's crux. As for Barracuda to the top.

*Jaws* – HVS 4c. RG, PW. 26th September, 1997.

The next prominent line, 15m left of the flat-topped pillar, is a chimney and crack system leading into a left-facing corner near the top. Abseil down the line to a stance and belay below a cave and V-chimney. Climb the chimney and the steep crack above to gain a corner. Easier climbing up this to the top.

*Conger* – E2 5c\*\*. PW, RG. 26th September, 1997.

The impressive face to the left of Jaws features a superb right-slanting crackline

which cuts through a horizontal band of overhangs at half height. A free abseil down left edge of the face leads to a belay on good platforms just above high tide mark. Move down and right to a barnacle ledge and gain the start of the thin diagonal crack. Follow this to the band of overhangs and climb strenuously through three stepped roofs to where the angle eases. Continue more easily in the same crackline to the top.

### **The Witches Slab Area:**

One of the most prominent features of these cliffs is the impressive sweep of Witches Slab. The slab is a clean sheet of rock set at right angles to the main line of cliffs. Below and to its left, a narrow zawn and sea cave separates the slab from North Atlantic Wall, while to the right lies the big corner system of Pendle Hill.

*Pendle Hill* – E1 5b\*\*\*. PW, RG. 7th July, 1997.

A superb route. Approach by abseiling down the corner to a ledge at sea level (not accessible at high tide). Good stance, but poor belays, perhaps worth belaying to a spare abseil rope. Start 1m left of the corner at a thin crack. Climb the crack for 5m to a peg runner then move up and rightwards to gain a niche in the corner (crux). Follow the main corner throughout until 4m from the top where a crack in the right wall provides a steep exit.

*Alderley Edge* – E1 5b\*. PW, RG. 26th September, 1997.

A good variation to Pendle Hill which takes the elegant, slim corner in the wall 3m to its left. Accessible at any state of the tide. Abseil down to the bottom of Witches Slab and swing around right to a good ledge and belay at the base of the slim corner. (This ledge is above and to the left of the start of Pendle Hill). Climb the corner and continue up twin cracks above until about 3m below a barrier of overhangs. Traverse right across a break to join the big corner of Pendle Hill at about half-height. Continue as for that route to the top.

The next three routes are on the Witches Slab itself. Abseil down the slab to a large ledge 7m above sea level. All the climbs start from here.

*Alice Nutter* – HVS 5a\*\*. RG, PW. 7th July, 1997.

A bold route up the right edge of the slab. Start in the middle of the slab and go over a small bulge to a sloping ledge. Move immediately right to the arête and climb the slab close to its edge with a delicate move past a peg runner at 25m. Continue to the top.

*Witches Slide* – Severe\*\*. RG, PW. 9th July, 1997.

Start up the middle of the slab, as for Alice Nutter, over a steep bulge to a sloping ledge. Climb more or less directly up the centre of the slab to the top.

*Newchurch Corner* – Severe\*. RG, SG, PW. 7th July, 1997.

Start as for the previous routes to reach the sloping ledge. Move left into the corner and follow this to the top.

*Sorcery* – VS 4c. PS, TW. 26th September, 1997.

Takes a line of weakness in the wall left of Witches Slab. Start as for Newchurch Corner. Follow that route up the slab and into the main corner itself. After a few metres take a slight groove leading leftwards to gain a more prominent right-trending ramp line. Up this and a short steep crack above to finish.

### **North Atlantic Wall:**

This is the name given to the line of steep walls which stretch from the zawn and sea cave left of Witches Slab around to the big non-tidal bay containing Frigate

Wall. From the loose descent gully left of Fragile Wall, the whole of this area can be traversed just above sea level at most states of the tide. It is often quicker and simpler to abseil direct to good ledges below the climbs. The first two routes start 20m left of the sea cave at the foot of an obvious left-curving corner.

*Dreadnought* – E1 5b\*. PW, RG. 12th July, 1997.

Takes the lowest of several diagonal crack lines in the wall right of the curving corner. From the base of the corner move right onto the wall and delicately follow the most obvious right-trending crack for 15m to reach an exposed ledge on the lip of a prominent arch overlooking the zawn. Step up and make an airy traverse right between overhangs to gain better holds and the continuation of the diagonal crack. Carry on for 3m then go straight up via a small corner and good holds to a big ledge system. Scramble left and up to the top.

*Crimson Tide* – HVS 5a\*. RG, PW. 11th July, 1997.

Start at the foot of the curving corner, as for *Dreadnought*. Climb the right arête of the corner for 18m with increasing difficulty to the start of a prominent right-slanting crack. Follow this for 10m then up a slight groove to reach large ledges. Easily up leftwards to finish.

*Trident* – E2 5c\*. PW, RG. 11th July, 1997.

An intricate and technical route. Start 20m left of the curving corner, where a thin crack in the wall leads up to the right-hand end of a band of overlaps at 25m. Climb the thin crack for 10m until forced to move right, with difficulty past a peg runner, to gain a sloping foot ledge. Step up to another peg runner and move back left to regain the original crack line. Continue more easily to where the wall steepens then foot traverse a ledge right for 3m and go up steeply to gain some big hollow flakes. From a peg runner on the wall above, climb up first leftwards and then trend right and up to the top.

*Red October* – E2 5c\*\*. PW, RG. 12th September, 1997.

A good route with some impressive situations. Start 35m left of the curving corner, below distinctive twin cracks leading up to the left side of a square-cut roof. Climb the cracks for 20m and step right to a corner below the roof. Move up then swing out boldly right and pull up steeply on good holds to regain a standing position. Follow twin diagonal cracks rightwards across the headwall to where the angle eases and so to the top.

### **RUM, Trallval, Harris Buttress:**

*Ancient Mariner* – 175m E1 5b. J. S. Peden, C. R. Ravey. 25th May, 1997.

Right of Central Rib there is a shallow bay leading to a steep wall capped by roofs, bounded on the right by a rib overlooking an obvious right-facing corner. Climb the lowest rocks below the rib and cross a grassy rake to the foot of an overhung groove just left of the rib. Climb the groove to below the overhang (35m). Gain the platform on the left, then step right into the groove and follow it to a large thin flake. Climb the wall above to a recess (crux). Make an awkward move right and follow the groove above to the crest of the rib (40m). Two pitches of pleasant slabs lead to the top of the crag (100m).

### **MULL, BALMEANACH:**

*Are You A Man Or A Danny* – E1 5a. T. Charles-Edwards, D. Brooks 18th September, 1997.

Climbs the pillar left of the main face. Climb up to gain the flake/crack at the left

side of the face, this leads to the ledge. Start up a corner on the left move past a large loose block and continue leftwards more easily to the top.

*Yellow Snail* – 25m E4 6a\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning, T. Charles-Edwards, D. Brooks 18th September, 1997.

Start at the left side of the main overhang at some boulders. Climb up to the overlap, using a horizontal break above for the hands move right to a good pocket. Continue up slightly leftwards to reach a break in the next overhang, move right through this to a good ledge. Traverse right along the ledge and follow the fault to the top.

### **ARDCHRISHNISH:**

*Grade IV* – 15m E2 5c\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 22nd June, 1997.

The crack and overhang right of Wisdom.

### **SCOOR, The Slab:**

*Bonxie* – 15m E3 6a\*. G. Latter, L. Gordon-Canning. 7th August, 1997.

The prominent thin twin cracks in the wall left of Tystie. Make a hard bouldery start past good Friend slot at the start to better holds, finishing directly by good flakes in the upper wall.

### **Dune Wall:**

*Flick-flake* – 10m HVS 5a. R. and C. Anderson. 19th April, 1997.

The groove and sharp layback crack immediately right of The Arête, pull out right at the top.

*Tipidy Doodah* – 10m E4/5 6b\*. R. Anderson. 19th April, 1997.

The thin crack up the slab between Flick-flake and Red Shafted Flicker, unfortunately, devoid of gear. Place a Friend and a wire in Red Shafted Flicker from a standing position at its base. Place two wires in Flick-flake just above the level of an obvious hold on the slab to the right and descend back to the ramp at the base of the slab. Gain the base of the crack, climb to the hold and attain a standing position on it from where a Rock 5 can be stretched into place in Red Shafted Flicker to protect an awkward move up the slab. Step up right, then back up left to finish.

*Marooned* – 12m E1/2 5b\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 9th March, 1997.

Climbs the right wall of Stranded Arête. Climb the crack which slants slightly right to an overhang. Swing out left and climb the open groove.

*Photo Finish* – 8m E3 5c\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 28th June, 1997.

Left of Wild Swans is a small slanting overlap. Climb up right to the right end of the overlap, step left and climb the crack. A bold start and a poor landing.

*Run-around* – 15m VS 4b. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning, M. Tweedly. 31st August, 1997.

Climb the crack right of Milk Tray, which runs parallel to it, to a heather finish.

*The Cave Monster* – 12m E3 6a\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 9th August, 1997.

At the left end of the face (left of One Foot In The Grave) is a fin of rock with a letter box high up in the centre. Climb up slightly right to reach the letter box, continue direct.

*Fall Factor* – 8m VS 5a. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 1997.

Start right of Doonagegear at a dry stane construction. Climb the left side of the huge block.

**ARDTUN, Creag Eilean an Duilg:**

*Duck Of Death* – 16m E2 5c\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 20th May, 1997.  
The crack running up past the right side of the nose high up, right of Bloody Louse-Bird (SMCJ, 1997).

*Declining Moral Standards* – 16m E2 5b\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 22nd June, 1997.

Twin cracks left of Teb.

*Crispi* – 20m E1 5a\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 13th July, 1997.

Right of Poorwill climb the recessed crack to the overhang, move out left and climb the crack in the arête.

**Waterfall Wall:**

*Sheryl Crow* – 20m E3 5c\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 9th July, 1997.

Climbs the curving groove at the left end of the overhangs. Start up the crack in the arête left of the groove, after a few moves step right and continue up the groove until level with the first block overhang. Move left across the bulging wall and continue up easier ground to the top.

*Little Red Rooster* – 20m E3 5c\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 20th April, 1997.

Left of the waterfall are three shallow corner cracks. Climb the left hand one then step right and climb a bulging corner crack.

*Punk Flamingos* – 20m E2 5b\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 28th September, 1997.

Climb twin cracks up the right side of the short pillar right of Feathers McGraw. Follow the right crack which continues over an overhang.

*Snorting Quack* – 20m E4 6a\*\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning, M. Tweedly. 3rd August, 1997.

The pillar left of Doo Stew, the lower section is protected by RPs. The bulge up high was climbed on the left, climbing it on the right would be slightly harder, taken direct harder still, but the grade would not change.

*The Pelican Brief* – 16m E1 5b. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 15th April, 1997.  
Right of Scrambled is a grassy bay halfway up the cliff, this route climbs the arête left of it. Climb a corner crack below the arête till it finishes and step left. Pull out right to the right side of the arête, step up then finish up a crack in the arête. The crux is at the start but the rest of the route is intimidating with some suspect holds.

**Yellow Block:**

This is a crag just east of the Blow Hole. There is a willow bush at the top of the cliff which is easily seen from the moor.

*Everything He Hates About Climbing* – 12m E1 5a.

At the right side of the crag are two wide cracks. Climb the left-hand crack.

*Unnamed* – 12m VS 4c\*.

The corner crack right of the wide cracks.

**Ardtun East (MR 383 247):**

Twin cracks left of Ascent Route. (Severe).

*Bunty's Ducks* – 12m E2 5b\*\*.

A finger crack just right of Four Legged Friend.

*Tarmac Frogs* – 14m HVS 5a\*.

The hand crack between Slept In A Bog and the easy corner.

*The Green Hill Peace* – 12m E1 5b\*.

The crack left of Pancakes At Lochdar up the front of the pillar.

*Chocks Away* – 12m VS 4c.

Well left of Kinloch Bound is a pillar half the height of the crag. Start four metres right of it and climb twin cracks.

*Wide And Midgie* – 12m HVS 5a\*.

The wide crack left of Kinloch Bound has a flake around half height.

*Splatter* – 12m E1 5b\*.

The crack left of Rally Fever.

*Erraid Flood Warning* – 9m E2 5c\*. C. Moody, W. Gordon-Canning. 29th June, 1997.

Right of Weeping Corner, climb an awkward bulge, then twin cracks.

### **Upper Tier, West Face:**

Routes climbed by Louise Gordon-Canning, Gary Latter, Karen Martin, Colin Moody, Derek Stuart and Michael Tweedly in August, 1997. On the left is a boulder.

*Left-Hand Route* – 9m Severe. Climb corner/chimney at the left side of the boulder; continue up the crack above.

*The Gopher Hole* – 11m VS 4c\*\*. Gain shelf right of Left-Hand Route, step up, then follow break right and climb the scoop.

*One Dead Puffin* – 9m VS 4c\*\*. Climb the corner on the right side of the boulder to the break, move left and climb the arête.

*Ledge Route* – 12m Severe\*. Climb a jam crack and go directly up the slab above which faces the boulder.

*Smelly Mussels* – 9m HVS 5a\*. Climbs the left side of the block left of The Dead Pool. Traverse into the centre of the block and finish up a crack (awkward finish).

*The Dead Pool* – 9m VS 4b. Right again are two huge blocks. Climb the V notch between them and finish up the ramp on the right.

*Bacteria Soup* – 12m Severe. Right of the Dead Pool is a heather ramp with a short face on the right. Climb the flakes and jam crack in the middle of the short face. Step right and climb the corner.

*Blood Orange* – 12m Severe\*. The corner on the right to the shelf; move right and climb another corner.

*Tyke's Lead* – 15m Severe 4a\*. The chimney near the left side of the highest section of the crag, finishing out left past a small spike.

*Misunderstanding* – 11m VS 4c\*. Start right of the chimney. Move up then left towards the chimney, follow the steep ramp out right.

*Covenant* – 12m E4 6a\*\*. The prominent steep crack up the highest section of the left side of the crag. Sustained and well protected.

*Skerryvore* – 12m E3 6b\*. The steep crack leading to the left side of the ledge at

two thirds height. A difficult bouldery start leads to better holds in the niche at half height. Continue with interest to gain the ledge. Finish easily above.

*A Helping Hand* – 10m E2 5b\*\*. The deep wide central crack. Large cams useful.

*Minor* – 8m HVS 5a\*. The obvious line below the ramp, moving out right then back left to finish (or finish out right).

### **IONA, Phort Bhan, Tolkein Crag:**

*Snip-Snap* – 20m E4 6a. R. and C. Anderson. 20th April, 1997.

The short overhanging wall at the left side of the crag. Climb to the ledge below the centre of the wall. A small wire protects the move to an obvious hand slot where good wires protect the stretch placement of a Rock 3 high on the right. Pull past the wire and move up to gain the crack on Yans Route. Step across left and using a flange move up left into the centre of the wall over a small roof and continue to the top.

*Allah Be Praised* – 25m E3 5c\*. C. Moody, M. Tweedly, L. Gordon-Canning. 24th August, 1997.

Climbs the recess left of Yabadabadoo. Follow the left-slanting crack which gets better with height; step right when it ends. Go over a bulge, then follow the easy groove to the top.

### **Raven's Crag, Main Wall:**

*God Is Dead* – 20m E4 6a\*\*. G. Latter, C. Moody. 8th August, 1997.

The crack up the black seam in the arête. Start as for Jehad and climb the crack up the rib on the left. After the angle eases trend left to finish past a hollow flake.

*Solar Temple* – 20m E2 5b\*. G. Latter, C. Moody. 8th August, 1997.

The crack up the right side of the pinnacle right of Crusade, then the wall above.

*Blood Eagle* – E5 6a\*\*\*. R. Waterton (unsec). September, 1997.

Start just left of Smoke Yourself Thin. Climb up leftwards to finish at an obvious slot. The lower section is protected by a rock 1 on the right. The upper half is well protected, crux at half-height.

*Il Uomo Da Roma* – 20m E2 5b\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 12th July, 1997.

Start round right of L'homme d'Iona and climb the easy left-slanting ramp to a ledge and huge flake. Climb up right through an overhang right of the flake to a jug. Pull left into a crack, then climb straight up to finish up a bulge.

*Pontificating* – 20m E3 5c\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 20th September, 1997.

Climb the easy left-slanting ramp, shared with the previous route. Step right above an overhang and traverse right below the overlap. Follow the fault line to the top.

*Pope On A Rope* – 25m E2 5b\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 12th July, 1997.

Start up the easy left-slanting ramp; move right to gain the line of corners which lead to the top.

### **Aoineidh nan Struth, Labrador Wall:**

*Infidels* – 12m E4 6a\*. G. Latter. 9th August, 1997.

Well protected climbing up the left side of the orange arête left of the square-cut corner of Quack. Climb the front face on to a ledge, then a line just left of the arête to a good diagonal crack. Step right on to the arête, finishing on a good jug.

## SKYE

### AM BASTEIR, North Face:

*The Squeeze Box* – 110m E3. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 17th June, 1997.

Climbs the soaring chimney in the centre of the steep North Face. Start at a break left of the chimney where there is a short wide crack at head height.

1. 30m 5b. Climb the crack and groove above. Move on to the slabby wall on the right and up rightwards to the base of the chimney. A serious pitch.

2. 30m 5b. Climb the back of the chimney in two sections. Vertical caving, probably always wet.

3. 30m 5a. Pass a huge chockstone by moving out of the chimney on to a slab on the right, climbed to a ledge system. Continue up the deep narrow chimney with a through route.

4. 20m. Finish easily up the continuation fault.

### SGURR AN FHEADAIN:

N. Williams notes that Drainpipe Gully claimed by C. Rowland in 1980 is the same as Spur Gully climbed by A. P. Abraham *et. al.* in 1907. (See Abraham's classic book *Rock-climbing in Skye*.)

### SRON NA CICHE, Eastern Buttress:

I. Taylor notes that he considers Pocks to be E3 5b 5c.

### CORUISG HUT CRAG:

*The Minke* – 20m E2 5b\*. G. Nicoll, M. Nicoll, L. Kass. 19th May, 1997.

Start left of Beached Whale, directly behind the hut door. Climb the basalt dyke which slants rightwards up the wall. Possibly climbed before but not recorded.

### SGURR NA STRI, Mizzen Buttress:

This is the area of rock above and to the left of the Scavaig Slabs, steep in its lower part with slabs higher up. The following route takes the obvious crack-and-corner system up the middle of the buttress and was reached from the top of the Scavaig Buttress by traversing the steep and heavily-vegetated terrace capped by roofs which crosses the right-hand side of the buttress. A better approach would be to climb the broken rib directly below the corner.

*Outhaul* – 120m HVS 5a. C. R. Ravey, J. S. Peden. 26th May, 1997.

From the left-hand end of the terrace climb a steep slab left of the main roof to the foot of a series of cracks in the wall above. Follow these to a steep corner (crux, 45m). Follow the line of cracks in the slab above (50m). Further slabs lead to the top of the buttress (25m).

### BLA BHEINN, East Face:

*Finger in the Dyke* – 120m E5\*\*. P. Thorburn, G. Farquhar, G. Latter. 4th June, 1997.

A serious and atmospheric route up the arête of The Great Prow. Start at a left-slanting dyke at the left-hand side of the cave below the arête. The dyke climbed by Jib is 10m down to the left.

1. 30m 6a. Follow the dyke to a small right facing corner (serious) and gain the shelf above. Move a short way up this ramp, swing right into an undercut groove and climb it until the line fades. Make a slightly descending traverse right across the lip of a roof to a curious hole, continue to the right-hand side of a slabby niche and climb the crack above. Take a hanging belay below a loose niche.



2. 30m 5c. Follow the crack through the niche to climb a wall on hollow holds, moving right round the arête below a bulge. Gain the ramp above, move back left round the arête and step down to belay in a scoop.
3. 45m 5b (or 5c). Continue directly above the belay crossing a dyke, then follow good holds leading rightwards on to the arête. Continue more easily up a wide left-slanting crack and its continuation to belay on a broken terrace.
4. 15m. Scramble up left to the top.

### **CLACH GLAS:**

*Slighe a' Bhodaich* – 115m IV,4. D. Ritchie, N. Marshall. 8th March, 1998.

Situated immediately south of the Clach Glas – Sgurr nan Each bealach is a prominent east-facing buttress holding two parallel left-slanting fault lines. The route climbs the right-hand fault, up the chimney in two pitches over several interesting chockstones. Finish left on easier ground to the summit ridge.

### **ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:**

Right of 'Orrible Crack is a very steep clean wall. The following two routes climb it, both starting directly behind the spring.

*Overdrive* – 18m E4 6a. A. Tibbs, A. Matthewson. 23rd July, 1997.

Start below a big, pointed hold at 5m. Climb to this, then keep going until moves leftward gain a sloping ledge (poor rest). Continue up the centre of the wall above via a thin crack. (the ascent described used preplaced runners; the route awaits a proper lead).

*Afterburn* – 16m E3 5c. A. Tibbs, A. Matthewson. 24th July, 1997.

Follow *Overdrive* to the pointed hold, then move right into a shallow slot, and straight up the crackline above. Another sustained route with excellent protection.

Farther right, a shorter section of crag offers a couple of routes.

*Pew with a View* – 6m HVS 5b. A. Matthewson. 28th June, 1997.

Start 1m left of the recess. A long reach gains a crack and easier climbing.

*The Sting* – 7m E1 5c. A. Matthewson, A. Tibbs. 25th July, 1997.

The wall left of *Pew with a View*, starting 3m left. Climb up and left to a hold just right of a heather tuft. The wrinkled wall above is easier.

### **STRATHAIRD, Suidhe Biorach:**

*Stretcher Case* – 25m E3/4 6a. P. Donnithorne, E. Alsford. 9th June, 1997.

Climbs the wall between *Veritas Splendour* and *Crack of Zawn* and contains a very long reach at two-thirds height (6b for the short).

The following routes seem quite close, but different.

*Blasphemosaurus* – 25m E3 5c. R. McAllister, C. French, D. McGimpsey. 22nd March, 1998.

Start below the right end of the roof and about 20m right of *Mothers Pride*. Climb steep rock to a small roof under the roof. Traverse left under the roof until under a flake-crack going through the roof. Pull through this and climb up leftwards to a slight easing in angle. Move right and up to finish.

*Ogmorian* – 25m E1 5b\*. E. Alsford, P. Donnithorne. 9th June, 1997.

Climbs the centre of the wall round to the right of *Mother's Pride* and cannot be approached until mid tide. Low in the grade. Start 20m right of *Mother's Pride* below an obvious ledge 2m up (and just past the right hand end of the main roof

at half height). Take a direct line through steep rock and a bulge to gain the final headwall. Climb this just left of an obvious grassy ledge.

*Legover* – 15m E2 5b. C. French, D. McGimpsey, R. McAllister. 22nd March, 1998.

Another buttress, east-facing, described in the guide (p260) lies 200m right (facing the cliff). The route climbs a steep grooved corner-line to the left of the V. Diff corner. Climb the overhanging corner-line to a rest on a protruding block. Climb diagonally rightwards along the right wall of the corner to finish up through a squeeze chimney.

### **NEIST, The Upper Crag:**

*Bad Dream* – 60m E3 5c\*\*\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 17th June, 1997 (first pitch). N. Smith, R. Lupton, C. Moody. 19th July, 1997 (complete).

The big corner at the bottom of Tower Gully. A fine line with considerable exposure, possibly a good route for a wet day.

1. 35m 5b. Climb the corner to the overhang, move right climb a crack and move on to the ledge on the right. An excellent pitch.

2. 25m 5c. Step back left and follow the obvious fault, finish by jamming the left side of the summit block.

### **Financial Sector:**

*Fat Cats* – 20m E2 5c\*\*. W. Jeffrey, D. N. Williams. 14th September, 1996.

Climbs the obvious crack in the north-facing wall at the southern end of the Financial Sector. Climb a short slab and move left to enter a chimney. Climb this and the crack above with increasing difficulty. Hug a curious column before making committing moves up the crucial headwall.

*Hurricane Hideaway* – 25m E1 5b\*\*\*. E. Alsford, P. Donnithorne. 8th June, 1997.

A route very reminiscent of Sunny Corner Lane, Cam Barra. Climbs the main corner feature just left of Wall Street, finishing through the roofs left of the corner. Climb the corner until possible to traverse left along an obvious break to gain a hanging corner above. Climb this to the roof and undercut rightwards to gain a short finishing corner above – a meaty finish!

The following two routes lie to the right (south) of Sonamara.

*Transitive Nightfall of Diamonds* – 25m H. Severe 4b\*. A. Holden, R. Holden. 17th July, 1997.

Start at the first rib right of Sonamara just to the left of the crest. Climb a series of slabs pleasantly to the top, keeping to the left of the crest.

*Keeping The Bofs Happy* – 22m Diff. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 29th March, 1997.

Right of Sonamara there are three ribs; the rib right of these has a wide crack on its left-hand side. Climb the crest of the rib; there are a couple of hollow blocks.

### **The Fin:**

The following route is located well east of The Fin, close to the eastmost end of the wall just before the wall fades into easy angled slabs.

*Wilful Neglect* – 30m E2 5b. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. June, 1997.

At the east end of the wall are two obvious corners. This route climbs the left-hand corner. A third corner is located just left again but is usually bird infested. Climb the corner throughout with the crux at half-height. Sustained and not overly protected.

**NEIST, The Lower Crag: Poverty Point:**

This is the sea cliff below Seagulls. A prominent prow juts out south. The west face of the prow is steep, finishing at a corner-crack.

*At The Whelks* – 30m HVS 5a\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 1st June, 1997.

Climb a chimney left of the corner-crack which runs into another corner crack.

*Recovery Day* – 25m EI 5b\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Calming. 1st June, 1997.

A corner-crack to the left.

*Superlager For Breakfast* – 25m VS 4c\*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Calming. 1st June, 1997.

The chimney to the left with a bulge towards the top.

*Giro Day* – 25m E2 5c\*\*. C. Moody, M. McLeod. 20th July, 1997.

Start next to Superlager and climb the crack on the left.

*Homer* – 20m HVS 5a\*. C. Moody, M. McLeod. 20th July, 1997.

The wide crack.

*Broken Wing* – 20m Diff. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 20th July, 1997.

The line round the corner.

The following lines are to be found immediately left of Bernard's Dilemma. Approach down the gully as for that route.

*Liquidator* – 20m VS 4c. A. Holden, P. Arden, M. Hudson. 11th July, 1997.

Start at a chimney 4m left of Bernard's Dilemma. Climb the chimney past a challenging constriction to a wider chimney. Follow this to a terrace and finish up a short crack. Belay on blocks next to the alternative descent corner.

*Clockface* – 25m EI 5a\*\*. M. Hudson, A. Holden, P. Arden. 12th July, 1997.

The hanging slab 5m left of Liquidator. Climb the blocky arête to an airy shelf (unprotected). Leave the right-hand end of the shelf and climb the slab at five-past-three. Finish by a sharp pull up the wall above.

*Best Before End* – 20m Severe 4b\*. M. Hudson, A. Holden, P. Arden. 11th July, 1997.

The clean-cut corner 3m left of Clockface. Follow the crack stepping left at the top to climb a short block. Step left onto the exposed arête, and make some poorly protected steps up to finish.

*Mixed Fruit* – 10m Severe 4b. M. Hudson, A. Holden, P. Arden. 11th July, 1997.

A short jamming crack high on the wall 5m left of Best Before End.

*This Way Up* – 20m HVS 4c\*. R. Brown, J. Walters, Matti, M. Hudson. 25th August, 1997.

The clean chimney-crackline 20m farther north. Belay well back from the edge.

The next lines are farther north beyond Sore Phalanges. Belay well back on blocks on the coast path, and allow plenty of rope.

*The Slammer* – 30m Hard Severe\*\*. M. Hudson, A. Holden, P. Arden. 12th July, 1997.

Start below a cracked wall 3m left of Sore Phalanges.

1. 15m 4b. Climb diagonally across the wall to a balcony.

2. 15m 4b. Follow the steep left-facing corner above.

*Zia* – 30m Severe 4a\*. P. Arden, A. Holden. 12th July, 1997.

Start 2m left of The Slammer. Move up to the overlap, step left and climb the right-slanting corner crack to the balcony. Finish up broken blocks on the left.

*Curving Crack* – 30m EI 5b\*. A. Holden, M. Hudson. 11th July, 1997.

Start at the arête 10m left of Sore Phalanges. Step up the arête and swing right onto

the front face. Follow the curving crack in the wall past awkward moves to reach better holds. Move up to ledges then continue up broken ground to block belays.

### **STAFFIN SLIP NORTH, East Face:**

The following lines are to be found on the lichenous east face of Staffin Slip North. Some routes need stake belays which seem to go missing – bring your own. The routes are described from right to left. The first line gains and follows the straight crack 3m left of Staffin Classic. *Jean and Jim* – 50m E1\*\*. M. Hudson, J. Walters, R. Brown. 22nd August, 1997.

Start 5m left of Staffin Classic just left of a small chimney.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the edge of the large subsidiary flake to gain the crack just left of the arête. Sustained jamming leads to a good ledge and belays.
2. 30m 5b. (1pt) Follow the vertical crack above (hard to start – rest on FA) past a peapod, and finish up the memorable wall above.

Walk left or south for 30m, passing an ivy-covered wall to an area of four distinctive semi-detached columns. (The positions of the following routes relative to two routes reported in SMCJ 1997 – Loose Woman and Persistent Vegetated State – are uncertain.)

*Return of the Stone* – 50m Severe\*\*. M. Hudson, R. Holden. 30th November, 1996. Gains the base of and climbs the second column along on the east face, taking in some impressive ground at a surprisingly amenable grade. Consistent and well-protected. Start below a chimney in front of the third column, which holds an ominously-poised flake at 15m.

1. 15m 4b. Bridge up the chimney taking care with the poised flake. Belay shortly in an ivy dell to the right, below the second (right-hand) column.
2. 35m 4a. A spectacular pitch. Gain the rear of the second (right-hand) column using some steps to cross the giant flake that forms the back wall of the dell. Bridge up behind the column passing a jammed block 10m up. Keep bridging up, pausing to pose on top of the column, before transferring back to the cliff face to gain the top. Stake (possibly missing) and Rock 9 belay 5m back from the edge.

*Big Farm Weekly* – 35m HVS 5a. M. Hudson, A. Holden, R. Brown. 5th June, 1997. A bottom-to-top line in the bay 10m left of Return of The Stone. Some good sections marred by excessive gardening and doubtful rock. Start up a tough crack 2m left of the chimney marking the right hand end of the bay (crux). A rightward rising traverse can be made to avoid this direct start (VS overall). Follow the steep corner above to ledges – the pleasant climbing has now ended. Maintain a more-or-less direct course above past a rather worrying block, moving slightly right to finish up a pillar. Stake belay as for Return of The Stone.

*Fourth Column* – 20m VS 4b. M. Hudson, D. Brown. 27th October, 1996.

Climbs the smaller detached column some 15m left of Big Farm, which is split from top to bottom by a hand-width crack. Back-and-foot up behind the column, transferring onto the column itself about 5m below the top. Descend by simultaneous abseil from a groove in the very top of the column.

*Skyscraper* – 40m E3 5c\*. D. Brown, R. Brown. 18th July, 1997.

Climbs an impressive crack 10m left of Fourth Column. Follow the crack past a small overhang at 5m and continue more easily until a difficult move (right of a bramble) leads to sloping ledge. Continue up the crack without respite until easier broken ground is reached. Teeter right to a break in the wall and a sloping heathery

finish. Stake belay needed in the dyke 5m back. The southern end of the cliff is dominated by a clean-cut overhang. The next route lies in the groove on its right-hand side.

*Dogs and Wolves* – 15m H. Severe 4b. R. Brown, D. Brown. 30th November, 1996. Climb the broken crack and groove above.

*A White Tail of Hogmanay* – 15m VS 4c. R. Brown, D. Pattullo. 31st December, 1996.

Starting 15m left of Dogs and Wolves, take the crack and corner on the left side of the big overhang. From the groove, bridge left onto a spike on the adjacent undercut headwall, which gives enjoyable climbing before the vegetated landing.

*Bopp Til You Dropp* – 12m HVS 4c. R. Brown, M. Hudson. 4th April, 1997.

Start 5m left of White Tail, and 3m left of a crack which twists into a triangulated groove capped at mid height. Follow a series of steep, unremitting cracks to a grassy finish.

*Once Bitten* – 12m Severe. D. Brown, M. Lee. 18th July, 1997.

An open chimney 3m left again gives fleetingly pleasant climbing before a loose top.

### **STAFFIN BAY, Flodigarry Island:**

The east coast of Flodigarry Island holds spectacular cliffs which from afar promise columnar-type lines similar to Kilt Rock. Closer acquaintance reveals crumbly buttresses and bountiful birdlife best left alone. The following solitary line deserves no further attention.

*Corrugated Chimney* – 50m Severe. M. Hudson, R. Brown, J. Walters. 23rd August, 1997.

A grassy diagonal ramp descending rightwards splits the cliff in two and serves as a descent path. Start 100m north of this ramp, roughly beneath the highest point of the island at a huge semi-detached pinnacle. A shaft behind the pinnacle allows unpleasant and mildly-dangerous chimneying on large corrugations. Finish ruefully up grass to belay three fence posts south of the stake marking the very summit of the island.

### **FLODIGARRY:**

*Another Man's Rhubarb* – 40m Severe. P. Yardley, S. Halford. 21st August, 1997.

Climb a continuous vague groove to the right of Newspaper Taxis, finishing to the right of a short nose.

#### **South Tunnel Buttress:**

*Captain Mainwaring* – 50m VS 4c,4c. P. Yardley, S. Halford. 21st August, 1997.

Start as for Lucy in the Sky. Traverse right and climb up ledges as for that route. Break right from here past a good spike and climb a crack and wall up rightwards. Traverse right below grass ledges to belay on blocks on the arête. Climb the upper arête to the top. (Climbed by W. Jeffrey in 1990 and not thought worthy of reporting!)

### **RUBHA HUNISH, Meall Tuath:**

A line has been climbed to the left of Northern Lights at E8 6a,6c. Autumn 1996.

#### **Meall Deas:**

*The Scoop* – 65m VS\*. M. Hudson, A. Holden. 5th October, 1996.

Takes the easiest line up the left-hand arête of the Minch and Tatties buttress, through a large scooped out roof. Start from steep grass slopes at the foot of the arête.

1. 15m 4a. Climb a shattered pillar and the rib above to belay in the recess beneath the scoop.
2. 20m 4c. Follow the overhanging crack above and step left at the roof to gain an airy position on the arête. Easier ground leads to belays below the big corner left of the upper arête.
3. 30m 4b. Tackle the corner and pull over the lip at 15m. Easier scrambling leads to the stake belay of Minch and Tatties.

*The Knowledge* – 75m HVS\*. M. Hudson, A. Holden. 6th June, 1997.

A delightful and varied line taking in some impressive ground right of The Scoop, but slightly spoiled by the escapability of the top pitch. Pitch one combined with the top pitch of The Scoop gives a good VS 5a\*\* combination. Start 10m down and right of The Scoop start, directly below a gap in the band of overhangs.

1. 40m 5a. Climb a crack, then columns and ribs direct to the gap. Chimney through the overhangs (crux) and belay beneath the overhanging cracks above.
2. 35m 5a. Move left and up round the corner, following the S crack 2m right of the Scoop corner. Hand traverse out right across the face ASAP to a shelf on the arête. Continue directly up the arête (crux) to the stake belay of Minch and Tatties.

**Note:** The guidebook description for Minch and Tatties should read: 'A prominent right-facing corner'.

*Master of Morgana* – 70m HVS\*\*\*. A. Holden, M. Hudson. 31st August, 1996.

A superb well-protected line following the right-hand side of the face and finishing up the obvious cleft on the skyline. Start 20m right of the start of Minch and Tatties below the right-hand of two deep chimneys.

1. 30m 4c. Gain the chimney and climb it on improving rock to a ledge on the left. Climb a series of grooves trending left to reach a blocky ledge and nut belays.
2. 40m 5b. Climb the crack above the stance to reach a higher ledge. Traverse left to gain a leftward rising ramp leading to a horizontal break. Hand traverse back right to gain the bottom of the final crack. Climb this (crux) to a spectacular grovelling finish.

Rightwards of the Whispering Crack wall a row of five buttresses, composed of a strangely-sculpted picrodolerite, rise up from sea level. Some of this rock, especially the bottom 20m, requires careful treatment.

*Mercury Mouth* – 70m VS\*. R. Brown, A. Holden, M. Hudson. 5th October, 1996.

The leftmost buttress is dominated by a pinnacle at mid-height. This climb gains the pinnacle, starting up the groove to the right of the adenoidal feature.

1. 40m 4c. Climb the groove until a line of flakes allows a traverse left above the overhang. Pull through steep ground to gain the upper groove and follow this direct to belays behind the pinnacle.
2. 30m 4b Climb the stepped wall to the right of the pinnacle, trending rightwards to avoid a tottering finger.

*Aegis* – 75m HVS\*\*. R. Brown, M. Hudson. 10th May, 1997.

This climb takes a logical line up the centre of the fourth buttress, which is distinguished by a large 'ear' at 12m on its left-hand arête. Very worthwhile after the fudgy start. Start slightly right of the central arête.

1. 40m 4c. Head for a prehistoric perch at 10m then move up, taking care with the rock, to a big spike and welcome sound placements at 20m. Gain the spike and step onto the wall above, continuing up a shallow groove to the large sloping ramp.

2. 35m 4b. Follow the ramp to a notch in the left-hand arête. Follow the arête over several bulges to the heather slopes above.

*A Piece of Cake* – 45m H. Severe. R. Brown, D. Pattullo (alt.). 3rd January, 1997. The fifth buttress is capped by a triangulated top wall, and split by a prominent crack on its right-hand side.

1. 35m 4b. Start in a bay and climb the crack to step right at the arête. Follow the crack to the headwall. Move left to a ledge and a short chimney, and thence the rooftop belay.

2. 10m 4a Follow the grassy ramp diagonally rightwards to choked cracks with an awkward exit.

### **RAASAY:**

M. Tighe provided the following mini-guide, somewhat summarised here.

The various areas are described in a rough north-south progression, though there isn't a great deal of rock in the south, and what there is can be a bit scary (some routes described).

### **Oskaig Crag (MR 552 377):**

Situated parallel to and below the road close to the Youth Hostel (one minute walk), the granophyre crag consists of a series of loose and broken buttresses up to 15m in height. Numerous possibilities, the best being the crackline on the highest part of the cliff at the south end, Jeff's 45-minute Haircut (H. Severe 4b). Climb the crack direct, the crux being just below the small tree. Continue up the open corner with care. Other routes include Swimming with the Sharks (E1 5b), a steep groove opposite the corner of the wood, and The End of the Line (VS 4b), a groove-line on the wall just right of the previous route.

### **Inverburn Crag:**

Situated off Burma Road Trail near the waterfall. Project: Arnold's Jumper (approx. E5 6b). Direct line on an overhanging wall at the right end (south) of the crag – start to the right of small trees in a break and ascend via a dyno and good breaks with the crux at the top.

### **Honeycomb Wall (MR 567 365):**

Situated next to the Fearn road just past the mine buildings at the top of the forest. Small overhanging wall of excellent pocketed sandstone.

### **Dun Caan:**

On Dun Caan's summit crags there are recorded climbs ranging from Flying Flakes (22m, Mild VS) to Fear of Flying (23m, E1 5b) which are reached by roping down from the summit trig point. Fear of Flying takes an arête to the left (north) of the main buttress and then a finger crack to the top. Flying Flakes takes a cleaved crack to the right of the former. A buttress farther to the right gives Warden's Slab (22m, H. Severe 4a) which follows a slabby ramp and corner past an obvious overhang. There are more short routes to be explored.

### **Creag na Bruaich:**

This large escarpment of Triassic sandstone cliffs lies just to the south of the ruined township of north and south Screapadal. The scene is dominated by a huge free-standing tower 65m high and well seen from the road south of Brochel. The tower is known locally as An Coinneal (The Candle). The top was reached by abseil and

pendulum by M. Tighe and party in May, 1991. Details of a number of other climbs provided, particularly on boulders down by the shore (Screapadal Boulders).

### **Arnish:**

This north end of the island is composed of Lewisian gneiss and the area abound with tantalising little crags, some have been worked on, some not. The first crag of note which can be seen from the road at Arnish is Callum's Crag (MR 599 485), 15 min. walk from the road end at Arnish. A small compact crag (8m) situated above the trees at the back of Arnish. South-facing with obvious cracklines and narrow face climbs – 10 routes described. Also a route on a small crag farther up the hill with an obvious triangular overhang. And 200m farther up the hillside is a lovely little crag with a fierce overhanging crack in the right wall (E1 5b). Several easier routes on this crag.

### **Torran, Meall Dearg (MR 595 495):**

A large broken crag on the path from Arnish to the north end of the island. Turn right (uphill) from the old schoolhouse at Arnish – the crag is at the highest point of the path (20 min. walk).

*Scampi Didley Doo* – 30m E1 5b\*\*, S. Younie, P. Johnstone, D. McAulay. 28th April, 1995.

Takes the groove line up the centre of the highest section at the left end of the crag. Start at the lowest point of the buttress and climb through a loose red band to gain a solid crack. Follow the line trending right at first, and then more direct to finish through an awkward bulge.

*Windmill in Old Amsterdam* – 30m VS 4c\*. P. Johnstone, D. McAulay, J. Hendry. 25th April, 1996.

On the solid rectangular buttress to the left of a short stone dyke. It takes the left-hand crack, with a hard move through a bulge. Continue up the widening crack (belay) and finish up a short steep corner.

*A Little Mouse with Clogs On* – 20m HVS 5a. P. Johnstone, G. Grant, D.? 13th May, 1996.

To the right of the stone dyke is an obvious wide chimney. Start up a faint groove 2m right of the chimney for 5m and step right on to a ledge. Climb a crack and blocky bulge with a hard move to reach a shelf. Gain a slab and belay at the short wall above.

A broken orange buttress with a large scoop at half height lies 50m right of the dyke. *Cinders* – 30m VS 4b. D. McAulay, P. Johnstone, J. Hendry. 25th April, 1996.

Climb a short crack to gain the large scoop. Climb up into a small niche before making an awkward step left on to a hanging slab. Finish up a corner (some loose rock).

Right again is a prominent solid rib which forms the lowest point of the crag.

*Where on the Stair* – 35m H. Severe\*\*. J. Hendry, P. Johnstone, D. McAulay. 25th April, 1996.

Start on the left side of the rib and climb diagonally right on good holds past two large blocks. Continue directly with interest on good rock. There is a direct start at 5a.

*Well I Declare* – 15m MVS 4c. P. Johnstone, G. Grant, A. Jameson, D.? 13th May, 1996.

Up and right of Where . . . is a short rib with two obvious V-grooves above. Climb the left side of the rib to below a rightward-slanting shelf to the right of the V-grooves. Climb a wall to finish.



**Sgurr na Gall (MR 605 521):**

Perhaps should be Sgeir nan Gall, the skerry of the stranger. The cliff is a wonderful sweep of clean compact pink Lewisian gneiss with the sea lapping at its foot at the western end. Most of the routes are around 30m and take prominent groove and crack lines. There is much scope for variation but this is Hebridean climbing *par excellence*. 100m or so along the shore eastwards from the main cliff are 10m walls, another superb little area with a multitude of cracks, overhangs and corners, some of which were climbed by M. Tighe, M. Lake and J. Gould on 21st March, 1996.

**Approach:** Follow the Coal Rona path as far as an old red roofed shepherd's hut at MR 612 519, then bushwhack westwards along the shore of the bay to the extreme western tip of the Sgurr. The cliff is not visible until you turn the corner right on the headland.

*The Tobacco Run* – 85m HVS 5a\*\*\*. M. Tighe, K. Harding, D. McAulay, J. Hendry. 4th September, 1995.

A fine expedition on perfect rock and crossing nearly every other route on the crag. So in effect a girdle traverse at about one-third height, finishing up a shallow groove. Start in the small inlet just to the north of the main crag. Follow a wee track on to the headland and traverse with increasing difficulty about 6m above sea level back south towards the main crag to a wonderful airy belay beside the bottomless groove of Clais Mor (Big Groove). Cross the groove (hard) and hand traverse around the corner to attain the ledge on the main cliff (belay). Go along the ledge almost to the end and take the fine shallow groove to the top.

*Clais Mor* – 25m HVS 5a\*\*\*. M. Tighe, D. West. 4th April, 1996.

The fine bottomless groove at the extreme western end of the cliff has a made-to-measure roof at the top. Start at half-tide or less with some gymnastic moves on to the jutting prow. Climb up the excellent groove and turn the roof on the right. Easier climbing to the top.

*Fladda* – 25m E2 5b\*\*\*. M. Tighe (unsec.). 21st March, 1996.

This excellent route attains the obvious right-trending ramp at the top left side of the cliff. Make an intricate series of moves up the wall just around the corner from Clais Mor to gain the crack that comes down from the rightward-sloping ramp. Climb the crack and, more easily, the ramp.

*Blood Test* – 25m VS 4c\*. M. Tighe, D. West. 4th April, 1996.

A shallow groove in the middle of the face leads to the ledge at one-third height. Directly above is the shallow groove of Tobacco Run. A couple of metres to the left and almost in the centre of the cliff is another fault line with a flake on the right. Climb the groove.

*Oisinn McAulay* – 25m VS 4c\*. D. McAulay, K. Harding, J. Hendry. 4th September, 1995.

At the right-hand side of the main cliff a wide shallow bay leads to a more pronounced corner higher up. This gives an interesting route.

*Am Fasarinen* – 25m E3 5c\*\*. D. McAulay, P. Johnstone. 23rd April, 1996.

A prominent flake on the arête to the right of Oisinn McAulay. Start in the back of a small bay and climb to a large sloping shelf. Ascend the flake direct to a horizontal break. Steeply to the top. Sustained and airy!

*Oisinn Olga* – 20m V. Diff\*. M. Tighe, D. West, O. West. 4th April, 1996.

To the right of Oisinn McAulay there are two fierce-looking short hanging flakes which have yet to be climbed. Right again is the extreme back (east) corner of the inlet. Climb this, better than it looks.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

## SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

**CREAG COIRE AN t-SLUGAIN:**

The Furrow, climbed direct through the overhung recess by A. Mullin, A. Nisbet, J. Preston at IV,6 on 3rd December, 1997.

**SGURR NAN CONBHAIREAN, North Face:**

*Sunny Side Up* – 100m IV,4. A. Powell, S. Elworthy. 29th December, 1995.

Climbs the icefall in the centre of the next wall 100m up and right of Fog Monster/Misty Byway (and Crystal Couloir presumably – Ed).

1. 45m. Climb the icefall and groove above to below a steep wall.

2. 50m. Step right and climb a recess in the wall. Head up to belay just below the ridge.

**Lochan Uaine Buttress:**

**The Green Man** – 90m III. R. Hester, G. Jones, A. Nisbet. 29th January, 1998.

Climbs the face right of Anne Frank's Chimney, starting about 5m to its right. Climb turf to a block, then traverse right to reach a line leading diagonally right to end at a steep headwall (40m). Traverses back left to enter and climb a steep groove, gradually easing.

**CREAG AN DUILISG (Plockton), Main Crag area:**

To the right of the Main Crag and Brigadier's Redoubt is a diagonal stone shoot, which gives access to the cliff containing the 1971 route, Trundle (VS). The shoot is very loose and not recommended for descent. A new section of cliff begins 60m farther right at an impressive overhanging arête. The routes here are single pitch and lack the convenience of tree belays at their tops, but give a variety of grades on quick-drying rock.

*Roseroot Ramp* – 40m Severe. R. Chapman, A. Jago, M. E. Moran. 29th May, 1997.

The obvious left-slanting ramp in the centre of the crag. Climb the centre, enjoying the clean shield of rock in the middle. Exit left on thick heather to birch belays.

Abseil from large rowans 15m left of the top.

*Plockton Plonkers* – 40m Severe. R. Chapman, A. Jago, M. E. Moran. 29th May, 1997.

Start 15m right of Roseroot Ramp at the right end of the sector. Climb a clean, curving crack into a corner system. Exit left and climb a short corner to the top. Peg belay and abseil point *in situ* 5m higher.

*Miracle of the May Midge* – 30m E1 5b. M.E.Moran (unsec). 29th May, 1997.

A clean wall with cracked blocks at its foot lies 8m left of Plockton Plonkers. Climb up to the right of the blocks and go delicately up the wall to a ledge. Take the centre of the impending wall of brown rock above, following a vague crackline, to finish at a higher terrace (the peg abseil of Plockton Plonkers is 10m higher).

**Western Cliff:**

500m west of the Main Crag, well beyond the prominent gully which cuts the centre of the crags, is a prow of beetling green overhangs. Some 80m high, well coated by the sea lichen or dulce which gives these crags their name, and defended by vertiginous vegetation – this crag looks as impressive as it is repulsive. This sector is best approached from a good layby at MR 832 335 from which a 15-20 minute

struggle through birchwood leads to the base. Peregrine falcons were seen preparing to nest here, so the crag is best avoided during the May to August nesting season. The following route climbs directly up the prow.

*King Prawn Deathwish* – 115m E3 5c. I. Dring, M. E. Moran (on sight). 1st May, 1997.

A route of unusual character and considerable excitement, a real Plockton special! Start just left of the prow at a blunt rib with a tree at 6m.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the rib past two trees to a long vegetated ledge.

2. 25m 5a Go 3m up a wide crack on the right, then move awkwardly left and up to a cleaned ramp. Follow this for 15m up under roofs, where it peters out at a vegetated break. Pull round right and go straight up a wall to a tiny ledge directly below a groove cutting the main roofs of the prow (peg belay *in situ*).

3. 20m 5c. The route now bears its teeth. Climb the groove above the stance through bulges for 15m. Committing moves right gain a ledge with precarious stacked blocks. Climb through the bulging wall above to a fine stance beneath the capping roof (peg and Friend belay).

4. 15m 5b. Hand traverse left 3m and pull on to a ramp. Go back right and swing across the lip of the roofs on good holds to ledges. Belay 4m right on another ledge with a view.

5. 35m 4c. Go slightly left, then up heathery grooves and flake cracks to the top. Descend to the west of the crag via a stony gully and steep heather slopes.

### **SGURR NA FEARTAIG:**

*The Topper* – 210m V,5. A. Gorman, D. Williamson, H. Wyllie. 4th January, 1997. The icefall which forms on the left wall of The Stonker recess, gained by climbing the first pitch of The Stonker. Steeper and more sustained than The Stonker, with the fourth of five pitches the crux. The amount of ice is variable but a continuous icefall on this occasion; ice screw belays.

*Wee Dribble* – 70m IV,5. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. 6th January, 1997. Start a few metres to the right of Running on Empty. Climb via a series of icicles draining down a vague groove to blocky ledges to the left of a huge recess (30m). Climb over the blocks and short corners to easy ground, with one further short step to the top (40m).

### **FUAR THOLL, Lower South-East Nose:**

*The Ramp* – 150m II. J. Gibbs, A. Nisbet, A. Petts. 1st March, 1998.

The turf ramp mentioned in the guide is really a left-slanting groove. Climb the groove for three pitches. Either finish up the groove or traverse right for an extra pitch.

*Irish Grooves* – 140m III. I. Lee-Bapty, A. Nisbet, A. Wildsmith. 8th March, 1998. Start 10m left of Olfactory and climb a left-slanting line of turf grooves in three long pitches to the top.

### **Mainreachan Buttress:**

*Snoopy* – 180m VII,7. C. Dale, A. Nisbet. 7th March, 1998.

Based on Snoopy, although the relationship in the finish is unsure. Very spectacular, with bold pitches on thin ice leading to a strenuous, but well protected, section through roofs. The more ice, the easier it would become.

1,2. 35m, 30m. Follow Reach for the Sky (Snoopy) for two pitches.

3. 15m. Continue a short way up the ramp-corner, then traverse right along a foot ledge to climb the right side of the ramp to its top.
4. 25m. Climb steep rock trending right to gain the iced 'brown groove' and follow it, probably on increasingly thick ice to a ledge below a prominent ice column.
5. 15m. Climb the ice column into a recess. Make unlikely moves round the arête on the left to easier ground leading back right above the recess.
6. 30m. Climb the chimney above and continue to a terrace.
7. 30m. Move right and finish easily up grooves.

### **SGORR RUADH:**

*Gravesend* – 200m IV,4. I. Lee-Bapty, A. Nisbet, A. Wildsmith. 11th March, 1998.  
At the base of the steep section of the Central Couloir left wall is a prominent left-slanting gully, almost a ramp under a smooth steep wall. Climb the gully to a cave (50m). Exit the cave by ice on the left and cross a big terrace (50m). Enter a big scoop in the upper buttress and finish up a chimney from its top right corner. Perhaps III with the first pitch well frozen.

### **Raeburn's Buttress:**

*The Jigsaw* – 200m III. H. Davies, G. Bardsley, A. Nisbet. 6th January, 1998.  
The easiest mixed start to Raeburn's Buttress, low in the grade, not sustained, and in keeping with the upper part. Start at the ramp which is the first big feature right of the crest of Raeburn's Buttress (the same ramp as mentioned in the guide for Raeburn's original ascent). Climb the ramp to its top (60m), traverse right along a ledge (50m) and reach a fault line leading diagonally back left to the crest (70m). A short pitch on the crest leads to the upper section (20m).

*Tritium Chimney* – 130m IV,6. M. E. Moran, A. Nisbet. 4th December, 1997.  
Based on the narrow chimney line between Raeburn's Original and Direct routes and which cuts directly through The Jigsaw. Start from a big shelf which slopes up right to the base of the line. The initial slabs were not iced so the blocky rib on the left was climbed leading into the top of a ramp (the same ramp as climbed by The Jigsaw), followed rightwards back to the chimney line (40m). Two steep steps in the chimney (30m) and the easier continuation of the line (40m) led to the crest and the short pitch as above to the top of the steep section of the buttress (20m).

### **MEALL GORM:**

*Bypass Buttress* – 350m II. G. Lewis-Evans, A. Nisbet, D. Winterbone. 20th January, 1998.

Climb the central of the three lowest gullies to its blocking cave, traverse out right for 60m along a ledge to the buttress crest, climb a steep pitch on the crest to an easy finish up the buttress.

*Spiral Terrace, Direct Finish* – 100m III,4. G. Lewis-Evans, A. Nisbet, D. Winterbone. 18th January, 1998.

Finish up the buttress right of the 'deep gully', the crux being a short vertical wall low down.

### **SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, A' Chioch:**

*Impulse* – 70m HVS. G. Reilly, F. Templeton. 1st June, 1997.

Follows a line up the east-facing buttress left of Cioch South Gully and near the left end of Middle Ledge. Start directly below an obvious narrow left-facing corner near the right end of the wall.

1. 40m 5a. Climb directly to the base of the corner and up it until possible to swing rightwards on to the rib using a flaky handhold on the wall. Climb up, then rejoin the corner at the opening of a crack. Move up and right to the top of a pinnacle and continue directly upwards to the left end of a grass ledge.

2. 30m. Continue above trending rightwards towards grassy ledges leading into South Gully left fork. Abseil down the gully or continue traversing to abseil down South Gully itself.

### **Northern Buttresses:**

*Independence Day* – 50m H. Severe. M. Arkley, D. Counsell. 14th September, 1996.

Climbs arête at the left-hand side of the wall which also contains Chopper Chimney (MR 787 432).

1. 20m. Climb the obvious chimney which is left of the foot of the arête to gain the arête after 5m. Follow the left side of the arête and move right to gain large holds and a steep move to a belay ledge.

2. 25m 4b. Climb a steep crack for 5m and move out right on to a broad sloping shelf. Make an awkward exposed move right round a corner, then climb up and across a broken gully to gain a large ledge finishing left.

### **Summit Buttress:**

*Airwaves* – 50m E3 5c. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 31st May, 1997.

An exciting route; the middle section is space walking. Led on sight. The route is two-thirds along the right-hand section of cliff – near the approach path. Immediately below the cliff is a narrow terrace. Walk along this past two pillars to a point where there is a rocky spur on the slope underneath. Above the far end of the spur is the widest section of terrace with a cubic block lying on it. The wall above is beetling with overhangs but the key feature is a big roof with a downward-pointing lip about 10m up. Start at a black right-facing corner which leads up to the left end of the roof. Climb the corner, move left and up a shallow groove to a break below overhangs. Go diagonally right by sensational moves round overhangs to a hidden grass ledge. Finish up the final corner passing a roof.

### **South Face:**

*Astrocyte* – 40m HVS 5b. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 16th June, 1997.

Climbs the bulging buttress left of Ganglion. Start as for Ganglion.

1. 25m 4b. Start up the groove as for Ganglion but soon move left and climb a left-slanting ramp to the halfway ledge. Traverse left to blocks where the ledge turns the corner towards the left-bounding gully.

2. 15m 5b. Pull through the roof at a wedged block (just left of a central groove). Finish trending left under overhangs.

### **BEINN BHAN, Coire Toll a' Bhein:**

*Illegal Grass* – 250m IV,5. G. Lewis-Evans, A. Nisbet, D. Winterbone. 19th January, 1998.

Climbs the buttress right of Breach of the Peace, with one disproportionately hard pitch. Start from the toe up a zig-zag pitch leading to a steep band (60m). This was tackled right of the crest (crux) leading to easier ground, continuing up a line generally on the right.

**BEINN DAMH, Little Coire (MR 881 516, see SMCJ 1995, p646):**

All the chimneys/gullies in this coire have now been climbed, including The Thin White Line, 140m, II, M. C. Jacob, P. J. Biggar, 11th February, 1997, and The Slanter, 135m, II, P. J. Biggar, 15th February, 1997. Both routes are located on the buttress right of the obvious central gully, Neerday Gully, P. J. Biggar, I, 1st January, 1987. P. J. Biggar also notes that an ascent of Stirrup Gully (SMCJ 1996) was described in SMCJ 1992, pp1-5.

**Creagan Dubh Toll nam Biast:**

*Erica's Ridge* – 450m III. J. Gibbs, A. Nisbet, A. Petts, C. Platten. 4th March, 1998. The ridge left of Stag Gully. Start 60m left of Stag Gully and climb a turfy pitch (the easiest line on the lower buttress) to a terrace (45m). Traverse easily right to overlook Stag Gully (45m). Climb the crest thereafter, becoming easier after two long pitches.

**LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Mor:**

*Georgina* – 80m II. H. Davies, G. Bardsley. 4th January, 1998.

A line going out diagonally right from the base of George on to the North ridge of Spidean.

**BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Central Buttress:**

*Flying Finish* (to Central Buttress) – 75m H. Severe. A. Nisbet, A. Goring, P. Patterson, I. Sneddon. 10th June, 1997.

Start 10m along the Upper Girdle, traversing from the base of Central Buttress final tier, just before a dangerous-looking column of rock.

1. 35m 4b. Climb a chimney to a ledge, then trend left up flake-cracks past an awkward block to the arête right of a big left-facing corner, an obvious feature on the face when seen from the left. Climb the chimney just right of the arête to an airy ledge.
2. 40m. Climb an easy chimney on the left, then finish left and right by a big pinnacle (as for Flight of the Condor, also the easiest finish to Piggott's Route).

**DIABAIG, The Domes:**

*Apprentices Route* – 50m M. Severe. N. Kenworthy, D. W. M. Whalley, K. Holland. 26th July, 1997.

This route lies right of the Condome and starts by traversing rightwards 50m from the recess (as described on p195 of Northern Highlands Vol. 1), beyond Charlie's Tower and Boab's Corner. Climb a short, steep wall for 3m. Go straight up the groove above and follow a crack to easier ground.

*Oor Wullie* – 60m E1. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 1st April, 1998.

Climbs a line just right of Boab's Corner. Start 2m right of the stepped corner.

1. 30m 5c. After a boulder problem start, go diagonally right up scoops overlooking a steep wall to reach a roofed recess. Leave it out of its left corner and make thin moves to heather.
2. 30m 5c. Go up to a black-streaked section of wall. Climb this with difficulty to reach a short corner right of Boab's crux corner. Climb this and continue up a dwindling ramp rightwards to reach easy ground.

**BEINN A' MHUINIDH, The Bonnaid Dhonn:**

*North by North-West* – 45m E7\*\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell, A. D. Robertson. 19-20th July, 1997.

Climbs the right wall of the crest taken by A Walk on the Wild Side. Start on a ledge below a striking vertical crack.

1. 20m 5c. Climb the crack past a hollow flake until near a huge roof. Follow a thin break out left to belay on a small ledge on the arête.

2. 25m 6b. From just above the belay, follow a break dipping rightwards to a low traverse line in the roof. Follow this to a spike, then climb the sustained right-slanting crack and continue in the same line to gain a good hold at the top of a faint left-facing groove. Move up left to a break and follow this, pulling over a bulge on to the arête to belay.

### **GAIRLOCH CRAGS, Meall Lochan a' Chlerich, Stone Valley Crag, Red Wall Crag:**

*The Wallace* – 25m E4 5c. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 16th June, 1997.

Start 2m left of the obvious groove of Lucky Strike and climb a crack to a ledge at 4m – layback boldly left round a giant flake on treacherous holds. These moves lead to a vital Rock 1 runner, which may eliminate deck-out potential. Continue to the nest of hollow spikes on Lucky Strike, then step left to finish more easily up good cracks. Only Bravehearts need apply.

*The Bruce* – 25m HVS 5a. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 16th June, 1997.

Follow the initial groove of Lucky Strike for about 5m. Take the groove on the right, laybacking regally on flakes, to a good finish right of Lucky Strike. Beware of spiders!

*Strike Two* – 40m HVS 5a. D. S. B. Wright, J. R. Mackenzie. 30th May, 1997.

To the right of Lucky Strike is a less-pronounced groove above a spike in the heather ramp. A tricky bulge gains access to the groove which gives enjoyable climbing. Care is needed with some hollow flakes. Continue up to the left on good rock.

**Note:** Short Sharp Shock regraded as HVS 5b.

Behind Red Wall Crag is a long line of 10m high wall of perfect rock above a grass ledge. The obvious and most tempting line is the centrally placed groove above a narrow ledge.

*Playtime Wall* – 10m 6b\*. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 30th May, 1997.

The narrow ledge is not reached easily and the climbing is not over when it is.

**Note:** Stone Valley Crag: Open Secret regraded as H. Severe 4b\*\*\*.

*Blood Feud* – 40m E2 5b\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 30th May, 1997.

Another excellent route and a worthy companion for Bald Eagle. Start to the right of Open Secret's initial crack at a cleaned ledge with a small tree.

1. 20m 5b. Climb the short wall left of the tree to a recess. Climb the bald wall behind the tree via a crack but reach straight up where the crack veers right. Step left and continue up the fine slab to a grass stance.

2. 20m 5a. Above are a pair of black streaks. Start left of them and traverse right and up into them to holds on their left. Finish up the crack above as for Stone Diary.

**Note:** Pitch 2 done before in mistake for Stone Diary, by the Editor and no doubt others. Melting Pot regraded as E3 4c 6a.

*Golden Eagle* – 30m E3 6a\*\*. G. Ettle, I. Taylor. 14th June, 1997.

Scramble up the gully or climb to the base of Melting Pot. Climb the excellent left-hand crack of Melting Pot on improving holds. A superb pitch on excellent rock gives the best of the cracks on this wall.

*The Time Warp* – 30m E3 6a\*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. June, 1997.

To the right of Beer Bottle is a crack. Predictably strenuous, it gives good sustained climbing to easier rock above.

### **Rum Doodle Crag, Red Barn Crag:**

Directly below Rum Doodle Crag lies a lower tier, Red Barn Crag.

*Curse you Red Barn!* – 25m Mild VS 4b. D. S. B. Wright, G. Ettle. 10th June, 1997.

Red Barn Crag sports a narrow rib of rough rock with a smooth side wall on the right. Climb the short wall to gain the central crackline immediately to the right of the rib, then climb the fine flake crack on the right.

*Flying Circus* – 30m VS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 10th June, 1997.

Start below and left of *Curse you Red Barn!* and climb a rough slab to the base of the rib immediately to the left of *Curse you!* Awkward moves to a small overhang which is climbed on hidden holds, then follow the rib direct to the top.

*A Load of Old Bosche* – 20m VS 4c. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 10th June, 1997.

To the right of the narrow rib is a smooth wall with a two-step V-groove. The upper groove is a bit messy and restricted.

*Hun in the Sun* – 20m HVS 5a. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 10th June, 1997.

The smooth wall to the right has a wide crack which is climbed on marginally hollow holds but good gear. Quite pleasant and open.

### **Flowerdale Wall:**

Lies 250m behind Rum Doodle Crag. It provides a pleasantly steep middle-grade crag composed of juggy but blocky rock or rougher but less hold-ridden red rock. Described from left to right.

*Rock Around the Block* – 25m HVS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 10th June, 1997.

To the right of a small buttress is a narrow crack leading to a wider one. Climb the crack on sharp holds. Step across the wide crack and move right to climb the rib direct taking care of some unsound flakes.

*Blyth Spirit* – 25m VS 4c\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 10th June, 1997.

Good rock. Stand on top of a rock finger right of the last route and climb direct to a small overhang. Climb over this and up a thin, but helpful, crack to the top.

*Tormentil Grooves* – 25m VS 4b. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 10th June, 1997.

A pair of wider cracks lies to the immediate right of *Blyth Spirit*. Climb the right one and move up right to a wide corner-crack, climbed to the top.

*Lily of the West* – 25m E1 5a\*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 10th June, 1997.

To the right is a narrow buttress with a snaking crack providing well protected steep climbing in an excellent position. Follow the crack over the crux bulge and finish directly up the edge.

*Veinous Fly Trap* – 25m HVS 5a. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 10th June, 1997.

A red slab lies to the right of the buttress of *Lily of the West*. A shallow corner bounds its left-hand side. Climb this corner somewhat tenuously to the top.

*Blood Red Roses* – 25m VS 4b\*. D. S. B. Wright, G. Ettle. 10th June, 1997.

Just right of the shallow corner, up superb dark red rock. Climb the slab to runners at 13m and exit near some heather.

*Mountain Everlasting* – 25m HVS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 10th June, 1997.

Climb the increasingly thin and bold red slab to the right of *Blood Red Roses* directly up its crest where the crux awaits near the top.



**Note:** The Domes: Demon Razor regraded as E3 5c. The Thin Red Line regraded as HVS 4c. The Thug regraded as E2 5b\*\*\*.

*The Flashing Blade* – 20m E3 6a\*. G. Ettle, I. Taylor. 14th June, 1997.

To the left of The Thug is a left-slanting thin crack. Start up The Thug and climb the blocky groove to the base of the crack. The thin crack gets steadily harder with the crux at the top. Well protected by small Friends.

*Cat Burgler* – 30m E4 6a\*\*\*. I. Taylor, G. Ettle, R. Brown. 24th June, 1997.

The formidable-looking wall between Flashing Blade and The Thug. Superb sustained climbing, easier and better protected than it looks. Start up The Thug and then step on to the wall, following a thin overhanging crack all the way.

*The Domino Effect* – 25m E3 6a. I. Taylor, G. Ettle. 14th June, 1997.

Climbs the left arête of Dome Corner. Climb over a steep bulge to cracks in the wall below the arête (crux), swinging right to gain cracks in the right side of the arête. Finish up easier ground to the top.

### **Percussion Wall:**

There are two clean walls behind and slightly lower down towards the glen than the Domes, the upper pink and quite short, the lower grey and of excellent rough rock. This is Percussion Wall. The wall has a pronounced crack system towards its right end.

*Percussion Crack* – 25m V. Diff. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 11th March, 1997. Climb the crack direct past a ledge at one-third height.

*Syncopation Wall* – 25m VS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 11th March, 1997.

To the left of the crack is a slabby wall; climb this to a ledge, then climb the excellent crack which leads up right to a ramp which is followed by a short wall and the top. Fine climbing.

### **The Slabs:**

Lower down the hillside are a spread of slabby walls, The Slabs, which appear from below as a lower continuation of the right-hand dome.

*Wander at Will* – 30m Diff. R. Brown, C. White. March, 1997.

The centre of the slabs provide pleasant sport picking the lines of choice.

*Stratospheric Pachyderms* – 25m VS 5a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 11th March, 1997.

The right of the slabs steepens into a pair of cleft bulges.

1. 10m 4b/c. Climb the lower overhang to a cosy niche below the next bulge.
2. 15m 5a. Climb the top bulge more energetically.

### **Atlantic Wall:**

Well to the left of Rum Doodle Crag is a shallow amphitheatre with a vertical back wall as seen from the track. The west-facing right-hand wall of this back wall is Atlantic Wall. Though relatively short, it is vertical and varied, with reasonable protection.

*Cannonade* – 10m Severe. L. Cannon, D. S. B. Wright, J. R. Mackenzie. 25th August, 1997.

To the left of the right-hand wall is a nice slab which is quite thin and climbed centrally.

*The Compleat Angler* – 13m Diff. J. R. Mackenzie. 25th August, 1997.

Start up the lichenous slab to the right and take a rightwards line to the top near the next route.

*Casting a Line* – 12m Diff. J. R. Mackenzie. 25th August, 1997.

Climb the crest of the rib left of the main crag to and over a niche at the top.

The crag now runs rightwards in a continuous wall.

*Mutineers* – 12m HVS 5a\*. D. S. B. Wright, L. Cannon, J. R. Mackenzie. 25th August, 1997.

Start to the right of the left edge of the crag and climb a steepening wall direct to a short crack at the top. This is best turned by a move to the left but can be climbed direct at a higher standard.

*The Cruel Sea* – 12m E2 5c\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, L. Cannon, D. S. B. Wright. 25th August, 1997.

By far the best route here. Start in a shallow scoop near the centre of the crag and climb up to a horizontal crack. The top wall overhangs and is climbed direct. Protection is good but awkward to place.

*The Ancient Mariner* – 12m HVS 5a\*. J. R. Mackenzie, L. Cannon, D. S. B. Wright. 25th August, 1997.

Climb directly up the wall to the left of a flake. Step right to a square perch and continue up and slightly left to the top – a strenuous top section.

*The Cat* – 12m Severe\*. D. S. B. Wright. 20th August, 1997.

A tricky route for its grade. Climb over a bulge right of *The Ancient Mariner* and continue up an exposed wall, moving left near the top to reach hidden holds.

### **Fruity Crag (MR 794 714):**

A small crag north-west of and seen in profile from the left end of Raven Crag. Routes by N. Hodgson and B. Williamson, 15th June, 1996.

*Lime* – 8m V. Diff. Near the right end of the crag is a bush-filled crack. Climb the corner just to its right.

*Mango* – 8m Severe. The left-slanting crack line about 3m left of the bush-filled crack.

*Orange* – 8m Severe. The next full-height crack line about 5m to the left.

*Lemon* – 8m Severe. At the left end of the crag is a pillar forming a chimney on its right and a crack on its left. Climb the crack and finish right over the top of the pillar.

### **GRUINARD CRAGS:**

Not every route has been recorded here. Several easier ones have been left until next year to coordinate with routes done by local climbers.

#### **Gruinard Crag, Upper Tier:**

*Quick on the Draw* – 40m E5 6a/b\*\*. R. Anderson. 25th May, 1997.

The shallow corner/grooveline immediately right of *Paradise Regained*. Start right of the holly at a left facing corner. Climb the corner and its shallow continuation to where it blanks out, small wires (good wire out on right also). Move up and place a Friend 0.5 with an RP 2 a wires length above (both poor). Step up and either place a wire in the horizontal crack above, or go for it out left to the ledge of *Paradise Regained*. Move up and right and continue to a heathery ledge. Either belay here (Friend 2.5) or continue up the crozzly slab on the left.

*Pistolero* – 40m E3 5c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 25th May, 1997.

The crackline immediately right of Quick on the Draw. Start up the short corner, swing out right and climb to the left end of the roof. Pull into a recess and continue up the cracks above to a heather ledge, possible belay (Friend 2.5), then find a line to the top, out left is on more continuous rock.

*How The West Was Won* – 25m E5 6a\*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 27th July, 1997.

The thin crackline in the front of the buttress between Overlord and Stand and Deliver. Gain the start of the crack from the groove, pull out left onto a ledge, then step right and climb the crack to where it stops. Move left, gain a ledge, then step right to climb the wall and short slab.

*Stand and Deliver* – 25m E5 6a/b\*. R. Anderson. 24th May, 1997.

The thin crackline up the right side of the wall right of Overlord, just left of the fissure at the right end of the crag. Climb the crackline to a ledge. Pull out up right (Stopper 1s) then back up left, good Stopper 2 or RP2 high above, and continue up the crackline, Friend 1.5 up left, to the top.

### **Dome Crag:**

*Flawed by Design* – 35m E3\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 12th May, 1996.

Climbs the hanging flake right of The Silk Road. Left of Call of the Wild a diagonal crack splits a red wall. Start just to the right.

1. 15m 5b. Gain and climb the crack, then go right up easy ground to belay below a groove.
2. 20m 6a. Follow the groove in the slab and climb the hanging flake.

*Call of the Wild, Variation Start* – G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 12th May, 1996.

Provides a very sustained route, same grade. Start up Dead Calm, then trend left above the low roof and up the wall to the rest ledge.

*Sunk Without Trace* – 30m E3 5c\*. P. Thorburn, N. Craig. 11th May, 1996.

Somewhat eliminate but pleasant climbing on excellent rock, following the faint groove on the right edge of the wall. Start 3m left of a large block (Grand Recess). The start is probably the same as The Missing Link. Climb a cracked bulge to a ledge (runner in diagonal crack). Pull left into the initially difficult slim groove and follow it to belay in a scoop. Scramble to the top.

### **Gruinard Jetty Buttress:**

At the far right end of the Back West Wall, the crag turns a corner to run up and disappear into the hill side. This arête has a groove and crack in it, and is slightly undercut. There is a clump of trees about 10m up where two routes finish.

*Shallow End of the Gene Pool* – 12m VS 4b. T. Archer (unsec.). 4th August, 1997. Takes a groove/ramp line just down and to the left of the arête. Many loose flakes.

*'I wish I was a little bit taller...'* – 10m H. Severe 5a. T. Archer (unsec.). 4th August, 1997.

Climbs the arête. Start with a hard pull over the undercut into the groove in the arête, go slightly to the right to a fine crack and follow this to the ledge and trees. Probably only 4c or 4b if you are taller or get a bunk up from your second!

### **CREAG BEINN NAM BAN:**

*Balancing Act* – 40m E1 5b\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 13th August, 1997.

To the right of Blockbuster is a slab and to the right again a shorter corner. Start at a flange belay to the right of this and climb a steepening rib parallel to it over a bulge

on excellent holds. Climb a thin slab beyond and then step left to a small ledge. Continue up the centre of the slab to the roof at the top and turn this by a crack on the right. Good varied climbing with spaced protection.

*Far Cry* – 45m HVS 5a\*\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 13th August, 1997.

To the right of Long Distance Runner is a steepening corner that starts above a narrow grass band. Climb a short wall (cairn) to the grass and the corner above. The corner is sustained, strenuous and well protected. Continue in the same line up open slabs on clean rock to the top. Probably the best route here.

To the right of the main crag is a gully. On the gully's right wall is a prominent pinnacle, separated from the sidewall by a chimney. To its right is another slender buttress with another bounding chimney to its right and then a broader buttress. The rock is not so good as on the main face and all the routes are serious for their grade.

*Hound-dog Pinnacle* – 15m Severe. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 13th August, 1997.

Climb the frontal (south) face of the pinnacle direct without using the chimney. Rather bold and airy.

*Shepherds Warning* – 18m HVS 5a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 13th August, 1997.

Climb the frontal face of the slender buttress direct to the right of Hound-dog Pinnacle which gives a bold but good climb.

### **CARNMORE CRAG:**

*Carnmore Corner Direct* – 50m E3 5c\*\*\*. G. Latter, L. Arnott. 22nd July, 1997.

A brilliant varied pitch, though one of the last routes to dry on the cliff. Belay at some horizontal pockets high on the slab, about 8m above the start of Wilderness. Climb the corner and hand traverse right on a large block at its top to gain the normal route. Continue up this, then direct up an awkward hand crack (wet) to finish up the easier final corner.

**Note:** The same party also made the second ascent of Wilderness, thinking E4 6a and three stars – a brilliant route on immaculate rock, and one of the hardest on-sight in Scotland for its day (1980). The top pitch does not finish up the original finish of Gob, but another short corner much farther right.

### **The Grey Wall:**

*The Proprieter* – 35m E2 5c\*. G. Latter, L. Arnott. 22nd July, 1997.

A well protected direct finish to The Trampoline. Follow that route to beneath the steep twin cracks in the headwall. Climb the left crack, moving into the deeper right crack with difficulty. Up this past a dubious looking block near its top, then more easily up slabs above to large block belay at top.

## **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)**

### **STRATHCONON, Geologist's Slabs (Sheet 26, MR 363 556):**

A small but not inconsequential crag composed of the same perfect rough schist as the nearby gabbro slab on Meig Crag. Quartz lenses, unexpected holds and superlative friction up rippled slabs characterises the climbing here, not to mention holds composed entirely of massive brown garnets. Approach from the minor road as for Meig Crag but 250m farther west. The routes are described from left to right.

*Pure Gold* – 20m E1 5b\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 20th April, 1997.

The best route here giving varied climbing on excellent rock. Start near the left of the crag close to an open corner and jam up the overhanging wall to a tricky landing above. Step left and climb an undercut wall and slab via the twin cracks to a tree. Step left and follow the curving thin crack above the overlap to the top.

*Garnet Wall* – 20m H. evere 4b. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 20th April, 1997.  
The central slab has an overhang at three-quarters height. Start at a tree roughly in the centre and climb the slab via quartz lenses to a garnet-encrusted flake. Climb this to the overhang and surmount on good holds to a tree belay.

### **SGURR NA LAPAICH, Sgurr nan Clachan Geala (MR 162 343):**

The north flank of its east ridge presents a series of striking grooves and ribs. (Lapland Buttress is on the SE side of the ridge, Northern Highlands vol. 2, p32.) The most obvious feature is a slim corner line with a roof part way up and an impressive wide crack high on its left wall. As this crag faces north and its foot lies at an altitude of 950m, a sustained period of dry weather is required.

*Lap of the Gods* – 75m E1\*. G. E. Little, J. Finlay. 12th July, 1997.

This route climbs a near parallel line up the wide rib to the left of the obvious slim corner. Start at the very foot of the rib a few metres down and left of two distinctive leaning flakes.

1. 30m 5a. Gain and climb a slim groove on the left side of the rib to reach a short messy diagonal fault. Move left up this to stand on a spike at the very edge. Step across left to blocks on a turf ledge.
2. 15m 5b. Ascend the surprisingly awkward groove above the belay, then move left on to a tiny rock ledge. Pull up into an open corner and climb this to a rock ledge under a roof on the right.
3. 30m 4c. Move back left into the corner, then pull up on to a turf cap. Climb a short strenuous wall, then move up into a chimney/corner. Climb this and broken ground above to the top. Traverse off right along a wide grassy shelf.

### **AN RIABHACHAN:**

*Redcoats Weep* – 75m III. R. Bale, K. McKintosh. 1st February, 1998.

The obvious icefall on the right of the coire – Sheet 25, MR 142 352. Climb the three-tiered icefall (steeper on the left) for 50m. Belay on a large spike in a corner. Climb the easier iced corner above (25m). (Also climbed by N. Kenworthy and C. Wright next day.)

**Note:** The route may have been done before, possibly in the early 80's by T McDonald and party.

### **SGURR NA MUICE, North-East Face:**

*Suckling for Suckers* – 120m IV,4. J. R. Mackenzie, P. Whitfield. 10th March, 1998.

The left-bounding rib of Pearls Before Swine. The climb was started from the Snow Apron but could include any of the more direct routes from below to extend the line considerably. Start just left of the gully of Pearls at the lowest rocks and climb steepening ground to an overhanging wall. Surmount the left wall of this groove to follow the arête to a bay (45m). Continue up the groove on thin ice to turf, then climb another thin cracked and unhelpful groove to overlook the left fork of Pearls (25m). Climb the rib parallel to the left fork to a big bay and climb either the central ice runnel or move right and up to the same place; the top is just beyond (50m). Climbed under heavy snow and marginal turf; thinner but icier conditions should transform it into a very pleasant excursion at Grade III.

*Pork Scratchings* – 160m III,4. P. Whitfield, J. R. Mackenzie (alt.). 24th January, 1998.

Follow the right-hand couloir and turn the lower tier of crags on the right, to gain

the snow rake on the left. Pork Scratchings takes the overhang-blocked groove to the left of a deeper overlapped V-groove. Climb the groove to the overhang (18m). Step right and climb to a narrow slot which provides an entertaining crux, then continue straight up (42m). The angle now lessens but the climb takes the central groove direct which gives the most interest (50m). Continue in the same line to the summit (50m).

*Totally Hamless* – 160m II/III. J. R. Mackenzie, D. Broadhead. 31st January, 1998. This is the next groove to the left of Pork Scratchings, unfortunately lessening in angle after 50m or so. Climb a narrow groove (which is to the right of the deeper chimney of Three Little Pigs) and step left into a turfier one. Continue over a steepening to thread belays above (40m). Continue straight up (40m). Continue up the best line above which takes in a thin slab (50m). Continue easily to the summit (30m). Not very inspiring but the easiest route on the face.

*Pigsty Gully, Central Finish* – II. J. R. Mackenzie, D. Broadhead. 31st January, 1998.

This direct finish is the central narrow exit to the left of the usual bay. It gave very steep snow and a cornice. Good.

### **FANNICHS, Sgurr Mor, East Face:**

*Transfiguration* – 300m IV.5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 5th February, 1998.

Climbs the left side of the Resurrection face. Start on the right side of the buttress between Easter Gully and the dead-end gully at the start of Resurrection. Climb a groove, then easier ground to a recess on the right which leads to easy ground (100m). Continue up a vague rib on the right of Easter Gully to a final steepening. This could be climbed direct to make a Grade III, perhaps even II if the left side of the initial buttress was climbed, but a more interesting finish was to go diagonally right on ramps into the hanging groove in the steep ground above the final snowfield of Resurrection. Finish up this.

**Note:** Sgurr nan Clach Geala: Rob Archbold and John Higham note that the description of the original winter line on Skyscraper Buttress in *Scottish Winter Climbs* is incorrect (as is the line diagram in *Cold Climbs*). The original route moved left onto the crest of the buttress after one pitch above the summer crux. Thereafter the narrow frontal face, which forms the 'crest' or 'headwall' of the steep upper buttress, was followed in its entirety (c.120m). It would appear that Empire State Variation lies nearby on this steep frontal face, touching the left edge in part.

### **BEINN DEARG, Coire Ghranda:**

*Campbell's Corner* – 100m III. J. Currie, G. Robertson. 8th March, 1998.

The icy line on the right of the broken crag below and right of the Upper Cliff.

### **Cona Mheall, West Face:**

*Twisted Rib* – 300m III.4. J. Currie, G. Robertson, P. Robertson. 24th January, 1998.

The longest defined ridge on the face (immediately left of Tower of Enchantment), almost reaching the loch. Entertaining; the final step is hard.

*Spindryer Buttress* – 200m V.7. G. Robertson, P. Robertson. 1st March, 1998.

The steep buttress immediately right of Spaghetti Gully gives excellent icy climbing in its lower half. Start just right of the gully mouth and left of an obvious smooth diedre.

1. 25m. Climb a short difficult crack to a ledge. Move up into the obvious groove and climb this past two overhangs to large blocks.
2. 15m. Make an exposed traverse right and step down round the edge. Move up.
3. 50m. Work back up left immediately to gain and climb a series of excellent icy grooves in the crest.
4. 100m. The upper half is easier, climbed just right of the crest.

### **SEANA BHRAIGH, Luchd Coire:**

*A Girl's Best Friend* – 245m IV, 5. M. Bass, S. Yearsley. 24th January, 1998.

A fine mixed route taking the steep ground on the right flank of Diamond Buttress, before crossing Diamond Edge to an independent finish. Start in Diamond Diedre, 20m up from the foot of the buttress at an obvious ramp.

1. 45m. Climb the left-slanting ramp. Just before reaching the buttress crest, climb a steep wall above the ramp. Move right, crossing an awkward step, and continue straight up to a large stance.
2. 25m. Continue up and right by short chimneys, staying below the crest of the buttress, to the top of a snowfield.
3. 25m. Move left round the obvious rib. Continue straight up, then make a short traverse right to below an obvious chimney with a large flat chockstone. Climb steeply up to the foot of the chimney.
4. 25m. Traverse delicately right, then pull steeply upwards through a series of short corners to the buttress crest. Continue up to belay on the ramp of Diamond Edge.
5. 45m. Cross the ramp of Diamond Edge and climb an obvious corner to gain the top of the rib on the left of Diamond Edge. Continue up the rib, easily at first and then on steeper rock. Step left round a nose, then up.
6. 40m. Gain an open corner line leading to easy ground.
7. 40m. Climb the easy ground via a short wall to the plateau.

### **BODACH BEAG (p112):**

*Light Entertainment* – 220m II. R. Webb. February, 1998.

The buttress right of Freewater Gully. Finishes on the summit, 'similar to Dorsal Arête but far better views'.

### **RHUE SEA CLIFFS:**

*Hold Steady* – 12m VS 4c\*. A. Cunningham, J. Cunningham. May, 1996.

Climb straight up just to the right of Halcyon Days.

*Nil Desperandum* – 15m E1 5b\*\*. A. Cunningham, J. Cunningham. June, 1996.

Pull over the undercut to the left of Ruder Games and right into the hanging left-facing corner. Climb the corner to the roof and move right on to the slab to finish up the left edge.

*Firing Line* – 25m E1 5b\*. A. Cunningham, C. Downer. August 1997.

Between Cat's Whiskers and The Barchan. Climb a right-facing curving corner line, move right at its top into a crack (often wet) and up to the break. Swing left into the large left-facing corner above and up this and crack on the slab, moving left at the top capping bulge.

*Sun Trap* – 8m Severe. B. Chislett, I. Brandt. July, 1996.

Start 3m left of Picnic Slab. Climb the steep wall and the left-slanting crack in the slab to a ledge. Step right and up to finish on the descent rib.

### **RHUE:**

Low sandstone walls at MR 097 977, west-facing. Short and scope limited, but good climbing.

**Southern Outcrop:**

A steep bank below the southern outcrop means a nasty landing. Routes 6m-9m long, by J. Oberhauser and R. Pringle (Headless Chicken only) on 3rd May, 1997.

*Slow Strain* – HVS 5a. The obvious crack-line. Short but sharp.

*Headless Chicken* – VS 5a. The undercut scoop 4m right of Slow Strain.

*Left Edge* – H. Severe. The left arête of the detached block.

*Right Edge* – HVS 4c. The overhanging right arête.

*Back Wall* – VS 4c. Up the middle of the back wall of the detached block.

*Back Wall, Right-Hand* – H. Severe. Right of Back Wall.

*Right Wall* – Severe. Up the flake on the right-hand side of the rightmost wall, and wall above.

**Northern Outcrop:**

Same day, routes 7m-13m long, by R. Pringle.

*Serious Slab* – Mod. The obvious slab provides an easy ascent/descent.

*Ocean Arête* – Diff.

*Avoiding the Cleft* – Severe. Between Ocean Arête and The Cleft.

*The Cleft* – V. Diff. Up the wall to the cleft, then up the cleft.

*Caileag Bhoidheach* – Severe. The wall right of the cleft.

*Fruitcake Wall* – Severe. Up the obvious blind crack in the largest unbroken part of the wall.

**North-Facing Buttress:**

This lies on the north side of the 102m hill north of Rhue, about 200m round from the previous buttresses. Thickly lichenized, might become with more traffic, a worthwhile inland option.

*Sand Martin* – 30m VS 4c. R. Pringle, J. Oberhauser. 3rd May, 1997.

Start at the lowest point of the buttress. Move up a whitish slab and up the left-hand side of an overhanging block, then walk right to an overhanging block abutting the red wall on the right. Interesting moves over the block, then traverse rightwards across the gently overhanging red wall by a continuous handrail to reach an easy arête, followed to the top.

*Gwirx* – 30m VS 4c. J. Oberhauser, R. Pringle. 3rd May, 1997.

Start as for Sand Martin, then continue up leftwards from above the overhanging block, initially along a block-filled crack before moving slightly rightwards up a rounded wall to avoid a large overhang. Finish up an easy lichenous groove.

ARDMAIR, Fish Farm Walls:

The following two routes are on the broken three-tiered buttress first encountered on the path and bordered on the left by a wide heathery gully – a line of descent.  
*Peace at Last* – 50m E1\*. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham. June, 1996.

1. 20m 5a. Start by a 4m detached pillar by the high path at the base of the first tier. Climb on to the pillar and step into the right-facing corner above. Move up to the bulge and left on to the slab. Go easily up the slab to belay below the steep wall.



2. 12m 5b. Climb the steep 'red and green' crack in the wall to the right of the overhung corner. Belay well back on the next terrace.

3. 18m 4b. Move rightwards up the slab into an overhung recess. Pull up into the wide crack and out left. Move up and right into the corner to finish.

*Family Life* – 40m E3\*. C. Lesenger, A. Cunningham. July, 1996.

1. 20m 5b. Scramble up and left of the detached block of Peace at Last and start below the undercut slab. Move up to and climb a short overhanging straight crack and make a difficult move left and up on to the slab. Go easily up to a heathery pull onto the first terrace below the steep wall.

2. 10m 5c/6a. Awkward starting moves up the right diagonal crack lead to a steep finish up the vertical crack half way up the wall. Belay behind the block.

3. 10m 4a. Move right and step up on to the cracked slab to finish.

*Brent Spar* – 35m E3\*. A. Cunningham, J. Cunningham. August, 1996.

To the left of Loan Shark is another vague crack in the slab.

1. 20m 6a. Scramble up to the heathery terrace below the vague crack. Make steep tenuous moves rightwards across the overhanging base into the crackline. Move up on to the slab and follow the crack on to the terrace.

2. 15m 5b. Climb a right diagonal groove at the left end of the top wall.

*Rainbow Warrior* – 30m E2 5b\*\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. May, 1994.

To the left of Hammerhead the crag has a steep lower wall, a mid-height horizontal break and a bulging upper wall cut by a few groove lines. To the left of centre is a right trending ramp in the lower wall. Climb the ramp to the break and pull directly over the bulge to finish up the right-trending groove above.

### **Monster Buttress:**

The following two routes are on the slabby wall round on the left side of the little 'Laggavoulin' buttress.

*Bowmore* – 10m V. Diff. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. 1st December, 1994.

Cracks up the left side of the slabby wall.

*Clyneleish* – 10m M. Severe. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. 1st December, 1994.

Cracks and heathery breaks near the right side of the wall.

*La Petamine* – 30m HVS 5a\*\*. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. 16th June, 1996.

The left hand of the three 'ramplines', left of Les Rosbif. Start up Raven in the big bay and climb out rightwards onto the line. Move awkwardly round the big block and finish up the top corner in a gripping position.

### **Arapiles Wall:**

*Dounreay Exposé* – 20m E2 5c. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes, J. Cunningham. June, 1996.

A line to the right of Antipodean Cruise. Move left along the low ledge and climb up through the bulging wall to the big break. Finish by twin wide cracks in the top wall.

### **Beast Buttress:**

*Beast in the Undergrowth* – 25m Severe. K. Geddes, J. Cunningham, A. Cunningham. June, 1996.

Start to the left of Market Day and climb up into a heather topped corner. Climb this and the big slabby right facing corner and wide crack above.

*On the Western Skyline, Alternative Start* – E5 6a/b overall. D. Cuthbertson, B. Hall. May, 1994.

Takes the thin diagonal crack in the lower wall, protected at half-height by a Friend #0 inverted in a little niche. A very good route.

**Note:** On the Western Skyline is quite bold in its own right.

### **Big Roof Buttress:**

*Close to the Bone* – 25m HVS 5a\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. 1st December, 1994.

Start between Bolshie Ballerina and First Fruits. Climb a right-facing groove and short corner right of B.B. onto the slab. Move up and finish via a crack in the wall on the left (right of Old Dog, New Tricks).

*Kidz on the Block* – 30m E1 5a. F. Fotheringham, A. Cunningham. August, 1996. Takes a left-curving line of least resistance up the ground below Town Without Pity. Climb up into a wide flake crack on the right of the bay. Move up on to the slab above and traverse left under the overhangs to finish.

### **KEANCHULISH CRAG (Sheet 19, MR 128 998):**

This SE-facing crag is in a narrow defile that runs up from Keanchulish House. Access is from a parking bay on the A835 at MR 134 997, as for Evening Wall (SMCJ 1995, p663). The crag lies behind and west of the outcrops above. The easiest approach is to walk down the road until past the short outcrops and then head round the hillside to the crag. The crag is of a pronounced horizontally-layered Torridonian sandstone and is mainly lichen free although there are areas of heather. The heavily-eroded rock runs to some bizarre roofs and sculpted flutings which, so far, have proved sounder than appearances would suggest. The left end is undercut by huge roofs and bottomed by a pink slab. The central section is continuous and undercut and runs past a little buttress leaning against the wall. Farther right is a corner and beyond that, more broken ground leads to another huge roof. The best descent is by heather ramps on the right or north side where a short corner leads to easy shelves. The climbs are described from right to left.

*Patey's Back Yard* – 50m Mild VS\*. R. J. Brown, D. Ogden. 5th May, 1996.

Start at the inset corner near the right end of the central section.

1. 30m 4a. Climb the corner or the arête to the right and climb another corner above. Trend right to climb flakes and belay in a large square-cut niche.
2. 20m 4b. Leave the niche by a crack up its right corner and continue up this fine crack to the top.

*The Limboist* – 40m E2\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. J. Brown. 9th September, 1997.

Climbs the wall left of Patey's Back Yard over the twin roofs.

1. 15m 5c. Climb a short wall and surmount the roof via a thin crack; continue to the next roof which is as awkward and has a thin landing on a shelf.
2. 25m 5a. Continue up a slabby wall, then take the short steepening wall just right of the arête to step right to a slab. Climb this to a ledge and finish up the wide corner-crack.

*Zig-Zag* – 60m Severe. R. J. Brown, D. Ogden. 5th May, 1996.

This starts at the small buttress left of Patey's Back Yard.

1. 25m. Climb up to a good ledge and move leftwards into a large open bay and climb this to another ledge. Traverse along this to the left to a square notch in the floor.
2. 35m. Move slightly right and climb the bulge and zig-zag up the wall briefly looping beyond Fancy Free to avoid difficulties en route and reach a crack which is climbed to a square block.

*Fancy Free* – 30m Mild VS 4c\*. R. J. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 9th September, 1997.

A line of roofs runs above the lower wall; where these end just right of a jutting roof with a loose block, climb slabby rock trending left to a break through an overhang higher. Above this, continue up delightful slabs, surmounting the crux bulge and climbing the fine wall just right of a straight crack to the top.

*Aeolian Wall* – 30m VS 4c\*. J. R. Mackenzie. 4th March, 1997.

A good route, easier than it looks. To the left of the crag are large overhangs and right of these a corner runs up bordering the main face. Start in the corner and climb this for a few metres until possible to climb the right wall before stepping right below a short corner. Climb this and continue to the overhung corner above (crux) which is climbed before trending left up shelves to finish up a nicely-rounded wall.

### **MORNING WALL (Sheet 15, MR 137 000):**

A few hundred metres to the left of Evening Wall (SMCJ 1995, p663) and at a slightly higher level is Morning Wall, 20m high, composed of sound Torridonian sandstone, steep and protectable mainly by Friends. Park at the same layby as for Evening Wall and an approach of less than 10 minutes takes one to the crag which has a continuous overhanging lower section that ends in shorter corners and walls towards the left-hand end. It is reasonably quick drying and provides some strenuous climbing in the central area and more relaxed climbs to the left. Routes described from left to right.

*Morning Wall* – 20m E2 5c\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 9th September, 1997.

The right end of the crag is marked by a steep groove with an oak tree. Start to the left of the groove beneath a break in the overhanging wall and climb it on excellent holds. Climb the sustained and thin slabby wall parallel and left of the groove, past a weirdly technical crux and then up, to move left and exit rather thinly.

*Steel Spider* – 25m E2 5c/6a\*\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 28th October, 1997.

A superb route, much easier than it looks, and takes the centre of the overhanging wall, small Friends essential to prevent deck-out. Start at a shallow overhanging bay and climb the steeply overhanging edge to a long reach up right, vital FR#0 up left under a small roof. Continue up on good hidden holds to overcome the lower crux section. Continue straight up on steep rock to the capping overhang and jam left underneath this to exit.

*Grumbling Grooves* – 15m Severe 4b. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 28th October, 1997.

To the left of Steep Spider the overhanging wall ends in a corner. To the left again past a flakey chimney is a deeper inset corner. Climb this corner to the capping roof, traverse left under this to another corner. Climb this which widens to a narrow chimney, to the top. The bald buttress to the right of the second corner has been top-roped at a tenuous 6a.

### **CAMUS MOR SEA CLIFFS (Sheet 15; MR 103 009):**

Near the coastal path from just north of Ullapool to Achiltibuie. Best approached either by the boggy track from Blughasary or infinitely better by boat. The Torridonian sandstone crags take the form of a curved edge with a steep west-facing side wall above heather rakes and which swings round to a south-facing sea wall that can only be approached from the west unless at low tide. The rock is basically sound but the yellow areas and those which are honeycombed require caution. Much

of the climbing on the crag is more like gritstone than Torridonian and has deep cracks, flanges and surprisingly good holds in unlikely places, particularly the areas to the right of the Concave Slab.

The rock is largely clean and has excellent friction. Friends provide the bulk of the protection, as do an armoury of large nuts, although wires are useful. The climbing is by and large quite serious. The left end of the side wall has a shorter series of groove lines before displaying an impressive concave slab that epitomises the best of the negative features of this rock. To the right the crag steepens and forms walls and corners including a most impressive gully. To the right the wall contains a splendid corner before rounding to the south. The maximum height of the cliffs is in excess of 100m. The left end of the crag is the shortest but on good rock, with the crag rapidly gaining height to the right of the Concave Slab in a series of grooves, corners, slabs and walls, sometimes with areas of loose rock flakes.

The best descent is to follow the left edge of the crags up left and to follow a ledge that reaches the base adjacent to an easy-angled buttress that marks the extreme left end of the cliff. To approach from the track above, follow a small burn that runs down to the sea with the crag on its left. From a sea approach the best landing is a small rock inlet with a little waterfall to the left of the crags. The climbs are described from left to right, starting to the left of the Concave Slab at the easy-angled buttress.

*Flotsam* – 30m M. Severe 4b. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 28th May, 1997.

The easy-angled buttress has a steep base which rises up the hillside. A short distance up rightwards is a prominent undercut nose which gives the technical crux. Move up left, then follow much easier but clean rock up right.

### **Concave Slab:**

The central section is bottomed by a roof with a nose of rock split by a crack. The climbing is on rounded holds with spaced protection and gets progressively steeper. *Carpe Diem* – 30m VS 4b/c\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 17th April, 1997.

Start at a wide crack in the nose centrally under the roofs and gain a shallow crack up left. Follow this pleasantly to a marginally wobbly pinnacle and climb over this to the top. Technically quite easy for the grade but a bit bold in places.

*Midges Ate My Friend* – 30m E1 5b\*\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little. 19th September, 1994.

Takes a good line up the middle of the Concave Slab. Start as for *Carpe Diem* and move right above the roof to a central crack. Climb the grass-tufted crack to the top in an elegant position.

*Good Intentions* – 35m H. Severe 4a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 17th April, 1997. Start to the right of the roof and follow the narrow slab up left to a delicate section on the front face which leads quite boldly up before traversing right to a niche below a corner. Climb the corner and then step left to climb the final slab.

To the right of the Concave Slab is one of the best areas on the crag, a steep buttress of rough rock with a pair of opposing-angled corners to the left and right.

*Corsair* – 40m E2 5b\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 28th May, 1997.

This excellent climb takes the wide groove to the left of the central buttress. Climb a slab and a wide crack left of a chimney to a corner which is awkward and leads to a little ledge. Climb the crux corner above which is particularly unhelpful and then climb the easier buttress above to the right of some broken ledges.

*Pieces of Eight* – 40m E2\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 20th September, 1997. Takes the cleft rib between Corsair and Buccaneer. Superb climbing with a serious second pitch.

1. 25m 5b. Climb the cleft and step left under a bulging crack; jam up this to a hidden ledge and move up right to the edge in a superb position. Climb this edge to awkward belays below a roof.

2. 15m 5a. Climb the roof above the belay and gain the unprotected slab; traverse this delicately up left to the exposed edge (vital Fr 1 runner on left). Climb directly up the edge and continue straight up over a footless bulge on the right to finish above.

*Buccaneer* – 40m HVS 5a\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 19th September, 1994.

Takes the corner to the right of the crest of the buttress. This is a really good route, much easier than its appearance would suggest, with the crux the very last move. The protection is good. Climb the steepening slabby left wall to a small ledge, then surmount bulges up and right in an exposed position to finish up a short hanging corner which is seen from below as a straight leaning crack to the left of a more contorted one.

*Grapeshot* – 50m VS. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 20th September, 1997.

To the right of Buccaneer is an inset groove with a poised flake and rose bush.

1. 30m 4b. Climb up the wall to the groove and a narrow chimney past the flakes and enter a narrow corner. Climb level with the rose bush and make a step right to a shelf. Climb directly up the slabby wall to the big roof above. Step left on to the lip of the roof and traverse left to its far edge in an exposed position, continue up mossy rock to a ledge below the top wall.

2. 20m 4c. Climb through the cracked roof above via a fragile jug handle and easier rock to the top.

Right of the last route and past a chimney are some heather rakes bottomed by a fine short wall of cracks. Just beyond and above some heather ledges, a superb clean wall of top-quality sandstone extends right to end at more dirty rock to the right. This immaculate wall is topped by a heather ledge and a shorter top tier of rock.

*Pure Gold* – 45m E1\*\*\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 20th September, 1997.

The daunting-looking wall is climbed right up the centre and is far easier than it looks. Start left of a square-cut overhang.

1. 25m 5b. Climb steep flake holds to a narrow ledge. Now climb the wall up and slightly left to near the top where a move left leads to a final wall. A brilliant pitch.

2. 20m. Climb up the top wall right of a crack, following the best line to the crest.

*Fools Gold* – 35m E3 5c\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th September, 1997.

An excellent, bold route with delicate climbing; the crux section is sustained and unprotected. Start to the right of Pure Gold, following the black streak. Climb up to and across the square-cut overhang on its left side and follow an increasingly rounded crack up the black streaked wall. The rock is friendlier above, following the black streak to near the top where the route traverses out right and takes the centre of the wall, climbing between two boulders and so to the top.

*Hidden Treasure* – 40m VS 4c\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 24th September, 1997.

This interesting climb takes the flanged crack to the right of the square-cut overhang. Climb a nice, brown slab to the first bulge and climb the crack to the wide flange. The crux is quite bold and negotiates this curiosity to a thinner crack above.









Step right on to a pleasant slab where the crack becomes mossy and continue straight up to finish.

The steep and less attractive crag to the immediate right of the 'immaculate wall' soon improves and is composed of two tiers of cracked sandstone separated by a heather shelf. The next route takes a line up these tiers.

*Freebooter* – 65m E1\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 19th August, 1997.

Start on a ramp that runs below the lower cracked wall which lies to the right of a dirty short corner.

1. 25m 5a. Climb the left-hand crack, initially overhanging, and continue up to a large heather terrace.
2. 20m 4a. Climb the shorter wall behind, overcoming an initial bulge to belay below a fine pink cracked wall.
3. 20m 4c. Climb the crack to the right of a cracked roof to step right and move up right to a short finishing crack roughly centrally in the wall, an excellent pitch.

Up and right of *Freebooter*'s second pitch is a steep orange wall that ends in a vertical arête. To the left of this arête and wall is a hidden corner running up to a conspicuous overhang. To reach this area, gain a heather ledge to the right of Hidden Treasure and traverse right to reach the terrace. Continue going right to the base of the corner in an exposed position.

*Hit and Run* – 40m E1\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th September, 1997.

Good protection, variety and fine positions.

1. 15m 5b. Climb the impending corner more easily than it would appear from below, exit left below the roof to a ledge above.
2. 25m. Traverse the crack on the lip of the roof rightwards to a wide groove and climb this very pleasantly to the top.

To the right the cliff rapidly gains in height as heather shelves drop towards the sea. The next major feature is an impressive pale corner that runs the height of the cliff, bounding the vertical wall and arête mentioned above.

*Keelhaul* – 70m E2\*\*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 28th May, 1996.

A fine 'butch' route, which takes the corner, definitely not for lycra or shorts. Take huge Friends and nuts, the larger the better. Scramble up heather to below a short hanging chimney, usually wet.

1. 20m 4b. Climb the chimney to heather and follow this to below a fine lower continuation of the main corner.
2. 10m 5a. Bridge the corner on rather powdery rock to continue up the groove to a slab stance in the main corner.
3. 20m 5c. The overhanging and off width crack is best climbed by deep jams to emerge like a cork from a bottle on to a Billiard Table stance.
4. 20m 4b. Easily at first up the deep chimney behind, then an exposed rib is gained which leads to a step left and a delicate finish.

To the right of the corner is a deep and overhanging gully, often wet with some cavernous chockstones near the top. The crag is at its most continuous to the right of the gully and presents a vertical wall that swings south facing the sea.

*Hearts of Oak* – 45m VS 4c\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 28th May, 1996.

To the right of the overhanging gully is a bulging buttress, then a vertical shallow chimney/groove. Easier than it looks. Scramble up a short wet chimney to the right of the lower one on *Keelhaul* and follow heather below the gully to a crack directly beneath bare oak tree.



1. 15m 4c. Climb the crack which has an awkward landing.
2. 30m 4c. Work right below an overhang, then step left before stepping back right. Follow the flakes in an impressive situation to surmount loose chockstones (crux) before easier rock leads to the top.

*Hang Dog Cracks* – 60m E4 \*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 19th August, 1997.  
Midway between Hearts of Oak and Dreadnaught a crackline snakes up the wall. Start to the right and lower than Hearts of Oak at a slab.

1. 25m 5b. Climb the overhanging wall on huge jugs to a rounded landing on a ledge, move right to below a thin crack and follow this with interest to a heather ledge. Move left to belay below the left-hand of the overhanging cracks.
2. 25m 6a. The left-hand and straight crack is rounded, sustained and provides neither holds nor rests and is difficult to protect, though the protection (mostly Friends) is good when placed. Continue up merely vertical rock above, trending right on good holds, to finish in a tremendous position near the edge by a crack.
3. 10m. Continue easily up the arête to finish by scrambling.

*Dreadnaught* – 80m E3 5c\*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 17th April, 1997.  
Takes the prominent hanging corner and steep headwall well right of the gully and left of the edge of the crag where it swings south. Possibly the best line on the crags, sustained and well protected. The heather rakes end about 30m or so above the sea.

1. 20m 4b. Contour into the crag at a slightly higher level to gain a short corner to the left of a flanged corner up right. Climb three short walls left of this flange and move right to a stance at the base of the main corner which is of a pale yellow rock.
2. 20m 5b. Climb the fine corner over various bulges, often wet, to a stance below a cracked bulge.
3. 25m 5c. The bulge above is the crux. Move up left to gain a vertical crack which leads to a cave (probably more logical to belay here). Traverse out right and climb the pleasant groove to a stance.
4. 15m. Continue up the easier blunt rib on the left to the top.

*Albatross* – 120m VS 4c\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 15th May, 1997.  
The longest possible route on the crag; the top pitches make up for what is rather broken lower down. The first pitch is only accessible at low tide, otherwise it is possible to contour round precariously on heather shelves to the right to gain the second pitch. To gain access at low tide, descend to the small inlet and climb a flake-chimney on the right. Traverse a ledge past a small tree and descend to sea level. Enter a hole and follow a narrow squeeze passage to a bay on the other side. Cross this and traverse an overhung ledge a short distance above the water to a low platform with a honeycombed cave above.

1. 35m 4c. Climb to the cave and step up right. Continue up and right to an exposed step right, then climb up to gain the edge of the crag where three mantleshelves on rounded rock lead to a narrow chimney.
2. 40m. Climb the chimney and step right to gain a corner which is climbed to further short walls and slabs which end in a little buttress below a big rock ledge. Gain the ledge.
3. 25m 4c. Walk left along the ledge to below the recessed central corner. Climb the shelves, then the vertical corner and its continuation, a fine pitch.
4. 20m 4c. Climb the short steep corner above to a ledge, then the next corner which has a difficult exit.

**Top Crag:**

A short but well-defined line of crags running along the top of the main wall.

*Rectangular Recess* – 10m Severe 4a. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 17th April, 1997.

Above the exit of Dreadnaught is a well defined square recess in the crag left of an overhang. Climb the recess with some interest.

**STAC POLLAIDH, West Buttress (No.1):**

*Party Direct* – 70m VS\*. A. Cunningham and Party. September, 1996.

2. 15m 4c. Climb the chockstone corner above the belay of pitch 1 to belay at the top of pitch 3.

**Note:** The awkward bulge on pitch 3 was also climbed without a nut for aid at 5a.

**Note:** H. Lancashire and M. Waters note that they repeated Walking on Air considering it E5 6a 6c and failed on Mid Flight Crisis, possibly E5 also because of a bold and a not-obvious start to pitch 2. A number of other routes in the area at E4 and E5 were climbed and the grades thought OK.

**Upper No.2 Buttress:**

*Cold Shoulder* – 25m E2 5c\*\*. C. Lesenger, A. Cunningham. July, 1996.

At the right end of the buttress is a large recess. Climb the very steep crackline out of the right side of the recess. Move left at the final bulge and back right to finish.

**No. 3 Buttress:**

*Summer Isles Crack* – 15m E1 5b. A. Cunningham, C. Downer. 20th August, 1997.

This is the widening finger crack in the final tier of Summer Isles Arête which is avoided by that route. A bit loose at the top bulge! Access may be made by a traverse in from Pinnacle Basin on the left.

**REIFF: Pinnacle Area:**

**Becalmed** – 15m E1 5c\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering, B. Chislet. July, 1995.

The arête below and left of Atlantic Swell. Start down in the tidal slot right of Tangle of the Isles, with the crux being the initial overhanging wall.

*Underworld* – 20m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. July, 1995.

The wall below Edge of the Sea, starting in the tidal boulders. Climb the corner and move right to the edge. Up this via the horizontal breaks.

*Velvet Scooter* – 10m M. Severe. A. Cunningham and party. May, 1996.

Climb the wall right of Midreiff

*Reiff Case* – E3 6c. P. Higginson. 23rd June, 1997.

Climb the wall just right of Earth Shaker via a small vertical layaway in the centre of the wall.

*Booby* – 8m V. Diff. A. Cunningham and party. May, 1996.

Up steep blocky ground at the end of the wall left of Diagonal Crack.

*Chimney Corner* – 8m Diff. A. Cunningham and party May, 1996.

Opposite Booby on the right of the descent.

*Unnamed* – 5m 5b. A. Cunningham. 1993.

A boulder problem via horizontal breaks up the leaning wall round the corner from the Wedding Wall.

**Bouldering Cliff:**

*Razorback* – 10m E3 6c. A. Powell. 30th August, 1997.

The arête right of Romancing the Stone, taken direct via a very dynamic start.

*Undertow* – 24m E7/8 6b/c\*\*\*. D. Cuthbertson. July, 1995.

The magnificent wall left of Wyatt Earp. Start at a little stepped overlap. Stand on a block to reach the undercut and gain the podded crack. Climb this to the upper and smaller of three beaks (large Friends useful in the middle break). Step right and climb the next podded crack with a long reach to the central break. Move right into the cave. Exit the cave by means of a horizontal crack on the right and ascend to a pocket. Gain the base of a short right-facing hanging groove (wires) which leads strenuously to the top.

### **Black Rocks:**

*Dalriada* – 20m E1 5b\*\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. October, 1994.

The blunt arête left of Pot Black. Start up Poll Dubh and climb across the leaning wall onto the arête.

*Robin* – 25m E2 5c\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. June, 1994.

The headwall between Tystie Slab and Batman. Up the easy slab (possible belay) and up the headwall via long reaches between thin breaks.

*Enlightenment* – 20m VS 4c\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. October, 1994.

Escape from the crux at the top of Dark Truths via a hand traverse along the break on the right and up to finish. A great position!

### **Seal Song Area:**

*Final Fling* – 15m E1 5b. S. Richardson, J. Wilkinson. 22nd June, 1997.

A counter-diagonal to Moody Blues. Start just right of Overhanging Crack. Climb up and right crossing Moody Blues to finish up the short hanging right-angled corner in the centre of the wall left of Diamond Back.

### **Slab Inlet:**

*School's Out* – 20m VS 4c. C. Lesenger, A. Cunningham. June, 1996.

Climbs the wall right of Ali Shuffle near the right edge, via amenable horizontal breaks. Access by abseil to a ledge round the corner on the right and start by a swing down on to the wall.

*Mellow Water Melon* – 12m HVS 5b. L. Johnston, M. Collins, S. Thompson. July, 1997.

Takes the prominent central crack in the rectangular wall 5m right of Ali Shuffle and 10m left of Finger Bowl. The start requires low tide.

*Turbulent Indigo* – 12m E2 5c\*\*. A. Cunningham, C. Lesenger, J. Cunningham. June, 1996.

Take the right diagonal crack up the overhanging wall above the tunnel entrance. Start off the big block.

### **Platform Walls:**

*The Irish Agreement* – 12m E2 5c\*. A. Cunningham, I. Rae, M. Rae. October, 1994. To the right of Submarine Badlands is a vertical wall. Climb close to the left arête of the wall, moving slightly right with a long reach at mid-height.

*Thumper* – 12m E2 5c\*\*. C. Lesenger, A. Cunningham, J. Cunningham. June, 1996.

To the right of The Irish Agreement, climb the 'fierce crack rising out of the roof of a small recess'. Committing.

*Under Pressure* – 12m E2 5c\*. C. Lesenger, J. Cunningham. June, 1996.

The steep narrow wall to the right of Reap the Wild Wind. Climb to the roof, move right and pull back left over the overlap to finish up a short right-facing corner.

#### **Pink Bay:**

*Good Grief* – 15m M. Severe. A. Cunningham, C. Downer. 18th August, 1997.

The left edge of the slab of B.F.B.

#### **Stinking Geo:**

This is the narrow inlet cutting away from the Spaced out Rockers Cliff towards the Leaning Block Cliff. It sports a slabby left side and an overhanging right wall.

*Pooh Pong McPlop* – 12m E1 5b\*. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. May, 1995.

The middle? of three overhanging corners on the right wall.

#### **Leaning Block Cliff:**

*Goldeneye* – 20m HVS 5a\*. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. May, 1997.

The first corner right of Memphis Belle, finishing up the leaning crack on the left.

#### **Rubha Coigeach, Amphitheatre Bay:**

*The Roaring Forties* – 30m E4 5c. S. Clegg, H. Lancashire. 2nd June, 1994.

The route takes a fairly central line up a very obvious series of overhanging grooves in the back wall. An exhilarating pitch, reasonably well protected, with Friends 0 to 4 doubled up useful.

#### **CLACH TOLL (MR 037 267):**

The climbs lie on the seaward side of the obvious vice-like rock feature which is well seen when looking SW from Stoer village. Scramble over the landward formation to reach a short channel. Cross to the main rock at low tide or wade (a simple tyrolean is also possible). The first five routes were sent by a Creag Dubh team but had been climbed previously by A. Cunningham and party in 1995.

#### **South Face:**

Climbs start from a platform above sea level – described right to left.

1. The bold SE arête – 10m HVS 4c.
2. The diagonal crack which rises rightwards to finish at the top of the SE arête – 10m VS 4b.
3. The central crackline on perfect rock and good holds – 10m V.Diff.
4. The faint crack 3m to the left – 10m VS 4c.
5. A left traverse from the platform is also an access route to the north face – 4b.

#### **Landward (East) Face:**

Abseil approach recommended. The obvious crack on the left side of the wall is Slip Sliding Away (SMCJ 1996, p81).

*Miss Auchinstarry* – 12m E2 5b\*\*. C. Struthers, A. Finch, D. Sanderson. 29th May, 1997.

Climb the corner right of the crack by its right wall, making moves out right, then back left to finish up an overhanging layback.

#### **North Face:**

*A Few Inches Short of a Reach Around* – 12m E3 5b/c\*\*. A. Finch. 29th May, 1997.

Climb the obvious overhanging corner on the NE arête which is gained by traverse ledges on the north face.

**THE POINT OF STOER (MR 018 353):**

The following routes are easily visible from the stack and can be reached by wandering SW for about 200m along the rock platforms at the base of the main cliff.

*Crack and Scoop* – 30m VS 4b. B. Ottewell, F. Stoddart. 26th July, 1997.

Climb a left-slanting crack at the left-hand side of a slab, then trend slightly right up a scoop and short wall. Follow a crack through an overhang on the left to finish.

*Centre Slab* – 25m VS 4c. M. Robson, T. Ward. 26th July, 1997.

Climb the centre of the slab direct.

*Black Guillemot* – 25m HVS 5a. M. Robson, B. Ottewell. 26th July, 1997.

Start right of Centre Slab. Take the corner groove direct to a niche, follow the crack through an overhang and continue direct up the slabby wall to the top.

*No Fish* – 25m M. Severe. T. Ward, M. Robson. 26th July, 1997.

Follow the obvious wide crack on the right-hand side of the slab, passing through a small overhanging niche at half-height.

The following routes are 50m south of the tyrolean belay where there is a slabby wall defined by a corner on the right.

*Check-out* – 20m H. Severe\*\*. J. Burns, C. Struthers, G. Harrison. 20th July, 1996.

On the wall 8m left of the corner is an obvious left-trending crack/cleft. Good rock and protection.

Slightly left again is a black slabby wall.

*Look-out* – 20m EI 5b\*. G. Harrison, J. Burns, C. Struthers. 20th July, 1997.

Climb the slab right of a thin crack to a break. Take the wall above via an L-shaped overlap.

**OLD MAN OF STOER:**

*A Clean Old Man* – 60m EI\*\*\*. C. Struthers, G. Harrison, J. Burns. 20th July, 1997.

Start from the belay at the end of the Original Route traverse.

1. 30m 5a. Climb a chimney and crack directly above. In the same line, enter a pod and then a wide continuation crack. Avoid the roof on the left and climb up to belay as for Original Route pitch 2.

2. 30m 5b. Surmount the roof above to gain a groove leading up and right to a large ledge. Stand on top of the block on the left and stretch up to the next break. Trend up and left to an obvious corner. At its top a short traverse right gains the belay.

**BRAEBAG, Glas Choire Mor (Sheet 15, MR 294 173):**

**Approach:** Take the path following the Allt nan Uamh to the lochans south of the 718m north top of Braebag. Contour north above the cliffs, passing a narrow slot until the next slot north is reached. This is an extraordinary defile over 30m high, vertical and very narrow. Descend the grassy bed of this to reach scree. The crags described below lie immediately to the left (in descent) or north of this slot in Glas Choire Mor. There are three buttresses. The one closest to the slot is the most impressive, the second is essentially a right-hand section to it, joined by a broken rib, the third separated by another deep, though less extensive slot. The rock is quartzite, with many areas of looseness although the upper sections are much firmer. Protection is mainly small wires in the better rock with a much wider variation in the often expanding cracks of the lower. All the routes have been led on sight. However, it is probably wiser to pre-clean the areas of looseness from above as this may save the second's head. The routes are described from left to right facing the crag.

*Wall of Mists* – 40m E1\*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 18th July, 1997.

The best of the routes so far – clean, sound but quite bold. A broken and very loose scree rake rises up to the right from the foot of the wall. Halfway along this and to the right of a square-cut overhang and just right of a ledge is a cairn.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the unprotected wall on sound rock to runners in a thin crack at 8m. Continue up to wider cracks, then traverse left to a ledge at the base of a corner.
2. 20m 5b. Instead of continuing up the corner, go up, then traverse left out on to the middle of the pink wall (clearly seen from below). Climb up past a tiny crack and finish direct, an excellent pitch with some exposed moves.

*Angels Delight* – 35m VS 5a. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 18th July, 1997.

This route climbs the right edge of the buttress overlooking the next slot to the north.

1. 20m 5a. Climb up the edge of a pinnacle, balance on its top and surmount the crux bulge above. Better rock leads up to a ledge at the foot of a corner.
2. 15m 4b. Climb the pleasant and more-or-less solid corner to the top.

*Isolation Buttress* – 35m Severe. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 18th July, 1997.

To the right of the slot is a narrower buttress with a prominent crack splitting its top pitch.

1. 18m. Climb up to a narrow groove via some loose steps, move right into the groove and much better rock which is climbed to a ledge below the crack.
2. 17m. Climb the crack direct to the top, a fine pitch.

### **KINLOCHBERVIE, Creag Mhor (MR 218 553):**

This is the NW-facing red pillar on the south shore of Loch Inchard. Three routes were climbed by R. Campbell and P. Thorburn. The central one is thought to have been climbed before by P. Swainson and P. Nunn but they found an engineering nut in the top crack! The pillar is about 40m high and has a traverse ledge at about half-height.

1. HVS/E1 5a. A diagonal line on grey rock in the lower left part of the pillar.
2. A central 4c pitch leads to a belay on the traverse line, followed by two alternatives above, either side of a pink pegmatite band. HVS 5a\*\*\* on the left, heading for finishing cracks. E1 5b\*\* – the line on the right of the pink band.

### **SHEIGRA, Polin Crag:**

Turn left just before Sheigra and continue to the end of the road at Polin (near Oldshore Beg). A path leads down to the beach but instead, continue on the coast round to the left until a small Geo is reached. The crag lies below, facing south and overlooking Eilean na h-Aiteag. The crag is characterised by a horizontal band of crumbly black schist at two-thirds height. Described right to left; the first two reached by abseil descent.

*Prester Didwick's Congener* – 16m V. Diff. A. F. Thomas, A. M. Dela Hoyde. 7th August, 1997.

Start on the pedestal at the right end of the crag, which is about 2m above the water line. Climb straight up to and climb a flake-crack to its top. Traverse left into another flake and up this to finish.

*Alice in Wonderland* – 18m H. Severe 4b. A. F. Thomas, A. M. Dela Hoyde. 7th August, 1997.

Start on the sloping ledge in the middle of the crag (just above the waterline). Go straight up over an overlap to the right-hand end of an overhung flake, climbed rightwards to the top.

*Triple Ripple* – 18m VS 4c. A. F. Thomas, A. M. Dela Hoyde. 7th August, 1997. Approached by scrambling down the big slab on the left of the crag. Start at the foot of the slab. Climb up to and inside an inverted V-notch and pull out to the right. Step up and left over an overlap and go left past pockets to the next overlap at a huge flake in the black schist. Surmount this to the left and continue straight up to the top.

### **Treasure Island Wall:**

The route Long John Silver (SMCJ 1997) is on the dark wall to the south-west of the descent gully. It was gained by an abseil from an outcrop on the grass slope above. Starting farther right on the same ledge are the following two routes.

*Brace Yourself Sheigra* – 40m E2. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 15th June, 1996.

1. 20m 5c. Climb a flake line, step right and make a harder move past a distinct overlap to an easier finish.

2. 20m 4c. Finish as for Long John Silver.

*Ben Gunn* – 40m E2 5b. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 15th June, 1996.

Climb the pocketed line about 5m to the right and finish as for Long John Silver.

Left of the above routes is a left-slanting black ramp, well seen from the descent gully promontary. An abseil was made to the right end of a narrow ledge 5m above the sea. It would be possible to climb to this at low tide.

*Designed to be Flawed* – 40m E4 6a\*\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 15th June, 1996.

From the left end of the narrow ledge, follow the ramp with awkward moves across a blank section. Finish up a stepped left-facing corner.

### **CAPE WRATH:**

Opposite Am Bodach is an area of dark rock cut by several vertical quartz veins.

*White Lining* – 35m Severe\*. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth, J. Pickering, D. Horsburgh. July, 1994.

Climb via the widest left-hand quartz vein of the two widest on the face.

### **Stac Clo Kearvaig, The Landward Stack:**

Stac Clo Kearvaig has three tops, the so-called landward and seaward stacks are connected at the base with huge wedged boulders between, the highest block being visible from the lighthouse road. The third top is in front of the seaward stack as seen from the road and again connected at the base to the other two.

*In Season* – 50m E1. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. June, 1996.

1. 30m 5a. Start by the gap between the third top and the other two, opposite Clo Mor Crack on the mainland. Traverse right onto the 'landward' stack and climb by a corner crack to the first ledge. Move up via short walls, ledges and ramps to a large ledge below a big left-facing corner leading to the narrow summit.

2. 20m 5b. Climb the corner and wide crack to finish.

### **FOINAVEN, Lord Reay's Seat:**

*Fishmonger* – VI.6. R. Webb, N. Wilson. January, 1998.

An excellent route. Follows the summer line except where the summer crux takes a corner to the right of the natural line, the winter line continues straight up a right-facing corner/crack. Large gear an advantage.

### **FARAI HEAD (MR 715 378):**

The seaward end of this large peninsula is reached by pleasant walking across the dunes. There is a lot of rock here but much of it is uninspiring. There are several

clean areas of rock at the western extremity of the headland. The routes lie on the attractive square-cut buttress which is visible from a distance.

*Yet Another McAulayism* – 25m VS 5a\*. A. Finch, D. Sanderson, G. Harrison, C. Struthers. 28th May, 1997.

Abseil down a black corner to belay on a ledge 5m above the sea. Climb through overlaps and continue up the corner.

*In Denial* – 35m E3\*\*\*. C. Struthers, D. Sanderson. 28th May, 1997.

The photogenic arête provides serious but technically easy climbing on reasonable rock.

1. 10m 5a. Follow 'Yet Another' to belay in the corner.

2. 25m 5a. Climb left and up to gain a depression and thence a ledge leading to the arête. Follow the arête past two peg runners of doubtful holding power (hence the name).

**Note:** Many more routes were received from Ceannabeinne beach crag from two different parties but were assumed to have been climbed before (see SMCJ 1995, p669). The crag is very popular, particularly for bouldering and soloing.

### **ORKNEY, Yesnaby, Qui Ayre Point (Sheet 6 MR 218 154).**

A mini-guide from Mick Tighe. Routes were also climbed here by D. Turnbull in 1994 (he is the Orkney author for the next guide), so the following may not all be first ascents:

If you don't have a car there's a fairly long, but wonderfully scenic, approach along the clifftops from Stromness – 8km approx – otherwise vehicles can be left by the old military buildings at the road end, about 800m north of the crags. Qui Ayre Point forms a beautiful compact cliff facing south, with various other inlets and walls running south again towards the Castle of Yesnaby itself. The lovely compact sandstone here has been quarried for centuries to make millstones and stone troughs for Orkadians, and a myriad of little climbs and boulder problems can be found in and about the old workings.

The main, south-facing crags have been called the 'quarry walls' and are best viewed across the bay from the south. At the extreme western end of Qui Ayre Point the cliff runs down into the sea making an almost perfect wedge shape. The routes are described from this most westerly point working back inland (eastwards). Except at this westerly end, where they are a little shorter, the routes are all around 30m long. A ledge runs below the wedged-shape cliff, partially covered at high tide – reached by abseil or a wonderful little traverse from the west. Three of the routes have appeared in SMCJ 1996.

*The Half Bouy* – 10m Severe. M. Tighe, J. Armour, C. Duncan, H. Clarke. 18th June, 1997.

The first line in from the point is a wonderful little honey-combed fault with huge jugs and superb protection.

*Route 91* – E1 5b. (toproped). So called because it overhangs by 1°. It takes the first vertical crackline in from the west up the otherwise blank wall. Brilliant climbing on perfect rock with excellent protection.

*Tuttie's Wall* – E2 5b. M. Tighe. 17th June, 1997.

This first, wedge-shaped part of the quarry walls runs into an almost perfect vertical corner (Tuttie's Neuk). A couple of metres back left, a vague black crack heads off up the wall. Follow the crack first and then a series of fabulous horizontal faults. Strenuous.



*Tuttie's Neuk* – HVS 5a. M. Tighe, K. Proudlock, K. Harding, J. Cargill, S. Fraser. 3rd June, 1995.

The fine open-book corner, not easily seen except from immediately above or below. An acrobatic start with a slightly easier finish.

The cliff juts out a little now to form a sort of 'tower face' with an excellent groove line at either side - neither of which have been climbed. Right again the cliff falls back to create a groove/corner line on which the following two routes are based. *Definitely Maybe* – E2 5b. A. Park, N. Gilman, N. Kekus. 6th May, 1995.

Takes the groove for 5m before moving left on to a rib, then left again to climb a crack to the top.

*The Creel* – E2 5b. M. Tighe, J. Cargill, I. Lee. 12th May, 1997.

Follows the previous route for 5m and then continues up the gently overhanging groove to the top.

*Ebb and Flo* – MVS. J. Cargill, K. Harding. 3rd June, 1995.

A short wall to the right of The Creel has a wee groove in the middle which is easy to get into, and hard to get out of.

Right again (eastwards) is the Crevasse, a 5m chimney-groove which is the best access/escape for this part of the cliff. It's a tricky little down-climb and a short abseil might be a better prospect. Around the corner again (going east or inland) is a lovely wall of almost perfect rock with a small curving arch midway along which gives its name, Arch Wall. A fault line runs right across this wall 6-8m above the tidal ledge.

*Crab Crawl* – 40m HVS 5a. M. Tighe, I. Lee, J. Cargill. 13th May, 1997.

Follow the traverse line in either direction on immaculate rock. Sometimes delicate, sometimes strenuous, and with a convenient ledge for a rest and/or belay half way along.

*Velvets* – VS 4c. M. Tighe, J. Armour, C. Duncan. 17th June, 1997.

A shallow groove line starts at the extreme left of the wall, just a few metres below the start (or finish) of Crab Crawl. Follow the groove to a ledge on the left 3m from the top. Either, make much harder moves up the wall to the top, or descend to a ledge and belay, leaving a high runner. Escape left into the crevasse.

*Handbags and Gladbags* – E2 5b. N. Gilman, N. Kekus, A. Park. May, 1995.

The crescent overhang, or arch, that gives this wall its name has a thin crack coming from its right-hand end. The route climbs the steep wall and open groove directly below the right-hand end of the overhang and takes the crack above to the top.

*Nyook Waa* – M. Severe. S. Fraser, K. Sherstone. 3rd June, 1995.

Arch Wall ends in a chimney/cleft at the eastern end. Climb up the chimney for about 10m before transferring on to the right-hand wall to finish.

*The Lang Hadauf* – V. Diff. K. Proudlock, J. Finnan. 3rd June, 1995.

Around the corner from Nyook Waa is another chimney/groove line with some slightly loose brownish rock near the top.

*Wee Lum* – HVS 5a. M. Tighe, K. Proudlock, K. Sherstone. 3rd June, 1995.

Around the corner again from the Lang Hadauf, the beautiful clean rock sweeps into the back of the bay. The first feature encountered is a fierce little bottomless chimney reached by a short sea level traverse from the bottom of the Lang Hadauf. Wide bridging saves the day.

The vertical sweep of cliff that now issues eastwards has been named Gardyloo (Gardez L'eau) on account of the old quarryman's rubbish tip that is evident part way along. Thirty metres or so along from the top of Nyook Waa and the Lang Hadauf, there's a wee depression on the cliff top, and a diagonal fault line in the cliff below. The fault line has been top roped – The Hinge, E3 5c. The following route has a common start.

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

Abseil from the depression to a fine little black triangular ledge just above the high water mark. Climb The Hinge (left-facing corner) for 10m before pulling steeply up and right on to the wall with small pockets. A shallow left-facing groove leads to the top.

*Wander Wall* – HVS 5a. M. Tighe, I. Lee, K. Sherstone, J. Cargill. 13th May, 1997. Start from the same triangular ledge as the previous route. Move up and right a couple of metres to another ledge. Climb a crack/fault line in the wall above for a few metres, then go right again along another fault lie (scary) to head for the top as soon as possible.

*Ebb Tide* – E1 5b. M. Tighe, S. Fraser, K. Harding, J. Cargill. 3rd June, 1995.

About 10m below and right of the triangular ledge, another bigger ledge appears at half-tide. From the ledge climb up the wall passing a wee overhang on the right at 6m, then follow the wall to the top.

With a couple of spectacular lines still to be done, Gardyloo Wall now runs into the back of the Geo terminating in some brown stepped overhangs. The cliffs now turn through 90° and run generally south, though punctuated by numerous inlets and promontaries, several of which have produced excellent routes of about 20m length. There are three good landmarks along this section of cliffs, the first to be seen when approaching from the north will be False Stack, the pseudo stack with a little slab, or drawbridge, propping it up. Back north a bit a little stream runs into the sea midst a welter of bright green moss - The Moss Ghyll.

Finally, there's the fine-looking stack of Yesnaby Castle. Routes are now described heading south, starting at Moss Ghyll. Belays are hard to find at the top of the cliff here, and a spare rope, preferably pre-stretched, could be handy for an anchor around the two square piles of stones by the fence.

*Moss Ghyll Groove* – Severe. M. Tighe, C. Duncan. 18th June, 1997.

Immediately north of the green mossy stream outlet a little arête springs up with a nice crackline above half-height. Start right, left or centre and climb to a wee platform below the crack/groove which is followed to the top.

There are two small Geos between here and the False Stack, the promontary between the two having a fine, slightly slanting fault line which gives an excellent little climb.

*Video Show* – Severe. M. Tighe, C. Duncan, J. Armour. 17th June, 1997.

Follow the fault line, passing a tricky little overhang about a third of the way up.

### **False Stack:**

*The Crow's Nest* – VS. M. Tighe, J. Armour, C. Duncan. 17th June, 1997.

Abseil down to the seaward side somehow! Take the south-west arête for a few metres by a groove line or some big steps on the right. Go right at the top of the groove (tricky) on to the beak. Don't go straight up the obvious arête above which is a bit loose; instead follow the lovely little slabby wall diagonally rightwards to

the top. The south side of the stack is overhanging and has been climbed on a top rope at E3-ish.

*Variety Show* – HVS 5a. M. Tighe, J. Cargill. 14th May, 1997.

A little Geo that can only be reached by abseil lies 30m-40m south of the False Stack. At the south end of the geodh is a rib split by a perfect crackline. Climb through the initial overhang on immaculate holds and with perfect protection. Follow the crack until it becomes a brown-coloured slabby depression near the top. Keep going or go right under a rock beak and finish up a little groove.

The next group of climbs are based on the west-facing walls immediately opposite the Castle of Yesnaby and are accessed by abseiling down to sea level right opposite the eastern arête of the stack. This is the same place to start the swim to the stack. From this sea level ledge a wee crevasse gives access to a vast sea cave that runs under the whole cliff and is a wonderful aquamarine world to explore on a calm day. From the ledge opposite the stack, a wonderful traverse line goes around the corner to the north, steps across a chasm (the entrance to the sea cave), and carries on for 30m-40m before ending in the next Geo.

*Late Night Special* – E1 5b. M. Tighe, R. Veitch, R. Robertson, K. Harding. May, 1995.

Follow the traverse line to its end and belay. Great place for photos. Take the groove line at the extreme left (north) end of the wall. There are two grooves very close to each other. See which one you can get into!

*The Master Class* – HVS 5a. M. Tighe, S. Fraser. May, 1994.

Take the same traverse as for the previous route but only go halfway along. A crack and fault line almost in the middle of the wall leads to the top.

*On the Edge* – HVS 5a. M. Tighe, J. Cargill, K. Sherstone, I. Lee. 13th May, 1997. Same as before, but immediately after the step across the chasm, climb a stiff little crack and make a difficult move right on to a ledge. Zig-zag to the top.

The cliff now turns through 90° to face south and right on the corner is a diagonal crack, Diagonal, E1 5b, which was topoped by M. Tighe in May, 1995, although there was evidence of chalk on the holds. This and other routes hereabouts may well have been done by teams returning/escaping from Yesnaby Stack.

*Howard's End* – VS 4c. M. Tighe, S. Fraser, H. Clarke. May, 1994.

Going along the south-facing walls and just by the start of Diagonal, there's a little hoodie groove that can be climbed to an escape on the right. The steep little wall can then be followed to the top.

*Howard's Way* - VS 4c. M. Tighe, K. Sherstone, J. Cargill. 13th May, 1997. Take the same hoodie groove as the previous route but continue rightwards along a fabulous traverse line in a spectacular position. Head for the top as soon as you can.

The big bay to the south has some steep walls at the back which are yet to be explored, but there's another headland with some steep but more broken rock. Some routes were done here in the early 1970s by M. Tighe, B. Newton, J. Barry and D. Kirtley, and by M. Tighe and S Fraser in 1994.

Around the corner again is a fine diagonal crack that has yet to be climbed. Unfortunately, access without a swim is difficult as it overhangs two ways.

### **Yesnaby Castle:**

The route up the south face of this fine stack is described in the Northern Highlands Guide. There is also a similarly graded route up the eastern arête past a bunch of

rotting pitons. Also an E3 addition up the western arête by M. Fowler and party in 1996.

### **HOY, St John's Head:**

**Note:** Big John: A. Donson and K. Pyke on the second ascent on 15th July, 1996, freed the aid point on pitch 12 at a poorly protected 6a. E4/5 for that pitch – the rest of the route is about E3.

### **Rora Head, Orange Wall:**

This is the west-facing wall roughly at right-angles to Mucklehouse Wall. The corner between the two is the descent, two abseils to tidal ledges. The routes follow obvious lines; take some large hexes and/or #4 Friend for both these routes.

*Spoots* – 80m E4 5c 6a 5b. A. Donson, K. Pyke. 22nd May, 1995.

The right-most crackline above the tidal ledge. Start about 20m right of the abseil on a grassy mound. The crackline gave pitch lengths approx. 25m, 35m, 20m, finishing up an awkward off-width in a hanging position.

*Orange Wall* – 90m E4 5b 6a 5c. A. Donson, K. Pyke. 20th May, 1995.

The central line in the orange wall, gained by a rising traverse from the left.

1. 30m 5b. Reach the crack system by traversing right above an obvious square-cut cave at the back of the tidal ledges.
2. 35m 6a. Climb the left-hand of two crack systems until they merge.
3. 25m 5c. Finish up the crack.

### **East Wall of Gully 1:**

Walk down the gully to start. Routes described left to right.

*Ben Doone* – 20m HVS 5a. A. Evans, C. Rolfe. August, 1997.

Climbs the centre of the obvious grey buttress at the head of the gully, finishing by the right arête.

*Fulmar Cavity* – 30m VS 4b. A. Evans, C. Rolfe, R. Carter, D. Moss. 23rd July, 1997.

Takes the centre of three prominent cracks on the left-hand side of the wall. Easier than it looks.

*Craa'nest* – 30m E1 5b. K. Pyke, A. Donson. 17th July, 1996.

The right-hand of the three prominent cracklines, 3m right of Fulmar Cavity.

*Mater* – 35m E2 5b. A. Donson, K. Pyke. 17th July, 1996.

The obvious bottomless left-facing corner in the centre of the face. Approached via an indefinite finger crack.

**Note:** Repeated by D. Wood, D. Jones in August, 1997, but reaching the corner by going right to a flake, then left along a ledge. Thought excellent.

*Paneer* – 38m E2 5b. A. Donson, K. Pyke. 17th July, 1996.

The wall right of Mater. Attain a jutting ledge at 10m and follow a flake line above to a break. Step right and climb up trending left to a niche beneath the left end of the roof. Pull over to fine finishing cracks.

*Paternoster* – 50m HVS. A. Evans, C. Rolfe, R. Carter, D. Moss. 23rd July, 1997.

The huge crack and corner system on the right of the wall.

1. 25m 4c. Climb the obvious crackline with some slightly worrying rock to ledges and an *in situ* peg.

2. 25m 4b Climb the crack and corner line on superb rock exiting left at the capping roof.

#### **Gully 4:**

*Avoiding the Issue* – 18m E1 5b. D. Jones, D. Wood. August, 1997.

The obvious pillar with a capping overlap at the upper end of No. 4 gully. Start in the middle of the wall, head straight up and avoid the overlap by stepping left at the top.

*Pocket full of Fulmar Shite* – 60m E1 5b. D. Jones, D. Wood. August, 1997.

Start in a square-cut cave to the right of an obvious red overhang in the wall 50m left of the waterfall.

1. 25m 5a. Head up and left to the foot of an obvious corner crack through red ledges.
2. 8m 5a. Classic hand jamming crack up the corner.
3. 25m 5b. Finish straight up the headwall.

*Puffins for lunch* – 30m E1 5c. D. Jones, D. Wood. August, 1997.

The obvious red corner to the left of Fillets of Sole.

*A Piss in the Ocean* – 15m H. Severe 4b. D. Wood, D. Jones. August, 1997.

A crackline in the first buttress on the descent of No. 4 gully.

*Learning to Fly* – 25m E1 5b. D. Jones, D. Wood. August, 1997.

The left-hand arête of Fillet of Sole Buttress.

*Scare of the Century* – 50m MXS 5a. D. Jones, D. Wood. August, 1997.

An incredibly loose trip up the right-hand skyline of No. 4 gully. Not likely to be there after the next big storm!

1. Start at the foot of the buttress below a groove in the arête. Head up decomposing ledges to the groove avoiding the obligatory fulmar crux, climb the groove without pulling on anything (lots of loose blocks), and avoid the washing machine-sized loose block roof at the top on the left and belay in the vibrating crack in the front of the large block.
2. Run away in to the gully on the left, climb the off-width crack in the wall (this goes through the block your mate is belayed to, so don't fall off!) to the foot of the final corner.
3. Climb the corner, avoiding knocking the block on your second, and belay to some flakes in the top of the crag.

#### **Waterfall Wall:**

A new area. Approach via Gully 4 descent and walk west.

*The Last Yole* – 95m E5. K. Pyke, A. Donson. 18th July, 1996.

Midway between the waterfall and the sea arch is an overhanging yellow grooved arête (stunning!). Yole is the name of the Hoy fishing boat. Start on a clean ledge at the left side of the arête.

1. 25m 4c. Climb a rounded stepped flake line to reach a blocky terrace. Trend right to belay beneath the groove.
2. 40m 6a. Climb the initial groove to a pie-shaped roof. Layback steeply around this until the crack runs out and reach left to another crack. Move up to a bottomless groove (crux) and then climb the short wall above to a ledge and belay on the left end.
3. 30m 5b. Climb steeply up broken grooves on the left to the top.

**SHETLAND, Sandness, Pobie Skeo:**

The following sea cliff climbs can be found in Pobie Skeo, a beautifully wild and private inlet on the Sandness peninsular of Shetland, beyond the community of Huxter.

Much of the coast here is composed of spectacularly crumbly sandstone. However, this particular Skeo is firm and trustworthy with very good frictional qualities offering a charismatic array of whorls, pockets and ripples. The promontory provides a platform raised above most seas and tides, and the climbs do not appear to disturb birdlife. Sheet 3 (Shetland North), MR 167 566.

**Approach:** Take the A971 to Sandness and follow signs to Huxter. Park at the end of the road and follow the signed footpath past Huxter Water Mills. From there follow the cliff edge over a stone wall, past the Loch of Huxter, over a gated fence, stopping 200m short of a second stone wall. A 50m-long tilted promontory is easily visible jutting out below the cliff top. Time from car – 5-6 minutes. Scramble down easy slabs to the promontory and make a tiptoe *mauvais pas* westwards to arrive below a long wall of black sandstone. This holds the following easy routes of up to 15m, running from left to right:

*Charlie Crumb* – 12m V. Diff. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 4th September, 1997.

The right-facing corner at the extreme left end of the wall.

*Tabloid* – 12m V. Diff. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 4th September, 1997.

Start 5m to the right of Charlie Crumb at a slight nose in the wall. Climb this and the slabs above.

*A Concise History* – 15m VS 4b. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 5th September, 1997.

Start 15m farther right, 5m left of the arête. A direct line taking the left-hand side of the top slab. Pull over initial bulges and move up to the overlap, 2m right of the rotten-looking corner. Last gear here. Pull onto the slab above and finish direct up the right side of a protruding block. Poor protection.

*Twenty Golden Greats* – 15m Severe 4c\*. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 4th September, 1997.

An absorbing and unlikely way up the slab – the best of this wall. Start 3m right of Concise History and 2m left of the arête, at an overhanging crack that splits the jutting ledges. Climb this (crux) and move up to the overlap. Take the middle of the slab above via small twin scoops.

*Stars On 45* – 15m Severe 4c. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 5th September, 1997.

Start as for Twenty but take the exposed arête above the overlap. Good positions but rather contrived.

Now turn the corner to find a taller and steeper west-facing wall of creamier-coloured sandstone. It has a large cave at its foot above the sloping apron of slab. *Silent Street* – 25m HVS 4c\*\*\*. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 5th September, 1997.

This line takes the centre of the wall through some impressive territory. From the right-hand side of the cave mouth, make a steep pull up onto rising ledges leading rightwards into a small overhung bay. Pull over via a small pocket onto the wall above. Traverse back left above the cave mouth to a ledge, in an exhilarating position. Climb directly up flakes above to finish over a jutting block on the highest point of the cliff.

**Unst, Skaw Point (Sheet 1, MR 669 153):**

Skaw Point has vast potential for new routes, the routes described below are the

cleanest area of rock and are easily accessible. You can drive to the top of the cliffs for belaying as there are no natural belays. The only restriction is associated with nesting birds, April to August. Permission to climb on the cliffs was easily obtained from Bill Spence, who is clerk of the land. He can be contacted on 01957 711439. The routes are all contained within a small area of sound rock called the Buss, although there is some loose rock at the top of the routes.

*Back Seat* – 20m Severe 4a. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 6th June, 1996.

The main feature on the land side of a triangular pinnacle. Start right of a detached block and ascend by an obvious corner. Abseil or rightwards descent.

*Top Deck* – 18m Severe 4a. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 6th June, 1996.

Start 2m right of Back Seat. Climb twin rightward diagonal cracks until a vertical crack and small corner leads to the top.

*Half Fare* – 15m Severe 4b. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 8th June, 1996.

On the sea side of the pinnacle, take the main crack which starts from the left corner of the pinnacle. Start from the top of the lower slab and traverse in.

Opposite the pinnacle and across the rock pools on the main cliff are two diagonal cracks either side of a damp recess.

*Double Decker* – 20m VS 4c. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 6th June, 1996.

The left-hand crack. Ascend a large block to gain the steep crack, which bears right to the top.

*Last Stop* – 20m VS 4b. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 6th June, 1996.

Take the wide crack to the right of the damp recess. It goes up right and on to the main face. The crack slowly thins out towards the top.

*Mr Bounce* – 22m Severe 4a. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 8th June, 1996.

Climb the slab away to the left by laybacking the corner and several overhangs.

*Park and Ride* – 16m HVS 5a. J. McGlade, C. Tidswell. 8th June, 1996.

Climb the acute corner (one wall overhanging) opposite the pinnacle area by bridging and overcoming a small seat half way up (crux, only runner).

## CAIRNGORMS

### LOCHNAGAR:

*Mantichore* – VII,7. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 7th February, 1998.

By the summer line. The route is well protected, sustained, with nothing desperate on it. The twin cracks of pitch 1 have good tufts and torques; similarly pitch 2 has tufts.

The Amphitheatre:

*Amphitheatre Buttress* – 200m V,5. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge. 30th January, 1998.

The prominent buttress between Amphitheatre Route and Pinnacle Gully 1.

1 and 2. 80m. Climb Pinnacle Gully 1 to the crevasse stance.

3. 40m. Follow the fault of Amphitheatre Route for 5m then climb a steep groove on the right (crux) to easier ground. Move up to belay on the right side of the toe of the buttress (well left of PG Corner).

4. 40m. Follow the prominent turf fault on the right flank of the buttress to a good stance.

5. 40m. Continue straight up the crest of the buttress to the plateau.

### The Pinnacle:

*Tiptoe Edge* – 200m IV,5. R. Allen, S. Richardson. 2nd January, 1998.









Above: Dougie Dinwoodie on the first ascent of 'The Empty Quarter', Garbh Choire, Beinn a' Bhuid. *Photo: Greg Strange.*

Below: Greg Strange on the first ascent of 'Tickled Pink', The Palette, Carn a' Mhaim. *Photo: Dougie Dinwoodie.*



An independent line up the left edge of The Pinnacle based on the well-defined rib between the upper section of Pinnacle Gully 1 and Grovel Wall. Follow Pinnacle Gully 1 for two pitches to the cave. Climb the steep right wall of the cave via a stepped crack (crux) and exit on to moderate ground above. Continue parallel to Pinnacle Gully 1 to gain a discontinuous chimney-line which splits the rib. Two pitches lead to the summit of The Pinnacle. The upper rib has been climbed several times before as a variation finish to Pinnacle Gully 1 or Grovel Wall.

*The Complete French Connection* – 215m VI,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 25th January, 1998.

A sustained mixed climb up the left side of the front face of the Pinnacle taking in The French Connection *en route*. Above this, the route follows a stepped ramp system parallel to, and right of, Grovel Wall. Climbed under powder using frozen turf with limited ice (verglas only). Start 10m left of Katsalana below a line of vegetated cracks.

1. 20m. Climb the cracks over bulges to an easing below a steep left-facing corner. Junction with Winter Face.

2. 40m. (The French Connection). Climb the corner using a crack on the left wall to a ledge. Continue up the shallow corner system above (thin) to below overhanging cracks. Junction with Grovel Wall.

3. 35m. Traverse right for 10m and climb a slab to the right of Grovel Wall to reach a steep left-facing corner. Climb this and follow a shelf rightwards underneath a steep wall.

4. 40m. Pull over a steep corner at the end of the shelf and continue more easily to join the upper fault-line taken by Route 1.

5 to 6. 80m. Continue up Route 1 to the summit of the Pinnacle.

*Fools Rib* - VII,7. A. Benson, P. Benson. 1st February, 1998.

By the summer route, with one rest point on pitch 2.

*The Link Direct* – 180m VIII,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 1st February, 1998. An outstanding climb.

1. 30m. As for the Direct Start to The Link.

2. 20m. As for pitch 2 of The Link Face.

3. 25m. Follow The Link Face over the roof to reach the 'vegetated groove'. Climb this for 15m to a good stance on the left.

4. 15m. Continue up the groove for 5m to the junction with Route 2. Reverse the crux of Route 2, and move up to the groove running through the headwall.

5. 20m. Climb the groove, past the 'rotating block', to a good stance. (The Link Summer).

6. 10m. Pull over the roof (crux) directly above the stance. (The Link, Direct Finish).

7 and 8. 60m. Move up to join Route 2, and follow this to the summit of the Pinnacle.

### **West Buttress:**

A full description of the following route has never been published.

*Quasimodo* – 290m VII,8. S. Richardson, A. D. Robertson. 25th February, 1995.

A fine and varied mountaineering route with a technical crux and difficult final pitch. It follows a direct line up the tapering pillar to the left of West Gully, and takes in sections of the summer lines of Gargoyle Direct and Dod's Diversion. Start 20m left of West Gully below an open gully line which cuts through the lower tier.

1 to 3. 120m. Climb the gully and mixed ground above to the first terrace. Belay by a large split block (old peg) about 5m right of the shallow gully of Gargoyle Direct.

4. 45m. Step right and climb a left-slanting ramp to reach a second terrace. Move right and belay near the right side of the rib below the twin cracks of Dod's Diversion.

5. 30m. Climb the cracks with conviction (crux) and the continuation groove until it is possible to gain an easy left-slanting ramp which leads to a large block on the crest.

6. 45m. Take the narrow chimney which splits the crest of the buttress and continue up several steep steps to an awkward exit onto the summit of the pillar (as for the summer line of Gargoyle Direct).

7. 20m. Make a difficult step down and follow the ridge easily left to below the final triangular headwall topped by the Gargoyle.

8. 30m. Gain a stepped crack-line from the left, and continue up a series of short corners and cracks to exit just right of the Gargoyle (as for the Direct Finish to Gargoyle Direct).

*West Rib Direct* – 275m V,6. S. Richardson, R. Allen. 4th January, 1998.

A direct ascent of the left edge of West Rib overlooking West Gully. A long and sustained mixed climb with the crux near the top. Pitches 1 to 4 are common with the original winter route of West Rib which took a line farther right on the upper section. No detailed account of the original winter route was published, so here is a full description.

Start 20m right of West Gully below the left-slanting slash which cuts through the left side of the lower buttress.

1 to 3. 140m. Follow the line of the slash to the terrace at the top of the first tier. Move easily up and slightly right to belay in the *cul-de-sac* below the slabby central tier.

4. 40m. Climb the huge right-facing chimney-flake to a good ledge below the headwall.

5. 20m. The direct route now follows the Patey-Coutts summer Direct Finish. Climb overlapping slabs (awkward) up then left to reach a groove which leads up to the foot of the vertical right-angled corner overlooking West Gully.

6. 20m. Climb the impending right wall of the corner via good cracks to a ledge (crux). A superbly positioned pitch.

7. 15m. Take the continuation corner-chimney to below the Organ-Pipe Pinnacles.

8. Traverse right and finish up a choice of groove-lines to the plateau.

### **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, South-East Buttress:**

*Dogleg, Legless Variation* - 150m VI,8. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1998.

A direct version of Dogleg. Climb Dogleg until 5m below the roof (60m). Step left on to the Rock Island Line rib and climb cracks directly to easier ground (30m). Continue more easily directly to the top of the buttress.

### **Central Gully Wall:**

*The Origin of the Species* – 70m E6\*\*\*. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. September, 1997. The compelling blunt arête of The Naked Ape. Take all the microwires you can muster and start below the groove 2m right of The Naked Ape.



1. 15m 5b. Climb the shallow groove parallel to the larger groove of The Naked Ape to the first small ledge.
2. 40m 6b. Climb the groove past a PR at a rock scar to a wide flake-crack (Fr#4), follow it to a thin crack, then move to the right side of the arête (skyhooks on a good flake on the right). Climb up, then make committing moves on to a sloping shelf. Follow the thin right-hand crack with difficulty to a good hold, move up left to The Naked Ape and follow it right, then up, to the PR on the arête. Climb the hanging groove above, exit on to a slab and belay under the right-hand end of the roof.
3. 15m 6a. Climb the final section of pitch 3 of The Naked Ape and link it with the overhanging crack of pitch 4 to gain an abseil spike (50m abseil reaches the ground on the stretch).

**Note:** G. Latter thought E7.

### **False Gully Wall:**

*An Spearag* – 30m E6 6c\*\*\*. G. Latter (unsec.). 23rd September, 1997.

Varied climbing with a short, well-protected technical crux. Midway between Slartibartfast and Sans Fer is a thin crack leading to a prominent orange streak high on the wall. Start below this. Climb the crack with a tricky move to clip a PR in the horizontal break. Make hard moves to become established in the break level with the PR. Step right and continue past some underclings to a prominent undercut flange. Pull on to the sloping shelf above (at the end of the traverse on Sans Fer) and follow the groove of Sans Fer, then break out left for 4m to the base of the prominent right-slanting ramp/groove. Belay on the small shelf (P) down on the left, 3m right of the belay on Slartibartfast.

### **GLEN CLOVA: Lower Doonie:**

*Alcopops* – 40m E1. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge. 25th May, 1997.

Takes the fault between Four Corners Route and Summer's Over. A good sustained climb on excellent rock. Start by scrambling up to the tree at the base of Summer's Over.

1. 20m 5b. Step up then make an awkward move left to reach the fault. Climb the fault to its top, step right and continue up the wall above to the stance at the end of Guinness pitch 2.
2. 20m 5a. Move up past the old peg on Four Corners Route, continue up the short smooth corner above, and finish by a crack.

### **Upper North-West Crag:**

*Fool's Edge* – 15m HVS 5a. S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge. 15th September, 1996.

A poor route up the arête defining the right edge of the crag. Scramble up W and S Chimney to the foot of the arête. Climb cracks to a ledge (loose blocks) and continue up the arête using holds on the left wall to the top.

### **BEN TIRAN, Coire Brandy:**

*The Brandy Pad* – 90m III.4. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 18th January, 1998.

To the right of the stream line at the head of the coire are two buttresses. This climb takes a line up the front face of the rightmost buttress which is characterised by two towers low down in its right flank, and by a prominent hanging slab cutting through the left side of the headwall. Start below and left of the two towers below a gully cutting through the right side of the front face.

1. 40m. Climb the gully to a cave. Step left and continue up a vegetated groove to the terrace below the headwall.

2. 50m. Move left, and climb the groove-line and hanging slab to easier ground and the top.

### **BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche:**

*Hot Toddy* – VI,7. J. Currie, G. Robertson. 31st January, 1998.

1, 2. As for summer. There was a trickle of ice in the summer crux crack.

3. 20m. Climb straight through the bulge above the belay, then traverse hard left along a giant flake to step down and belay below a short icy corner.

4. Climb the icy corner and continue up the obvious icy line to the top.

### **Coire an Dubh Lochain:**

*Alpha Gully* – 70m I. S. Richardson. 13th April, 1997.

The gully to the left of Central Rib.

**Note:** The current guide confuses the whereabouts of routes on the left side of the coire. According to Mac Smith's 1961 guide, the rib between A Gully and B Gully is called Winter Rib. Central Rib lies farther left.

*Beta Gully* – 80m II. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 11th January, 1998.

The gully between Central Rib and Smooth Buttress. In early or late season, this sports a thinly-iced section at one-quarter height.

*Smooth Buttress* – 110m III,4. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 16th January, 1998.

The short but prominent buttress on the left flank of the upper section of A Gully as mentioned in Mac Smith's 1961 guide.

1. 35m. Climb turfey grooves and cracks just left of the crest to a belay in a triangular alcove.

2. 25m. Pull straight out of the alcove (crux) and continue up to a slot on the left. Ascend a short chimney to the top of the buttress.

3. 40m Finish along the snow arête to the cornice.

### **Garbh Choire:**

*Laminated Crag* – IV,4. B. Findlay, G. S. Strange. 24th January, 1998.

The original summer route was followed for three pitches with no real difficulties after the initial flake which was climbed *à cheval* to belay in a rock crevasse. A short wall into a niche led to a stepped groove and easier ground. A handy snow arête led through the large cornice.

### **GLEN SHEE, Creag Leacach (Sheet 43, MR 157 748):**

*Singapore Blues* – 15m H. Severe. J. Lines. 14th June, 1997.

A small, slabby buttress lies just down from the main summit ridge. The route climbs direct up the slab on good rock.

### **COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:**

*The Smooth Groove* – 100m IV,6. R. Webb, N. Stevenson. 13th December, 1997.

The smooth groove on the right-hand side of Pinnacle Buttress. Harder than it looks. Finish up the Buttress.

*Anchor Route Direct* – 120m III,4. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 14th December, 1997.

A good direct route up the front face of the buttress. Start at the foot of the rib, just right of Anchor Gully.

1 and 2. 60m. Climb the left side of the rib for two pitches to a terrace. Belay below the centre of the upper tier directly in line with the groove between the 'twin arêtes' at the top of the buttress.

3. 30m. Continue up the stepped shallow corner to the foot of the twin arêtes.
4. 30m. Climb the groove between the arêtes to the top.

### **Spider Buttress:**

*Flying Saucers* – 55m E5. W. Moir, T. Rankin. 27th July, 1997.

1. 35m 6a. Start up the initial crack of The Fly to gain the left arête of the wall. Climb the arête to its top. Continue up the bold scooped slab-rib rightwards to a horizontal break. Step right to reach a short crack which leads to a belay.
2. 20m 4c. Go directly up from the belay to climb flakes up the slab above.

*Bolero* – 50m E5. W. Moir, T. Rankin. 27th July, 1997.

1. 30m 6b. Start up the initial corner of 'the big low-angled corner', then pull into the small left-facing corner on the right which leads to the PR on The Skater (the peg is worthless, but other gear, including a 1 1/2 Flexi Friend can be arranged). Step up, then reach left to climb the arête (crux) to a ledge. Continue up the easier arête above to a belay.
2. 20m 5c. Traverse 5m right and pull over the overhang via a flake layaway. Climb the hanging slab to the top.

### **BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Mor:**

*Liaisons Dangereuses* – 80m V,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 30th November, 1997.

The groove system on the left flank of She-Devil's Buttress. Start in Great Gully opposite Cherokee Chimney.

1. 40m. Climb a slab and shallow groove to 5m below a roof. (Much of this section banks up in late season). Step left on to small triangular ledge, move up, then cross back right to enter second groove above the roof (crux). Climb easily up to a ledge and belay.
2. 40m. Climb the steep wall up and right then continue straight up to join the final groove of She-Devil's Buttress, Original Route.

*Fantasy Rib* – 80m IV,5. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 23rd November, 1997.

The prominent right edge of the Tiara buttress. Start 10m up Bunting's Gully on the right side of the rib.

1. 50m. Climb a short wall to enter a turfy corner system. Follow this just left of the crest (well right of Tiara) to a good platform overlooking Bunting's Gully.
2. 30m. Turn the steep final tower by an awkward wall on the right, move back left, and continue up the short final arête to the top.

*Daddy's Gone A-Hunting* – 60m III,4. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 22nd March, 1998.

A short, mixed climb up the inverted triangular headwall between the Left and Right Branches of Bunting's Gully. Start 40m up the main gully at the foot of the Left Branch.

1. 25m. Trend diagonally right up an open groove to a ledge.
2. 35m. Move right along the ledge for 3m and climb a steep right-facing groove to the cornice.

### **Coire Bhrochain, Braeriach Pinnacle:**

*Left Face Route* – 140m IV,4. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 6th April, 1998.

A route up the left side of the front face of the buttress, finishing up Original Route (summer). The face has a big slabby area capped by steep ground. Start at the base of the diagonal line of South Face original (some 30m left of South Face Direct, see

below). Go diagonally rightwards to enter the slabby area, then back left until below a cave. Traverse left to pass the steep ground and climb a steep corner about 5m right of The Lampie. Original Route, which comes in from the left, has now been joined. Finish by it, rightwards then up a shallow gully.

**Note:** The most likely line of the 1970 winter route (in which case South Face is a misnomer) was from Slab Terrace up The Lampie but finishing as for this route – Original Route (summer).

*South Face Crest Route* – 140m IV,4. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 13th December, 1997. Keeping as near as possible to the vague crest of the buttress. The 1970 route followed the original summer route. Start about 20m left of the base of East Gully. Climb the first and largest groove (left-facing corner) left of the crest for two pitches to regain the crest. Now cross the 1970 route to follow grooves just right of the crest to the headwall which was climbed at its left side (although the first step was passed by the 1970 route on the left).

*South Face Direct* – 140m IV,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 7th February, 1998. Probably the route followed by the direct summer version. Start about 10m left of Crest Route and climb a shallow chimney to the diagonal line of the South Face original route. Cross this and climb a groove which leads into a big left-facing corner which lies just left of the crest. Climb the corner with two loops out left to finish up the final chimney of Original Route.

*Titania* – 110m IV,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 31st January, 1998.

A groove system on the right side of the Ninus buttress. Start in a bay right of the toe of the buttress. The groove starts from the top of the bay, then angles left (with one short difficult section) to reach the plateau at the same point as Ninus.

### **CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Cliff:**

*Jumping Jupiter* – 50m E2 5c. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 22nd August, 1997.

Climbs cracks in the left side of the Time Traveller slab. Start about 5m up the overhung ramp of Poison Dwarf at a small grass ledge and block close under the right-bounding wall, gained by climbing fairly easily up Equinox and Poison Dwarf or by a 50m abseil from the top of the wall.

1. 20m 5c. Step up the ramp, then traverse right through the leaning right wall to a crack, climbed to an easing in angle. Go up right to a corner, then traverse back left to the crack. Climb the crack to belay below where the corner curves over to become a roof.

2. 30m 5c. Climb the crack through the roof and continue up it to flaky ground leading to the top.

*Bedsnake* – 90m VI,7. A. Powell, A. Benson. 25th January, 1998.

The following seems only to be new for the short groove on pitch 1 and the last 25m. Start 7m left of Guillotine at the foot of the parallel fault (Nathrach Dubh).

1. 40m. Take a 5m left-slanting groove (Nathrach Dubh), but continuing past blocks to the left-hand of two grooves in the rock rib on the left (Pythagoras takes the right-hand one). Climb the left groove stepping right just below the crest.

2. 15m. Move up corners under the headwall to belay at the far end of the large platform.

3. 35m. Take the prominent right-slanting crackline heading up to the blunt nose on the skyline (started up by Snake Charmer). At 20m an easier line leads left towards Snake Charmer. Instead step right and follow the crack to its end under the top block and make a hard exit left to finish.

*Guillotine Direct* – 100m VII,7. A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 29th December, 1997.

An exciting direct finish up the headwall. The lower chimney was climbed direct to the amphitheatre, probably the normal route these days (30m, 25m). The direct continuation is blocked by an overhanging wall, passed on the left. Left of the wall is a sharp V-trough. Having failed to enter it direct (would be better), a turf line 1m left was climbed curving back right to the headwall just above the trough, followed by a descent into the trough (peg *in situ* for second). An inset slab led up right to reach the crackline above the overhanging wall. This was climbed steeply to a chimney with a chokestone, which was threaded from behind (with a 16ft sling, used for aid) and leading to an easier finish.

### **SHELTER STONE CRAG:**

Andy Cave's partner in the free ascent of winter Citadel was J. Jeglic. Sadly, he died at the top of Nuptse, having completed the first ascent of its West Ridge, the route twice tried by Mal Duff and mentioned in Mal's obituary (SMCJ 1997).

### **STAG ROCKS:**

*Gable End Buttress* – 180m IV,6. G. Ettle, K. Grindrod, J. Lyall. 8th January, 1998. Climbs the centre of the buttress which contains The Tenements. Start on the right.

1. 30m. Trend left on easy but slabby ground to a vegetated fault in the middle of the second tier. Another similar fault to the left is Tenements.
2. 35m. Climb the fault to a step right at a large block. Easier ground leads to the next steepening.
3. 40m. Move right to gain a slabby fault on to the big leftwards ramp above. Climb a bulge, then move hard right to small ledges.
4. 35m. Climb up and right over steep blocks to gain a small chimney-corner. Climb this exiting rightwards.
5. 40m. Ascend the final tier by cracks on the right.

### **COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:**

**Note:** E. Brunskill and A. Clarke made a 20m direct start to Melting Pot – more logical and V,7 in December, 1997. Go straight up from the start of No Blue Skies taking the right-hand of two parallel cracks directly into a small corner/chimney which then leads into the high left-hand sided corner of the normal route. A line leading left into the first corner has probably been climbed before.

*Pot Doodles* – 45m VS 4c. I. Taylor, J. Lyall. 18th August, 1997.

Right of Yukon Jack is a thin crack leading to a corner line. Climb this and the continuation above the Haston Line to finish on The Slant.

*Bethel* – 45m E1 5a. J. Lyall, I. Taylor. 18th August, 1997.

Start right of Pot Doodles. Climb the right-hand of two cracks to an overlap. Go right, then climb another crack to The Haston Line. The climbing is now very good, but bold. Gain a wide V-scoop, traverse left to the left end of an overlap, then up on pockets before a thin move right gains a crack. Follow this to finish on The Slant.

### **Aladdin's Buttress:**

*Snowy Owl* – 20m E4 6a. I. Taylor, H. Burrows-Smith. 21st July, 1997.

Start left of Babes in the Wood at an A-notch in the roof. Bold climbing gains a jug at the apex of the roof (RP3 at back of jug). Pull on to a slab and follow a thin crack left of a pink streak (Fr2). Move up and right past the top of the pink streak to gain Babes in the Wood and finish up this. Easier for the tall.



*Ali Baba* – 30m VII,7. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 4th February, 1998.

Follow the summer line generally with good protection to start, then the rock quality and protection decrease but the interest does not (skyhooks helpful).

**Note:** Edgewood – J. Lyall notes that the last pitch is more than 50m and should be split (5b 4c).

### **Fiacail Buttress:**

*Men in Black* – 50m VI,8. G. Ettle, M. Garthwaite. 31st January, 1998.

This route climbs the wide corner-crack between Straight to Jail and Houdini.

1. 15m. Start up Escapologist for 10m, then move right to a left-facing corner-crack.
2. 15m. Ascend the wide crack past two essential chokestones to an easier finish and good ledge.

3. 20m. Move right into Houdini. A wide crack splits the wall on the right (Fiacail Buttress Direct). Climb the thinner crack on its left to the Terrace.

*Men in Red* – 70m III,6. G. Ettle, M. Garthwaite. 31st January, 1998.

This route ascends the ramp line above the start of Polar Crossing.

1. 20m. Climb the easy initial ramp to a recess.
2. 50m. Move a few metres above the belay to cross the overlap left via slanting cracks (crux). Climb the obvious continuation groove line direct.

**Note:** Smokestack Lightnin': A. Mullin and A. Nisbet made a free ascent on 23rd December, 1997 at an unchanged grade. The original route was followed except for a first pitch independent of Fiacail Buttress, which also climbs the bay and groove as for Smokestack original ascent. Start at the same place but go immediately left about 5m to climb a long right-facing corner to the main ledge system. The route is now independent of Fiacail Buttress until the final chimney and was thought to be worth one star at least.

*Invernookie, Georgian Variation* – IV,5. S. Elisashvili, L. Griffin. February, 1997.

Not very independent but climbed when all other routes were busy. After the first step of Invernookie, move up right and take a narrow ramp above Invernookie leading to the Short Circuit belay below the corner. Go left as if for its arête variation but step left again and up to join Invernookie 5m below its top.

### **COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.1 Buttress:**

*Coronary Bypass, Direct Start* – 20m VI,7. A. Mullin, M. Macdonald. 8th March, 1998.

Start 7m left of the chimney-crack start and climb a slabby corner and overhung wall with a crack on its left.

*Inventive* – Diff. A. Mullin, S. Paget. March, 1998.

By the winter route.

### **No. 2 Buttress:**

*Nivalis* – 80m III,5. A. Fyffe, B. Barton. January, 1998.

Lies between Snow Bunting and Crows Nest Crack. Start about 10m below the dead-end left-hand branch of The Couloir. Move left and climb a fault in the edge of the buttress and continue up and left into a big snow bay, common with Snow Bunting. Exit the bay on the right and go back left with the crux gaining ledges leading to easier ground and the top. It is possible to go right before the hard move and join Crows Nest Crack making the grade an easy III.

**No. 3 Buttress:**

*Migrant* – VS 4b. A. Mullin, J. Maybee. 27th September, 1997.

A summer ascent by the original winter line.

*Stagefright* – 40m VI,7. G. Ettle, R. Milne. 25th January, 1998.

Climbs a fault line on the extreme left of the pillar between the Y-gullies, facing the left branch. Start up and left of Grumbling Grooves in the gully bed.

1. 20m. Climb the fine crack on the right wall to a point where it widens (big gear). Step left into a steep leftwards crack to reach a ledge (Hex 10).

2. 20m. Ascend the wide crack-fault above to reach good ice leading direct to the top.

**No. 4 Buttress:**

*The Millennium Line* – 120m VII,7. G. Ettle, M. Garthwaite. 7th February, 1998.

This line climbs between the starts of Western Route and Sidewinder, up the left side of the steep wall to gain the obvious flying groove. Start at a short wall.

1. 20m. Ascend moderate ground rightwards to a ledge. Gain a short tricky groove above (poor peg) to a long stretch right and an even steeper groove (good peg). An awkward bulge leads to a flake belay.

2. 20m. Move rightwards to arrange protection near a large plaque. Swing left into a flying groove and ascend to belay on Sidewinder.

3. 20m. Climb the corner above direct to easy ground.

4. 60m. Finish up Sidewinder.

**NORTH EAST OUTCROPS**

*With page reference to the guide.*

**THE LONG SLOUGH, The Inlets of the Red Rocks (p38):**

*Self Abuse* – 20m E3 5c. T. Rankin, A. Cow. Summer, 1997. Belay on the ledge of Vibrator. Climb the obvious corner right of Vibrator to the top.

**SOUTER HEAD (p52):**

*Karma Souter* – 10m E2 5c. W. Moir, G. S. Strange. 21st March, 1998.

Climb the thin crack just left of Overhang Crack and its continuation. Go diagonally leftwards across the impending headwall to reach the top.

**BUNSTANE WALL (p55):**

Abseil to a south-facing ledge on the mass of rock joining the cliff to the Bunstane itself.

*Bun-Puncher* – 20m E4 6a. W. Moir, P. Allen. 2nd November, 1997.

Go up into the central black corner, pull left into a subsidiary corner, then move up and back right to the top of the black corner. Continue up to a PR under a roof. Climb the roof and follow left-slanting grooves to the top.

*Bun-Fight* – 20m E3 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 2nd November, 1997.

Start as for Bun-Puncher and gain the big shelf on the left. Climb the obvious black corner line, step right and finish by grooves.

**FINDON NESS (p104):**

Down seawards from Gronk is a recessed area of rock characterised by a central alcove capped by a big double roof.

*Guru* – 18m E3 5c. W. Moir, G. Elrick. 24th April, 1997.

Start up the corner line running up the left side of the alcove, then traverse a horizontal break leftwards to gain a crackline which is climbed to the top.

*Brahma* – 20m E3 5c. W. Moir, G. Elrick. 15th May, 1997.

Start beside *Guru*. Climb up and left to gain the obvious handrail. Go left on this, then climb up to gain the start of the diagonal crack which leads to a junction with *Guru*. Follow *Guru* to the top.

*Halo* – 22m E5 6a. W. Moir, G. Elrick. 24th April, 1997.

Start in a small cave and zig-zag up the streaked wall to gain the arête running up the right side of the alcove. Move round right on a horizontal break and continue up via a black streak to finish up the gold-coloured bulges above.

### **DOWNIES STACK (p109):**

*Laa-Laa* – 10m E2 5b. W. Moir, M. Levack. 15th October, 1997.

Climb the overhang just left of Black Napkins, then go leftwards to a perch on the arête. Finish up the hanging groove above.

### **FLOORS CRAIG (p119):**

*The Louisville Lip* – 16m E6 6b. W. Moir, R. Buchanan. September, 1997.

Climb *The Manassa Mauler* to its final peg (nuts in crack to right). Move right to a big jug and forge up the overhanging wall to finish by a juggy prow.

### **JOHNS HEUGH (p136):**

*Arrhythmia* – 25m E6 6b. W. Moir, P. Allen. 11th October, 1997.

The thin crackline between Jaded Ledge Lizard and Veinspotting (which is E5 6b, not E4 as in SMCJ 1997). One PR *in situ*, 00 Quadcam required.

### **COLLIESTON, Smugglers Cliff (p141):**

*Man Friday* – 15m HVS 5a. T. Rankin and partner. Summer, 1997.

Start right of Robinson Crusoe. Climb the left of two shallow corners and the groove above.

### **HARPERS WALL (p158):**

Rock Mushroom: A direct finish at marginally harder E2 5c by M. Reed.

### **THE OUTPOST (p160):**

All the routes here suffer from slightly crumbly rock, especially lower down, but gear is generally good.

*Ultra* – 20m E5 6b. M. Reed, A. Crofton. 10th June, 1997.

Left of Parallax Crack are twin cracks. Start left of Parallax. Climb broken steep cracks up to a sloping ledge on the right (Rock 1,3 on right), slap left to a crack, then move left and up a yellow crack above on the right of the headwall.

*Interstate* – 25m E4 6a. M. Reed, G. Robertson. 10th June, 1997.

Climb Parallax to the break. Traverse right to the soaring overhanging arête, climb cracks up to a sloping ledge just left of the arête, swing around the arête and finish up the east-facing wall. Perhaps E3 5c.

*Freestate* – 25m E4 6a. M. Reed, M. Bruce. 9th June, 1997.

Climb cracks up to the roof as for Outrider, move left over the roof and climb up to the arête and finish as for Interstate.

*M and M's* – 15m H. Severe. M. Reed, M. Bruce. 9th June, 1997.

This climbs cracks on the left, curving up and around the main headwall, up a corner on the left. Some loose rock remains.

**ALLIGATOR RIDGE (p188):**

*Simon Goes East* – 25m HVS 5b\*\*. M. Reed, S. Christie. 9th August, 1997.

Climb Black Wall to the break, traverse right across Slim Jim and Seapod (above the pod) to join Encore above the ledge and finish up this (may be E1).

**RED WALL QUARRY, Bridal Cave (p192):**

*Family Life* – 45m E3 5c\*\*. M. Reed, G. Robertson. 29th August, 1997.

Climbed on sight. Start right of the Bridal Cave.

1. Climb into and up an obvious groove to attain a standing position. Place good, well extended gear, then move left on to the face above the cave at the very obvious flake-line. Climb the flake across the centre of the wall to a large fist-sized pocket. Climb up the left of two grooves to a ledge and belay. A brilliant pitch.

2. Climb the line of least resistance above (about 4a), then up grassy grooves to the top (no belay).

*The Heighlist* – 15m E2/3 6a/b. G. Robertson, M. Reed. 31st August, 1997.

This route is on the north-facing, south wall of the old quarried area, below a huge boulder in the SW corner. Climb cleaned cracks to a small slab below an obvious small horizontal roof. Reach over the roof to gain the crack in the corner above (crux), climbed to the huge boulder. The split grade is due to the crux being desperate for vertically-challenged people.

**MUNICH BUTTRESS (p199):**

*United Germany* – 20m E5 6b. W. Moir, P. Allen. 12th October, 1997.

Nazi-swine linked with Munich Buttress Direct Finish.

**MEAKIE POINT (p221):**

*Tax Collector, The Rebate Finish* – E1 5c. M. Reed.

Go straight up the short overhanging crack where Tax Collector goes right.

**HERRING COVE (p228):**

*Tom the Cabin Boy* – 25m HVS 5a. T. Rankin, M. Reed. 2nd July, 1997.

Left of Captain Pugwash is a short wall and slab. Climb the left end of the wall on to the slab, go up this to easy ground (possible belay), then up the left of two chimneys.

**HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**

Future policy is to include routes in the New Routes Section even if they will appear in a new guide that year (or have appeared). But this guide is the last under the old policy, so the following are not in Highland Outcrops:

**GLEN NEVIS, Secretaries Buttress:**

*Colours Blue and Grey* – 30m E3 5c\*\*. G. Latter, C. Prowse. 11th July, 1997.

A bold pitch up the right edge of the Upper Tier. From the belay at the end of the second pitch of Vincent, start up the initial crack of that route, then make hard moves up right to gain a standing position on a good ledge. Continue up the wall to gain a diagonal crack beneath the top, and follow this leftwards to pull out right on to a flake on the slab. Easily up the edge of the slab to finish.

**MALLAIG CRAGS, Druim Fiaclach:**

**Approach:** Take the A830 to Mallaig. Pass under a viaduct a few km after the Lochailort pub. About 200m after this viaduct (at MR 726 844) turn right and park near to the road opposite a wrecked boat. The three peaks of Druim Fiaclach are

now visible and the face is the farthest peak of the three. Walk up a ridge on the left of the small glen with the electricity poles. Continue up the hill to a face with a distinctive chockstone-blocked crack (not the same as Charles Crag, despite the chockstone). Both climbs take you to the summit of the mountain. Descent is made by the steep gully to the left of the face.

*Big Boots and Denims* - 90m VS. B. Wilkinson, R. Boakes. 17th October, 1997. The crest of the buttress.

*Back to Work* - 90m HVS. R. Boakes, B. Wilkinson. 17th October, 1997.

The wall on its right.

### **Gleann Mama Slabs (MR 737 846):**

This sprawling, slabby schist crag is well seen from the A830 Fort William-Mallaig road, approximately three miles west of Lochailort. Park just before the railway viaduct near the end of the private access road leading to Glen Mama Farm. Walk past the farm for a few hundred metres, before heading diagonally right up the hillside to reach the crag in about 20 minutes. The crag is south-facing, reasonably quick-drying and divided into two sections by a shallow gully. The following routes are located on the large left-hand section which is characterised by a series of small arch-like overlaps. About 30m up and left of the lowest rocks is a steep undercut wall containing a quartz band. The first route starts at the left end of the wall below a small ramp.

*Scooby Dubh* - 55m HVS. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 12th April, 1997.

1. 30m 5a. Climb the small ramp for 2m, then pull out right onto a steep slab below a deep crackline splitting the wall above. Climb the crack (crux) and mantelshelf onto a ledge. Traverse hard right across a large slab to belay.

2. 25m 4c. Pull out right, then climb straight up to a short corner high on the right. Climb the corner to finish up a quartz-studded slab.

Above and right of the undercut wall is a steep, black wall. Right again is a small heather terrace running rightwards. The following route starts just below the terrace, at the left end of a narrow ledge.

*Underneath the Arches* - 55m VS. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 12th April, 1997.

1. 35m 4c. Traverse right along the narrow ledge to reach a prominent clean slab. Climb the slab direct by some shallow grooves to belay below a small nose.

2. 20m 4b. Climb the nose, then slabs to finish. Belay on the left.

### **Black Cliff:**

**Approach:** Take the A830 to Mallaig. Turn left three miles from Arisaig at the Druimdarroch signpost opposite two cottages (Quality Cottages, MR 687 849). Follow the single track road for 1km approx to a dead-end and park by the shore. Follow the coast westwards for 1km to the cliff (MR 677 837). For a stay, there is a bothy another 750m round the coast with a superb location perched on the edge of a cliff. The routes are located to the left of a corner which separates the two main faces of the cliff and which has a big tree at two-thirds height.

*Dragons Blood* - 20m E2. B. Wilkinson, R. Boakes. 12th July, 1997.

Start about 5m left of the corner. Climb through a low roof and a stepped one above to finish direct.

*Boakes Route* - 20m E2. B. Wilkinson, R. Boakes. 12th July, 1997.

Start about 8m further left to climb through a roof above and left of the low roof, then past the left end of the stepped roof to finish slightly rightwards.

*Soiled Denims* – 20m E1. N. Foster, B. Williamson. 31st January, 1998.

Start just left of Boakes Route and take a fairly direct line passing left of all the roofs.

### **DUNTELCHAIG:**

**Note.** R. Webb and A. Keith made an ascent of Drum, possibly Scotland's only I,6, I,4 if trees are allowed.

### **STRATHNAIRN, Skyline Slabs:**

These are seen in profile above the Tynrich Slabs.

*Quaker Slab* – 18m VS 4b. C. and S. Steer, J. and K. Bolger. 18th June, 1996.

In the centre of the slabs are two large flakes. Climb on to the left flake and up a short crack to a ledge. Step left on to a cleaned slab and go up to a ledge. Finish up the slab above.

*Sans Grimp* – 10m HVS 5a. C. and S. Steer, J. and K. Bolger. 18th June, 1996.

At the right-hand side of the crag is an area of short slabs. This route climbs directly to the cleaned slab and up this, via a short bulge.

### **BEN VRACKIE (MR NN 974 646):**

A small SE-facing schist crag, about 40 minutes from the A924 Pitlochry to Braemar road. There is scope for numerous other lines.

*The Inveterate Liar* – 15m HVS 5a\*. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 2nd May, 1996.

The prominent steep crack up the right edge of the steep isolated buttress on the left side.

*Dr. Luthers' Assistant* – 20m E3 5c\*. P. Thorburn, G. Latter. 2nd May, 1996.

The square-cut arête on the highest section of the crag, gained from the right.

### **WEEM CRAGS, Weem Rock:**

This route, the most obvious line on the crag, was accidentally left out of the new guide.

*Back to Basics* – 25m H. Severe\*\*. G. Nicoll, M. Nicoll, W. Wright. 26th August, 1997.

Start 2m right of the arête and climb the prominent crack and groove line. At the overhang, move right and climb another groove to the top.

*Every Last Drop* – 15m 7b. R. Anderson. 26th October, 1997.

Climb to the fourth bolt on One Peg One and pull up left to climb the leftmost line of bolts

### **Aerial Buttress:**

*Saving up for a Rainy Day* – 20m E5 6a\*\*\*. G. Latter, R. Campbell. 31st August, 1997.

Excellent sustained well-protected climbing, taking the obvious challenge up the centre of the very steep left wall. Climb the immaculate steep finger crack to a break at its top. Move out left along the break and up to good holds, then climb the flange to a good nut placement in quartz near the top of the flange. Climb the wall above slightly rightwards on thin slots to gain good flat holds at a small ledge. Stand on this to finish more easily.

**Note:** Direct and independent start – E3 6a. A. D. Robertson, P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 31st August, 1997.

The thin hanging crack-line on the left side of the front face. The crack was gained boldly from the left by stepping off the boulder.

## BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

### **BEN NEVIS, Number Three Gully Buttress:**

*Gargoyle Wall, Summer Route* – 120m VI,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 22nd February, 1998.

A complete ascent of the summer line provided five excellent and sustained mixed pitches. Previous ascents avoided the first two pitches by traversing right from the top of the icy groove of Thompson's Route.

*El Niño* – 80m III,4. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 14th March, 1998.

The short buttress right of Winter Chimney. Start below the right side of the buttress and climb a wide stepped crack for 20m until a ramp leads back left to the crest. Follow this easily to the cornice.

### **AONACH MOR:**

*Saints Slip* – 150m II/III. D. W. M. Whalley, S. Coleby and party. 22nd December, 1996.

This is the first icefall 15m left of Smoking The White Owl. Start by taking the left fork at the base of Smoking The White Owl. Follow leftwards, then right taking the line of least resistance. Never steep, but tricky brittle bulges are encountered.

### **Coire an Lochain, North-East Face:**

*Homo Sapiens* – 60m IV,4. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson, D. Hood. 25th January, 1998. Climbs the left side of the barrel-shaped buttress containing *Homo Robustus*. Start just left of the toe of the buttress and climb into a large recess. Pull steeply out left to gain a groove splitting the left side of the upper buttress. Climb the groove (50m). Easier mixed ground leads to the cornice, sometimes large (10m).

*Sideline* – 90m III. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson, D. Hood. 25th January, 1998.

The wide fault-line between Riptide (and the unnamed Grade III groove just to the left) and the slabby buttress defining the southern edge of the corrie. Forms almost a gully in its upper section. Climb a narrow groove on ice to reach the upper gully (45m). Climb a groove on the right side of the gully to below a large cornice. The cornice was outflanked by a long leftwards traverse (45m). Climbed in thin conditions; the lower section may bank out.

### **Twins Area:**

*Siamese Twin* – 120m IV,5. M. Pescod, T. Barton. 10th January, 1997.

Start at the foot of Left Twin.

1. 30m. Climb the narrow groove on the right side of the main gully of Left Twin, hard up against the right wall of the gully, to a snow bay.
2. 30m. Continue up the groove to a steep bulge on the right; pull round this on the left and belay 5m higher at rocks on the right.
3. 60m. Easily to the top.

### **AONACH BEAG, North Face:**

*Sellout Direct* – IV,4. R. Webb, N. Wilson. February, 1998.

The original Sellout starts from the left-hand end of the large ledge from which Stand and Deliver starts (hence the name). The direct line climbs directly to the left end of the ledge via a chimney which cuts through the steep wall below it. This is right of Camilla and changes the route from mediocre to good.

**MOIDART, Sidhean Mor (Sheet 40, MR 729 866):**

*South Ridge* – 300m II/III. B. Wilkinson, N. Foster. 14th January, 1998.

Following the A830 to Mallaig, park at the sharp corner just before Beasdale station. Walk up Glen Beasdale for just under 2km where the obvious south ridge sweeps down off Sidhean Mor into the glen. Follow the broad ridge crest to the summit.

**An Stac, North-West Face (Sheet 40, MR 763 793):**

From Inverailort, climb over Seann Cruach to the col between it and An Stac. This is the obvious deep-cut gully which runs to the summit of An Stac.

**CARN LIATH (near Creag Meagaidh), Coire nan Gall:**

Winter routes have also been climbed here by S. Jenkins, A. Cain, C. Dale and parties. Descriptions have yet to be received but may coincide with the following. This is a relatively low-lying crag barely breaching the 900m contour. The crags line the east face of the corrie (similar avalanche risk and cornices to Creag Meagaidh). Wait for a good freeze and if blessed with snow down to the road, a ski approach, but more importantly a ski return, has much to commend it. Later in the season the crag is largely banked up. The undeveloped nature of the crag means there is ample turf on most of the routes and take a wire brush to clear the lichen when rock climbing. The rock is largely slabby and appears good.

**Access:** Park in the roadside carpark (MR NN 525 894) on the A86 Laggan Road, half-a-mile west of the closed Kinlochlaggan filling station. Take the forestry track on the north side of the road, follow the right fork under the telegraph wires, past a Larch plantation to a second more youthful Sitka plantation. At its north-east corner, a magnetic bearing of 300° takes you across rough country into the corrie. A six-foot deer fence leads into the corrie and terminates at the bottom of Room to Roam slab, the southerly point of Ann's buttress, amid a boulder field – two hours if under soft snow. Alternatively, from a sharp bend on the A86 at MR NN 513 887 at the road stream junction. Follow the west bank of the stream to a deer fence and follow to the foot of the crag (SMCJ 1993).

There are four buttresses. As there did not appear to be any names associated with them, the first has been christened No.1 Buttress, the next Jolly Buttress. The large intervening gully between these two gives an easy descent before the cornice builds up. The third and largest buttress is Ann's Buttress which merges into Waterfall Buttress farther right and contains all of the recorded climbs. The last buttress is No.4 Buttress. The South Face, which starts at the large slab high on the left at the back of the corrie, is shorter and more broken with no routes apart from The Boulevard, the shattered ridge two-thirds of the way round the Corrie, used for descent.

**Ann's Buttress:**

*Room to Roam* – 100m EI. (see SMCJ 1993). Takes a wandering line up the middle of the cleanest slab of rock.

*Turfinator* – 200m II/III. C. Jones, A. MacDonald. 2nd January, 1995.

Start 4m left of the gully of Crampoff Corner. Ample turf. The slabs were covered with powder snow on the first ascent.

1. 40m. Move 10m up over broken rock to a gully then over a bulge and up.
2. 25m. Continue up slabs trending gently right.
3. 25m. Move out left on to slabs, then straight up.



4. 30m. Continue over the steepening slab to a shallow corner, climbed to 12m up.
5. 30m. Using the edge of the corner, move up bare slabs then a corner to broken rocks above. Easier ground leads to a good spike and the belay block of pitch 4 Crampoff Corner.
6. 35m. Easy steep ground leads to a block belay (under snow later in season).
7. 35m. Continue over the cornice.

*Edge of Emotion* – 165m HVS 5a (two points of aid). C. Jones, A. MacDonald. 28th September, 1997.

Start at foot of Ann's Buttress immediately left of the large intermediate slab and the corner line of the winter route Crampoff Corner and right of the line of Turfinator. This is about 100m right of Room to Roam slab.

1. 25m 5a. From talus, climb the buttress directly moving up awkward grooves to a wall. Move up and trend right to sloping holds and pull strenuously over a bulge on to the arête (two points of aid). Continue to a thread belay. Alternatively, go left at the foot of the wall, move awkwardly on to an easy slab and follow a deep crack directly to the arête (30m 4a).

2. 25m 4c. Follow the obvious exposed edge (nice pitch).

3. 15m. Continue up the edge, move left on to the slab then on to vegetated easy ground.

4. 30m. Move together up easy ground to foot of the next slab.

5. 30m. Climb on to the slab and move left to climb a corner. The top half of the slab can be turned on the left.

6. 45m 4c. Scramble 40m left over easy ground to the obvious upper slab. From the middle of the foot of the slab move left up a thin groove, then go boldly straight up a shallow crack to a comforting right trending ramp. From the top of the ramp move left on small holds to finally teeter onto the summit plateau. (See article, this issue.)

*Crampoff Corner* – 200m II/III. C. Jones, A. MacDonald. 12th December, 1993. Start at the toe of Ann's Buttress immediately left of the large intermediate slab but right of the buttress, 100m right of the start of Room to Roam. The first pitch could be avoided by traversing in from a shallow gully on the right.

1. 45m. Climb the excellent corner to a cave belay in the left wall.

2. 40m. Move up the corner for 4m, then move out right on to a right-trending slab and continue to a small bay on the left wall.

3. 40m. Continue up the easing ramp for 6m then into an easier gully.

4. 45m. Finish up the gully and on to easier ground at the top of the buttress. Easier ground leads to the cornice (70m).

*Direct Variation* – 220m III. C. Jones, A. MacDonald. 12th December, 1993.

1. Climb Crampoff Corner to the cave.

2. Move up the corner for 4m, then continue directly up the steep corner (crux).

3. From the belay move up over broken rock and slabs.

4. Join the gully of pitch 4 Crampoff Corner.

*Waterfall Buttress* – 120m II. (see SMCJ 1993). Approx 300m beyond Room to Roam slab is a large gully/recess containing a waterfall high up on the left. The route climbs the buttress left of the waterfall.

*Jambo* – 120m II. A. MacDonald, C. Jones. 8th March, 1997.

On the extreme right flank of Ann's Buttress a steep, shallow gully or groove soars straight up to the plateau. The gully is right of the line of Waterfall Buttress. Just right of the last main area of rocks of the Buttress start up steepening snow.

Continue with a deviation to the left to avoid rocks and over bulge to rocks. Continue up the easing slope to the plateau.

### **BEN ALDER, Garbh Choire:**

*Bloody Noise* – II. J. Davis, N. Johnstone. No date. A left-slanting line from the lowest point of cliff. Follows a groove for a pitch, then two more pitches to a snow bay. Finish by the second groove from the right out of five.

*Thick Lip* – 70m III/IV. N. Johnstone, J. Davis. No date. On a small cliff right of the South Buttress. A deep-cut icy gully about midway along the cliff.

### **MONADHLIATH, Geal Charn:**

The following were climbed by C. Dale and E. Todd in February, 1996. A Grade I on the crag above Lochan a' Choire and below Beinn Sgiath. An open groove in the centre of the crag below Geal Charn (MR approx. 566 986) which leads into an amphitheatre and two subsequent branches, both Grade III. The left-hand has a cave pitch and the right an icicle. On the right corner of the crag (MR 567 988) is a twisting gully with several short pitches, Valentines Gully, Grade II. These were combined with a good one pitch icefall (Grade III) situated just under the plateau to the north beyond a snow gully (MR 565 989).

## **GLEN COE**

### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Slime Wall:**

*The New Testament* – 135m E4\*\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 6th August, 1995. A superb route, one of the best in Glen Coe, taking a direct line up the entire cliff.

1. 25m 4a. As for Shibboleth to belay below the Apocalypse corner.

2. 27m 6a. Climb the corner above for 6m (initially as Apocalypse), then follow a little stepped overlap going left to enter an obvious groove (the slim, hanging groove immediately right of the Shibboleth groove). Negotiate the 'slime factory' and enter the groove. At its top move right into a wet corner. Climb the corner and its right edge (there is another slim corner to the right again which you enter towards its top). Climb the mossy thin cracks (probably the Apocalypse crux) to belay on the left.

3. 27m 5c. Climb up and left from two fingers of rock (forming a V) and climb a slim groove to a 3m tapering crack cum groove (also taken by Nightmare Traverse and Apocalypse). Climb the crack and instead of following the obvious line of stepped holds going up and rightwards (Nightmare Traverse and Apocalypse), trend left and follow a shallow groove cum rib which becomes parallel and close to Shibboleth's 4th pitch. This leads to the right side of Shibboleth's isolated overhang. From a juggy handrail, climb the wall above and enter a small left-facing corner to reach a ledge and belay on Apparition.

4. 27m 5c. Step right and climb two thin tapering cracks to a ledge. Go up and right to a sloping shelf leading to the right edge of this steep section of cliff. Climb up and left to a square-cut hold, then continue to a good side-pull beneath the bulge. Move left and join Shibboleth True Finish at the traverse into the hanging groove. Belay on the edge above.

5. 27m 5c. Halfway along the belay ledge, climb a brown streak to gain an obvious stepped right-trending crack. Climb this in a fine position to easier ground.

**Note:** D. Cuthbertson notes that the FWA of Guerdon Grooves did not involve any leader falls (The note in SMCJ 1997, p347 being wrong) and that other than an ascent of the summer line 10 years' previously, the climb was not inspected.

**Cuneiform Buttress, West Face:**

*The Mighty Atom* – 90m E2/3\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 7th August, 1995.

A satisfactory dry solution to the unclimbed corner between Ba's and Lift Off. Start immediately left of the corner.

1. 25m 5c. Move up and left quite boldly to beneath a small overlap to reach good holds and protection in a vague horizontal break. Continue left into a groove. Climb this (hollow) and boldly move left to easier ground before going back up and right on excellent rock. Follow a crack rightwards into an overhung corner and protection. Cross the silver/grey wall (crux), then move back right to the base of an obvious bottomless corner. Climb this in a fine position to a good ledge and belay.
2. 50m 5a. Step left from the ledge and ascend a protectionless wall going leftwards to easier ground. Climb the open corner of Lift Off to a belay on the left.
3. 15m 4b. Step right and climb the steep ribbed wall to the top.

**Coire na Tulaich, Blotch Buttress (SMCJ, 1997):**

*Dodgy* – 35m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 1997.

The arête right of The Shield. Climb up and right to a ledge on the right side of the arête. Move left around the edge and up into a recess. Step right and climb the edge to the top. To descend, traverse left and locate the top of the corner with the *in situ* abseil gear.

*Crack Cocaine* – Possibly E2.

*A Friend in Need* – 30m E3 5c\*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 1997.

The wall between Crack Cocaine and Slack Alan looks mossy but the main holds were brushed on abseil. Bridge up the pinnacle onto the wall and follow holds which lead up right towards Crack Cocaine where it seems sensible to step right and place a wire before moving left to a small recess, poor gear. Awkwardly move up using a suspect hold to better holds, (Friend 2 in small slot) and stretch up out left to a large pocket (good gear), then continue to the top just right of Slack Alan. Abseil descent from the *in situ* gear.

**Note:** A new description of Symbiosis (Creag a' Bhancair) provided by D. Cuthbertson at E8.

**GEARR AONACH, West Face, The Hamlets:**

These terraced walls of excellent rock are situated opposite and at a slightly higher level than the East Face of Aonach Dubh. They are clearly seen from the approach path to Stob Coire nan Lochain and easily reached from the path in about 10-15 minutes. They receive the late afternoon and evening sun which makes them an ideal venue for an evening's cragging. The best approach is to continue a short distance from the stream crossing to the East Face of Aonach Dubh and then strike obliquely left to the foot of the wall. To descend from Yosemite Wall, either traverse a long way right, cross a shallow gully and scramble down to a boulder field before cutting back left under a long mossy wall or, abseil from one of the birch trees overhanging the top of the square recess.

**Yosemite Wall (see also SMCJ 1996, p100):**

This is the obvious overlapping wall at the lower left hand end. Bounding this wall on the right is a square recess which contains two obvious cracks on its back wall (unclimbed as yet and often wet). To the right of the recess the crag continues as a long mossy wall which with a bit of gardening should yield some pleasant routes. The first described route climbs the relatively steep slabby south facing wall to the

left of the aforementioned cracks. The wall is characterised by overlaps at one third and two-thirds height, the second overlap being considerably larger.

*Magnitude* – 40m E5 6a\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, C. and R. Anderson. 25th June, 1995. Easy climbing for 6m leads to the base of a shallow left-facing groove, usually wet at the start. There is a more prominent corner to the left. Climb the groove (spike runner on the left wall), which is only adequately protected, to a rest beneath the right side of the overlap. Pull leftwards round this to attain a more comfortable position and good protection. Follow the thin crack with increasing difficulty culminating in a bold move going left beneath the top overhang. Finish up an easy groove.

*Rock Lord* – 25m E7 6b\*\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, R. Anderson. 26th June, 1995.

In the centre of the overlapping wall, an obvious short, right-facing corner provides the only weakness through the lower overhanging barrier, the line of A Sweet Disregard for the Truth. Start 4m to the left of the corner at an undercut cave, usually wet for the feet (mat useful). Difficult initial moves reminiscent of limestone lead to an *in situ* peg runner (can be stick clipped). Continue up and rightwards on good holds to a break level with the top of the aforementioned corner. Move left and go up to another break where some protection can be arranged. Protected by an assortment of cams and small wires, continue up the impending wall on undercuts to the final bulge (cams). Pull over the bulge (crux) and bend slightly left to a break. Now go up and right on mossy rock to a hollow flake. Step left and up to a tree belay.

### **Avon Walls (SMCJ 1996, p101):**

The following climbs lie on the upper right-hand wall of excellent rock situated above the descent to Yosemite Wall. It is best approached by either climbing a route on Yosemite Wall, followed by a scramble from the left to reach a tree-lined ledge or by climbing a route on the cliff directly below the wall or by reversing the descent route to Yosemite Wall. The best descent is to abseil from a sling which was left on a spike at the top of Multitude (please leave).

*Multitude* – 24m E3/4 5c\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George, R. Anderson. 1st July, 1995.

In the centre of the steepest part of the wall, an obvious slim right-facing groove peters out 6m up and bends right as a curving overlap. A fine pitch, bold and quite sustained. Climb the groove to the overlap. Pull out left via a pinch hold and continue left to the base of a shallow groove. Go up and right to the base of a thin crackline (it is now possible to step right to a foot ledge and protection). Continue directly to a ledge and belay.

*Avon Calling* – 27m E3/4 5c/6a\*. D. Cuthbertson, B. MacMillan. VJ day, 1995. Start to the right of a shallow groove at a prominent finger crack opposite a stunted rowan tree. This is to the right of Multitude. Slightly contrived but worthwhile. Climb the crack to a junction with VJ Day. Step left and climb the right-leaning overhanging crack (protection is awkward) until possible to step right on to a block. Climb the undercut groove above to join VJ Day and continue up the pleasant wall above.

*VJ Day* - 27m E1 5a\*. D. Cuthbertson, B. MacMillan. VJ day, 1995.

Start 5m to the right of Avon Calling at a shallow groove leading to a small overlap at 5m. Climb the groove which is unprotected, then trend left and up to an undercut block. Continue into the left side of a large scooped area and exit by a steep cracked

groove. Now trend leftwards to a ledge and belay (the initial crack of Avon Calling would be a better protected start).

### **AONACH DUBH, Lower North-East Nose:**

*Supernova* – 48m E6\*\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. August, 1994.

Excellent climbing between Freakout and Spacewalk. Start as for Freakout.

1. 18m 5b. Pull out rightwards from the base of Freakout's initial groove and climb the centre of the wall going rightwards to join the last couple of moves on Spacewalk.

2. 30m 6b. Climb the thin crack leading to the right side of the Freakout alcove. Undercut the flake rightwards and pull up into a scoop. Clip an old peg runner above and slightly to the left of the Spacewalk groove, step back down to the scoop, then ascend going leftwards (bold) to a good hold at the foot of a thin crack. Climb the fine crack to the top overhangs which are turned via a rib on the right. Continue diagonally rightwards to a ledge and tree belay at the top of Crocodile.

### **East Face:**

*Bivvy Wall* – 45m E3\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, P. Moores. August, 1994.

A more attractive route than The Fly but equally serious. Start to the right of Anonymouse, just right of an obvious crack. Climb the wall (without using the crack). Now make an awkward move up the arête, then trend slightly right to a scoop (poor wires and spike). Climb the wall above to gain a line of holds trending slightly right. Easier climbing leads to a ledge.

### **West Face, B Buttress:**

*Bumblebee* – 140m V,7. P. Moores, A. Nelson. 6th March, 1998.

Climb the summer line in three pitches.

### **STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN:**

*Innuendo, Direct Finish* – 50m V,6. N. Wilson, S. Campbell. 9th March, 1997.

Possibly done before, this direct finish climbs the line of stepped grooves/chimneys above the awkward chimney of the second pitch.

2a. 25m. At the top of the awkward chimney, climb straight up to the base of the leftmost groove/chimney system.

3. 10m. Climb straight up until it is possible to step left into an overhung bay.

4. 25m. The overhanging chimney above, exiting over the capstone onto easy snow slopes leading to the narrow gully above the crux pitch of Scabbard Chimney. Short but strenuous. Pitches 3 and 4 were split in order to reduce rope drag.

### **BIDEAN NAM BIAN, West Top, Bishops Buttress:**

*The Gallery* – 80m IV,5. R. Hamilton, S. Kennedy, A. Nelson, M. Thomson. 1st February, 1998.

Takes an exposed diagonal line leftwards across the buttress immediately left of the deep gully of The Fang. Start just below the narrows of The Fang. Climb out left along narrow ledges to a wide snow shelf below the steep upper wall (45m). Continue up leftwards to below a steep wall near the edge. Climb the wall for 3m, then traverse left along a narrow ledge in an exposed position to finish (35m).

*Parthian Shot* – 90m V,7. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 8th March, 1998.

The first obvious open groove-line 25m left of The Gash. Sustained in the lower part. Make a rising leftwards traverse from the foot of The Gash to reach the wide ledge which girdles the face. Climb directly up the steep open groove to reach the

easier upper groove-line (45m). Ignore a ledge system leading out left and continue up the steep groove on the right, over an obvious bulge, to reach easier ground. Finish just left of the top of The Gash.

### **STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, West Buttress:**

*Grand Mal* – 55m HVS 4c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 20th July, 1997.

Climbs the steep clean slab between the winter routes Team Machine and The Gathering. Reasonable climbing but sparsely protected. Start at the lowest rocks and climb a clean slab to a grass ledge at the foot of the main slab (10m). Move leftwards to the edge of the slab overlooking the chimney of Team Machine. Climb close to the edge a short distance, then move diagonally up rightwards across the slab, then directly to reach easier ground. Belay by the large block belay on the ledge above (The Junction). Abseil descent from the block.

### **The Sphinx:**

*Direct Route* – 205m IV,7\*. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 28th December, 1997.

A winter ascent of the Direct Route for which a more accurate description follows. Sphinx Buttress has a stepped appearance with its upper section being set back to the right. The lower section is formed by a steep wall overlooking the gully (Cleftweave) and Pyramid Buttress to the right. Just to the left is a blunt crest, then an area of easier ground beneath the most distinguishing feature forming the left side of the buttress, a steep wall cut by a number of wide faults/chimneys. The Ordinary Route climbs the easy ground, slanting up right beneath the steep wall. Direct Route takes the blunt crest to the right. Climb NW Gully to a short leaning wall just below Sphinx Buttress proper.

1. 45m. Traverse out left around the edge to climb a chimney groove, crack and steps, then trend up right to belay beneath a groove in the blunt crest of Sphinx Buttress.
2. 40m. Climb the groove for 5m, step left and climb an open groove to a large ledge. Above is an obvious clean-cut groove, the right wall of which the summer route climbs – the groove will go in winter but the turf will have to be frozen. Instead, step left and climb grooves running up the left side of the steeper rocks, then go up right to a large ledge on the crest.
3. 50m. Above is a prow of rock, to the left of which is the recessed area beneath the steep faulted wall marking the left side of the crag. To the right of the prow is a wide fault. Part of the next pitch is common to the Sphinx Buttress Ordinary Route. Climb short steps to enter the fault from the left, then climb a short chimney and move right to a shallow recess at the right side of the fault. Pull out of the fault using a pinnacle flake, then climb diagonally up right to belay beneath an obvious corner.
4. 20m. Climb the corner, the crux of the summer route, to a belay at its top.
5. 50m. The buttress above is split by a fault, enter this from the left and climb it to easy ground. A couple of easier pitches lead to the top of the buttress. A choice of lines can be followed to the top. On the first ascent, having crossed the neck behind the buttress, an obvious ramp cutting up left, just left of a steep narrowing in the gully, then a groove, led onto the upper buttress where easy ground eventually leads to the top of Stob Coire nam Beith. The Ordinary Route is likely to be IV,5.

### **AN T-SRON, East Face:**

The following routes are located on the excellent slabby wall described in SMCJ 1996, p104.

*Halcion Daze* – 55m HVS. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 29th May, 1997.

Takes a direct line up a vague flake line on the upper wall, just right of the black groove of Coco Leaf.

1. 40m 4c. Climb the initial hanging corner followed by Poppy Straw. From the top of the corner climb up and diagonally left to the grass ledge directly below the black groove.

2. 25m 5a. Move horizontally right to a deep pocket. Climb the wall directly above by way of a flake on the right (always right of the black groove). Finish in the large recess at the top of the slab.

*Angel Dust* – 60m HVS. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley, D. Hood. 20th July, 1997.

A direct line up the right portion of the wall. More direct and better than Poppy Straw, which it joins near the top.

1. 35m 4c. Climb the slab directly between the hanging corner of Poppy Straw and the corner of Coco Leaf to reach a prominent flake at 6m. Climb the flake, then directly up the slab above. Belay on the right below the upper wall (as per Poppy Straw).

2. 25m 5a. Move back left for 2m and climb a crackline to reach a prominent roof near the top. Surmount the roof (joins Poppy Straw) at the right end by a deep crack which is followed to the top.

A prominent hanging slab is situated high up, left of the black groove of Coco Leaf. The following routes congregate on the slab and follow three obvious crack systems. All are worthwhile and on excellent rock. It is possible to climb the routes in one long pitch but probably better to split as described.

*Great Expectations* – 46m HVS. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 28th June, 1997.

Start 2m left of the initial hanging corner of Poppy Straw at the left end of a small overlap.

1. 30m 5a. Climb a thin crackline to easier ground. Move up leftwards, close to the edge of the slab, then move straight up to the grassy ledge below the black groove (shared with Coco Leaf).

2. 16m 5a. Climb the obvious cleaned crackline up leftwards for 6m to a narrow ledge. Continue above in the same line following the incipient crackline to the top.

*El Fatso Finish* – 10m HVS 5a. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 28th June, 1997.

A good alternative finish to Great Expectations. Follow Great Expectations to the narrow ledge on the second pitch. Instead of climbing the crack above, traverse right for 2m to reach a left-slanting parallel crack system. Climb the cracks to the top.

*The Chic Finish* – 10m E2 5c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 9th July, 1997.

Another good alternative finish to Great Expectations. From the narrow ledge on the second pitch, traverse left for a short distance until below a prominent thin crackline. Place gear low down on the left near the edge, then move back right into the crack. Follow the crack throughout, avoiding the temptation to move left to the edge near the top.

**Note:** The description for Coco Leaf (SMCJ 1996, p104) is misleading. On the first pitch, a long leftwards traverse is made to the left edge of the slab after the initial corner is climbed. Also, the top pitch of Poppy Straw is 25m - mistake in SMCJ description.

*Codeine* – 30m VS 4b. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 29th May, 1997.

The following route climbs the area of clean rock a few metres right of the initial

corner of Coco Leaf. Take a fairly direct line up the centre of the slabby wall. Poorly protected. To descend, traverse up and right by grass ledges to join the normal descent.

### **ALLT DOIRE BEITH:**

On the South side below the HVS crack (which is a very good wee route done by the Squirrels) and Mouldering and Smouldering is another crag.

*Sin Nombre* – 25m HVS 5b. D. Gunn, P. Mills. April, 1997.

Climb the central diagonal crack after a difficult start, to a small dead tree. Continue past this using the crack and a parallel groove to the top. A wee gem.

*Sertire* – 20m E2 5b. D. Gunn, M. Tennant. May, 1997.

Just left of the groove of Sin Nombre on a white piece of rock are two thin cracks. Climb to the thin crack just left of Sin Nombre to a small overlap and horizontal crack with a runner at 10m. Move up and right past the dead tree and finish up the groove.

*Ascoltare* – 20m E2 5c. D. Gunn, M. Tennant. May, 1997.

Left of Sertire is an obvious deep groove and crack with two down pointing spikes. After a difficult start climb the crack past the two spikes (5c) to a block with a good hand jam behind. Finish strenuously up the deep groove to the tree.

Slightly farther up the Allt doire Beith from the crag with Ascoltare etc. but on the same side is a bulging crag on the south side. The crag is split by a deep crack which is hidden by trees. This good little route follows the crack.

*Inertia* – 15m HVS 5a. D. Gunn, M. Tennant. May, 1997.

After a difficult start, climb the steep crack on good holds to a birch tree and top. Well protected.

Above the Allt doire Beith facing west is an extensive area of crags low on Beinn Fhada. The left side of the left crag forms an arête before easier and more broken ground. The following route has been done. The rock is good and clean the holds accommodating and the situation superb.

*Alan's Arête* – 55m H. Severe. D. Gunn, M. Tennant. May, 1997.

Left of a thin crack is a booming flake with a ledge and flange going up the wall on the left. Mantelshelf on to the ledge and make a long reach to good holds. Continue to a belay at 20m. Continue up the crest on good holds to a block belay at 30m.

### **AONACH EAGACH, Gleann a' Chaolais (Loch Leven):**

On the north side of Stob Coire Leith (Aonach Eagach) is a hanging corrie called Coire na Steill. The water draining from this corrie spills down quartzite slabs reminiscent of An Steall in Glen Nevis, though on a smaller scale. In cold conditions this waterslide offers one of the most accessible winter climbing venues in the area. Park just east of Caolasnacon and follow a path on the north-east side of the Allt Gleann a' Chaolais. (J. Grieve is known to have climbed here some years ago, so the line described is probably not original.)

*Morning Glory* – 90m IV. A. Wielochowski, D. N. Williams. 3rd January, 1995.

Climb easily up introductory slabs right of centre and head for a wall on the right to find a belay. Make an awkward move to gain a higher slabby ramp, and traverse hard left across the main water channel. Make some steep moves just left of this channel to reach an easier section of streamway. Traverse hard left and find a way down some distance east of the waterslide.



**Meall Dearg:**

D. N. Williams notes that a very striking gully cuts into the north-west flank of Meall Dearg (Aonach Eagach). Several fierce pitches discourage investigation in summer, but in lean winter conditions the gully is sure to offer good sport. Although it is known to bank out in a good winter (Grade I), it is strange that such a major feature has not been described previously. It is approached from Gleann a' Chaolais.

**BEINN A' CHRULAISTE (Glen Coe guide, p273):**

In cold thin conditions the various watercourses on the south flanks of the hill give pleasant ice climbing – MR 246 561. Both routes are clearly visible as watercourses from the Glen Coe road. Some harder icefalls to the left (west) of the following have been climbed by A. Spink and parties.

*Highest Gully* – 350m II/III. P. W. F. Gribbon, P. J. Biggar. 30th January, 1995. The gully which finishes nearest the summit. Continuous water ice and one (avoidable) blocky buttress pitch at the top.

*Candlemas Gully* – 300m II. P. J. Biggar, P. W. F. Gribbon. 2nd February, 1995. The next gully to the right.

**BEINN BHEITHIR:**

*Dog Leg Gully* – 120m II/III. D. Gunn, A. Nelson. December, 1995.

Left of the large central gully on Beinn Bheithir on the face overlooking Ballachulish is an ice fall which after 90m enters a chimmney. Exit near the top of the south east ridge.

*Ramp Line* – 60m II. D. Gunn, J. Greive. November, 1996.

From the coire under the summit of Sgorr Dhonuill an obvious ramp line runs up to a steep exit near the summit. Contains a short steep ice step early in the season and has a steep corniced exit late on. An attractive easy route to the summit from Glenachullish.

*Sunset Fall* – 60m III. D. Gunn. November, 1996.

At the foot of the western descent gully into Glenachullish on the east side is a prominent ice fall coming off the edge of the buttress. Climb the fall direct to the ridge.

**GLEN ETIVE, Creag Charnan:**

This crag lies some 3km up Gleann Charnan from Invercharnan. It can be seen from the Glen Etive road in the vicinity of MR 478 143. It consists of baked mica schist very like the Polldubh crags in Glen Nevis. Although much of the crag is rather vegetated the line described is on relatively clean, sound rock. The crag is south facing and hence catches the sun. (The party set off with the intention of winter climbing, but couldn't find a parking space in Glen Coe!) Follow a track through the forest on the east side of the Allt Charnan. Exit from the forest and continue northwards. Cross the Allt Charnan and head up the hillside to the centre of the crag. *Foxtrot* – 105m VS 4c. S. Abbott, D. N. Williams. 21st February, 1993.

Follow a central line in three pitches. Protection is sparse. The second stance is taken by traversing left to a corner. The third pitch starts with an awkward overlap and finishes up a short steep wall by a fence post.

**Trilleachan Slabs:**

*Paddington Bare* – 105m E2. M. Pescod, A. L. Wielochowski. 27th May, 1997.

This route climbs the cleanest line on the left of the start of Claw. Start at the lowest slabs left of the coffin stone, 20m left of the start of Claw, 2m below an overlap and right-facing groove above.

1. 25m 4b. Climb the overlap and right-facing corner-groove for 10m, move up and left to a spike on a horizontal break.
2. 45m 5b. Go straight up the middle of the slab with a blank section at 20m providing a purely friction crux. Go slightly right to runners, back left to the top left of the slab and a small tree above.
3. 35m 4a. Go left for 4m to heather, climb up and left around a bulge to belay on a large heather ramp. To descend, scramble down the heather ramp.

*Bitten by the Bug* – 110m HVS. A. L. Wielochowski, M. Pescod. 27th May, 1997. Finds a way through the steep walls left of the main slabs. From the foot of the lowest slabs, down and left of the coffin stone, a prominent red corner can be seen in the steep walls and containing a large holly tree. Start by scrambling over steep heather to the corner and belay at the tree.

1. 30m 5a. Climb a groove in the rib on the right of the corner (behind the holly) until possible to traverse left to ledges. Go up to an overlap and left to the base of the upper slabs.
2. 40m 4a. Climb the slabs above, following the cleanest line to a heather break. Belay 5m above, right of a steep wall.
3. 40m 5a. Climb a quartz band in a steep clean slab to easy slabs above, not well protected.

*Penguin's Paradise* – 180m H. Severe. A. L. Wielochowski, I. Munro. 26th May, 1997.

This route finds a way up the steep walls half way between Bitten by the Bug and the main gully to reach the pleasant slabs above. Start at the left end of a very steep section of wall about 40m right of the descent gully and at a spike below an overhang.

1. 30m 4b. Move up and left, then climb walls trending left to avoid difficulties to just below an obvious oblong overhang and the easy slabs.
2. 30m 4a. Step right under a roof to clean rock leading to a fine sweep of slab. Go straight up via a faint groove to a diagonal slot.
3. 30m. Regain the groove, then traverse right just below a heather terrace to gain a big tree at the left end of the walls above.
4. 20m. Move 3m right of the tree, then straight up the steep walls to ledges. Move right.
5. Go up slabs to the next heather terrace and a niche on a comfortable rock ledge below a roof.
6. 30m 4c. Go awkwardly up through a break in the overhang and up a steep unpleasant wall (this pitch is optional and best avoided). Walk off left to the descent gully.

### **The Right-Hand Slab (p303):**

Situated about 300m right of the main slabs. The following route starts just right of Comatose (described as Nausea in the guide) and takes a direct route up the slab, left of centre.

*Confusio* – 75m E1. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 27th September, 1997.

Start near the right edge of the base of the slab, just right of Comatose.

1. 25m 4b. Climb the slab to the left end of a small overlap at 5m. Continue up and slightly right to a larger overlap.

2. 50m 5b. Surmount the left side of the overlap, then climb cracks to reach prominent veins running across the slab at 30m. Follow the veins rightwards, then go straight up by a crack and slabs to a tree. Abseil descent from the tree.

**Note:** (from S. Kennedy). Comatose does not correspond in any way with the vague description originally given for Nausea. Comatose is a diagonal line for the most part and is almost certainly an independent route.

**Note:** Beinn Trilleachan: (note by D. N. Williams): There is a note in SMCJ No. 165 (by I. Rowe and G. Tiso) concerning The Chasm of Beinn Trilleachan. It states: 'This remarkable rift is the right-hand branch of a gully system some two miles beyond the Etive Slabs. There are no unavoidable difficulties...' The chasm is identified in the current Central Highlands District Guide as 'the right-hand fork of a gully divided by an obvious dark tongue of rock (Teanga Dubh)'. Although this feature (Teanga Dhubh on O.S. maps) is exactly two miles beyond the Etive Slabs, the right-hand fork of the gully does not seem to match the original description. It is a moderately interesting streamway (which I ascended a few years ago with Willie Jeffrey), but it is neither a remarkable rift nor a chasm. Having examined a number of gullies on this hillside, I think the most likely candidate for The Chasm is the Eas Doire Dhonncha, which lies a little over one mile beyond the Etive Slabs (2km). The right-hand gully is certainly a remarkable rift. However, Ken Crocket and I failed in an attempt to climb it with full rock climbing paraphernalia in unprecedented drought conditions in September 1996. It would seem that either we have reached a worrying level of decrepitude (certainly possible), or The Chasm has changed in character over recent years, or it is somewhere else. I would be interested to hear of any other opinions regarding The Chasm's whereabouts.

### **ARDGOUR, Garbh Bheinn, Bealach Gully Buttress:**

*Eye of the Beholder* – 55m E1. R. Pringle, M. Reynard. 24th May, 1997.

Opinions of the first ascensionists were divided as to its merit, hence the name. Vast quantities of loose rock cleaned on ascent. Start a long way right of Garnet at wet niche between short white wall split by obvious left-slanting crack and pinkish wall.

1. 35m 5b. Start below the groove, and go up the sharp, left-slanting crack (like a handrail) to easier ground. Traverse leftwards following the weakness of a quartz-dyke (some loose rock), then up slightly awkwardly into unexpectedly steep corner, then up wall left of green streak to good belay in a superb position at horizontal flake.

2. 20m 5b. Traverse left along line of hollow flakes to wall on left of roof. Enjoy fine moves up this passing overhang in splendid position (avoid loose rock in chimney), then up arête to top.

*Garnet Groove* – 55m HVS. R. Pringle, O. Metherell. 10th July, 1997.

Slightly loose in places, but considered as good as Garnet.

1. 30m 5b. Follow Garnet to an overhang, then move left and up around the overhang (strenuous) to reach shattered belay stance.

2. 25m 5a. Pull up left around edge into a vile-looking groove. Move blindly left onto the wall, and pleasurably up (good nut) on flake holds, then back into the groove. 3. Climb groove without much difficulty to top (beware loose block).

### **Bealach Buttress:**

*Nice 'n Easy* – 50m V. Diff. R. Pringle, O. Metherell. 10th July, 1997.

A lovely little route which looks VS. Climb the middle of the pink slab then climb

an overhang by a weakness on the right. Trend left to below a second overhang, and pass it to the right. Pad up a slab above and either surmount a third overhang direct, or pass to right – continuing to scrambly ground.

*Sun Fun* – 50m Severe. R. Pringle, O. Metherell. 10th July, 1997.

Go up a corner at the left of the slab, then easily up the wall below an overhang to the left edge. Traverse right below a bulge to the bottom of a triangular second overhang, then up the overhung lichen-streaked wall on the left (wet – one awkward move) to gain the slab above. Go through a second overhang to easier ground and the top. Another enjoyable route. Some loose rock.

### **South Wall of The Great Ridge:**

*Leviathan* – 20m E3 6a\*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell, N. Craig. June, 1997.

The wide overhanging crack right of Golden Lance.

### **ARDNAMURCHAN, Beinn Na Seilg:**

The guidebook mentions three crags, however, there are effectively five; four facing west and one facing south. Some new names are therefore proposed, Eigg Buttress for the first and unclimbed crag, and Rhum Buttress for the section of crag just right of Cuillin Buttress which now has seven routes.

#### **Eigg Buttress:**

The northern-most of the crags is slabby and fairly small, there is a short north-facing slab on the left, from where a wide ledge cuts through the crag to give it a stepped appearance.

#### **Cuillin Buttress:**

A short way to the right and much bigger than Eigg Buttress. At the left side of the crag there are some short slabs. The main crag is formed in two sections with the left-hand portion tapering off to easier ground fairly quickly. A heathery break separates the buttress from the next buttress a short distance to the right. The first few routes lie on the right-hand portion of the cliff.

*Rum Punch* – 50m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 5th August, 1997.

Start beneath a roof at the left end of this section of the crag. Climb to the roof and cross this in its centre by the obvious break. Stand on the block on the ledge above and climb directly up the bold mossy wall and continuation slab – easy but with little gear. Good climbing but could do with a brush/traffic.

Moving right the crag steps up a little at its base.

*Coll of the Wild* – 50m E3 5c\*. R. and C. Anderson. 5th August, 1997.

An excellent route right up the middle of the crag. Start at a pointed ledge beneath a large block some 5m up. Climb directly to the block and on up the short crack above. Step right and climb a thin crack to the base of a right slanting faultline which is followed to the top.

*Cuillin Down* – 50m E1/2 5b\*. R. and C. Anderson. 5th August, 1997.

Start beside Coll of the Wild and climb to the left end of a grassy ledge. Move up, then step right and climb the slanting crack almost to a large V-shaped recess (Grigdale Groove, Severe, SMCJ 187 appears to climb into this groove from the right). Step up left and climb an inclined groove just above the recess to finish up a corner.

#### **Rum Buttress:**

A short way to the right just beyond a grassy break. Formerly described as part of

Hebrides Wall but in reality a separate entity. The lowest part of the crag is narrow with the rocks slanting up rightwards over a grassy spur as the crag decreases in height towards Gabbro Slab. There is a short chimney rock step on the path to gain the top of the grassy spur, beyond which is Hebrides Wall. Just above the lowest rocks is a small roof with a green streak down it. The first two routes climb either side of the roof/green streak.

*Muck Up* – 50m E2 5b/c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 6th August, 1997.

Move up left from the lowest rocks and climb the thin crackline into the middle of the slab and take a line slightly up left to reach easier ground. Belays well back on the right.

*Mull Over* – 50m E3 5c\*. R. and C. Anderson. 6th August, 1997.

Start at the lowest rocks, climb to the roof and move up right to a ledge. Climb the crackline above to the slab, then go up right onto the slabby rib which leads to easier ground and a finish as for Muck Up.

*Skye High* – 50m E3/4 6a\*. R. Anderson. 16th August, 1997.

The blunt buttress edge and the big groove. Climb the edge (small wires) to holds (Rock 4 on right) and continue to the groove which then leads to the top.

*Eigger Sanction* – 50m E3 5c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 6th August, 1997.

Start just around the buttress crest on top of a boulder above the lowest rocks and climb a thin crack (small wires including an RP2) up a grey streak to better holds. A line slants right to Cannaloni, instead step up left and go up the wall above to climb slabby ground just right of the prominent groove. Finish up a slabby rib.

*Barra's Irn Bru* – 50m HVS 4c\*. R. and C. Anderson. 16th August, 1997.

A line immediately right of Eigger's Sanction. Move up a slabby ramp, pull into a shallow groove and take a direct line to the top.

*Sanday Shore* – 50m VS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 16th August, 1997.

The thin slanting crackline immediately right of Eigger's Sanction. Make an extra move up to the top of the blocky ramp and move up to the crack. Follow this and easier ground just left of a wide crack to the top.

*Cannaloni* – 30m HVS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 16th August, 1997.

Start from the top of the grassy spur above the short chimney-rock step in the path left of the heathery crack of Geologists Groove where there is a clean pillar with a crack up its left side (there is another crack to the left). A thin crack springs from this crack some 5m up. Climb a shallow runnel and step left to the thin crack which leads to easier ground and the top.

### **ARDNAMURCHAN, Rubha Carrach (MR NM 461 707):**

A long band of cliff extending leftwards to an impressively overhanging promontary. The rock is a strange pocketed basalt, very reminiscent of limestone in places. A big extensive cliff with much scope for future exploration, definitely 'terrain exploration'. Aspect SW.

**Approach:** From the car park at the end of the road at Sanna, head north towards a ruined cottage, then follow the coast round to the cliff – 35 minutes. Descent: Down the scree-filled gully near the right end of the cliff. The crag generally becomes more impressive from right to left, culminating in a steeply overhanging wall on the point, before degenerating into poorer scruffy ground just beyond a prominent grooved arête. Near the right end is an amazing diagonal fault/gully.

There is a superb cave at the base of this, extending back for about 100m to a small chamber with some fine stalactite formations – take a head torch.

*Nostramo* – 35m E5 6a\*\*. R. Campbell, N. Craig. 29th June, 1997.

Start 100m left of the deep huge cave towards the right end of the crag, beneath a prominent left-trending snaking black dyke. The route follows a direct line cutting through the centre of the dyke, aiming for a shallow left-facing groove above the dyke.

### **THE ARDNAMURCHAN RING CRAGS:**

These descriptions have been organised by R. Anderson, who will write up Ardnamurchan for the next Glen Coe guide, following reports from four different parties. There are rumours of others!

The following crags lie within the volcanic ring-dyke complex known as the Ardnamurchan Ring. The crags are composed of excellent rough gabbro and can all be reached from various parking places within the Ring in the vicinity of Achnaha on the way to the road end at Sanna. Stalking takes place in September and it is best to check the access situation with Mingary House (Tel: 0197 251 0208).

#### **Meall Sanna (MR NM 453 686):**

The lies on the southern side of the road. Approach from the parking place where the road crosses the Allt Sanna at MR NM 458 687. Walk over the bridge and climb westwards up the hillside. The crag, a small clean face, lies south of the summit and is split by a central crack.

*Seaview* – 10m Diff. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 15th June, 1997.

Follow the right-trending flakes, then finish left or right.

*Preview* – 10m VS 4c. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 15th June, 1997.

Takes the obvious central crack. Go over a small bulge and follow the shallow crack to the top.

*Dimview* – 10m V. Diff. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 15th June, 1997.

Follows the broken groove on the right of the crag.

#### **Achnaha Buttress (MR NM 461 697):**

On the north side of the road the ring-dyke continues. The rocky ridge running away eastwards (right) leads over at least three smaller knolls to Meall Clach an Daraich. The first sizeable torr/knoll has a steep south facing wall, Achnaha Buttress. Approach from the parking place at MR NM 458 687, or one a short distance further north.

*Plocaig Rock* – 25m VS 5a\*. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 21st July, 1997.

On the sea-facing end of the crag, start just left of the arête. Climb an obvious crack over a bulge (crux) and continue up a right-slanting crack. Keep left of the arête and finish up a slabby wall. Friends useful.

*Plocaig Walk* – 22m V. Diff. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 21st July, 1997.

Near the right end of the main face is a dark slab below a roof. Go up the slab, then over easier ground to a terrace with a small wall. Go up this via a leaning block to the top.

#### **Button Slab (MR NM 464 694):**

South-west of and situated in front of the 93m high knoll, on which Achnaha Buttress is located, just west of Meall Clach an Daraich is a smaller south-facing buttress with a protruding block (or button) on its face. Routes go from left to right.

*Pash* – 18m Severe 4b. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 22nd July, 1997.

Climb a steep wall 2m left of Mickey (4b, no gear). Trend left to a slanting crack and finish through a bulge.

*Mickey* – 18m Severe. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 22nd July, 1997.

Just left of a grass-filled corner. Go up a steep wall to better holds and continue up a slab (gear on left) through dark broken rocks to the top.

*Ludo* – 18m V. Diff. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 22nd July, 1997.

Start left of Felix and go straight up to a bulge. Move left to a crack and finish up this.

*Felix* – 18m V. Diff. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 22nd July, 1997.

Start 1m left of the base of a diagonal crack. Climb up to a right-trending fault to the 'button', then straight up over a bulge to the top.

### **Meall Clach an Daraich (MR NM 465 697):**

This crag is situated on the south-west flank of Meall Clach an Daraich not far from Button Slab. A fence which runs northwards across the flat, boggy floor of the Ring passes beneath the crag.

*Sanna Ferry Ann* - 15m V.Diff\*. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 20th July, 1997.

On the left side of the crag climb an obvious crack to the top.

*Rum 'n Bata* – 12m VS 4b. J. Stevenson. 20th July, 1997.

Climb the slabby wall towards the right end of the crag on small holds with no gear.

*Noah's Oak* – 12m H. Severe 4b. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 20th July, 1997.

Right again is a Y-shaped crack. Gain the crack and climb it through a slight bulge keeping right.

### **Sgurr nan Gabhar (MR NM 470 698):**

Immediately east of the summit of Meall Clach an Daraich is a knoll of the same height, Sgurr nan Gabhar. A south-westerly-facing crag is situated here, just before the Bealach Mor and the crags on the knolls of Meall an Fhir-eoin.

*Thor* – 50m Severe 4a\*\*. C. Prowse, R. Kerr, G. Latter. 8th July, 1997.

Near the left side of a generally broken crag is a narrow whale-back slab with a prominent left-facing groove and crack up the centre. Scramble in from the left to belay beneath a steep short groove. Climb the groove and pull steeply out left on to the groove above. Up this and continue in the same line to finish more easily up the slabby ridge above.

### **Meall an Fhir-eoin Beag (MR NM 482 699):**

There are two main masses of south-westerly-facing rock on the knoll of Meall an Fhir-eoin, clearly visible on the rim north-east of the farm at Achnaha. The right-hand mass comprises of a series of ribs lying beneath the summit of Meall an Fhir-eoin itself. The second is more obvious and lies a short way to the left on a subsidiary knoll - not named on any map but for convenience called Meall an Fhir-eoin Beag. Approach from the parking place described for the previous crags, or from that for Meall Mheadhoin described later, just under an hour from either. The left-hand section of the cliff presents a flattish frontal face with a smooth wall, set above a slab, as its centrepiece. The smooth wall is cut by some thin cracks, while to the left the upper sidewall is cut by obvious left-slanting diagonal cracks. A thin grassy gully runs up the left side of the main part of the crag. To the right, separated from the lower slab forming the left-hand portion of the crag by a sloping grassy

recess, is a protruding, blunt, leaning buttress. This buttress is cut by a horizontal break to produce a feature resembling Darth Vader. The right-hand portion of the crag is made up of three slabby ribs, topped by a short headwall.

*Crater Comforts* – 60m VS\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1997.

This takes the crackline running up the left side of the crag, immediately to the right of a thin grassy gully, to finish up the obvious diagonal crack in the upper side wall. Start at the lowest rocks beneath the crackline, beside a pointed flake, just left of the edge which turns into a slab.

1. 25m 4c. Climb the crack and its continuation up a whaleback to where it thins to form a hollow flange. Step down and around the flange, then step up right to belay just left of the thin crack in the left side of the smooth central wall.

2. 35m 4c. Step down into the grassy gully and after a few moves pull back onto the rock and climb the side wall to reach, then finish up the obvious left-slanting diagonal crack.

*Volcane* – 45m E2\*\*. J. George, D. Cuthbertson. 3rd August, 1997.

This fine route climbs the obvious crack between Crater Comforts and the smooth central wall. Start just right of the toe of the buttress beneath a crack on the slabby left wall of the grassy sloping recess.

1. 15m 5a. Climb the obvious crack to a ledge beneath the left side of the smooth wall, and continue to the shoulder to the left.

2. 30m 5b. Climb a short steep ramp to a thin break above. Make a delicate step up and go right to a crack leading to a ledge. Continue up the crack and shallow corner to a large ledge below the top.

*Trauma Crack* – 45m E3\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 3rd August, 1997.

The obvious curving crack on the right side of the smooth central wall. Slightly contrived but good climbing. Start as for Volcane and belay down to the left of the crack.

1. 20m 6a. Climb the tapering groove and crack to a point very close to Magma Force (runner). Avoid possible escape on to that route and follow the crack which now bends back to the left (crux) to a ledge.

2. 25m 5a. Climb the continuation cracks and corners (with a tricky move above a ledge) to the large ledge below the top.

*Magma Force* – 50m E2/3 5c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1997.

Start up the sloping grassy recess just right of Trauma Crack at the base of a heathery crack. Step up, then move out left to climb the centre of the slab. Climb the short left-facing corner and continue up the left side of the rib to below a wide crack. An awkward move up a groove gains the crack directly. Climb the crack to a ledge, step up right and climb via short steps and slabs to a short corner leading onto the flat ledge at the top of the crag.

*Vulcanised* – 50m E2 5c\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 4th August, 1997.

A parallel line just right of Magma Force. Scramble to the top of the grassy recess, then go up left to climb the crack and short right-facing corner. Continue up the slabby rib to a heathery ledge and climb a thin crack to beneath a steepening with a thin crack. Climb the steepening, continue above, then step right to finish up the right edge of the crag.

*Night Falls* – 50m E3\*\*. G. Latter, C. Prowse. 8th July, 1997.

Towards the left side of the face is a prominent right-slanting diagonal crack cutting through the steepest section of the crag. Start beneath the centre of the buttress.



1. 25m 6a. Move up and step left past a small juniper bush to a short crack leading up into a niche. Pull out right and over the roof on a superb jug. Continue more easily up the flake-crack, then by a fine thin crack up the slab to belay on a large ledge.
2. 25m 5a. Climb the blunt rib which soon eases.

The next two routes were climbed after the previous route, not knowing of that ascent, and take more direct lines up the buttress, effectively providing an alternative finish and start. All the routes are very good and full descriptions are given to be sorted out at a later date.

*Star Wars* – 55m E3\*\* . R. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson. 4th August, 1997.

Takes the crack up the right side of the Darth Vader feature. Start at the base of the crag well below the crack.

1. 30m 6a. Scramble up grass and rock to climb a short crack leading to the leaning cracked wall. Climb this past a niche into a diagonal break running up right, then step up left and climb a steep crack to a ledge and a belay just above.
2. 25m 5b. Cross the heathery garden above, then climb the centre of the wall to gain and follow a slanting flakeline-cum-crack up right. Finish up a slabby rib.

*Return of The Jedi* – 50m E3 5c\*\* . R. and C. Anderson. 3rd August, 1997.

Climbs the right side of the Darth Vader-like buttress. From the right side scramble up a heathery slab to a steep, stepped groove/crack. Climb this up towards the crack of *Star Wars*, then go up right along a horizontal break to the edge of the buttress. Step right around the edge and make some bold moves to gain the diagonal break coming up from *Star Wars*. Climb the crack just right of the edge and continue to the top.

To the right are three slabby ribs.

*Yir* – 55m VS 4c\*\*\* . C. Prowse, R. Kerr, G. Latter. 8th July, 1997.

Just right of the central grass-filled fault on the first slabby rib is a prominent crack leading up into a slabby groove.

1. 45m. Follow these to a grass ledge at the top of the groove. Move right to the crest, and continue up this past a further break to belay on a large ledge just below the top.
2. 10m. Climb the crack above the belay.

*Minky* – 60m E2\*\* . D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 3rd August, 1997.

A direct line up the first slabby rib just right of *Yir*.

1. 45m. Pull over a small overlap and follow a break slanting up to the left to a junction of cracks with *Yir*. Go up a few feet, step right and take a direct line up the whaleback by some thin and poorly protected climbing. Belay where the angle eases.
2. 15m 4b. Either climb the gully above or move left and climb the surprisingly straightforward crack to the top.

*Up-Pompeii* – 60m E3 5b/c\*\* . R. and C. Anderson. 4th August, 1997.

A direct line up the front of the second slabby rib. Start at the lowest rocks. Gain and climb a crack up the crest of the initial short buttress. Climb a short crack in the left side of the rib and continue up into the centre. Step up left and climb the left side of the rib to easier ground. Continue to the headwall (possible belay), swing left and climb the short crack to a spacious ledge (55m). Climb the short wall above via the obvious step (5m).

*Unnamed* – 55m Severe 4b\*\* . The wide crack up the right side of the second slabby rib, start from a ledge at the base of the crack.

1. 55m 4b. Gain and climb the crack to the headwall (possible belay and escape right at a lower overall grade). Climb the crack in the headwall (crux) and continue to a capacious ledge from where a 5m VS 4c finish (An Deireadh – M. Riley and J. Stevenson, 22nd July, 1997) can be made up the continuation crack.

*An Toiseach* – 50m V. Diff\*\*\*. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 22nd July, 1997.

The crack up the third slabby rib, just left of the arête and right of the heathery grooveline between the ribs, large gear.

1. 30m. Go up the corner to the crack and follow this to a very large ledge.

2. 20m. Continue up the slab behind and left of the belay to the large crack which comes up from the heathery groove-line between the ribs, then climb delicately up the slabs.

*Oswald* – 55m H. Severe 4b. C. Prowse, A. Simpson, T. Harper. 17th July, 1997. Start just right of the blunt rib of the third slabby rib at the right end of the crag. Follow the left-hand of twin cracks for 5m, then move out left to follow another crack and easier ground to finish.

*Tremor Crack* – 50m E3\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 4th August, 1997.

1. 40m 4b. Climb the first pitch of Oswald to a belay beneath a short overhanging crack in the steep headwall.

2. 10m 6a. Climb the steep and strenuous crack to an awkward exit.

*Cuil Iolaire* – 60m VS 4c. C. Stead, J. Newsome. August, 1972.

Follows the longest groove right of a prominent nose in two pitches of 45m and 15m. This is probably the groove left of Yir.

Around the edge, right of the third slabby rib and some 25 up the slope is a short slabby wall with two right-slanting cracks.

*Oisean Bheag* – 20m Severe\*\*\*. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 24th July, 1997.

Pleasant climbing up the corner left of the two right-slanting cracks.

*An Rathad Ard* – 15m H. Severe\*. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 22nd July, 1997.

The left-hand crack starting below a triangular niche leads to a belay below an overhanging wall. Well protected pleasant climbing.

*An Rathad Losal* – 15m Severe\*. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 24th July, 1997.

The lower (right-hand) of the two slanting cracks leads to below the heather ledge and a step left to finish as for the previous route.

### **Creag an Fhir-eoin, or Dome Buttress (MR NM 485 698):**

This smaller buttress with a slabby right face lies 100m right of the main crag. Routes from left to right.

*Claude* – 25m VS 5a\*. T. Harper, C. Prowse. 17th July, 1997.

Start at a large detached flake. Climb rightwards up the flake for 3m to gain the crack and up this to an overlap. Traverse left below the overlap to a steep groove, pulling through this on a 'mega-jug' to finish.

*Greta Gabbro* – 25m HVS 5a\*\*\*. J. Stevenson, M. Riley. 24th July, 1997.

Start at the toe of the slab and head up right to a flake, then go up a left-facing corner to the top. The difficulties increase with height, well protected.

*Canna Do It* – 25m Diff. M. Riley. 24th July, 1997.

The main fault up the middle of the slab. Climb up the grassy crack to a block, then up and right to the arête and straight up a crack to the top.

*Rum Do* – 25m Severe 4b. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 24th July, 1997.

Climb the narrow crack (crux) just right of Canna Do It. Head up to the overhangs left of the arête and straight up a crack to the top.

**Meall Meadhoin, Coire na Raineach: The Apron Slabs (MR NM 496 687):**

Meall Meadhoin is the highest point visible from the road within the Ring, and when viewed from here a large slabby crag can be seen down and to the left of the summit. The slab is some 90m high with its most obvious feature being an overlap/roof part way up, at the left side of the frontal face before the crag turns a blunt edge to form a north facing side wall. The main frontal face presents an apron of slabs facing west into the coire. Descent is best down the left side but can also be made down the right side. The best approach is to follow the footpath which starts from the road at MR NM 469 677 just beyond where the road crosses the Allt Uamha na Muice shortly after entering The Ring south of Achnaha. The path leads to the old settlement at Glendrian. Leave the track and head gradually up east to the slabs which are visible high on the right.

*Dance on a Volcano* – 70m E1\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 17th August, 1997.

The blunt edge formed between the frontal face and the side wall on the left.

1. 45m 5b. Climb directly up the edge just left of Dance on a Volcano and continue up easier ground to a belay.

2. 25m 4a. Scramble up slabs to the top.

*Ne'er Day Corner* – 75m VS\*\*. C. Stead, J. Newsome. August, 1972.

The first half was climbed on New Years Day 1961. The obvious corner and slanting crack leading up and around the left side of the roof, originally graded Severe.

1. 45m 4c. Move up the corner and follow the crack which slants up left towards the edge of the buttress. At the level of the roof, step right and climb a wide crack, then follow the slabby rib to a small stance.

2. 30m 4c. Continue up slabby ribs rightwards to finish on the summit block. Climbed in 1997 by L. Curtis, F. Sadiq and D. Virdee, then R. and C. Anderson all thinking they were first!

*Gift of the Gabbro* – 75m E3\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 17th August, 1997.

The centre of the slab between the corner of Dance on a Volcano and a corner on the right.

1. 45m 5b. Climb the initial wall by a flange and climb the slab to a small ledge occupied by a small boulder. Move up right to a thin crack in a shallow scoop and place the last wire for some distance. Pull out left at the top of the scoop, then go up left to the base of a blind flange. Move right to a thin, blind crack and follow this to a flat-topped spike (sling). Go left, then up to the overlap and pull through this by the obvious flange. Continue for some way up and left to belay on the slabby rib as for Dance on a Volcano.

2. 4c. Step back right into the groove and climb up right to follow a parallel line to Dance on a Volcano, up short walls and slabs. The final short wall is climbed centrally by an obvious ear.

*Dragster* – 50m VS. D. Virdee, L. Curtis, F. Sadiq. 19th July, 1997.

Start below the obvious left-facing corner leading to the roof.

1. 30m 4b. Follow a big crevasse up to the corner made by the overhang and the right slab. Pull up right and over onto the upper slab (hard). Continue up steeper rocks to a dubious block-belay.

2. 20m. Continue up slabs and steeper sections to a terrace.

*Glendrian Corner* – 90m VS. C. Stead, J. Newsome. August, 1972.

Start a few metres left of the diagonal grassy groove in the centre of the crag. Climb a right-facing corner, go left and climb the more prominent second corner. Cross the diagonal groove and gain a slabby faultline which is followed to the top.

*Slanting Groove* – 90m V. Diff. J. Newsome. August, 1972.

Climb the diagonal grassy groove up left to the skyline and climb slabs to the top.

*Leac Glas* – 90m V. Diff. J. Newsome, C. Stead. August, 1972.

Climb the grey rib and slab starting just right of the diagonal, grassy groove. A variation follows the curving fault on the left in the upper section (C. Stead, 1980s).

*Solas* – 90m V. Diff. C. Stead. 1970s. Climb the slabs a few metres right of Leac Glas, keeping right of a curving crack. A variation climbs the two curving cracks on the left (C. Stead, 1980s).

*Gall* – 90m V. Diff. C. Stead. 1970s. At the right side, start at the foot of a short crack which leads to easier slabs.

*Glendrian's Express* – 80m Severe\*\*\*. M. Riley, J. Stevenson. 20th June, 1997. Although probably the same as Solas or Gall this appears a more precise description and is left for someone to check in the future.

1. 25m 4b. Start at the foot of black seepage marks (small flake). Follow the right-slanting crack for 8m (crux, good gear). Trend right and go up to a narrow ledge, then straight up to belay, bold after the initial crack.

2. 38m. Continue up good rock on the right side of the fault to belay on a large terrace.

3. 17m. Finish up the same line on easier ground to the top.

**Note:** On 19th July, 1997 after pitch 1, D. Virdee, F. Sadiq and L. Curtis climbed the loose gully then stepped left onto easier slabs.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### MULL OF KINTYRE, The Jester:

*Bopp Till You Drop* – 60m E2\*. K. Howett, G. E. Little (alt.). 29th March, 1997. Climbs the left-hand section of the wall. Start at the middle of this section at a slight rib to the right of a short corner.

1. 40m 5b. Climb the left side of the rib up to steep rock and a small overlap. Step left and up, past a horizontal crack, on to the clean wall above to be forced to pull right on to a small ledge. Follow the ramp above the ledge until moves left into a short groove lead to easier rock. Climb directly up the centre of the wall to steeper rock and a diagonal break. Pull out right and move up to a heather ledge.

2. 20m 5a. Step on to the clean slabby wall on the right, then climb diagonally up and right, with interest, until an exit can be made up a slight groove.

### Creag na Lice:

*Heaven's Gate* – 30m E3 5c\*\*\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 29th March, 1997.

This excellent route lies on the pale left-hand section of the crag. It contains some serious sections but has improving protection (small Friends) as height is gained. Start right of centre below an obvious left-facing hanging flake (the right-hand of two similar features). Climb up to the base of the hanging flake, then move right to ascend a diagonal, rounded fault to step up on to a narrow ledge below a short blank wall (joining Honeyuckle Wall). Move left, pull up the wall, then move left again to a good rest below another short, blank wall. Step up and right until holds

at the top of the wall can (surprisingly) be grasped. Gain an undercut rounded flake above, then using an obvious pocket, make a strenuous blind move to gain a rest. Move up to a horizontal crack, then follow it leftwards to reach the top.

### **Signal Stack:**

*Splash, Splash, Splash* – 30m VS 4b\*. A. Todd, G.E. Little. 30th March, 1997.

Tackling the seaward face of Signal Stack, this route ascends a broken wall to reach then climb the wide rusty rib immediately left of the central chimney-fault. At times it is possible to traverse in to the base of the route at sea level from the north. However, with seas running or a high tide, a short difficult wall below the north face of the stack must be scaled (5c) before a ledge leads round to the seaward face from where a descent to the start of the route can be made.

### **THE COBBLER, South Peak, North-East Face:**

*Lovehandle* – 45m IV.5. S. Burns, D. Crawford. 28th February, 1998.

A short but good route that takes the parallel crackline 10m to the left of Jughandle. The route is north-facing and slabby in nature which means it is often in condition when many of the south-facing routes have been stripped by the sun.

1. 30m. Climb the off-width crack direct up the slab to reach a belay in a steep corner.
2. 15m. Climb the corner direct over a bulge.

### **BEINN NARNAIN, Crag at MR 275 066:**

The following routes lie on a crag below and to the right of Spearhead Ridge when approaching from Beinn Narnain's SE ridge and at the same altitude as the bealach between Cruach nam Miseag and Narnain's summit slopes. It is east-facing and overlooks Coire Sugach from where it appears to form the east face of the Spearhead Ridge. This is not the case as the path to the summit of Beinn Narnain passes above the crag and between it and the Spearhead Ridge proper. It may, however, be considered part of the Spearhead massif, there being a lot of rock hereabouts. The crag as described consists of three buttresses although further broken buttresses extend to the right. The left-hand buttress is clean, about 25m high and sports a number of thin vertical cracks. To its right is a recess where a steep crack above a cave opens into a deep gully. The next buttress is slightly taller and a little dirtier. It is partially detached from the mountain, being bound on its right by an easy gully which runs up and left into a chock-filled chimney behind it. Right of this gully is a mossy slab with turfy ledges, the location of the winter route 'The Twilight Zone'. Descent from the first two buttresses is best made to the left of the crag.

*Equinox* – 25m EI 5b. J. Love, N. J. Smith. 25th September, 1997.

A very good route of sustained interest on sound rock up the crack system on the right-hand side of the left-hand buttress. Start at the right-hand end of the buttress just before the recess and cave. An awkward start gains a right-trending crack system leading to a small ledge at about 10m. Up and left is another thin crack which leads to the left end of a jutting block. The obvious wider crack above and to the right leads to the top.

*September Song* – 35m VS. N. J. Smith, J. Love. 25th September, 1997.

Start below the centre of the second buttress at the foot of a left-slanting rake. Would benefit from cleaning.

1. 25m 4c. Climb the rake to the foot of a vertical crack which is climbed to an exit right on to a ledge. Above the ledge is an undercut groove which can be climbed direct at 5b or another groove farther right can be climbed until moves left past a shelf lead to an exit on to a large ledge. Belay at a boulder on the left.
2. 10m Climb the blocky arête to the top.

### THE BRACK:

I. and G. Griffiths note that they climbed the direct start to Plunge (SMCJ 1997, p361) on 30th March, 1996 and it appears in the new guide.

### BINNEIN AN FHIDLEIR, Aquila Buttress:

*Thoughtliss Crack* – 18m E1 5b. N. Warnes, N. J. Smith. 11th April, 1997.

The short steep crack in the left side of the buttress is climbed on sharp jugs and jams. Start 5m left of Aquila directly below the crack.

### Central Wall:

Between Witch Doctor and Abyssinia Chimney a smooth wall is capped by an impressive band of overhangs. These are breached in two places, a V-groove capped by a roof shaped peculiarly like giant beetle mandibles on the left and an impending left-facing corner above a deep crack on the right. The following two routes take these features directly. Near the foot of Abyssinia Chimney a grass ledge leads off to the left below a mossy slab. At its left end is a sapling.

*Gorillas in the Mist* – 45m E1 5b\*\*\*. N. Warnes, N. J. Smith. 20th April, 1997. Start 3m right of the sapling. Climb the mossy slab by the cleanest rock trending right to a grassy break. Climb awkwardly over a bulge to gain the upper wall and climb this delicately (and delectably) by a clean strip between two mossy streaks. Step left to gain a shallow recess and bridge up this to the foot of the deep V-groove. Climb through the overhang using the left wall of the groove and finish at the left of 'the beetle'.

*Born Free* – 45m E1/2 5b\*\*. N. Warnes, N. J. Smith. 20th April, 1997.

Start at the right end of the grassy ledge where it joins the foot of Abyssinia Chimney. Ascend the slab trending left to a deep crack leading to the foot of the impending corner (possible belay at top of crack). Bridge widely up the corner until thin moves can be made left to a good foothold on the undercut arete. Continue up the headwall on improving holds to the top.

### BEINN AN DOTHaidH, North-East Coire:

*Pillager* – 165m V,6. A. Powell, R. Cross. 27th January, 1996.

Climbs the ramp on the severely overhung wall right of Haar and Valhalla.

1. 25m. Climb the icefall to where it steepens. Belay on the left.
2. 20m. Step back down, gain and follow the ramp to a steep corner. Cross this to a large ledge 2m up right.
3. 40m. Traverse 5m right and pull steeply up the barrel wall (crux). Head up and slightly right to climb the 4m corner just right of the crest. 4. 5. 80m. Climb easy ground to the top.

### BEN CRUACHAN, Drochaid Ghlas:

*Super Trouper* – 110m V,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 28th February 1998.

A direct line up the right edge of the buttress taken by Gaoth Mhor. Low in the grade. Start 20m right of Gaoth Mhor.

1. 50m. Move up to the prominent corner. Climb this and the wall above to a stance on a horizontal ledge cutting across the buttress.
2. 30m. Move up and right to gain a shallow fault line cutting up the right edge of the buttress. Climb this to a stance on a good ledge as for Gaoth Mhor.
3. 30m. Continue directly up the fault line to the top (to the right of the diagonal line taken by Gaoth Mhor).

### **MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Cam Chreag, Fan Buttress:**

*Floating Rib* – 90m III. K. V. Crocket, R. T. Richardson. 9th March, 1998.

Just left of Turf Going is an easy gully, starting some way up the buttress. Left again is a blunt rib, providing the line of this route. Climb easily to the foot of the rib (the gully starts on the right). Climb up the left flank of the rib to easy ground, then finish up the terminal buttress above.

### **Carlin's Buttress:**

*Oochahoarye* – 60m V,7. A. Clark, E. W. Brunskill. 17th December, 1997.

A fine direct climb taking the parallel groove line left of Witches Brew.

1. 40m. Climb the groove directly through a roof and hanging chimney crack to a large recess below an off-width.
2. 20m. Climb the off-width and continuation corner above.

*Caledonian Cruise* – 90m III,4. S. Burns, D. Crawford. 17th December, 1997.

1. 45m. Start about 10m right of Clark's Gully and climb up steepening mixed ground to the base of an obvious chimney. Good thread belay.
2. 45m. Climb the chimney direct to a squeeze exit (crux). Follow the rib above via a small corner to the top.

*One For The Road* – 50m II/III. S. Burns, D. Crawford. 17th December, 1997.

To the right of Beldame Buttress there is recess of easy ground. Follow this up to the start of a striking chimney/corner line. The line cannot be seen from the corrie base.

1. 30m. Climb the chimney to its end.
2. 20m. Continue right to the top of the buttress.

### **BEN LAWERS, Coire nan Cat, Creag nan Fitheach:**

*Catabridged* – 65m III,4\*. G. E. Little, K. Howett. 11th January, 1997.

This route takes the general line of the icefall that lies close to the left-hand side of the crag and runs up past the left-hand end of prominent roofs. Start at an open groove to the right of a rib, below the line of the icefall.

1. 35m. Climb the open groove for about 10m until a step left on to the rib can be made. Climb the rib to a ledge below the left end of the line of prominent roofs.
2. 30m. Climb two short vertical ice steps (or mixed ground to their left), then progressively easier ground to the top.

## **ARRAN**

### **A' CHIR:**

*The Cave of Adullam* – 175m VS. A. Fraser, D. McGimpsey. 26th September, 1997.

A traditional mountaineering route up the thin buttress between The Minaret and Intruder buttress. Start at the right toe of the buttress, at the start of Imposter Crack.

1. 20m 4a. Climb left, upwards, then slightly right to belay at the foot of a sweep of slabs.

2. 25m 4b. Follow a ledge left across the slabs, then climb the left edge of the slab to a grassy terrace.
3. 30m 4c. Move right for 2m, then up a thin crack to slabs beneath the main overlap. Traverse slabs right for 3m to a spike, then up into a corner above. Climb this for 5m, then follow a crack out left. Belay at the top of the corner. A good pitch.
4. 30m 4a. Move up and left to a bulge, which is surmounted directly to a grassy ledge. Move right and up to belay.
5. 35m. Climb up and right, maximising rock or turf to taste.
6. 35m. Scramble to the top.

### **CIR MHOR, Lower East Face:**

The following two routes were intended for the Arran guide but were sent to the wrong address, so appear belatedly. From the finish of either, an easy traverse leads to the belay above the Y-cracks on South Ridge Direct. From here an abseil down South Ridge Original is possible. Both routes are excellent and Ariel's Arête sounds very similar and predates Squids and Elephants, climbed in 1996.

*Ariel's Arête* – 40m HVS 5b. M. Reynard, D. Musgrove. 6th May, 1995.

To the right of The Crack is an arête split by a prominent flake-crack. Start below this on a grassy ledge. Climb up to the left end of an overhang, pull over and follow the rightwards-slanting flake-crack leading to the arête. Continue up the arête and an easy slab.

*Fox Amongst the Chickens* – 40m E2 5c. M. Reynard, P. Benson, D. Musgrove. 6th May, 1995.

To the right of the previous route is a prominent wall with an obvious pocket high up and three short flake-cracks lower down. Start below the centre of the wall. Climb an undercut corner, then move left and up to gain the lowest of the cracks; climb these to their top. Make a move right, then climb the wall directly, finishing up a short groove.

**Note:** For the sake of historical accuracy in the new guide, Labyrinth, Pinnacle Gully Buttress and Shelf Gully were climbed on 5th February, 1983 (not 7th) and Bypass Route, Stoneshoot Buttress on 6th February, 1983 (not 8th), noting that George Harper was Scottish 3000m champion at the time and was not far off the required distance with his four routes on 5th Feb. C. MacLeod and not MacLean was on the first ascent of Labyrinth.

## **LOWLAND OUTCROPS**

### **GALLOWAY HILLS, Craignelder, Craig an Eilte:**

About 8m right of the prominent tower with the existing guidebook routes is a paler, moss-flecked wall which rises steeply for about 40m. Routes on perfect granite with excellent protection.

*City Bumpkin* – 30m Severe. A. Faulk, M. Harvey. April, 1997.

Start about 8m right of Elite Pinnacle Rib at an open corner. Climb the corner to a ledge. Step left and climb a second corner to another ledge. Move left and climb steep cracks to finish via ledges and large granite blocks.

*Diagonal Route* – 40m VS 4c. M. Harvey, A. Faulk. April, 1997.

The obvious diagonal route rising from left to right. Start about 10m left of an obvious overhang at the base of the crag where there is a stalactite hold. Climb the ramp line rising to the right and where it runs out move directly up via a short crack (crux). Continue straight up to finish via ledges.



**GALLOWAY SEA CLIFFS, Finnarts Point, Main Cliff (SMCJ 1997, p364):**

*Last Night at the Prawns* – 25m E3 5c\*\*. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 14th August, 1997.

An excellent and varied route, no brain thuggery, leading to a delicate and cunning crux. This is the line of mildly overhanging corners 5m right of Edge of the Abyss. The crux is the pale blank corner just above half height, climbed by blindly moving left to easier ground.

*Full Speed Ahead* – 25m E3 6a\*\*. R. McAllister, A. Fraser, D. McGimpsey. 14th August, 1997.

Technical and strenuous, but delicate, with increasing difficulty. Representative of some of the best climbing on the face. To the right of *Last Night at the Prawns* is an uncompromisingly steep wall with a right-trending stepped ledge on its right. The route takes the initial step in the ledge via a wide crack in its corner, then climbs directly, then right to a slim and difficult groove on the immediate right of the uncompromising wall.

*Camp Boss, Can't Cook, Won't Cook* – 25m E2 5c\*. D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns, R. McAllister. 28th September, 1997.

Another good route, protection increasing with height. High in the grade. Start just right of Red, Hot and Blue. Climb up and rightwards with poor gear to gain the obvious crack above (up and left of the big corner of *I Should Coco*).

**MEIKLE ROSS:** Note: M. Reed made the second ascent of *Spectacular Bid* with different gear (particularly without the skyhook) and thought it a superb route, perhaps E6.

**PORTOBELLO, Slab Bay: Changeling:**

The two pegs have been removed, and R. McAllister with D. McGimpsey has led the route at E5 6a. Although the upper crack is the technical crux, it is well protected and the lower unprotected arête now becomes the overall crux.

*Screamadelica* – 15m E5 6a\*. R. McAllister. June, 1997.

Intimidating (with good cause!) and difficult to read. This is the arête to the right of *The Changeling*, starting up *Changeling* and climbing its crux before moving out left on to the arête.

**Main Cliff:**

The Lowland Outcrops guide erroneously describes *Floating Voter* as being to the right of *The Crayfish Twins*, when it appears to lie to the left.

*Monsieur Dubois* – 22m E1 5b. R. McAllister, S. Mearns. June, 1997.

To the right of *The Crayfish Twins* is a leftward-curving overlap, which gives enjoyable climbing. Finish up the top of *The Crayfish Twins*.

**Shark Fin Bay:**

*Buckets of Doom* – 25m E1 5b. D. McGimpsey, R. McAllister. June, 1997.

A good route which will improve with traffic. To the right of *Silence of the Clams* is a corner, on the right side of which is a pocketed wall. Climb the pockets to a large nest ledge, then climb the narrow wall above with difficulty.

**The U-Boat Pen:**

*Paranoid Android* – 6m E5 6b. M. Reed. 7th July, 1997.

At the seaward end of the south wall of the inlet (opposite the main crag) is a short

leaning wall. Climbs the right-hand overhanging crack and groove line above a sloping ledges.

### **LAGGANTULLACH HEAD, Hoodlum Bay:**

The following two routes are situated to the right of The Oyster Thief.

*Sam I Am* – 25m E4 6a\*\*\*. D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns, R. McAllister. 17th August, 1997.

A tremendous route on flawless granite, one of the best in Galloway! To the right of The Oyster Thief is an overhanging wall. This route takes the corner immediately to the right of the wall. Climb the initial corner (crux) to a ledge. Move right for 1m, then climb directly up the wall above until possible to move back left into the corner. Climb up to a roof until possible to swing out left to finish. Climb an easy slab to the top.

*Green Eggs and Ham* – 25m E1 5b\*\*. S. Mearns, R. McAllister. August, 1997.

This fine route takes the tapering steep slab corner, which is the only break in the overhangs. Start 6m right of Sam I Am. Climb the slab corner. At the top move on to the slab on the right to finish.

### **Foam Zawn:**

*Toxygene* – 25m E5 6a\*. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 11th August, 1997.

The arête right of Refusnik, a last great problem. The climbing is good but difficult to read, while the gear is spaced and the upper section somewhat loose. Start to the right of the arête and climb up to a niche, then move left with difficulty on to the arête. Climb up into a shallow corner on the right side of the arête, climb this, exiting left back to the arête. Climb to a wide ledge beneath the final arête, which is loose and 5a, but one can scramble off left.

### **The Auld Ship:**

This cliff is situated about 500m north of the Dragons Cove. From Dragons Cove, continue north along the coast until it is necessary to climb steeply up to avoid a high cove. Descend on the far side of this to the cliff, a narrow arête with a north-facing 25m slab of excellent greywhacke falling sheer to the sea. Access is by abseil. At low tide there are ledges at the foot of the cliff which can be traversed between routes, otherwise abseil directly. Routes described left to right.

*Read the Small Print* – 20m E5 6b\*\*. R. McAllister, S. Mearns. August, 1997.

Technical bridging and udging, gear being good but spaced. The left corner of the cliff, above the cave, divides into two main corners at mid height. Between these is a slab split by a thin blank corner, the line of the route. Due to high seas on the first ascent, the route was started at a niche about 6m below the corner. From here climb the roof into the corner, then proceed with increasing difficulty, using small edges on the right wall of the corner.

*Optical Illusions* – 25m HVS 4c\*. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, S. Mearns. 9th July, 1997.

Fairly steady wall climbing, gear and holds both improving after a bold start. The route climbs the wall between the left corners of the cliff and the obvious central groove line. Start on a ledge up and just left of the central groove line. Move out left, then directly up the wall.

*The Auld Ship* – 25m Severe\*. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 29th June, 1997.

A sheep among wolves (albeit a rather attractive young sheep). This is the central groove line on the cliff, the obvious bulge being climbed on the right.

*Higher than the Sun* – 25m E2 5b\*\*. R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 29th June, 1997. A sustained and delicate route with spaced protection. High in the grade. Between The Auld Ship and the right arête of the cliff are two thin cracks. The left, more obvious crack leads leftwards, while this climbs the clean strip around the right-trending right-hand crack. Climb the crack for 5m, then move out slightly right. Continue directly above with difficulty and follow the cleaned strip to the top.

*Zero Tolerance* – 25m E5 6b\*\*. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 10th August, 1997. A very thin route, with just adequate (albeit well tested) RPs for the crux. The route climbs the wall just left of the right arête of the cliff, starting as for *Higher than the Sun*. Follow a right-trending diagonal crack out to nearly the arête. Place a good nut at 8m, climb straight up from this to a good hold and small wire placement on the right. Move slightly left, then up on small holds past a small horizontal break with a long reach to better holds (crux). An easier (6a) but less satisfying variant is to stand on the good hold and make a hard move up to better holds. The climbing above is easier but not well protected until just before the finish.

### **MULL OF GALLOWAY (Sheet 82, MR 146 303):**

The Mull is Scotland's southern-most point, the last redoubt of the Picts, where the secret of the legendary ale finally vanished. These are the highest and most extensive cliffs in Galloway, high in atmosphere and with some remarkable caves and coastal scenery. It has long been assumed that the cliffs were hopelessly loose but closer acquaintance has revealed areas of impeccable quality rock and climbing (interspersed with total structural instability). Some areas are relatively free of seabirds, while others should definitely be avoided in the nesting season. Development is under way but the following unique experience is included as a taster for the future.

*The Traverse* – 2.5km E1 5b. S. Lampard, D. McGimpsey. April, June and July, 1997.

One of the truly great voyages of sea-cliff climbing, taking in some remarkable scenery and situations. The climbing is surprisingly fine and continuous. The traverse starts at West Tarbet, the bay on the right where the peninsula narrows to an isthmus about a mile from the lighthouse. It finishes at Seals Cave, under the foghorn just past the lighthouse. The route was climbed over four days and divides into sections which can be climbed individually according to taste, sea conditions and the state of the tide. Time will largely depend on the amount of soloing.

1. The first main section is from West Tarbet to Gallie Craig (this is the high cliff with a prominent corner line, well seen by looking back north from the lighthouse car park. This was climbed over two days. About midway through the first day was a cave, which requires low tide to cross without swimming (start from West Tarbet about 3-4 hours before low tide). It is possible to scramble in or out immediately to the south of Gallie Craig. Technically 5b.

2. The next section from Gallie Craig onwards contains the finest climbing and the most impressive rock architecture. Low tide is essential to start this section. Farther on there are two sea caves which require swimming. Calm seas are essential and it should be noted that the Mull is both exposed and prone to difficult undercurrents. It is possible to scramble out in the vicinity of the car park next to a steep yellow wall. Technically 4c/5a; one abseil.

3. The final section, while worthwhile and interesting, is not as sustained and can hold much guano. Technically 5a; four-five abseils.