

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

OUTER ISLES

LEWIS, Griomaval, Tealasdale Slabs:

Comes the Breanish – 275m HVS**. R. and C. Anderson. 16th July, 1998.

Start right of Lochlan at the right side of the small overlaps, at the same point as The Scroll – the cairn mentioned in the guidebook was dismantled to stand on to keep the feet dry. A fine direct line.

1. 55m 4c. Step right and climb straight up to the left-trending weakness of The Scroll, then continue straight up on to a quartz protuberance. Climb a thin crack past a small, narrow wedged block to reach a white slab (Lochlan and The Scroll belay over to the left) and continue straight up passing a block on its right side to belay higher up beneath an overlap at the top of a short, right-facing corner (good wires in a horizontal in the overlap). A superb and generally well protected pitch on perfect rock.

2. 55m 5a. This pitch goes up the middle of the main seepage area and although it can be climbed fairly direct when wet, it would be much better if dry. Step left and pull onto the white, quartz slab above the overlap, then climb straight to the left end of an overlap with a pointed bit in its middle. Climb the bulge on the left, just left of a thin crack (possibly easier farther right if dry) and continue to a short, overlapped corner. Climb this, or if wet step right and move over a small overlap, onto a smooth white slab. A few thin moves gain a small quartz overlap (gear). Step left, back into the top of the corner, then follow slabs, holds and quartz seams to a small grass ledge. Gain a grassy, horizontal break and move right to a short, left-facing corner.

3. 55m 4b. Step up right, then go up and follow thin cracks in a quartz line trending up right, passing over a crackline to reach a more obvious crackline. Climb the crack for a short way to a small ledge just short of the grassy rake of Golden Gully.

4. 55m 5a. Move right along the ledge a little, then climb up and slightly right heading for a twin quartz crackline in the left side of the headwall. Make tricky moves up the cracks and continue to reach a ledge occupied by some blocks.

5. 55m. Move right, then climb easily to a wide crack and up to the summit cairn.

HARRIS, Sron Ulladale:

The Beautiful South – 75m E7. D. Turnbull, J. Arran. 22nd May, 1998.

Start up a left-trending open groove to the right of Crackhead.

1. 25m 5b. Climb into the groove and continue to a good stance in an alcove beneath a narrow roof beneath blank rock.

2. 20m 6b. Move up right to a flake and hidden PR (very poor). Make bold moves up to the bulge (PR), then move immediately left to a 120° overhanging wall. Climb this with difficulty to easier ground leading to corners above.

3. 30m 5c. Move up and rightwards up blank corners, then back left to join the easy exit ramp.

Note: Climbed ground up in one day; pitch 2 was worked. The Scoop and Stone were also repeated.

LEWIS SEA CLIFFS, Aird Griamanish (Sheet 13, MR 994 213):

D. Collier and J. Hartley note short crags rising straight off the beach near Aird Griamanish with variable rock quality, some of which could give hard routes given

Autumn colours of Cul Mor from Stac Pollaidh. Photo: David Ritchie.

(Left): Stob Coire Sgreabhach, Glen Coe. Photo: Donald Bennet.

Sgurr an Fhìdhleir and Ben More Coigach from Stac Pollaidh. Photo: David Ritchie.

time to dry out. One-and-a-half hours' approach walk. One route climbed, Obskua, 12m Severe 4a, 28th May 1997, which ascends a thin quartz flake to the left of an overhanging arête.

The Hooded Wall (SMCJ 1998):

Black Edged – 30m VS 4c*. R. and C. Anderson. 11th July, 1998.

A short crack left of Paint it Black leads onto the arête of the fin which is followed to a finish up left.

Pitch Black – 30m E2 6a. R. and C. Anderson. 11th July, 1998.

The flared, left-leaning groove behind the abseil leads awkwardly to Black is Black, up which a finish is made.

Islivig Geo (NB 982 275):

This Geo, due west of Islivig and just north of a cairn on the skyline, is a narrow inlet 150m long and 25m high. Easily reached by walking down into it, the initial section of the Geo is non-tidal. Unfortunately, despite the south-facing wall being sunny, sheltered and appearing to be one continuous wall of good looking rock, it is loose and disappointing, hence the reason why only one route was climbed, another was backed off. For those less discerning and not so worried by looseness there are a number of lines to go at. There are, however, much bigger and more dangerous loose cliffs to climb on, so a trip here is probably not worthwhile.

Disappointment Arête – 25m HVS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July, 1998.

The first section of wall ends at an arête where the wall steps back and continues out to the end of the geo. Climb the arête on its right side.

Aurora Geo:

Wonder Wall – 30m E4 6a**. D. Etherington (unsec.). May, 1998.

Start from the left-hand end of the ledge at the foot of Newton's Law. Go directly up to a sloping ledge and move right to the right-hand end of an overhang. Make moves up a thin crack to a small quartz band, move back left for 3m and make difficult moves up a thin crack trending rightwards. Strenuous. Pre-placed gear used and graded for that.

The Cioch Wall:

A. N. Other – 20m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 10th May, 1998.

Climb the crackline to the right of Anonymous.

Rubh'an Taroin (North Bay):

Less Awkward than the Principle – 30m E3 6a. D. Etherington, G. Reid. May, 1998.

Start in the next bay to the right of Twelve Years On. Climb out of the left-hand side of the bay through a steep roof crack. Follow the crack up and leftwards to the arête just to the right of Twelve Years On. Move up and right into a V-groove, followed directly to the top with great interest.

Note: The route would seem to be the same as Achevalier (SMCJ 1998, p562) but with a different start.

Mungarstadh Area, Geodh an't Slaucain:

Follow the track that leads from the road to Mungarstadh sands, cross the beach and go up the slope on the opposite side. The next bay is Geodh an't Slaucain. On the left side of the geo (facing out) is an obvious fin of rock at MR 0055 3095 which gives the following.

Morning Star – 25m VS 4b**. K. Archer, A. Norton. 6th August, 1998.

Access is from the north corner of the geo at very low tide in calm conditions or, much more likely, by abseil down the line of the route (back ropes needed). From the undercut base of the fin, pull around the seaward face and climb it just right of the arête. Gain the arête above a niche and follow it.

Rabbit Wall Area (MR 0040 3105 to 0045 3110):

From the Morning Star area follow the edge of Geodh an't Slaucain northwards. In front is a small rise with two small peaks. Go over this and drop down to a level grassy ridge which runs out to sea. This is Rudha Geodh an't Slaucain, with a small stack, Stacca Chais, at the seaward end. Map and photo-diagram provided. At the seaward end, abseil down a corner on the north side. From the abseil (facing in), scramble left to the base of a cracked slab leading to a corner and overhang:

Mercy Killing – 22m E1 5b**. A. Norton, K. Archer. 8th August, 1998.

Follow the cracked slab to the corner (wet) and up this to the overhang. Traverse right and pull up into a worrying-looking crack to finish.

If it's Loose Leveret – 20m V. Diff. A. Norton, K. Archer. 7th August, 1998.

The corner of the slab gives a cautious escape route. Follow the corner, then on to a rib and up easy but loose ground.

Fab's The Word – 20m VS 4c. K. Archer, C. Archer. 12th August, 1998.

Left again 10m is a slabby corner with an overhung cracked rib. Climb up to the rib, then turn it on the right. Follow a groove to small ledges, make an awkward pull on to the upper slab which leads to the top.

Loose Luke – 20m V. Diff. A. Norton, L. Norton. 12th August, 1998.

Follow a slabby blunt arête 3m left again, then step left to finish up the headwall.

Scramble left again and the next two routes can be seen on the impressive series of overhung slabs that form a small geo. Access is by abseil down the arête of the left wall, which gives the line of:

A Poodle Called Maurice – 22m Severe**. K. Archer, A. Norton. 10th August, 1998.

Climb the blocky arête on its right side into a corner that leads to a slab. Follow this, then up the left wall to finish.

The Ecclesall Road – 50m E2***. A. Norton, K. Archer (alt.). 14th August, 1998.

The classic of the crag. Start from a small pedestal 5m up from the start of Poodle.

1. 25m 5a. Descend a ramp on the left wall towards the left corner. Gain this, then follow the back of the second slab to a corner below an overhung groove.

2. 25m 5b. Make difficult moves to gain the arête of the right wall and traverse round the arête into a niche. Traverse rightwards along a break (mediocre protection) to where the break meets easier ground.

NORTH UIST, Leac na Hoe Point (MR 980 725):

Summertime Grooves - 20m Severe 4a*. R. Carter, C. Ravey. 20th April, 1998.

Start 3m right of Spark, climb the wall to a ledge, then continue straight up into a thin crack recess to an overhang which is surmounted at the right hand side. Continue straight up to the top.

Two Step – 20m VS 4c. C. Ravey, R. Carter. 20th April, 1998.

Start 4m right of Summertime Grooves. Climb the wall to a flake, continue up the

wall to a box groove, then make a difficult move up to a curved crack which is followed to the top.

Weary Teary – 20m V. Diff. R. Crater, C. Ravey. 22nd April, 1998.

Start 6m right of Two Step. Climb a crack to a sloping ledge at 6m. Climb left and up on big holds to the base of a left slanting crack which is followed to the top on loose holds.

Dolphin Wall – 20m HVS 5a*. R. Carter, C. Ravey. 23rd April, 1998.

Start 1m right of the rounded arête. Climb the broken crackline up to a small ledge (strenuous). Finish straight up.

NOTE: Jex's Midnight Runners was felt to be H. Severe 4b as opposed to VS 4c.

Loch Thacleit (Map Ref 948 710):

Maceo's Cat Scratch – 12m Severe 4a. R. Carter. 14th January, 1998.

Start 3m right of an obvious gully with a chockstone. Climb the right hand crack (crux), then ascend on good holds past heather at 8m and continue up on dirty holds.

SOUTH UIST, Beinn Mhor, Hellisdale Buttress:

Curley Wurly Cuckoo – 40m E1 5a. C. Ravey, E. Stewart. 12th May, 1998.

The middle of the buttress which is situated to the left of the farthest right gully. Start left of centre of the buttress and follow holds rising rightwards to a steeper section. Surmount this on small but good holds (crux) on to the slab above. Climb to a break at the bottom of a steep wall and follow this leftwards to below a groove with hollow flakes. Move up the groove and flakes to finish on broken ground.

PABBAY, Banded Geo:

Fools Rush Out - 30m E1 5b*. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 27th May, 1998.

The flake cracks in the wall left of Chocaholic. A ramp left of the belay would give a good second pitch. From a ledge 12m up, follow the right-slanting cracks across the brown wall to a thin break. Climb the thin flake above and left, then traverse right under a roof to belay. Finish by Chocaholic (E2 5b).

Left of Endolphin Rush is a crackline; left again is a large very steep brown wall with a low roof slanting up left. Abseil from a belay below two blocks on the path (60m) to a ledge on the left, or traverse in (low tide). The route overhangs 11m in 45m.

Ship of Fools – 45m E5 6b***. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 28th May, 1998.

From the easy ramp, climb boldly up biotite to gain the roof 4m left of its lowest point. Gain the flake above the lip with difficulty, move up left to cross the bulge by some flakes, then continue straight up until the rock becomes compact (calcite). Move up right, then back left through a bulge, then move up right again and pull through a bulge to a flake. Step right past a detached flake into the black niche. Step right and climb straight up to belay on a slab. Scramble to the top.

Poop Deck:

Thursday's Setting Sunrise – 30m E5 6a**. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 28th May, 1998.

The central crackline left of Bogus Asylum Seekers. Make one move up the right-hand crack, then traverse left to a niche (alternatively, step into the boulder in the pool and up the crack). Make difficult and committing moves to a jug, then climb

the crack direct to a break (Friend#4). A flange on the left gains the lip, pull up right, then take parallel cracks on the left to the top.

One Last Look – 25m E4 6a/b**. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 29th May, 1998.

At the left end of the wall is a shallow recess with a large pegmatite vein on the right wall. Climb to a man-size spike, follow cracks up the recess, then hand traverse right through the roof. Make hard moves into a scoop to gain a hole on the right, step left and go direct to the top.

Pink Wall:

Raiders of the Last Auk – 80m E3***. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 26th May, 1998. Climbs the central groove and crackline. Abseil down the line (as for Tomorrow People) and lasso the cracked block (bird free).

1. 20m 5c. From the block, climb the tricky wall on the left to gain a hanging right-facing groove. Climb it and the cracks above on the right to belay on the left end of a narrow ledge.
2. 20m 5b. Climb the steepening groove above, then make a long traverse left to a vertical crack, climbed to a ledge.
3. 40m 5a. From the right end of the ledge, follow In Profundum Lacu to the top.

In Profundum Lacu – 80m E4***. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 26th May, 1998. The next line to the right.

1. 20m 6a. Step right off the block to gain cracks and follow them into a hanging V-groove (crux). Climb up and left to a long narrow ledge. Take a hanging belay off the right end (no belays above).
2. 20m 5c. Make awkward moves up a crack on the right, then gain a left-facing flake. Traverse left and gain a pegmatite flake above the bulge. Continue up left to gain and climb a bottomless groove.
3. 40m 5a. Climb a crack on the right and continue to a steep blocky left-facing groove. Climb this and straight up to the top.

The most distinctive feature of the right-hand side of the wall is a large left-facing hanging corner. The next route gains and follows this.

A Cormorant's Out of the Question, Then? – 85m E5***. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn. 25th May, 1998.

Start below and right of a series of strange flakes under the corner.

1. 20m 5c. Gain and climb the flakes, then follow the diminishing flake line on the right to a break. Traverse left, gain the easy corner and belay half way up.
2. 25m 6b. From the top of the corner (Friend#4), traverse left to a crack in the roof. Go up this and make hard moves to pegmatite flakes. From a vertical flake, undercut left to gain a diagonal line of jugs. Follow these to belay in a break.
3. 40m 5b. Step left, then climb a steepening to make an awkward pull left on to a shelf. Continue up a groove to another shelf. Traverse left below a steep wall with a loose flake, then step left around a lichenous arête. Go straight up to the top.

The Ancient Mariners – 85m E5***. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 25th May, 1998. This route climbs the cracks right of the hanging corner. Start in the same place.

1. 40m 6a. Climb the flakes and make a hard pull right before the break. Climb the cracks above until a flared crack is encountered. Climb the groove to the right, then traverse left to gain the pegmatite flakes. Follow these past a pair of spikes to the break. Traverse right and belay under a groove with a short wide crack.

2. 45m 5a. Climb the groove to a ledge, then continue in the same line joining The Guga to finish.

Big Block Sloc:

Let Sleeping Storks Lie – 25m E5 6a**. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. 27th May, 1998. Enjoyable bold climbing up the left arête of the wedge. The crux is protected by microwires, but the route is low in the grade. Belay as for Lifeline and follow its initial crack as it curves round to the arête. Climb the right wall of the arête, then step round to a good hold on the left side, under the overlap. Gain a small groove above (crux), then follow it to the break. Climb the right side to the ledge, then finish up the left side of the arête.

MINGULAY, Guarsey Beag:

Haunt of Seals – 50m E1 5b***. L. Thomas, M. Turner, G. Latter (on-sight). 1st June, 1998.

Scramble down and left from the left end of the long ledge at the base of most of the routes to belay on a small ledge. Step left off the belay. Climb the wall directly to a niche below the distinctive thin crack in the middle of the wall (right of the right slanting corner of Oh No, Norman's Due Back Tomorrow! Climb the crack (good small wires) to a slanting break, and follow this rightwards, then directly up the wall to a big break. Finish up the black wall just left of a corner.

Hill You Hoe – 50m E4 6a**. G. Latter, M. Turner, L. Thomas (on-sight). 1st June, 1998.

Start beneath the right facing groove on the right side of the pillar of Ossian Boulevard. Climb the groove, pulling slightly leftwards to large sloping holds on the ledge (crux). Pull right and up the crack to the long ledge on Ossian Boulevard. Move slightly leftwards on good flat holds on the wall above, then finish directly.

Save Our Soles – 60m E6**. M. Turner, L. Thomas, G. Latter (on-sight). 1st June, 1998.

Good climbing up the right side of the wall taken by Lost Souls. Start on ledges on the far right.

1. 40m 5c. Step down right into a groove and follow the groove and cracks directly to the prominent quartz niche with a crack in the back. Pull out right and head up to a small flake, then straight up on perfect juggy rock to a good ledge beneath the roof.

2. 20m 6b. Move easily up right to a break near the right end of the roof. Reach out to a good flat hold half way out (Rock #3 in a horizontal slot), then make hard moves to reach and pull over the lip. Easily to finish.

Three routes on the south facing wall of a geo immediately north of Guarsey Beag (photo diagram provided). The geo faces west, and is between Baigh Shleiteadh (to the east) and Guarsaigh Mor and Beag (to the west). MR Sheet 31, 553 844 (the head of the geo, where one can scramble in to Wurst is at 554 845).

Wurst – 20m Diff. K. Hannavy, R. McCaffrey. 27th April, 1998.

Near the head of the geo and approached by scrambling in from it. Start at a ledge just left of an obvious damp stepped corner. Go straight up the wall to the left of the corner for about 10m to a ledge. Move to the left end of the ledge and straight up the wall above.

The Schnook – 20m V. Diff. K. Hannavy, R. McCaffrey. 27th April, 1998.

In the centre of the wall is an obvious corner. Follow the sigmoidal crack in the next corner right of the obvious one (approached by abseil).

Easuspeasuslemonsqueezuz – 20m Diff. K. Hannavy, R. McCaffrey. 27th April, 1998.

A left to right slanting crack in the wall to the left of the obvious corner. Approached by same abseil.

Dun Mingulay (MR 534 820):

Les Voyageurs – 120m E3***. M. Turner, G. Latter, L. Thomas (on-sight). 2nd June, 1998.

A fine direct line up the cliff just right of the arch at the north end. Start beneath easy open grooves 10m right of the end of the ledges.

1. 15m 4b. Trend up leftwards to a large ledge at the base of a flake crack.
2. 30m 5b. Follow the flake crack to its top to belay on small foot-ledges.
3. 35m 5c. Climb the wall, moving rightwards to a groove. Climb the groove to a small corner under a roof. Traverse right to break through the roofs on huge holds. Follow the big crack back left to belay.
4. 40m 5b. Step left and round some huge flakes to pull out right at 10m onto the wall at prominent spiky flakes. Continue up the wall to beneath a slim smooth groove. Traverse left 5m and climb the wall above on good holds, easing towards the top.

Note: K. Howett and H. Harris climbed a similar line the previous week, although the last pitch was different, called The Hurried Path.

Perfect Monsters – 150m E7***. M. Turner, G. Latter, L. Thomas (1 PA; on sight). 4th and 5th June, 1998.

An outrageously exposed route following a diagonal line rightwards through the impressive roofed arch at the north end of the cliff, topping out above the apex. Abseil as for Children of the Tempest.

1. 50m 5c. Follow a line of shallow grooves and cracks to undercut right at a diagonal line of smaller roofs, 6m beneath the main roof system. Belay on flat spike and nuts in the left-most of two grooves, directly beneath the big roof.
2. 20m 6b. Move up to the main roof. Undercut right to a jammed block jug, then launch over the roof to a good jug over the lip (the finger points the way!), then step out right to a cramped peg and nut belay on the wall, on the lip of the large horizontal roof. A spectacular pitch.
3. 20m 6b. The awesome overhanging slanting roof/corner. Undercut, bridge or whatever seems right to good nut belay at a small foot-ledge where it becomes a vertical corner. Gear good – Friends up to 3 and couple of PR's. (1 rest point taken near the end of this pitch).
4. 15m 6a. Climb the short black corner to the roof, then undercut this rightwards to pull round into a slim cracked groove. Climb this, pulling leftwards over the bulge on good holds. Step left and up to belay (Friend #2+, #3 and hex #8) under the roof above.
5. 45m 6a. Another truly awesome pitch – sustained and pumpy. Traverse right along the obvious juggy handrail for 8m, then pull up through the roof to gain a good knee bar rest on a horizontal spike. Psyche up and launch straight up on perfect monsters jugs to finish up an immaculate vertical wall on good holds.

Sula – 100m E2***. M. Turner, G. Latter, L. Thomas (on-sight). 3rd June, 1998. A wonderful direct route up the centre of the cliff, at a surprisingly reasonable grade for the ground covered. Start 10m left of The Silkie, at a shallow square-cut groove directly below a triangular roof at 15m.

1. 30m 5b. Climb the right side of the groove then head up towards a flaky crack at 15m (5m right of triangular roof). Move into a shallow groove (spike) and climb to the break. Traverse right a few metres past a bomber hidden runner (Rock #8) to a good nut belay over the roof at the apex of a triangular roof.

2. 40m 5b. Climb straight up past good flakes to a delicate section which leads to a small overlap (good wires). Continue straight up, moving slightly right before surmounting a nose of rock below the steep section. Climb the huge flakes in a wild position to pull onto a vertical wall with big holds (8m left of the quartz groove of The Silkie). Pull up the wall to a yellow ledge and belay.

3. 30m 5a. Climb the steep juggy wall to the top.

Seal Song Geo:

The extensive geo just north of the headland of Rubha Liath.

North Wall (MR NL 551 815):

A good, fairly extensive south-facing wall set back from easy angled tidal ledges. Descent: Scramble down an easy grassy rake, then a short rock step (easier descents further west) to a large flat shelf with a prominent large block perched immediately above the top of the crag. Abseil down to good ledges at the base.

Fergus Sings the Blues – 35m E4 6a**. G. Latter, F. Murray (on-sight). 3rd June, 1998.

Excellent sustained climbing breaking through the roof on the right side of the crag. Start at the base of the corner. Move up and leftwards along a good flake handrail. Climb the wall above past some good horizontal slots to the roof. Pull out right to two good undercut flakes, then make a long reach to a good break (Friends #2+, #3). Pull up the wall above on jugs, then left and follow slabby twin cracks. Finish quite boldly up the steady impending wall above.

Delayed Reaction – 30m E1 5c**. L. Thomas, M. Turner, G. Latter (on sight). 3rd June, 1998.

The prominent hanging crack on the right side of the wall, gained via the lower corner. Climb the corner on good holds to a huge platform on the right. Traverse left on good holds to gain the crack. Follow the crack, the crux being saved for the final moves to gain good holds just short of the top.

Arnamul Promontary:

Mingulay Magic – 75m E1***. M. Davies, G. E. Little (alt.). 27th May, 1998.

Start below a break in bulging rock about 15m right of the crack up the right side of the pillar (taken by Lament to the Abyss).

1. 45m 5a. Climb up through the break and then directly up to a large ledge below roofs.

2. 30m 5b. Climb the big corner to below the main roof, then move right to an exposed edge. Climb straight up to finish. A brilliant pitch.

The Green Eyed Dragon Slayers – 80m E2*. G. E. Little, M. Davies (alt.). 28th May, 1998.

An obvious fault defines the left side of the pillar with a distinctive wide slot

through the roof about 25m up. This is the line of the route. The route name derives from two eye-like holes full of stagnant green slime at its base.

1. 35m 5c. Gain and climb the fault with strenuous moves through a bulge and surprisingly less demanding climbing through the slot to a good ledge just left of a guillimot colony.
2. 25m 5b. Ascend the green corner above for a few metres until a swing out right gives access to a hanging rib. Climb this in an exposed situation to reach a wide ledge.
3. 20m 4c. Climb straight up to finish.

The Fulmar Monty – 75m E3 *. M. Davies, G. E. Little (alt.). 28th May, 1998.

Start about 25m right of the cracks up the right side of the pillar taken by Lament to the Abyss.

1. 45m 5c. Climb up to and through a left-facing groove with stepped roofs to a small ledge. Move up and right, then back left, then straight up to a good ledge.
2. 30m 4c. Take a direct line up the slightly vegetated wall on good holds.

The Black Dyke Affair – 70m HVS*. G. E. Little, M. Davies (alt.). 28th May, 1998.

This obvious left-trending diagonal fault lies well to the left of the pillar where the access ledge begins to fade.

1. 45m 5a. Climb the fault with interest until a section of black dyke gives awkward moves and access on to a wide sloping ledge on the right.
2. 25m 4b. The flared chimney above holds some dubious blocks, so step across to the left side and ascend a steep wall on good jugs to finish.

BERNERAY, Barra Head, Giants Pipes (MR 557 794):

This striking cliff, composed of a series of huge ribs and corners, lies on the west side of Barra Head and faces due south. Access is by abseil (90m) and is dependent upon calm seas.

Barra Head Games – 105m E3***. G. E. Little, K. Howett (alt.). 31st May, 1997.

A route of immense character, virtually bird free and comparable in quality to Prophecy of Drowning on Pabbay. Start on a sea-washed ledge at the foot of the westernmost and most distinctive of the main corner systems. This is gained by abseiling from a large square block, well back from the cliff edge, then swinging in to gain the ledge.

1. 20m 5b. Enter and boldly climb the off-width slot (left and parallel to a deep chimney) to reach a ledge. Make difficult moves into a V-recess. Move out on to the right edge of the recess (effectively into the chimney), then traverse left across a slabby wall under a roof, moving up to take a belay at a ledge on the edge.
2. 40m 5c. Pull up into a hanging groove, step right into a short corner, then right again to gain a projecting ledge (crux). Move up and left back into the main corner. Climb it over a series of bulges to enter a red open-book corner and belay on a ledge a few metres below its capping ledge. A brilliant pitch!
3. 45m 5b. Continue up the corner to the roof, then traverse right on to an exposed edge. Reach left and climb a hanging groove holding an hourglass-shaped plaque. Step left and climb a left-trending diagonal crack. Step left again on to an arête, then back right through a bulge to continue by the line of least resistance to the top, finishing at the point of the abseil.

The Great Auk – 90m E1***. G. E. Little, M. Davies (alt.). 24th May, 1998.

This amazing line takes the central and largest corner system at a remarkably

friendly grade. Abseil from the big square block well back from the edge taking a line between the two main corner systems to belay in a roof-capped slot a safe distance above the sea.

1. 40m 5b. Ascend the slot, then move out on to the left edge to reach the base of an immaculate slim corner. Climb it to its capping roof, then pull out right and step right to a big flat-topped flake – excellent.

2. 50m 5a. Climb straight up, then move left into the base of the main corner. Climb this, crossing a bulge, to the capping roofs. Bypass the roof by ascending the strenuous right wall, then continue to the top.

Eye of the Eagle – 95m E3***. G. E. Little, M. Davies (alt.). 25th May, 1998.

This excellent route lies to the left of the central corner system taken by The Great Auk, tackling the left wall of its main corner. Abseil from the big square block to end up at the base of the guano-splashed pillar immediately left of the roof-capped slot taken by The Great Auk.

1. 20m 4c. Ascend the crackline on the left edge of the pillar (overlooking the deep recess taken by Barra Head Games) to reach a good stance above.

2. 35m 5c. Climb a short corner to a slim vertical rib between the two cracklines. Climb the rib to its capping roof. Pull right, then strenuously back left to follow the continuation rib and wall above to belay on a small ledge next to a large shaky flake – a sustained pitch.

3. 40m 6a. Move up, then step left on to fragile-looking flakes. From their top, make thin moves to a break (crux), then continue over a series of bulges to the top.

Creag na Beiste:

Atlantic Affront – 175m E3*. G. E. Little, M. Davies (alt.). 26th May, 1998.

The vast south-facing wall on the north side of Sloc na Beiste is, with the exception of a great shield of slabby grey rock, heavily colonised by birds. This route climbs the grey shield and the upper two tiers by a largely bird-free line. Abseil from a flat flake (thread) down to the main terrace (passing the upper terrace) – about 80m. Abseil down the grey shield to obvious ledges some 25m above the sea – about 75m.

1. 25m 4c. Climb a left-trending line to the top of a semi-detached pillar.

2. 40m 5c. Mantelshelf from the top of the pillar, then traverse right for 5m to the base of thin vertical cracks. Climb these with increasing difficulty until a horizontal traverse left leads to a distinctive (side-on) W-shaped flake. Ascend this and the thin slabby wall above until possible to traverse up and left to ledges by the corner-crack (forming the right side of a huge semi-detached pillar – the most obvious feature on the whole face).

3. 25m 5a. Ascend the groove to the right of the corner, step back into the corner and climb it to exit on to the main terrace to the left of a guillimot colony.

4. 40m 5c. Pull up directly at a nose, then step right to avoid a bulge. Move left above the bulge and then climb trending generally leftwards up a series of steep walls to gain the upper terrace.

5. 45m 4c. Follow the obvious diagonal fault up right to an exciting exit over big wedged blocks. Finish up easy ground.

RUM, Trallval, Longship Crag:

Neptune's Disco – 30m E1 5b. L. Johnston, A. Brooks, M. Collins. 2nd May, 1998.

Go awkwardly up the right-hand side of the detached arête to the right of Breenge on to the pedestal, then up the arête starting at the left (quite necky).

The Ancients of Mumu – 30m VS 5a. M. Collins, L. Johnston, A. Brooks. 2nd May, 1998.

Follow a crackline and groove system up the rounded arête to the left of the V-groove of Breenge. Sustained and well protected.

MULL, BALMEANACH:

Red Drupelets – 22m E3 5c*. C. Moody, C. Black. 2nd July, 1998.

Start at the same place as Yellow Snail, follow the fault up left past the right end of the overhang then step left above it. Continue straight up over another bulge just left of some big pockets. Climb slightly left to the top.

SCOOR:

Hot Tin Roof – 15m E1 5b. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 23rd May, 1998.

On the wall opposite Bluebell Blues is a steep flake which finishes below a ledge. Climb the flake then gain the ledge, move left and climb the arête.

ARDTUN, Creag Eilean an Duiligh:

Gong Bird – 15m E2 5c/6a*. C. Moody, A. Soloist 27th June, 1998.

The finger crack left of Eye Of Toad (SMCJ 1997). Step left at the top on to heather, then an easy finish.

Parakeet Of The Baskervilles – 20m E1 5b. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 6th September, 1998.

Right of the 5m pillar (right of Jonathan Livingston Dodo) are short fallen pillars. Start on top of these. Climb the corner crack which bends right and avoids a vertical wall. Move right again and climb past some loose blocks.

Waterfall Wall:

Roadrunner – 20m E2/3 5c*. C. Moody, A. Soloist. 27th June, 1998.

Gain the top of the block left of Sheryl Crow. Above is a blank corner; climb the crack left of it which soon gets thin. Move left for protection, step back right, climb up then step left above the gear (it might be possible to continue straight up from the first gear). Continue up the fault line slightly leftwards and where the angle eases (at a right-facing corner crack), step right and climb easily to the top.

The Green Hill:

Free The Torosay Five – 10m E1 5b*. C. Moody, M. Burgess.

Twin cracks right of Splash. Might be HVS as the top was wet.

IONA, Phort Bhan, Tolkein Crag:

Unnamed – 20m VS 4b. C. Moody, M. Burgess. 15th August, 1998.

Climb the two big boulders at the right end of the crag, then the centre of the red slab.

Goirtean Beag (MR 263 246):

Walking north past the left side of Tolkien Crag a long rocky hillock is ahead. Walk down the corridor left of it and squeeze past the boulder. The slab is just right. About five minutes from Tolkien.

Close To The Edge – 20m VS 4b. C. Moody, M. Burgess. 15th August, 1998.

Start on the boulder at the left side of the slab. Pull out right past a bulge, then move left and climb up left of a line of thrift to a steeper finish.

Fragile – 20m VS 4b. C. Moody, M. Burgess. 15th August, 1998.

Start at the right side of the slab. Follow the crack up left easily and finish up a wide crack/flake.

Unnamed – 12m Severe.

The shallow chimney right of the slab.

CREAG LIATH (MR 472 392):

This is a small dolerite crag on the north side of Loch Na Keal. It lies close to the shore in the trees and faces south. The smell of rotting carcasses might prevent climbing in spring. Drive towards Ulva Ferry from the head of Loch Na Keal and stop just after the high point on the road when the crag is directly below.

Sloeworm – 18m E1 5b**. C. Moody, B. Taylor, C. Black 4th September, 1998.

An obvious line. Climb a finger crack past the overhangs then climb the wider crack past the rowan.

LAGG, ISLE OF JURA:

A 10-minute walk in an easterly direction over Cnoc na Moine from the road between Gatehouse and Lagg leads to some huge overlapping slabs which sweep majestically into the sea (MR 594 775). The southern edge of one of these forms a long 10m-high sandstone wall which offers some excellent short climbs. Routes were climbed on 12th December, 1996 and 15th-16th April, 1997 by M. Shaw, M. Bagness, M. Boyle, D. Ritchie, R. Rozga and C. Rozga.

Camus Wall:

Routes described from left to right are:

Snakes and Adders – V. Diff. The slab on the left.

No Smoke Without Fire – V. Diff. The chimney right of the slab.

McLever the Robber – Severe. The crack up the middle of the central wall.

Orange Skyline – H. Severe. The right side of the wall.

Coastal Capers – V. Diff. The left edge of the undercut wall.

Hot Spot Spider – HVS 5a. Start just right of Coastal Capers, climb up and traverse right, then finish up a fault in an overlap.

Holy Terrors – HVS 5a. The prominent crack through the overhang.

Shenanigan – V. Diff. The left-slanting crack.

Shilly Shally – V. Diff. The crack to the top.

Above and left of Camus Wall is an east-facing square-shaped wall with some routes. Left to right:

Devil's Dwarf – VS 4c. Climb the crack, traverse right and continue up.

Stapull Crom – VS 4c. The twin cracks.

Black Fairy – HVS 5a. The right-slanting groove. Hand traverse to the edge and up.

Black Fairy Variations:

1. HVS 5a. From the same starting point, continue straight up the layback crack and break out right avoiding Devil's Dwarf.

2. HVS 5a. Gain the start of the hand traverse, but continue straight up the crack.

SKYE

SGURR NA H-UAMHA:

West Gully – III. M. Shaw. 11th February, 1999.

Good climbing following the summer line.

Cuill Climb – 250m II/III. M. Shaw. 22nd February, 1999.

This takes the curving snow chute on the NE flank and begins with an icefall which lies 30m right of a short overhanging wall that runs up the buttress edge. High on the route the snow chute straightens and eventually meets the upper slabs. At this point move out left and up grooves to finish directly on the summit.

SGURR NAN GILLEAN, Third Pinnacle:

Feusaig de'n t-Sneachd – 80m III. R. Bervie, M. E. Moran. 13th March, 1999.

Climbs the ramp line running left across the face of the Third Pinnacle, starting 100m up 3/4 Gully. Finish up a short buttress to the crest of the ridge. Needs a good banking of snow.

AM BASTEIR, North Face:

The following two routes explore the left to right slanting ledge systems on the North Face. They were climbed when the face was thickly hoared but with consolidated snow on the ledges. Although with only short harder sections, both routes offered fine situations with good belays but poor protection in places. There appear to be some discrepancies with the current guidebook. The diagram of Am Basteir suggests that Am Basteir Chimney takes the obvious chimney on the steepest section of the face. However the summer route The Squeeze Box (*SMCJ* 1998) follows this same chimney. Am Basteir Chimney and North Face Route must start much further left on less steep ground, and therefore White Spirit may be a winter ascent of much of North Face Route.

Note: Agreed by A. Nisbet, who initially thought The Squeeze Box looked impressive for a V. Diff, but later came to the same conclusion.

The Deadline – 195m III,4. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 8th March, 1999.

1. 30m .Start just left of the lowest rocks. Climb a short ice pitch, then snow.
2. 50m. Move right and up easy ground to a large ledge system rising from the left.
3. 45m. Move right, climb a corner and right-slanting chimney (crux) to gain the upper ledge system, not obvious from below, and an alcove.
4. 50m. Climb the ramp past a pinnacle.
5. 20m. Continue up the ramp to finish at the notch on the east ridge of Am Basteir.

White Spirit – 260m IV,5. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 9th March, 1999.

Start some 50m right of The Deadline at a chimney immediately left of a steep black wall.

1. 40m. Climb the chimney and shallow gully above.
2. 40m. Climb easier ground and a snow slope to below a steep chimney.
3. 50m. Traverse hard right following the obvious ledge system for 40m. Climb a corner to gain a higher ledge system.
4. 50m. Follow this fault rightwards over broken ground and ledges to a chimney (The Squeeze Box).
5. 40m. Climb the chimney and fault above to finish just short of the summit.

COIR' A' GHRUNDA:

Rapid Progress – 40m HVS 5a**. M. Lates, C. Scott. July, 1998.

An obvious crackline 15m to the right of Cuckoo Groove (Guide, p163). Constantly interesting climbing with a steep move to finish. Finish up the 5m continuation above.

SGURR NA STRI:

Lost Chord – 180m V. Diff. J. Gillespie, A. Currie. June, 1998.

The climb takes the line of least resistance above the Bad Step. Climb from the middle of the traverse on the Bad Step in four pitches.

MARSCO:

Allt Fiaclan Dearg – 150m IV.3. S. Helmore, R. Williams. 24th February, 1999. MR 503 254. The route is a waterfall cut into a 10m-wide dyke on the west flank of Marsco and requires a low freezing level for several days to form. The upper half is visible from the Sligachan hotel. The difficulties begin at an altitude of 375m, with a steep 25m pitch out of the small gorge. After two more pitches, scramble up the frozen stream bed to the upper west slopes of Marsco.

CLACH GLAS, West Face:

Penelope – 70m V.6. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 6th December, 1998.

By the summer route. Although short, this route offered fine climbing, a superb outlook and a fine finish directly at the summit of Clach Glas.

Arch Gully – 190m IV.5. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 10th March, 1999.

By the summer route in 4 pitches. The overhanging start was avoided on the left with some thin mixed climbing. The second pitch was climbed round the huge chockstone. The top two pitches under the arch were banked out and straightforward. Better conditions would ease the initial difficulties.

Bealach Buttresses:

The Cailliach – 130m IV.4. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 16th January, 1999.

Climbs the left-hand of the two parallel faults on the east-facing buttress south of the Clach Glas – Sgurr nan Each col, left of Slighe a' Bhodaich (*SMCJ* 1998, p590). Avoid the initial rocks by starting up Slighe a' Bhodaich until below its initial steepening, then follow an obvious ledge left to gain the left-hand fault line. Follow this over highly-vegetated ground to easier climbing and a finish on the main ridge of Clach Glas.

ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:

No Excuses – 6m VS 5a. N. Hockley, A. Eakins. 20th March, 1998.

At the right-hand end of the crag (nearest the school) is a large niche under an obvious nose.

The thin vertical crack 2m left is reached by reachy moves (harder for the short) and followed to the top.

Maggoty Mutton – 20m E1 5b. C. Pasteur, A. Hume, A. Matthewson, J. May. September, 1998.

Climb overhanging wafers as for Wafer Wall, then move right on a ledge to the prow. Ascend this via an overhanging crack to gain a final tapering corner.

STRATHAIRD, Suidhe Biorach:

Hovis – 30m E6. D. Turnbull, J. Arran (flashed on-sight, ground up). 24th May, 1998.

Start beneath the roof 10m right of Mothers Pride

1. 15m 5b. Weave up through overhanging breaks and ledges to belay under the roof just right of the only line of weakness.

2. 15m 6b. Move left and gain the lip using small flakes. A very difficult heel hooking/mantel manoeuvre gains a precarious standing position on the lip where bold moves lead first left then right up the blank wall.

NOTE: M. Lates and J. M. Norman climbed the fault through the right-hand end of the overhangs to the right of Mother's Pride on 17th May, 1996. It was called Cameron's Climb, E2 5c, and precedes one or both of the routes in *SMCJ* 1998, p 590.

NEIST, The Upper Crag, Financial Sector:

The following routes lie between A Fist Full of Dollarite and Wall Street.

Gampy's Wallet – 30m E2 5c**. E. Ash, T. Bridgeland. 23rd May, 1998.

Start at the large corner left of Wall Street. Climb the corner to below the large roof. Move left on good holds to gain the base of a prominent groove. Climb this to a rest, then launch over the capping bulge (the finish may share some ground with Wall Street).

The following two climbs are on the seaward face of the buttress with the leaning pinnacle on its left. Start from a belay on top of the pinnacle.

Piggy Bank – 25m E3 5c***. T. Bridgeland, E. Ash. 23rd May, 1998.

A brilliant route taking the groove in the right side of the face. From the belay, step down and pull round the arête onto the face. Move up to two good pockets then continue boldly rightwards to the base of a curving ramp. Follow this, then move up and right to gain the groove, which provides a fine upper half.

Gampy's Purse – 25m E2 5c**. E. Ash, T. Bridgeland. 23rd May, 1998.

Takes the crack and groove in the left side of the face. Follow Piggy Bank to the pockets. Move out left above the belay to gain the crack. Climb this then move right to the bottom of the groove, which is followed to the top.

Cumhann Geodha:

Between Bay 4 and Conductor Cove is a long narrow geo, with an extensive series of groove lines on the south-west facing wall. Descent is by abseil from a block well back from the edge, down the wall just left (looking in) of Quite Fatigued. The following three routes are all situated above the large ledge at the left (north-west) end.

The Old Warden – 15m HVS 5a*. G. Latter, J. Rabey. 4th April, 1998.

The left-facing corner crack at the left side of the pillar. After some ledges, step right and finish up a hand crack in the arête.

Quite Fatigued – 15m HVS 5b*. G. Latter, J. Rabey, D. Rabey, L. Gordon-Canning. 8th April, 1998.

The groove on the right side of the pillar, easing in its upper half.

Before the Deluge – 15m H. Severe 4b*. G. Latter, J. Rabey, D. Rabey, L. Gordon-Canning. 8th April, 1998.

The left-hand of two narrow chimney-cracks.

The Lower Crag, Poverty Point (SMCJ 1998):

Chugger's Elbow – 20m Severe. C. Moody. 15th November, 1998.

The wall left of Broken Wing (SMCJ 1998). Broken Wing is the crack at the right end of the wall (V. Diff). Superlager For Breakfast (SMCJ 1998) is probably HVS 5a.

The Lower Crag, Destitution Point:

The next prominent headland a few hundred metres north of Poverty Point (SMCJ 1998, p 592). The following routes are found on the south face which contains a steep corner with a slabby right wall. A steep prow sits to the left of the corner. *Cogless* – 20m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, M. MacLeod. 15th November, 1998.

Makes for the hanging groove in the upper section of the south end of the prow. Start from wide ledges and climb a crack just left of the right edge. Step right below a bulge and enter the groove which is followed to the top.

Man of Straw – 20m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, M. MacLeod, C. Moody. 14th November, 1998.

Climbs the clean slab on the back wall to the right of the corner. Abseil to ledges close to the corner. Climb cracks in the lower section then move right to the edge of the slab. Continue up the edge, then step right below the short headwall into a corner to finish.

The following are left to others for their precise location:

Half-a-mile to the north of Supercharger beneath upper cliffs by the sea. Start at a wave-cut platform 80yd right of a sea arch.

One Way Bottle – 30m E5 6b. C. Wentworth, A. Scott. May, 1996.

Climb an arête past thin cracks right then back left to a ledge on the arête (peg). Climb the arête to the top.

Bavaria – 30m E4 6a. A. Scott, C. Wentworth. May, 1996.

Start just right of the sea arch. Climb a slabby arête up and left. Pull through a small bulge to finish straight up the wall above."

STAFFIN BUTTRESSES:

These routes are at the right end of the buttresses, just south of Staffin Slip Buttress. The best approach is from above. Go up the grassy slope south of Staffin Slip Buttress and abseil in or scramble down just north of the routes.

What Did The Greeks Ever Do For Us? – 20m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 9th May, 1998.

At the right-hand side is a pillar with an overhang high up. Climb the crack on the left.

Hippy Complex – 25m E2 5b*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 10th May, 1998. Farther left are two corner cracks either side of a rectangular roof. Climb the twin grooves right of the corners. There are a couple of suspect flakes low down.

Wild Garlic – 25m E2/3 5c**. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 10th May, 1998. The corner past the right side of the roof.

Melon Crack – E1 5b. M. Lates, W. Gordon-Canning. July 98.

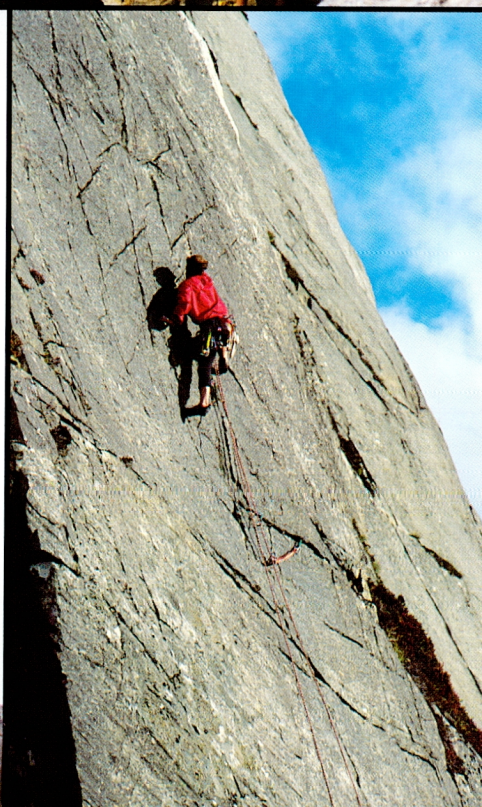
A crack farther left with a wide section high up.

Andy Nelson on 'Route II Direct' (VI,6), Carn Dearg Buttress, Ben Nevis. Photo: David Ritchie.

(Left): Early attempt: Dave Cuthbertson on his winter test-piece, 'The Duel' (XI,9), Stob Coire nan Lochain, Glen Coe. Photo: Rab Anderson.

Austrian Christian Piccolruaz on 'Gemini' (VI,6), Carn Dearg Buttress, Ben Nevis. Photo: Graeme Ettle.





Licking Nettles – 30m E3 5c***. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning, M. McLeod. 12th June, 1998.

Left of Melon Crack are two chimneys. Climb the hand crack left of these.

The following route is about 400m south of the above (diagram provided) and is the cleanest-looking line hereabouts:

Total Recoil – 45m E2 5b**. M. Lates, R. Pepe. October, 1998.

Approach by abseiling from a thin but solid fence post some 20m back from the cliff-top. The line has an obvious right to left dogleg at 20m (belay taken here).

STAFFIN SLIP:

Sunear – 20m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning, M. McLeod. 12th June, 1998.

Left of East Chimney Crack, walk up the hill to reach a crack with a shallow gully on the left and a black streak to the right. Climb the right side of the flake and continue up the crack; near the top move left on to a rib. Easy for the grade.

COIRE LALLADALE:

An icefall climbed on the cliffs north of The Storr (unsure of relation to summer routes):

Finished at Last – 120m V,6. M. Lates and partner (pitch 1) on 25th December, 1996; M. Lates, M. Francis (pitches 2 and 3) on 9th January, 1997.

Climbs the leftmost steep icefall.

1. Start at the right-hand side of a huge slab of ice. Rise leftwards to the centre to finish up the curtain of ice which is necessary to turn the overhang. Escape left was used here.
2. Huge up turned cups of ice remained of the old ice. These were climbed awkwardly for 12m after which mixed climbing took the corner on the left.
3. Follow slabs of ice for 12m to below vertical ice. This was too thin and skirted on the left-hand side.

GLEN LORGASDAL SEA STACKS:

About 3km north-west of Idrigill Pont lie two 35m sea stacks in a bay where the Lorgasdal river falls 80m down vertical basalt cliffs (MR 221 381). Approach from Orbst taking the good path to Idrigill Point and MacLeod's Maidens. Continue north-west along the coast to reach the Glen Lorgasdal waterfall (about three hours). The stacks were reached by an 80m abseil from a large boulder 50m north of the waterfall. From the boulder beach, the South Stack was reached by a 25m swim. This was followed by a 100m swim to the North Stack. A long approach, difficult access, compulsory swim and suspect rock all add up to a challenging sea-stack experience.

South Stack – 35m HVS 4a. S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 26th September, 1998. Climb a left-facing corner in the centre of the seaward face to reach steep grass. Scramble up this to reach the south edge of the stack, step left and climb a short wall to the rock blade summit. Very loose in its upper section.

North Stack – 35m E1 4c. G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 26th September, 1998.

1. 25m. Climb a corner on the left side of the seaward face for 10m then move up and left across the vertical left wall on huge holds to reach the north arête of the stack. Continue up this to reach an easing below the summit tower.
2. 10m. Cracks on the seaward face (loose) lead to the summit ridge. Climb this gingerly to the summit block.

Mark Garthwaite soloing 'The Conger' (E2 5c), Connor Cove, Swanage. Photo: Garthwaite Collection.
(Left): Neil Stevenson on the first ascent of 'Ishmael' (E3 5c), Skerray sea cliffs. Photo: Roger Webb.
Robin McAllister on the first ascent of 'Moon Safari' (E3 5c), Creagh Ghlas, Strathconnon. Photo: Andrew Fraser.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

SGURR AN LOCHAIN:

Enchanted Falls – 150m III. N. Taylor. 22nd December, 1996.

The stream cascading from the NE Coire of Sgurr an Lochain passes through an enchanting ravine (to join the Allt a' Choire Reith). For much of its length it is enclosed by slabby walls and is inescapable. Needs a good freeze.

THE SADDLE:

Forcan Double Direct – 450m and 4.8km III. Kintail MRT party. March 1990.

The purest variation on a much-loved classic. Start from the nose of the ridge. Hug the line of the main ridge, picking your line so that you can always see over the top of the ridge. Resist the published descent route by the leg-breaking dyke. Descend by reversing the route along the ridge. For maximum atmosphere, do under moonlight.

BEINN FHADA, Sgurr a' Choire Ghairbh:

Guide's Rib – 100m IV,6. G. Ettle, J. Lyall, R. Milne. 27th December, 1996.

Based on the summer line, this gives an exciting outing. The steepest section is ascended on the right; the final section is taken on the left.

GLEN ELCHAIG, Cragaig (MR 992 273):

Several gneiss crags on a south-facing hill. Stop at the car park and walk or cycle four miles to the cliffs; driving farther will jeopardise future access. Next to the track is a steep wall, Arabian Wall. Higher up slightly right is The Cioch, higher and right again are The Tongues. Left of these is the main wall which faces down the glen catching the afternoon sun. Other routes have been climbed.

Arabian Wall:

The left wall has a long overhang; the crack at the left end is 8m Severe.

Unnamed – 18m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, R. Lupton, L. Gordon-Canning, W. Gordon-Canning. 18th April, 1998.

Climb the left arête of the main wall, keeping on the left side. Near the top move farther away from the arête. Sticking to the arête would probably be E2.

Fritillary – 25m E3 6a*. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 18th June, 1998.

In the upper central part of the main wall is a prominent crack containing a tree. Start below this, just left of a black streak. Climb a thin crack to a break (Fr#4), then continue up slightly left to gain and climb a better crack. Finish up the prominent crack past the tree.

The Cioch:

Pine Processionary – 25m Severe. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 15th April, 1998.

The fault line at the left side of the crag which is shaped like an inverted S.

Drinking With The Priest – 25m E1 5b. W. Gordon-Canning, L. Gordon-Canning. 17th April, 1998.

Right of Pine Processionary is a detached looking flake/block. Gain the flake then climb up the left side of it, the top section of the climb being easy.

Middle Tongue:

This is broken into three slabs. Routes on The Tongues usually involve padding with very little protection, therefore soloing is a good idea. First ascensionists unknown.

St. Andrew's Slab – 40m V. Diff*.

The left slab has a cross low down formed by a vein and a crack. Climb straight up through this.

Shining – 50m Severe/VS*.

Up and left from the last route is shining slab with a crack running up left. The base of the slab forms a wall. Climb cracks to gain the slab at a moss streak, step left and follow the crack up left.

Boomerang – 30m Diff.

The slab round right of St. Andrew's slab. Move up slightly rightwards then continue up slightly leftwards.

Right Tongue:

Blanco – 100m Moderate.

Follow the slab slightly leftwards to the top, there is a grass ledge at a third height.

DUNCRAIG (CREAG AN DUISILG), Western Cliff:

No Stars No Moon No Nothing – 150m E4. I. Dring, J. Codling (alt., on sight). 23rd May, 1998.

Features the fine hanging corner at the right-hand side of the crag. More direct variations look possible, particularly a more direct finish up a fine groove line starting at the base of the grassy ramp but which would require some cleaning effort. Start at a flake-crack at the lowest point in the buttress.

1. 20m 5b. Climb the flake-crack to a ledge (peg runner). Step left and go up a steep wall to below a roof.
2. 25m 5a. Traverse right under the roof passing a peg runner, step down and then go diagonally right up a fault to the base of the corner. Traverse 6m left to a ledge and two-peg belay.
3. 35m 6a. Step back into the corner and go up this passing a peg to a small niche (peg). The overlap above is the crux. Exit up the left wall to a grassy alcove.
4. 45m 4c. Step up left to gain a grassy ramp. Go up this to a short vertical crack down and left of a large flake.
5. 25m 5a. Go up the flake (Friend#4) to its end. Hand traverse left and mantelshelf on to a ledge. Continue to the left arête and go up this (peg) to grassy bays.

GLAS BHEINN:

Right-Hand Gully – 150m III. R. Webb, N. Wilson. March, 1999.

The gully bounding the right end of the crag.

SGORR RUADH:

Raeburn's Buttress – 130m to shoulder V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 14th January, 1999.

A line close to the crest right of Narrow Gully. Start at the foot of the crest at the base of the right wall of Narrow Gully.

1. 25m. Climb the steep crest, thin moves but several peg runners, particularly blades, to a big ledge. Move 5m right to a ramp which cuts through the steep wall above.

2. 20m. Climb the ramp to a bigger boulder-strewn ledge.
3. 85m. Climb a series of grooves, close to or just right of the crest, then easy ground to the shoulder

Raeburn's Buttress, Variation – 160m to shoulder V,6. R. McAllister, A. Nisbet. 16th April, 1998.

A different line until the easy ground near the shoulder. Start at the same place.

1. 20m. Traverse horizontally right along a narrow ledge.
2. 25m. Find a left-slanting flakey line leading to a bigger ledge.
3. 25m. Traverse right and climb two short steep walls to a big terrace.
4. 45m. Climb easier ground just right of the crest.
5. 45m. Climb the crest to the shoulder.

MEALL NAN CEAPAIREAN, North Face:

Stressful Buttress – 180m IV,5. A. Nisbet (backroped). 6th November, 1998.

The steep central section of the face forms a nose between a big bowl on the left and steep broken ground on the right. A ramp leads up right from the bowl to the crest of the nose at about half height. The nose is also cut horizontally and near its base by parallel ledges close together. Climb a short gully to reach the left end of the upper ledge. Find a way through the steep turfy ground above to reach the ramp and follow it until just short of the crest. A fairly direct line keeping left of the crest was taken, involving some short difficult walls, to finish at the top of the crest.

MEALL GORM:

Shamrock Gully – 300m III. U. Mulcahy, S. McMurrow, A. Nisbet. 10th February, 1999.

The well-defined gully which starts near the base of Global Warming but angles rightwards up the large eastern buttress. Climb the gully for two pitches, then make an easy traverse right to reach the base of the long well defined section. Below the Spiral Terrace there is a short vertical pitch avoided using the rib on the right, otherwise the gully is followed.

Trident Gully, Central Branch III (1999) – S. McMurrow, M. E. Moran. 9th February, 1999

From the fork, climb the central branch, which contains several short steps and one 15m barrier near the top, climbed by a chimney.

NOTE: Trident Gully, Right Branch was climbed by a more direct variation at III by M. E. Moran, D. Otteson and L. Wells on 10th February, 1999, moving right from a cave along a shelf, then up a corner to easier ground. The precise line of the original ascent, by A. C. Cain and G. Wallace in 1982 is unknown, as the description was lost in the Moratorium.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, South Face:

Skullsplitter – 130m IV,6. R. G. Webb, N. Wilson. February, 1999.

Climbs the chimney line between Sword of Gideon and Anduril.

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Feola:

D. Morrison, R. Simpson and A. Fisher note an ascent of the obvious gully leading to the central col on the A' Chioch ridge, easy Grade II with one tricky step which would bank out with more snow. The gully is pictured in *Scottish Winter Climbs* between pages 70 and 71.

Coire Toll a' Bhein, Breach Buttress:

GBH – 250m III. A. Nisbet, C. Preece, O. Preece. 4th March, 1999.

The ridge left of Breach of the Peace was followed direct from its base. Avoiding a steep pitch at mid height by a chimney on the left and passing the top tower on the right would reduce the grade to II.

Main Buttress:

The Bill – 200m II. A. Nisbet. 27th February, 1999.

The gully on the right of the ridge with the pinnacle, starting some way up Main Gully. A steep section in the middle was avoided by a ramp on the left leading to an easy finish. To make a different finish to Indecent Exposure, the pinnacle was gained and the ridge above followed (Grade II), but the finishes should be exchanged.

LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Beag:

The Torture Chamber – 160m III,4. B. Davison, D. Wilkinson. 14th March, 1999.

Between Access Gully and Thumbscrew is a large snow field above the first sandstone tier. This route takes three short ice falls through the left side of the snowfield and just right of Access Gully. Go part way up Access Gully until below the icefall on the right. A short lower icefall on the left-hand side of the lower tier leads to the left side of the snowfield (20m), then easy ground to a rock buttress on the left side of the snowfield (70m). A second fall goes through this and leads (50m) to a third icefall directly above and going through the final rock tier (20m).

Brainless Fall – 140m VI,6. V. Chelton, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 12th March, 1999.

Climbs some steep ice which occasionally forms on the wall right of Headless Gully. Climb ice leftwards to reach a ledge below the ice which forms on the wall just right of overhangs which run across from Headless (10m). Climb an icefall on the wall which is just below vertical (25m). Move 5m left and climb thicker vertical ice which soon eases (30m). Go up a short wall and easier ground to the final tier (50m). Climb the tier by a groove on the left to easy ground.

Coire Dubh Mor:

The Bender – 120m IV,4. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 6th March, 1999.

Climbs the leftmost icefall on the main face, virtually on the corner where the face bends round on to the gully wall of Way Up. Quite short but useful as a second route, being accessible from the col by descending Way Up and traversing from 50m below the base of Over Sixties Icefall. Start below the icefall and climb easily to an iced corner which leads to the main icefall. Climb the icefall to a ledge at its top. Move left to slabby mixed ground leading to a big terrace. Finish easily by a choice of lines.

Test Department – A free ascent at VI,6 by B. Davison, A. Nisbet, S. Anderson, M. E. Moran on 6th March, 1999 after the lower icicle formed.

Brainstorm – 50m VI,6. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet, S. Ohly, D. Wilkinson. 13th March, 1999.

The direct start to Brain Drain, a thin steep icefall some 10m right of the chimney start and 6m right of The Stem.

Meall Dearg, North Face:

Gully Obscura – 200m III. A. Bull, M. Kinsey, A. Nisbet. 10th March, 1999.

The leftmost gully on the face starting at the same point as the two diagonal shelves but going straight up to join Terminal Buttress on the crest leading up to Meall Dearg. The steepest pitch was climbed by the leftmost chimney close against the left wall, returning right to the main line immediately above.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Far East Wall:

Far East Gully – 70m III,5. R. McAllister, A. Nisbet. 19th April, 1998.

The gully at the right end of Far East Wall, between it and the small buttress with Karaoke Wall. Includes a chimney section with an awkward move over a chockstone.

Eastern Ramparts:

The Unknown Warrior – 130m VII,7. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 10th January, 1999.

A winter line starting up The Unknown Soldier, continuing up Forgotten Warrior and finishing up Samurai. An independent finish up Forgotten Warrior looks worth a try for a party with daylight to spare. The summer lines were not followed precisely, so a full description is given. Start at a break 15m left of the cave which is about 15m up on the first pitch of Samurai (and 10m left of Samurai winter).

1. 45m. Climb about 10m to a ledge below a large triangular shape of rougher rock. Go right and back left to a V-shape formed by a right to left ramp between the triangle and a smaller triangle to its right. Go slightly rightwards up a crackline in smooth rock to a good ledge level with a pinnacle on the right. The pinnacle seems to be a dead end so pull out left on an undercut flake-crack (well seen from the cliff base) and climb a thin crack in a small smooth ramp (crux) to the Upper Girdle. Alternatively, find the start and follow your nose.

2. 10m. Traverse right along the Girdle past a section where the ledge disappears and belay in a niche immediately after the ledge reappears (Forgotten Warrior belay).

3. 40m. Climb Forgotten Warrior pitches 2 and 3, but apart from the start, keep to the fault line. At the top, move out right under a chockstone to belay as for Samurai.

4. 35m. Finish up Samurai (the final gully on ice on this occasion).

Gashtrognome – 210m VI,7. R. McAllister, A. Nisbet. 12th April, 1998.

Takes the line of least resistance up the concave scoop formed just left of East Buttress to a spectacular escape on to the buttress.

1. 25m. Climb The Gash to beyond its through route.

2. 35m Go up a shallow gully to a terrace and walk 10m right until below a pale corner (probably icy).

3. 20m. Climb the corner and its left arête to a ledge up left.

4. 35m .Step back down and traverse right above the corner along a ledge. Where the ledge ends, climb a left facing corner, then take a left curving line to below a big roof.

5. 20m. Continue left across a pale slab and up a groove to a ledge (probably on Gnome Wall).

6. 30m. Go left again until just right of the Gargoyle. Pull right on to a sensational jutting ledge (the diving board). Continue right, still sensational, to easier ground.

7. 45m. Go up the easing angle and a final short wall (on East Buttress).

Scramble to the top.

Central Buttress:

Central Corner – VII,8. A. Mullin, S. Paget. 21st January, 1999.
By the summer route. Partly iced.

Hamilton's Route – VI,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 17th November, 1998.

A similar standard to Piggott's, perhaps a little more sustained but without the very awkward crux. The quartzite start was gained easily via West-Central Gully. Start up a vegetated groove right of the summer start and only about 20m from West Central Gully. Follow this into a corner on the right which leads to the end of the traverse on the summer route. Follow the summer route thereafter, including the final tower.

Sgurr nan Fhir Duibhe, North-West Face:

The Dark Ridge – 130m IV,6. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 27th March, 1999.

The steep-fronted right-hand ridge at the right end of the cliff. Start easily up its left-hand side until a chimney leads back right to the crest below a steep wall (50m). Climb the short wall (crux), then traverse left to a corner and round its bounding wall to a groove (20m). Climb the groove, then the right-hand of two faults to gain the crest. Follow the crest to the top (60m).

Double Gully Left – 120m III. A. Nisbet. 5th January, 1999.

The well defined gully just right of The Dark Ridge has two ice pitches. The right version is mentioned in SMCJ 1997 (Grade I).

Black Gully – 130m II. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 27th March, 1999.

The gully left of The Dark Ridge has several small steps and one larger one, passed on the right.

Carla's Gully – 80m II. A. Nisbet. 5th January, 1999.

Parallel gullies lead to gaps in the Black Carls section of the Beinn Eighe ridge. This is the right and more obvious gully. At the top is a short pitch and a through route emerging on the col.

Rubble without a Cause – 90m IV,4. R. McAllister, A. Nisbet. 5th January, 1999.

The buttress between the two gullies. Start near the base of Carla's Gully and climb a tricky groove (might be Grade III with loose blocks well frozen) leading to an easy finish passing right of an upper tower.

Bodach Gully – 80m II. A. Nisbet. 5th January, 1999.

The left but less defined gully has a harder pitch.

RUADH STAC BEAG:

Ruadh Ridge Beag – 100m III. A. Nisbet. 6th February, 1999.

Near the left end of the cliffs SE of the summit of Ruadh Stac Beag is a well defined ridge right of a gully (well seen from the Black Carls section of the Beinn Eighe ridge). Climb the crest with two steep but very helpful sections.

BAOSBHEINN, North-East Face:

Direct Route – 300m III,4. R. G. Webb, N. Wilson. January, 1999.

Directly below the summit is a large triangular face. The route takes a line directly to the apex of the face, more clearly defined in the upper third.

BEINN ALLIGIN:

For the Chop – 100m III,4. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 9th January, 1999.

Climbs the ramp system overlooking the Eag Dubh on the left. Start just inside the Eag Dubh, climb a short wall and traverse left round the corner to a groove which leads to a ledge with a large block (25m). Stand on the block to gain and follow the ramp proper (50m). Finish up the upper of two ramps (the lower would be easier) to the summit of 'The Hatchet' (25m).

Wailing Wall – 110m VII,7. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 21st January, 1999.

A very steep fault line to the right of Wall of the Outcry. Climbed in icy conditions, useful to solidify the mossy vegetation. The technical crux is well protected. Start as for Wall of the Outcry.

1. 45m. Climb the initial left-slanting grooves of Outcry (about 20m), but then go straight up to the ledge system of its traverse. Traverse right under some huge blocks (now under the main fault line) and climb just on their right to belay on top.

2. 10m. Step right into the fault line and follow it to a ledge under an overhanging smooth section.

3. 35m. Traverse a ledge right for 6m to a crack. Use this to gain a prominent grass ledge above and left. Pull out left on to a flake (technical crux) and continue left, hopefully on ice, into the fault line. This ascent pulled out on to its left arête and went 5m up left for runners, returning down to the fault. Climb the fault to a ledge (no runners found here). Traverse 15m right, climb the short wall above and return part way left.

4. 30m. Traverse easily right, climb a short wall and easy ground to the top.

SEANA MHEALLAN, Western Sector (SMCJ 1995, p 650):

The first routes are on a prow with three grooves (cairn below) which offers a preliminary change of aspect 50m before the main change and the rest of the routes.

Incognito – 15m E1 5b*. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 2nd July, 1998.

Right of the three grooves, on a small west-facing wall, is a fine snaking crackline, started direct (crux).

Correction to previous information: The routes all lie on the SW-facing wall in the following order (left to right):

Moaning Minnie, Fleeced, Unmasked, Flakey, Nasal Abuse, Mechanical Sheep, Skate (same route as *The Brotherhood*), *Polythene Bag, Clingfilm* (same route as *Big Cigar*).

The Age of Confusion – 20m E3 5c**. C. Moody, L. Gordon-Canning. 17th June, 1998.

The rib between Nasal Abuse and Mechanical Sheep. Start left of the rib. Move up right to a horizontal break (Camalot#4). Reach up then right to a crack. Follow the crack, step left before the final overhang and climb the rib.

Bedrock Buttress:

Off With Her Head – 15m VS 4b*. L. Gordon-Canning, C. Moody. 12th May, 1998.

On the quartzite slab just left of the main part of the buttress with the route Bedrock. At the right side of the slab is a vertical grassy crack. Start left of this. Climb straight up to a shallow right-facing corner and finish up this.

The Black Queen – 15m Severe. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 22nd June, 1998.

Climb the slab just right of the grassy crack to finish up a steep juggy crack in the headwall. Good protection for the final move (crux).

Bedrock (1994)

Wriggle – 10m VS 4c. L. Gordon-Canning, C. Moody. 12th May, 1998.

Wriggle right on to a shelf to gain the start of Archangel. Step left and climb the arête, slabby then cracked.

Archangel (1994)

Porpoise Scandal – 10m E1 5b. L. Gordon-Canning, C. Moody. 12th May, 1998.

Right of Archangel is a short right-facing corner with a dead tree just right again. Climb the corner, step left on to its arête, then back right to climb the crack. Hard for short folk.

Turned Turtle – 10m E1 5c. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 2nd July, 1998.

The roof crack and easier continuation right of the dead tree and in the centre of the roof system.

Bleached Whale – 10m E2 5b/c*. L. Gordon-Canning, C. Moody. 12th May, 1998.

A good looking line. Go up a short block, gain an overhanging hand crack and its continuation.

Dolphin Friendly – 10m E1 5b*. L. Gordon-Canning, C. Moody. 12th May, 1998.

The big right-facing corner next right.

The Knob – 10m HVS 5b*. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 2nd July, 1998.

Right of the big corner is a short corner leading to a roof. Move left round the roof and up cracks to finish up the arête.

Flintstone Buttress:

This is 150m farther on and slightly higher, above a flat area.

Wilma – 12m HVS 5a. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 2nd July, 1998.

The right hand of two ramps (the left is capped by a roof) and the groove above.

Pebble – 12m H. Severe. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 2nd July, 1998.

The slabby wall to the right. Start 6m right and climb up to an alcove, then out left and up to the top.

DIABAIG, The Little Big Wall:

Calcite Corner – 30m HVS 5a*. G. Latter, A. Siddons (on-sight). 12th October, 1998.

Steep well-protected climbing, taking the prominent right-trending corner at the left end of the wall. Follow the corner, stepping out right near the top to finish on the heather and tree-covered terrace. (An ancient rusty peg was discovered about at about one third height – previously ascended in the dark ages?). The fine corner of The Dedo up on the left provides a logical and very worthwhile finish.

Feelin' Groovy – 25m E3 5c*. G. Latter (on-sight). 29th June, 1998.

Spectacular well protected climbing up the prominent right slanting overhanging groove bounding the right side of the wall. Scramble up easy slabs to belay on a small ledge. Climb the groove, with hard moves to pull round onto the slab. Follow a left-trending line up the slab to belay on a small rowan.

Pointless Eliminates – 20m E2 5c. G. Latter, A. Siddons (on-sight). 12th October, 1998.

Above the path on the approach to the Main Cliff (approximately 100m left of Dead Mouse Crack) is a prominent chockstoned gully with a large holly immediately above the initial barring chockstone. This route climbs the centre of the slab forming the left side of the gully – quite bold, and a bit of an eliminate, with much easier (VS?) ground just to the left. Descent was made from a sling on a small spike at the top, though other descents looked possible by traversing either left or right from the top.

DIABAIG, Hidden Crag (MR 788 586):

The crag is situated on the south side of the peninsula across the bay from Diabaig. Its beautiful location with an outlook across Loch Torridon to Applecross and Skye is ideal for those midge infested days when an exposed venue is sought. It catches the sun for most of the day. The best climbs follow well-protected cracklines on excellent rock. The climbing is strenuous.

Access: Follow the Diabaig Inveralligin path past the Main Wall and continue, dropping to the shore until a flat boggy area between the mainland and the peninsula is reached. Pass the derelict croft at its far end, heading for a bay, and contour rightwards up the hillside passing a fenced enclosure. One hour.

White Wall:

At the low right end is a bulging wall split by three obvious lines.

Epsilon – 8m H. Severe. A. Brockington, J. Fisher. 5th September, 1998. The first crack.

Delta – 8m E1 5b*. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. 5th September, 1998. The second crack, sustained.

Gamma – 10m V. Diff*. A. Brockington, J. Fisher. 5th September, 1998. A right-trending ramp.

Rolling Wall:

The crag's showpiece, a fine formation of smooth bulges split by impressive cracklines.

Beside the Point – 15m VS 4c. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. 5th September, 1998. The crackline left of a vegetated ramp.

The Ice Bulge – 15m E1 5b**. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. 5th September, 1998. Climb direct to an obvious quartz bulge, put your crampons on and ...

The Low Girdle – 30m E1 5b. F. Bennet, J. Fisher. 3rd October, 1998.

Start beneath the impressive unclimbed crack right of Brave New World. Climb up to the start of the crack. Make thin moves left until easier climbing concludes the traverse.

Brave New World – 25m E3 6a (One rest)***. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. 5th September, 1998.

An angelic climb up the impressive cracks in the centre of the rolling wall. Climb the initial crack for a few metres until a delicate traverse leads left to above the first bulge. Follow the crack on good finger jams to a hard finish (crux). Repeated and considered E2 5c.

The Sea, The Sea – 25m E2 5b***. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. 5th September, 1998. Another gem up cracks left again. Start 2m right of the thin starting cracks, traverse boldly in beneath the first bulge and continue up the crack to below the final bulge through which the cracks peter out. Step up and left to finish in an exposed position up the left edge of the Rolling Wall.

Rolling Home – 40m E2 5c**. J. Fisher, F. Bennet. 3rd October, 1998. Start 2m right of Feelies crack. Climb cracks up the blunt arête to a junction with The Sea, The Sea. Step delicately on to 'The Roll' and traverse beneath it, exiting at the far right crack (crux).

The Feelies – 30m VS 4c. A. Brockington, J. Fisher. 5th September, 1998. An interesting route up the crack at the left end of the wall, finishing up a steep spike-choked corner.

Submission – 30m HVS 5a*. S. Grey, A. Reid, J. Reid. 3rd October, 1998. Start left of The Feelies. Climb a diagonal crack for 2m, going up and right to a flake. Climb the arête left of Feelies corner.

Boatman's Call – 30m E1 5b*. S. Grey, A. Reid, J. Reid. 3rd October, 1998. Start left of a hawthorn bush. Surmount two overlaps rightwards. Cross Submission and The Feelies to finish up the slightly mossy corner right of The Feelies.

The Orange Wall:

Two small buttresses lie 30m left of the Rolling Wall; each is split by cracks.

Ewar Woowar – 8m H. Severe 4b. J. Fisher. 5th September, 1998.

Cracks up the right side of the right buttress.

Alice's Overhang – 8m VS 5a*. J. Fisher (unsec.). 5th September, 1998.

A slab and bulge up the left-hand buttress.

Beached Boat Buttress (MR 789 592):

Facing Diabaig, near the end of the peninsula, is a slender buttress above a gully. This climb starts in the gully, then climbs the slender buttress via a corner and rib.

Beached Boat Buttress – 60m HVS*. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. 5th September, 1998.

1. 20m 4c. Start down and left of a thin crack. Climb the arête.

2. 40m 5a. Scramble down and left for 20m. Climb the corner past a holly, then up the rounded rib.

Crofter's Crag (MR 795 587):

Situated opposite the ruined croft, facing north, is an area of steep broken crags.

The Applecross Jam – 20m E3 5c***. A. Coull, A. Sharpe, J. Fisher, F. Bennet. 3rd October, 1998.

The clean central wall is split by a compelling crack. A steep start leads to a ledge and rest. Climb the final overhanging wall on spaced holds and jams to a strenuous finish. Note: an abseil sling found at the top of the wall; new sling and krab left to avoid an awkward descent.

8-Ace – 20m VS 5a. S. Grey, A. Reid, J. Reid. 3rd October, 1998.

The left arête of the clean wall follows a curving ramp.

Approaching the peninsula, just beyond a birch woodland, is a fine wall of orange rock.

Red Crescent – 15m E1 5b**. S. Grey, A. Reid, J. Reid. 3rd October, 1998.

Climbs the smaller wall left of the main wall. A steep ramp leads to a crescent. Go diagonally up and left along a break to a pod. Go directly to the top.

Ugly Crag (MR 800 588):

Up the hillside 100m from the birch wood is a west-facing crag of steep juggy rock.

Ugly Wall – 20m E1 5b**. F. Bennet, J. Fisher. 4th October, 1998.

Start just right of the highest part of the crag and 5m left of an orange corner. Climb up and left on big holds to a large flake below a roof. Pull over directly and make an awkward exit leftwards. An exciting outing.

Ugly Mug – 55m E2***. J. Fisher, F. Bennet. 4th October, 1998.

A wild route, steeped in exposure and character. Takes a rising traverse line from bottom left to top right. Start at a pile of blocks beneath a big block in an open corner. 1. 25m 5c. Climb up and rightwards, then pull steeply over a bulge to a good ledge. Traverse strenuously rightwards on good holds to a precarious exit on to a hanging slab. Belay at its right end.

2. 30m 5c. Drop down and continue traversing rightwards on huge holds in a spectacular position to the flake on Ugly Wall (good runners). Step up and right to a good slot (Friend #2), then make a hard move rightwards to another good flake. Pull directly over the bulge above. Exit leftwards.

Pretty Crag:

Opposite Ugly Crag and visible from Diabaig is a slab of immaculate white gneiss.

Pretty Crack – 8m VS 4c*. J. Fisher. 4th October, 1998.

The left-hand crack.

Pretty Scoop – 8m VS 4b. J. Fisher. 4th October, 1998.

The left-hand scoop. Unprotected.

White House Crag (MR 801 577):

Access: Follow the Diabaig Inveralligin path past two lochans and down to a bay with a white house. Approaching from Wester Alligin is a similar distance and time. The crag is directly behind the path. One hour.

The crag is a 50m dome of gneiss with a steep juggy band at 20m and a terrace at 35m. On the terrace is a lone tree from which an abseil is possible, omitting the much easier second pitches. The most obvious feature is a short, shallow but well defined central groove in a slabby lower section (taken by the original route Rendezvous). Left to right:

Bare Faced Cheek – 45m E1 5b. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 16th May, 1998.

A steep brown slab lies to the left of the grassy groove of Rock Stripper. Climb the

central plinth to a horizontal, then take the bulge above to a foothold. Continue up the central cracks in the slab, a good pitch (25m). Continue up right of a dirty corner crack, following the best line, rather scrappy (20m).

Rock Stripper – 50m VS 4c. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1998.

Start left of the short central groove and right of a grassy groove. Climb the slabby wall to a chokestone in a bulge which is climbed to step right and up directly to twin overhangs. Surmount the lower (crux) and traverse left beneath the upper to enter a groove which is climbed up and right to the terrace (40m). Continue straight up to finish (10m). Quite bold in places.

Indecent Exposure – 50m HVS 5a*. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen, A. Nisbet. 16th May, 1998.

Either start as for Rock Stripper or to the left of its grassy groove and climb blocky rock to surmount the chokestone. Continue up a steep slab with a small aspen to the overhangs on the right. Move right on huge jugs to a small triangular niche on the nose (exposed). Climb the crux wall directly above to the terrace (35m). Finish up to the top tier (15m). Well positioned climbing with a short crux.

Rendezvous – 50m HVS 5a*. M. Welch, M. Arkley. October, 1993 (see *SMCJ* 1994).

The original route on the crag taking a central line (and approached by canoe from Applecross). Scramble up easy rocks to a short wall beneath the central groove. Climb a wall and thin crack to enter the groove which is climbed to overhangs. Step right and surmount the overhang, then another and continue up on holds that keep appearing to the terrace (35m). Climb the wall left of the tree and a slab to the top (15m).

The Full Monty – 50m E1 5b**. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 8th May, 1998.

A better companion to Rendezvous, more exposed and sustained. To the right of the central groove is a thin red crack. Climb the slabs directly up to it, then climb the crack to the overhang. Move right and pull over this to climb the wall to a horizontal crack. Move left, surmount the bulge and climb the exposed wall directly, making a step left near the top to the tree (35m). Climb the wall to the right of the tree and slab above to the top (15m).

Promiscuous Groove – 30m HVS 5b. G Cullen, A. Nisbet, J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 16th May, 1998.

To the right of The Full Monty is a red wall. Start left of a juniper bush and climb the slab to the wall. This provides awkward climbing to a better wall above which leads to a blocky groove of suspect rock.

Above White House Crag is a slab.

Walking on Crystals – 40m Moderate to V. Diff. R. Brown, J. R. Mackenzie. 8th May, 1998.

The slab is easiest on the left but more entertaining up the red crystalline gneiss to the right.

Quartz Inspector's Slab – 10m V. Diff to Severe. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 8th May, 1998.

At the top of the slab is a 10m slab of faultless white gneiss to the left. Various lines climbed.

GAIRLOCH CRAGS, Meall Lochan a' Chlerich, Creag nan Cadhag (MR 864 722):

Central Corner – 25m Mild VS. A. Brooks, T. Doe 3rd January, 1989.

The big central corner of this overhanging lichenous crag. The corner chimney crack was climbed until it became too narrow and the route finished up the left wall.

The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Marten – 25m HVS. A. Brooks, T. Doe, D. Jones 18th June, 1989

Start a few metres left of Central Corner, below a boulder on a ledge. Go straight up with increasing difficulty to finish by the obvious overhanging jamming crack.

Note: The same party also climbed a version of Bald Eagle/Open Secret and The Lum pitch 1/Questionable Crack pitch 2.

Stone Valley Crags, Viking Crag:

Between Rum Doodle Arête and Red Wall Crag lies this small crag marked by large fallen blocks and short walls. Good rock. Descents right or left.

Helga's First Time – 35m Severe*. D. S. B. Wright, A. K. R. Parker. 14th June, 1998.

There is an obvious broken groove with twin cracks above. Climb the pleasant rough slab on the left of the groove to a boulder spike. Step left on to a wall, then by interesting moves right to a spike, finishing directly up the rib.

Uphellya – 30m VS 4c*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 18th June, 1998.

Take the obvious broken groove, step left, then up right to climb the twin cracks (harder if the dubious block at the top of the cracks is not used). Follow a crack on excellent rock to finish just right of the crest.

Little Valhalla – 12m VS 4c*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 18th June, 1998.

A few metres right of Uphellya, is a very obvious groove. This gives delightful, well-protected climbing. Much better than it looks.

Norse Face Route – 12m E2 5c*. G. Ettle (unsec.). 18th June, 1998.

Starting up Little Valhalla, a pedestal on the right is gained. A shimmy up the arête and mantleshelf gains a pocket with a vital Friend 3+ runner. An extended wire into a slot on the right protects hard moves right to a crack. Further hard moves up lead to a right-trending fault-line and easier finish. The overall grade increases if the extended runner cannot be placed.

Red Wall Crag:

Burnt Offering – 25m E2 5b*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 2nd June, 1998.

Bold as Brass is followed to below the flange, when a wall on the right is climbed to a groove with tiny tree below an overlap. This is passed on the right, with a deviation right which avoids the hardest direct moves.

Flaming Crack – 30m VS 5a. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 2nd June, 1998.

The crack of Flaming June is followed throughout. Will improve with time.

Schiltrom – 25m E1 5b*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 18th June, 1998.

Starting at a small spike in the heather ramp right of Lucky Strike, make a hard move left to gain the bottom of a rightward-trending flake line. This leads to a semi-detached spike just left of Strike Two, from where a move leftwards gains an overlap which is overcome with difficulty. Climb the clean slab above, with a delicate move left to finish.

Flowerdale Wall:

Scraggy Slab – 30m HVS 4c. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright, K. Grindrod. 3rd May, 1998.
Below and left of Flowerdale Wall, a series of smaller outcrops leads leftwards.
This disappointing route takes the biggest slab, about 200m left of Flowerdale Wall, on dubious rock with poor protection.

Fruity Crag (See SMCJ 1998, MR 794 714):

Passion Fruit – 10m E4 6a**. G. Robertson (unsec.). 21st March, 1998.
Climbs directly up the front face of the pillar right of Lemon, at the left end of the crag. Excellent fingery climbing, but bold. (top-rope prior to leading).

Banana – 10m V. Diff. A. Crofton, T. Rankin. 21st March, 1998.
The chimney right of Passion Fruit.

Kiwi – 10m VS 5a*. I. Fischer, G. Robertson. 21st March, 1998.
The fine crack right of Banana.

Starfruit – 10m VS 5b. A. Crofton. 21st March, 1998.
The wall right of Kiwi, with a hard start.

Pineapple – 12m Moderate.
A useful descent route. Follows the obvious left-trending fault right of Starfruit.

Paw-paw – 10m E2 5c**. T. Rankin, D. Laing. 21st March, 1998.
A great fingery little route taking the obvious left-facing shallow corner in the smooth wall right of Pineapple. Microwires useful.

Vegie Crag:

From the foot of Fruity Crag, walk left (facing the crag) and head diagonally left up the hillside heading for the col between two hills. The crag is on the left side of the pleasant grassy col. The crag is very sheltered and faces east. The rock is clean and sound although the base is quite boggy. Ten minutes from Fruity Crag.

Neep – 10m H. Severe. A. Crofton, D. Laing. 21st March, 1998.
The left-hand line of weakness out of a steep bay. Start at the left end of the highest part of the cliff. Continue up short slabs to the top.

Swede – 10m VS 5b. A. Crofton, D. Laing, T. Rankin. 21st March, 1998.
Climbs the centre of the steep bay. Start below the left-facing corner in the upper part of the crag. Climb the bouldery start to join and finish up the corner. A good wee route.

Sweet Potato – 15m Severe. T. Rankin, D. Laing, A. Crofton. 21st March, 1998.
The obvious left-slanting crack gives the best route here. Start up the short corner to the left.

Turnip – 10m H. Severe. T. Rankin. 21st March, 1998.
Climb the steep crack 4m right of Sweet Potato. Continue up the slab to finish up the right edge of the upper wall.

Rubha Mor (Sheet 19; MR 876 978):

A couple of promontories on this section of coast offer short routes on clean sound Torridonian sandstone. Approach via the single track road west of Mellon Udrigle, followed by a boggy 1km walk round the coast. The first promontory at MR 879 978 has a long NW-facing easy-angled wall accessed by scrambling down a long

ramp line. Where this fades out, a left-facing slabby groove (12m, V. Diff) has been climbed. Some distance right of this is a short red slab directly below two large cairns. There are two pleasant lines; on the left side is Severe and the right side is VS 4b. The next promontory to the west (MR 876 978) offers better but limited climbing on its NW tip where a steep wall rises above a rock platform (part tidal).

Heather's a Blether – 10m HVS 5a. D. McGimpsey, J. Lines, R. McAllister. September, 1998.

Juggy climbing up a slim corner 5m left of a left leaning black corner. Finish out right on steep layaways.

Chrome Melons – 10m VS 5a. D. McGimpsey. September, 1998.

The left leaning black corner. If wet at the top, move out left and climb a short stepped corner (4c).

Moving round to the left, a more broken wall faces the open sea. At its far left there is an overhanging wall.

Melons in a Muddle – 10m E1 5b. J. Lines, D. McGimpsey, R. McAllister. September, 1998.

Climb a short corner to gain a right-trending break. Go along this, then up and left to a finish on the left arête.

Aztec Tower (Sheet 19; MR 815 784):

There are now nine routes on this 20m crag, Diff to HVS. The crag lies 2km north of Gairloch and is seen as a reddish tower to the west of the road. Details in the next guide.

An Groban:

Growbag Grooves – 60m E1 5b*. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 29th April, 1998.

Start as for Hatman but climb rightwards up an inset slab to where it meets Straker. Step left and climb shallow grooves up the crest of the buttress (35m). Scramble to the top.

CREAG MHOR THOLLADH, Lower Tollie Crag:

Sarah'n'Dipity and the Forgotten Pill – 55m E3**. S. Hill, D. S. Shephard. 4th June, 1998

An excellent climb in an impressive situation, taking the fine shallow groove in the centre of the wall, between The Trip and Decadent Days. Climbed on sight with no pre-inspection or cleaning.

1. 15m 4c. As for The Trip to the large oak.
2. 25m 5c. Continue 6m up until it is possible to step right past a perched block. Move up and right to gain good holds at base of a shallow groove. Follow this over a slight bulge to a junction with Catastasis; follow this diagonally left to a niche and old peg belay.
3. 15m 4a. Pull out of the top of the niche into a slanting crack. Follow this to finish easily.

GRUINARD, Carn Goraig (Sheet 19, MR 995 860):

This is a three tiered west facing gneiss crag overlooking the River Gruinard not far from its source at Loch na Sealga. Access is straight-forward being about 6km from the main road following a well maintained estate track until opposite Carn Goraig; about 1hr. 15min. walk or 45min. by mountain bike. Ford the river

(difficult when in spate) and cross the boggy flats to the crag. The crag is solid clean rough gneiss, generally slabby climbing with a steeper two-tiered lower section. The climbs usually follow cracklines with good protection. Some of the routes are on the top tier only with access to the heather terrace being on the right. Descent possible left or right. Routes described right to left starting with two routes on the right side of the top tier.

The Fatwah – 30m HVS 5b**. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. 7th October 1998.

The fine crack rising out of the obvious red groove. Follow the crack in the same line after the easing.

Dispossessed – 30m E1 5c**. F. Fotheringham, A. Cunningham. 7th October, 1998.

Start at The Fatwah and move left into a scooped line of cracks, small ledges and hidden holds to gain the easing by a small protruding spike. Climb in the same line via cracks and blocks to finish.

Ramadan – 65m E1**. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. July, 1995.

1. 10m 4a. Climb cracks on the right side of the lower tier to a belay by a large overhung recess (or walk round!).
2. 25m 5b. Climb a steep widening crack out of the right side of the recess and up to belay below a wide blocky Y-crack in the upper slabs.
3. 30m 4c. Move up and rightwards via the crack and pull left through the bulge to follow the continuing left-hand crack.

Wailing Wall – 70m E1**. F. Fotheringham, A. Taylor. 11th March, 1987.

1. 20m 4b. Start at the foot of the lowest rocks near the right of the first tier. Climb a slab and gain a recessed scoop and exit via a crack on the right on to a stance on the terrace.
2. 25m 5b. Climb steeply to gain a shelf. Follow a left-trending fault and climb a rounded bulge and up to a heather terrace. Belay below the obvious twin cracklines, the closer right-hand two of three parallel cracks.
3. 25m 5a. Climb the left-hand crack initially until it steepens and step right to gain the right crack at the bulge. Climb this and follow the crack over the top bulge.

Call of the Muwazzin – 25m E2 5b/c**. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham. 7th October, 1998.

A good pitch on the top tier, following the crack immediately left of the twin cracks of Wailing Wall - the left-hand of the three parallel cracks. Where the crack peters out at the half height bulge, move right into the left-hand crack of Wailing Wall (where that route moves right) and move immediately back left into the original line after the bulge.

The Highland Cragman – 90m E3**. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright 7th October, 1998.

1. 20m 5c. Start to the right of the undulating scoops of Wailing Wall and climb to an arrow-shaped slot. Climb the crack above and step left then back right up a pair of thin cracks to the ledge.
2. 35m 5c. Start just left of the smooth scoop and reach an undercut flange; go strenuously up this to a foot-traverse right across a small shelf. Climb up just left of the blind exit crack to hand traverse right below it to a heather patch below a steep

crack. Climb the crack and continue up the slab and heather to belay at the base of the central deep scoop left of Call of the Muwazzin.

3. 35m 5b. Climb the rib left of and join Call of the Muwazzin for a farther 10m or so to a point where it is possible to do a thin traverse left to join another hidden crack above a grassy crack and scoop below. Continue up this crack on good holds until possible to step left to reach a prominent flange which is climbed to a rounded ledge and exit up the short top wall. Some excellent sustained climbing on the lower two pitches with a more relaxed final pitch in a delightful situation.

Whoopers – 90m E3/4 6a**. G. Latter, A. Siddons. 13th October, 1998.

In the centre of the lower tier is a smooth-looking scoop, split by some very thin cracks.

1. 15m 6a. Climb the easy lower slab, then by a good crack which soon fades. Continue up the scoop, with a hard move to gain a thin horizontal break. Step up right and pull over the final bulge, using a good jug in the crack on the right.

2. 20m 5c. Directly above is another, smoother scoop. Climb the steep flake crack on the left arête, then traverse right and up to the base of a fine hanging crack. Layback into the crack and pull over onto the slab above.

3. 10m. Scramble up to belay.

4. 35m? Climb the thin left-slanting crack above, then by a thin crack in the crest of a vague blunt rib, over a tricky bulge. Finish more easily up a wider mossy crack.

Return to Mecca/Alba – 100m E2**. Top pitch (Return to Mecca) – F. Fotheringham, A. Taylor. 6th September 1998. Pitch 1 (Alba) – J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 29th September, 1998.

1. 35m 5a. On the left of the lower tier is a continuous steep rib bottomed by reddish slabs. Climb the slab direct to the rib which is climbed centrally to exit via a rightwards slanting crack; a well sustained pitch.

2. 20m. Scramble up broken ground to below a bowl-shaped scoop on the left side of the top tier.

3. 25m 5c. Climb the crack on the left of the bowl to a wall. Traverse left across a bulge to a thin crack which is climbed strenuously, crux, to a slab which is climbed up right to a wall. Move back left to a rightward-facing ramp which is taken in a good position to the top. A good pitch; constantly varied and interesting.

Olden Glory – 95m VS**. D. S. B. Wright, R. Brown. 2nd October, 1998.

1. 35m 4b. To the left of the steeper rib of Alba's lower pitch is a lesser one which is climbed direct on good to slabs.

2. 15m. Continue up pleasant slabs to a prominent short groove above.

3. 35m 4c. Climb the awkward groove via cracks to a small tree. Move up left round a shallow rib to a flanged crack which is climbed to a topmost bulge. Hand traverse below the bulge to a break and exit up this to the top, a fine pitch taking the easiest line up the top tier. A good climb that deserves to become popular.

Car Park Area:

Molly's Ridge – 15m Diff. J. and P. Richards, J. and K. Bolger, C. and S. Steer. 23rd June, 1996.

The blunt ridge above the V. Diff. Slab.

Mutt's Crack – 8m Severe. J. and P. Richards, J. and K. Bolger, C. and S. Steer. 23rd June, 1996.

The thin crack on the far right of the ridge's flank.

Members of the same party climbed other short routes nearby. Flake Buttress lies right of and slightly below V. Diff. Slab and has a large flake at its right end. There are three 6m routes; the crack on the front of the flake (5a); the flake-chimney forming its left side (V. Diff.), and scoops and slabs on the left (V. Diff.).

Guinard Crag:

Ueejit – 18m E4 6a* N. Morrison, J. Reed. August, 1997

Climb the right side of the reddish wall with three diagonal cracks between Halcyon Days and Utopia up a line of small flakes leading from a small ledge at the right end of the middle crack to the topmost crack (runners) and a hard move above it. Sustained and thin.

Coupe du Monde – 25m E4 5c*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 16th June, 1998.

Between Red John and Overlord is a groove and steep wall. The route climbs these, moving slightly right up steep flakes to a difficult finish in a small groove. Low in the grade.

NOTE: How the West was Won was climbed with a direct finish above the shattered flakes by P. Thorburn and J. Lowther, same grade, on 16th August, 1998.

Quail – 30m Diff. D. S. B. Wright, G. Ettle. 16th June, 1998.

The obvious short fissure at the right end of the crag is climbed to a heather ledge, followed by a fine groove round the corner.

Inverianvie Crag, The Bayview Wall:

The Pleasure Beach – 15m Severe*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 21st May, 1998.

Start just to the left of Gneiss and Easy. Climb via flakes and cracks to a ledge. Avoid the vegetated groove above by climbing the cracked wall on the right.

Double Matured – 15m VS 4c. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 18th October, 1997.

The heathery crack, starting up the wall immediately to its left and moving into the crack above the tree. Not unpleasant, with bridging past the heather.

Decommissioned Arms – 20m E1 5b. A. Cunningham. 31st August, 1998.

A route up the middle of the slim buttress to the left of Chokestone Gully. Start by climbing a thin undercut crack and move up a left diagonal crack until a swing right leads to ledges. Easier up the middle of the buttress to finish.

Note: A less direct version with a vegetated start to the left was climbed by A. and G. Nisbet on 10th May, 1998 (Severe).

Inverianvie Crag, Optic Wall:

The long wall right of the huge wedged block is composed of less good rock.

The Parting Glass – 20m HVS 5a. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright. 21st May, 1998.

From the lowest point, a rightwards-trending line is taken to breach the obvious roof by a crack. On the first ascent, a lens fell from the second's spectacles.

The Dundee Dram – 25m VS 4c. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 10th May, 1998.

Climb the right edge of the wall up a cleaned crack, moving right to keep near the edge and up to a heathery finish.

Guinard Jetty Buttress:

Running on Empty – 40m E2 5c. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 26th April, 1998.

Climbs the blank wall to the right of North-West Arête. Start to the right of the fence

post and climb the bouldery wall direct to beneath the widest point of the overhang above, vital runners. Pull over this to arrive beneath a shallow black scoop, marginal RPs only. Move up, then step left to a rounded edge and gain easier ground common to NW Arête. Despite being an eliminate, it offers good tenuous climbing that is serious above the overhang.

Prizefighter – 25m E3 5c**. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown (alt.). 26th April, 1998. Climbs the arête bounding Charlie's Corner on the left, then the overhanging crack immediately to the right of the Direct Finish to that route.

1. 10m 5a. Climb the elegant but poorly protected arête direct to a ledge.
2. 15m 5c. Move up right and gain the overhanging shallow corner-crack right of the ivy choked direct finish and climb this increasingly strenuously, well protected, to a fighting finish up the overhanging crack above.

CARN DEARG AN DROMA (MR 971 944):

This slabby gneiss crag faces south and lies north of the A832. It is well seen from the layby near Miotag but most easily approached from the layby at MR 981 934 in 20 minutes. Several routes were climbed in the easier grades by J. Richards and S. Steer on 29th August, 1996, the best being:

Game Boy – 25m Severe.

Start at the steep wall right of Tetrus. Climb this direct, then take a crack in the wall above to join a flake-crack leading rightwards up the top slab.

Tetrus Rocket – 25m Severe.

Climb the obvious corner and deep groove line, moving right at the top of the groove to finish.

Little Faith – 30m V. Diff.

Climb the pleasant rounded slabby arête above a right-slanting turf break.

Shrapnel Crack – 30m V. Diff.

Climb the right-slanting crack left of Little Faith.

CREAG BEINN NAM BAN (SMCJ 1998), Fluted Buttress:

Right of Creag Beinn nam Ban is a gully containing Hang Dog Pinnacle. Right again is another parallel gully at the top left of which is a 20m buttress. This can be seen from the road just south of the layby and is characterised by left slanting cracks and grooves. The rock on this buttress is a little more brittle than elsewhere.

Put a Sock in it! – V. Diff.*. N. J. Smith. 3rd May, 1998.

The leftmost crack on the front (SW) face of the buttress with a right handrail.

Beaufort Scale – V. Diff. T. A. Murray, C. A. Watt. 4th May, 1998.

Immediately right of the last route is a slight recession with two shallow chimneys. This is the left chimney.

Force Six Chimney – V. Diff. N. J. Smith, J. R. Mackenzie. 4th May, 1998.

The right chimney is rather loose.

Class Struggle – HVS 5a*. J. R. Mackenzie, N. J. Smith. 4th May, 1998.

Right of Force Six Chimney is a steep jam crack in a shallow left-facing corner. Climb the crack direct exiting right.

Absentee Landlord – V. Diff. N. J. Smith. 5th June, 1998.

The left-slanting groove immediately right of Class Struggle is clearly seen from the road and identifiable at close quarters by a rockfall scar low down.

Prole's Crack – M. Severe. N. J. Smith, J. R. Mackenzie. 4th May, 1998.

At the right end of the face is an undercut crack with a small square-cut overhang at half height. Gain crack from the left and turn the overhanging block on its right.

Fin Buttress:

Left of Fluted Buttress is a small slabby buttress. Left again is a buttress with a prominent fin of rock separating two grooves. The left-hand groove has a small tree low on its right.

Social Climber – VS 4b. J. R. Mackenzie, N. J. Smith. 4th May, 1998.

The right-hand groove. Start just right of the lowest point and pull up a short bubbled wall leftwards to a slab. Move up to a groove and so to the top.

Lords a Leaping – VS 4c*. N. J. Smith, J. R. Mackenzie. 4th May, 1998.

The left-hand groove. Start at a slab left of the lowest point and climb the groove which is more awkward than it might appear.

High above Creag Beinn nam Ban and at much the same altitude as the last two buttresses is a low-angled pink slab. It looks impressive in profile from the top of Fin Buttress but is rather broken with only its right end being clean and continuous. It can be reached by continuing up the gully from Hound Dog Pinnacle until the slab is on the left.

Solo Slab – 50m Moderate. N. J. Smith. 5th June, 1998.

Climb the slab on excellent rock.

Badrallach Crag (Sheet 19; MR 104 914):

At the NW end of Beinn nam Ban two tiers of crags overlook Badrallach. The lower tier is vegetated but the upper tier contains a small slabby crag which can be identified by a small cave at its foot. The rock is excellent rough sandstone. The crag, which catches the afternoon and evening sun, is quick drying and offers a number of low grade routes in a fine setting. Park at a large layby 300m south of the Allt na h-Airbhe hairpin bend at point 236 on Sheet 19. Avoid the lower tier by striking up to the north ridge on the left, then returning rightwards to the crag – 15 minutes. Routes are described from right to left.

Windy Ridge – 70m Easy. N. J. Smith. 5th July, 1997.

A pleasant scramble up the blocky ridge which bounds the crag on its right. Start at the lowest rocks right of the cave. Climb to a heather and bearberry ledge at about 50m. Another shorter band of rock is climbed easily. From the top the summit is but an easy stroll.

The following routes are 35m to 45m and terminate on the ledge. Descend by reversing Windy Ledge.

Garden Party – V. Diff. T. A. Murray, C. J. Watt, N. J. Smith. 1st May, 1998.

The botanically interesting groove right of the cave. Low in the grade.

Lapsang Suchong – Severe. N. J. Smith, C. J. Watt, T. A. Murray. 1st May, 1998.

Start at the right side of the cave. Climb a slab to the roof of the cave and make a long step right on to an arête. Move up to easier ground, then climb a corner which leads to the ledge.

Laird's Loss – HVS 5a*. C. J. Watt, N. J. Smith, T. A. Murray. 1st May, 1998.
Climb direct to the awkward hanging groove above the centre of the cave. A deep crack in the slab above leads more easily to the ledge.

Pillar of Society – VS 4b. N. J. Smith, T. A. Murray, C. J. Watt. 2nd May, 1998.
The left wall of the cave is formed by a giant pillar. Climb the wall on mega jugs to the top of the pillar. A crack now leads up the slab trending left. Protection is spaced.

Poacher's Prize – VS 4b**. N. J. Smith, T. A. Murray, C. J. Watt. 2nd May, 1998.
Left of the cave is a wide crack where the pillar joins the slab. Left again is a prominent crack which runs the full height of the slab. Start steeply below the crack and follow it to the top. Protection is spaced.

Hunter's Moon – HVS 4c**. N. J. Smith, C. J. Watt, T. A. Murray. 2nd May, 1998.
At the foot of the slab and left of Poacher's Prize is a large boulder. From the top of this a crack starts up the slab but runs out. Climb the crack, then continue boldly in the same line to a slight steepening which is climbed on improving holds to the ledge.

BEINN LAIR, North-East Face:

Y Gully, Left Fork – 250m III. P. F. Macdonald, C. G. M. Slesser. 11th April, 1998.
First ascent in thin conditions, when a large chockstone in the fork section provided the main obstacle; the grading assumes more of a build-up around this. Fine rock scenery.

Angel Buttress, Ordinary Route by Wrangham's variation – IV. R. F. Allen, R. Richardson. 11th April 1998.

The summer line was followed. The main challenges were a series of chockstone pitches in the chimneys, one of which offers a through route for the most slender of leaders! Recommended.

AN TEALLACH, A'Ghlas Thuill:

Unnamed – 300m II. A. Cunningham, F. Fotheringham, D. Williamson. January, 1997.

Climbs the buttress between North Gully and Hayfork Gully. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb easily to a steep band at half height. Take a line leading out right to overlook North Gully, then follow a shallow gully/ramp which is formed between the crest of the buttress and North Gully to finish near the top of the latter.

Toll an Lochain:

Lucky Strike – 200m II. V. Chelton, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. 24th February, 1999.

Climbs a ramp bounding the right side of Gobhlach Buttress and leading to a short gully. Gain the ramp from midway up the easy gully (Central Gully).

Corrag Bhuidhe South Buttress, Original Route – 350m II. V. Chelton, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. 24th February, 1999.

Climbs the east face overlooking Loch Toll an Lochain, probably following the

Glover and Ling original climb on this buttress. Start up a shallow gully just right of the barrier wall at the base (which drops into the lochan). Climb this and trend easily left towards a very steep wall with a ramp and obvious icefall. Make a long traverse left until it is possible to climb up mixed ground to a snowfield below the main rock barrier on the face. Traverse back right to the crest until turf steps lead up to a left-trending ramp cum gully breaching the barrier wall. At its top, climb up left into a small basin. A short turf groove on the left (crux) leads to easier ground. Either climb straight up to the final crest or up and left across snow to the top.

Corrag Bhuidhe, South Buttress Direct – 350m IV,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 26th February, 1999.

Start up the gully as for the original route and trend easily left to the steep wall and icefall. Start up the icefall but soon go up a prominent diagonal line leftwards with a through route to reach a terrace. Gain the next terrace below another steep tier. Climb a turf groove just left of the crest, breaking out left at half height and returning right above. Follow the crest to the top.

Corrag Bhuidhe, South Buttress by the Mental Chimney – 350m V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 28th December, 1998.

Start as for the Direct Route but continue to gain the base of a gully which is formed right of the buttress crest. A pitch with three difficult steps in the gully bed leads to two further pitches where the difficulties are passed using the rib on the right. The crest is gained soon above and followed easily to the summit. Very icy conditions might drop the grade to IV,5.

Corrag Bhuidhe Buttress – 400m VI,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 24th January, 1999.

This is the buttress which bounds the main face of Corrag Bhuidhe on the left, left of Lady's Gully. Gain the triangular snowfield from its bottom left. Continue in the same line up a ramp which cuts up rightwards into the buttress (100m). Climb a steep step to gain an upper continuation and follow this to steeper ground. Go up a short way, then traverse sensationally left along a ledge (50m). Continue the traverse until a line back right allows an upper ledge (about 25m higher) to be reached and followed right (50m). Find a way through steep slabby ground to reach a large ledge (40m). Traverse right along the ledge to gain and follow the easier crest of the buttress which is left of Lady's Gully (160m).

Cnocturne – 450m VI,6. N. Johnson, D. McGimpsey. 10th January, 1999.

The long curving arête left of Lords Gully and joining 1978 Face Route near its top. Climbed in poor conditions of heavy snow, the route described could become a grade easier with ice on the lower pitches. A more logical but less direct start would be the short gully on the left leading to the right of the triangular snowfield; with a better build-up, this would make the route IV,4. Start at the right side of the lowest rocks, and below a large right-facing corner-ramp which leads into Lords Gully. Go up to icy ground and climb to a ledge below a steep wall (40m). Traverse left for 15m, then climb up and left on small tufts and compact rock into a scoop below a left-facing groove (serious). Gain a ledge on the left and climb up, then back right to a ledge directly above the groove (45m). Go up the steep wall above, then move left to gain the continuation groove. Climb this (technical crux), then up to the right end of the triangular snowfield (40m). Two pitches of easier turf climbing lead up

and right to the snow arête. From its top, a 40m traverse left on to 1978 Face Route was made to join and finish up this route. (It looks possible, and easier, to climb direct from the start of the traverse to join 1978 Face Route higher up.

The corrie face of Sgurr Fiona gives some long ice climbs in good conditions. The face is crossed by two big ramp systems which rise to the right. The higher and larger ramp starts near the base of Lord's Gully with the most obvious and regularly forming icefall above this ramp and right of centre (Fiona Verticale – *SMCJ* 1995). The distinctive features of the ice lines lie above this ramp although they have lower continuations to the base of the face.

Fifi's Chimney – 350m V.6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 23rd February, 1999.

The leftmost of the ice lines on the face, following a chimney which leads into a left slanting snow ramp which finishes halfway up the crest leading from Lord Berkley's Seat up to Sgurr Fiona. Some great moves; pity the best section is short. Start just right of Lord's Gully and climb low-angled ice to the upper ramp and the base of the icy chimney. A steep back and foot pitch (30m) and a pitch with three awkward bulges, the last being climbed by mixed moves on the right (30m) leads to the easier upper section.

Lady in Waiting – 350m IV.5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 23rd February, 1999.

Climbs ice which forms in a right-facing corner above the upper ramp. The lower continuation has one steep section. The corner has a considerable bulge low down which was traversed from the recess on the left (good runners) to less steep ice on its right. Continuous ice leads to a final kink right on thinner ice which gains easier upper slopes and a finish close to or just right of Sgurr Fiona.

Fiona Diretissima – 400m VI.6. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey. 7th March, 1999.

In good conditions a steep icefall forms over the wall below the upper ramp and icefall of Fiona Verticale. This route links this icefall with the Fiona Verticale one above to provide a long natural but escapable line to finish right of the summit of Sgurr Fiona. Start directly below the lower icefall. Climb easy iced slabs and snow for two pitches to reach the ice (the lower free-standing column was very fragile and avoided by steep snow on the right). Belay in an excellent ice cave behind the start of the ice proper. A very steep start up an icicle led to easier climbing up and right across the icefall to finish up a steepening icy corner. Easy ground follows to a short wall 50m below Fiona Verticale. This was climbed by a wide 10m pillar (avoidable). Climb the main icefall direct to its top. To finish, a steep narrow icy chimney directly above the icefall led to mixed ground and the top (Fiona Verticale finishes farther left?).

Lost Gully – 200m IV.4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th January, 1999.

Below the lower ramp which crosses Sgurr Fiona is a steep wall which bounds the cliffs on the right. This gully, well hidden from most angles, cuts through the ramp. Climb the gully, steep and poorly protected for 20m but graded for good ice, to reach the ramp. Follow the ramp rightwards on less steep ice to a short crest which leads to the slopes of Sgurr Fiona.

The Spectre – 160m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th January, 1999.

Start further up the steep wall from Lost Gully, immediately left of a big arête at its top right corner. Climb a big ramp through the steep wall, then trend rightwards on mixed ground to finish up the sharp arête.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)

THE CROMARTY FIRTH, North Sutor Cliffs (Sheet 21, MR 813 686):

Despite this being one of the driest areas of Scotland, the rock cannot be described as an adequate lure. It is a smooth and brittle unidentified metamorphic rock with the worst properties of both granite and sandstone. Varying from brick red to yellow, it is an artist's dream, but climbingwise, only some of it is solid and reliance on any single hold is risky. Protection is only as good as the rock though it can look quite convincing at times. High-angled grass above the crags encouraged the pioneers to carry a short ice axe, which proved useful.

Approach from Nigg Ferry and take the farm road east to a layby before the hill. The beach, then a rocky scramble (at high tide) leads to grassy cliffs. The route below takes a line up the next section of more continuous crag, marked by a bright, yellow arête and a right-facing chimney above a shallow cave. This cave bottoms a cleaner overhanging section of cliff that looks clean but did not entice.

Shake, Rattle and Roll – 60m HVS 4b and Grade II. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Weld. 19th August, 1998.

The cave provides two options to gain the right facing chimney above, either straight up below it or harder, better and solid, climb the undercut left-slanting ramp that leads into it. Climb the chimney to a shallow cave and assortment of belays (20m 4b). Now traverse left across the bright yellow arête and into another shallow scoop. The rock above is quite steep and very loose, crux, and leads on to the grass field which was front-pointed up to an easing (belay on a broom brush and axe pick) – 40m 4a.

STRATHCONON, Slab Crag (MR 358 362):

The crag is south-facing and of granulitic schist. The climbs are 10m long, by A. Mullin in June, 1998, involve friction and are quite bold, with small wires useful.

Approach: As for Hidden Crag but continue through the woods. Once out of the woods, turn left and follow the heathery hillside for 1+ km. Allow one hour. The climbs are described right to left. The main feature is a corner-line.

Slab Crack – VS 5a.

Start at the obvious crackline 2m from the right end of the slab. Climb the crack leftwards, step into the obvious niche and follow the crack above to the top.

Slab Corner – VS 4c.

Climb the obvious corner, using the arête at intervals.

Howling Arête – Severe.

The arête forming the left side of Slab Corner. Big holds but no protection.

Polythene Pam – HVS 5b.

Start 5m left of the arête at the foot of a small overlap. Take the prominent right-slanting crackline.

Dandgee Crack – Severe.

The right-slanting crack left of Polythene Pam. Easier than it looks.

CREAG GHLAS, East Buttress:

Charge of the White Brigade – 165m IV.6. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 28th February, 1999.

Possibly the route most often in condition on the crag. It takes the right-hand face of the East Buttress, following a line up the steepest part just to the right of a shallow chimney/gully. Approach by the easy gully that lies below this section of face and start at an easing right of a crag containing a broken chimney, approx. half way along the face. Climb up to slabs and belay to the right (50m). Continue up the slabs which are more difficult than they look and aim for a corner to the right of the chimney/gully. Climb a thin subsidiary corner which contains a couple of small trees (60m). Escape up to the right via the short but hard crux wall. Continue straight up and exit over another corner to some flakes on the right below a wall (30m). Climb the flakes and finish above (25m).

West Face:

The slab to the left of Victory Crack has three good lines. Left to right these are: *Super Discount* – 16m E3 6a. D. McGimpsey, R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 19th September, 1998.

The twin crackline on the left. The left-hand and lower crack is climbed to an awkward transfer to the upper right hand crack. Climb this with interest to crux moves near the top.

Julian's Line (unnamed) – 20m E3 6a. J. Lines, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. September, 1998.

Climbs the slab and hanging crack to the right (4m left of Tales of the Old Days). Climb the bold slab to gain the crack (assortment of dubious gear). Climb the crack, mainly on its right side.

Tales of the Old Days – 30m E5 6b. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, M. Harrison. September, 1998.

Start to the right of a slabby recess left of Victory Crack. Climb the thin slab to gain the right edge of a crescent shaped crack and follow this to a good pocket at half height (first good gear). Continue up and right to an awkward mantelshelf move. A long stretch (6a) or dyno (6b) gains the top break (poor cams). Follow this leftwards to a short finishing crack. Very bold on the lower half.

Chameleon – 60m E2 5c**. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 31st August, 1998.

Left of the heather corner that lies left of the Salamander slab is another steep slab with a shallow right trending curved overlap. The route takes shallow cracks running straight through this feature. There is an optional first pitch (which was soloed) that avoids heather.

1. 15m 4c. Start below the overlapped slab to the right and climb two short slabs to move left to a short crack below the overlap.

2. 45m 5c. Climb boldly up to and through the overlap (small Friends) with more unprotected and delicate climbing to the base of the thin crack. Climb this (crux) which is well protected by wires to a wobbly flake and small ledge. Move up rightwards through an overlap and make a delicate step up right to the edge which is followed more easily to the heather ledge. An excellent sustained pitch.

Either scramble off leftwards along the exposed ledge or continue in another two pitches as for Spoils of War.

Salamander Pitch 4 Variation (Legoland) – 20m E3 5c. D. McGimpsey, R. McAllister. August, 1998.

Instead of traversing the slab into the left facing corner, continue up the blind crack directly above the belay. Poorly protected and tenuous.

The Victory Crack Crag:

Peak Freans' Trotskyite Selection – 20m HVS 5b. R. McAllister. 24th August, 1998.

The narrow clean slab immediately below and right of Victory Crack.

Note: *Victory Crack* worth ***. *Spoils of War* Grade E2 5b.

The Lower Tier:

To the left and below the main crag and beneath the Victory Crack wall is a subsidiary slabby wall seamed by cracks and with a square recess near its right-hand end (described in *SMCJ* 1995). While short, the rock and climbing is good and the routes are a stocking filler to bigger things. Routes described left to right. Left of centre are three parallel cracks, the leftmost of which is Centipede Crack.

Spider in a Dark Dark Room – 20m E1 5b. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 20th September, 1998.

The thin central crack, sheer fun.

Anonymous Chimney – 20m VS 4c. D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 20th September, 1998.

The wider right-hand crack, a bit awkward and dirty in places.

Glazed and Confused – 20m E1 5b. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey. 20th September, 1998.

The wall to the right of Anonymous Chimney, being the wide central wall of the crag, climbed in the middle. Move easily up the lower part of the wall and over the central bulge to reach a hairline crack through the upper wall. Fine moves up this lead to a nubbin, good ledge and the top.

Moon Safari – 25m E3 5c. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Fraser. 20th September, 1998.

An excellent route up the largest buttress, at the right end of the crag. The improbable lower section is climbed left of centre, holds appearing when least expected. Move slightly rightwards to the upper section. This is climbed right of centre, moving across left at the top and gives technical and intricate climbing.

Ra-Ra Rabbit – 10m VS 5a. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey (solo). 20th September, 1998.

The small buttress to the right of Moon Safari, with a ledge at two thirds height. Good moves but unprotected.

Explosive Joseph – 10m E1 5b. R. McAllister. 20th September, 1998.

The small rightmost buttress on the crag, to the right of an obvious black water streak.

SGURR NA MUICE, North-East Face:

The Boar – 155m VI,6**. J. R. Mackenzie, D. Broadhead (alt.). 10th January, 1999. Though rarely in condition, this challenging line is worth waiting for. Take the right-hand approach gully to the iced slab. Climb the slab to the base of the big central groove to the left of The Wolf.

1. 50m. Climb the groove which is steep, sustained and has overlaps. A thin ice runnel is essential as there is no turf apart from a central boss. Exit steeply to ice, then snow, and follow to below a prominent narrow ice runnel that forms on the right wall of a shallow groove; this is the natural continuation of the groove below.
2. 25m. Climb the bulging ice which can be rather thin in places, to a steep exit up right which leads to a secure recess.
3. 30m. Move up left over a turfy bulge and then over snowy or iced slabs to a wide groove on the left.
4. 50m. Move into the wider groove and climb this over pleasant steepenings to easy ground a short distance below the summit cairn.

SGURR NA FEARSTAIG, East Face:

Snowdrop – 155m IV,4. C. Grindrod, J. R. Mackenzie. 9th March, 1999.

Between Red Campion and the corner of Sorcerer's Apprentice is a steep area of crag that has two shallow gullies with a thin streak between them high up. This climb takes the main right hand gully, much of which is hidden from below. Start below these features and climb steepening snow and ice to a point where it is possible to move right over a rib to join the rightmost gully. Climb this, moving left to a prominent saddle belay (60m). Continue towards the thin streak, then enter the hidden gully to the right via a good ice pitch. Go up the gully (45m). Climb a thin mixed groove to the right which ends below the girdling snow band. Climb steep snow to a potentially problematical cornice.

SGURR NA LAPAICH (AFFRIC):

Birthday Blast – 140m III. C. Jones, A. MacDonald. 19th February, 1999.

From Loch Lapaich (MR 157 246), walk up to the shield of rock guarding the lower part of the left side of the corrie.

1. 30m. Follow the central groove in the middle of the wall (slightly contrived – a snow gully left of the rock wall could be climbed).
2. 60m. Go up easier broken ground to the foot of the upper face.
3. 50m. Take a rising traverse left into a gully and follow the left branch into a wide and well protected exit chimney. The right fork is an alternative finish.

AM FAOCHAGACH, Creag Clachach:

N. Kempe notes that he climbed the frozen stream at MR 328 813 in 1996 at Grade II/III.

FANNICHS, Sgurr nan Clach Geala:

Bungalow Buttress (No. 1 Buttress) – 100m III,4. A. Nisbet. 6th December, 1998.

Start from a small bay roughly central on the front face of the buttress. Climb a left slanting turfy line of weakness (parallel to Alpha Gully), steeper than it looks, to finish left of the summit of the buttress. The summit, which is close to the top of Alpha Gully, is easily gained.

Canary Wharf – 140m V,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet; A. Clarke, R. McAllister (variation). 18th November, 1998.

Climbs the right-hand face (front face) of Sellers Buttress, with two variations. Start below the left end of the face and slant easily up right to below a turfy line. Climb the turfy line until about 10m below the shoulder. Go diagonally right to a projecting block and swing round it to a traverse ledge which soon leads to the central corner in the upper part of the face. Climb the corner and the wall on its left to easier ground leading to the top of the buttress.

Variation: Stand on the projecting block in order to step left into the left-hand corner. Climb this and the arête above to the top of the buttress.

Sellers Tower – 160m V,6. R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 22nd December, 1998.

The right side of the front face of Sellers Buttress gives a fine improbable route, generally well protected. Start as for Canary Wharf but continue trending right, then curving upwards to a belay under steep ground and almost overlooking the start of Epsilon Gully (80m). Move left on to the arête of a right-facing corner and pull up to prominent turf. Traverse left along a narrow turf ledge past another corner and go up to a pedestal below the main roof system (20m). Pull through the roof (small at this point) and move left into the base of a left-facing corner, half of a pair of big corners about 5m apart and facing each other, the best indicator of the line from below. Climb this right corner, then a crack between the corners and finish up the left corner to reach easier ground. Move right and go up to a ledge below the top of the buttress (50m). Reach the easy final crest. (10m).

BEINN DEARG, Gleann na Sguab:

Beano Buttress – 150m III,4. I. Rea, A. Cunningham, A. George. February, 1995. At the start of WhatawaytospendEaster there is a narrow snow gully on the right. Climb the crest of the buttress between the two gullies. (Missing out the crux start to Beano Buttress by climbing Just Dandy for a pitch and cutting back left across turfy ledges onto the crest, reduces the grade to II/III – A. Cunningham, B. Gordon on 11th January, 1999.)

Just Dandy – 180m II. A. Cunningham, F. Curtler. February, 1998.

Climb a narrow snow gully on the right of the start of WhatawaytospendEaster for 70m and take an icy ramp and awkward step on the left wall on to easier ground. Follow round below Beano Buttress to the top.

Garvachy Road – 180m II. A. Cunningham, J. MacRea. 20th February, 1999.

Left of WhatawaytospendEaster, climb into a snowy depression leading into an icy steepening below bulging rock. Move up to an overhang and turn it on the left leading to easier snow slopes to finish.

Sidewinder – 230m V,5*. G. Robertson, P. Robertson. 22nd February, 1999.

A good icy line in the crest right of Fenian Gully. Start just left of the lowest rocks. 1. 40m. Move right on to the crest, then trend left past an awkward crack and up steepening turfy grooves to a perch overlooking the gully.

2. 30m. Go horizontally left to gain and climb a little hanging groove, then move up and make an exposed traverse back right to regain the crest.

3. 50m. Climb the iced corner on the right to gain a large snowfield, then move easily left to a groove in the crest.
4. 40m. Climb the icy groove in a fine position to a good ledge.
5. 80m. Pull strenuously out right and continue more easily to the top.

The West Buttress:

Note: P. Robertson climbed the prominent icefall direct start to Gastronomes Gully at IV,4 in December, 1998 and the small buttress right of Inverlael Gully via an icy groove (Inverlael Buttress, Grade II, 21st February, 1999).

Coire Ghranda:

Cold War – 145m VI,6*. T. Rankin, P. Robertson. 6th March, 1999.

A fine and varied route between Ice Bomb and Body Freeze. Protection is sparse. Start at a prominent right-trending groove midway between the previous two routes.

1. 40m. Climb the groove for 25m to a bulging wall. Traverse steeply up and left across this, then left again into a V-chimney, on top of which sits a fine spike belay.
2. 45m. Go directly up turfey walls before moving left to gain and follow an icy fault to a good ledge.
3. 30m. On the right is a thinly iced groove. Follow this to an overhang, then traverse a large flake rightwards to easier ground. Continue up and right to below a short groove.
4. 30m. Climb the groove, then take the easiest line through bulging ice walls to the top.

BEINN GOBHLACH, North Face:

No Option – 250m II. A. Cunningham, F. Curtler. 1st March, 1999.

Approaching from the west and about halfway along is a widening gully breaching the buttress. Climb into the narrows over a few icy steps and take the main left fork leading easily to the top.

ULLAPOOL, Creag nam Broc:

Jug O' Doon – 15m E2 5b**. G. Robertson, T. Rankin. 4th May, 1998.

The obvious hanging groove between Primitive Dance and One Arm Bandit. Start by a small birch tree and take the left side of an arête before stepping blindly round to gain the groove. Finish up One Arm Bandit (which would appear to be a sandbag at HVS?).

Head to Head, Direct – E2 5c**. T. Rankin, G. Robertson. 4th May, 1998.

The fault followed throughout.

SEANA BHRAIGH, Luchd Coire, Central Massif:

To the right of The Posts and Press-on Gully, the Central Massif is broken and easy-angled with no large areas of exposed rock. Moving farther right the Massif steepens and develops into two distinct tiers with a big raking terrace at about two-thirds height. Below the terrace there are three obvious left-facing corners, the rightmost being the steepest and narrowest. These corners are set on a series of slabs which form the largest continuous area of exposed rock on the massif. Icefalls form down each corner. To the right of the corners a blunt turfey ridge rises to meet a broad

depression which develops into a shallow gully above the terrace. This is presumably the line of Flowerpot Buttress.

Saxifrage – 210m IV.4. M. Bass, J. Clamp, S. Yearsley. 18th April, 1998.

This route takes the rightmost of the three icy corners described above. Scramble up easy ground to belay below the bottom right of the corner.

1. 45m. Climb left to enter the bottom of the corner. Continue upwards on improving ice over a steep bulge.
2. 30m. Climb up the corner for 15m, steeply at first. Traverse leftwards for 3m to enter the central icefall. Climb this for a short distance, then up easily to the mixed rib on the right.
3. 50m. Climb easily up the buttress to gain the terrace. With better ice conditions it may be possible to continue up and left on the icefall to the terrace.
4. 45m. From the terrace climb the buttress to the left of the broad shallow gully (this gully is probably the upper half of Flowerpot Buttress). Enjoyable with short steep walls.
5. 40m. Finish up the short blocky crest to easy ground and the plateau.

RHUE SEA CLIFFS, The First Prow:

The Freaks Come Out – 12m E2 5b*. L. Hughes. 23rd May, 1998.

The wall between Food for Thought and The Bee's Knees. Move out left onto the wall from a dark overhanging corner and up into a crackline. The crack peters out at half height and climb directly up the steep headwall to finish.

ARDMAIR, Evening Wall (see *SMCJ* 1995):

Tick Collector – 20m E3 6a**. G. Latter (on-sight). 1st July, 1998.

Well protected climbing up the stepped grooves on the overhanging wall at the right end of the crag. Climb up to the main groove and pull round awkwardly (crux) to a good ledge. Hand traverse this right to a jug, then pull over to a short hand crack in the final slab.

CAMUS MOR SEA CLIFFS:

Bounty Hunter – 70m HVS*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th September, 1998.

To the right of Freebooter's lower pitch is a roofed concave red wall of unsound rock that ends at an overhanging flake crack near the gully at the start of Keelhaul.

1. 20m 5a. Gain the flake crack via a ramp and strenuously up this on good holds to a tricky landing on a terrace.
2. 20m. Climb one of several lines to a terrace and cross this to below a short steep wall.
3. 10m 4a. Climb to a shelf on the left of a crack and continue up the wall to below the final steep wall.
4. 20m 4c. Near the right end of this wall and left of the overhung scooped slab are some flanges. Climb these and continue up right of a crack on excellent rock directly to the top. A superb pitch, much easier than it looks.

Broadside – 50m HVS*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 24th September, 1998.

This entertaining and quite serious route takes the vertical left wall of the gully. Scramble up the short chimney to the right of Keelhaul's start to a thorn bush below the entrance to the gully.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the wall by big holds to a horizontal crack, then traverse left to

an overhung niche containing a huge block. Pull over the block and roof via a superb bollard, then traverse the jam crack leftwards to a nose; pull up this and continue up a slab to below the honeycombed corner and overhang.

2. 30m 5b. Move up the wall and make a tricky right traverse to an exposed nose, round this and move right to below a short niche. Climb into this (wobbly) and continue up slabs and bulges to exit up a loose funnel. Some lichen and loose rock high on this pitch which will soon clean with use.

Aspen Bay Crag (MR NC 079 026):

A steep west-facing wall in a fine little sheltered bay, directly below the coastal footpath from Culnacraig to Blughasary. The main wall is above a grass platform about 15m above the beach, running down rightwards to a more broken area of rock rising directly above the beach.

Approach: Park at the end of the single track road at Culnacraig. Walk down the road on the right, which leads past a couple of cottages, then continues parallel to the coast, to the crag which lies a couple of hundred metres west of Geodha Mor – 45 minutes.

Descent: Down the open gully leading to the base.

Aspen – 20m E2 5c**. G. Latter. 29th September, 1998.

In the centre of the main wall are twin cracks up the initial wall. Climb these to some pocketed rock beneath a roof. Step right into The Fluttering, then move back left and follow the slightly left slanting crack past some small pockets. Finish quite boldly past a thin crack.

The Fluttering – 20m E2 6a*. G. Latter. 29th September, 1998.

The prominent crackline 5m left of the unappealing chimney on the right side of the wall. Step up right into the initial wide crack, and follow this and a direct line above, with a short difficult section past a thin finger crack. Finish directly in the same line. Slow to dry.

Antler – 20m HVS 5a. G. Latter, C. Prowse (on sight). 29th September, 1998.

Start down on the beach, at a steep undercut groove 3m right of the arête. Climb crumbly pocketed rock, then move up right and follow the groove. Pull out right at the top into a recess, then pull over some blocks to gain the top.

STAC POLLALDH, West Buttress (No.1):

Jack the Ripper, The Fred West Finish – 30m E3 6a. G. Robertson, T. Rankin. August, 1998.

Climbs the obvious crack system in the headwall to the left of the grooves, taking the hand crack obvious from below the route. A fine pitch.

No. 2 Buttress:

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – 60m E3. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. August, 1998.

1. 40m 5c. Climb the thin cracks left of Vlad the Impaler's first pitch until they join that route after 15m, then continue up Vlad to the platform.

2. 20m 5c. Left of Vlad's second pitch is a prominent hanging finger crack. Climb this to a step left at the obvious foothold. Move up using the left arête before stepping back right and pulling through the bulge (crux) to the easier crack above. Sustained and well protected.

No.3 Buttress:

Consider the Lillies – 25m E2 5c*. G. Latter, A. Siddons. 15th October, 1998.
The crack and corner on the slender fin about 40m right of the base of Summer Isles Arête. Gain the leftmost of the twin crack-lines from ledges on the left. Follow it, stepping right into the more prominent crack which leads to a ledge. Finish up a short fierce layback crack in the corner round on the right.

CUL BEAG:

Time in the Fall – 105m HVS. G. Robertson. 29th September, 1998.
Lies well to the right (south) of the Y-shaped gully, just before the cliffs break up. From the south the line is obvious as a clean nose forming the right side of a flat-topped tower. Start at the lowest point of the nose.
1. 30m . Climb direct to where the nose steepens abruptly at a projecting block.
2. 30m 5a. Climb up cracks just left of the nose, steeply at first, to reach some big flakes which lead to a fine broad perch on the crest.
3. 20m 5a. Climb a vertical cracked wall, then an easier groove, and continue to the summit of the tower.
4. 25m 4c. Traverse horizontally right for about 5m, then climb delicate cracks up the right side of the slab in a fine position.

The Red Wall:

Pebbledash – 20m E3 5c**. G. Latter, C. Murray. 1st July, 1998.
Bold climbing up the centre of the slab. Start just left of the wide crack at the base. Climb the wall just left of the crack to the ledge, then move right and place friends in a good horizontal. Climb the wall above the left end of the ledge by good edges to a good break on the slab (RPs in horizontal slots on left). Continue more easily directly up the easy-angled slab above.

REIFF: Pinnacle Area:

Immaculate Walk – 15m E3 5c**. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 26th March, 1999.
A link pitch. Climb the crux of Immaculate Deception and hand traverse right on the lower horizontal break to finish up the final crack of A Walk Across The Rooftops.

Worm On Viagra – 10m E4 5c***. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 26th March, 1999.
Climb Channering Worm to the break, move left and finish steeply via the thin right diagonal crack.

A Song In The Air – 10m E1 5b*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes, P. Holmes. 26th March, 1999.

An eliminate but good climbing nonetheless. Start up the direct start to Hy Brasil and climb straight up the wall between it and Westering Home, touching neither of course!

NOTE: Reiff Case (*SMCJ* 1998, p621) has been climbed before by N. Morrison and not recorded because it was soloed as a boulder problem. Considered about 6a/b.

Brace Yoursel' Becky – 8m E2 6a*. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 26th March, 1999.
Very steep climbing up the middle of the leaning headwall to the left of Diagonal Crack. Climb via two short breaks and a long reach.

Rave On – 8m V. Diff. P. Holmes. 26th March, 1999.

Round left of Chimney Corner on the front face, climb a short steep right-diagonal crack.

John Dunne – 8m Moderate. P. Holmes. 26th March, 1999.

Paddy O' Leary – 10m V. Diff. P. Holmes. 21st March, 1999.

Start left of John Dunne and climb the slabby front face to a large ledge. Finish up a short steep corner.

Old Rockers Never Die – 10m HVS 5b*. A. Cunningham, P. Holmes. 21st March, 1999.

Start just right of Rockette's Climb (on the steep wall round left of Paddy O' Leary) and lurch up the wall to the large ledge. Climb the steep crack in the edge above.

NOTE: Rockette's Climb was thought to be worth HVS 5a.

Black Rocks:

Legover – 20m E2 5b*. R. Baines, G. McShane. June 1998.

Start up Auld Nick and at about 4m break out onto the leaning pillar on the left. Climb a crack to the big break (rest) and launch up the final headwall direct.

Minch Walls:

The first climb is on the broken black rock just past the bouldering wall at the right end of Minch Walls:

Livi's – 10m Diff. L. Kerr and partner. 12th August, 1998.

The straight in crack starting from the base of a left-trending ramp.

Lynx – 8m HVS 5a. A. Cunningham, R. Baines, P. Peacock, J. Cunningham. 1st April, 1998.

Climb the crack in the arête right of Scavenger.

In Yer Face – 10m E1 5b*. A. Cunningham, R. Baines. 1st April, 1998.

The slab between Judicial Hanging and Dunskiing. With a high runner in Dunskiing, make an awkward step right onto the black slab and up to a horizontal break. Easier to finish.

The Anteater – 15m E1 5c/6a**. L. Hughes, F. Fotheringham. May, 1998.

After the crux starting moves of Green Ants, move up to and part way rightwards along the next break. Climb a short crack to the next break and swing right onto the arête (5b). Go up the right side of this to finish.

Stone Pig Cliffs:

Pigs Don't Fly – 12m E1/2 5c. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 5th May, 1998.

Climb the steep narrow barrel-shaped buttress to the right of Swine Dyke via horizontal breaks. Finish to the right.

The following routes are on the leaning south-facing wall of the huge tidal bay. Access to the base of the wall may be made at low tide from either side. At other states of tide – abseil in. Left to right:

Miss Moneypenny – 15m E5 6a***. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 14th June, 1998.
A central line up the wall. Climb the initial wall to the right of a deep off-width to a break. Pull over a roof moving left and back right into the line. Climb a very steep crackline to the top.

If You See Kay – 20m E3 5c**. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 14th June, 1998.
Start centrally and climb the initial wall to a large ledge. Pull through the middle of the roof via twin right diagonal cracks and move right into a right curving line. Go steeply up this to finish.

Manumission – 15m E4 6a/b***. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 18th June, 1998.
Takes a direct line to the right of If You See Kay. Start up a right-diagonal crack above a small pool to the large ledge. Climb the roof above at the widest point and up into the crackline and shallow right-facing corner to finish.

Sonique – 15m E4 5c***. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 5th May, 1998.
Near the right side of the wall and before the jaws of the deep slot is a vague crackline with twin cracks at one third height. Climb to the left of the cracks via horizontal breaks to a small overlap. Move right into the line at a small niche and finish by long reaches on flat holds.

Mechanics Geo – Blairbuie:

This is a steep narrow SW-facing geo directly under the road at the Blairbuie junction, the top of which is visible from the road before the junction. Access is best from the north (Reiff end). Left to right:

The first two routes lie at the shorter left-hand end to the left of an obvious broken groove. There are two main short steep cracks:

Exhaust Pipe – 10m E1 5c*. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 18th June, 1998.
Climb direct up the rock between the two cracks including the top bulge.

Shifting Spanner – 10m HVS 5a*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 18th June, 1998.
Climb the right-hand crackline just to the right of Exhaust Pipe.

Rear Differential – 15m E2 5c*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 18th June, 1998.
Start off the first huge block encountered on the traverse under the main part of the crag. Climb a steep crack to a horizontal break and make some awkward moves leftwards into the right-facing corner. Finish up this.

Rubha Coigeach:

Milk Tray – 15m HVS 5a. G. Latter, C. Prowse. 30th September, 1998.
Good climbing up the left side of the black wall taken by Black Magic, with the crux the first 4m to gain a good horizontal break.

Slab Inlet, North Side:

Penguin – 12m VS 5a. G. Latter (solo). 30th September, 1998.
The stepped groove round the arête right of The Ali-Shuffle, with the crux pulling through an often wet roof near the top.

Polar Bear – 22m HVS 5a**. G. Latter, C. Prowse. 30th September, 1998.
A fine line taking the prominent diagonal crack line up the wall right of The Ali-Shuffle. Start at the right end of the ledge at the base of The Ali Shuffle. Follow the diagonal crack line (the lower of two) to its end, then step left and climb the wall above.

Stone Pig Cliff:

Save ma Bacon – 12m E2 5b. T. Rankin, G. Robertson. 29th August, 1998.

Climbs the steep cracked wall right of Swine Dyke to finish up the short corner above. Good climbing but escapable out right on the strenuous lower wall. Possibly climbed before.

QUINAG, Bucket Buttress:

Note: A route recorded as Brendan Voyage (45m V,6. F. Bennet, B. Reid. 28th February, 1998) turns out to be a variation on Kane Mutiny, climbing a corner and capping roof left of Kane's 'right-facing corner' as the only difference.

Fell for Lorna – 40m V,6. M. Cooper, F. Bennet. 13th March, 1998.

The thin groove line immediately left of Bounty Hunter via a hanging corner at half height.

Barrel Buttress:

Direct Route – 60m VI,8. R. G. Webb, N. Wilson. December, 1998.

Climb the main corner direct throughout.

THE POINT OF STOER:

Playaway – 60m E2*. P. Donnithorne, E. Alsford (alt.). 20th June, 1998.

The overhanging wall between the two obvious corners seen from the Old Man. Start as for the left-hand corner (the right corner is Great Corner, VS?).

1. 15m 5b. A leaning corner leads up and left to a ledge.
2. 20m 5b. Go up the wall, then left to a small corner. Go up to a roof, then traverse left to a ledge.
3. 25m 5b. Step left, then go up to a short crack and finish up leftwards.

Breakaway – 60m E3. E. Alsford, P. Donnithorne. 21st June, 1998.

The route is in a slabby cove 30m south of the Old Man. Abseil to ledges just above the sea.

1. 30m 5b. Take the most obvious leftward-diagonal crack to a ledge, then traverse right and up a short groove to more ledges.
2. 30m 5b. The shattered groove above leads 'with interest' to the final short crack. Some poor rock.

CREAG AN FHITHICH (near Kinlochbervie; SMCJ 1997, p 331):

Ruby Wall – 40m E3 5c/6a***. M. Charlton, A. Cater. May 1997.

Climb the wavy wall left of centre using a vertical line of pockets to a ledge. Go up and rightwards to an overhung slab. Break through the roof at its highest point, move up and pull left to a good side pull on the ledge. Move right and up into an overhung niche. Traverse left via a good crack around the top of a block in a spectacular position. Pull up and left to a steep heathery finish on poor holds.

SHEIGRA, First Geo:

Dying Direct – 25m E4 5c/6a**. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham, A. Cain. 4th June, 1998.

Start between Dying In Vein and Blind Faith. Climb a right-trending crack to the pedestal of Blind Faith (hard). Follow a direct line to a small niche left of the base of the pink groove on Blind Faith Direct. Climb the steep crack above and finish through the roof as for Dying In Vein.

AM BUACHAILLE, Coastal Cliff:

Massage Man – 90m E3. M. E. Moran (on sight), C. Jalon, D. Laddiman. 23rd June, 1997.

Some 60m north of the stack, the coastal cliff forms a slim buttress. This route takes the obvious left leaning groove line just left of its crest. A good line, exposed and inescapable with variable rock. The buttress is easily located by the foul overhanging gully which bounds it on the left.

1. 50m 5a. From the toe of the buttress, trend up right into the groove which is climbed to a tiny stance (assorted belays in the groove above).
2. 20m 5b. Bridge the overhanging groove above with a leftward deviation at a roof and continue to a block ledge.
3. 20m 5b. Go up the corner above the stance until a step left can be made into a deeper corner. Climb this over a bulge to the top.

CAITHNESS SEA CLIFFS, Latheronwheel, Big Flat Wall Area:

Illuminations – 18m E2 5c**. S. Clark, R. Macaulay. 30th June, 1998.

The wall between Gle Mha and Macallan's Choice (see *SMCJ* 1994).

Cask Strength – 18m E1 5b**. S. Clark, R. Macaulay. 26th August, 1998.

Two cracks start very steeply in the shallow cave in the right half of the Big Flat Wall. This route takes the left crack and continues direct. (The right crack is the unclimbed direct start to Macallan's Choice).

Stack Area:

The Lama – 12m E4 6a**. S. Clark. 16th June, 1998.

A direct route up the north face of the stack, superseding Flight from Sadness. Start just left of centre.

ORKNEY, Yesnaby, The Arch Wall:

Nuckelavee – 20m E4 6a**. G. Latter (on-sight). 22nd June, 1998.

A good line giving spectacular climbing through the centre of the arching roof. Start directly beneath the centre of the wall. Climb an easy flake to a ledge at 3m, then up the wall with a long reach to a good undercut under the roof. Reach straight over for a good hold in the horizontal break, span left and finish on good holds.

HOY, Rora Head:

The Rocks and the Water – 60m E1**. G. Latter, K. Martin (on-sight). 18th June, 1998.

About 80m west of the waterfall is a buttress with a prominent wide crack (facing east) in its middle third. Start on a huge flat boulder just right of a rectangular block overhang at 2m.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the rib right of the overhang, then step left on to a ledge. Move up 3m, then follow an obvious traverse line left, then up by an obvious weakness. Move right over ledges (past fulmars!) to belay at base of the crack.
2. 30m 5b. Climb the crack and the fist-wide flake to pull out right at the top. Continue over ledges, trending rightwards to belay in a corner beneath the final red wall.
3. 10m 5a. Finish up the corner, or easier slightly farther right.

CAIRNGORMS

LOCHNAGAR: Southern sector:

Once Upon a Time in the East – 75m V,5. B. S. Findlay, R. Ross, G. S. Strange. 24th January, 1999.

The slabby groove on the left side of the well-defined buttress immediately left of The Red Spout. Climbed on partly consolidated snow and bits of ice.

Windfall – 100m III. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 3rd January, 1999.

The right edge of the buttress between the Red Spout and The Cathedral (which contains Perserverance Rib near its left side), is cut by a slanting gully line.

1. 30m. Climb the gully to a good stance on the right.
2. 40m. Continue up the gully to a short snow slope, cross this and climb two successive short chimneys to a platform.
3. 10m. Steep snow leads to the cornice.

The Cathedral:

Magic Pillar – 80m IV,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 15th November, 1998.

The well defined pillar between Cathedral Chimney and No Worries Groove. Delightful climbing and considerably easier than it looks – a little gem! Start by climbing easy mixed ground to the base of the pillar.

1. 20m. Follow the crack in the crest to a niche.
2. 40m. Step round the roof to the right and continue up crack-chimney to its top.
3. 20m. Finish easily up the final gully of Cathedral Chimney.

Spellbound – 120m VI,8. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 15th November, 1998.

The rib separating the grooves of Sepulchre and Judas Priest forms a fine tapering arête defended near its base by a large roof.

1. 20m. Start directly beneath the roof and climb a short wall to a niche. Continue up the steep left-slanting corner and pull over the left end of the roof. Belay on the ledge above.
2. 40m. Continue up the arête, following the crack-line which splits the crest.
- 3 and 4. 60m. Finish as for Judas Priest by moving right along the terrace and up through a narrowing to reach the exit gully of Cathedral Chimney.

Central Buttress:

Incision – 100m V,5. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 3rd January, 1999.

The crack and groove line between Centrist and Scioilist.

1. 40m. Start at the foot of Shallow Gully and trend left up sloping shelves to the foot of a steep wall. Step left to enter the crack and follow it to a stance in a niche level with the roof of Centrist.
2. 20m. Continue up to a narrow groove left of the prominent square-cut corner of Scioilist.
3. 40m. Climb the groove and continue up easier ground to finish as for Centrist on the crest of Central Buttress.

Magical Mystery Tour – 120m V,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 31st January, 1999.

This varied mixed climb takes the natural line of weakness parallel to Shallow Gully before finishing up the front face of the square-topped tower to the right of White Wizard.

1. 50m. Climb Centrist for 10m to join the right-slanting fault. Climb this past a short chimney crossing Incision and Sciolist to reach a broad depression.
2. 30m. Continue up and right past an overlap to a ledge at the left side of the square topped tower below the final groove of White Wizard.
3. 40m. Move up and right to below the centre of the front face of the tower. Pull over the overhang above and move up to the headwall. Climb this via a right facing crack in the centre to reach the crest of Central Buttress. An excellent pitch.

Shadow Buttress A:

Interim – 50m IV,4. M. Bass, S. Yearsley. 22nd January, 1999.

This short climb takes the buttress between Bell's Route and Vortex. Start 5m right of Vortex. Climb the lower section of the buttress, and continue up the narrow hanging gully 7m right of the groove line of Vortex. Abseil descent from the balcony on Spiral Terrace, or continue to the plateau by Vortex or Shadow Buttress A Original Route.

The Stack:

Redemption – 125m VIII,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 10th January, 1999.

The overhanging fault line on the front face of The Stack overlooking the Black Spout. Poorly protected, sustained and strenuous. The first pitch requires ice or a good build up which compromises protection high up. Start at the foot of The White Spout below a smooth inset slab.

1. 40m. Climb mixed ground to foot of slab. Climb the left-slanting corner bonding the right side of the slab to reach the second stance of Torquing Corpse.
2. 15m. Climb Torquing Corpse pitch 3 to a cave stance.
3. 20m. Exit left from the cave and move up to the fault-line which leads to a good ledge and block belay of The Undertaker.
4. 20m. Continue up the fault over two bulges to the headwall.
5. 30m. Traverse left below the headwall (bold), step down to enter the exit gully, and follow this to the top.

West Buttress:

Note: T. Rankin and G. Robertson repeated Quasimodo on 10th February, 1999 with a different line at the crux, following the thin turf central crack (7) gained from the left. On the last pitch they climbed the final 5a crack of Dod's Diversion (7) – overall VII,7.

Prince of Darkness – 70m VI,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 20th December, 1998.

An imposing tower rises from the upper reaches of West Gully to the right of The Gargoyle. This superb mixed climb takes the steep front face of the tower. Very sustained. Start at the foot of the tower in West Gully.

1. 25m. Climb a turf ramp up and left for 5m to a ledge. Move right along a flake to reach a niche, climb the wall above to reach a second niche, then step right around the arête to reach a hanging groove. Climb this to a good stance below the prominent right-facing corner which runs up the right side of the tower.
2. 25m. The corner leads to a good platform. A superb pitch.
3. 20m. Steep cracks lead through the headwall to the top of the tower. Another excellent pitch in an exposed situation.

Life for Lust – 270m V,6. G. Scott, P. Evans. February, 1999.

Takes the line of steep grooves and chimneys to the right of West Rib. Difficulties

are short but steep with just adequate protection. Start at the same point as West Rib.
 1. 35m. Either follow a line of right, then left-trending ramps to belay under the black triangular wall of West Rib or follow the first pitch of West Rib up the short icefall (taken on a first attempt).

2. 25m. Climb the steep groove to the right of the wall (crux), then continue up the turf groove to a chimney on the left.

3. 30m. Continue up the groove line until stopped by a steep wall. Climb this on the left by a short chimney and continue straight up to a ledge under a steep wall.

4. 40m. Traverse left along a thin ledge into the centre of the wall to gain a groove. Climb this steeply, then continue straight up to reach easier ground below a wall with three chimney lines – possible belay. Climb the rightmost chimney, interesting moves to get established, then continue up.

5. 40m. Traverse slightly left to reach a flakey chimney line; climb this and then head straight up following easier ground.

6. 40m. Follow short walls and ramps trending slightly left to the crest of the buttress overlooking West Gully.

7. 60m. Descend the gully on the right and traverse under the next buttress to gain a step groove line with an interesting step at the top. Continue easily to the plateau.

Note: West Rib Direct would be the best finish. An independent finish could also have been made up the final buttress.

The Stuic, North-West Face:

Solid Air – 70m IV,4. B. S. Findlay, R. Ross, G. S. Strange. 20th December, 1998.

The first feature right of the crest of Stuic Buttress is a shallow left facing corner. This route climbs the next fault right, which is a straight slot. Start below and slightly right of the slot and climb a shallow groove. Easier ground then leads right into a recess with a prominent corner on the right. Climb a steep fault with a hanging block left of the corner to a ledge (35m). Traverse left and climb the slot, exiting left at the top on to the crest.

Daybreak Corners – 80m III. S. Richardson. 28th December, 1997.

About 50m right of the crest of The Stuic, below the apex of the face, is a depression. Climb the series of right-facing corners on the right side of the depression.

The Slot, Left-Hand – 70m III,4. S. Richardson. 28th December, 1997.

About 40m right of New Boot Groove is a short, but prominent, two tier buttress split by a deep chimney. This route takes the groove system just to its left.

Stegasaurus Rib – 50m II. S. Richardson. 28th December, 1997.

The right side of the North-West Face is defined by a wide gully – a convenient descent. This route takes the low-angled spiky rib to its left.

Feadaige Buttress – 80m III. S. Richardson. 28th December, 1997.

Approximately 500m west of The Stuic, below the col between the The Stuic and point 1006m, is a small buttress (MR 223 852). Climb the chimney-line cutting through the crest to the top.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, False Gully Wall:

Note: There have been criticisms that the route An Spearag (*SMCJ* 1998, p637) finishes in the middle of a wall (presumably by abseiling off) when there is a logical second pitch. If so, the criticism would seem to be justified.

Central Gully Wall:

Note: Vertigo Wall. Regraded VII,7 after the opinion of two recent ascents.

GLEN CLOVA, Winter Corrie:

Central Gully, Right-Hand Variation – 120m II. R. Kerr, S. Turner. 7th March, 1999.

Where Central Gully begins to bend left, there is a obvious snow slope going up to the right. Follow this slope diagonally upwards towards rocks. On the right side of these rocks is a small narrow gully (to the right of a large boulder) leading to a hollow over looking Easy Gully. Move back out left to finish up the turf ridge separating Easy Gully from Central Gully.

Note: Seems likely to have been done before; claims/comments requested.

Juangorge:

Mikado – 110m IV,5. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 21st February, 1999.

On the right side of the crag is an amphitheatre bounded by a triangular buttress on the right. This route follows vegetated grooves up the left side of the buttress. Start below a prominent left-facing chimney crack which cuts through the middle of the lower tier.

1. 40m. Climb the chimney-crack and continue through trees to reach the central groove line which cuts through the second tier.
2. 20m. A steep entry leads into the groove. Follow this to a steep corner-crack.
3. 20m. Avoid the corner-crack by climbing the groove on the left, and make a difficult traverse right at the top to gain a steep ramp.
4. 30m. Climb the ramp past a tree, and continue on the left side of the buttress to the top.

BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche:

Jammy Sods – 120m IV,6. J. Currie, C. Fogwill. 20th October, 1998.

The barrel-fronted slabs left of Twisting Gully are bounded on the left by a curving corner/groove, the line of the route.

1. 22m. Climb the chimney-fault below the groove to a booming flake.
2. 28m. Ascend the groove with a step left to a rest on the arête at 8m. Continue up the groove-line with a step right to easy ground. Move up to a point overlooking (about 20m above and right) the detached block of Slugain Buttress.
- 3,4. 70m. Easily to the top.

Coire an Dubh Lochain:

One Foot in the Groove – 60m II. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 8th November, 1998.

The gully to the right of the tower taken by Birthday Route. Easy snow leads up to an enclosed chimney which leads up and left to exit between the tower and the plateau. An early-season route that comes into condition quickly and is probably impossible later with a large cornice.

Wrinkled Rib – 50m II. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 8th November, 1998.

The rib defining the right side of Birthday Cleft is cut by a shallow groove on its right side. Climb this to a col behind the rib, and make steep exit through the cornice to the plateau.

Dividing Buttress:

Dividend Route – 180m IV,6. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. 6th December, 1998.

Takes the obvious, slightly right-trending fault in the centre of Dividing Buttress, left of Sentinel Route. Start at the lowest rocks.

1. 25m. Climb up to a prominent overhung recess in the lower section (may partly bank out).
2. 45m. Climb back down a few metres, then go left up a turf groove before breaking right through an awkward slot in the overlap (crux). Continue up increasingly easy ground to the base of an obvious groove/fault.
3. 30m. Follow the fault to a cul-de-sac.
4. 80m. Climb out steeply, then follow a rib with interest to easier rocks.

Garbh Choire:

Bewitched – 200m V,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 7th January, 1999.

Effectively a direct version of Mandarin Buttress climbing close to Witch Doctor. Gain the left edge of the triangular slab and pull out left through a wedge in its left bounding wall. Move rightwards into the chimney above the top of the triangle. Climb the chimney and subsequent long groove to the halfway terrace of Mandarin Buttress. Finish up Mandarin.

Climbed in unusually snowy conditions, very poorly protected, and graded as such. Normally, it might be safer but more technical.

CARN A' MHAIM, Luibeg Slabs:

Curio – 90m HVS. G. S. Strange, R. Ross. 3rd August, 1997.

On the low-angled slabs north of Silver Chimney. Towards the left side is a prominent pink water streak. Start just left of this and climb easy slabs to a ledge (55m). Continue up grey slabs, move right and cross an overlap at a short bulging corner (crux). More slabs to finish (35m).

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

Aurora Variation: By stepping right from the belay at the top of pitch 1, J. Currie and A. Liversage on 18th October, 1998 followed a line of tufts into the 'grassy depression' of the summer line, then followed it over the 'blocky rock' to easy ground. No change in grade.

Cherub's Buttress via the Depression Direct – 120m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 25th November, 1998.

Climb the depression between the legs of Cherub's Buttress, taking the right-hand of two upper options, to join the normal route at the amphitheatre.

Precocious Gully – 70m III. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 30th October, 1998.

The gully right of Flake Buttress, taking the steeper left branch with a chimney section. Mostly on ice despite the early season.

Arachnophobe – 70m III,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 30th October, 1998.

Climb 'the low-angled corner' at the left end of Spider Buttress with a tricky start which should bank up. The corner leads into the right branch of Precocious Gully and an easy finish up right.

Boris – 70m IV,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 25th November, 1998.

Start with the 'scrambling' pitch of The Chebec (10m). Traverse right round the arête of Flying Saucers and move up to a ledge which leads to the S shaped crack of The Fly, climbed to flakes (25m). Climb a flake crack up left, avoid a bulge on the left and go up a short deep chimney (25m). A final bulge leads to easy ground. The finish is a less direct version of The Fly.

CAIRN TOUL, Corrie of the Chokestone Gully:

The Navigator – 100m III. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1999.

A parallel fault to The Waster, between it and Sasquatch.

The Explorer – 80m III. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1999.

Right of and almost overlooking The Wanderer is a ramp leading to a narrow chimney. Climb these and continue in the same line slightly leftwards to finish up an arête on the right.

The Environmentalist – 70m III,4. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1999.

A big corner next right and near the right end of the cliff (there is another big but shorter corner which is the last feature at the right end of the cliff). Much of the climbing was on ice, and easier than it looked. Climb the corner until an overhang forces moves left on turf. Return to the corner and follow it to a platform. Climb the wall on the right, then trend back left to finish up the arête as for The Explorer.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Coire Mor:

Cavalier Edge – 120m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 13th December, 1998.

An interesting mixed climb up the right edge of Crown Buttress overlooking Great Gully. Start 30m up Great Gully where a break in the left wall leads left to the arête.

1. 20m. Cross the break (easy snow or a blank rock slab depending on conditions) to reach the crest. Move up this to a stance.

2. 40m. Continue up the crest to a good stance overlooking Great Gully below the steep upper headwall.

3. 30m. Climb easy snow up the chimney groove of Crown Buttress Original Route for 10m, then break out right on to the impending gully wall. Follow a steep crack system to reach the prominent right to left groove which cuts through the headwall. Pull over a bulge into the base of the groove and belay in a slot on the right.

4. 20m. Continue up the groove past a chokestone to a ledge. Climb the steep wall on the right and continuation corner to the top of the headwall.

5. 10m. Finish easily along a horizontal ridge to the cornice.

Hawkeye – 120m IV,5. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 29th November, 1998.

The right-facing corner between the Hot Lips buttress and Pinnacles Couloir. Start 5m right of the Hot Lips buttress below a narrow chimney.

1. 45m. Climb the chimney for 15m and continue up the groove above to steep snow slopes. Move up to the foot of the corner.

2. 45m. Climb the corner to its top. Move right and belay in the col at the top of Pinnacles Couloir.

3. 30m. Continue up Pinnacles Buttress to the plateau.

Coire Bhrochain:

Hobo – 100m IV,4. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. 27th February, 1999.

Start a short way right of North-West Chimney's first pitch at a prominent icefall.

1. 40m. Climb the icefall direct and step left at the top bulge.
2. 50m. Climb a 5m wall to snow slopes and move up left across these to a good spike.
3. 10m. A short pitch gains the top.

Braeriach Pinnacle:

South Face Original Line – 150m II. A. Nisbet. 20th April, 1998.

Start from the Slab Terrace where snow leads up right on to the face (same place as Left Face – *SMCJ* 1998). Make a slightly rising traverse right, then a short traverse right around a nose to reach a snowy trough leading diagonally right to the crest. Climb blocky ground right of the crest to the right end of the headwall. Go up left under the headwall and up a shallow gully to the top.

Note: Central Buttress Gully was used as a descent, no cornice and seemed a fine route, despite its demotion to a mention in the current guide.

CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Cliff:

Time Traveller – A. Powell and A. Benson made a free winter ascent at an unchanged grade on 24th January, 1998.

Guillotine Direct Finish – A. Mullin, A. Nisbet and S. Paget made a free ascent at VI,8 (perhaps just VII,8) on 31st January, 1999. A more direct line was taken, climbing out of the Guillotine chimney by a wide crack (crux) which led straight into the main line, which was freed with the help of a little ice. The previous line via the groove on the left would be less technical but a little more serious.

NOTE: G. Ettle and M. Garthwaite repeated Nom-de-Plume with the direct finish (as for Snakebite, winter?) and thought VI,6. Also Winter Palace, thinking V,6.

Main Cliff:

Roy Castle – 85m VI,7. G. Ettle, R. Milne, A. Perkins. January, 1999.

A direct line between Winter Palace and Bastille. Start from the diagonal shelf, just left of Route Major's alternative start at a very steep wall.

1. 25m. Balance up a narrow leftwards ramp to spectacular moves up the wall above.
2. 30m. Follow easy ground up left, then right to belay beside Bastille/Kremlin.
3. 30m. Descend leftwards and climb the rib left of Bastille.

SHELTER STONE CRAG:

Threadbare – 150m VII,8. A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 16th April, 1999.

A line up the right side of Raeburn's Buttress, based on Threadbare (on which it eliminates about eight points of aid). Well protected. Pitches 2-6 are mostly common to the summer line. Start up Sticil Face.

1. 40m. Go to the left end of the Low Ledge, then leftwards up steep turf to under a short overhanging wall. This is joining Threadbare which comes up a big slabby ramp to the same point (the first half of this ramp was used by Consolation Groove winter).
2. 10m. Climb the central of three cracks (crux) to pull out right on to a turf ledge. Originally aided.
3. 10m. Start up a steep corner (originally aided), then reach left and mantelshelf on to a turf ledge. Go left (out of the main line) to a groove.
4. 10m Climb the groove to a small bay. Traverse right using a prominent sod of turf to regain the main groove line.

5. 30m. Climb the main groove to where it goes smooth. Move on to its left edge and pull into a smaller groove which soon becomes the main line. Belay at a chokestone 5m below steep walls.
6. 10m. Climb a small groove with crack up the left wall to ledges (now close to Consolation Groove).
7. 20m. Work up leftwards on awkward blocky ground until just left of the long overhang.
8. 20m. Pull through a bulge into a small ramp which leads to the shoulder. There are now a number of options but this ascent traversed left and abseiled into Castlegates Gully.

NOTE: N. Gregory and K. Pyke climbed a thin ice streak just left of the start of Citadel (as a start to Sticil Face). On the day, 50m VI,5, but it is known to form much thicker, close to banking out, in peak conditions.

Bad Karma – 255m IX,8. S. Paget, A. Mullin. 30th October, 1998.

Climb the winter start of The Needle to the terrace. Start up the slanting crack of Postern and after the difficult bulge go left to a large bay (35m). Above is a slabby wall with two right facing corners. Start below the right hand corner at a small overhanging wall. Climb this to gain the corner and after the corner, exit left to ledges. Continue rightwards to 'the crack for thin fingers'. Climb this (as a short pitch and using two rest points) and continue to join and follow the winter Needle to the top (no aid).

Note: The grade is for a one day ascent taking 17 hours of continuous climbing.

HELL'S LUM CRAG, LOW SLAB:

Firestarter – 35m E4 6a. J. Lines, R. McAllister. 30th August, 1998.

Climb a thin crack in the slab left of Hell's Gate (*SMCJ* 1997, p345) to a ledge to where a white streak comes down. Move left and right up the slab (or harder direct above a short corner) to a capping bulge. Pull through the bulge via tiny holds.

HELL'S LUM CRAG:

The Exorcist – 120m VII,8. A. Mullin, S. Paget. 19th October, 1998.

1. 25m. Started right of the summer start at an obvious thin crack going up a steep slab. Climb the crack for 5m and move right to a corner. Climb the corner and trend up leftwards to gain a short corner leading into the recess of the summer route. Following the summer route is an easier alternative start.

2. 35m. Climb the summer route through the roof, then traverse immediately right (serious) to gain obvious ledges. Go straight up to belay below an obvious chimney.

3. 30m. Climb the chimney and move up and left on ledges to a large bay.

4. 30m. Trend up and leftwards on easy ground to the top.

Note: The route was climbed with two adzes because of wide cracks and a rest taken on pitch 2. Also the roof was yo-yoed from a second rest point (ie. two falls without hands rest).

Devilicious – 20m E5 6a. J. Lines (on sight solo). 5th September, 1998.

Climb the concave slab right of the first pitch of Clean Sweep. Start just right of a pink streak. Climb through a first overlap into the centre of the scoop. Climb direct through the upper overlap and continue nervously to a good hold.

Unnamed – E4 6b. J. Lines, R. McAllister. 30th August, 1998.

Desperate padding up the slab left of Two Little Devils (*SMCJ* 1996, p92),

protected by a side runner at the top of the Y-fork in its crackline. Climb the blank slab to a ledge, then the bold rib above to easier ground. Take the single crack through the headwall.

STAG ROCKS:

Get Rid of the Free Radicals – 140m IV,5. R. McAllister, V. Chelton. February, 1999.

Climbs the groove line immediately right of Afterthought Arête. Start 15m up and left of Afterthought Arête.

1. 50m. Climb an icy corner for 12m and move right to a spike on the arête. Swing round and climb a short right-facing corner to a ledge. Climb easier ground up and right to belay.

2. 30m. Climb a turfey groove on the left past a thread runner to the top of a large amphitheatre.

3. 60m. Awkward moves gain ice in the back of a hanging groove on the right. Follow the natural line above with interest to blocks on the left.

COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Mess Of Pottage:

Note: A. Clarke and R. McAllister added a VI,6 Direct Start to The Firefighter, independent of Droidless.

Frozen Assets – 55m IV,6. B. P. Kellet, J. Lyall. 9th February, 1999.

A line up the right side of the squat buttress to the left of the upper part of Hidden Chimney. Climb smooth right facing corner from the toe, then step left around an awkward bulge and follow the groove, corner and crack to ledges. Easier to the top.

Aladdin's Buttress:

Deep Blue – VII,8. A. Huber, A. Mullin. 10th March, 1999.

This is the direct finish to White Magic ie. close to the summer line, providing a fitting climax to the lower pitch, being more sustained and technically difficult. Instead of the traverse right, gain the diagonal crack line directly above the lower crack. Climb it diagonally rightwards before returning leftwards and a difficult exit on to a slab and the top. Climbed in a long pitch, but could easily be split.

Fiacail Buttress:

The Great Escape – 75m E1 5c. G. Ettle, P. Thorburn. 23rd June, 1998.

This fine line heads for and ascends the hanging diedre above and left of Stirling Bomber. Start just left of the start to Houdini.

1. 45m. Ascend a shallow groove to a crack-split roof, then pull over to move right into Houdini. Climb cracks right of the corner until possible to traverse the exposed rib on the right to gain a slab at the bottom of the diedre.

2. 30m. Climb the diedre direct to finish on the midway ledge.

Winter: VII,8. B. Davison, G. Ettle, A. Huber. 8th March, 1999.

A winter ascent of the summer line, climbed in four pitches. Many falls taken and yo yo tactics used. Double set of Friends helpful (including large ones).

COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.1 Buttress:

The Rebel Alliance – 30m VII,8. A. Mullin, K. Thaw. 9th March, 1999.

This route climbs the obvious overhanging fault line in the centre of the small buttress immediately down and left of No.1 Buttress. The *in-situ* peg runner is the last piece of protection until the belay is reached making the route bold and serious (one rest on pitch 1).

1. 15m. Climb rightwards by ledges until a traverse can be made back left to reach the base of a stepped corner. Climb up to reach a sloping foot ledge and the in-situ peg at foot level. Move up and then across right on to the overhung wall to gain the obvious break and climb through it (thin) to reach a large block.

2. 15m. Climb straight up the fault to reach the base of a block overhang which provides a good finish on to easy ground.

NOTE: A. Mullin and S. Paget made an ascent of the summer line of Daddy Longlegs on 6th December, 1998. The 'two consecutive vertical cracks' were climbed as two separate pitches with two rest points on each. The first pitch (common to Big Daddy) was freed and considered easier than either of the crack pitches. G. Ettle and A. Huber later repeated Big Daddy free and thought VII,7. G. Ettle and M. Garthwaite also repeated Citadel and thought VII,7. As usual, there would seem to be different opinions regarding increasing standards – Ettle and Garthwaite who would down-grade existing routes while A. Mullin and S. Richardson would add extra grades.

No.3 Buttress:

Ewen Me – 55m IV,5. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 13th March, 1993.

Another direct/variation start to Ewen Buttress. Start at the lowest rocks and work up slabs to a vague slanting groove which runs parallel to the direct start.. Climb this and steep rock to the crest, then join the normal route.

Note: A. Fyffe notes another start, which has been climbed before, from the base of The Migrant, going up turf leftwards to join the normal direct start (the latter is technical 6 in most conditions). This start is perhaps slightly easier.

No.4 Buttress:

Note: Torquing Heads continues to see failures and is VII,7 at least.

CREAG AN LETH-CHOIN:

Collie's Route – 75m IV,5. H. Burrows-Smith, J. Lyall. 25th February, 1997.

Start up the steep fault right of Irish Wolfhound, but after 10m, traverse right across giant flakes and blocks to a belay on the edge. Climb the buttress up left, then straight up to a hard corner/chimney with a tricky exit.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

Whisky Cliff (p 28):

On the Rocks – 20m E3 6a. W. Moir, G. Elrick. 3rd June, 1998.

Start as for Islander to reach the ledge. From the left end of the ledge, move out left to climb the obvious crackline.

Long Slough (p 33):

Lofty's Lunge – 10m E5 6c**. G. Lennox (unsec.). 12th September, 1998.

Climb up to the flake of Bob's Overhang from the right. Climb the crack above to good holds on the lip. Pull up on to the short slab above.

The Inlets of the Red Rocks (p 38):

Indecent Exposure – 20m E4 6a. T. Rankin, C. Adam. May, 1998.

Just left of Vibrator is an obvious undercut arête. Climb Vibrator until established in the crack. Place a high Friend, then traverse left to the arête. Climb the arête on its right side (RP2 in thin crack) to finish by pulling out right to the top of Vibrator. Good climbing in a wild position.

Humpback Gulch (p 41):

Glinton Eye and Bulgin Pocket – 15m E3 5c. T. Rankin, G. Robertson. July, 1998. Climb the crack of Nooky Wall to the break (loose jugs). Move up left into Boundary Corners. Now move up and right across the wall heading for the lower of two horizontal breaks. Follow the line of holds back left into the centre of the wall and finish straight up. Good sustained face climbing; pre-practised.

Herbivorous – 10m E2 5c. T. Rankin, J. Ormond. August, 1998.

Start at the corner forming the left side of the arching roof. Climb the corner to pull out left and climb the steep rib until possible to step right above the roof. Move right and climb a flake to the top.

Divine Perception – 10m E4 6b. T. Rankin, W. Moir. August, 1998.

Start as for Herbivorous but climb the slab right of the corner to below the roof. Power over the roof using small holds on the lip. Finish up the wall left of the Herbivorous flake.

Misconception – 8m E2 5c. T. Rankin, J. Ormond. August, 1998.

Climb through the roof at the obvious down-pointing spike right of Golden Shot. Finish up a short groove.

Mr Potato Head – 28m E2 5b. J. Currie, T. Rankin. 23rd October, 1998.

An exciting right to left girdle of the gulch. Start by descending into Bernie, then traverse left across the lip of the roof into Central Crack. Move left into the niche. Continue in the same line into Boundary Corners (loose rock) and finish up this.

Bruin Cove (p 71):

Seabird Pie – 10m Diff. C. Adam. 3rd May, 1998.

Climb the first obvious line, a slabby corner and a variety of finishes.

Hareness (p 74):

Hareness Prow – 10m E3 6a. T. Rankin, M. Reed. September, 1998.

Halfway between the quarry and the sea wall of Bottom Boys is a short steep prow. Approach south from the base of the lower quarry. Climb the prow by the line of a crack to pull out right on to a slab to finish. A great wee route (on sight).

Jenga Groove – 8m VS 4c. T. Rankin. 6th October, 1998.

A good little problem up the groove in the pillar on the right side of the upper quarry. Well protected. Probably climbed before.

Hareness, South Park Bay:

This is the small non-tidal bay on the north side of the headland. From the left shoulder of the upper quarry, descend easy rocks to the north to gain a rock platform just above the high tide mark. Walk round westwards to the bottom of the routes. Belays are hard to find at the top of some routes.

Gritstone Mantel – 10m HVS 5b. T. Rankin (shunted, then soloed). 5th October, 1998.

At the left side of the bay is an obvious wet gully; the route climbs its right edge. Climb to a ledge on the right. Move up and left to stand on a ledge on the arête (demonstrating the name). Continue up the interesting arête to finish. The rock on the right gully wall is suspect but can be avoided.

Chef – 6m Diff. T. Rankin. 6th October, 1998.

Climb the chimney slot on the left side of the yellow lichen slab on the right side of the bay.

Mr Hankie – 6m V. Diff. T. Rankin. 6th October, 1998.

The pleasant crack in the slab right of Chef.

Weight Gain 2000 – 6m E1 5c. T. Rankin (shunted, then soloed). 6th October, 1998.

Climbs the right side of the wall using the thin crack and right edge. Gaining a horizontal break is the crux.

Oh My God – 8m E1 5a. T. Rankin. 6th October, 1998.

The best route here. Right of the slab is a shallow red groove set in the right edge of the buttress. Climb the deceptively steep groove to a hard pull out left to finish. Good rock but poorly protected.

They Killed Kenny – 8m VS 4b. T. Rankin. 6th October, 1998.

Climbs the steep fault line just right of the previous route to a grassy finish.

Unnamed – 10m VS 4c. T. Rankin. 6th October, 1998.

Right again is an obvious V-groove above half height. Climb into the groove either direct or from the groove on the right. Climb the left edge of the groove in a good position to pull out left to a sloping finish.

Clashrodneý, Bareside Point, Central Buttress (p 82):

Sphincter Cannon – 10m E3 5c. T. Rankin, J. Currie. 23rd October, 1998.

A serious little problem up the left end of the Stone Roses wall. Make steep bouldery moves up and left to reach the obvious spike (crux). Pull out left to finish easily. Some poor rock.

The Second Coming – 10m E3 5c. T. Rankin, J. Currie. 23rd October, 1998.

A direct finish to Stone Roses with equally good climbing. Climb the scooped wall left of Stone Roses to join it where it moves right. Move up and left to a good flat hold (crux, poorly protected). Continue over the bulge to finish up the recess as for Stone Roses.

Clashrodneý (p 84):

Sunlover's Traverse – 30m E1 5b. W. Moir. 19th April, 1998.

A left-to-right traverse of the south-facing wall running landward from Look Sharp. Scramble down the grassy ridge just south of the crag to reach a secluded boulder beach. Make a low level traverse of the wall, keeping below the small black overhangs until forced to climb a right-facing corner (two thirds across) to reach the big horizontal break. Follow this round to the ledges at Look Sharp. It is also possible to move higher after the initial traverse to follow the big horizontal (junction of red and black rock) all the way but this gives an inferior route.

Earnsheugh (p 87):

Blinkered Bat – 25m E2 5c. T. Rankin, C. Adam. 17th October, 1998.

This eliminate route takes a direct line up the arête between Bats Belfry and Cloisters and contains some good delicate climbing. The best start is to climb pitch 1 of Bats Belfry; otherwise climb the original start of Cloisters to the same point or abseil to the ledge down Cloisters. From the belay, move out right into a short corner. Climb this for a few metres, then its left edge to a sloping ledge below a roof

on the arête. Arrange protection, then cross the roof going rightwards and return left to the arête. Continue boldly up the right side of the arête to join and finish up Cloisters.

Red Band Cliff (p 98):

Breech Birth – 20m E5 6b. W. Moir. 27th August, 1998.

Start just right of the huge southerly cave. Climb up to place strenuously a high runner in a horizontal break. Move back down and make a sensational heel-hooking traverse leftwards along the lip of the cave (good protection after the initial moves). Climb the pink wall (crux) to gain the big corner which leads to the top.

Yosemite Sam – 25m E4 6b. N. Wharton (on sight), J. Wilson, N. Morrison. March, 1998.

Start as for Shawangunks Wall, then climb more directly up the wall to a rest below the obvious hanging corner in the red band. Climb this imaginatively, then move right and finish up the walls above.

Downies Stack (p 108):

Black Saki – 20m E3 6a. W. Moir. 13th August, 1998.

Climb the overhanging crackline left of Howler Monkey, then go left to finish up the left edge of the wall.

Yorkshire Whipper – 10m E5 6b. T. Rankin (unsec.). August, 1998.

Climbs the very steep crack left of Downside Upwindies. Very powerful climbing leads to the top past a crucial Fr#+ at two-thirds height.

Vanilla Slice – 10m E2 5b. T. Rankin, A. Crofton. July, 1998.

An eliminate up the right edge of the Black Napkins corner. Start as for Cream Doughnut. Move left on the break to climb the right side of the edge. Finish straight up. Very strenuous but with adequate protection in the breaks.

Craig Stirling (p 123):

Tuskeneer – 15m HVS 5a/5b. T. Rankin, J. Ormond. 6th July, 1998.

Climbs the roof and wall left of Walrus. Start as for Walrus. Climb up left to below the roof. Surmount the roof direct. Continue up the centre of the wall to cross the overlap 2m left of Walrus. Climb the black-streaked wall trending left to finish just left of the highest part of the wall. Escapable at half height.

Newtonhill (south of it, p 134):

Park as for Harbour Wall and Dyke's Cliff. Head south for 200m and descend as for The Enemy Within. Scramble lower and head further south to a 5m cave. The following routes surround this cave on adventurous rock.

Snap, Crackle and Drop – 20m HVS 4c**. C. Adam, G. Lennox. 2nd May, 1998.

Climb steeply up the cave's left arête, trending slightly leftwards. Move left below a small roof. Head right climbing a small corner to finish. Bold.

Ramp On – 15m V. Diff. G. Lennox. 2nd May, 1998.

Climb the obvious ramp right of the cave on to easy ground. Repeated and thought Diff.

Blow Out – 15m E1 5b*. G. Lennox, C. Adam. 2nd May, 1998.

The right-hand wall of the cave extends to an overhanging arête. Climb the

horizontal breaks below the ramp, breaking out right below steep roofs to finish easily. Pumpy.

Bloodthirsty – 9m E4 6c***. G. Lennox. 2nd May (one rest); 7th June (free), 1998. This test piece lies before the above area. On the same path descend seawards towards a concrete sewer vent. Above black streaked slabs north of this, a fine crack splits a roof. Safe but desperate.

Brown Crag (p 17):

New Frontier – 15m E2 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 23rd May, 1998.

Start right of I.G.Y. Climb a small corner to an overhang. Pull over this to gain a niche above on the right and finish easily.

Smuggler's Cliff (p 141):

The Smuggler's Waltz – 50m VS 4b***. G. Robertson, I. Fischer, J. Currie. 26th April, 1998.

A rising right to left girdle, starting at the bottom right end of the cliff (non tidal) and finishing above the huge roofs. Great climbing, immaculate rock and very exposed in its latter half.

The Graip (p 142):

Collieston Calling – 10m E1 5a. G. Robertson, I. Fischer, J. Currie. 26th April, 1998.

The hanging arête left of Slain's Corner (starting up that route). Bold.

Perdonlie Inlet (p 183):

The long east wall of Perdonlie has only a small amount of good rock and only two routes. The south wall, however, only had the traverse route Zwango, which found an easy way along the foot of the face and on to Walrus Ridge. From the Zwango ledges the face rises up in a series of grooves and cracks to a diagonal fault line which splits the cliff from bottom left to top right and in summer would appear to be a nesting site for various birds (as usual). Above the fault, another steep little buttress has several lines. The right side of the crag is dominated by an arête and a large groove just to its left which is the line of the first new route here.

Access is easiest by abbing in from the boulders above the crag, good thread belays, which take you down steep grass and then down the line of Crazy Water / Blue Moves. For routes left of Grey Seal an abb down into the belay alcove, and down to Zwango would allow the rope to be used to back up the belay. Routes described from the arête leftwards:

Lady Samantha - 30m E4 6a. M.Reed, T.Rankin. 10th October, 1998.

Start at the east end of Zwango, below the middle of three grooves with a green streak running down it. Climb the green groove to a break (possible escape), stand up and reach good holds shared with Crazy Water, move right and climb up steep rock to easier ground just by the start of the arête proper. Climb the arête's right wall staying as close to the edge as possible, then directly to the top via an obvious small spike. The arête is an eliminate and escapable up to the spike. Previously top roped.

Crazy Water – 30m E4 6a**. M. Reed, I. Fisher. 20th March, 1998.

Start on the small raised ledge below the big groove and arête, under a small diagonal chimney. Enter the chimney, reach up and out for good holds and climb to the base of the groove. Enter the groove (crux) continue up to a weird downward pointing spike, swing left into another groove and up to the fault line, belay here

or continue up easy ground and grass to the boulders above. The green groove of Lady Samantha could be used as an alternative start. Previously top roped.

Blue Moves – 30m E5 6b**. M. Reed, T. Rankin. 20th August, 1998.

This hard route climbs directly from the Zwango ledge, to the small right facing hanging groove, just left of Crazy Water. Start between Timidity Splits and Crazy Water, at the obvious cracks in the bulging wall below the groove. Climb boldly up to a niche just right of Timidity Splits, then make hard moves up and slightly right to holds on the arête, pinch the arête and then move left to enter the small groove. Continue up the groove merging with Crazy Waters upper cracks. On sight, apart from the top groove brushed.

Timidity Splits – 30m E1/2 5c. I. Fisher, M. Reed. 20th March, 1998.

This takes the next big groove line left of Crazy Water. Climb delicately up the wall below the groove, bearing right, then move back left into the groove, follow this to the fault and belay or go on to the top via Empty Sky or Madman.

Grey Seal – 30m E3 5c. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 17th August, 1998.

The deep groove immediately left of Timidity Splits. Climb the short wall below the groove rightwards aiming for a good hold on the right arête (gear). Pull left into the groove and continue to easier ground. Belay on the fault line, or better, climb the big crack of Shoulder Holster. This should become the preferred line and would be worth two stars.

Shoulder Holster – 25m E2 5c*. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 15th September, 1998.

This route tackles the obvious big left-slanting crack on the upper buttress. Start up the groove left of Grey Seal for a few feet to a crack in white-streaked rock on the right. Climb this to the break, then go up the crack line to the grassy alcove at the top. Fine, sustained climbing; the rock is not 100% but will improve with traffic. If climbed via Grey Seal first, it would be solid E3 5c and two stars.

Chameleon – 25m E4 6a*. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 10th September, 1998.

Climb the groove left of Grey Seal to the break, layback up the hanging flake and crack above to the roof, go right, and up, past a white bulge and up the crack and shallow groove above. Belay in the grassy alcove on the right. Climbed on sight. Again, the rock may be less than perfect in places, and gets worse as the routes go farther left.

Come Down in Time – 25m E3 6a. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 15th September, 1998.

Climb the slabby groove left of Chameleon to ledges at the left end of the break (possible belay.), then attack the sloping roof directly (crux), aiming up into the steep curving crack above and another small roof left of Chameleon. Go over this from the right and climb a crumbly crack to a mantel finish. Move right along poor rock to the alcove and belay.

Razor Face – 25m E2 5b. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 2nd October, 1998.

This takes the big hanging crack near the left end of the crag. The rock is still a bit crumbly. Start up a black-streaked groove near the left end of the Zwango ledge to wet but easy ground below a steep triangular slab. Climb the finger crack to the overlap, pull into the tight groove to stand on the flake, then enter the crack and layback up it to a good hold above. Move gingerly but easily right, passing a reasonable in situ thread, to the alcove belay.

Bite Your Lip – 20m E4 6a. M. Reed, T. Rankin. 10th October, 1998.

Essentially a variation on Razor Face. From the overlap, continue left to the white spike and go over the overlap into a small smooth groove (left of the big crack) climbed with much difficulty and exposure to easy but grassy ground above. Finish as for Razor Face. Previously top roped.

Note: The big bay above the left hand routes contains a lot of loose rock and vegetation, tread very carefully. A possible exit goes up the left-slanting crack at the back of the bay at Scottish VS.

UPPER BUTTRESS:

Empty Sky – 15m VS 5a. M. Reed, T. Rankin. 20th August, 1998.

This fine little pitch is the first to climb the gold-coloured upper buttress and can be used as a top pitch to all of the previous routes instead of going up Perdonlie Edge again..Climb the slim groove/corner on the right edge of the upper buttress, following the crack all the way until forced out right onto the slab left of Perdonlie Edge and the easy ground above.

Madman Across the Water – 15m E4 6a. W. Moir, N. Morrison. 30th August, 1998.

The left-slanting crackline, starting just left of Empty Sky. Climb the crack until forced round left off a layaway (crux). Step back right to finish via an undercut (near the top crack of Shoulder Holster).

The next routes are described from the arête rightwards.

Kyles Groove – 10m HVS 5b. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 10th September, 1998.

Climb the third groove right of Crazy Water, (close to the green crack of Lady Samantha) up perfect pink granite, bearing right up the crack to a jug, then up the groove left to easy ground and belay. Either go up the Severe crack of Rocket Man on the right or continue easily up to a steepening. Climb up and left towards the arête aiming for the small spike of Lady Samantha, in a very exposed position, then make an awkward move up the arête and continue to belay above Blue Moves at E1 5b (eliminate). A third option is to traverse right along the big ledge above the pink rock, and descend Perdonlie Edge (Diff.) to climb one of the following routes. On the south east nose of the crag is a small pink buttress of perfect granite easily reached by reversing Zwango to easy ground below the routes.

Mona Lisas – 12m VS 4c**. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 8th October, 1998.

A lovely wee pitch, started below Perdonlie crack. Climb a line of left-trending jugs to a prominent small spike on the edge of the pink rock (the groove round to the left is the top of Kyle's Groove) Climb the small groove directly above the spike on the left edge of the buttress to the ledge, belay. Above the belay is the groove/crack of Rocket Man (Severe), which goes up to the top of the crag. This is probably the variation to Perdonlie crack mentioned in the guide as climbed in 1968.

Mad Hatters – 14m E2 5b**. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 8th October, 1998.

A very delicate pitch. Climb Mona Lisa's jugs to the crack at the start of the obvious overlap, traverse right along the overlap to its widest point then go straight up the small cracks to the ledge. Previously top roped.

The main crack is the line of Perdonlie Crack, a fantastic three-star Severe on impeccable rock.

Amoreena – 12m VS 4c*. T. Rankin, M. Reed. 10th October, 1998.

Climb the wall and crack right of Perdonlie Crack to the ledge.

Mr Frantic – 12m VS 4b*. M. Reed N. Anderson. 2nd October, 1998. This takes the left-trending ramp right of Amoreena then up into the groove on the right edge of the pink buttress.

The big corner of Perdonlie Edge is next right and right of this is a vast area of virgin rock awaiting someone's attention!

Over on Walrus Ridge, the small square slab of pink granite on the east face gave: *Angel Delight* – 20m Severe. N. Anderson, M. Reed. 15th September, 1998.

Climb the crack up the centre of the slab, over an overlap and up to the gendarme, turned on the left. Belay on the ridge or, better, carry on over Walrus Ridge to the headland.

Rob's Butt (p 186);

Butt-Kicker – 18m E3 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 15th August, 1998.

The thin crackline right of Whisky Galore, climbing right of the crack in the middle section.

White Lightning (with extended finish) – 18m E2 6a. W. Moir, G. Elrick, M. Reed. 15th August, 1998.

Climb the crack as per guidebook, thought to be 6a, then continue up the hairline crack through the overhang up on the left.

Longhaven Quarries, Lochan Buttress, South Face (p 203):

Stuka, Mesherschmit Finish – E3 5c. M. Reed, P. Wormold. 22nd October, 1998.

Climb Stuka (5a on poor rock, with a loose jug at one-third height) to the ledge at the top. Traverse the crumbly break left to pull up into the crack in the arête, then climb the crack to the top. The rock above the break is good, perhaps 6a?. Previously top roped.

Go Humble – 8m E6 6b/c. M. Reed (unsec.). 22th October, 1998.

The slim groove between Stuka and Levitator, capped by a block and crack. Start at an undercut in the black rock. Go up into the groove using a tiny hold in the base, and up the groove (rock#3) to the roof, then climb the hand crack to the top with continued interest. 6c for the short. Very sustained and technical, fairly bold, and is a touch crumbly lower down. Previously top roped (often).

Red Tower (p 210):

Baloo – 20m E4 6b. J. Lines (solo). Summer, 1998.

The thin crack and arête left of Shere Khan.

Red Bull – 12m HVS 5a. J. Lines (solo). Summer, 1998.

The SE Arête of the Red Tower itself.

Meakie Point (p 222):

Methadonia – 20m E4 6b. W. Moir (on sight), J. Wilson. June, 1998.

A more direct version of The Method. From the runners on the shelf, go diagonally left to grab the obvious flake.

Playstation Crag (new crag just south of Herring Cove; map p 223):

Banjo Kazooie – 15m E2 5c. W. Moir, G. Elrick. 22nd August, 1998.

The right arête of the crag, climbed direct.

Herring Cove (p 228):

Shellfish Finish – 10m VS 5a. T. Rankin, M. Reed. June, 1998.

Climb the jam crack and arête above where Herring Chimney moves left.

Souter's Hole:

Feelin' Groovy – 10m E3 6b. W. Moir (on sight), N. Ritchie. 14th June, 1998.

The short overhanging groove at the seaward end of the crag.

Cummington, Prophet Walls (p 237):

The Prophet Walls have been equipped with new stake belay anchors in 1998.

Atcha —10m E3 6a*. C. Hornsby. 1998.

An extended boulder problem starting up The Gripper and then moving left on to the hanging wall (small wires possible). Finish up or down climb The Gripper.

Surf Nazis Must Die – 15m E5 6b***. L. Johnson, C. Hornsby. 1998.

A superb route taking the hanging wall to the right of The Gripper. Boulder up directly to a small overhang. Make a powerful move off an undercling to a small hold on the left of a short slab. Move precariously up and right (Friend#0 in a small horizontal slot) using a crucial vertical edge. Climb the fingery wall (peg) to a break (Friend#3). Finish on slopers to the right.

Bat Attack – 15m E4 6a**. C. Hornsby. 1998.

A poorly-protected excursion with a decidedly bad landing. Climb the edge of the roofed recess between Aesthetic Ape and Orange Ape. Use a horizontal spike (potentially loose!) to gain small edges above and pull awkwardly into the finishing crackline. Easy to the top.

Statutory Ape – 15m E6 6c**. D. Woodward. 1998.

A technically desperate climb with reasonable protection on the crux. Boulder up the right edge of The Shield – 3m to the left of Bat's Wall. Gain a ledge and clip two pegs under a shallow inverted V. Reach up to a poor pinch on the right edge of the rib above. Make an 'impossible' move (dyno?) to a poor sloping hold high and left. Continue awkwardly via a series of slopers (PR).

Monkey Mafia – 15m E4 6b**. L. Johnston. 1998.

A strenuous and technical outing taking the hanging crack leading leftwards out of the deep cave on the right of Bat's Wall. Gain a sloping ramp from either left or right. Place medium size wires in a vertical crack and move boldly up and left to a small spike under the roof. Enter an arena of lactic acid accumulation and undercut leftwards (well protected) with some technical moves. Gain the freedom of a groove and finish with difficulty.

Mayne Line – 15m E3 6a*. C. Hornsby. 1998.

A variation start to Noddy Machine, climbing the gently overhanging finger crack to the left. Gain the top of the crack, place Friend#3 and reach right into Noddy Machine (crux). Finish up the latter.

Jaded Arête – 15m E2 5c*. A. Nicholson, J. Scott. 1998.

Climb the obvious hanging arête on the right of Noddy Machine. Arrange good protection in the roof crack. Pull over the left side and finish above.

Bay Watch – 80m 6b***. C.Hornsby. 1998.

A complete left to right boulder traverse of the Prophet Walls providing a fine and technically demanding stamina exercise. Start at the far left side of the bay by some boulders and follow the chalk! The crux areas are beneath Surf Nazis, crossing The Shield (below Statutory Ape) and crossing the wall beneath Mayne Line. The climbing is sustained with few rests and ends at the start of the grass bank on the far right.

The Doubt Wall (p 241):

Bob Line – 12m E4 6a. C. Hornsby. 1998.

The hanging arête on the right wall of The Lum gives a committing and poorly protected climb on crimps and layaways. Exit as for The Lum.

The Arch Wall (p 243):

Welcome to the Beach – 12m E5 6b***. C. Hornsby. 1998.

A fine and bold climb taking a direct line up Arch Wall. A difficult start leads to fingery climbing on pockets. Reach up to small ledges in the centre of the face and clip the solitary peg. Make a difficult move to a small flat hold high and right. Finish directly.

Variation – 12m E5 6a*. N. Green, C. Hornsby. 1997.

After the initial starting sequence, traverse left to gain layaways leading up to a Friend#3 placement in a vertical slot in a right facing corner. Move right, clipping the peg and finish directly.

Pass of Ballater:

Juniper Crush (p282) – 12m E5 6b. I. Fischer, G. Robertson. 10th May, 1998.

The very faint groove line straight through the roofs right of Ton Ton Macoute. A scary route, previously top roped. Climb the wall just right of Ton Ton to the first roof where dodgy gear can be arranged, then pull strenuously up and slightly right to a good hold at the end of a sloping ramp (peg runner). A hard step left, then up (crux).

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

ARISAIG, Rhu (MR 613 838):

D. Collier notes: Out on the point of Rhu there are small outcrops with rock of generally poor (loose) quality though there is some potential for short routes and bouldering. D. Collier soloed the obvious chimney with a large chockstone at the top in a west-facing crag which may also provide some harder climbing. Named Crac 'an Eigg Chimney, 12m, Diff., 31st May 1997.

DUNTELCHAIG, Dracula Buttress:

Neck Nippers fae Tammytool – 30m E4 6a. I. Taylor, P. Thorburn. March, 1998. Climbs the exposed hanging wall left of Vampire.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the first pitch of Dracula, then traverse right to the right end of the roof.
2. 10m 6a. Climb up to a peg runner, then move up and left to reach the start of a thin crack. Follow this to the top.

Seventy Foot Wall:

False Friend – 15m E3 6a. R. Webb (unsec.). September, 1997.

Climb Sweeney's Crack to where it traverses left. Instead, traverse right and pull

through the roof (fairly long reach for a jug on the lip) into a hanging corner and finish up this.

TYNRICH SLABS:

Trumpet of the Dead, Direct Start was soloed on sight with wire brushing by I Lines on 25th August, 1998 and graded E4 5c. The start of Slippery Jack is graded higher but may be about the same standard, not saying which grade is right – Ed.

ASHIE FORT (Guide p.159):

The crag is surprisingly solid. All routes were cleaned on abseil (except Raeburn's Original Route).

Points of Departure – 10m E2 5b. I. Innes, R. Webb. August, 1998.

The crack left of Throw Lichen to the Wind.

Raeburn's Original Route – 10m Scottish VS. I. Innes, R. Webb. September, 1998.

The dank wet and vegetated chimney right of Throw Lichen.

X File – 10m VS 5a. I. Innes, D. Balfour. October, 1997.

The X-shaped cracks climbed from bottom left to top right.

Sick Whipper – 10m E3+ 5b. R. Webb, I. Innes. August, 1998.

Right of X Files is a scoop with a prominent guano covered hold. Climb to the guano hold, exit left and continue to the top. Serious.

Whipper Snapper – 10m E4 6a. R. Webb, I. Innes. August, 1998.

Climb to the guano-covered hold. Ascend the corner above, exit right to a ledge and finish by the obvious crack. Serious.

Bodysnatchers – 10m E1 5b. R. Webb, G. McKnight. September, 1998.

Right of Whipper Snapper are two left to right diagonal cracks that become more defined with height. Climb the left-hand one (named after the decomposing sheep removed from the bottom).

Harpic's Crack – 10m E1 5b. M. Hynd, G. Lowe. August, 1998.

The right-hand crack.

Welcome Pebble – 10m E1 5b. R. Webb, I. Innes. September, 1998.

Right of Harpic's Crack is an overhang at mid height. Climb through the overhang at its right-hand end to reach the welcome pebble, tie it off and continue to the top.

Woolly Jumper – 10m E1 5b. R. Webb, I. Innes. September, 1998.

The left to right crack right of Welcome Pebble. Named with reference to Bodysnatchers.

Kenny's Revenge – 10m Severe. I. Innes.

Right of Woolly Jumper is a fine prow that has so far defeated all comers. Right again is this chimney.

32 Feet per Second – 10m H. Severe. I. Innes, R. Webb. September, 1998.

The right-bounding rib of Kenny's Revenge. The first runner is at 9m.

Quark Strangers and Charm – 10m HVS 5a. I. Innes, R. Webb. September, 1998.

Right again is a right facing corner leading to an overlap. Ascend the corner and take the overlap direct.

Pickpocket – 10m Severe. I. Innes, D. Balfour. August, 1997.

Right again is a shallow left facing corner. Climb this, moving to the left wall at two-thirds height.

Fat Bird – 10m VS 4c. R. Webb, I. Innes. August, 1998.

The obvious crack that leads to a small tree right of *Pickpocket*.

One Move Wonder – 5m Severe. I. Innes. August, 1997.

Go right again to an obvious cleaned crack and climb it.

BINNEIN SHUAS, The Fortress:

Greatness and Perfection – 40m E7 6c. P. Thorburn, R. Campbell. June, 1998.

Start under the runnel right of *Storming the Bastille*. Pull over the bulge into a scoop on the left, then gain the runnel and follow it to the roof. Traverse right to a diagonal crack and climb it to a slab and heather.

Eastern Sector:

Windy Wall – 40m E1 5a*. G. Latter, J. Rabey. 3rd September, 1998.

A fairly bold pitch up the grey wall right of the top pitch of *Flypaper*. Start on the narrow grass terrace, 10m right of that route. Climb a slightly right trending line to a Friend #2 placement in a horizontal break at 15m. Move left, then head diagonally leftwards to finish rightwards up a vague crack line (2m right of the more prominent crack line of *Flypaper*). There is a single nut placement on the slab for a belay – a thread in a block farther back can be reached on a 55m rope.

DIRC MHOR:

Ripping Yarns – 40m E2. T. Whitaker, S. Richardson. 30th August, 1998.

Approximately midway between *Ship Rock* and the projecting buttress of *Carry on up the Khyber*, is an attractive smooth wall set above a shallow grassy bay. This route takes the right side of the wall following a line just left of the two tiered arête. Climbed on sight.

1. 25m 5b. Start up a short right-facing groove just left of the right edge, and continue up the wall above (bold) to an awkward exit into a ramp. Move along this to belay on the right.

2. 15m 5b. Return back left to the obvious break which cuts through the steep wall above the ramp. Pull past some precarious blocks to reach the upper arête which leads easily to the top.

Windrush – 40m E2 5b. S. Richardson, T. Whitaker. 14th June, 1998.

The impending arête 15m up and right from *Carry on up the Khyber*. Start just left of the edge bounding the mouth of the descent gully. Climb a crack to reach hanging grooves in the arête. Climb these to a steep exit onto a slab. Climb this to the top (easier on the left). Climbed on sight.

KINDROGAN CRAG (Sheet 43; MR 049 627):

This crag lies in dense forest just south of the A924 between *Pitlochry* and *Kirkmichael*. From *Enochdhu* follow signs towards *Kindrogan Field Centre*. After crossing the river the road swings right. Carry on to a junction at a house on the right. Fork left here and park round a bend at a gate. Do not go through the gate but take a small track up into the forest. After 400m the track crosses a forestry road, turn right along this (the crag can now be seen ahead) and at its end continue into the trees. It is best to head for the top of the crag (there is a faint path, hard to find) as

the bottom is dank and gloomy. Descend to the routes by abseil or by going down at either side of the cliff. The climbs are described from left to right.

Forest Enterprise – 30m E3 5c**. G. Nicoll, M. Nicoll, G. Muhlemann. 2nd August, 1998.

The tall pillar at the left end of the crag. Start at the toe of the pillar and climb up and left before pulling right, above a bulge, to gain a small ledge. Move delicately and boldly right to the arête (crux) and climb up to a good runner. Move back left and up to an overhang. Turn this on the right with difficulty and continue to the top.

Kindrogan Corner – 30m E2 5b*. G. Nicoll, W. Wright. 28th June, 1998.

This is the impressive deep corner towards the left side of the cliff. Start up an unpleasant gully, then boldly pull left through a bulge into the corner. Follow this to the overhang, pull round and continue up the superb upper corner to a grassy terrace. Finish up the right edge of the slab above.

Ash to Ash – 25m E2 5b. G. Nicoll, K. Howett. 9th August, 1998.

Start at a big rowan tree below the right side of the crag. Climb the tree and a dirty slab leftwards to gain the top of a grassy buttress. Climb the obvious but loose fault line rightwards to the big roof. Pull round at the right end and climb up leftwards in an exposed position to finish at a small rowan.

GLEN LEDNOCK, Creag na h-Iolaire, Low Wall:

Private Chancer – 20m HVS 5a. C. Pettigrew, T. Burley. 2nd July, 1998.

Start as for Sultans of Swing. Once established in the crack, climb directly up the slab face and follow the detached block on its right-hand side to the top.

Sultans of Swing, Proper Direct Start – 5c. M. Robson. 19th April, 1998.

Climb straight up to the niche of Sultans of Swing (hard to imagine it has not been done before).

Left Branch Eliminate – 12m E1 5b. M. Robson, T. Ward. 19th April, 1998.

Start at the chockstone above the start of Sultans of Swing Direct Start (Route 11a in Guide). Climb straight up into a steep finger crack, move right at the top of this and continue to the top.

Balnacoul Castle, Hanging Buttress:

Pump up the Groove led free and on sight by A. D. Robertson, R. Campbell and N. Craig on 10th May, 1998 at E5 6a**.

GLEN OGLE, Sunnyside, Beinn Leabhainn:

The crag below the TV mast at the head of the glen (p 330 in the guide). The crag comprises three distinct sections. The left-hand section is characterised by a striking crackline on the right of the front face. The central section contains a prominent arête on the left and is detached from the hillside behind. It is separated from the left-hand section by a gully. The right-hand section is slabby and mossier in appearance. It contains the route described in the guide, *Ex Officio*. The routes were pre-cleaned by abseil.

The first two routes described are located on the left-hand section. The last route is on the steep left wall of the central section.

Hedwig – 15m Severe. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. July, 1998.

A wide crack runs up the left side of the leftmost crag. Steep moves lead directly into the crack which is followed to the top.

Voldemort – 15m E1 5b. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. July, 1998.

The striking crackline on the front face a short distance to the right of Hedwig. Start just inside the gully at the right edge. Climb steeply up left into the base of the crack. Follow the crack to a wide sloping ledge. Move right and finish easily up the edge.

Polyjuice – 10m E3 5c. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 10th October, 1998.

The central section has a gently overhanging left wall containing a prominent crackline. Follow the crack to where it fades at a horizontal break (Rock#7, Friend 1/2). From the break pull out rightwards to reach a flat-topped bulge. Pull over the bulge to finish. Short but sustained.

Creag nan Cuileann:

The following routes lie at the right side of Creag nan Cuileann, at the far right end of the main wall and around the far right-hand edge where there is a recessed section. The Bournville Wall lies about a minute's walk, a little up to the right. Although there is a layby directly beneath Creag nan Cuileann the best approach is from the last layby on the right (beside a bridge) before the road bends right at the top of the glen. Cross the fence to reach a pylon and follow the path to the second pylon, then rise gently up the hillside following a path across a stream, around the hillside and on to a rowan tree visible on the skyline. A short ascent past large boulders gains the right end of the crag. Routes are described from left to right. The first, route lies on the steep little wall at the left-hand end of the crag, just right of a short, roofed chimney.

Idiot Wind – 10m 7b**. R. Anderson. 11th October, 1998.

Five bolts to lower-off.

There are then the six 'traditional' routes covered in the guidebook, before the eight sport routes at the right-hand side of the main wall.

Fight or Flight – 15m 6c+/7a. G. Ridge. 19th September, 1998.

Over the roof and up the wall just right of Poison Ivy and left of a shallow, blocky chimney.

Slaphead – 15m 6b+. G. Ridge. 11th October, 1998.

The roof and bulge immediately right of the blocky chimney.

Fat Chance – 15m 6c*. G. Ridge. 24th September, 1998.

The short, thin crack in the roof/bulge just right of the shallow, blocky chimney.

Fight the Flab – 15m 6c+*. R. Anderson. 24th September, 1998.

Climb the roof left of Let it All Hang Out, then the short, blunt slabby nose. Approach from the right as for Let it All Hang Out and take great care with the block under the line – do not stand on the left-hand/lower block.

Let it All Hang Out – 15m 6c+*. R. Anderson. 30th August, 1998.

Thug the roof close to its widest point, then continue up the slab to a lower off in the trees.

Hang On! – 15m 6c**. J. Horrocks. 19th September, 1998.

Climb the small roof just right of Let it All Hang Out, then continue up the featured wall and slab.

Step on It – 15m 6a+. G. Ridge. 1998.

Start right of Hang On! and move up left into it for a finish.

Life in the Fat Lane – 15m 6b+*. R. and C. Anderson. 29th August, 1998.

The short, steep crack right of George's Route, just before the crag turns the edge. Lower-off on the heather ledge, beyond the rowan tree.

Just around the edge, facing down the glen, is a short arête with a leaning side wall, where there are three routes.

Chasing the Bandwagon – 15m 6a+*. C. Milne. 1998.

The left-hand line left of the arête.

Reaching the Limit – 15m 6c*. R. Anderson. 4th July, 1998.

The line on and just left of the arête, sharing the lower-off and the first two bolts of Chasing the Bandwagon.

Clutching at Straws – 15m 7a/7a+*. R. Anderson. 20th June, 1998.

The leaning side wall and arête at the left side of the recess, aptly named!

Up the slope to the right, the wall faces directly towards the road, the main, left-hand part of the wall is slightly recessed. There is a small tree-lined ledge cutting across the wall at mid-height.

Dazed and Confused – 20m 6a. J. Horrocks. 29th August, 1998.

The leftmost route on the recessed section uses the tree to gain the mid height ledge.

Having a Little Flutter – 15m 6c**. G. Ridge. 29th August, 1998.

The wall to the left of the thin crack in the headwall.

Ceuse Jimmy – 15m 6c**. G. Ridge. 30th August, 1998.

A line to, then up the obvious thin crack in the headwall.

Kinmont Times – 10m 6a+ (6c)*. G. Ridge. 30th August, 1998.

The right to left-slanting diagonal crack cutting across the other routes on the recessed section of wall to finish on the left edge as for Dazed & Confused. Direct to the lower off is 6c.

Lichen Virgin – 15m 6a+*. J. Horrocks. 30th August, 1998.

Hollow flake, wall and groove bounding recessed section of wall.

The following two routes share a lower-off.

Loose Living – 15m 6a*. R. and C. Anderson. 14th June, 1998.

The obvious groove.

Ghost Trail – 15m 6c**. R. and C. Anderson. 14th June, 1998.

The white streak at the extreme right-hand end of the crag, a little gem.

The Bournville:

The Dirty Dozen – 6a. I. Watson, C. Milne. 1998.

Leftmost route.

ABERFELDY, Weem, Weem Rock:

Blinded by the Night – 18m 5+. G. Ridge. 4th October, 1998.

The central corner on the vertical wall.

Staring at the Sun – 18m 5. G. Ridge. 10th October, 1998.

The arête just to the right of the corner.

Lap Dancing – 18m 6b+*. R. Anderson. 13th September, 1998.

The wall between The Trial of Brother Number 1 and The Llama Parlour. Surmount the roof at the top.

Crowing at the Enemy – 10m 6b+*. R. Anderson. 10th October, 1998.

The shallow groove at the far right end of the crag.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

BEN NEVIS, Observatory Buttress:

Never-Never Land – 170m VI,6. S. Richardson, P. Takeda. 9th March, 1999.

A good icy mixed climb between Rubicon Wall and Observatory Buttress, Original Route. The route takes the line of least resistance up the lower buttress before tackling the unlikely-looking headwall above. Start just right of the initial snow runnel of Original Route.

1. 50m. Climb mixed ground right of the runnel, then move left to reach the shallow depression of Original Route.

2. 45m. From the top of the depression climb up then left to gain the line of snow ledges which cuts from right to left across the buttress. Follow this to the end and belay below a short steep wall. Junction with Observatory Buttress Direct.

3. 40m. Climb the wall as for Observatory Buttress Direct, then instead of trending right, climb straight up towards the headwall. Surmount another short steep wall, then move right to belay below the prominent right to left groove system which cuts through the headwall.

4. 35m. Enter the groove from the right, and climb it pulling over a small roof at the top (crux). An excellent pitch in a superb position. From here easy ground leads to the Girdle Traverse Ledge. Finish as for Original Route.

Secondary Tower Ridge:

Butterfingers – 220m V,6. S. Richardson, R. Clothier. 13th February, 1999.

An interesting mixed route up grooves in the right flank of Pinnacle Buttress of the Tower. Start 5m right of a small snow bay, below the icefall of Pinnacle Buttress Direct.

1. 50m. Move up for 10m to below a small inverted triangular wall. Step left (Pinnacle Buttress Direct goes right from here), and continue up mixed ground left of the icefall of Pinnacle Buttress Direct to reach the terrace.

2. 30m. Climb the gully just right of a steep corner to gain a left-trending ramp which leads to the cave stance at the end of pitch 2 of Stringfellow.

3. 35m. Exit the cave on its right side and follow easy-angled grooves which cut into the right flank of the buttress, until a short slot leads up and left to a large flat stance on top of a huge block.

4. 30m. Trend up and right along an awkward ramp until a steep chimney leads up to the large platform on the crest of the buttress (junction with Stringfellow).

5. 25m. Avoid the steep headwall above, by climbing the narrow ramp on the right side of the buttress (as for Stringfellow Original Finish). Take the left of two grooves to reach the crest.

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

Comb Gully Buttress:

Big Bad Ben – 190m VII,7. S. Richardson, R. Clothier. 19th April, 1998.

A direct line up the right edge of Comb Gully Buttress. The lower section, which approximates to the summer line of Comb Gully Buttress, banks out in heavy snow conditions. The crux upper section takes the impending headwall right of Roaring Forties. Start to the right of the lowest rocks below a prominent 25m V-chimney in the right flank of the lower buttress.

1. 40m. Climb the V-chimney (or the arête just to its left) to easier ground. Move up to belay below a steep tower (The Tooth).

2. 30m. Climb a steep corner on the left side of The Tooth and continue over the top of the tower and down into a col.
3. 40m. Ascend snow slopes to the headwall. Belay 15m right of the chimney of Original Route below a steep shallow gully.
4. 20m. Climb the gully (as for Roaring Forties) to a ledge on the right.
5. 30m. Move back left, continue up the gully and the impending right-facing corner above (crux). Continue up the line of the corner to a belay on the arête overlooking Comb Gully.
6. 30m. Continue up the line of the corner to where it disappears, move down and right along a ledge into the funnel of Comb Gully, and finish up this.

The Comb:

Naïve Euphoria – 180m V,5. S. Yates, P. McVey. February, 1988.

The icy groove between Mercury and Pigott's Route. Climb the chimney-flake of Pigott's Route and move up and left into the groove. Continue up the groove for two pitches to a snowfield. Climb this, cross the barrier wall and continue up the left side of the summit tower as for Pigott's Route.

Naïve Euphoria, Direct Start – 30m V,6. S. Richardson, J. Bickerdike. 14th February, 1999.

An independent start to the right of the chimney-flake of Pigott's Route. Start just left of Mercury and climb a steep mixed wall to the right end of the terrace of Pigott's Route. Continue up the smooth open corner above exiting left at its top to reach the top of the chimney-flake of Pigott's Route.

Bigot's Route – 180m VI,6. N. Gregory, K. Pyke. 9th January, 1999.

A difficult mixed climb between Naïve Euphoria and Mercury, finishing up the front face of the summit tower.

1. 45m. Climb the chimney-flake of Pigott's Route, and continue straight up to below a steep corner just right of the icy groove of Naïve Euphoria.
2. 40m. Climb the corner, pull left around a bulge (crux) and continue up easier ground to a steep awkward wall. Climb this to a belay.
3. 45m. Go straight up and cross the snow field to a large off-width corner-crack in the barrier wall. Climb this and continue up the snow bay to belay at left side of front face of the summit tower.
4. 30m. To the right of an easier gully is a steep groove. Climb this via a narrow V-slot, and continue up a thin icy runnel until it is possible to pull left over a short wall into a small gully. This leads to a massive block belay on the summit ridge.
5. 20m. Cross the ridge to the summit plateau.

Number Three Gully Buttress:

The Banshee – 120m V,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 1st January, 1999.

An approximate winter version of the summer route. Start at the toe of the buttress as for Sioux Wall.

1. 40m. Climb a right-slanting line of grooves and chimneys past a huge and prominent poised flake to a steep wall. Climb this via a crack on the left to a stance.
2. 10m. Avoid the blank wall above by stepping right into Thompson's Route and following it to a good belay on the right.
3. 40m. Move left into the right-angle corner of The Banshee, and climb it to the platform of Number Three Gully Buttress.
4. 30m. Continue up Number Three Gully Buttress to the top.

Hobgoblin – 110m VI,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 5th December, 1998.

An excellent mixed climb taking a direct line through Gargoyle Wall. Start at the foot of the flake as for Gargoyle Wall Summer.

1. 30m. Climb the flake and continue up and right for 15m via a steep crack system to a short right-angle corner. Climb this to a good platform level with the base, and to the right of The Gargoyle.
2. 30m. Move up and right up a wall and crack to reach stepped edge. Climb this to the 'corner' of Gargoyle Wall below the steep cracked wall.
3. 10m. Climb the steep cracked wall to a ledge (as for Gargoyle Wall).
4. 30m. Move left along the ledge and climb the chimney-crack of Gargoyle Wall to where it goes left. Continue up the steep offwidth above to a ledge.
5. 10m. Finish easily up and right.

Creag Coire na Ciste:

Blockhead – 70m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 4th April, 1998.

The prominent ramp and corner on the right wall of Number Three Gully. Start 10m up and left of Cornucopia in a small alcove.

1. 30m. Take the leftmost fault leading out of the alcove up a short steep corner to reach easier mixed ground at the start of the ramp. Follow the ramp below a steep wall on the right.
2. 20m. Continue up the ramp to its end below a steep corner.
3. 20m. Climb the corner to the top.

Tick Tock Croc – 90m IV,5. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson, R. Clothier. 21st March, 1999.

A short mixed route between Wendigo and Place Your Bets. Some sections climbed before. Start below the icefall of Place Your Bets below a left-trending gully-ramp which is hidden from below.

1. 30m. Climb a steep step and follow the ramp to the platform of Wendigo.
2. 40m. Traverse right for 5m and pull over a bulge just left of a prominent fin of rock. Climb the groove above to an easing (Wendigo crosses here from the left) and continue up the continuation groove above.
3. 10m. Climb the crest of the rib to the cornice.

Carn Dearg:

Staircase Climb Direct – 190m VI,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 24th January, 1999.

A direct version of Staircase Climb starting up Kellett's Straight Chimney and avoiding the deviation into Waterfall Gully higher up.

1. 15m. Follow the initial ramp of Staircase Climb to near its right end below the deep cut chimney. Move up to its base.
2. 15m. Climb the chimney past a chockstone to a ledge on the right. A desperate exercise in body jamming.
3. 40m. Continue up the chimney past a couple of difficult sections to where it eases.
- 4 and 5. 80m. Climb more easily up the left side of the buttress to belay beneath the prominent pinnacle.
6. 40m. Instead of descending into Waterfall Gully to turn the pinnacle, climb a turf ramp on the right side of the pinnacle to the col. Regain the original line, and finish up the broad chimney above to reach easier ground.

Moonlight Gully Buttress:

Note: C. Jones and C. Ravey made a winter ascent of Moonlight Arête (IV,5).

South Castle Gully Area:

Plum Line – 250m V,6. C. Bailey, P. Downthwaite. 6th March, 1999.

Approx. 30m right of the corner of Compression Crack and where South Castle Gully narrows for the last time, an icefall cascades down the arête immediately bordering the left of the gully (this forms the rightmost of three icefalls on this wall). Climb a steep groove in the ice with a crux bulge at 30m and continue steeply above, exiting on to snow slopes and moving up to another icefall (60m). Step left on to the ice and climb this direct, trending right at the top to the slopes above (60m). Easier ground and snow slopes lead to the top.

MULLACH NAN COIREAN, Black Buttress (MR 123 668):

Ramp Route – 100m II. J. Ashbridge, C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 6th December, 1998.

Start on the right side of the buttress and follow the right to left ramp to the crest. Climb a steep step via a jammed block, step right and continue up a short gully. Easier ground leads to the top.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain:

Stirling Moss – 75m VI,7. M. Pescod, P. Winterbottom, D. Sykes. 15th April, 1998. This route climbs the obvious triangular niche on the right of the front face of the buttress immediately right of The Prow (i.e. closer to Easy Gully than Stirling Bridge by approx. 50m). Start at the lowest point of the buttress.

1. 45m. Climb cracked slabs trending rightwards to a large ledge (15m, possible belay). Continue trending right and gain the base of the triangular niche. Climb this and step left (crux) at its top. Continue up the obvious groove.
2. 30m. Continue in the same groove to easy ground and the plateau.

Gowan Hill – 60m VI,7. M. Robson, D. Jarvis, T. Ward. 25th January, 1998.

The obvious hanging off-width crack high on the front of the barrel-shaped buttress between Homo Robusticus and Homo Sapiens. Start at the toe of the buttress and work up leftwards to a good ledge to the left of the crack. Gain the crack and pull steeply round the overhang (good rest). Continue upwards using the wall right of the crack, as well as the crack itself, to ledges. Move leftwards to finish.

Muck n' Brass – 100m VI,6. A. Powell, J. Aylward. 14th March, 1999.

Takes the appealing buttress between Molar Canal and Broken Promise.

1. 40m. Climb an icy bay up the front of the buttress, then a steep wall and slabs on the left before stepping right into a turfey groove which leads to the crest.
2. 30m. Follow the crest in a fine position, then traverse under a steep wall to join Golden Promise in the bay on the left.
3. 30m. Cross the upper gully of Molar Canal and outflank the cornice on the right.

Foosyerneeps – 50m IV,5. A. Clark, J. Davis. 13th April, 1998.

Two pitches up the clean pillar at the far right of the corrie. The route climbs the pillar via cracks and corners slightly right of the prow to finish directly through a V notch at the top (crux). Excellent protection and clean cracks throughout.

AONACH Mor, West Face:

Solitaire, Combination Start – 110m IV,4. J. Lyall, B. Newton, R. Wills, P. Wright. 22nd January, 1999.

An icy start up the wall about 15m left of the normal line. Left of a large roof, ice leads up left to a steepening groove which is followed to a final bulge which is

passed by the left rib and slabs. An easier snow and ice fault leads up right to the crest of the normal route.

AONACH BEAG, West Face:

Prominent Chimney – 100m III,6. R. G. Webb, N. Wilson. November, 1998.

The prominent chimney between North Buttress and Crevassed Rib (guide p.252).

Raw Egg Buttress:

Top Gun – 160m V,6. S. Richardson, A. Mullin. 23rd February, 1999.

A good mixed route between Aonach Wall and Raw Egg Buttress, Original Route. Start 30m right of Original Route below a left-slanting chimney-ramp which starts 5m up and right of the toe of the buttress.

1. 40m. Climb the chimney-ramp to its top, and move up to the barrier wall of Original Route.
2. 40m. Climb the wall by a short icefall, continue up then right up chimneys to a good platform. (Salmonella pitch 1 finishes here).
3. 50m. The upper buttress is cut by three parallel right-slanting grooves. Climb the central one (between Original Route and Salmonella) to a good ledge below the right side of the headwall. Step left and belay below a steep corner with a prominent series of vertical flakes on its left wall.
4. 20m. Climb the corner to a good platform. An excellent pitch.
5. 10m. Continue up the corner to the top.

CREAG MEAGHAIDH, Raeburn's Gully Buttress:

Barry White – 160m IV,6. A. Clarke, A. Perkins, I. Taylor, P. Thorburn. January, 1999.

On the left-hand side of the buttress, just right of the start of Eastern corner, a curving fault runs rightwards-the start. This fine climb offers well protected mixed climbing, a good early season venue, or when the big ice routes are buried under snow. Follow the curving fault to a ledge below an icy crack (55m). Climb the well protected crack (good hooks) to easy ground (30m). Go easily to the base of the final tower split by a chimney (55m). Steep rock leads into the chimney and the top of the buttress. The finish is the groove climbed optionally by *Do What Thou Wilt* (SMCJ 1995, p680).

Benny Hill – 110m V,5. A. Clarke, D. McGimpsey. February, 1999.

A parallel line of turfy grooves lies up and left of Barry White. Steep turf leads to a short awkward corner and turf ledge, then move right to a slanting corner crack (30m). Go up the corner to an open ledge, then move into a hidden chimney on the left (40m). An awkward wall leads to a system of turfy grooves and the top of the tower.

Loch Roy Corrie, Carn Dearg Buttress:

Roy of the Rovers – 160m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 27th January, 1999.

Climbs a central line up the buttress right of The Spin, with a right-slanting squeeze chimney at half height and an easy finish.

Royal Buttress – 170m III,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 27th January, 1999.

The well defined buttress left of The Spin. Start just right of the base and take a zig-zag line on steep turf followed by a traverse left to the crest. Follow the crest more easily to the top. A long left traverse was required to pass the cornice, somewhere near the finish of Big Red Van (which looked about Grade II in these very snowy conditions).

MONADHLIATH, Geal Charn:

The buttress between Valentines Gully and the snow gully reported in *SMCJ* 1998 was climbed at Grade I using a left traverse in above steep slabby ground by D. Morrison and R. Simpson on 20th December, 1998.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Slime Wall:

Grogblossom: On a recent ascent by G. Robertson and I. Fischer, a large flake broke off from the bottom of the groove at the start of pitch 2. Since this is below the first gear, the route would appear to be both harder and more serious.

Stob Coire Altruim:

The Howling – 110m VI.6. M. Bass, S. Yearsley (alt.). 9th January, 1999.

This varied route climbs the steep front face of the main buttress between Dalmatian Couloir and Central Couloir before joining the easier angled hanging gully which runs parallel to the upper section of Dalmatian Couloir. Start 15m left of Dalmatian Couloir at a line of weakness falling from beneath the very obvious large free hanging icicle.

1. 10m. Climb steeply up ice and mixed ground to a thread belay in a small cave behind the free hanging icicle. A strenuous pitch.
2. 15m. Move out right behind the icicle on to ice on the front face of the buttress, and continue upwards over a steep wall to enter the hanging gully line.
- 3 and 4. 80m. Follow the enjoyable shallow gully to the summit.

BEINN FHADA:

On the lower tongue of slabs forming the east side of the large gully splitting the north face of Beinn Fhada is a shallow groove. This may have been climbed before as an old peg was found.

Groovy – 60m HVS 4c/5a. F. Coleman, T. Sykes. May, 1996.

Climb the groove and slab to a belay. Finish up slabs above. An attractive looking line.

Lost Valley Buttress:

Velocyraptor – 160m V/VI, 7. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 6th March, 1999.

The crackline between Tyrannosaur and Cold Feetus. Just up from the toe of the buttress is a leftfacing comer leading into the crack of Tyrannosaur which starts up the very short shallow chimney just to the right, where a slender buttress projects from the wall. Next to this is a straight crackline which runs up the middle of the projecting buttress and opens out into an off-width.

1. 60m. Immediately right of the shallow chimney is a thin crackline which is climbed, initially up a shallow groove, then across an casing (possible belay) and on through a niche and up an offwidth to a huge block-like feature.
2. 50m. Continue, as for Directosaur, rightwards up short corners, then up snow grooves.
3. 50m. Easy to the top.

Prehysteria – 190m VI,7*. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 1st November, 1998.

Climbs the system of corners just left of Directosaur, starting from the ledge beside that route at the foot of a short corner. This is just left of the buttress edge, down and right of the big corner of Delusion.

1. 15m. Climb the corner and ensuing short wall to a ledge.
2. 20m. Step up left and awkwardly climb above the belay, then go up left via two short corners to belay at the foot of the main corner.
3. 20m. Climb the left-leaning corner and continue to a good ledge.
4. 55m. Step down and around right to climb a blocky corner and follow the obvious shallow fault line/gully to a ledge.
5. 60m. Move left and follow another shallow fault line to where the angle eases.
6. 20m. Easy ground leads to the ridge.

Lost Valley Minor Buttress:

The following two routes vary in grade according to the amount of ice:

Chimini Minor – 75m IV/V,6*. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 15th November, 1998.

The thin, chockstoned chimney-crack just up the wide gully from Minor Adjustment.

1. 25m. Climb the chimney to a small ledge.
2. 50m. Follow the groove to the top.

Over the Influence – 90m IV,4*. R. Anderson, C. Anderson. 10th January, 1999.

The long corner/grooveline immediately left of Chimini Minor. Easier in good conditions. Start from a belay just to the right of the chimney.

1. 50m. Move left into the cornerline and climb to just below where it kinks right.
2. 40m. Continue in the corner to easy ground, then snow slopes leading to the top.

STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN:

The Dual – 130m IX,9***. D. Cuthbertson, R. Anderson. 24th February, 1999.

A modern test-piece which provides a sustained and intimidating prospect with absorbing climbing and superb situations.

1. 30m. Start to the right of Scabbard Chimney and climb up, then across this leftwards to gain a ramp which leads to a block belay, thread below.
2. 40m. Clip the *in situ* gear up on the left (poor), then move back down to the base of the wall and climb this trending fight to the break in the overhangs. Climb the corner and move right (ignore the peg/krab a move or so away) to the edge, then go up and around this to gain a small ramp at the foot of the upper ramp.
3. 35m. Climb the ramp and the wide crack (*in situ* thread and large gear, Friend#6 useful) into a chimney which leads to a terrace just above.
4. 25m. The left-hand of three corner lines leads to easy ground.

Easily for 50m to the crest, then another 180m to the top.

Note: Climbed on fifth attempt. 'The Wall' pitch approached on sight and climbed ground up on fourth attempt in 1997. The 'chimney-crack' pitch climbed with summer knowledge.

Death or Glory – 50m VII,7. S. Paget, A. Mullin. 4th March, 1999.

This route climbs the open corner 5m left of Innuendo. Start in the obvious snow bay.

1. 20m. Climb up the corner on poor rock until a small roof is reached and good runners can be placed on the right. Turn the roof on the left to reach a small groove leading to ledges.

2. 20m. Continue up the easy looking open groove and then a smaller continuation groove to the left side of a huge pinnacle.
3. 10m. Climb the short wall and corner immediately left to reach easy ground. Abseil from a block below or continue up Scabbard Chimney.

GLEN COE CRAGS, The Bendy (p 280):

Simmering Psycho – 25m E2 5c. D. Gunn, C. Ducker. June, 1998.

Climb either the obvious deep groove that separates the crag right of In Seine or better the vertical crack leading to the big tree with the dead branch. Behind the tree is a shallow corner. Climb this to the top. Sparse protection on the crux.

Jim'll Fix It – 25m E2 5b. D. Gunn, M. Waugh. June, 1998.

At the left edge of the crags and left of Roaring Silence at the edge of the trees is a brown wall with a flat ledge. Climb the wall to a large hold then go up the cracks on spaced jugs until a long reach (crux, RP protection) and good holds. Finish up the crack to a ledge and the short crack above.

Creag Doire-Bheith:

The Happy Whistler – 40m HVS 5a*. G. Latter, J. Rabey. 3rd September, 1998. 200m up and left of Creag Doire-Bheith (the crag containing Alan's Arête) is an obvious crack up a blunt arête. Start on a ledge at the base of a right-slanting heather rake.

1. 30m. Climb the wall just above the rake to gain the base of the crack. Follow this, then the fine easy rough slab to a grass terrace and flake belay on the wall above.
2. 10m. Walk right 7m, then ascend the wall leftwards, leading to easier ground. Belay from a large boulder 25m farther back. The smooth pale wall in the centre provides a fine boulder problem (good grassy landing) on small sharp holds at 6b.

NOTE: G. Latter has repeated several of the recent additions hereabouts. Both Alan's Arête and Jim'll Fix It were thought to be barely worth a star!

Dry Gorge Leaning Wall:

Crimp – 18m E2 5c. D. Gunn (unsec.). June, 1998.

The thin crack at the right edge of the crag, right of the obvious wide crack of Sin Nombre.

GLEN ETIVE, Trilleachan Slabs:

Angel – 215m E7***. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 3rd July, 1998.

A superb route with difficulties found on steeper rock than you might think! Take a good selection of very small to medium cams. Start at the foot of The Long Reach slab.

1. 30m 5c. Climb up and right via a pocket to the right side of a thin overlap at 6m. Gain and follow a quartz vein above, eventually gaining The Reach. Belay as for Spartan Slab/Long Reach.
2. 45m 5c. Follow The Long Reach as far as the left end of the horizontal quartz band. Now move up and right to climb an intermittent groove/flange to join the crux traverse of Pause beneath the first big overlap. Traverse left to belay at the small tree on Swastika. This pitch is also known as Band of Hope Direct.
3. 15m 6b. Traverse right for 5m until beneath a vague crack-cum-groove close to the widest part of the overlap. Make a difficult move to gain the obvious small ledge on the lip (shallow placement for a Metolius cam #00 or smallest Alien at the back of the ledge). Mantelshelf on to the ledge and if successful, Continue for 5m to

scoop ledges. Above and to the left, a thin grassy break provides excellent belays using small nuts and cams.

4. 55m 5c. The rippled slab between The Long Reach and Long Wait. Climb up and slightly right to a pocket. Trend right again to a small pocket (Roller#3 if you own one), then back left to another pocket (Roller#5) and continue to a scoop ledge tapering up to the right, above which another pocket provides an assemblance of cam protection. Go up and left to an overlap and via a vague ripple, pad up and slightly right to another pocket (Quadcam#4 or similar). Continue up the ripples to a right-facing flake and so to the left-hand end of The Long Reach intermediate overlap. Take the slab directly above and go over a small bulge on good, but slightly mossy, rock to a belay at the top of the grass column of The Long Walk, 10ft beneath the second big overlap and 8m right of the diamond-shaped overlap of The Long Wait.

5. 50m 5c. Trend up and right to a pocket on the slab beneath a short undercut wall (in the main overlap). Pull directly on to this using an obvious small flange and gain the easy-angled slab above. Climb a left-facing flake and near its top, step right past a pocket to reach a left-trending band of quartz leading to the tree-lined ledge beneath the final wall. After the flake, this section is more or less unprotected. Either belay at the left end of the tree-lined ledge at the foot of a vegetated corner (later descend 5m for a belay for the last pitch) or traverse horizontally left before reaching the ledge and belay in the corner beneath the undercut left arête of the terminal wall.

6. 20m 6b. To the right of the undercut arête there is a dark streak in the sidewall above an overlap. Pull into the short crack above the overlap and awkwardly attain a standing position (Friend#0 or similar cam backed up with a nut. Above this is a placement for an RP#1 and above that, an HB offset#1 on its side was used.) Step up and make a long reach left to a thin break issuing from a stepped ramp (Friend#0 or + useful). Follow this break down towards the left arête and make thin moves up to gain the next break. (There is a 'reasonable hold' towards the left side of the shoulder from which a position can be attained to place a small Alien or Metolius cam#00. This placement is crucial as the crux is above.) Gain the next break (nut and Friend#0) and continue up the arête to an exciting finish. For the belay, a Friend#0 located 3m to the left and a Friend#+ or 1 in crack 3m-4m above.

ARDNAMURCHAN POINT:

Park at the new visitor's centre. Approach Keeper's Cottage, then down and right along grass to cliffs. Vertical walls can be seen forming an impressive corner with an obvious overhang on the left-hand side. This is the Left Wall area. When the tide is out, around the right edge of these cliffs is a barnacle-encrusted wave-cut platform. This is the Main Wall area, bounded on the left edge by a rightward-slanting chimney. The tide come in quickly once it reaches the wave-cut platform. The rock is gabbro, varying from excellent to poor.

Left Wall:

Muck Climb – 10m Severe. D. Virdee, A. Briggs. 7th June, 1998.

To the left of the overhang is a curving crack running up to the top. Climb the crack (wet and slimy) and the flakes. The direct (harder, 4a) start can be avoided by climbing the flakes and ledges to the left, then easily traversing right to meet the crack.

Right of the overhang is a large steeper wall, the main section of the Left Wall area.

The rock here is much more compact and harder to protect. It is also very loose in places near the top.

E-numbers – 15m E1 5b. E. Hudson, D. Virdee. 20th July, 1991.

Starts 5m right of the left-hand corner. Go straight up the middle of the wall, after an initial start near the bottom left. Poor protection.

Incoming Tide – 15m VS 4c/5a. D. Virdee, E. Hudson. 20th July, 1991.

Twin cracks in the centre of the wall to a loose finish.

Loose Rock – 15m VS 4b. E. Hudson, D. Virdee. 20th July, 1991.

Five metres right of Incoming Tide is an undercut which allows access to the crack above. Not recommended.

Main Wall:

The Chimney – 15m Diff.

The obvious right-slanting chimney guarding the left edge of the Main Wall.

Home for Tea – 15m Severe*. D. Virdee, A. Briggs. 4th June, 1998.

In the middle of the wall 10m right of The Chimney is a leaf of rock forming a crack between it and the wall behind. It forms a slight roof at the bottom. Follow this to the top.

Westering Home – 15m V. Diff. L. Curtis, E. Vokurka. 10th May, 1998.

A squat block protrudes from the main cliff 10m right of Home for Tea. Climb the corner between the block and the main cliff to reach the top of the block. Step off the block on to the main cliff and pull through a bulge to reach the top.

Eigg Scramble – 15m Diff.

Starting 5m right of Westering Home, climb up the right-hand corner between the block and the wall.

Patch – 15m V. Diff. D. Virdee, A. Briggs. 7th June, 1998.

Climb overhanging arête to the right of Eigg Scramble, then move left on to the wall.

Whelk Route – 20m VS 4c**. D. Virdee, L. Curtis. 10th May, 1998.

Go around the corner and arête which forms the start of Patch to reach a steep open-book corner with a thin crack. Climb the crack and the capping bulge. A superb route.

Regeneration – 15m VS 4b. A. Briggs, D. Virdee. 7th June, 1998.

Climb the middle of the wall to the right of Whelk Route.

THE ARDNAMURCHAN RING CRAGS

An attempt to delegate for a second year has failed and the Journal has been left without coverage of the many routes climbed here recently. The new guide is scheduled for summer 2000.

Note: The Apron Slabs on Meall Mheadoin are extremely close to a very important nest site and should not be climbed on between March and the end of July.

Meall Sanna (MR NM 453 686):

C. Stead notes that the routes on this crag in *SMCJ* 1998 are not new. They were climbed some 30 years ago and thought too trivial to record.

Note: C. Stead's note illustrates a common problem, as the acceptable height of routes has decreased over the years. There is a similar problem with the acceptable separation of routes. The cliffs at Reiff were also climbed on before any routes were written up.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

MULL OF KINTYRE, Creag Na Lice:

The Bowling Alley – 20m H. Severe 4b. S. Burns, D. Crawford. 24th May, 1998.
Climb the prominent deep cut chimney between the left-hand and central sections of the buttress.

Picnic Rock (Sheet 68, MR 769 155):

The small crag on the left side of the beach. Short routes, but a pleasant setting.

Loaded – 7m E2 6a. M. Robson, T. Ward. 4th May, 1998.

Tackles the hanging crack and arête. Start at the graffiti 'LMI 1992', pull up and use a hidden hold to reach across right to the crack which is climbed to a ledge. Continue up the arête.

The Adjuster – 7m VS 4c. M. Robson, T. Ward 4th May, 1998.

Right of the arête is a hanging chimney-crack with a tree in it. Climb the centre of the wall right of the chimney-crack.

Midships Crag:

Kissing the Gunner – 30m E4 5c. M. Gartwaite, C. Smith. 17th May, 1998.

More dangerous than *Kissing the Gunner's Daughter*. Start 8m left of that route. Climb a short wall to a ledge, then the clean crack in the shallow corner on the left. Move up to below the steep wall and follow the very thin seam to an alcove below the upper wall. Move up and left, then back right to the top.

CREAG THARSUINN, Upper Buttress:

Rite of Spring – 30m E3**. C. J. Watt, N. J. Smith. 24th May, 1998.

To the right of *Deception* is an open book corner with a smooth right wall containing a vertical crack right of centre. The right wall of the open corner gives a sustained technical wall climb with the crux high up. Protection is good but fiddly to arrange; take plenty of small wires, micros and small cams. Top-roped prior to lead.

1. 20m 6a. Climb the wall by the crack, with occasional deviations, to a horizontal break at half height (not seen from below but near a quartz band). Arrange a cluster of protection in the crack above and move up and left to gain a small V-shaped pocket (crucial Friend 1). Above, a slanting crack trends left to a black moss streak. A hard move gains a good hold in this crack and further good holds in the original crackline which lead to an awkward finish on to heather.

2. 10m 4a. The short wall above is climbed to the top (as for *Firebird*).

Firebird – 35m HVS 5a*. N. J. Smith, C. J. Watt. 19th May, 1998.

To the right of *Rite of Spring* is a fine arête and right of this a narrow slab with a crack in its right side, the start of *V-Groove Direct*. Good climbing but a little dirty. Climb the cracked slab to a small roof (leave the vegetation intact for the turf heads). On the left wall is a small hollow flake which is not seen from below. Standing on this, reach up for good holds and layback up left into a recess. Bridge up the short groove above to a small bilberry ledge. Traverse hard left on good footholds across a fine slabby wall to an arête and climb the left side of the wall to a welcome finger crack. Pass a small overhang on its right and exit left to another small ledge

(possible belay). Easier climbing up the mossy and heathery buttress ahead leads in 10m to easier ground.

Counting Down – 30m VS 4c. D. Kirk, C. McNee. 20th June, 1998.

Start at the foot of an open book corner 3m left of Deception. Climb the corner either directly or by starting up its left wall, then directly up the cleanish slab above, left of the upper part of Deception.

BEN VORLICH:

Logical Progression – 25m M9 or XI,10 for on sight. M. Garthwaite (red point). 23rd February, 1999.

The route climbs an overhanging crackline on a crag just below the summit of Ben Vorlich, facing Loch Sloy. It is best approached by cycling to the Loch Sloy dam, then walking up and slightly left to the summit. The crackline is largely hidden from below, but is on the highest band of crags and becomes more obvious as you approach. The route was top-roped over several days, then led on gear pre-placed on abseil. The gauntlet is down.

BEN VORLICH CRAGS:

These crags are just below the summit ridge, face west, get the evening sun and are relatively midge free. Approach from the tourist path that leaves the road about half a mile before the dam. Walk straight up the hillside until just below the summit ridge. Cranium Crag is the obvious dome-shaped crag on the left.

Cranium Crag (MR 300 110):

Method Own Madness – 30m E4 6a***. M. Garthwaite, A. Murray, C. Smith. 10th May, 1998.

Move out right along easy blocks to below a short thin crack. Climb this, then the crack on the left to a shake below a steepening. Climb straight up the smoother wall into the scoop above. Exit the right side of the scoop and climb to the top in a wild position.

Whizz Kids – 30m E5 6a**. M. Garthwaite, T. Harrison. 25th June, 1998.

Start as for the previous route. Climb the initial crack for 3m, then move right to below obvious small overlaps. Move up (hard), step right, then up to good holds at the very base of the slab. Follow the very thin left-trending seam (bold), then straight up to the top.

Chasing the Dragon – 25m E4 5c. M. Garthwaite, C. Smith. 12th May, 1998.

Climbs the shallow groove right of the previous route to finish up the top slab. Move out right along the broken blocks to belay below the groove. Move up, then left into the base of the groove. Climb the groove boldly to step right at the top, then back left to a ledge below the top slab. Step left on to the slab, then climb straight up without any gear to the top.

Bottom Crag:

This is the obvious crag immediately down and in front of Cranium Crag.

G-String – 20m E2 5c**. M. Garthwaite, C. Smith. 2nd June, 1998.

Climbs the shallow corner on the front face. Climb the wall below the corner, stepping right at the top to belay. Easy scramble off.

V.P.L. – 20m E4 6b***. M. Garthwaite, C. Smith. 2nd June, 1998.

A fantastic route climbing the double corners on the right-hand face. Climb the first corner to its top and make hard moves right to the base of the second corner. Follow this to the top.

Right of Bottom Buttress is another wall.

Colon Stress – E3 5c*. C. Smith, M. Garthwaite. 30th June, 1998.

Start just right of a small cave at the base of the crag. Follow the crack up and left, then back right to the arête. Climb the arête and finish up the scoop at the top of the crag.

THE COBBLER, South Peak, North-East Face:

T. Halliwell and M. Morton note the following route on the left margin of the face at 50m, III,5. It would seem to count as a variation start to SE Ridge. From the toe of the SE Ridge, ascend a ramp diagonally right towards the NE Face but after about 5m climb steeply on to the left end of a rising ledge. Follow the ledge right into a deep corner/niche with a crack running directly up from this. Climb the crack (crux) to the left end of another rising ledge and a cave/niche (25m). Step down and traverse right on ledges to a wide groove, climbed to the crest of the SE ridge (25m).

Centre Peak Buttress:

Turftastic – 75m VII,7. M. Garthwaite, C. Smith. 17th January, 1999.

A diagonal route crossing Chimney Route providing very good but escapable climbing. Start in the big overhung bay down and left from Chimney Route.

1. 25m. Climb an easy groove leading to the right arête of the bay and swing round on to the front face. Traverse right and slightly down to the obvious turf ledge, then move along this a few feet before moving up the wall and back left to below the crux of Chimney Route.
2. 25m. Move right up the easy ramp to the left hand of two cracks and climb this (crux) to a small bay. Move left and up a small corner to below a roof, traverse right beneath this and pull up to below an obvious chimney.
3. 25m. Climb the chimney and the continuation line to the top.

MEALL BUIDHE, Lower Buttress:

AC Joint Test – 95m IV,5. G. E. Little, C. Schaschke (alt.). 6th December, 1998.

Start just to the left of an obvious low block roof at the foot of the relatively clean buttress to the right of the starts of Rampling and Spirit Level.

1. 45m. Move up and left to a corner. Ascend it, move right, then climb to a slight groove in a wall of clean rock. Ascend the groove with increasing difficulty to step right at its top. Cross a tricky slab above, then continue to belay in a shallow bay. A nippy pitch!
2. 50m. Move left from the bay, then climb straight up to reach easier ground leading to the top of the buttress.

BEN CRUACHAN, Drochaid Ghlas:

Tiger, Tiger – 130m VII,7. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 7th March, 1999.

The 'compelling unclimbed corner' to the left of Into the Fire mentioned in the *Arran, Arrochar and Southern Highlands Guide*. A superb mixed route climbed on thin ice and frozen turf. The base of the groove is guarded by blank bulging slabs, so the corner was gained by a left trending ramp which starts 10m farther right.

1. 20m. Climb turf for 5m then move left across a bulging wall to gain the ramp. Follow this to a good stance at the base of the corner.
2. 40m. Climb the corner to a good platform where the angle eases.
- 3 and 4. 70m. Climb the wall directly behind the belay then move up and right to gain easier ground. Continue up the chimney and easy gully above as for Into the Fire to the top.

MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Cam Chreag, Fan Buttress:

The Cider House Rules – 80m III. J. Irving, G. Allan. 21st December 1998.

Left of all previously described routes is a wide face of mixed ground. At the left hand side is a rock tower with a chimney running up the right hand side. This is the most obvious line on this part of the crag and corresponds to no previously described features. Easy ground leads to the chimney. A 40m pitch ascends to a large spike belay on the left, then easy ground leads to the ridge.

Creag an Lochain, Arrow Buttress:

Flight of Fancy – 105m III. S. Muir, G. E. Little (alt.). 7th February, 1999.

This route takes a left-trending line up the centre of the vegetated face to the left of Arrow Chimney. Start about 50m up and left of the foot of Arrow Chimney below a cluster of scraggy saplings.

1. 55m. Climb up to below a short wall, turn it on the right, then break back left. Climb straight up to a niche on the right below a slanting roof.
2. 30m. Move left to enter the obvious groove. Climb it to a ledge, then move left to the foot of a short corner. Climb the corner and exit left above to a thread at a turf mound. A characterful pitch at the upper limit of the grade.
3. 20m. Continue straight up on easier ground.

BEN LAWERS, Coire nan Cat, Creag an Fhithich:

Stray Cats – 115m III*. C. Bonington, G. E. Little, S. Muir (alt.). 1st February, 1998.

1. 35m. Climb the first pitch of Felinity to the small pinnacle on the right.
2. 30m. Move back left and climb a short ice step to steepening ground. Move slightly right, then step up left. Surmount a short wall (crux), then trend up and right to a turf ramp.
3. 50m. Continue up the ramp and broken ground above to the top of the crag.

Alley Cat Gully – 100m II*. G. E. Little. 9th March, 1998.

The east flank of Creag an Fhithich (which terminates in the short East Gully – Grade I), presents a distinctive vertical featureless wall. Start below this wall at a shallow diagonal gully. Follow it, with one little chimney pitch, to reach its termination at a small col overlooking East Gully. Drop down into this and finish via easy snow.

Bealach Crag (MR 636 423):

This short turfy north-facing crag lies 250m due south of the main bealach between Ben Lawers and An Stuc. Its only real merit is that it lies above 1000m and is in condition for most of the year!

Wild Frontera – 65m II. G. E. Little, C. Bonington (alt.). 24th January, 1998.

Starting just right of an indistinct gully, climb a fairly central line in two pitches.

ARRAN

BEINN TARSUINN, Meadow Face:

Snakes And Ladders – 50m E2 5b***. C. Moody, W. Hood. 16th May, 1998.

A slab of perfect rock between The Curver and Meadow Grooves which is good for a second route of the day. Easily seen from the slopes on the right, it has a vertical heather crack on the right-hand side. Start up a bulge on the left side and follow the crack to a downward-pointing flake. Traverse right for 5m, then climb straight up on seams and pocks to the left of the heather crack. A Friend#2 protects the top section, a Rock#6 can be threaded just below it. The route was gained by abseil off chockstones at the top; traditionalists can reach the start by two pitches of grassy grooves.

CIR MHOR, Lower East Face:

Papinootme – 40m HVS 5a*. W. Hood, C. Moody. 1st August, 1998.

The crack between South Ridge Original and The Crack. Start just right of S.R.O. Climb up then move right to gain the right side of the flake (it might be better to start further right and climb direct to here). Climb the flake, step left and climb the crackline; towards the top avoid twin grassy cracks by pockets just left. Easy for the grade.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

GLASGOW SOUTH AND AYRSHIRE, Neilston Quarry, The Right But-tress:

Hyperreality – 15m VS 4b. D. Crawford, S. Burns. 19th September, 1998.

Immediately to the right of Fornication is an undercut slabby wall. The route follows a direct line to the top. A scoop leads to an overlap at 3m, climb this and the wall above to a bulge (crux) which is taken direct.

Whitehorse Rib – 15m Severe 4b. D. Crawford. September, 1998.

Right of Jig-Saw Jive is an undercut blunt rib. Start directly below it. Pull on to the slabby rib where unprotected moves gain easier ground (but no protection). Finish left up the upper groove of Jig-Saw Jive.

THE GALLOWAY HILLS, Craigencaille, Main Wall:

To the right of the Main Wall is a huge roof with a smooth corner (Old Mortality) on its right side.

The Whirling Dervishes – 50m E3 6a**. A. Fraser, A. Murdoch. 19th August, 1998. A sustained but very well protected climb with some excellent moves. Easy for the grade.

1. 15m 6a. Start as for Old Mortality and climb this for 5m. Traverse left across a steep and difficult wall for 3m to holds on the edge, above the big roof. Move up then left across a slab to a prominent flake under the roof. Layback up right into a niche, then move up right to belay.

2. 35m 4b. Traverse left for 3m, then climb an easier but mossy wall to a ledge. Continue up the left edge above then follow the trail of bones up to, into and out of an impressively large nest (the crux in the nesting season) to the slope above (35m-4b)

NOTE: Old Mortality (*SMCJ* 1995 p. 688) and The Heretic (*SMCJ* 1996 p. 113) are the same.

THE DUMFRIES OUTCROPS, Clifton Crag, Jigsaw Buttress:

Liptrip – 10m VS 5a. S. J. H. Reid, D. Bodecott. 24th April, 1998.

The obvious groove between Lipstick and Hotlips had previously been ignored due to a large bramble bush in situ. This has now been removed. The main groove, 1m right of Lipstick, is gained by strenuous jamming over the roof (thread in lip). Finish more easily up the newly gardenised chimney/groove.

THE SOUTH-WEST SEA CLIFFS, Portobello, Shark Fin Bay:

At the top right end of the bay, reached up a grass slope, is a buttress with a large roof at mid height.

Walking the Plank – 20m HVS 5a**. A. Fraser, A. Murdoch, A. Taylor, I. McGill. August, 1998.

A sustained and interesting route with a sensational crux. Start at the left toe of the buttress and climb a right-curving crack just right of the left edge of the buttress and leading to the A-shaped recess at the top. Step right into the recess, then swing down and out onto the lip of the overhang. Climb the headwall to the top.

Larbrax (MR 966 608):

These cliffs are situated on the coast about four miles south of Kiln O' the Fuffock, reached along the idyllic beach at Larbrax. The climbing to date is on a series of greywacke slabs above the beach. The rock is perfect, the climbing is very fine and the situation superb. Also of note is the excellent bouldering on the beach underneath the cliff, one of the few good bouldering areas in Galloway.

From Glasgow follow the A77 to Stranraer, then go west on the A718 to Leswalt. Turn left in the village (signposted to Portpatrick) and take this for two miles to a junction. Follow the main road left for one-and-a-half miles to Larbrax. Take the track immediately opposite on the right, signposted to Bay House, then follow this down to the beach. Walk north (along the beach) for 10-15 minutes to a series of pinnacles on the beach. The slabs are just beyond above a grass shelf. Routes are described left to right, with the seaward slab first.

Seaward Slab:

O'er The Dyke – 15m HVS 5a*. G. Brookes, L. Walker, J. Nelson, M. Dale. 1st July, 1995.

The crack at the left edge of the slab, reached directly from below.

Haste Ye Back – 17m E6 6b/c***. M. Dale, G. Brookes. 1st July, 1995.

The classic of the crag, taking the slab at its blankest. The climbing is excellent and thin and the gear is just thin. In the centre of the crag, where the left overlap meets the ground, is a thin crack. Climb the crack for 7m to the first overlap/ripple where a line of reasonable footholds lead leftwards towards the edge of the overlap. Move left along these for 1m or so until small finger pockets and very thin edges lead to the second overlap (RPs in the crack to the right). Move left and up (crucial RP#2 on the left) until a stretch back right can be made to a good flat V-shaped hold. More extending moves lead to the top on improving holds.

Ceud Mille a Failte – 17m E4 6a***. R. McAllister, A. Fraser. May, 1998.

Another superb route, taking the most obvious weakness in the centre of the slab. Gear improves with height. Start as for *Haste Ye Back* and climb the initial crack of that route for 7m. to the first overlap/ ripple. Move 2m. right(crux) to a rest at

a large pocket. Continue directly to start of leftward slanting fault, then move right with difficulty to reach and finish up crack at top right of crag.

Ace is Low – 15m E2 5c*. G. Brookes, M. Dale. 19th November, 1994.

At the right side of the slab is a crack leading to a spike/ pinnacle. Climb the crack and stand on the spike. Tricky although reasonably well protected moves lead into the thinner upper cracks and the top.

The Central Slab:

Soor Ploom – 16m E3 5c**. M. Dale, G. Brookes. 3rd July, 1995.

Start from about the middle of the slab. Make a bouldery pull leftwards to start, then move up and left to below a very thin crack which splits the overlap (good wires). Climb the thin crack to reach an obvious pocket from where moves left gain a pod/ crack just right of the left edge of the slab. Climb this via some odd moves and the last protection, then run it out up the arête and the slab to the top. The centre of the slab remains dirty (not for long!).

Mealy Pudding – E1 5b**. G. Brookes, M. Dale. 3rd July, 1995.

The right-hand line on the slab, up obvious finger cracks via some nice finger jamming with good protection, moving slightly right near the top.

The Right-hand Slab:

A last great challenge, blankety blank. Boldissimo.

Cranberry Jam – 18m Severe. M. Dale. 3rd July, 1995.

The left-bounding slab and wide crack.

Laggantalluch:

Peregrine Corner – 25m HVS 5a*. J. Fisher, A. Brockington. June, 1998.

Between Small Bay and Main Cliff is a mossy raised wall split by a clean corner. Sustained and well protected.

GLASGOW SOUTH AND AYRSHIRE, Loudon Hill, Central Wall:

The Cat – 15m E1 5b. C. Pettigrew, T. Burley, H. Bruce. 10th May, 1998.

Climbs the 5m steep corner-crack 6m left and up of the old drystone dyke. Climb the crack with difficulty to the loose block at the top, pull over this and continue easily to a belay at the bottom of Young's Stairway.

Le Chat – 20m VS 5a*. C. Pettigrew, H. Bruce, T. Burley. 10th May, 1998.

A direct Start to Young's Stairway. Climb the front face of the buttress on the left. Instead of the traverse right on Young's Stairway, continue direct to an obvious thin crack (with seep marks) and climb this crack direct on small holds.

FIFE OUTCROPS, The Hawcraig:

Hip Replacement – 15m HVS 5a. J. Dyble, J. Shanks. 5th August, 1998.

Start in the recess to the right of the normal start to Toerag's Wall. Pull through the overlap without using holds to the left (on the right side of Toerag's Wall) following rounded holds on the right and a thin crack to the left. Good climbing but a bit contrived; poorly protected.

Rib and Groove – 15m Severe. J. Dyble, J. Shanks. 5th August, 1998.

Between Hallelujah Wall and The Whang. Aim for a blunt dark rib 4m up and with a thin crack in its lower half. Follow it directly to the top via a thin groove line. Climbed before but not recorded.