

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

OUTER ISLES

LEWIS SEA CLIFFS, The Channel Walls:

The Hooded and the Channel Walls lie to the west of the aerial by the Painted Geo and have been developed over the past few years by R. & C. Anderson.

The following routes lie at the northern end of the narrow rift forming The Channel. Scramble up to belay on the neck, before the rocks drop down again.

The Great Divide – 30m E1 5a*. R. & C. Anderson. 3rd July, 1999.

A short, steep greasy crack proves difficult to protect. Instead climb the seaward side of the fin and step across on to the landward side. Move up to ledges and traverse left into the middle of the wall. Boldly climb a line of weakness up right, then continue to the top.

The Great Divide Direct – 30m E2 5c**. R. & C. Anderson. 11th July, 1999.

Where the original route traverses left, climb straight up to horizontal break, traverse right and make an awkward pull into the crack above. Climb the crack directly to the top.

Screaming Geo:

North-West Arête – 14m E3 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 16th May, 1999.

Climb the arête between It's Raining Rocks and Pinky, mainly on its right side, escaping right near the top.

An immaculate wall of perfect rock extends south from Lighthouse Arête to the arch. The climbing is quite bold on the main initial pitches, but on perfect rock. Descent: From the block strewn slope above, the south end runs into a 4m light-coloured wall, with two large blocks. Abseil from a huge thread beneath the rightmost (south) block, slightly diagonally leftwards (looking down, i.e. towards the arch) to belay a few metres above the south end of the platform.

The Quiet Man - 45m VS*. G. Latter, J. Rabey. 15th April, 1999.

1. 25m 4b Follow a line of faint grooves to a good ledge at a wide left-slanting fault.
2. 20m 4b Continue up the fault, breaking out right and over ledges to finish at the abseil blocks.

The Heebie-Jeebies – 50m E1***. G. Latter, J. Rabey. 15th April, 1999.

Abseil directly down from the leftmost (north) block to a good spike above the centre of the platform. A brilliant main pitch on perfect rock.

1. 30m 5a. Follow a super left-slanting pink ramp, continuing up the black ramp above to below a beautiful pink wall.
2. 20m 5b. Climb the crack to ledge, step left and up a shallow groove to another ledge. Step right and continue more easily to belay further back. This pitch could be avoided by easier lines on either side, giving a fantastic 3* HVS.

Note: There was a piece of string round the thread beneath the north block at the top, and another on a large flake about halfway down, midway between the above lines. Someone has been down there, and therefore must have climbed out, presumably at least climbing the line between the above two routes.

Aird Uig, Torcaso Geo (MR NB 0295 3530):

The Geo is mentioned on pp 100-101 in the guidebook as having two VS/HVS routes on its North Wall with no easy way out. One of the routes below may correspond with one of these climbs.

The first two routes lie on the jet black South Wall (north-facing), towards the seaward end of the Geo where an area of rock protrudes slightly, just to the right of a sea cave, to form a pillar with a pedestal at its base. Two cracklines run up the pillar.

Running Scared – 25m E1 5b***. R. & C. Anderson. 17th July, 1998.

Step right around the edge into a corner and climb the right-hand crackline on perfect rock.

No Hiding Place – 25m E1 5b**. R. & C. Anderson. 17th July, 1998.

The left-hand crackline is almost as good.

The following routes lie on the North Wall (south-facing) at the extreme seaward end of the wall just before the end of the geo, where there is an obvious slanting chimney/crack with a pink quartz vein to its right, and to the right of this a long corner line.

42nd Street – 40m E2 5c**. R. & C. Anderson. 6th July, 1999.

The long corner line, gained by a crack leading from the lower ledge to the higher ledge.

Life in the Old Dog Yet – 40m E3 5c**. R. & C. Anderson. 6th July, 1999.

The pink quartz vein. Either follow the initial crack of 42nd Street, or a line just to its left to join it at the higher ledge. Move up the corner of 42nd Street until it is possible to traverse left into the middle of the wall, jugs, then move up the quartz vein to a roof and ledges just above. The fine crack in the headwall leads to the top.

Generation Gap – 35m HVS/E1 5b. R. & C. Anderson. 6th July, 1999.

The chimney crack, possibly climbed before.

Happy Returns – E2/3 5c**. R. & C. Anderson. 6th July, 1999.

Just left of the chimney, climb the crack in the black wall and then its continuation.

The final route is an escape route starting from ledges at the north-east corner of the Geo.

Escape From Victory – 50m Severe/VS 4b*. R. & C. Anderson. 11th July, 1999.

1. 20m 4b. Climb the corner on good black rock, then traverse right and step down to a good ledge on the back/West Wall.

2. 30m 4b. Traverse ledges across the back wall and finish up a short V-groove in the south-east corner of the Geo.

BEINN NA BERIE, The Little Big Wall:

The hillside at the eastern end of the Traigh na Beirigh sands is dotted with minor bits of rock. One of these is a small, insignificant-looking wall not far above the

machair. On closer acquaintance the wall is found to be composed of smooth, near perfect gneiss and provides a number of fine climbs, which although short, give some excellent moves. The crag is unaffected by the sea, which makes it particularly useful.

The left end of the wall has a fine crackline running up it with a pocketed wall to its right, then towards the right side of the smooth central section are some thin cracklines rising above embedded blocks. All climbs except one were cleaned on abseil.

Traighding Places – 20m HVS 5a*. R. & C. Anderson. 14th July, 1999.
The obvious corner at the left end of the wall has an awkward exit.

Tunes of Glory – 20m E6 6b***. R. & C. Anderson. 9th July, 1999.

A superb route up the staggered crackline running up the left edge of the wall. Climb the first crack to its top, move right to the upper crack (wires), stretch a Friend 0 into a tight placement on the right, then continue past this to the top.

Note: Tried first in 1998. Cleaned and top-roped. Led placing all of the gear ground up with one fall/yo-yo. Also red-pointed clean. Effectively climbed twice – just to make sure!

Barrier Reef – 20m E6 6a/b***. R. Anderson. 16th July, 1999.

Brilliant climbing up the pocketed wall in the centre of the wall. Gain the first pocket (Friend 3 forced in; good DMM Peanut 1 in thin crack to left). Reach the large pocket (Friend 4, awkward to seat; Friend 3.5 in pocket above, forced in tight with close together cams facing down). Move left to another large pocket (Friend 0 just below; back up wires on left if required). Up on the right is a thin crack (Black Diamond Stopper 3 or similar with Wild Country Rock Yellow/0.5 or similar just below). Pull past these to a hold, then a layaway and another hold (stopper 1, then crucial RP3 inserted right to left into a keyhole at the back of the hold). A stretch gains a break (good wires) and then the top.

Note from R. Anderson: Cleaned and inspected; no prior top-roping. Unfortunately, due to poor weather and the end of the holiday the gear was left in overnight and all I had to do was clip the draws in. I spent most of the last day waiting for the rain to stop and only just squeezed the route in between showers. The gear is pretty specific hence the reason I have noted it all – given the time and the weather (and knowing what went where) I would have placed it all ground up which would not have been a problem.

Just to the right are some embedded blocks from where the next three routes start.

Cnip-Fit – 15m E4 6a**. R. Anderson. 14th July, 1999.

Start on the blocks and from a letterbox (Friend) swing left into a thin crack, then move up this to its top where it is possible to blindly stretch a Rock 6 up right into a superb placement in a pocket. Gain the break up on the right and follow its diagonal continuation up left to pull onto the ledge and finish more easily.

Berie-Berie – 15m E5 6b***. R. & C. Anderson. 15th July, 1998.

Start on the blocks and move up past a horizontal break to a flange (RP3 or similar in this and the same just to the left). Gain the horizontal break above, step right (a

small horizontal slot just up and right provides additional, awkward to arrange protection – Rock 2 in right side Rock 3 on left) and climb to another horizontal (gear) then gain the ledge and finish as for Milk-Traigh up right.

Milk-Traigh – 15m E2 5c/6a*. R. & C. Anderson. July, 1997.

Just right of the blocks, climb the obvious crack to its end, then pull up left to a ledge and finish up right.

SOUTH UIST, Beinn Mhor, Hellisdale Buttress:

The cliff has six gully lines numbered 1 to 6 from left to right. Other (and harder) climbs done in the Eighties may surface. The relationship to the route in SMCJ 1999 is unknown. J. Hart also made FWAs in the Loch Avon area in the early Seventies. The best area for rock climbing is at the higher west end of the cliffs where there is a largish area of clean white slabby rock. Towards the left (east) end of this area is a large triangular slab bounded on the left by a grassy rake and on the right by an overlap. Above the top of the triangle is a prominent vertical corner taken by the following climb.

Open Book Corner – 120m VS 4c**. D. Allan, D. Marriot. 16th June, 1986.

Start below the corner and climb up to belay below a small overhang. Traverse left, then step down, before carrying on up and left to a grassy rake. Continue up right to belay below the steep corner. Climb the corner via a crack just to its left, then step right and climb a second crack to belay on a grass terrace (crux). Carry on straight up crossing a ramp to finish above. Scramble to the top.

Up right from the above route a short vertical cliff crosses the corrie floor and abuts the main face. The next climb starts 5m down from the corner where the two cliffs meet.

Slab Buttress – 120m VS 4b**. J. Hart, D. Allan. 10th June, 1984.

Climb directly up to a grass ledge, then rightwards up slabs to a terrace. Traverse down left over slabs, then back up leftwards across the terrace and up a corner left of a brown and white mark. Continue directly up smooth slabs across a grass ledge and up slabs to under a block. Traverse left and up to a nose. Swing round it and go up a ramp corner to the right to finish.

Slab Buttress West - 120m Severe**. J. Hart, D. Allan. 27th May, 1984.

Start 5m right of the last climb in the corner where the short cliff meets the face. Climb up the corner, then up slabs to a grass terrace. Climb a crack above, then trend right to a nose of rock. Continue up the rock nose to a grass ledge and finish between the two right-hand rock noses on the skyline.

Red Corner – 60m VS*. J. Hart, D. Allan. 27th May, 1984.

A climb on the buttress between Gullies 3 and 4. Scramble up Gully 3, climb the right wall and up grass ledges to the foot of the red corner. Climb the stepped corner (crux) to a grass terrace. Climb the corner to the left over a vertical step to the top.

Winter: D. Allan soloed all of the gullies in the winters of 1983 and 1984. Gullies 1 and 5 were Grade I, the rest being Grade II. Lengths rising from 60m for 1 to 200m for 6. All worth a star. Also:

*5 to 6 Traverse – III**.*

Climbs Gully 5, then up a short icefall and ramp into Gully 6, crosses Gully 6 and goes up a groove (crux). Continue up a ramp, then a chimney to more broken ground and the top.

PABBAY:

NOTE: Many routes have been climbed on Pabbay, Mingulay and Berneray in recent years and descriptions kept secret. Given the reported high quality, the secrecy seems in a poor spirit.

The Peninsula opposite the campsite:

Halfway along the peninsula that lies east of the beach and the ruined house is a 10m high smooth wall with a basalt chimney on its right-hand side.

The Ethics Police – 10m E3 5c. S. Littlefair, O. Metherell. 10th June, 1998.

Climbs the left-hand side of the wall, bold to start.

Rising Damp – 12m VS 4c. S. Littlefair, O. Metherell. 10th June, 1998.

This route can be found 5m to the right of the basalt chimney. Climb the groove right of the sharp arête, stepping right to follow the ramp line.

The Arch Wall:

Full Fathom Five – 115m E2 5b. S. Littlefair, O. Metherell. June, 1998.

This route climbs the big arête left of The Priest

Abseil in down the arête and belay in the chimney/pod 15m right of the arête.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the pod and steep cracks above until a pull left on to a sloping ramp. Belay.

2. 40m 5b. Trend left across the steep wall and climb the groove in the arête, passing through a steepening (crux) until the groove closes.

3 and 4. 60m 4c. Climb grooves and cracks up the lichenous wall.

The Galley:

Dream of White Faeces – 60m VS 4c. S. Chinnery, S. Littlefair, A. Loftus, O. Metherell. June, 1998.

This route traverses the obvious horizontal break in The Galley. Descend The Complete Works to a ledge.

1. 30m 4c. Traverse the obvious break.

2. 30m 4c. Traverse the break until a move up can be made to finish the traverse above the overhang.

The Poop Deck:

My Private Pabbay Diary – 30m E2 5c. S. Chinnery, O. Metherell. June, 1998.

1. Climb the thin crack up the left-hand side of the front face of the projecting buttress up through a small square-cut niche to a ledge.

2. Climb the upper wall up to a rightward-rising ramp line to the centre of the upper wall. Finish at the same point as Human Cargo.

West End of Allernish Peninsula:

At the westernmost point of the Allernish peninsular is a small box inlet. Abseil down a wall next to a deep chimney.

Sudden Squall – E2 5c. D. Long, A. Loftus. June, 1998.

Climb the right-hand side of the right arête of the inlet.

Windy Corner – H. Severe 4b. D. Long, A. Loftus. June, 1998.

Climb the obvious left corner of the inlet.

Squall Wall – H. Severe 4b. D. Long, A. Loftus. June, 1998.

Climb the corner system in the left-hand side of the left wall.

MINGULAY, The Wee Geo:

Lord of the Isles – 20m E4 6a**. M. Somerville, B. Kerr (on sight). July, 1999.

A superb route which tackles the overhang on the black slab. Surmount the overhang (blindly placed RPs) at the slight left-facing groove and make an extremely dynamic move (fly) rightwards for a jug. Finish easily.

EIGG, An Sgurr, Beehive Buttress, Lower and Upper West Wall:

Sunny Side Up – 35m Severe. J. Walker, A. Faulk, J. van der Horst. 30th May, 1999.

This line climbs both the Lower and Upper sections of the West Wall of Beehive Buttress. Start at the base of the leftmost rock of Beehive Buttress. Climb easy rock to a possible belay (25m) and then continue directly up the short steep wall behind.

Ocean Wall, Gully Left Wall:

Murphy's Law – 15m VS 4c*. C. Cartwright, N. Wilson. 30th May, 1999.

The left wall of the boulder-filled gully bounding the east side of Ocean Wall is dominated by a left to right-rising ramp system. The ramp peters out 5m below the top of the wall. This line climbs the obvious left-facing corner dropping from the top right end of the ramp. Climb the corner, stepping right at top, before pulling back left through a bulge on excellent jugs.

Staircase – 25m VS 4c. A. Faulk, J. Walker. 30th May, 1999.

The obvious ramp line start to Murphy's Law.

Ocean Wall, East-Facing Flank:

High 'n Dry – 40m HVS 5a*. C. Cartwright, N. Wilson. 30th May, 1999.

This route ascends the narrow east-facing flanking face of Ocean Wall, as taken by Lego Route. The essence of the route is two shallow, offset, left-facing corners starting 10m up the face. Start at a small recess in the basalt dyke left of centre of the wall. Climb bulging though intricate ground (crux) leading up to the first of the shallow corners. Climb this corner, step right into a second corner and continue on to easy upper slabs and the arête above.

Note: The above party assumes that Lego Route climbs the line on the right of this face leading naturally, as does High 'n Dry, to the easy arête bounding Ocean Wall and East Flank of Ocean Wall. This line of what is believed to be Lego Route was certainly climbed by N. Stevenson and K. Murphy on 30th May, 1999, at VS 5a.

Ocean Wall:

Unnamed – 60m HVS. N. Stevenson, K. Murphy. 30th May, 1999

This route climbs a line on the right-hand side of Ocean Wall, right of and parallel to Frozen Ocean. Start at the obvious break as for Frozen Ocean.

1. 30m 5a. Follow Frozen Ocean through the overhang, traverse the slabby ramp to its end and move up rightwards to blocks in a small niche.
2. 30m 4c. Climb the crack above the belay, then flakes leftwards before heading directly for the top.

MULL, Creag Liath:

Piping – 16m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, A. Soloist. 14th October, 1999

Left of the main rock mass is a rib with a large detached block near the top. Start on the left side and climb the rib, with a bold awkward start. At the block step left and climb the crack that forms the left side.

Flusie – 20m E1 5b**. C. Moody, C. Black. 7th September, 1999

Start just right of Sloeworm. Step off the boulder and climb up right to the rib, place gear in the crack on the right then climb the rib keeping on the left side of it. Finish up the blunt face.

Bracken Spraying – 18m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, C. Black. 22nd July, 1999.

Round right of Flusie, climb the steep crack on the east face.

Balmeanach:

Thirty One Lesbians – E2 5b. C. Moody, C. Black. 19th May, 1999.

Start at the middle of the pillar left of the main face, at a step in the cliff base. Climb up, straight forward but poorly protected, although a large rock can be placed before gaining the mid ledge. From the ledge make reachy moves over the bulge and continue to easier rock. Follow the easy but loose ramp up right. Possibly E3 for short climbers.

Glam Rock – 16m E2 5c*. C. Moody, C. Black. 19th May, 1999.

Start between Mushroom Picking and Milanda Shelf. Move up to the crescent-shaped overhang, left of the dangling fence. Climb the crackline above with an awkward bulge.

Raven's Crag (MR 433 303):

A remote cliff with a fine outlook over the islands from Jura to Skye and the Outer Hebrides. At 360m and in an exposed position it best visited in good weather outwith the stalking season. M. MacLeod and C. Moody climbed here in 1987, but an hour's walk from the main road for short routes was a bit over the top in those days. Routes described left to right.

Block Buttress:

This is the northernmost crag with a huge block leaning against the base at the south end.

Block Rib – 25m Severe*. C. Moody, 1st July, 1999.

Climb the rib to the right of the huge block, starting just right of the base of the rib.

The next route is on the buttress to the right.

Charge Of The Tiger – 30m E2 5b**. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 12th June, 1999.

Towards the left side of the buttress is a rib with a crack up the right side. This route climbs the edge left of the crack. Fine sustained climbing with a bold start.

Right again is a 35m-high section of cliff, although it is best to scramble off after 25m.

Your Paps Are Cloudy – 35m E1 5b*. C. Moody, M. Shaw. 12th June, 1999.
Start left of the wide crack. Climb the crack in the shallow corner which slants left a little. Finish up the easy crack above.

Unnamed – 25m Severe. A. N. Other, P. Jarvis. 1989.
The wide crack.

Feadag – 25m E1 5b**. D. Brooks, M. Shaw. 12th June, 1999.
Excellent climbing, fairly hard for the grade. Start round right of the wide crack. Start up a corner then move left on to the wall for a few moves then continue up the corner.

Amossyhing – 25m HVS 5a. C. Moody, I. Taylor. 12th June, 1999.
Farther right is a prominent crack. Start right of it, climb a crack then move left and up to gain and climb the prominent crack.

At the right side are three grassy chimney/gullies; there is a V. Diff. right of them. It starts at a boulder and climbs the left edge of the minor buttress.

Slanting Buttress:

Critical Path Item – 20m E1 5a**. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 12th June, 1999.
A crack left of Waggy and running parallel to it.

Waggy – 20m VS 5a. D. Brooks, P. Jarvis. 1989.
The obvious right-slanting crack.

Ingoramie – 20m VS 4c. D. Brooks, M. Shaw. 12th June, 1999.
Climb the steep wall on the right to gain a crack which leads to a block overhang.

The wide mossy crack just right gives a V. Diff. but there are some loose blocks to avoid.

Scoor:

Monster Spider – 8m E1 5b*. C. Moody, M. Burgess. 19th August, 1999.
A shelf runs right from the base of The Cave Monster to a short wall, climb the crack that starts from the right side of the dark pool.

Ardtun:

Blazing Windows – 15m E2 5c*. C. Moody, C. Black. 17th May, 1999.
Twin cracks left of Gong Bird which look straightforward. Mostly climbing the left crack.

Playing The Accordion – 15m E2 5c*. C. Moody, J. Ferrie, D. Walker, W. Hood. 1st May, 1999.
The crack right of Collie Dolphins. The climbing is not obvious.

Radioactive Rose – 15m HVS 5a. C. Moody, C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 26th June, 1999.

Right of The Pelican Brief are several grassy grooves, beyond which is a left-facing corner with a 4m high grass-topped pillar 3m left. Climb the corner which is about 10m left of Atomkraft.

Atomkraft Nein Danke – 15m E1 5a/b. C. Moody, A. Soloist. 14th September, 1999. The obvious wide crack in a right-facing corner. Gain a grassy ledge then climb the crack. Runners included a Friend#6 and an RP#3.

Irradiated Slaters – 15m E1 5b*. C. Moody, C. Black. 17th May, 1999. There is a corner 15m right. Start up a short crack to its left, then pull left into the main crack which is followed to the top.

Kiribati – 10m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, C. Black. 1st January, 2000. The crack left of Walkabout, with a bulge high up.

The Green Hill:

Get In Quick – 12m E1 5a/b. C. Moody, A. Soloist. October, 1999. The wide crack in the left-facing corner to the right of Pancakes At Iochdar.

Erraid:

The three cracks behind Sentinel are left to right, V. Diff., VS 4c and VS 4c. From the Upper Tier go to the archway entrance, turn right and move down the easy gully.

SKYE

GLEN SLIGACHAN CRAGS:

There are a number of fine crags on the lower slopes of Sgurr na h-Uamha (M.R. 476 240) where Harta Corrie meets the main glen. The rock is rough gabbro offering excellent friction. There is the occasional loose rock, but this should not detract from the climbs. Blade pegs are useful as the rock can be very compact, but protection is generally good when found.

The Main Crag (M.R. 488 245):

This crag is more than 100m high and roughly triangular in shape on its NE face. The SE face is composed of vast rolling slabs.

Luke's Climb – 50m H. Severe 4b*. R. Simpson, D. Morrison (alt.). 9th April, 2000. At the left side of the NE face an obvious heathery ramp leads rightwards on to the face. Start at the far right of the ramp (peg belay).

1. 25m Climb the slab into a shallow corner and go up the right wall. Make an airy traverse right to the central slabs. Go up these for 5m to a crack.
2. 25m 4b Climb just right of the corner to an obvious break. Climb this awkwardly to a spacious ledge.

Scramble off left to easy slabs leading to the top of the crag. Descent is by a trap fault down the left side of the SE face.

The SE face gives the following route:

The Runaway Slabs – 100m Moderate – V. Diff. R. Simpson, D. Morrison (both solo). 9th April, 2000.

Climb the slabs centrally on good rock with excellent friction. Much variation possible.

Laceration Crag:

This lies about 200m south of the Main Crag and slightly higher up the hill. The most prominent feature is a long off-width which gives the next route.

Slash and Burn – 40m Mild VS 4b. D. Morrison, R. Simpson (alt.). 9th April, 2000.

1. 25m 4b Climb the slabby right wall of the chimney till forced to move left. Bridge up to a small tree which is passed on the right with difficulty to move just outside a chimney-cave (peg belay).

2. 15m 4b Climb the slabby corner above with good moves leading to a trap chimney.

Graded for the use of pegs. Descent is to the right passing below slabby walls.

The Mortuary Slab:

This large slab overlooks the Bloody Stone. From the top of Laceration Crag, the slab is seen in profile. A slight descent leads to its foot.

Post Mortem – 30m V. Diff*. D. Morrison, R. Simpson. 9th April, 2000.

Start 20m from the right edge at an obvious break (small cairn). Climb the crack for 5m to where it forks. Follow cracks and grooves leftwards to the easier slabs above (good protection). Descend by moving right, scrambling over slabs to the top of Laceration Crag.

SGURR NAN GILLEAN, Coire a' Bhasteir:

MacLaren's Chimney – 50m IV,5. C. Gardiner, N. Edwards, M. Moran. 29th February, 2000.

A good winter pitch; finish up NW Face Route or Just a Boy's Game (200m to the summit).

Forked Chimney – 75m IV,5. M. Moran (backrope solo). 15th December, 1999. Follows the main chimney in three pitches. Finish up a snow amphitheatre to the West Ridge.

Gingini Chiminee – 35m VI,6. M. Lates (unsec.). 4th March, 2000.

The line between Forked Chimney and Flutings Climb is sometimes completed by an icicle dripping past the cave.

1. 15m Climb to the cave (on good névé on this occasion).

2. 20m Place good Friend protection in the cave roof, then spirit up the delicate icicle starting inside and working out. The difficulties end after 15m. The easy finishing pitches had to be missed due to icicle failure.

Deep Chimney – 70m IV,5. N. Marshall, D. Ritchie. 13th February 2000.

Follow the summer route. Above the large jammed block a finish was taken on the right wall.

Far better than the summer description would suggest.

South-West Face:

100m directly below the summit lies a snowfield. Ice sometimes flows from this snowfield down a shallow depression in the face below then over rock steps to the foot of the face. The following route follows this ice and gave a fine direct route to the summit.

White Dreams – 285m IV,5. N. Marshall, D. Ritchie. 20th February, 2000.

1. 30m. Climb steep thinly iced slabs to a snowy ledge.
2. 30m. Continue up thin iced slabs, then steep snow to a ledge on the right.
3. 30m. Climb the short steep ice pillar above (crux), then easy snow.
4. 55m. Follow easier ice up the depression above to gain a snow basin and climb to its top.
5. 50m. Exit rightwards up steeper ice and gain the main snowfield.
6. 40m. Follow easy snow to the top of the snowfield.
7. 50m. Climb mixed ground trending right to finish at a fine thread belay under the summit cairn.

AM BASTEIR, North Face:

Am Basteir Chimney – 145m IV,6. A. Nelson, D. Ritchie. 12th December 1999.

Follow the summer route, the first two pitches being common to White Spirit.

1. 40m. Climb the chimney and shallow gully above.
2. 40m. Climb easier ground and snow slope to below a steep chimney.
3. 40m. Continue up the fine technical chimney (crux) to belay on The Deadline.
4. 25m. Climb the continuation fault above to the top.

Note: A correction to the description of White Spirit (SMCJ 1999). There were six pitches on this route not five. The description should read:

4. 50m. Follow this fault rightwards over broken ground and ledges to belay in an alcove.
5. 40m. Continue easily rightwards along the narrowing ledge in a superb position to belay in the chimney of the Squeeze Box.
6. 40m. Climb the chimney and fault above to finish just short of the summit.

SGURR AN FHEADAIN:

Cameron's Gully – 70m I. D. Morrison, R. Simpson. 4th March, 2000.

This climbs the deep gully on the Coir a Tairneilear face direct to the summit, with two short steepenings and good rock scenery.

Note: Stag Gully (Coire a' Mhadaidh) is only 1m wide, not 2m as stated in the guide.

SGURR A' GHREADAIDH, Summit Buttress:

Hamish's Chimney – II/III. M. Lates, R. Lawson. 11th December, 1999.

Follow the summer line.

SGURR A' MHADAIDH:

Whispering Wall – 155m V. P. Ramsden, M. Fowler (alt.). 11th December, 1999.

Takes the lower two thirds of the summer line before trending right to finish.

1. 30m Start in the dyke line and climb up trending left to below a large block.
2. 35m Pass the block on the left and move up to gain the left-hand end of a

prominent snow shelf. Move along this for 7m, then climb the steep and poorly protected wall above trending left to the edge of the wall. Surmount a small overlap to the foot of a chimney.

3. 45m Climb the chimney to a snow ledge. Veer up leftwards to an exposed position overlooking Deep Gash Gully. Move left, then trend back right to the left-hand end of a snow ramp.

4. 45m Follow the ramp rightwards to gain the crest of the buttress.

INNACCESSIBLE PINNACLE:

The Naked Saltire – 30m E2 5c. M. Lates, D. McLaughlin. 8th August, 1999.

A perfect crackline up the north wall of the Pinnacle (probably the same fault as South Crack). Athletic moves off the ground (crux) lead to a pod. Continue up the crack, sustained to the crest. Probably slow to dry.

CORUISG HUT CRAG:

Half Century Crack – 30m E1 5c. S. Brock, C. Heald. 12th May, 1999.

On the right side of the crag is a very prominent groove with a crack which peters out just below the top. Start up a grassy rake on the right and traverse left into the crack at one-quarter height. Climb the crack to a well protected crux at the top.

BLAVEN:

Clough's Cleft – V,6. F. MacCallum, M. Shaw, D. Ritchie. 4th March, 2000.

Follow the summer route finishing directly by the continuation chimney at the top. This natural winter route, although short, provided superb icy mixed climbing. Due to the narrowness of two chimney sections rucksacs are not recommended.

Chock-a-Block Chimney – 105m V. M. Fowler, P. Ramsden (alt.). 12th December, 1999.

1. 25m Climb easily up the bed of the gully.

2. 25m Climb steeply up rock on the right of the gully for 7m until it is possible to traverse a precarious slab to regain the gully fault. Climb up and exit awkwardly on to an easing.

3. 20m Tackle the next series of overhangs via a through route to a deep cave.

4. 35m Exit on the left, trend back right to regain the bed and continue on snow.

ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:

Note: From C. Moody. No Excuses (SMCJ 1999) sounds the same as Pew with a View (SMCJ 1998).

Suidhe Biorach:

Rapid Learning Curve – E6 6b. N. Hancock. 1999.

A line through the triple roofs and arête between Arc of the Covenant and Tree Route, with the crux being the lip of the final roof (full description not received).

NEIST, The Upper Crag:

Towards its northern end, the Upper Crag has a hidden section of black, north-facing wall which is split by a very prominent crack. The wall is best approached by descending a slabby recess some distance farther north and then walking back along the base of the crag. Gigantic blocks on the slope below the crag make an approach from the Green Lady much more difficult.

Comrades in Arms – 45m E3 6a. W. Jeffrey, S. Abbott. 26th June, 1999.

The party invested in several giant camming devices (Camelot 4.5s) to protect the main crack. Williams also contributed but couldn't get up the route. It is best to arrange a belay from a stake at the top before climbing. Climb cracked blocks and move right to gain the main crack line. Struggle up this off-width crack with great difficulty. Where it slants right, make a stride right to another crack, then follow this up and left to a fine niche. Climb up to a roof and pass this on the right. Continue with sustained interest up cracks and grooves, on slightly crumbly rock, to the top.

Green Lady Area:

The next three lines are on the Upper Crag close to the Green Lady. Approach as for that feature but continue to a separate gully 50m farther north. Descend this gully for 20m, crossing a sheep fence. Follow a section of short, steep wall on the right. The first two lines climb zigzag cracks on this wall - easily seen from the Green Lady. They are short but fun.

Snicketboy – 20m Severe 4b. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 30th October, 1998.

Climb a thin jagged crack at the immediate base of the gully. Emerge presently on a grassy shelf, step 2m left, and finish up a V-corner over some tricky gravelly bulges. Good block belays.

2 & 8 Crack – 15m HVS 5a*. M. Hudson, R. Brown. 30th October, 1998.

Climb the striking chimney crack 10m to the left of the base of the gully. Brutal wedging and jamming. Belay on blocks as for the previous route.

Some 10m left of the previous route, there are a series of flake ribs. The next route takes a striking line up the second flake. Continuously interesting.

Thousand Island – 35m VS 4c**. M. Hudson, J. Hudson. 27th December, 1998.

Start precariously up a steep, foot-wide ramp to gain a chimney-slot. Back-and-foot up this before bridging out right onto the sloping rib. Climb the open groove above via some airy bridging, and finish more easily.

Descend the Green Lady gully to reach the next two routes.

Potato Picker Fingers – E1 5b? W. Gordon Canning, O. Higgins. 3rd July, 1999. The obvious crack on the gully wall left of Seagulls.

Robert the Bruce – 25m Severe 4b. D. N. Williams, G. Archibald. 22nd July, 1998.

A surprisingly enjoyable climb up the rib and cracks a short distance to the right of Temptation. The route finishes immediately to the left of a prominent pinnacle which bears a fanciful resemblance to the figure after whom the route is named.

Walking north from The Financial Sector just past the loch is a belay stake. The next three routes are below. To approach them, go down Tower gully and turn north or down Green Lady gully and head south. Here is a 40m-high wall with a band of overhangs and a corner to the left. It contains the following three routes.

Shimmering – 35m E1 5b**. C. Moody, L. Gordon Canning. 8th June, 1999.

Right of Route With A View is a 12m high flake, this route climbs the obvious crack just right. Climb the awkward left-facing corner above the right side of the flake, climb the right side of the small block above then pull left and climb the crack to the top. The next route is just to its right.

Deep Blue – 40m E2 5c***. N. Smith, R. Lupton. 1st May, 1999.

To the left of the main wall is a recess with a corner to its right and left. A large overhang spans between the corners at 15m. The route climbs the left-hand corner reached by firstly climbing easy slabs. Climb the corner crack to under the roof. Follow the crack through the roof and up the wall above. Good rock throughout.

Shining Path – 40m E3 5c**. N. Smith, R. Lupton. 1st May, 1999.

The route starts at the base of the obvious crack located in the centre of the main wall. Climb the easy lower cracks (loose) up to a shallow corner. Here the crack closes then flares. Climb to top of the corner stepping up, right and then back left to reach easier ground (crux). Continue up a larger corner to finish with an off-width splitting the headwall. The lower rock is loose, the upper rock good.

Financial Sector:

Both C. Moody and N. Williams note that Gampy's Wallet (SMCJ 1999) seems to be same route as Hurricane Hideaway (SMCJ 1998).

C. Moody notes that Jam For Brains (see below) must be near Worm's Eye View (SMCJ 1997).

Jam for Brains – 40m E1 5b**. S. Campbell, C. Cartwright, N. Wilson. 31st May, 1998.

Climbs the prominent corner system hidden behind (ie. north of) the obvious standing pillar/dyke at the northern extremity of the Financial Sector.

1. 15m 4c. Climb a short corner to gain an awkward chimney. Struggle up this to a large sloping ledge.

2. 25m 5b. Gain the corner above and climb this to a ledge. Step delicately up to a higher ledge and climb the left-hand crack through a roof to easier ground.

Unnamed – E2 5c. I. Lewis, T. Charles-Edwards. Summer, 1999.

Start at the basalt flake/pillar. Climb the crack up the cliff which starts by the right (south) side of the pillar, then make an awkward move right and continue to the top.

Waterfront – 25m E2 5c***. C. Cartwright, S. Campbell. 18th July, 1998.

To the right of the standing pillar/dyke is a clean wall above a grassy gully. A prominent crack, curving up to the right, is protected by a suspiciously poised Damoclean block low down. Climb delicately up to the poised block and use this to enter the crack above. Follow the strenuous but well protected crack to the top.

Loom of the Land – 30m E1 5b*. C. Cartwright, S. Campbell. 18th July, 1998.

This line climbs the shallow right-facing corner and well-defined upper crack splitting the next buttress north (left) of Terminal Bonus (Two belay stakes in place). Scramble up broken ground to the base of the corner which is followed to a ledge on the left. Move right and pull up into the crack Follow this to the top.

Ronnie Biggs – 35m E2 5b/c*. C. Moody, R. Lupton, S. Scott Moncrief, L. Gordon Canning. 13th November, 1999.

The rib between Earthbound and Terminal Bonus. Start down left of Terminal Buttress at a pointed block with a faint crack just left. Climb the faint crack (crux) to the juniper ledge, step left and continue just left of the small overhang above. Move up right above the overhang and follow the rib to the top.

The next two routes have a common start with Insider Dealing.

Midas Touch – 30m VS 4c. S. Abbott, P. Airley. July 1999.

Start up Insider Dealing, but carry on up where that route moves hard right. Follow the obvious left-curving slab, and break out right to finish.

Black Scholes – 30m HVS 5a. S. Abbott, P. Airley. July 1999.

Start up Insider Dealing, then follow Midas Touch until it is possible to move right to a roof. Follow a crack direct to the top.

Nostromo – 40m E1 5a*. A. Holden, M. Hudson. 21st March, 1998.

This route is situated on the south-facing section of the Upper Crag between Sonamara and The Fin. It is finely-positioned though with some poor rock. From the clifftop a grassy fin is visible near sea level. Just to the left of this the cliff forms three ribs. The climb takes the central rib, bounded on either side by a gully. Approach from the seashore by scrambling up steep rocks and grass or from the clifftop by abseil. Start to the right of the rib. Climb easy but suspect rock, trending left to reach the left side of a semi-detached pinnacle on the arête. Climb a crack to reach the top of the pinnacle. Continue up the rib on the left side till it is possible to move onto the arête. Finish directly up this. Good nut belays.

The Lower Crag, Destitution Point:

Descend as for the Green Lady and head north towards the second obvious headland (the first headland is Poverty Point).

Captain Pug Wash – 20m E1 5b*. N. Smith, R. Lupton. 20th April, 1999.

Climb the crack on the south face of the point, left of Cogless (SMCJ 1999). Climb through the overhang at 5m and up the crack in the wall above. There are jammed blocks in the lower crack but good rock elsewhere. Other short routes have been climbed left of this one.

True Colours – 20m E3 5c***. N. Smith, R. Lupton, M. MacLeod, L. Gordon Canning. 20th April, 1999.

This route can be seen from the approach. Climbs the left-hand overhanging crack of an inverted V recess on the land-facing wall, left of Man of Straw (SMCJ 1999). Abseil down the route belaying on a small ledge at the base of the crack. Climb a shallow corner to an overhang, fist jam right into a corner leading to a further roof. Climb the final roof and crack to finish. Excellent rock.

Poverty Point:

Aqualung – E2/3 5c**. C. Moody, N. Smith, R. Lupton. 27th March, 1999.

The corner left (west) of the prow (right of At The Welks).

Michelangelo Buonarroti – 30m E1 5b*. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 7th March, 1999.

The obvious two corners right (east) of the main prow. The tidal start was avoided by stepping in from the left.

The following lines are to be found on the Lower Crag, immediately north of Bernard's Dilemma. Approach down the gully as for that route. Belays have to be made well back from the clifftop on boulders and blocks often well above the path – a separate belaying rope is helpful. A solitary stake at present caters only for Cornflake Wall, 1 & 1 Groove and Barabbas.

Wofly Wall Towers – 18m HVS 5b. J. Walters, D. Pattullo, R. Brown. 23rd May, 1998.

The detached tower in the centre of the wall 5m north of Mixed Fruit (SMCJ 1998) has a crack and corner on its right-hand side. Overcome this deceptively strenuous crack to gain a ledge and access to easier climbing, via a ledge, on the wall and tower above.

Yellow Walls:

North of Curving Crack (SMCJ 1998) is a 100m-long bay with an impassable zawn at the north end. This is home to fulmar and shag colonies and climbing should be avoided until after the nesting season (March-August inclusive). The final 30m of the bay consist of a series of taller yellow walls and corners which reach down almost to high tide level.

Sugaree – 32m VS 4c*. M. Hudson, P. Arden, A. Holden. 22nd August, 1998.

This route takes the right-hand area of the yellow walls just before the ground rises up in blocks to the right. Start at a smooth area of wall sporting a sequence of sharp jugs. An improbable seepage may be flowing 1m to the left. Lots of small wires needed. Use the jugs to pull up steeply into balance and step left to a short groove. An awkward series of moves leads up this to a fishy ledge. Move up and right into a smooth left-facing corner. Some awkward mantelshelves lead to the easier steep wall above, climbed 2m left of the corner. Belay well back on big blocks.

10m left of Sugaree and a little higher is a very smooth yellow wall holding a line of cleaned flakes and steps. This and the next two lines share a stake belay just above the clifftop path. Rope lengths given are to the stake.

Cornflake Wall – 40m VS 4b*. M. Hudson, A. Holden. 30th October, 1998.

Climb the central crack system steeply, but easily, until forced leftwards across the wall. A steep move up leads to a sentry box. Step back right to a fishy ledge. Finish diagonally right and exit over a precarious flake in the corner.

5m right lie two fine-looking parallel groove lines. Both are well protected, steep and strenuous, with exacting finishes.

I & I Groove – 45m HVS 5a***. M. Hudson, A. Holden, N. Bassnett. 31st October, 1998.

Climb the right-hand groove.

Barabbas – 45m HVS 5b***. A. Holden, N. Bassnett. 30th October, 1998.

Climb the left-hand groove.

The next route climbs the ridge or headland that juts out opposite the Yellow Walls across the small zawn. Plenty of seacliff atmosphere for the grade. It is possible to descend a blocky north-facing, guano-filled gully 100m north of the zawn. Scramble back south along the base of the cliff to gain the promontory: avoid rough seas. As for the Yellow Walls, this area is home to shag and fulmar colonies, and climbing should be avoided during the nesting season.

Zawn Ridge – 40m Severe 4b*. M. Hudson, P. Arden. 20th February, 1999.

At sea (barnacle) level, traverse as far as possible into the zawn until ensconced on a small sheltered platform below a steep chimney-crack leading straight up the ridge. Climb this chimney (crux) till a blocky ramp is reached – possible belay. Follow the ramp up and right in an atmospheric position poised above the zawn. At

a shattered ledge, step left and climb a slim corner then follow the blocky arête above, belaying on blocks at the landward end of the ridge.

Cumhann Geodha:

Coelenterate Corner – 15m HVS 5a*. G. Latter, M. Boyce. 1st July, 1999.

The corner in the centre of the face, starting from small mid-tide ledge on the left.

Bay 5, Lighthouse Wall:

How the West Was Won, with Alternate Start – 25m HVS 5a*. G. Latter, M. Boyce. 1st July, 1999.

The right corner bending left to join the original route at mid-height.

Orca – 25m E2 5b*. G. Latter, M. Boyce. 1st July, 1999.

The steep corner at the back of the bay, the base gained by a diagonal abseil westwards from the fenceposts. Climb the corner, finishing with care up the final wall.

Note: G. Latter is not sure how this relates to Neisty Beisty.

Farther west, beyond the foghorn and the last described route in the guide (Horny Corner) is a short (c. 12m) immaculate wall, with two faces dropping into the sea. Ideal for deep water soloing, as there are no ledges at the base (beware of the jellyfish). Two routes following prominent crack-lines on the less imposing west face were climbed – down the rightmost line (Severe 4a), traversing left and up the undercut leftmost one (VS 4c). Both G. Latter, 13th July, 1999. An area of excellent rock, worthy of further exploration.

DUNVEGAN HEAD, Am Famhair:

This is a free-standing arch/sea stack on the north-east coast of Duirinish, just over 1km north of Galtrigill towards Dunvegan Head, at M.R. 183 558. Park at the end of the road. The stack is visible from the clifftop path after a 20-minute walk, and a steep path leads down to the stack, which is accessible at all states of tide.

Am Famhair – 20m VS 4b. A. Holden, M. Hudson. 25th May, 1998.

Start up the north-west face at a right-facing corner. Climb the corner to a ledge on the left at half height. Traverse left round the arête and climb cracks to a loose finish. The top is grass with no obvious belays: descend by simultaneous abseil.

TORR A' CHRUIDH:

This small outcrop is situated about 30m above the sea near the mouth of Loch Greshornish (M.R. 365 562). It has prominent columnar jointing (end on), and attains a maximum height of 15m. D. Peck reports an ascent of an obvious shallow groove on the left.

STAFFIN, Elishadder Wall:

Skyscraper – 40m E2 5b**. P. Donnithorne, E. Alsford. 1st June, 1999.

Climbs the overhang-capped groove right of Received with Thanks. Start at the ivy patch and climb easily up right to the groove. Sustained bridging leads to the big roof which is skirted on the left to finish up a nice crack.

Kilt Rock:

Godzilla – 40m E3 6a***. E. Alsford, P. Donnithorne. 1st June, 1999.

The groove between Skyeman and Wide-eyed has some tricky moves low down and fine sustained climbing all the way to the top.

Sgeir Bhan (Staffin Slip North):

The following lines are to be found on the lichenous east face. Most of the routes referred to were reported in SMCJ 1998. Walk left or south of Staffin Classic, past an ivy-covered wall, to an area of four distinctive semi-detached columns.

Between the first two columns, a clean wall tops off a steep vegetable patch.

Silvester Moon – 43m HVS**. R. Brown, D. Pattullo. 31st December, 1998.

Takes twin cracks on the right-hand side of the wall adjacent to column one.

1. 13m 4a. Negotiate a passage to the ledge. Start right, traverse left, then back right.

2. 30m 5a. Climb the right-hand layaway crack to a small stance. Move up and over the roof on good holds. The twin cracks above give good sport.

Note: Big Farm Weekly lies between Loose Woman and Persistent Vegetated State (SMCJ 1997). Fourth Column climbs the smaller detached column some 15m left of Big Farm Weekly.

Mr Scratchy – 23m E1 5b*. M. Hudson, A. Holden. 21st August, 1998.

The boot-width crack on the front of the fourth column – the first ascent team kept their walking boots on. No single move of this climb is remotely enjoyable, yet it remains an honourable undertaking. Camalot#4s and hex#11s protect. Jam upward past a rest ledge and chockstone at 8m, calling on a painful repertoire of arm wedges, boot and body jams. Impossible to grade but toughest at the top. Descend by simultaneous abseil as for Fourth Column.

Farther uphill (left of the crack of Skyscraper), a large corner constrains the path. The following line takes the arête on the higher face.

Frequent Flyer – 20m HVS 5b***. D. Pattullo, R. Brown, J. Walters. 22nd May, 1998.

A good route with consistent, clean climbing and adequate protection. Start beside the small detached flake and climb the crack for about 8m to an obvious ledge. Move right and continue up the arête and crack to the finishing crux.

The next route starts 3m left of Dogs and Wolves, and takes the right-hand side of the big square-cut overhang.

Independence – 15m E2 5c**. C. Spencer, M. Hudson. 4th July, 1998.

Climb direct to the roof. Move out and left over the overhang using undercuts to gain steep jams. Swing out and finish direct on steep but straightforward ground.

Immediately left of A White Tail of Hogmanay a crack twists into a triangulated groove capped at mid height.

Vienna Triangle – 15m E1 5b*. R. Brown, D. Pattullo J. Walters. 22nd May, 1998.

Climb the crack and lose oneself in the triangle. Escape by moving left before reaching the block on the upper headwall.

RUBHA HUNISH, Meal Tuath:

Details of the route reported in SMCJ 1998 are as follows:

Drifting Too Far From Shore – 80m E8***. W. Birkett, D. Birkett. 17th September, 1996.

Takes the central weakness of the crag by discontinuous grooves through overlaps, to reach a fine crack running directly up the headwall. Start 10m left of Northern Lights just left of nose.

1. 55m 6a. Climb the weakness, trending up the cracks formed by detached pinnacles, to the wall below the first band of overhangs. Step up left to gain the overlap and pull over (first crux) to gain a shallow corner. Climb to a small roof, pull into the corner above (second crux), and continue to easier ground. Pull up the corner and over a detached block to gain a poor stance and belay just down and right of a huge detached boulder.

2. 25m 6c. A serious, sustained and precarious pitch. With immediate difficulty and poor gear, climb a shallow corner directly above belay to join a diagonal crack which comes in from the right. Continue up crack to overhang in headwall. Pull up strenuously right through this to gain crack splitting final headwall. Continue without respite to the top.

Meal Deas:

About 25m south-west of the Minch and Tatties buttress lies a tall pyramidal tower, the tip of which is split by a crack. The next route gains and climbs this crack, finishing up the cliff face behind.

Questionnaire – 60m VS*. M. Hudson, A. Holden. 27th May, 1998.

Approach by mounting the scree left of the tower to the right-hand corner, then making a short scramble rightwards up a dusty bank to belay on some giant flakes. This avoids the fudgy lower section of cliff.

1. 30m 4c. Traverse easily rightwards, then climb round onto the front face in a spectacular position. Gain the crack in the face above, which is followed (crux) to a ramp. A more vegetated arête leads to the top of the pinnacle. Belay back at the saddle where the pinnacle joins the main cliff.

2. 30m 4c. Climb carefully up to the left-hand of the cracks directly above, which is followed on good jams to the clifftop.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

NEW GUIDE:

Since the new guide is some way off, a summary of all the crags in this area is now on the SMC Website (under Activities). In addition, there are full descriptions for the routes at Gruinard (including Jetty Buttress) and the Stone Valley Crags.

GLEN SHIEL, Creag Lundie Slabs (MR 153 108):

M. Hudson sent some route descriptions. The Kyle/Dornie climbers use it for evenings, so the routes may have been climbed many times.

SAIL CHAORAINN:

Distant Groove – 70m III,4. A. Nisbet. 27th March, 2000.

The crag is on the west side of the north top (1001m) and is well seen when walking north from the south top (1002m). MR 133 158. It is also disappointingly small. The route takes a central groove, trending right to a rockfall scar, up its left edge before moving left to a steep finish. The left edge of the crag was also climbed (scrappy Grade II).

SGURR AN LOCHAIN:

Direct Evasion – Climbed direct up the chimney groove on pitch 1 to the stance

below the narrow cave. IV,5 overall and worthwhile. N. Edwards, C. Gardiner, M. Moran on 27th February, 2000.

BEINN FHADA, Coire an Sgairne:

Tramlines – 140m IV,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 1st March, 2000.

Climbs the crest left of the great wall. Start up a groove system left of the crest until flakey ground leads out to the crest above its first steep section. Pull over a bulge and climb twin cracks in the second corner left of the crest. The finishing crest is easy. Grade II apart from one short pitch. The route has been climbed in summer but including both the steep sections in the crest (Severe but rather vegetated).

MORUISG, The Great Grey Slab of Moruisg (SMCJ 1997):

Rock Surfer – 95m HVS*. R. Biggar, J. R. Mackenzie. 23rd August, 1999.

Moving left along the rake below the main slab, the most arresting feature is a steep smooth slab with a prominent A-shaped notch cut out of the bottom overlap. Start here.

1. 45m 4c. Climb up to the notch on friction (crux) and through it (first protection above) to continue up the slab to a terrace and Friend belay by Close to the Edge. A fine and bold pitch, easier than it looks.
2. 50m 4b. Climb the initially easy slab left of that route to the steeper top section. Climb straight up to the shallow corner right of the double overlapped corner of The President's Men and finish up this on better holds.

Brittle Times – 90m E1*. R. Biggar, J. R. Mackenzie. 23rd August, 1999.

This varied and bold route takes the slab to the right of the big grassy corner and left of The President's Men on scanty protection. Move up the rake to start up a smooth slab left of the first pitch of The President's Men.

1. 20m 4b. Friction the slab and up edges to the terrace.
2. 45m 4b. Climb the slab right of the big corner and just left of an overlapped edge, over steeper overlaps to an easing and Friend belay in a slot above.
3. 25m 5a. Climb the steeper concave slab midway between the big corner and the top pitch of The Presidents Men, taking a smooth slab left of a thin grassy crack to the top.

GLAS BHEINN:

The Beasts Lair – 130m IV,5. J. Lyall, R. Webb. December, 1999.

From the Bealach a' Glas-chnoic, walk just south of west for 1km until a deep chimney/gully appears on the left. This is the route (MR approx. 890 446).

Slab Boys – 150m IV,4. M. Eurolander, R. Webb. February, 2000.

As for Slab and Groove, except climb the slab all the way on a strip of ice.

FUAR THOLL, Mainreachan Buttress:

Moriarty – 180m E4. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 31st July, 1999.

A line just right of Sherlock and forced to share two belays and a short section. Start at a small rib right of the bay at the base of Sherlock.

1. 30m 5a. Climb the rib, then go diagonally left across a steep wall above the bay to enter and climb a chimney-corner which leads to the right end of the ledge of Sherlock.

2. 15m 6b. Climb the groove above the right end of the ledge to roofs. Swing out left on to the arête and traverse delicately left to the belay of Sherlock.
3. 15m 5b. This pitch is a direct version of Sherlock's pitch 4, possibly the original line but not the necessary line to make Sherlock HVS (the grade in the current guide is Scottish VS). Start up the groove of Sherlock but continue over a bulge and the groove above.
4. 40m 5a. Traverse right, then go up to a ramp. Follow this a short way, then climb straight up grooves.
5. 50m 4b. Take a right-trending line up a depression (parallel to Sherlock).
6. 30m. Finish straight up.

Note: D. McGimpsey and A. Nisbet repeated Enigma/Sleuth, Original Winter Route on 29th February, 2000, but with a start near the summer route of Sleuth. Despite the description in the current guide, the line marked in photo B35 of the MacInnes guide is accurate and the route was probably the hardest in Scotland at the time (it was considered VII,7).

Sleuth Start – 60m VII,7.

A recommended start near the summer route which keeps the route nearly separate from winter Enigma below the Great Terrace and, although slightly harder than the Original Route crux, is in keeping with it. Start right of Sleuth summer and about 25m up from the toe of the cliff at a short ramp which slants up leftwards into a steep groove of vertical flakes. Climb the ramp and groove to a ledge (20m). A line of weakness now slants up left to join the summer route and continues to the First Terrace, joining the Original Winter Route (40m).

Lower South-East Nose:

A Right Cheek – 130m VS. A. Nisbet. 20th May, 1999.

A route up the steeper ground right of the Nose Direct, crossing the fault of Lair Wall. Start below a lighter coloured rib which forms the right side of a bay with a rowan tree.

1. 45m 4c. Climb the rib to the first stance of Lair Wall.
2. 45m 4c. Move right and climb near a crackline which goes to the right end of a roof system. Move out right in a spectacular position and up to a terrace.
3. 40m. Move left and climb a rib of booming flakes to scrambling (also an alternative finish to Nose Direct).

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, Summit Buttress:

Note: B. Davison and A. Nisbet made a free ascent of Big Daddy on 1st August, 1999 at E3 5c.

BEINN BHAN, Coire an Fhamhair:

Genesis – 310m VII, 7. A. Cave, D. Hesleden. 20th February, 2000.

Climbs the stunning line formed by an overhanging chimney/chasm at the left side of the cliff. Sustained at a reasonable grade and with good belays, this route has an intimidating ambience. The situations are superb.

1. 30m. Climb up to the base of the overhanging chimney and traverse out left along an obvious narrow turf ledge with interest to belay up and left.
2. 35m. Climb rightwards across a steep wall onto a small ledge and then climb the short leftward-facing corner. Move out right to a second corner and climb its right

wall on thin ice to a terrace above, gaining the main chimney line. Belay out left on a huge natural thread.

3. 25m. Move right and climb up under a hanging icicle. Climb a steep left-facing corner on the right. At its top traverse right along turf and mantel boldly up to belay on a huge monolithic block. Steep and exposed.

4. 45m. Traverse left across the wall (minimal protection) to reach thin ice in the main chimney line. Follow this (bold) to a giant chockstone. Climb under and then on to the chockstone and belay. Fantastic.

5. 25m. Climb the steep groove above with interest.

Now follow easy snow for two-and-a-half pitches to the top (150m).

Coire Toll a' Bhein, Breach Buttress:

The Weed – 230m IV,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th December, 1999.

A direct route up the rightmost ridge (Illegal Grass, SM CJ 1998 is an indirect version). Start as for Illegal Grass to the steep band. This was tackled centrally starting up a big block with jammed flakes. Two further groove pitches led to the easier final crest and the top tower was taken direct.

BEN DAMPH FOREST, Kinlochdamp Crag (Creag na Saobhaidhe) MR 869 477. West-facing cliff base 150m:

A sandstone crag with interesting climbing features but slightly lichenous. Some routes are slow to dry; others are quick in the afternoon sun. The crag is seen from the A896 Lochcarron to Shieldaig road. Park on this and walk or cycle down the tarmac road to Ceann-loch-damh, cross the river (no bridge) and follow the path until climbing the heathery hillside to the crag. 30-40 minutes.

The crag is separated into two halves by a large pinnacle at its base. Left of the pinnacle are several grooves. Right of it is an impressive prow high up and a smooth overhanging wall at the right end of the crag. The left end of the frontal face of the crag coincides with the end of trees at its base. Here the crag turns from west-facing to NW-facing and vegetated. In the arête forming this change of aspect is a slim bottomless groove, the first route from the left.

Raven Seek Thy Brother – 30m E2 5c. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 24th June, 1999.

Start at the base of the cliff below the groove. Climb a short steep wall to pull on to the ledge below the groove. Climb the groove, very helpful until the last move, to gain a ledge. Finish up a difficult short wall.

Beauty and the Beast – 30m E2 5c. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 23rd June, 1999.

A left-rising line. Between the end groove and several big grooves to the right is a cracked overhanging wall forming the left end of the front face. Start just left of the leftmost big groove and climb a shallow chimney and slab on its left to the overhanging wall. From an obvious undercling flake, reach left over the overhang and mantel on to a big sloping ledge. Move left and gain a higher ledge. Move left again and finish up the difficult short wall as for *Raven Seek Thy Brother*.

Den of Iniquity – 30m E4 6b. M. Moran (unsec.). 23rd June, 1999.

The leftmost of several big grooves left of the pinnacle. Start at the same point as *Beauty and the Beast* but go straight up a corner to step right into the groove. Climb the groove by imaginative wide bridging over an initial overhanging section, then more easily to the top.

Here be Dragons – 25m E1 5b. A. Nisbet, M. Moran. 23rd June, 1999.

Climbs the next groove right, a smaller one with two chimneys. Start from the left edge of a big vegetated platform 5m up from the base of the cliff. Step left into the base of the groove (or climb direct from below) and climb a short wall to the first chimney. Climb this chimney, a wall and the second chimney to holly trees on a ledge. Fight through the hollies and up a corner to finish.

Ivy League – 25m E1 5b. A. Nisbet, M. Moran, W. Skidmore. 16th June, 1999.

The next groove, deep and left-facing. Start from the back of the platform. Climb a left-slanting crack (originally ivy covered), making use of a flake on the right, to a ledge at the base of the groove (hard). Continue up the main groove with one hard section near the top.

Beasts' Lair – 30m E1 5b. A. Nisbet, M. Moran. 24th June, 1999.

The groove/corner behind and just left of the pinnacle. Start in the cleft behind a huge block which lies between the pinnacle and the cliff, at its outer end. Chimney up to gain a small corner and the ledge at its top. Move right into the corner and climb it to a big ledge just below the top. Move left across the back wall of the ledge to finish up a flake.

Cat's Claw – 6m Severe. M. Moran. 26th April, 1999.

Climbs the back side of the pinnacle by a stiff pull up on to the arête.

Needle's Edge – 18m E1 5a. M. Moran (unsec.). 28th April, 1999.

Takes the smooth right-hand edge of the front face of the pinnacle; climb the lower arête to a good break then make committing moves up left on to the unprotected upper arête which eases to the top of the pinnacle.

Sleeping Dog Climb – 45m V. Diff. M. Moran, A. Moran. 1st May, 1999.

Moving 15m right from the pinnacle, the last easy line before steep walls is a chimney under the left side of the prow.

1. 20m. Climb the chimney.
2. 25m. Traverse left where the chimney meets the overhanging upper wall, bridge across a gap and hand traverse a flake to reach a good break leading up to the top of the crag. The finish is slow to dry.

Crusade Corner - 50m Severe. M. Moran. 1st May, 1999.

1. 25m. Climb the chimney of Sleeping Dog Climb until it is possible to bridge across to a traverse shelf leading down and right to a belay under the overhanging prow.
2. 25m. Move right into the corner right of the prow; climb it past bushes to a deeper finishing chimney.

Hasta la Bista – 50m E2 5c. J. Allott, M. Moran. 16th June, 1999.

About 5m right of the chimney are two roofs, the right above the left. Start under the left roof.

1. 22m 5c. Climb right-slanting slabs under the roofs until a short overhanging crack just to the right of the right roof leads up to a midway terrace and belay under the prow on Crusade Corner.

2. 28m 5a. Traverse 8m right and climb open slabs to a striking final prow; climb the crack in its right side or, if wet, traverse 5m to an easier finishing crack.

Creag Dubh an t-Sall (MR 862 532):

A sandstone crag which gets the afternoon sun. The black area is easily seen when driving east towards Beinn Damh on the south side of Loch Torridon.

Gondola – 20m VS 4b*. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 6th April, 1996.

At the right side of the crag is a prominent arête. Climb the shallow chimney right of it.

Che Guevara – 20m VS 4c*. C. Moody, M. McLeod. 6th April, 1996.

Start up Gondola. Traverse on to the arête and climb it. A more direct start would be harder.

Nematode – 30m VS 4c. C. Moody, M. McLeod. 6th April, 1996.

To the left is a watercourse. Climb the open corner just left of it.

Rock Agus Roll – 30m E1 5b**. C. Moody, M. McLeod. 6th April, 1996.

A few metres left. Climb up to gain a crack which leads to the right side of an overhang. Step right and climb a crack up leftwards. Move up right to finish up a steep crack.

Telegraph Pole – 30m E2 5b**. C. Moody, M. McLeod, R. Lupton. 12th May, 1996.

Just left is a crack. Gain it from the left and climb it to finish up twin cracks.

Cuir Tigear Na Do Thanc – 30m E3 5c**. C. Moody, M. McLeod. 6th April, 1996.

Left of Telegraph Pole the cliff base is vertical; left again it is slabby with a crack which has a patch of grass 3m up. Go easily up beside the crack, then follow it steeply until it ends. Step right and climb another crack. Continue straight up with sparse protection to finish up a left-facing corner.

LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Beag:

Nil Can't – 250m II. J. Abery, R. Bennie, E. Gillespie, J. Leedale, A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 22nd January, 2000.

Start up the large snow ramp passing under The Executioner and continue to its end where it becomes a shallow chimney. Go up this to a terrace, then turn straight up and climb short walls and terraces to finish on the crest at the top of the final tower of Rambler's Rib.

Coire Dubh Mor:

Wacky Races – 300m III,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th February, 2000.

A route up the large rambling terraced buttress formed left of the snow gully of Way Up. Start at the base of the buttress and find the easiest line on turf or ice to reach a barrier wall at half height. Climb this fairly centrally (crux), then finish trending right.

Round the Bend – 150m V,7. S. Allan, A. Nisbet. 27th December, 1999.

Climbs an iced groove right of the icefall of The Bender. Start up a series of shallow

iced grooves parallel and right of The Bender to reach the main iced groove. Climb the groove to where it overhangs and the ice finishes. Step left and climb a shallow, parallel but less overhanging groove to a terrace. A Friend#0 was used for aid to clear snow from the exit (almost managed free). Finish up a chimney on the right, then a shorter chimney.

Chinook – 160m VI,6. S. Anderson, M. Moran, M. Welch. 4th March, 2000.

Climbs the ice line which sometimes forms 15m right of Poacher's; a good independent route.

1. 50m. Climb icy grooves passing a big pedestal on the right to a cramped stance under an overlap.
2. 40m. Swing on to an ice fringe at the lip and follow the slab corner above to belay in a dry corner left of an icicle.
3. 25m. Climb the steep icicle and move right to block belays.
4. 55m. Move 5m back left, climb iced rock, an ice corner and a mixed chimney to easy ground.

Test Department Variation Finish – 70m VII,7. C. Piccolruaz, J. Oberhauser. 12th March, 1999.

A mixed finish up the final wall, trending right up thin slabby ground to a vague crest (the normal route trends left up an icy groove).

The Sinister Prawn – 230m V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th February, 2000.

The right side of the face has a steep prow high up. This is on a rib left of the gully of George. Start at the base of George but move out left on fairly steep ice on to the rib. Climb a series of icy/turfy grooves to the impressive prow. Pass this on the right via grooves and a final awkward short wall (which could be easier or harder depending on the amount of ice). Finish direct up mixed ground.

Meall Dearg, North Face:

Coriolis – 250m III. P. Astle, N. Cooper, A. Nisbet. 21st February, 2000.

Gain and climb a turfgy groove left of North Ridge (originally called North Flank). Where this peters out, climb steep turf direct to the final tier of North Ridge. Climb this on the crest, then continue up the easier upper crest to reach the east ridge of Meall Dearg.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, West Central Wall:

Note: J. Currie and G. Robertson repeated Blood, Sweat and Frozen Tears, and thought it high quality and worth VIII,8.

Sail Mhor:

No. 2 Gully – 300m VI,7. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet, D. Wilkinson. 4th March, 2000.

An impressive deep gully with a fierce headwall. The gully is easy until it turns left. Soon there is a chokestone pitch which can bank out and leads to the headwall. Continue up the back of the gully until forced to traverse left. Either climb ice in the left corner or a pile of blocks just to the right until steep ground forces a return traverse to near the gully bed (45m). Climb the gully into a small cave (25m). Chimney out the top of the cave to the final groove which finishes on a flat platform

on the crest of the buttress, here joining Lawson, Ling and Glover's Route (25m). Follow this to the top.

SGURR BAN, North-East Face (MR 976 601):

The most prominent feature of the cliff is a right-slanting ramp which becomes a gully and splits the cliff into two halves. The right half is bigger but with less good rock (and a big rock fall scar). Where the ramp first becomes gully, the right wall is formed by a rock island. The wall opposite this island is the left half of the cliff, and has a steep prow with three cracklines which provide the best rock climbs. This steep wall is bounded on its left by a gully.

The Grotto – 80m III. A. Nisbet. 2nd December, 1999.

The gully is unfortunately short (low in the grade), but with a remarkable 15m subterranean pitch. It starts from near the base of the ramp, easy at first. A big chockstone blocks the gully and a pitch was climbed on the wall to its left followed by a short traverse back in. The gully is now blocked by an apparent overhanging wall. Enter a cave at the base of the wall, then back and foot outwards, go under a chockstone, then back and foot inwards to exit through a hole. The gully is easy to finish.

Ban the Bomb – 50m E1 5a. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 1999.

From the base of the gully section, scramble up left for 10m on to a ledge (about V. Diff.). Start here. The rock is poorer than on the prow. Go diagonally left along a flake-line passing under clean white rock to reach a pinnacle-block. Go up from here on grey rock trending first right then left to the top.

Hope – 50m E2 5b. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 30th July, 1999.

The left-hand crack-line. Start from the same ledge. Pass a roof by moving out left and back right (requires faith but low in the grade).

Faith – 50m E2 5c. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 30th July, 1999.

The middle crackline, which leads directly up from the start of the scramble to the ledge. It has two hard bulges separated by steep rock. The hope is that the crack is dry; otherwise add a grade for bridging.

Charity – 50m E1 5b. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 1999.

Start level with the top of the rock island. The right crack-line is on the right side of the prow and passes right of its band of overhangs.

Spin Gully – 200m I. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 27th March, 1999.

The ramp and gully, best included on the ascent of Sgurr Ban by dropping down from the col and climbing the ramp and gully to finish nearly on the summit.

Scarface – 75m E1 5b. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 1999.

Climbs the impressive crest of the right section but a big rockfall scar drops some hints. Start round on the front face about 10m up a ramp which forms the base of the cliff.

1. 30m 5b. Climb a left-facing corner, much harder than it looks, in several steps to a big flake-line (visible from the top of the left section of cliff).
2. 30m 4c. Traverse right to the last flake. Stand on it to pull on to the wall above

and climb this trending slightly right to reach the left edge of the huge rockfall scar.
3. 15m 5a. Climb leftwards through the steep final wall.

TORRIDON CRAGS, Creag nan Leumnach, Lower Crag:

Kermit's Crack – 30m E3 6a*. P. Thorburn, I. Taylor. August, 1999.

Climbs a thin crack between Vanishing Frog and the descent chimney. Bridge up the descent chimney to a ledge, then pull left on to the wall. Climb to a break, then pull through a steepening above. Go up the wall, then trend right and go up to finish on a heather ledge.

Upper Crag:

Completely out to Lunge – 25m E5 6b**. I. Taylor, P. Thorburn. August, 1999.

A bold route with a bouldery crux, which climbs the shallow scoop right of Block and Beak. Start up Block and Beak to a ledge, then go right and pull on to a small ramp. Climb the wall above until a long lunge gains a projecting hold. Just above is a good break for large Friends. Finish more easily.

MEALL A' GHIUBHAS, Nature Trail Area:

There are several areas of crag to the SW of Loch Maree which are approached from the Nature Trail paths.

The Quartzite Crag:

Situated at about 400m, these crags are approached by the eastern trail and are at MR 998 638. Though promising from a distance, they are fairly loose and unlikely to be more than 60m high. Some are sound, particularly moving uphill and though it is likely climbs have been done, none are recorded. The soundest and perhaps most obvious is the farthest uphill, a slabby sound buttress just right of the path.
Path Buttress – 40m Diff. J. R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 1999.

Start at the lowest point, climb the rib, move right and climb the steeper top section centrally.

The Great Red Slab (MR 987 648):

Approx. altitude 400m, North-facing. Most easily approached from the western path of the Nature Trail. Follow this to the 300m level. Traverse across heather well below the crags to a lone tree. Go straight up through jungle for another stretch whereupon the slab suddenly becomes visible. Composed of superb sandstone of a clean and rough nature, save the lowest tier which is more blocky, it gives excellent climbing in the lower grades. Descents are to the right down a slippery gully.

Money Lenders Slab – 100m Severe*. J. R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 1999.

Start at a little cave below a wide corner to the right of centre of the lower tier. Climb the steep left wall of the corner, step right and pull over via a small tree. Move a metre right, climb a pair of wedged flakes and step right on to the slabby nose. Climb this pleasantly to a small ledge and then climb the slabby wall to the right of a short corner to easy ground. Move up to the next tier which is of sound clean rock. Climb a shallow groove which is left of centre direct to the top; this gives the best climbing on the route.

Great Expectations – 150m V. Diff.**. J. R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 1999.

This climbs the right edge of the slab, overlooking the retaining west wall. An

excellent climb, gaining interest with height, all on superb clean rock. Start at a steep little slab at the base; climb this to easy slabs which lead naturally to the edge. Climb the steeper slabs above through grooves and corners, all on the right edge, to a much steeper section. This is climbed overlooking the edge on good holds, stepping left past a loose block. Climb more slabs and corners overlooking the right edge to a final steep wall on the left which is split by a slanting crack. Climb the left wall of the crack, which has two loose flake holds, to a rather stretchy exit.

The Great Red Slab – 80m V. Diff. R. Simpson, D. Morrison. 26th March, 2000. This route starts up and right of Great Expectations, though possibly joining it at the top. Start 2m right of a short left-slanting chimney (cairn).

1. 30m. Climb a short steep wall to a niche. Move right and climb slabs past a small detached block to a ledge below and left of a large detached block.
2. 25m. Climb the slabs above to a obvious stepped corner. Climb this to a ledge, climb to another ledge and belays.
3. 25m. Step left and climb slabs, passing a right-facing corner to easy ground and belays.

Cave Crag (MR 987 651):

About 300m west of the Great Red Slab, and level with its base, is a small crag with a prominent cave. Climb into the cave which becomes a chasm. On the right wall is an obvious crack.

Chasm Crack – 10m M. Severe. D. Morrison, R. Simpson 26th March, 2000.

This gives an entertaining climb up slightly friable rock to a ledge, just below the top of a huge detached pinnacle. Either abseil off the *in situ* sling, climb to the top of the pinnacle and jump the gap (not recommended), or traverse via a through route and down climb awkwardly to another large chasm.

Note: There are dangerous hidden holes at the top of the crag.

North-East Face (MR 981 638):

Persecution Rib – 200m Severe. J. R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 1999.

The face is characterised by a long broken rib of steep tiers separated by scree and grass. The rib is left of the existing winter route but is a poor climb; a central start might improve it a little. Start at the steep wall at the base. On the left is a jutting block; climb over this from the left, move up right and climb a short chimney. Traverse left to below steep slabs which are followed to the crest. Go up easy ground to the next tier, which is taken left of centre, as is the tier above that. The final tier is of better rock and is taken by the centre of three grooves.

TORRIDON SANDSTONE CRAGS, Creag an Fhithich (SMCJ 1995, p651):

The sandstone crags well seen from the Ben Damph Bar (using their correct name). Many of the grades given in SMCJ 1995 seem too high.

4 Trees – 30m Severe 4a. D. Allan. 25th April, 1999.

Climb the left side of the slabby left section just right of four small trees. Start at a small left-facing corner and finish up a crack beside the last tree.

Seana Mheallan:

Left of Left in the Lurch and right of Rowantree Crack is a recessed area of rock. It consists of an inset slab with a steep headwall which angles into a corner with a

vertical left wall. The following routes lie in this area. Forgotten Corner and Rejection both finish up the twin cracks in the corner as for Reject (SMCJ 1994). *Forgotten Corner* – 25m VS 4c. A. Fyffe, A. Salisbury. 18th May, 1999. This is the big right-facing corner. Climb the corner, slabby at first, and continue up the steepening to step left to the obvious ledge. Finish up the twin cracks in the corner.

Skirting the Issue – 25m VS 4c. A. Fyffe, A. Salisbury. 18th May, 1999. Start at the foot of Forgotten Corner and climb the short steep groove and diagonal crack to a triangular vegetated niche. Continue up the corner cracks above and exit right below the top steep main corner. Finish easily.

Rejection – 25m HVS 5a. A. Fyffe, A. Salisbury. 18th May, 1999. The obvious jam crack in the left wall. Gain the crack from the foot of Forgotten Corner and follow it to the ledge on the left. Finish up the twin corner cracks.

Western Sector (SMCJ 1995, p 650):

The first two routes are on a prow with three grooves (cairn below) which offers a preliminary change of aspect 50m before the main change to the Western Sector. *Cairn Terrier* – 15m VS 5a. A. Nisbet, C. Watkins. 13th June, 1999. The left groove has a bulge blocking access to a well-defined V-section leading to the top.

Cairnaholics Anonymous – 15m Severe 4a. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet, C. Watkins. 13th June 1999. The middle and right grooves diverge about 5m up. This is the slabby right groove, almost a ramp.

Unnamed – E1 5b**, C. Moody, L. Gordon Canning. 9th June, 1999. The crack left of Unmasked. Climb up left then climb the crack to the right of the bulging nose.

Clockwork Rat – 20m E1 5b. A. Nisbet, C. Watkins. 13th July, 1999. Strenuous, but well protected. Start up the corner of Mechanical Sheep but soon move right to gain a crack in its right wall. Follow the crack round the right arête to a roof and rockfall scar. Go through the left side of the roof and finish up the continuation crack.

Sleeping Sickness – 12m HVS 5a. C. Moody, L. Gordon Canning. 9th June, 1999. At the right side of the wall with Mr Bean, just right of the roof, are three faint cracklines running up slightly left; follow them.

DIABAIG, Crofter's Crag (SMCJ 1999):

Jammy Dodger – 8m 4c. R. McAllister (followed by others). 11th July, 1999. The left side of the next wall left of the corner of 8-Ace is climbed largely on jugs but unprotected.

SLIOCH:

Stepped Ridge – 250m V,5. N. Wilson, R. Webb. 5th April, 2000. Start as for the summer line, then climb by grooves and cracks just left of the crest.

Difficulties increase with height, the crux being the last pitch which is common with the summer direct route. The extra length over the summer routes takes into account the initial gully. There is also a farther 100m of Grade I ground to gain the summit ridge.

COBLE CRAGS (SRON A' CHOIT):

These are a line of crags overlooking Loch Maree above Victoria Falls at Slattadale (MR 905 706). Six routes of up to 20m were climbed in June 1999 in addition to four previous routes.

STONE VALLEY CRAGS, Atlantic Wall:

Fisherboys – 12m HVS 5a. P. Tattersall. 21st September, 1999.

An obvious thin crack-line in the buttress 10m right of Ancient Mariner.

Red Barn Crag:

Then What? – 10m 5a. P. Tattersall. 21st September, 1999.

The rib 15m right of Hun in the Sun. Climb a wall using finger jugs to the blunt arête.

Rum Doodle Crag:

Go Lightly – VS 4c. P. Tattersall. 21st September, 1999.

Climbs the buttress left of Totter's Slab. It has a chimney on its right-hand side.

Climb the middle of the wall right of the arête past a tiny roof.

GAIRLOCH CRAGS, Loch Christina Crags (Sheet 19; MR 837.820):

Five minutes north of Poolewe on the B8057, these north-facing crags are up to 30m high and are composed of a smooth gneiss that is mossy in places. The climbing is quite sustained and often technical with smallish wires providing the main protection. They dry slowly and are no more than 5 to 10 minutes from the road with limited parking opposite the crags by an old gun emplacement. There are two lines of crag; a lower cleaner tier and a bigger upper tier. The lower tier is described first going from left to right.

Crack Route – 12m Severe.

The leftmost scooped slabby wall separated from the bigger crags to the right by a grass apron. Climb the cracks on the right side of the scoop.

Candle Buttress – 12m VS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 17th September, 1999.

The slender buttress on the left flank of the two biggest ones. Climb up the 'candle' direct by pleasant climbing.

Boor Constrictor – 18m E3 5c*. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 11th August, 1999.

The left-hand of the two central buttresses giving a thin and sustained climb with awkward protection. Start centrally and gain the first horizontal break above the overlap. Move up in the same line to the next break and step right to a big foothold. Climb more easily to the top.

Slanting Crack – 20m E2 5b*. G. Ettle, D. S. B. Wright.

The obvious left-hand crack on the right-hand central buttress. Tricky to start with improving protection with height, a fine line.

The Upper Tier:

Left Crack – 25m VS 4c. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 11th August, 1999.
The left side of the top tier has a slabby buttress steeper than it appears from below. This line takes a slanting crack on the left with the hardest moves in the first half, well protected.

Hanging Flake – 25m HVS 5a*. D. S. B. Wright, J. R. Mackenzie. 11th August, 1999.

A good route with entertaining climbing up the steep slabby wall to the right of the crack. Climb up to a small flake with interest and continue direct to the top on hidden holds.

Rubha Mor, Opinan Slabs (Sheet 19; MR 879 978):

The slabs are mentioned in SMCJ 1999 have been given this name. The 'easy angled wall accessed by a ramp' now has 10 routes about 20m long. The 'short red slab' is close on the right at sea level, so the two cairns act as a landmark for both slabs. There are now three routes of 10m on this slab, two of which were noted in SMCJ 1999. Recent routes by J. R. Mackenzie, either solo or with I. McWhirter, and one with R. Brown. There are also two routes on the vertical wall below the ramp and two routes on a wall right of 'the short red slab', by J. R. Mackenzie and R. Brown.

LOCH TOLLAIDH, Raven's Nest, Flag Wall:

This is the overhung short wall just past the left end of Raven's nest and which has two routes.

Crossroads – 10m E5 6b***. P. Tattersall. April, 1998.

The wall has an interesting cross intrusion feature. Climb the wall through the left half of the cross to gain a thin crack (Rock#3 at its base) through a bulge. Hard, well protected moves lead to a short hanging groove and easier ground.

Path – 8m E1 5b. P. Tattersall, A. Katzenmeier. February, 1996.

The crack on the right, avoiding the temptation to step back at half height.

MacDonald – 40m E4 6a. P. Tattersall, A. Katzenmeier. June, 1999.

Start up Semi-Automatic to reach a diagonal crack which that route now follows left. Pull over a small roof and step right into a groove. At the top of this, climb slightly right to reach better holds. Swing back left on jugs before climbing up to a slab. Climb its left edge to the top (two spikes).

Fraggle Rock:

Joyful Departure – 15m E3 6a*. P. Tattersall, A. Katzenmeier. April, 1998.

A crack-line at the right-hand end of the roof-line right of Fraggles Roll (Friend#4 at the lip).

The Snapper – 20m HVS 5a. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 25th April, 1999.

Right of Waldorf is a downward slanting crack for 5m. At the right end of this are some grooves. This takes the central and best defined of these. Climb up into and up the groove to a block, pass this and go to a roof. Trend up and right naturally to finish.

The Cloiche Wall:

Distraction – 25m E4 5c. P. Tattersall, A. Katzenmeier. May, 1998.

Halfway between Someone Else's Dream (originally called Pump Action) and White Fright (regraded as E3 5c) is a shallow groove which ends at about 3m height. Climb the groove and the line above, trending slightly right to reach another left-facing groove. The wall on its right is climbed to join White Fright.

Hidden Crag:

Frog Dance – 20m E4 6a. P. Tattersall, A. Katzenmeier. April, 1999.

The thin line 10m right of Buena Vista.

CREAG MHOR TOLLAIDH, Lower Crag:

Fatg – 20m E2 5c*. P. Benson, A. Reid. 18th September, 1999.

The route is on the sidewall at the far right of crag, up from Hamilton's Groove and arête. Start below a cave and follow a crack and slabby wall on positive holds to finish up a steep wall to grassy ledge. Probably E3 6a without stepping back on to the roof of the boulder at 5m.

GRUINARD, Carn Goraig:

The Wicked – 30m E1 5b*. G. Ettle, P. Thorburn, D. S. B. Wright. 9th July, 1999.

Up and left from the main crag is an area of obvious steep walls. This route climbs the prominent crack to a heather ledge, then by the arête on the right on excellent rock in fine situations to belay. Walk off left.

Carn nam Buailtean (MR 000 869):

Approach as for Carn Goraig, skirting the western edge of this crag and continuing for 1km or so to a line of clean pale crags that run along the hillside. About a mile from the Gruinard River. The hill of Carn nam Buailtean sports many crags of which below are a sample.

The crags are numerous but the main ones are situated on a craggy dome that faces south-west and lies on the right of the hillside. It sports a slender and very clean pale buttress on the right, Sylph Buttress, a broader slabby crag with a tree-covered ledge that starts lower down to its left, Blank Buttress, and a less conspicuous brown coloured crag between them, Stealth Buttress. Above Blank Buttress is a slabby wall that rises from a tree covered balcony, Rock of Ages Buttress. To the left of the craggy dome lies a broad gully and high up on the left of this is an architecturally satisfying crag, Golden Buttress which has a clean-cut slab. At the foot of the gully on the left is the steep Nose Buttress with characteristic black rock.

To the right of Sylph Buttress is a steep broken buttress on a spur of the hillside, Broken Buttress, and beyond Nose Buttress to the left lie a line of slabby buttresses that stretch along the western frontage of Carn nam Buailtean at a much higher level. Between Broken Buttress and Carn Goraig itself lie many one pitch crags, mostly steep, but all on superb rock. All in all this area has the potential for many 15m to 80m routes.

During the months of July and August the crags are visited by colourful species of horse-fly and clouds of midges. This area is not suitable, therefore, for those of a nervous disposition during those months.

Sylph Buttress:

This is the pale slender crag that lies to the right of the big slabby buttress, split into two halves by a thin heather rake. It is bounded on the right by a block-filled gully which has an overhanging left wall. The rock is impeccable white gneiss save on the gully wall which has seen substantial rockfall and has a much less attractive darker fissile rock. Routes are described from right to left. Descents are down the gully to the right, which involves a short straightforward section of down-climbing down a broad crack on its true left bank.

Sylph – 70m Mild VS 4b *. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 11th June, 1999.

This good climb takes the right edge of the buttress. Start on a shelf below a prominent dead tree.

1. 40m 4a. Climb a short steep wall at its left end via cracks to a slab. Move left to an arête and climb this on superb rock to below the steep upper section which is split by a crack.
2. 30m 4b. Climb the arête via the crack in an exposed and fine position, past the awkward crux and continue in the same line to the top. A lovely pitch.

Nymph – 85m E1 5c***. R. Biggar, J. R. Mackenzie. 17th June, 1999.

A superb route with a great second pitch, very well protected. The climb follows a thin central crack-line over the two bulges on the left half of the buttress. Start at a lower tier which lies below a grass shelf.

1. 20m 4b. Climb a steep narrow slab quite boldly to the grass and belay below a pair of clean ribs.
2. 45m 5c. Climb the right-hand rib then move left to the corner to a bulge, move up and right to a block and arrive beneath the lower bulge at the central crack. Climb the bulge on generous holds and up the crack in the slab to the next bulge. A thin overhanging crack on the right, crux, surmounts the bulge and the climb continues up the slab above to a stance below a further bulge.
3. 20m 4a. Climb the bulge on good holds and finish up a short slab.

Satyr – 65m VS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 25th June, 1999.

A pleasant route that takes a line to the left of Nymph. Start as for Nymph's second pitch. Climb the corner over the bulge and up the thin crack (crux), well protected, to the first overlap. Step up right and climb the slab to the next overlap, taken by the groove on the right, or the left, to a slab and belays by the left edge below an arête (45m 5a). Climb into a groove and climb the clean arête to the top (20m 4a).

Stealth Buttress:

This lies up a grassy ramp left of Sylph Buttress. The best descent is down the gully as before. There is a prominent nose on arrival with a large flake at its foot and to the left a steep reddish slab with a capping wall. The rock is perfect but protection can be rather skimpy.

Foxbat – 80m VS 4c. D. S. B. Wright, J. R. Mackenzie. 25th June, 1999.

Start at the large flake.

1. 35m 4c. Climb the clean frontal slab direct to a short wall. Climb this directly (crux) to a ledge above.
2. 45m 4c. Climb the clean nose above to a crack, step left and climb a thin slab to below a slab and headwall. Climb the slab to the wall which is turned by the 'hand-traverse' crack and slab above to finish.

Stealth Fighter – 90m E2 5c**. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 25th June, 1999. To the left of the last route is a steep reddish pock-marked slab, noticeable by the absence of protection. This fine but serious route climbs the slab direct and takes the capping wall centrally. Rs essential. Start at the lowest point of the slab below some pock-marks.

1. 25m 5c. Climb up to a blank section; a scattering of small R.P. runners only. Step right and up the slab thinly to an obvious hold and up to some welcome protection under a small overlap. Continue thinly up the red slab on the left to a point where a delicate traverse right gains a heather groove and stance with excellent belays.
2. 20m 5b. Step right and up to the overhang and boldly through this on hidden holds and better protection to a grass ledge above.
3. 45m. Climb the straightforward slab up and right to near the 'hand-traverse' of Foxbat but finish up the left-slanting groove.

Blank Buttress:

This is the slabby buttress to the left of Sylph Buttress. It has a prominent tree-covered ledge at one-third height and steep blank slabs above that lead to a short top tier. Descents are easiest by abseil from trees above the top tier; 50m will reach the tree-covered ledge and a scramble down to the left or a shorter abseil from the trees will reach the base. Continuing above the top tiers leads to steep heather with Rock of Ages buttress on the right and a shorter steep crag on the left.

Point Blank – 65m HVS 5b/c. R. Biggar, J. R. Mackenzie. 17th June, 1999.

This route takes a more or less central line up the slabs to the right of the tree-covered ledge. Start near the grass rake up to the right.

1. 25m 4c. A pair of prominent grooves are climbed awkwardly past some heather. Continue on clean rock up right to a little niche.
2. 20m 5b/c. The fine bald slab is now taken directly above the stance, initially via a crack which then blanks out. Some very tenuous moves (crux) are then made to the left to reach a groove which is quite bold and followed to a ledge.
3. 20m 5a. Climb the steep bulge above which has a thin exit, poorly protected, to heather and a corner. Possibly quite hard for the grade. Some thin, but not sustained, climbing on excellent rock.

Step Dancer – 70m HVS 5a*. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 30th July, 1999. To the left of the wall that supports the tree-covered ledge, the brown slabs form a clean tongue. Start two metres left of a vegetated groove.

1. 30m 5a. Climb directly up excellent sustained rock with good protection, over the overlap and up to a ledge below a prominent curved crack.
2. 40m 5a. Climb up a short distance, then traverse left to a scoop which is followed more easily to the short top tier, a slab, climbed centrally to the jungle above. Tree abseil.

Rock of Ages Buttress:

Above Blank Buttress lies a superb wall, reached by scrambling up the grassy rake or by climbing from below, to arrive at a wooded balcony. Descents are best down the broad gully round to the left. The wall has a roof to the left and a steep slab to the right guarded by a short wall. To the right of this wall is a tree.

Rock of Ages – 35m E1 5b***. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 17th June, 1999.

An excellent route, varied and sustained; protection rapidly improves with height.

Start to the left of the tree and climb the short wall on sharp holds to a thin groove. Move boldly left to the slab and good holds. Gain a thin crack and climb this to a steeper section. Continue up the crack with difficulty to a wall. Traverse thinly left to a suspect block in a groove. Climb the headwall above by the central thin crack in a great position to arrive at a sentry-box right of a cracked block. Exit onto the final slab via a thin crack on the right.

Golden Buttre:

This lies at the top left of the wide gully left of Blank Buttre. Very clean with strongly cut features, it is very prominent from below with an undercut slab on the front face, a widening ramp and a crack-split wall with a large roof to the right. Descents are easiest to the left which rejoins the broad gully.

Glistening Slab – 55m HVS 5a***. J. R. Mackenzie, D. S. B. Wright. 25th June, 1999.

A splendid climb on impeccable rock, well protected. The line follows the best part of the slab to the left of a deep crack. Start below the frontal slab on a grass shelf above broken grooves.

1. 35m 5a. Traverse the slab rightwards below overhangs, usually a bit wet, to reach a narrow gangway that cuts above the right wall. Climb a groove on the left and emerge on the superb slab in a great position. Follow a thin crack over all the obstacles en route, to reach a spacious stance below a scooped slab.
2. 20m 4b. Climb the steep rib on the left to finish.

Heart of Gold – 60m H. Severe 4a*. D. S. B. Wright, J. R. Mackenzie. 30th July, 1999.

This route takes the hanging corner on the upper right of the crag reached by the scooped wall below the roof. Reach this wall via a grassy ramp on the right of the crag that has a short rock step. Low belays below the roof.

1. 30m 4a. Climb the scooped wall from right to left on good holds via two ledges with perched blocks to exit below the hidden corner. Continue up the corner to a belay on the left.
2. 30m 4a. Step right to a fine slab and climb this direct to a grass ledge (optional belay). Move left to the top tier and climb the concave slab to its crest; step left and easily up the broken wall to the top of the buttre. Some very pleasant open climbing involving both walls and slabs.

Car Park Area, The Sidewall:

A steep line of crag running down right from Triangular Slab; west-facing.

Atlantic Pillar – 14m H. Severe 4b. J. R. Mackenzie. 5th August, 1999.

A well defined slabby rib with an undercut base is the first feature at the top left end. Climb it direct.

Staircase – 12m V. Diff. J. R. Mackenzie. 5th August, 1999.

A black, diamond-shaped wall 5m to the right is climbed first to the right, then to the left.

One Scoop or Two? – 10m VS 4c. J. R. Mackenzie. 5th August, 1999.

Well down to the right a steep red wall. Climb its left side via a pair of scooped holds to a crack which leads up right to the top. Sustained.

There is also a route by J. R. Mackenzie at the top left end of the Flake Buttress, Black Wall Special. Gain a diagonal crack and ramp, then climb the wall above – 10m H. Severe 4b.

Inveranvie Crag, Optic Wall:

Slippery Nipple – 20m VS 4c**. C. Grindrod, J. Grindrod, J. R. Mackenzie. 28th March, 2000.

A sustained and thinly-protected wall giving good climbing. Start left of the cracked overhang of The Parting Glass and climb the wall direct to the left-hand section of the M-shaped overhang. Climb through this and finish up the wall.

Gruinard Lower Crag:

Breakpoint – 20m E3 5c. R. Anderson, D. McCallum, S. Anley. 31st May, 1999
The slabby wall just right of Halcyon Days. Gain the right end of a diagonal break, then move left up this to climb the wall and finish directly.

Who Shot JR – 16m HVS 5a*. D. Allan, R. Plenderleith. 16th May, 1999.

Start at the same place as Halcyon Days but follow a thin crack steeply up right. Traverse right across a yellow streak (and Ueejit) into a small corner. Climb the corner to a heather ledge and up the crack above.

Gruinard Jetty Buttress:

Gaffers Wall – 30m E4**. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 16th May, 1999.

Between Right Charlie and Dave's Dilemma is an overhanging wall providing an excellent steep route.

1. 12m 5b. Surmount the initial overhang and step left on to a shelf. Climb up to and over a slanting flake-crack to gain the ledge just right of Right Charlie.

2. 18m 5c. Climb up the shallow fault above, parallel with Right Charlie; sustained and strenuous to the top with some good wires.

Note: C. McNee and D. Kirk climbed the corner of Bus Stop direct at Mild Severe on 1st January, 1999, naming it New Millennium?

BEINN AIRIGH CHARR:

Original Route (the Glover, Walker, Corry and Ling route) – IV,4. J. Lyall, R. Webb. 27th December, 1999.

Climb the summer line taking the fine chimney in the upper buttress.

A' MHAIGHDEAN:

A Ridge Too Far – 300m IV,4. M. Hind, R. Webb. January, 2000.

The next ridge east of Pillar Buttress. Climbed in mistake for Pillar Buttress in nil visibility, a detailed description will be provided after the ascensionists have been back in the summer.

FISHERFIELD FOREST, Na Bearta Buttress:

Good Friday Direct – 130m HVS 4c. A. Nisbet. 12th July, 1999.

A direct version of Good Friday Slab, taking a line up the cleanest slab, but with limited protection providing a fine feeling of exposure.

1. 30m 4b. As for the normal route. A crack in the wall to the left might be worth exploring.

2. 30m 4c. Step left and climb a vague rib direct to the shallow groove of the normal route.

3. and 4. 70m 4c Start up the crack of the normal route, but soon step right and climb direct up slabs to join and follow a crack, then another which lie in the slab about 8m right of the shallow gully. Sustained climbing but the best belay position is unknown.

MULLACH COIRE MHIC FHEARCHAIR, Tom an Fhioda:

Nid Rib – 200m V. Diff. A. Nisbet. 14th May, 1999.

The route is at MR 075 731 and climbs a rib near the right end of the cliff overlooking the valley containing Loch an Nid. The right end of the cliff, just before it turns the corner and peters out, holds a big scoop with overhangs at its top. This is the rib forming its left side.

Sgurr Dubh, North Face:

Vagrants Buttress – 120m VS 4b. A. Nisbet. 14th May, 1999.

The left end of this impressive, but unhelpful cliff, (mostly gneiss but some rock to its left is suspiciously like gabbro) holds a scree gully with a short headwall. Right of this is formed a buttress before the main face is reached; the route climbs the right edge of this buttress. Start at the right toe of the buttress and climb a steep rib to a more vegetated section. Climb direct through an overhang to a slabby finish.

AN TEALLACH, A'Ghlas Thuill:

Central Buttress – 350m II. A. Nisbet. 24th December, 1999.

This is the buttress between Hayfork Gully and North Gully (an old name). Start where the crest just right of Hayfork Gully meets the base of the buttress. Climb just right of the crest of the buttress before moving right to climb a shallow gully which leads to the steep band (perhaps a similar start to the right-hand version – Unnamed in SMCJ 1999). Continue in the line of the gully, which passes just left of the nose of the steep band, until the upper crest on the right can be gained by the first line of weakness. Follow the upper crest to the top.

Haystack – 170m VI,7. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 6th January, 2000.

A sensational route up the impressive left wall of Hayfork Gully. Start about a third of the way up Hayfork Gully at the first break in the left wall and where a gully runs up on to a platform on the rib on the left (at the top of the steep wall of Miniscule Rib). Climb out left towards the gully to where a ramp leads right across the main wall (10m). Climb the ramp to below a chimney in the centre of the face (50m, 25m). Climb the steep chimney (20m). Go rightwards up a ramp then back left to the top of a crack which is the continuation of the chimney. Take a complex line through steep walls ending on the highest ledge which is above and left of the point above the continuation crack (35m). Go left round the corner past a prominent thread and climb more easily direct to the top (30m).

Tiny Gully – 150m IV,6. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 5th April, 2000. The gully which cuts back left on to the rib. Gain it by a traverse and climb it past an overhanging bulge of chokestones to the platform on the rib. Traverse left to finish up the shallow gully of Minor Rib.

Miniscule Rib – 250m V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 3rd January, 2000.

The immediate crest left of and at times overlooking Hayfork Gully. Start up the

shallow gully between Minor Rib and Hayfork. Follow this and its right branch over a bulge to reach a terrace on the right below a steep wall which overlooks Hayfork. Climb the wall by a crack right of centre, then a right-slanting flake-ramp to a niche below a wide crack (25m). Step up to the wide crack, then traverse right, up and back left to its top (actually a pinnacle). Climb a corner on the left to easy ground (20m). Move left and climb the shallow gully of Minor Rib to the top.

Cake Fork – 180m II. P. Greening, T. Moore. 18th December, 1999.

Climb First Prong until it is possible to traverse left along a shelf (approx. 50m) to below an obvious icefall. Climb a short tapering groove to another icefall. Climb this direct, or the wall to the right (easier). Follow an open gully to the top.

Toll an Lochain, Sail Liath:

The following two routes lie on the front (or right-hand) face of the right-hand buttress (of the three). The rock is good but vegetated on ledges giving pleasant climbing when the turf is bone dry (rare!). Cleaner but harder variations are possible. The climbing is much better in winter.

Sandeman's Pinnacle – 140m VS. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 8th August, 1998. Start 30m from the left edge of the buttress (the ramp) at a right-slanting shallow chimney, the first easily climbed feature.

1. 40m 4a. Climb the chimney and continue diagonally right in the same line to a big flake at the first obvious break in the steep wall above.
2. 50m 4c. Move left over the flake, then up slabs to the right of a corner. Cross the corner and climb near its left edge to a big pinnacle.
3. 50m. A right-trending line leads to easy ground.

Winter: VI,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 12th December, 1999.

As for summer except pitch 2 used a line more suited to winter. After moving left over the flake, a traverse left crossed the corner and the wall above was climbed to join the summer route. At a vertical wall about 10m below the pinnacle, a short traverse right led into the corner which was climbed on turf until a return traverse led to the pinnacle.

Forgotten Face – 160m VS. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 8th August, 1998.

Start in the centre of the face at a clean brown slab below a left to right turf ramp.

1. 30m 4c. Climb the slab trending left to the turf ramp, then right up the turf to above the start.
2. 25m 4b. Traverse left along a clean slabby break to a large block.
3. 45m. Go round the block on the left and back right above the belay by the higher of two big right-slanting ramps. Before the ramp appears to peter out, go up left on steep blocky ground.
4. 30m 4a. Go up a right slanting ramp, starting with an awkward corner to the base of a big groove (well seen on the skyline from below).
5. 30m. Climb the groove to scrambling.

Winter: VI,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 5th December, 1999.

A line based on the summer route. The left to right turf ramp was climbed from its start. The clean slabby break has a thin line of turf but was very poorly protected (pitch 2). A more direct line was taken at the top of pitch 3 and turf ground was climbed on the left of the final groove.

Gobhlach Buttress – 350m IV,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 20th December, 1999.

In the centre of the lower part of the buttress are two icefalls. The left is steep and forms two ice pillars. The right is the start of this route (Goblach Grooves is farther

right – SMCJ 1994). Start right of the base and trend left to the icefall (or climb it from the base if formed). Climb ice, then traverse right to climb a steep iced corner. Trend left up iced grooves for two pitches to gain a right-slanting ramp which is followed easily before moving left to finish up the crest.

The Ghoul – 180m III. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 5th April, 2000. A left-slanting ramp, the lower of two which cut through the steep wall up right from Lost Gully, starts with an ice bulge but then becomes easier and leads on to upper slopes. Traverse left towards Lost Gully ramp, then return right to join and finish up The Spectre.

Glas Mheall Mor:

D. Whalley notes that the crag has been climbed on before, notably by Kinloss MRT, and is a good option when winds are high and you are getting old. Ice forms readily producing various icefalls on the crag, all Grade II or III.

Smear Test – 150m III. S. Price, J. Coats. 19th December, 1999.

Start 15m right of the lowest point, just left of an obvious corner. Climb a steep wall for 5m, move right and continue to another wall left of the corner. Continue over broken ground to a horizontal block (50m). Step left on to a small ledge and continue up a series of steps to a vertical wall (50m). Move right and take a right-slanting gully to easy broken ground.

Chairman's Choice – 60m II/III. P. Greening, A. Barnyard, D. Whalley. 19th December, 1999.

This route climbs the short wide icefall on the left-hand side of the face. Climb the obvious icy slab and over a bulge to good belays on the left. Go up the ramp on the right and up the steeper wall above. Descend by ramps to the right.

Southern Up Men – 75m III,4. P. Greening, A. Barnyard. 19th December, 1999.

To the right of the previous route is a large shield of rock which contains three icy grooves. Start below the left-hand one. Climb the smear to an ice thread below the roof at the bottom of the groove. Climb the groove (exposed) to a large spike. Climb the icefall on the right, then pass the steeper section on the left. Climb a steep wall direct (crux) or traverse left to a turf rib and finish up a right-slanting ramp.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)

CREAG GHLAS, West Face:

Note: The unnamed route (SMCJ 1999, p106), 'Julian's Line', is called Beware the Greeks.

MEALL NA FAOCHAIG (Gleann Meinich, Strathconon), MR 235 541:

The west end of the ridge of this hill has a broken heathery crag opposite the West Buttress of Creag Ghlas at a similar altitude. The only worthwhile conditions would be under consolidated snow, a rarity. Approach by walking along the track from Strathconon and cross the burn below the crag.

Meinich Buttress – 150m III,4. J. R. Mackenzie. 20th December, 1999.

The line taken follows the steepest part of the crag where a shallow groove cuts up the final section just left of an apparent edge. Concave mixed ground of ice, rock

and heather leads to the groove, marked by a few small trees. A broken icefall ran down the left side and gave steep awkward climbing with the crux at the top. Easy ground lies above.

SGURR NA MUICE, South-East Face:

Spare Rib – 200m III,4. G. Cullen, J. R. Mackenzie (alt.). 13th February, 2000. To the right of the triple icefall of Streaky and to the left of the snow ramp of Porker is a buttress split by a narrow gully; this provides the line, a nearly continuous line of ice with two good final pitches. The grade assumes good icing (technical 6 otherwise).

Approach by easy ground up the nose and head for a triangular buttress below the crags.

Start to the right of this and climb a double icefall to easy ground (40m). Continue up iced slabs and steps heading for the narrow gully in the headwall. Climb an icefall to a rock barrier, traverse right below this and either pull over if ice exists or continue to the end and pull over there. Continue up left to below a vertical turf chimney (40m). In good conditions climb the chimney or, as on the first ascent, gain a ledge just left of the chimney and climb a technical slanting crack and slab to the same point (very well protected). Climb up left to an icefall; either climb this or avoid it by a zig-zag right then left (45m). Climb the less steep continuation icefall direct over its final bulge to a snow ramp (35m).

North-East Face:

Pig Iron Buttress – 130m IV,3. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 15th January, 2000. This is the buttress to the right of Pearls before Swine. On this ascent approached via the Left Start of Three Little Pigs. A serious first pitch. Start at the lowest rib of rock which lies closer to Tusker than Pearls before Swine. Climb a sustained series of grooves and awkward steps to below a steeper chimney (visible from below as a square-cut notch) which lies just left of Tusker's bigger groove (50m). Climb the chimney, easier than it looks, move up right to below a steepening groove (25m). Climb the fine turf slab and overhang on the right to easier ground and the top (55m).

BEN WYVIS, Creag Coire na Feola:

Hansel and Gretel – 200m III. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 5th April, 2000.

To the left of Tapered Buttress is a line of icefalls, shortest on the left. The most reliable one is near the left where it is thickest and forms an ice hose bottomed by an ice corner. Start right of a narrow iced V-gully at the corner and climb ice to a stance below the hose (20m). Climb the hose on the right to reach a snowy rake. Either descend left from there or continue up either easy-angled ice or snow to a steeper and possibly corniced exit.

Tapered Buttress Direct – 230m IV,6. R. Biggar, J. R. Mackenzie. 5th April, 2000. This is the narrow buttress left of the main icefalls of Gael Force Grooves. It takes a direct line up turf ground immediately right of smooth slabs/icefalls. An easier route should be possible to the right bypassing the steep section on pitch 2.

Start at an inset corner left of the base. Climb this and then straight up; the two runners on this pitch provide landmarks. A loose spike and a revolving chokestone (50m). The crux can be seen above on the skyline as a steep wall. Climb up to it via

a narrow groove right of the rock slabs/icefalls climbing a turf-capped overhang en route. The crux wall starts above a ledge and gives a vertical step with sloping holds apart from one (50m). Continue easily up to steepening snow (50m). Continue up the rocky arête left of a similar arête (Discovery Buttress) 50m. Continue up the steepening arête to a fine finish (30m).

FANNICHS, An Coileachan, Garbh Coire Mor:

The Gallous Palace – 150m V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 14th December, 1999. Climbs the left edge of the right-hand depression in the slabby wall which forms the left side of the corrie. It features a left-facing corner which breaks through a steep band of rock. Climb up to below and just left of the corner. Pull into the base of the corner, then climb the wall just right of it. The top half of the route is easier up turf.

Fionn Bheinn, Creag Toll Mor (MR 152 620):

A north-facing crag lies at the crest of Toll Mor near the east top. The easiest approach is via the Achnasheen road up dreary slopes; allow two hours – plus. The schist crag is very steep and has turfy and rocky lines. Despite its meagre height the climbing is quite exciting and concentrated and in the right conditions (frozen hard and not too much snow), just about repays the walk-in.

Dedication Grooves – 70m IV,5*. J. R. Mackenzie, R. Biggar. 12th December, 1999.

Roughly in the centre of the crag and 20m to the right of a chimney-groove is a stepped wall with hanging icicles. Climb up to the bulge with the icicles, step up right and pull over the bulge above the icicles. Continue up a ramp on the left to a saddle stance (30m). A steep groove lies above. Climb up to a block and step right to climb a blank wall, then the easier groove. Continue in the same line past a prominent block and over the cornice (40m). Good technical climbing with easier sections.

RHUE SEA CLIFFS, Gem Walls:

Rhue-ff – 12m E1 5a. P. Mather (unsec.). 17th September, 1999.

Follow the short hanging corner to the right of Watch this Space, traversing out right under the first roof. Continue up the easy slab above, moving round the right side of the second roof.

ARDMAIR, Fish Farm Walls:

Loan Shark Direct Finish – E1 5b. N. Taylor (unsec.). 30th December, 1998.

An exciting direct finish through the bulges beneath which the original route traverse right. Follow Loan Shark to the heathery break. Climb the steep hanging corner on the left-hand side of the upper wall to an exit left in a fine position. Some coincidence with Brent Spar is possible.

CUL BEAG:

A large clean dome-shaped wall (Stag's Wall) lies about 100m left of Curved Chimney. It is easily identified by a dirty central corner dividing the steep left-hand section from a slabbier wall on the right.

Bad Hand Gang – 65m E3**. G. Robertson, T. Rankin (on sight). 4th September, 1999.

This lovely climb takes the obvious groove line bordering the right edge of the steep left-hand wall. Protection is generally excellent, although large Friends are useful. Start below a prominent layback crack.

1. 30m 5c. Climb the crack for 5m to footholds. Step across left into the groove and follow this past several interesting sections to a good ledge where the crack widens.
2. 35m 5b. Climb the wide crack above, step left on to a broad ledge, then move easily left again to below a gigantic flake. Climb the excellent flake to a chimney slot from which a pop out left leads to easier ground.

STAC POLLAIDH, No.1 (West) Buttress:

Three Day Grooves – 100m IV,5. D. Allan (back-roped). 22nd February, 2000. 60m left (north) of Baird's Pinnacle and 30m right of the north end of the buttress is an open book groove, 30m up which is a diamond-shaped overhang with a crack in it.

1. 45m. Climb the groove (crux) and continue up to the overhang which is turned on the left.
2. 25m. Climb easy ground to a big right-facing corner directly above.
3. 30m. Climb the corner, then easy ground to the summit.

December Grooves – 100m IV,6**. D. Allan, P. Ingram. 14th December, 1999. There is a prominent V-groove 15m left of Baird's Pinnacle (it is between North-West Corner and West Buttress). The route follows this and on the top tier, a left-facing groove which lies on the right side of slabby rocks. Start directly below the groove and follow a thin crack up a short steep wall. Turn the overhang near the top of the groove with a traverse left. Easy ground leads to the top groove which is climbed more or less direct. An excellent climb with good protection and belays.

Note: D.Allan thinks that South Rib and Party on the Patio are the same route. A. Fraser does not agree, but neither party is sure.

Sweeney Todd – 70m E3. D. Green, S. Richardson. 25th September, 1999. The well-defined pillar between Enigma Grooves and November Groove.

1. 25m 4b. As for Pitch 1, November Groove.
2. 25m 5c. The left side of the pillar is cut by a thin right-slanting crack. Climb this to easier ground on the right edge and continue more easily to the platform of Enigma Grooves.
3. 20m 5a. Between the final chimney of Enigma Grooves and the exit cracks of November Groove is a right-facing square-cut corner with an offwidth crack at its back. Grunt up this to the top.

No. 2 Buttress:

The Orifice – 35m E3. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. 10th July, 1999

1. 10m 5b. Round to the left of the slab of Vlad the Impaler is a small alcove, out of the left of which springs a corner crack which takes you to good block belays on a commodious ledge.
2. 25m 6a. Traverse right from here to below an undercut flared off-width. Climb this and the corner above to the big ledge at the top of Vlad.

Seismic Shockwaves – 20m E3 6a. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. 10th July, 1999

Down and right of this buttress is a small south-facing wall. Just right of its centre

is a right-facing undercut corner gained by a large projecting block. Climb this and then twin cracks to a ledge. Above is a technical flake-groove which takes you up to an awkward pull on to a slab and the top.

Go up and right from this buttress and a small ridge projects southwards. On its right wall are three cracks. The uppermost is short and a bit grassy, the middle one is clean and provides continuous jamming to the top (Jamalmadingdong 20m E1 5b), and the left one takes you to a ledge where round to the left, a block on the frontal face allows twin cracks to be followed to the top (Highland Spring 20m E2 5c).

Ol' Red Eyes – 100m HVS 5a. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 22nd June, 1999.

This is situated on the upper buttress of No. 2 Buttress overlooking Pinnacle Basin. The toe of the buttress is a slim pillar flanked by two chimneys.

1. 15m 5a. Climb a thin crack up the pillar, move right to a further crack and follow this with difficulty and 1NA to below an overhang.

2. 25m 4a. Step right into a chimney and follow this to a ledge. Traverse left for 12m across slabs to the foot of a chimney/corner.

3. 15m 4a. Climb the chimney/corner, continue up slabs, then a prominent V-groove to a terrace.

4. 15m 4a. Climb a bulging crack at the top of a gully, then easily to the top.

Note: An ancient ring peg was discovered on the first belay, presumably gained by the chimney to the right of the pillar. This would avoid the aid point and probably give a more balanced route.

REIFF, The Pinnacle Area:

Brickinit – E4 6a. R. & C. Anderson. 1999.

The bouldery wall/arête between Juniors Groove and Rockettes Climb; a long stretch enables a Rock 6 to be slotted in at the small overlap, just protected by a side runner on the right.

Seal Song Area:

Lateral Thinking – 20m E4 6b. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 31st May, 1999.

Start up The Executioner to the half-height break. Traverse left to gain the corner of Modern Thinking. Step up this, then continue left more easily with a spectacular mantelshelf to finish.

Note: This route must traverse across others recorded in SMCJ 1996, p81.

Hairsplitter – E2 5b. R. & C. Anderson. 1999.

The edge right of Skullsmasher.

Bay of Pigs:

Sea of Love – 8m E2 5b*. N. Holmes. June, 1996.

From the first ledge on Creeping Jenny, swing out rightwards to an obvious hold then move up to finish leftwards via a faint flake.

Minch Wall:

Beating Heart – 10m E5/6 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 29th May, 1999.

Climbs the centre of the wall left of Friends for Life. Boulder up to the prominent undercut. Place a small cam (00 HB or similar), blind and awkward, then continue

to a good break above. Arrange better protection and continue more confidently to finish up the slab. Top-rope practice used.

Note: The route has been top roped before (and thought 6b) but not led due to the difficulty of placing protection.

Slab Inlet:

Cool Dudes – 12m E1 5b. S. Richardson, T. Whitaker. 30th May, 1999.

The blunt edge 3m right of The Ali Shuffle. Start from the ledge of Ali Shuffle and climb up on good holds just left of the edge to a thin section. Move up then right (runner in hidden break on right) and continue up on improving holds to the top.

Rubha Ploytach:

Omission – HVS 5b**. E. Ash, R. Salter. 7th August, 1999.

The 'fine right-angled corner' right of Lilidh, mentioned in the line before Ros Bhan on p230. Hard to start, especially for the short. Possibly slow to dry.

THE POINT OF STOER:

Waiting Patiently – 12m HVS 5a. D. Kirk, S. Ni Riain. 30th May, 1999.

The sharp south arête of the curved arc-shaped pinnacle immediately north of the start of the tyrolean to the Old Man, with an abseil back off the block at the top of the route.

Gazumped – 12m VS 4c. D. Kirk, S. Ni Riain. 30th May, 1999.

On the same pinnacle as above. Take a thin crackline on the west (seaward) face, going slightly right to left and passing over a small overhang just below the top. Abseil as above.

SUILVEN:

Erebus – 120m VII,7. M. Franklin, R. Webb. 20th December, 1999.

Climbs the north edge of the NW Buttress. Pass the scrappy lower tier on the left to gain a terrace. Traverse right about 10m until the terrace narrows and steepens. Above is a two-stepped corner which in turn is below twin grooves.

1. 10m. Climb the corner.
2. 40m. Climb the left-hand corner until it peters out, swing into the right-hand corner and continue to a small ledge. Above, the corner continues into an overhang. Make hard moves left to regain the left-hand corner and continue up this.
3. 40m. Move up and left to gain a surprisingly steep corner and climb this to below a vicious-looking chimney.
4. 10m. Climb the chimney, which lives up to its look.
5. 20m. Continue to easy ground.

BRAEBAG:

Unnamed – 60m IV,4. J. Lyall, R. Webb. December, 1999.

Find the 'extraordinary defile' described in SMCJ 1998, p624. Descend it to the bottom of the lower tier and turn right (in descent).

1. 30m. Climb the first line of weakness to the top of the lower tier.
2. 25m. Above is a slim right-facing corner. Climb this until forced right and keep moving right to gain a rib.
3. 5m. Climb an awkward groove to the plateau.

Small Beginning – 30m III. N. Wilson, R. Webb. January, 2000.

From about halfway down the defile, a similar but less impressive defile can be seen about 150m away at the top of the first tier to the north.. This route climbs the left edge of the buttress to the left of this second defile (both defiles are Grade I).

QUINAG, Barrel Buttress:

Chang – 300m V,7. D. Allan, A. Nisbet. 15th December, 1999.

An intricate line and a sensational finish through the steep walls right of Cave Gully. Reach the foot of the upper buttress by the crest of the buttress immediately right of V Gully (Badajoz). Once at the upper buttress, start about 10m left of Raeburn, Mackay and Ling Original Route below a narrow chimney. Gain and climb the chimney to a ledge. Above is overhanging so traverse left, initially with difficulty, then go up to a ledge under steep ground. Traverse right, go up to a higher ledge, traverse right again and go up a steep groove to a big ledge. Go right until near the base of the final chimney of Original Route, then return diagonally left until below a final wall poised above overhangs. Climb this (crux) to finish.

Stout – 75m VS. D. Allan, A. Nisbet. 12th August, 1999.

Start 3m right from the left edge of the central pillar (ie. about 3m right of Original Route).

1. 35m 5a. Make hard moves up a small groove, then traverse 10m right along a foot ledge. Return diagonally left up flakes, then go straight up to a grass ledge.
2. 40m 4b. Go right along the ledge and climb an obvious line leading left to a ledge, then move right and climb short walls to the top. Better but near Mild, go left and up to its twin cracks, then climb a fine crack leading slightly right.

Grouse – 60m VS 5a. D. Allan, A. Nisbet. 12th August, 1999.

Climbs the first groove left of the big right-hand fault which forms the right side of the buttress's central pillar. Start 5m left of the fault. Climb the steep groove and cracks to an easier-angled vegetated section. Move left and finish up the left arête.

Nippy Corner – 60m HVS 5a. D. Allan, A. Nisbet. 21st August, 1999.

The right-hand buttress (right of Coopers Gully) is capped by a very steep wall. The route climbs a big corner line round on its right side. Start below a lower tier directly below the corner (reached by a 50m abseil down the line).

1. 30m 4b. Climb the lower wall initially up then diagonally left until below and left of the corner.
2. 30m 5a. Climb the corner, sustained at the start (possibly slow to dry).

CARN AN TIONAIL, Creag na h-Uidhe (Sheet 16, MR 384 374):

This west-facing crag can be approached from West Merklund (5km, 1hr. 30min.). It is fairly extensive but low in altitude, so requires very cold weather.

Y-Gully, Right Branch – 200m II*. D. Allan. 14th March, 1992.

This is the fourth gully from the left end and is more or less in the centre of the face.

Y-Gully, Left Branch – 200m III,4**. D. Allan, G. Cumming. 19th March, 1995.

The branch can be climbed direct at II/III but it is much better to do a right-hand finish which involves a fine 25m ice pitch, then a right traverse behind a huge hanging icicle and a finish up an iced chimney.

East Crag:

V-Gully, Left Branch – 220m II. D. Allan. 13th February, 1994.

There is a crag with this obvious gully on the east side of the hill.

SCOURIE, Rubh' Aird an t-Sionnaich Sheet 9; MR143 435):

The crag is of Lewisian gneiss and faces SE. The routes were climbed by D. Allan, B. Mackenzie and R. Murray on 25th and 27th July, 1997 (leader's initials given). Only the seaward end of the main section is affected by high tide.

Approach: Park at Eddachilles Free Church off the road just south of Scourie village. Walk 1km west to the point. The climbs are described from the right where you arrive.

Chokestone Corner – 20m Mild VS 4b* (D.A.).

The open left-facing corner at the right end of the crag. Start at the first large jammed stone in the gully and climb up and right.

Chokestone Crack – 20m VS 4c* (D.A.).

Start on the second large jammed stone in the gully and climb right of the two noses.

Old Peg Route – 20m Mild VS 4b** (R.M.).

Start at the same place and climb and climb left of the nose.

Black Bob's Crack – 20m VS 4c** (D.A.).

Left of the central bulging black wall are two parallel cracks. This climbs the deep right-hand crack and the continuation crack on the steeper headwall.

There is a pleasant traverse round to the left from here above the high tide mark.

Twin Cracks – 20m VS 5a* (B.M.).

Halfway along the traverse are two shallow corners. Climb the right one, then twin cracks steeply on big holds to a ledge. Finish up a shallow groove.

The Wee Corner – 8m Severe* (D.A.).

Take the short corner at the top right end of the platform.

Right Thin Crack – 8m HVS 5b* (B.M.).

The narrow crack just left of The Wee Corner.

Left Thin Crack – 10m E1 5b* (B.M.).

The narrow crack just left of Right Thin Crack.

Right-Hand Corner – 12m VS 5a* (R.M.).

The corner just left of Left Thin Crack.

Left-Hand Corner – 12m VS 4c* (D.A.).

The climb finishes up a right-slanting corner/ramp.

Pugwash Ahoy – 15m V. Diff. *** (RM).

Traverse left from the foot of the platform to the arête which marks the end of this part of the crag (there is a deep cleft to its left). Climb the arête.

Roads Depot Crag (MR 158 439):

This small 10m crag is of Lewisian gneiss and is south-facing. Routes by D. Allan on 29th August, 1997.

Approach: Park on the access track to the Roads Depot off the road just south of Scourie village. The crag is 150m to the north and is invisible from the public road. Routes described left to right.

1. *Left Corner* – VS 4c*.

2. *The Ridge* – VS 4b/c*.

Climb shallow grooves up the ridge.

3. *Central Corner* – HVS 5a**.

4. *Deep Crack* – VS 5a.

The big right-leaning crack and continuation chimney.

5. *Chimney Crack* – VS 4c*.

The crack right of the previous climb. Start on the right.

SHEIGRA, The First Geo:

Something Worth Fighting For – 25m E6 6b**. R. Campbell, N. Craig. June, 1995. Climbs through the overlap and cracked headwall near the right end of the south wall (right of Here and Now). Step off a boulder on to the grey wall and ascend first rightwards, then back left to an overlap (very serious). Pull into a slight groove above (protection) and continue straight up to a shake-out below the upper headwall. From a flat hold, pull straight up a thin crack above, crucifix right, then crank straight up to finish.

ARKLE, Loch an Nighe Crag (MR 292 452):

A gneiss crag, fairly steep but with some vegetation. Further routes would need cleaning.

Rocking Robin – 30m E1 5b. D. Allan, A. Nisbet. 22nd August, 1999.

The left of two right-slanting, right-facing corners, climbed until near the top when a pull out left on flakes reached heather. Belay 15m back.

FOINAVEN, Creag Coire na Lice:

On the south side of the lochan is an obvious large boulder. From here the route is almost directly above and straight up the centre of the wall.

North Wall Groove – 160m HVS. A. Crofton, G. Robertson. 11th July, 1999.

1/2. From near the centre of the lower tier a left-to-right slanting rake and short walls lead to the grass terrace at halfway.

3. 30m 5a. In the centre of the steep clean section of the face a left-facing groove starts just above and right of a pale rib. Start from a small cairn and scratched arrow below the groove where there is a small spike belay. Climb the wall above to gain the groove left of the pale rib. Follow this to a steep wall, step up on to the rib and from here climb the steep wall until a traverse can be made back right 6m to a comfortable stance at the bottom of the groove.

4. 25m 4b. Climb the groove to another great stance under the roofs. Much easier than it looks.

5. 25m 4c. Traverse right under the roofs in an exposed situation. Move round the rib and continue easily to the top.

Lord Reay's Seat:

Leftfield – 220m E2*. G. Robertson, T. Rankin. August, 1999.

A fine mountaineering route, sustained and exposed with a little loose rock, taking a direct line of grooves in the left crest of the steep central nose. The top two pitches follow Pobble's Direct Finish (which deserved E2 5b, not HVS, is an excellent feature and very sustained, though dangerously loose). Start 20m right of Pobble

at the right-hand of two caves, below a clean groove (right of the light-coloured patch of rock mentioned in the guide).

1. 45m 5b. Enter the groove boldly from the left (crux) and climb it to the top. Trend slightly rightwards up short walls and a corner to good ledges below the jutting prow.

2. 25m 5b. There is a clean groove just left of the prow. Climb into and up this (loose), then pull out right on to the exposed rib which leads to a ledge below a steep groove.

3. 30m 5b. Climb the groove, then move up right to the crest which leads to ledges beneath the right-hand corner of the 'crinkly slab'.

4. 30m 4b. Climb straight up to the base of the huge left-facing corner (Pobble Direct Finish).

5. 40m 5b. Climb the corner, exiting right near the top.

6. 50m. Easier climbing to the summit.

CREAG SMOMHAIRLE:

Note: The following opinions are from D. Allan.

Black Gold – Remove both stars for a horrible top pitch.

The Ramp – Deserves one star, if not two.

Bardot Thodol – Regrading of pitches as 5b, 5a, 4c.

SHETLAND, Esha Ness Lighthouse:

Sunday Morning – 35m VS 4c. T. Sawbridge, M. Snell. 30th May, 1999.

Climb a crack in the wall to the left of Mary. Move right on to a rib at the top

The Drongs (Main Drong):

Ramsay Dyce – 65m Mild XS. M. Snell, T. Sawbridge (alt.). 2nd June, 1999.

1. 40m 5b. From the gap, take the rising traverse right to a hard step and then up a short chimney

2. 15m 4c. Climb a wall and corner direct to an easy slab, then up to the lower summit.

3. 10m 4b. As for the previous route.

Note: This route is named after the boat that took the team out to the Drongs. The boat hirer, Keith Oliver, can be contacted on 07899 9944798.

CAIRNGORMS

LOCHNAGAR: Southern Sector:

The name Perseverance Wall is suggested for the buttress just right of The Red Spout and with the following three routes (Perseverance Rib was the first route climbed here).

The Vice – 80m IV,5. R. Birkett, K. Neal. 30th January, 2000.

A counter-diagonal to Perseverance Rib. Start up a groove right of Perseverance Rib and climb this, then move left on a short piece of easy ground (25m). From here move straight up to climb a short chimney with a chokestone (20m). Follow a series of large blocks forming an arête to finish left at the top by a huge boulder (35m).

Gale Force Groove – 70m III. S. Muir, P. Mather. 15th December, 1999.

To the right of Perseverance Rib is a less prominent triangular ridge with a V-groove (containing a square block roof at half-height) leading to its apex.

1. 30m. Climb the groove to the square block and step right.
2. 40m. Continue up the groove over turf bulges to finish along a small rib to the plateau.

Jason's Groove – 70m III. P. Mather, S. Muir. 23rd January, 2000.

To the right of Gale Force Groove is another obvious line which finishes at a notch in the skyline to the right of a tower, best seen when standing below it. Climb the groove to the notch, then either climb a snow gully or traverse left on to the rib separating the two grooves and finish as for Gale Force Groove.

The Cathedral:

Mullahmaloumouktou – 90m E2. S. Richardson, D. Green. 10th July, 1999.

A good natural line up the front face of the mummy-shaped tower at the left end of the cliff. Start by scrambling up a groove left of Transept Route and belay at the foot of the left to right ramp cutting the lower half of the tower.

1. 25m 5a. Make a steep entry on to the ramp which leads over an overlap to a small stance on the right edge of the tower overlooking Transept Route.
2. 30m 5b. Climb the left-trending groove, and move left below roofs at its top to reach the arête. Climb up steeply to a good stance with a deviation left then right.
3. 20m. Continue up the cracked wall above and move along the horizontal ridge to a belay below the final chimney of Transept Route.
4. 15m 5c. Climb the crack in the steep wall 5m left of the chimney of Transept Route to the top.

The Sorcerer – 80m V,6. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 5th December, 1999.

An interesting climb taking a series of grooves and chimneys on the right flank of the Magic Pillar. Start by climbing easy mixed ground and belay just right of the prominent corner of No Worries Groove.

1. 20m. Climb the square-cut corner, passing short prominent twin cracks at half-height, to reach a good ledge.
2. 20m. Continue up the corner above and pull over a difficult capping bulge to reach a terrace which is level with the top of the initial corner of No Worries Groove.
3. 40m. Move right for 5m along the terrace to reach a long straight chimney which cuts deep into the right flank of the buttress. Climb this with interest to its top and exit right below the final capping overhang to reach the plateau (large cornice possible).

Central Buttress:

Footloose – 65m VII,8. P. Benson, G. Robertson. 19th December, 1999.

This excellent short route with contrasting pitches takes the crack and groove immediately left of Mantichore. Start at an overhanging crack just up and left of that route.

1. 25m. Boulder into the crack and follow it boldly to a good ledge. Continue steeply up right over a turf bulge to join Mantichore at its first belay.
2. 40m. Climb the groove directly above by a thin crack on its left wall. Where the crack goes blind, make a hard mantel, then move left into another groove which is followed out left to easy ground. A superb pitch.

Shadow Buttress Group:

Giant's Head Arête – 220m V,6*. G. Robertson, P. Benson. February, 2000.

Takes the obvious groove in the rib between Giant's Head Direct and Giant's Head

Chimney. Good exposed climbing, climbed under powder. Follow the lower chimney to the overhang. Traverse right as for Giant's Head Chimney and belay on the left as soon as the trough is gained. Step immediately left on to the slab rib and make a rising traverse left into an open groove (visible from the corrie floor). Climb the groove for a short way then the turf crack in its left wall to a good spike belay. Climb grooves in the left side of the crest which is gained via an awkward wall just before it joins the Direct. Finish up this.

Shadow Buttress B:

Note: A flake used on the crux of Raeburn's Groove was pulled off during a repeat attempt (which was abandoned to become the variation on Raeburn's Groove – SMCJ 1997, p 337). It has since been climbed by W. Moir and N. Ritchie who found this pitch to be technically hard and sustained despite its short length. The route is now worth VII,7.

The Dark Side of the Moon – 180m VI,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 9th January, 2000.

The prominent left-facing corner on the Douglas-Gibson Face of Shadow Buttress B. The corner is crackless and smooth with little turf, so icy conditions are required. On this occasion the ice was 2cm to 3cm thick and of variable quality resulting in two serious first pitches. Start 10m left of Eclipse below the corner.

1. 20m. Climb the corner to a small ledge and peg belay behind a small flake.
2. 50m. Continue up the line of the corner until it arcs up and left after 25m. Climb a short corner on the impending right wall to reach a hanging ice gully which leads to a terrace.
3. 40m. Climb the gully to belay below a pronounced buttress.
4. 50m. Continue up the gully left of the buttress, then move right up a chimney to exit below the final tower of Shadow Buttress B.
5. 20m. Finish up Shadow Buttress B to the top.

Tough-Brown Face:

Diedre of the Sorrows: A. Cave and D. Heselden made the second ascent on 16th January, 2000, and in very icy conditions, finished up the last pitch of Dirge (the steep groove above the grassy niche of Post Mortem). This direct line would seem the best way to go. VIII,8, but harder than the pitch below.

Mort – IX,9. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 15th January, 2000.

By the summer route except that the left side of a prominent rib was climbed above the roof on pitch 2 rather than the right. Very icy conditions.

Rolling Thunder – 95m VIII,8. A. Mullin (back-rope solo). 5th December, 1999. This serious route is very strenuous, technical and poorly protected throughout. Follows the summer line without the rightwards traverse at half-height to create a fine direct winter line.

1. 25m. Start as described for summer and after the small roof trend up left on two grass ledges to reach a big ledge below a overhung corner with a slabby left wall. At head height in the corner is an *in-situ* copperhead which is all the protection available for the crux above. Use the blind corner for thin hooks which allow a diagonal crack in the middle of the slabby wall to be used. There are thin hooks in

this and in the corner which allow turf to be reached and in turn the belay ledge. Very serious.

2. 20m. Directly above is the continuation fault with a nut at its base. Climb this to reach a grassy ledge with a ramp trending out rightwards. Ignore the traverse out right and continue straight up the overhanging corner above (*in situ* nut at its base). Climb the corner boldly to reach a thin turf groove which leads directly to the next belay on the long ledge.

3. 20m. Above are two fault lines. Ignore the obvious right-trending wide crack and use a blind groove farther left to reach a sloping foothold out on the left arête. Once gained, use a lump of turf on the arête and the blind groove to make a high step up to reach good turf and then the slanting roof junction and an *in situ* belay.

4. 20m. Traverse up and right to reach the left side of a huge roof. Step down right and make an exposed and bold traverse right below the roof to break out up right onto a turf ledge. A series of blocks and ledges lead out right to easy ground and the ridge.

Note: Climbed on sight with some of the crux moves (pitch 1, above the copperhead) being practised on a tight rope before stepping back down to the ledge and re-climbing it (not resting). There was helpful ice under the final roof, although it meant no protection. Five falls in total taken on the route.

Tough-Brown Ridge:

Mordwand – 200m IV,5. S. Richardson, G. Robertson. 21st January, 2000.

The sinister-looking wall to the right of Backdoor Route. Good turf and protection result in an enjoyable mixed route which holds snow well after a thaw. Start 30m up and right of Backdoor Route directly below a smooth left-facing groove situated 30m up the wall.

1. 50m. Climb mixed ground up to the groove and pass it on the right via steep turf walls. Continue up and left to an excellent stance on the left edge of the wall overlooking the Variation Start to Backdoor Route.

2. 50m. Move back right on to the wall and climb diagonally right and surmount a steep step to reach an easier groove-line above. Climb this to a good stance.

3 and 4. 100m. Easy ground leads to the crest of the buttress. Follow Backdoor Route to the top

Black Spout Pinnacle:

Once in Ten Years – V,4. R. Clothier, N. Harper. 16th January, 2000.

A snow-ice route up the blank fault between The French Connection and Katsalana, finishing approximately up the latter. Technically easy but poorly protected in the unusually icy conditions.

Extortionist – 35m E2 5b*. J. Lines, C. Ord. 29th August, 1999.

Start 5m right of Epitome at a right-facing corner. Climb the corner to a roof and pull left on to the wall. Make a couple of thin moves up to better holds and finish into a short V-corner. Move up on to The Springboard to the belay and abseil point. Sustained and well protected with one harder section.

Hood Route – VII,7. J. Currie, G. Robertson. 9th January, 2000.

Climbed in very icy conditions. The route was started by the first pitch of Epitome.

The Stack:

Stackattack – 130m VI,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 23rd January, 2000.

A varied mixed route which spirals leftwards from the foot of Redemption to reach

The Stack, then breaks out right from the Icy Recess Variation of The Stack to finish up the exit gully of Torquing Corpse. Requires icy conditions.

1. 50m. Start at the foot of Redemption an exposed horizontal break. Traverse the break leftwards, make an awkward move around a bulging nose, then move up and left to a good stance on the traverse line of Torquing Corpse pitch 2.
2. 20m. Move left and climb the steep left-facing corner, as for the Icy Recess Variation to The Stack.
3. 20m. Continue up the Icy Recess, but instead of escaping out left at its top, break out right across an overhanging wall to reach the bottom section of the exit gully of Torquing Corpse. A wild pitch!
4. 40m. Continue up the gully to the top.

The Stuic:

Millennium Buttress – 90m V,5. J. Ashbridge, S. Richardson. 1st January, 2000. The broad buttress between Daybreak Corners and Twilight Groove.

1. 40m. Start below the centre of the buttress and climb grooves and mixed ground just right of the crest to a huge block which forms a window that can be seen from below.
2. 30m. Move up to triangular slab. Climb it using cracks on its right side, then step left and climb a groove through the steep headwall above past a rockfall scar.
3. 20m. Easy ground leads to the final ridge of The Stuic and the top.

First Light – 70m IV,5. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 21st November 1999.

The left side of the steep wall to the left of The Stooee Chimney is cut by a vegetated fault.

1. 30m. Climb a steep groove to ledge below the wall. Continue up the fault above, passing through a niche to reach a good stance.
2. 40m. Continue more easily up the crest of the buttress to the top.

The Slot – 70m IV,6. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 21st November, 1999.

The prominent chimney cleaving the centre of Slot Buttress.

1. 35m. Climb a groove to a ledge. Continue up the steep chimney to a good stance.
2. 35m. Finish up the continuation chimney and easy ground to the top.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Central Gully Wall, Buff Slabs:

Stark Direct Finish – E4 6a. J. Lines, W. Moir. 11th August, 1999.

3a. 35m 6a. Directly above the belay is a thin crack in a vertical red wall. Climb this for a few moves, then move right into a right-facing corner. Move right and up and climb the right-hand of twin grooves to easier ground. The belay is 20m higher.

MAYAR, Corrie Fee:

A-B Direct – 250m II. D. F. Lang. 13th February, 2000.

Start at the lowest point of the buttress left of the base of B Gully. Climb up and left from a rock alcove to emerge on the heathery and turfy buttress. Ascend more or less directly but avoiding the shelf of that route by climbing directly up to join the ramp of Central Route. Just short of the edge overlooking B Gully Chimney, ascend to reach a groove, then work up over the capping blocks to emerge on a short arête overlooking the upper chimney of A-B Intermediate. Move delicately along the arête to land at the col of A-B Intermediate.

Dave McGimpsey on the crux pitch on the first winter ascent of 'Mort' IX,9, Tough Brown Face, Lochnagar. Photo: Brian Davison Collection.

The corries of Beinn a' Bhuird and Eastern Cairngorms from Lochnagar. Photo: Niall Ritchie.





GLEN CLOVA, Craig Maud:

Pinnacle Ridge – 200m II. S. Richardson. 4th January, 2000.

This is the buttress between Curving Gully and North Gully and the winter ascent approximates to the summer line. Start at the bottom left corner of the buttress and follow an easy ramp up right. Move through mixed ground to snow slopes which lead into an icy recess. Climb this and finish up the centre of three grooves.

BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche:

The Magic Carpet – 110m V,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 11th January, 2000.

The ice streak which occasionally forms down the slab left of The Carpet. Climb the slab left of the first pitch of The Carpet (largely banked out on this occasion). The main ice streak was initially too thin so a parallel streak nearer The Carpet was climbed until the main streak could be regained and followed to the top. The Carpet itself was well iced and would have been slightly easier than this route.

The Slugging Match – 150m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 11th January, 2000.

The obvious slabby ramp which forms the left edge of Slugain Buttress, gained by an ice pitch and followed to its apex. From here the higher of two left-traversing lines led to snow slopes immediately right of the Great Slab (the left edge of the upper recess and also the finish shown in the guide to Slugain Buttress, although a right-hand finish is the normal line). Probably a grade harder under powder.

Coire an Dubh Lochain:

Note: Fever Pitch (SMCJ 1997) is considered E5 6a*.

Dividing Buttress:

Seventh Veil – 90m E6**. J. Lines, W. Moir, N. Morrison (on sight). 4th August, 1999.

Climbs the centre of the slab left of Streakers Root. Start up and left of Streakers Root at some boss holds on the slab.

1. 40m 5c. Climb up into a clean groove with a pinkish right arête. Climb this to an overlap, then the slab direct just right of a pink streak to gain a crack. Climb the crack to an overlap and move right into Streakers Root to belay (beneath a roof in a short right-facing corner).

2. 25m 6b. Step down and move left on to the lip of the overlap. Move up via a flake to a curious thread in a pocket (the only runner). Step in the pockets and make thin moves up the centre of the slab into a scoop. Follow the vague left rib of the scoop to a diagonal fault, climbed to its top.

3. 25m. Scramble up right, then away left as for Streakers Root pitch 4.

Coire nan Clach, Crystal Buttress:

Approx. 300m NW of Dividing Buttress is this slabby buttress with pink and green streaks and an overhanging north wall.

Bag of Crystals – 70m E2 5b. J. Lines (on sight solo). 29th July, 1999.

Start at the right end of the buttress at the start of the overhanging north wall. Climb a steep left-curving groove to pull on to a ledge (crux), then move 5m right along the lip of the wall. Climb a faint groove and when it fades, step right to a pink streak. Climb this to a ledge, step left and go up a rib to ledges (40m). Scramble left and up.

Cracked Buttress:

A clean NE-facing slabby wall with a horizontal and a diagonal crack.

The Recluse – 60m E2 5b*. J. Lines (on sight solo). 29th July, 1999.

Start at the toe of the buttress. Move up and pull through a small overlap to follow holds directly up past the horizontal and diagonal cracks to reach some small flakey hand holds. Follow these up diagonally right, pull through an overlap via a crack and go up to ledges (30m). Scramble up the pleasant slabby rib on the left.

Snowdrop – 100m III. S. Richardson. 19th March, 2000.

About 100m right of Crocus Gully is a funnel-shaped snow scoop. Climb a right-slanting mixed ramp for 50m to gain the scoop which leads to steep cornice exit.

Promontory Gully – 180m I. S. Richardson. 19th March, 2000.

Climb the straightforward snow gully through the centre of the Promontory as for the summer line. From here broad snow slopes lead up the crest to the cornice which is normally small at this point.

Garbh Choire:

North-West Slab – 120m III. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 6th February, 2000.

The buttress right of North-Couloir (and Groove) forms a slab with a steep wall at its base and bounded on the right by an arête. Start in the centre of the steep basal wall and climb an obvious break to gain the slab. Zig-zag up the slab on ice until a snow band leads out right to the arête. Climb the line of the arête to the top.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

The Fly – V,7. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th November, 1999.

By the summer route. Pleasingly helpful cracks.

The Slide – 35m Mild VS 4b. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. August, 1999.

About 15m left of The Chute is a steep rib. Climb the corner on the right of the rib until just below a midway platform (this is the original start to The Swing), then step right to gain and follow a groove to the top.

Winter: V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 10th December, 1999.

The ascent started just left of the rib of The Swing and climbed the groove formed by its left side to the midway platform. Tricky moves right gained the groove of The Slide, followed to the top.

The Chute – 50m VI,7. J. Preston, V. Chelton. 29th February, 2000.

Climbed in two pitches, behind and on to the block (15m), then left and up the crack (35m). Well protected, but still high in the grade.

Terminal Wall – VI,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 19th November, 1999.

Close to the summer route. Included a bold section of hooking through and above the overhang on pitch 1.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Coire Mor:

The Fiery Groove – 120m III. A. Nisbet. 30th March, 2000.

A series of grooves are formed by the right edge of Phoenix Buttress. These often fill with ice late season and are partly protected from the sun by the buttress. Start

up the snow bay right of Phoenix Buttress, then climb ice in the second groove to the right of the buttress. A left-slanting groove leads into the nearest groove to the buttress. This leads to the top above the right side of the buttress.

Coire Bhrochain:

Central Chimney – 60m II. A. Nisbet. 30th March, 2000.

The chimney cleaves the amphitheatre wall between the left and right branches of Central Buttress Gully. In late season it can form a narrow runnel of ice. Move on to the rib on the right near the top for the most likely break in the cornice.

CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:

Note: After the small overhang on the wide sloping shelf of Inside Edge, J. Preston continued direct up the corner to the large ledge, an easier and more logical line. G. Ettle climbed Pagan Slit in icy conditions at hard V,6.

At the far left end of the Upper Tier are some terraced walls, well left of Crevasse Route.

Outer Limits – 105m IV,6. G. Ettle, L. Noble. December, 1999.

1. 30m. Climb an easy iced crack-line to belay on the left.
2. 30m. Follow the crack to the steep wall above, then gain the obvious roofed chimney on the right. Climb this with a technical exit right. Move up, then hard left to below a crack-line.
3. 15m. Climb the crack to easy ground.
4. 30m. Go up right to finish.

Gonaeno Groove – 105m VI,7. M. Garthwaite, G. Ettle. 13th December, 1999. Start as for the previous route but heading slightly right into a black chimney and steep iced walls above.

1. 30m. Climb an easy fault-line over one bulge.
2. 20m. Climb the chimney.
3. 25m. Climb up blocky ground to overhangs. Step right and swing over a roof to another steep wall. Ascend on ice to easy ground.
4. 30m. Finish up right.

SHELTER STONE CRAG:

Threadbare (winter), True Finish – 60m IV,4. A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 17th November, 1999.

This is a much better finish to Threadbare (or Consolation Groove) in winter, climbing the original finish to Consolation Groove (summer), which is V. Diff. Start from 'the shoulder', the level section from where the winter ascent traversed off. Climb the crest above, a cracked wall. Continue up a right-slanting groove and a short wall to an easier crest (45m). Finish up this.

The Flake – 70m V,7. A. Mullin, A. Nisbet. 17th November, 1999.

Climbs a prominent right-slanting flake-crack in the wall above the High Ledge, forming an X-shape with Citadel Winter Variation, Independent Finish. Good climbing, gained by an abseil from the top down to the High Ledge, then a descending traverse to near the left end of the High Ledge, close to where Sticil Face joins it. Climb a steep capped groove, then continue diagonally right up the crack-

line until a short steep wall leads to a big ledge below the flake-crack (45m). Climb this past an initial roof (crux) and a large wedged flake to the top (25m).

Central Slabs:

Unnamed – 105m E7***. J. Lines, P. Thorburn. 1st August, 1999.

The linking of Realm of the Senses, L'Elisir d'Amore and a previously unrecorded route called Hard Lines (R. Campbell, J. Lines, 20th July, 1996) to give a continuous route.

1. 30m 5c. The left-hand Variation Start to The Pin.
2. 30m 6c. Realm of the Senses.
3. 45m 6b. L'Elisir d'Amore with a direct finish (climbed before but not recorded). Climb Thor for 15m to the peg in a pocket, then move up the white streak on the left to a good hold and runner. Move up the flake on the left to make a thin move left to a pocket in a pink streak. Go up the pink streak to a line of pockets leading left into a corner. Climb out of the corner using the left wall to where the original line traversed left for 20m to belay. Instead, climb straight up on reasonable holds and follow the holds curving rightwards until they run out at a shield. A flake groove is seen on the right (the continuation fault line of The Harp); make a thin move to gain this and continue up it to the top. Scramble up and right to a two-peg belay in a short overhung corner.

Note: R. Campbell notes that Cupid's Bow is now E5 6b after a fall caused the protection peg in the crux to snap. G. Ettle and M. Garthwaite repeated Consolation Grooves in snowy conditions and agreed with VII,7.

The Steeple, Dusk Till Dawn Version – 285m IX,9. A. Mullin, S. Paget. 20th November, 1999.

The route is technically very arduous throughout. Climbed almost entirely in the dark with the exception of two pitches; 24 hours spent on the route without a bivouac. Takes in the summer line of The Steeple with the exception of pitch 4.

1. 30m. Summer Steeple.
2. 25m. Summer Steeple.
3. 45m. Climb up and left on ledges to reach a steep blank looking wall with a right-trending flake crack at half-height, climb this to reach the grass terrace.
4. 15m. Traverse easily right to reach the block belay below Needle pitch 4).
5. 30m. (revised pitch length) Take the Postern crack and then go left to large bay below steep slabby corners.
6. 20m. Climb the overhung wall and corner with a hard exit left at half height to gain a ledge (common with the top of Needle pitch 4.)
7. 45m. Above is an overhung wall left of a slabby ramp and barring access to the base of pitch 5 of Steeple. The layback crack of Steeple was climbed, then over a fierce bulge to reach a ledge 5m below Steeple corner).
8. 15m. Climb the corner with a serious start to reach a niche and awkward hanging belay.
9. 30m. Two nuts for aid were used to start this pitch. It becomes extremely sustained and serious thereafter with a hard exit over a roof at the top.
10. The sting in the tail as in summer.

Note: This was the third attempt on the line. Pitches 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 were not climbed on previous attempts. Although we had an excellent knowledge of the cliff and the

route, most of these pitches proved to be very demanding in the dark. Climbed in excellent winter condition. Frozen turf was essential in order to do this route, and although the top 30m were climbed in thawing conditions (little snow), the turf remained frozen. No pegs were placed on the ascent, although two were *in situ* on the layback pitch. The grade is uncertain; it is certainly no lower.

HELL'S LUM CRAG, The Lower Slabs:

Goofey – 45m VS 4c. A. Fyffe, M. Diggins 7th August, 1999.

Start at the lowest point of the slab and climb a thin crack just right of a deeper, vegetated crack and left of the left facing corner to the overlap. Step left into the next crack system and follow this easily to the headwall which is climbed by the right hand of three cracks.

Mars – 40m E1 5b. M. Diggins, A. Fyffe 7th August, 1999.

The thin crack right of Pluto is gained over a steeper, bulging section (crux). Follow the thin cracks and finish up the green crack in the rib left of the right facing corner of Pluto at the top.

Note: Start same as Firestarter (SMCJ 1999).

The Glasnost Slab:

Anarchy – 45m HVS 5a. A. Fyffe, M. Diggins 7th August, 1999.

Pleasant climbing up the vague rib which defines the left side of the slab. Start from the ledge and climb shallow grooves up and left to an easing. Move right into a short left-facing corner and climb the wall above to gain a slanting, left facing groove with a crack in its left wall. Climb the groove and continuation fault to easy ground. Scramble left on rock ledges to a descent.

The Frontal Face:

Prince of Darkness, Variation: E2 5b**.

A variation to pitch 2 to give more sustained climbing.

1. 25m 4a. Start as before and move to below an obvious single crack splitting the slab.
2. 45m 5b. Make a bold move to gain the crack and climb it (well protected). Continue to the red slab.

Devils Advocate – 50m E4 6a*. J. Lines, T. Hui Li. 23rd June, 1999.

A slightly contrived line, but with superb climbing. Start at a thin vertical crack in a slim green buttress about 4m to the right of Lion of Judah. Climb the crack to a small footledge at 4m. Step up and make a very thin move up and left to better holds. Place a runner in the crack above, then step down and move right on to the slab. Make awkward moves up and slightly left to below twin hairline cracks. Climb between these (marginal RPs) to the top.

What the Hell! – 145m E2/3. J. Lines, P. Thorburn. 31st July, 1999.

An eliminate trying to take hard ground between Kiwi Gully and Escalator. Start just right of Kiwi Gully at a smooth slabby buttress.

1. 45m 6a. Make a very thin start up the slab and continue on improving holds. Scramble up to beneath the long overlap at its right-hand end.
2. 25m 6a/b. Climb a thin crack through the overlap just right of Beelzebub cracks

(6b for the short), move up the slab to a break and continue up to beneath the next overlap.

3. 25m 4b. Move up to the overlap, then left and cross it via a small right-facing notch. Climb a pink streak to the glaciais.

4. 50m 5a. Climb vague pink streaks on the right into the niche of Devils Alternative and finish up this route.

Note: The unnamed route in SMCJ 1999, p125 is called Dust Devils.

STAG ROCKS:

The Troglodyte – 25m HVS 5a*. G. Latter. 13th July, 1999.

Climbed in error for Quartz Digger's Cave Route. Start 6m down left of the cave (as per guidebook description). Move up and climb a steep left-slanting ramp, then a groove leading to easier ground and the belay on the parent route.

Albatross – 70m IV,4. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham, S. Blagbrough. January, 2000. The ramp below and right of Bambi and slanting up rightwards is quite wide. Climb the ramp and a steeper section at the top to gain the higher of two ledges and a flake belay overlooking the defined groove of Purge. Go diagonally right across Purge to finish up a steeper, shallow fault leading to easy ground (as for Albino).

Roamin' Wall – 55m E1. G. Latter, M. Fitzsimons. 24th July, 1999.

An attempt to climb the centre of the triangular wall at the head of Amphitheatre Gully (right of the corner pitch of Amphitheatre Wall). Climbing on-sight, damp gritty rock forced a somewhat unsatisfactory deviation into the corner on the right.

1. 30m 5c. Climb close to the centre of the slab past a number of horizontal breaks, until forced into the corner on the right (old PR) for a short way. Return left along an obvious traverse line to finish up a steep jam crack.

2. 25m 4b. Finish up the fine top pitch of Amphitheatre Wall.

COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:

Between The Three Decrees and Yukon Jack are two crack-lines. They will bank up.

Sharks Fin Soup – 90m V,6. J. Preston, G. Ertle, I. Taylor. 10th December, 1999. The left-hand crack climbs up through a fin-like flake and its thin continuation for 40m to join The Haston Line.

The Despot – 90m V,7. G. Ertle, J. Preston. 19th November, 1999.

The right-hand crack gains a short left-facing corner which is steep but amenable. Continue in the same line to finish up Yukon Jack.

The Truncator – 85m VI,7. M. Garthwaite, G. Ertle. 20th February, 2000. Start as for No Blue Skies.

1. 20m. Move up the diagonal fault a few metres. Climb up a steep break in the overhangs above to slabs and a belay in the obvious groove.

2. 25m. Follow the groove right into Melting Pot. Go up this for 10m.

3. 20m. As for Trunkline. Break out right on to the pillar and up blocky terrain to belay on The Message.

4. 20m. Climb a crackline just right of The Message.

Aladdin's Buttress:

The Celtic Edge – VII.7. K. Grindrod, J. Wiggins. 26th January, 2000.

Based on the summer line of Edgewood, except finishing up Doctor Janis on the last pitch. The crux was pulling out from crack on to slab on pitch 2, with a second crux on the undercut slab on pitch 3 (a little helpful ice).

COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.1 Buttress:

Note: G. Ettle thought Ventricle VII.8.

No. 4 Buttress:

Puffer Extract – 70m V.6. N. Lowry, T. Woodhead. 13th December, 1999.

Start up Deep Throat.

1. 40m. Start up the initial wide groove of Deep Throat. Instead of moving into the crack of Deep Throat, climb straight up past a couple of small bulges into a corner capped by an obvious overhang. From this corner traverse left over a thin steep slab to join Puffer, at the

point it moves 'though the overhang at a gap'. Belay 5m up the groove in a small snow bay several meters below the larger snow bay where Puffer and Deep Throat belay.

2. 30m. Puffer now moves rightwards. Instead, take a direct line above through a steep corner. Continue up leftwards through easier ground.

GLEANN EINICH, No. 3 Buttress:

At the base of No. 3 Buttress is an obvious boiler-plate slab, usually with a water streak down its left and right sides. The slab can be gained by 15 minutes of steep heather from the head of the loch.

Spooky Time – 60m E6 6a*. J. Lines, E. McTavish. 23rd August, 1999.

A slab climb of some character with some gritty rock to earn the name; 60m rope necessary. Start on a ledge on the right beneath the blank slab. Climb a short slab to a finger rail. Move left along this to a vertical pink quartz seam. Climb up to a flake (poor Friend#1 $\frac{1}{2}$). Step up on to the slab and smear until an easing in angle. Move up to a weird flake/pocket (good Friend#2 and others), then move up and diagonally left along a line of quartz knobs until an easing in angle. Pad directly up the easy-angled slab between water streaks to the top.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS**Findon Ness (p103):**

Siva – 20m E3 5c. W. Moir, M. Levack. 23rd May, 1999.

Start up Guru then go up to climb through a notch in the huge beak/roof.

Tilly Tennant (mistakenly written as Castle Rock of Muchalls in the guide, p140):

Diedre Esoteria – 12m VS 4c. N. Ritchie, W. Moir. 29th January, 2000

The corner right of the prow.

Wild Is The Wind – 15m E5 6a. W. Moir. 29th January, 2000.

The intermittent crack-line up the prow.

Petries Hole (p 169):

Blackballed – 8m E3 6a. W. Moir, P. Allan, N. Ritchie. 26th February, 2000.

The undercut nose and line of flakes on black granite just above the sea.

The following were sent by M. Reed; the relationship to Blackballed is unknown: Access is as per the guide (p169). The crag forms a ridge running east to the sea and has separate little walls in its length. The biggest wall, close to the cave, is birded, but the smaller walls are not too bad. The routes were climbed on-sight and soloed.

As you descend the slabs toward the sea, in a small hidden gully is a short east-facing wall of poor, crumbly granite with an obvious black rectangular shaped right arête, capped by a slab, and possessing a strange-shaped rock feature:

The Lonesome Lug – 8m H. Severe. M. Reed. 21st May, 1999.

Blacklist – 5m Severe. 21st May, 1999.

Going east again, pass an open green gully (descent) and a black north-facing wall with a flake-crack.

East of Blacklist is small slabby, south-east facing wall which can be traversed leftwards at V. Diff. to the south side of the crag. The next lines need a low-ish tide. *Cold Shoulder* – 8m Mild VS. M. Reed. 21st May, 1999.

From the middle of the traverse, go straight up the centre of the scooped wall on perfect rock which becomes mossy near the top. Variation possible.

The next routes start from the ledge below the south-facing wall, reached from the traverse. The old VS mentioned in the guide, is the big green central crack. Watch the tide!

Coral Dew – 8m VS 4b*. M. Reed. 21st May, 1999.

Climb up from the right end of the ledge, up a vague scoop, to a prominent small spike and a small ledge. Finish up the blunt rib. A bold wee number.

Alienation – 8m E3 6a**. 26th May, 1999.

The cracked wall right of the VS. Climb the right-hand crack to pockets, then the left-hand crack boldly to the top. A wee cracker! The second ascent, by T. Rankin, confirmed E3.

Humerous Hughie – 8m Mild VS*. M. Reed. 26th May, 1999.

Start up the VS, move left along a diagonal break, and then climb the obvious green left-facing corner to the top. A fine wee climb.

Solitude – 10m VS 5a*. M. Reed. 26th May, 1999.

Start from the lower ledge, down and left of the VS (low tide.) Go up the black wall passing a small triangular niche, then up to a small flat-topped protruding block. Go up, then right to the highest point of the wall (or finish direct if no birds.)

Dry Moss – 10m H. Severe. M. Reed. 1st July, 1999.

The green mossy crack at the left end of the wall, straight up. Definitely no stars.

Seals Cave (p 170):

Tide and Time – 30m E6 6b. M. Reed, T. Rankin. 5th April, 1999.

From a belay on the ledge of Crocodile, go left on to the big wall on gritty rounded holds. Follow a line up and left of the arête to climb a slim groove right of an obvious brown rock scar. From the top of the groove make a move up, then traverse left on gritty rock to a black horizontal break and good gear (2xFriend#0). The crux

follows, up via a small undercut to a shield-like flake, then up over Crocodile's ledges to the top.

Velitand – 20m E4 6a. M. Reed, P. Benson. 20th February, 2000.

Climb the hanging crack/groove above the small square roof in the big corner to the right of Crocodile's belay. This was climbed in a bitter wind and required one rest to warm up frozen digits.

The next routes are at the north end of Seals Caves, below the small hanging quarry. The only existing route mentioned in the guide is Piranha (p 172).

Trilogy – 25m E1 5a. M. Reed (Top roped before solo). 13th March, 2000.

Start from the mantel block below Piranha's crack. Step left on to the streaked wall, climb up the wall initially using the left arête, then the natural flake-line going right to rejoin Piranha at its fine top corner.

Salmon Pink – 25m E2 5c. W. Moir, N. Morrison. 13th February, 2000.

Start up Piranha then take the first shelf-line left. Climb the overhanging crack and hanging corner above.

Salmon Chanted Evening – 25m E2 5b. W. Moir, N. Morrison. 13th February, 2000.

Take the second shelf left out of Piranha and climb a crack just right of the hanging corner of Salmon Pink.

Heavens Hound – 15m H. Severe. M. Reed. 1st February, 1999.

Right of Piranha. Takes the line of least resistance up good rock right of Piranha, then coming back left to exit. It now has a more direct partner in:

Clunk Clique (Every Trip) – 20m HVS 5b. M. Reed, E. Brown. 11th March, 2000.

This goes straight up (where Heavens Hound goes left) through the steep ground right of Piranha, using a prominent small flake that juts out perpendicular to the rock, on to a ledge, then up to a good spike common with Lung Shadow. Great gear.

Lung Shadow – 15m HVS/E1 5a. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 24th March, 1999.

Start from directly below the left end of the big roof and climb the grey-streaked wall to an obvious spikey jug. Pull round the roof on good holds in dark rock to a good spike. Finish easily.

The big roof feature now sports two high-quality climbs:

Teardrop – 20m E4 6a***. M. Reed, N. Anderson. 24th March, 1999.

Climb easily up to a white-stained nose, pass it on the left and stand on it. Go right along the juggy rampline for a move or two, then go back left to the top of the first groove. Continue up the second groove to the top and a thread belay on the slab above. This route has now had three ascents and was originally recorded climbing the first groove direct at E4 6b.

The Tyburn Jig – 20m E5 6b***. M. Reed, J. Duncan. 18th March, 2000 (three falls), 19th March (clean).

This superb route climbs the very obvious hanging crack left of Teardrop on good

rock. Climb easily up to the crack, climb it to a rest on Teardrop, then go left to break through the lip of the roof using some quartz holds just underneath. The exit on to the slab had to be brushed, and the entry into the crack was tried on the abb rope.
Note: Initially thought soft E6.

Berry's Loup (p 146):

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun – 10m HVS 5b. W. Moir, P. Allan, N. Ritchie. 20th February, 2000.

The recess and jam-crack through the overhang left of Cyndi Louper.

Descend a chimney below the previous route to reach the next three routes:

The Issue – 10m E1.

A remarkable wee roof-crack, a desperate free-climbing challenge.

Avoiding The Issue – 10m E1 5a. W. Moir, N. Morrison. 13th February, 2000.

The wall right of the overhang via a flange.

Tender Cleft – 12m. Diff. W. Moir. 11th March, 2000.

The first crack reached on the slabby east face, around the corner from the previous climb.

Silkies Cliff (p147):

Silkworm – 12m HVS 5a. W. Moir, R. Hewitt, N. Ritchie. 11th March, 2000.

The groove in the arête right of Silk Cut.

Wireless Wall – 14m E3 6a. W. Moir, R. Hewitt. 11th march, 2000.

The left-slanting crack, slab and quartz overhang left of Wire-Nest Corner.

Last Tangle In Partick – 14m E1 5b. N. Ritchie, C. Munro. 11th March, 2000.

The slim hanging corner left of Wireless Wall followed by a steep crack through the headwall.

Holy Willie's Prayer – 12m VS 5a. N. Ritchie, W. Moir. 12th February, 2000.

The undercut corner just right of Hell's Hole.

Heavenly Pursuits – 12m E2 5b. W. Moir, N. Ritchie. 12th February, 2000.

Another undercut corner with two overhangs lies 5m right. Climb it direct.

Note: M. Reed notes that he managed to get to a small island, only just off the mainland, between Murdoch Head and Longhaven. Access is down the steep grassy slopes opposite, then a jump on to the island at low tide. The main feature of interest to the adventurous climber is the gorgeous 8m gently overhanging east wall of perfect pink granite. The base can be traversed at 5a, and the face has a line of flakes up the left centre which went on-sight solo at 5c, with the added bonus of deep water under its base, called Treasure Island. Just to its left is a very short and steep groove with a finger crack (6a). Also climbed were three other lines, the grooved right arête at VS, a short cracked wall behind and right at HVS 5a, and it's right arête at H. Severe. The west side is only of interest to birdwatchers (30th July, 1999).

MORAY AREA, COVESEA, Boulders Bay (p 250):

Family Affair – 12m E2 5b. J. & B. Hall. 26th March, 1999.

Start directly below the hanging arête between Past Imperfect and Sleepy Hollow. Climb up to a first thread and swing left on to the front face. Move diagonally left, then back right to go straight up the hanging arête. Three threads in place.

Stress Relief – 12m E2 5c. J. Hall, B. Woodward. 7th May, 1999.

The wall left of the Orphan Annie arête gives a bold route with two variations which touch at the key peg runner.

Left Variation – Bolder. Start up the centre of the wall (or more easily up the corner at its left edge), then move right to a ledge next to the arête (peg). Step left (crux) and climb up past the right side of a big flake on the wall.

Right Variation – Climb the wall just left of the arête with occasional handholds and runners on the arête.

CUMMINGSTON, Prophet Walls (p 237):

Africa – 15m E4 6a*. C. Hornsby. 1999.

An aesthetic, but escapable route, climbing the front face of the nose. Boulder up the centre of the wall below the geographical feature 'Africa'. Place protection in the left-facing corner of The Prophet and climb boldly up to gain a standing position below the final headwall (crux). Further protection may be placed in the Prophet crack before finishing.

The Arch Wall (p 243):

Archibold – 10m E4 6a. C. Hornsby. 1999.

Climb Bullworker to the overhang and place protection. Hand traverse hard left 2m placing small Friends in the overhang lip. Move up and left using a shallow scoop. Make difficult and bold moves leftwards (avoid going straight up) to gain the centre of the arch and finish directly up.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**LOCH LINNHE, Stac an Eich (p122):**

R. Everett notes that Let Sleeping Dogs Lie is E5 6b.

GLENFINNAN AREA, Boathouse Crag (Highland Outcrops p 141):

Hypertension – 15m HVS 5a**. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 18th August, 1999.

The obvious crack-line to the left of Very Gneiss Wall. Start up a short corner before moving left below a bulge. Surmount the bulge and climb the crackline directly to the top.

Antidote – 15m E1 5*. A. Hart, C. Grindley, D. Hood, S. Kennedy. 27th May, 1999
Climbs the slabby wall left of Hypertension. Move diagonally up leftwards to a heather ledge. Make awkward moves up then left until close to the left edge. Finish up a shallow crack in the upper wall. Sustained.

Sedative – 15m HVS 4c*. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. July, 1998.

Follows the vague vertical fault line starting a couple of metres right of Very Gneiss

Wall. Climb to the horizontal break at mid height. Step right, then climb directly to the top. Sparsely protected in the lower section.

MALLAIG CRAGS, Carn Mhic a'Ghille-Chaim:

The first major buttress to the right of the Central Pillar is split in two by a deep corner. The left half contains a prominent wide S-crack. The next three routes are on this buttress, and share a common belay point (rickety tree and 2½ Friend). All the routes dry very quickly.

Gael Warning – 35m VS 4c. M. Harris, D. & M. Ballance. 25th September, 1999. The wall left of the S-crack contains a thinner, snaking crack in its upper half. Start below this at a shallow, gardened groove line. Go up the groove to a heather ledge and small spike. Move left for a few feet, then straight up a thin crack, moving left to join the snaking crack at an obvious quartz patch. Go up the crack to its end where the angle eases, then move right around the corner to the tree. The climbing and wire protection are both excellent.

Tinky Winky's Chalkbag – 35m Severe. D. & M. Ballance, M.Harris. 25th September, 1999.

Climb the deep corner, mainly on the right wall, on good clean rock. A few loose blocks in the corner are easily avoided.

Senile Dementia – 25m E2 5c. M. Harris, D. Ballance. 9th May, 1999.

Takes a steep line up the bulging right-hand section of the buttress, starting just left of the descent gully at an easy right-leaning ramp. Start up the ramp, then climb a strenuous overhanging crack to a good hold on the obvious block (which is solid). Make an awkward move to stand up, then continue up easing cracks to the tree belay. (Climbed in the rain on the leader's 40th birthday).

The next two routes are on the rightmost buttress of the crag. This has a large slab on its left flank, which is bounded on the right by a striking leaning arête.

The Noo-Noo – 35m VS 4c. D. Ballance, M. Harris. 23rd August, 1998.

This takes the left-leaning crack in the large slab. Start just left of the toe of the buttress and climb directly up slabs (keeping right of heather) to a ledge and detached block. Now move left into the crack and follow this, finishing direct at the top.

The Judgment – 35m E1 5a. M. Harris, D. Ballance. 9th May, 1999.

Climbs the leaning arête. Technically very straightforward but exposed, with spaced protection. Start as for *The Noo-Noo* to the ledge and detached block. Climb straight up past a hole (good hex possible) to a small overlap. From here, move right to the edge and follow this to a jug in a wide crack. Finish easily in a fine position. (Benjamin Franklin: '....at forty, the judgment...')

Cnoc a'Bhac Fhalaichte (Tarbet Crag, MR 795 920):

This crag faces SW at low altitude and dries extremely quickly. Unfortunately, it lies six miles from the road end at Bracorina, and is reached by a pleasant track along the north shore of Loch Morar. The arduousness of the approach would be greatly mitigated by use of the scheduled boat service to Tarbet from Mallaig, or by canoe via Loch Morar.

The left side of the crag consists of very steep walls broken by ledges, and has several mysterious metal (belay?) stakes on top. The right side of the crag consists of an impressive shield of rock. The following route takes a fine line up this shield: a long, slim corner line facing right, and leaning to the right. This is well seen from the cairn at the top of the low pass between Tarbet and Swordland. From the cairn, walk up to a gear-up spot below the far right-hand end of the cliff. The descent is straightforward, down the gully to the right of the cliff.

Music, Movement and Mime – 50m E3 5c. M. Harris, D. Ballance. 24th May, 1999.

1. 15m. Walk left a few metres from the gear-up spot, then jungle-bash up to belay at the highest trees.

2. 35m 5c. Move up easily at first, then left on to a huge detached block. Go up steep cracks above (passing a small tree) to a niche. Stand on a large flake on the right, then move boldly up and right (crux) to gain the continuation of the crack-line which is laybacked to a resting place. Continue up the shallow right-leaning corner line to the top.

Ardnish Peninsula, Paradise Walls (MR 719 806):

One route has been led on the slabby far right walls above the Paradise Walls:

The Cure for a Forty Footer – 30m. Diff. S. Culpan, J. Watson. 2nd April, 1999.

Follow a diagonal orange crack on an obvious clean ramp.

Lizard Crag:

This immaculate little crag is situated right by the idyllic beach at MR 700 806.

The Lizard – 25m HVS 5a**. J. Watson, S. Culpin. 2nd April, 1999.

Climb the steep groove at the bottom to gain a slab where technical moves lead up the headwall. Finish up and left along a flying arête.

The Snake – 20m E3 5c*. J. Watson (unsec.). 2nd April, 1999.

Five metres left of the previous route a steep corner gains a difficult break which leads right on to the slab of the previous route. Finish as for *The Lizard*.

Glac Ruadh:

The following routes are located on a large area of slab overlooking the gorge known as Glac Ruadh, immediately behind (north of) the hill containing the Gleann Mama slabs (see SMCJ 1998). MR 737 848. To reach the gorge it is best to cut over the side of the hill just before Gleann Mama farmhouse.

Mindstorm – 45m VS 4c*. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley, D. Hood. 30th May, 1999.

Takes a fairly central line up the slab starting close to the lowest rocks. Climb an easy initial slab to a short corner. Move up the corner and break out left. Climb directly up slabs to finish.

Whiz Kid – 40m. Mild Severe*. D. Hood, C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 30th May, 1999.

Climb the corner line to the right of *Mindstorm* via some short steps.

ARISAIG, Sidhean Mor:

The hill is at 600m above Loch nan Uamh near Arisaig (MR 728 867). Approach up Borrowdale Burn path to top of a gorge and flat area with overgrown ruined crofts. Take the right-hand branch of the river up Coire an Eas Bhain and follow it

to the first of two small lochans at which point the 30m dome-shaped crag comes into sight at the top of Sidhean Mor. It is made of good clean schist and would probably dry quickly after rain.

Brae Fahrt – 20m. H. Severe 4b. D. Collier, J. Hartley. 30th July, 1999.

Starts at the lower end of the north-facing wall of the crag. Ascend a leftwards-slanting ramp using a corner crack on the right up to an area of loose blocks. Negotiate them to step right on to a slab and wide crack rising to the right. Finish easily.

Fairy Tricky – 15m HVS 5b*. D. Collier (unsec.). 30th July, 1999.

Start at the upper end of the north-facing wall of the crag up a zig-zag crack. Start vertically up to a rightwards hand traverse leading to a vertical crack and easy to the top. The crack now turns out to be a detached flake.

One for Ewan – 25m Mild VS 4b*. J. Hartley, D. Collier. 30th July, 1999.

The obvious curving crackline to the right of the west-facing slab which gives a fine route on solid rock (larger gear useful).

Note: There are other reasonable-looking routes to be climbed here, especially on the west-facing slab.

DUNTELCHAIG, Seventy Foot Wall:

Save the Tree – 15m E3 6b. I. Taylor (unsec.). 11th August, 1996.

Climb the hanging groove in the nose right of Slings, then finish up a thin crack. Side runners placed in Slings.

HUNTLY'S CAVE:

Sunfish – E4 6a**. J. Watson (unsec.). 4th April, 1999.

An exciting line up the fish-faced nose left of Cave Route and right of Huntly's Wall, finishing up the latter route. Climb the difficult Alternative Start to Cave Route to below the big prow, where gear can be placed in abundance. Launch boldly up and left, using the 'eye' of the fish as the crucial hold, to gain ledges and a well-earned breather. Exposed.

CREAG DUBH:

Snoopy, Variation – 12m HVS 5b. J. P. Dyble, S. N. Riain. 22nd August, 1999.

A variation to Snoopy pitch 2, climbing direct the arête which is left of the second half of the pitch. The previous guide places Snoopy right of Rib Direct while the current guide has Snoopy 'left of Rib Direct', but this seems to be a mistake.

LAGGAN, Creagan Soilleir, Pine Tree Crag:

Approximately 50m right and slightly lower than the main crag is an attractive steep wall of pinkish rock crossed by two left-trending diagonal veins of quartz. Dries very quickly.

Frank Fish – 10m E2 5c. D. Green, S. Richardson. 27th September, 1999.

The shallow left-trending depression in the centre of the wall. Start 1m left of the right edge.

Heather the Weather – 10m HVS 5a. S. Richardson, D. Green. 27th September, 1999.

The prominent flake-crack on the right side of the wall. Finish over the final bulge on good holds.

BINNEIN SHUAS, The Fortress:

Xanadu – 25m E1 5b. S. Richardson, T. Whitaker. 12th September, 1999.

Up and left of Cube Wall is a steep wall with a cracked left edge taken by an unnamed Hard Severe mentioned in the Highland Outcrops guidebook. This route takes a right-curving line right of the arête and finishes up a short wide crack in the centre of the wall. Start 5m right of the left edge and climb a thin crack to a ledge on the arête. Move up and right across twin cracks, step right into a small rounded niche and gain the short wide crack above which leads to the top just right of a huge perched block.

DUNKELD, Upper Cave Crag:

Note: R. Everett notes that Marlina (p296) is probably 7c, based on his ascents of other 7c routes. Also, it should probably be spelled Marlena.

GLEN OGLE, Sunnyside:

Happy Campus – 6c. R. Anderson. April, 1999.

The roof between Let it All Hang Out and Hang On.

Bournville:

J. Horrocks notes that Voodoo Ray (p335) climbed without use of the arête is 6c (rather than 7a) – about the same as using the arête! Using the arête is rather precarious, and going up the wall direct is rather blind.

ABERFELDY, Weem, Weem Rock:

Bark Backerache – 6b. R. & C. Anderson. May, 1999.

Route at extreme right end of crag, just right of Crowing at the Enemy.

Lighten-up – 6a. R. & C. Anderson. May, 1999.

The edge just left of Crowing at the Enemy

Notes from SMCJ 1999, p141 (J. Horrocks):

1. The line taken by Blinded by the Night had previously been climbed without the bolts at VS/HVS and finished at the bolt lower-off of one of the routes to the right. The bolts have now been removed (but not the lower-off).
2. Ghost Trail perhaps 6b+ rather than 6c.
3. Dazed and Confused 6a is rather badly bolted at present.
4. Kinmont Times finishing direct is 6b/6b+.
5. Loose Living – FA G. Ridge, not team Anderson!
6. Clutching At Straws is more like 7a.

GLEN LEDNOCK, Creag na h-Iolaire:

R. Everett notes that Black September (p316) is E3 6a, never E4.

Rumour has it that the new crags on the other side are poor; definitely not worth the given stars, in the independent opinions of two teams.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

BEN NEVIS, Observatory Buttress:

Saturday Rib – 150m III. S. Richardson, R. Clothier. 3rd April, 1999.

The rib left of Good Friday Climb.

1. 50m. Start at the foot of Good Friday Climb and climb mixed ground to gain a snow slope. Climb this to a mixed arête left of Good Friday Climb, Left-Hand Finish and move up to the foot of a steep buttress.

2 and 3. 100m Climb the buttress and finish up the crest of the buttress to the top.

Indicator Wall:

Soft Ice Shuffle – 120m IV,4. S. Richardson, R. Clothier. 3rd April, 1999.

The short buttress just left of Indicator Wall. Start 20m up Good Friday Climb where a ledge leads right onto the crest of the buttress.

1. 30m. Climb an icy groove up and right to a cave. Exit left by a short wall and climb mixed ground to a stance on the left.

2. 50m. Step back right into an icy groove and climb this to the top of the buttress. Climb ice then snow to the exit gullies of Indicator Wall.

3. 40m. Take the left of the three gullies to the top.

Pinnacle Buttress of the Tower:

Smooth Operator – 210m VI,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 26th March, 2000. A good sustained mixed climb close to the crest of Pinnacle Buttress between Stringfellow and Butterfingers. Start below the initial gully of Stringfellow.

1. 50m. Climb the gully for 3m then move right on to the buttress and climb a right-slanting slot to reach the crest. Continue up steep mixed ground to reach the terrace. Move right and belay below the right-trending shallow gully of Butterfingers.

2. 30m. Climb the steep right-facing corner left of Butterfingers and continue up the left-slanting gully above to the cave stance.

3. 30m. Exit the cave on the right then step back left onto the steep wall above. Climb a vertical right-facing corner and squeeze up the continuation chimney to a good stance just right of the crest of the buttress.

4. 10m. Climb the awkward wall behind the stance to reach the good platform at the top of Butterfingers pitch 3.

5. 20m. Move right around the edge (as for Butterfingers) then climb straight up the left-facing corner above which leads to the platform of broken blocks on the crest of the buttress. Junction with Stringfellow.

6. 20m. Move up a short left-facing corner and climb the centre of the headwall to reach the summit of Pinnacle Buttress.

7. 50m. Continue along the ridge to the foot of the Great Tower on Tower Ridge.

Garadh na Ciste:

Raeburn's not so Easy – 285m III,4. K. Bell, D. Thompson. 13th March, 2000.

1. 40m. The original first pitch of Raeburn's Easy Route.

2. 45m. Go up the snow slope slightly right to an iced slab.

3. 45m. Climb up the right-hand edge of the iced slab and cross a snow slope to a small rock outcrop.

4. 30m. Go straight up the snow slope to a cave at the right-hand side of a rock band.

5. 40m. Traverse right for 10m and ascend a bulging iced chimney-corner.

Fergus MacCallum on the first winter ascent of 'Clough's Cleft' V,6, Blaven, Skye. Photo: David Ritchie.





6. 40m. Make a rising traverse right around a corner to rocks below an icefall.
7. 45m. Climb on good ice for 25m, then finish up a steep snow slope to the cornice plateau.

Creag Coire na Ciste:

The Gift – 110m III. A. Ferguson, C. Sutcliffe. 11th March, 2000.

The route lies between North Gully and Four Play. Start at the base of North Gully. Take the ice smear on its (true) left wall up on to the buttress. After about 35m the crest of the buttress is reached and a further 10m of easy ground leads to a rocky outcrop. The route then proceeds along the top of the buttress to the snow fan and plateau.

Jubilee Buttress:

Morton's Neuroma – 170m V,5. N. Gregory, C. Foubister. 10th February, 2000. To the right of Central Gully (on the Trident Buttress) between it and Jubilation is a small buttress. There is steep icefall at the toe of the buttress.

1. 50m. Climb the steep ice fall at the toe of the buttress for 6m to easier ground and a peg placement on the right wall. Follow a rising left traverse to a second steep ice fall; follow this (exposed) to a shallow gully and a poor belay on the right at its top.
2. 60m. Climb up and right to the main snow apron via short icy steps.
3. 60m. Continue direct to join Central Gully coming in from the left where the snow apron narrows.

Carn Dearg:

Note: B. Poll and A. Teasdale climbed the last pitch of Bewildabeast at VI,6 as a direct finish to Gemini on 13th March 1999 (thinking it was new).

Wray's Wrib – 120m III. S. Powell, J. Wray. February, 1994.

From the top of the first pitch of Waterfall Gully. Step right and follow an ice-filled groove up and right to a snowy rib which forms the right-hand side of the middle section of Waterfall Gully. Follow this rib to a small buttress, climbing this by a crackline right of centre into a snowy saddle. Climb the groove beyond to re-join Waterfall Gully after it exits rightwards in to the basin.

North Wall of Carn Dearg:

Macphee's Route – 165m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 12th February, 2000. An interesting and unusual route following the summer route in its entirety.

The climb takes a rising traverse across the North Wall of Carn Dearg and is recommended in wild weather or conditions of deep snow. Start by following a shelf 50m right of Staircase Climb to reach a vegetated groove on the left edge of the North Wall.

1. 40m. Climb the groove and ensuing chimney to a belay on Broad Terrace.
2. 25m. From the left end of the terrace climb a narrow vegetated groove (Macphee's 'broken crack') and exit right on a slab to reach the left end of Flake Terrace.
3. 40m. Traverse the terrace rightwards to a stance at the top of a downward step.
4. 20m. Slither down a chimney, then negotiate the Crevasse by climbing down into it and moving along its base. Belay on a huge block at its end above a narrow chimney.

Doré Green on 'Pantagruel' ED2, East face of the Petit Jorasses. Photo: Simon Richardson.

5. 40m. Climb down the chimney and traverse right to a prominent block to the left of The Shroud. From here a 25m abseil leads to easy ground at the foot of Cousin's Buttress.

Raeburn's Buttress:

The Crack – 360m VIII,8. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 13th February, 2000.

A major undertaking and compelling winter line. Very sustained and strenuous. Due to the steepness of the lower section, very snowy conditions are required for the route to be in acceptable winter condition. The winter route differed slightly from the summer line, so a full description follows below. Start by scrambling up mixed ground to a block belay at the foot of steep slabs which guard access to the crack soaring above.

1. 25m. Step left and climb a short vertical wall to gain a vegetated slab. Move up and right and pull over a series of overhanging steps to reach a block belay just right of the crack.

2. 15m. Climb the overhanging chimney-crack to a stance on the right.

3. 25m. Move back left to the crack and climb it over a bulge (two rests taken). Continue up the crack to a good platform on the left.

4. 20m. The crack bulges above. Step down and right to a ledge, move along this for 3m, and climb a series of overhanging walls to where the angle abruptly eases. This is the variation climbed by Robin Smith in 1956.

5 to 7. 125m. Continue up the crest of Raeburn's Buttress for three pitches. The angle steepens as the buttress narrows, and the final blade of rock was passed on the left by a vegetated groove above Intermediate Gully.

8 to 11. 150m. An exit can be made from the top of Raeburn's Buttress by moving into the snow bowl left of South Castle Gully, but this likely to be avalanche-prone if there is sufficient snow for The Crack to be in condition. Instead, trend up and left up the right side of the upper section of Baird's Buttress via open snow grooves to reach easy angled snow slopes leading to the summit of Carn Dearg.

The Castle:

The Castle Direct – 90m IV,4. S. Powell, J. Wray. February, 1994.

In the upper reaches of the Castle, the normal line follows a gully just left of centre then exits right. The line of the Direct takes a straight line up steep ground some 25m to the right of that gully, exiting directly at the normal finish point of the Castle.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain:

Proposal – 70m V,6. M. Pescod, T. Barton. 6th February, 1999.

Start below a crack on the left side of the buttress containing Stirling Moss, some 5m up and left of that route.

1. 35m. Climb to a ledge at the base of the crack and climb it steeply to a large ledge.

2. 35m. Step right and climb the crest of the buttress to finish easily.

Note: A. Kimber notes that Siamese Twin (SMCJ 1998, p648) has been climbed before on numerous occasions as a variant to the normal line on Left Twin which is only 2m to its left. The line has been recorded as such in his guidebook (p 138).

Back Street Boogie – 70m VI,6. M. Pescod, F. MacCallum. 20th December, 1999. On a small buttress behind the Prow, i.e. farther left (or farther away from Easy

Gully). To get to the base of the buttress go around the Prow and up a short gully. The buttress is set up and back a short way. The climb itself goes straight up the front of the buttress which is only about 5m wide.

1. 30m. Climb up ice slightly leftwards to a bulge that leads to an ice slab. Gain a right-facing corner and climb it (mixed) to the top of a pillar.

2. 40m. Climb the steep wall above on turfey cracks (strenuous), continue to a snow crest that leads to the summit.

Note: The line of Smoking the White Owl was first climbed in the winter of 1984 by R. and F. Kincaid. S. Powell (who sends this note), then soloed it the following winter.

AONACH BEAG, North Face:

Aquaphobia – 125m VI.6. A. Cave, K. Cool. March, 1999.

Essentially, this climbs the slim ice pillar right of Stand and Deliver.

1. 35m. Climb up to the base of the pillar.

2. 40m. Climb the pillar steeply and then make awkward moves up on rock and out left on to ice to finish just right of Stand and Deliver. (A good finish would be to go straight up the crack above, however during the 1st ascent there was a major thaw happening so we stayed on the ice).

3. 50m. More easily to the top.

Excalibur – 260m VI.6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 27th January, 2000.

A good direct ice line up the unclimbed buttress between Royal Pardon and Camilla taking in the previously 'untrodden snowfield' in the centre of the buttress. Start 10m left of Camilla just left of a blunt rock rib.

1. 50m. Climb left of the rib to reach a steep ice wall which leads to easier ground above the rib.

2. 30m. Continue up ice to belay below a steep slot which slices through the barrier wall below the 'untrodden snowfield'.

3. 20m. Climb the slot and belay at the foot of the snow field.

4. 40m. Climb the 'untrodden snowfield' and belay below a vertical left-facing corner which cuts through the buttress at the top right side of the snowfield.

5. 50m. Climb the corner and continue up steep ice to the crest of the buttress.

6 and 7. 70m. Finish up snow slopes to the top.

Mean Streak – 250m VII.6. M. Hind, R. Webb. February, 2000.

Climbs the thin ice streak left of Royal Pardon. Start by the foot of Kings Ransom.

1. 20m. Climb up and right to a prominent spike.

2. 35m. On the right skyline, on the arête overlooking Royal Pardon, is an even more prominent spike at the foot of a thin ice streak. Climb to this.

3. 50m. Climb the streak and easier, but not trivial, ground above to a flake.

4. 30m. Move right and climb an awkward ice bulge to join Royal Pardon.

5 etc. 115m. Continue up Royal Pardon.

The White Queen – 300m II. B. Davison. 6th April, 2000.

Start up a slabby buttress left of the start of Queen's View (SMCJ 1995) initial runnel/chimney to reach the snow basin. From here the route takes the ridge right of Queen's View, starting close to where its gully narrows. Follow a fault up right

on to the crest of the ridge and stick to it as close as possible. A snow slope leads to a second buttress on the ridge. From a block at its base follow a right to left turfy ramp and easy rocks to snow. Bypass the final rock buttress on its right and finish on snow right of the summit.

The Black Prince – 300m II. A. Nisbet. 6th April, 2000.

After the same start up the slabby buttress into the snow basin, take the easiest line up a broad ridge to finish up snow leading to the final few metres of the NE Ridge.

Note: Starting up the shallow snow gully left of these routes to reach the snow basin, then traversing right to finish up the wide snow couloir which forms in 'the easy ground' left of King's Ransom looks like a pleasant and easy Grade II (there were footsteps in it).

MEALL GARBH:

Moonstone – 165m VII,7. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 19th December, 1999.

A good and varied mixed route taking a direct line up the steepest part of the crag just left of Central Gully. Start below the left branch of Central Gully directly below a prominent 20m high diamond-shaped shield of rock at one-third height on the crag.

1. 40m. Climb a discontinuous turf break through the slabby wall to belay below the diamond.
2. 20m. Climb a steep corner on the left side of the diamond, and continue up the groove which forms the diamond's upper left side.
3. 15m. Climb leftwards up an icy scoop and move across snow to belay on a large block as for Inclination.
4. 20m. Climb the turfy scoop as for Inspiration to belay on a ledge below a diagonal crack with two old pegs.
5. 15m. Step down and right and climb the vertical wall on the right using well spaced turf. To a stance under a roof.
6. 15m. Move right under the roof and climb a thin hanging ice smear to easier ground.
7. 60m. Snow slopes lead to the cornice.

CREAG MEAGHAIDH, The Post Face:

Moonlight Fright – 295m V,6. N. Lowry, T. Woodhead. 22nd January, 2000.

Start 5m right of South Pillar.

1. 25m. Climb the obvious corner/fault line, moving through a bulge at 20m.
2. 30m. Continue up the corner, stepping right beneath a wall. Climb out to snow slopes.
3. 45m. Climb mixed ground near the right side of the main face, passing over Post Horn Gallop, to the foot of a narrow right-slanting snow ramp.
4. 35m. Move up the snow ramp and round the right edge of the main face to steep snow overlooking South Post Direct.
5. 30m. Make moves back left on to the face of the buttress and continue up right alongside a snow crest overlooking the top bowl of South Post Direct.
6. 20m. Climb into the left side of the upper bowl of South Post Direct to below the right face of the top tower.
7. 30m. Move back diagonally left over steep snow slopes to crux moves round the

arête of the top tower. A small chimney leads to easy ground on top of the tower.
8. 80m. Continue up easy ground to the plateau.

Great Buttress:

Born Slippy – 335m VII.6. A. Clarke, N. Kekus. 23rd January, 2000.

A good icy mixed climb, starting at a curving right-facing corner, just left of the right edge of Great Buttress and following the corner to a steep barrier wall, the same wall breached by the crux second pitch of Postman Pat farther right. The mixed wall leads to ice smears and a rising traverse to join the top of pitch 3 of Postman, finishing up this. Follow the corner (thin ice present) to an awkward exit onto a shelf, below the steep barrier wall (60m). Slightly on the right is a snow-filled groove, capped by a small overhang. Climb this and the ensuing ice smear to belay at some loose blocks (45m, crux). Continue up icy grooves above (40m). Make a diagonal rising traverse rightwards to belay at the top of pitch 3 of Postman Pat (30m). Finish as for the Postman (160m).

Note: P. Thorburn and D. McGimpsey climbed Postman Pat via a direct icicle which had formed down the start to pitch 2 (i.e. avoiding the left traverse). Grade VI,6 overall.

BEN ALDER, Garbh Coire Beag:

Culra Couloir – 300m III. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 6th February, 2000.

The prominent wide left-slanting gully on the left side of the Alderwand face gives a fine mountaineering route. An ice pitch at 200m leads to the upper slopes and cornice which is best tackled via the snow ridge up and left.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Lagangarbh Buttress:

To Kill a Mockingbird – 55m E2 5c. A. Nelson, T. Blackmore. 24th May, 1998. Left of Blotch Buttress is a higher black-streaked wall with a roof at the end. This route climbs the smooth red wall right of the roof. Start at a cluster of square blocks below a thin crack. Climb the steep wall above, then directly up to a grass ledge (45m). Climb the crack in the wall above (10m).

The Dial – 90m III/IV. A. Nelson, D. Gunn. 16th February, 2000.

A winter ascent of the summer route.

Lagangarbh Corrie (Coire na Tulaich):

High on the NW-facing side of Lagangarbh Corrie at the foot of the steepest part of the descent route is a prominent icy wall. There are two obvious ice lines on either side of the wall. This route follows the rightmost one.

Sliver – 80m III/IV. D. Gunn, A. Nelson. 31st December, 1999.

Start behind a wall formed by a rocky island with easy snow on each side. Climb the ice steeply to a belay at 50m, then finish more easily to the summit ridge.

Four Feather Falls – 120m III/IV. C. White, P. Harrop. 27th January 1999.

High on the west side of the coire, left of the buttress with the obvious curving chimney, a four-fingered icefall forms (the chimney is a Creag Dubh summer route called Nae Sae Bad, published in the Lomond rock interim guide produced in 1985). Start directly below the fall in a snow bay. A 10m runnel leads to grooves

followed to the foot of the main icefall (90m). Climb the right-hand ice fall to finish just short of the ridge. The right-hand fall was the only one fully formed that particular day. Good short day or poor weather alternative.

The Spate – 100m IV,6**. P. Moores, A. Nelson. 13th February, 1999.

A left-slanting chimney line, icy to start then more mixed, leading to a chockstone at 45m. Surmount the chockstone followed by a step left to gain access to an upper chimney and then a snowy shelf. Traverse up rightwards to finish. Good early in the season. Probably takes the line of Awrong (p116 current guide).

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Lost Valley Buttress:

Tiger Feet – 165m IV,5*. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 16th January, 2000.

The icefall running directly through the line of Sabre Tooth.

1. 45m. Start as for Sabre Tooth, climb up right into the initial snow bay, then follow a slim, left-facing iced corner to belay as for Sabre Tooth at the base of its corner pitch above the terrace.
2. 50m. Step right and climb the icefall running down the wall just right of Sabre Tooth's corner to a belay in the groove above the corner.
3. 50m. Continue to the small upper buttress and climb a groove line slanting slightly left up this to below the final snow slopes.
4. 20m. Easy to the top.

Lost Valley Minor Buttress:

Old Farts Corner – 80m IV,5*. R. Milne, R. Anderson. 23rd January, 2000.

The left-facing corner opposite Grannies Groove high up the gully on the right side of the crag, just right of Chimini Minor.

1. 50m. Climb the iced corner to turf and continue to an awkward exit where easy ground leads to a belay just above.
2. 30m. A choice of easy lines leads to the top.

Note: Well banked, as were the lines of Chimini Minor and Over the Influence, which were much easier looking than when first climbed. Old Farts Corner has been seen with more ice in it and also with none.

GEARR AONACH, North-East Face:

Harebell Wall – 45m Severe 4a*. G. Latter, M. King. 28th August, 1999.

Another fine well protected pitch. Start up the short vertical crack 6m left of Hairy Kipper. Climb the crack then move leftwards and up on good holds, veering slightly right to a prominent crack in the headwall. Climb this, which leads into a short left-facing groove. Exit either directly or steeply rightwards, then direct.

Note: The above party found a jammed nut near the top, so it seems the route has been done before, but it is a good route, and a worthy companion to both neighbouring routes Hairy Kipper and High Flying.

East Face:

D. Gunn notes that winter ascents of Mimsy have been claimed twice (SMCJ 1986 p340 and SMCJ 1995 p680).

AONACH DUBH, Far Eastern Buttress:

North-East Nose – III 4. A. Nelson, A. Paul. 10th December, 1999.

Follow the summer line with a tricky move at the top.

Note: D. Gunn notes that Eastern Slant (SMCJ 1992, p113) and Hu-a-Choy (SMCJ 1997, p357) seem the same, possibly following the summer route, Blister.

Barn Wall:

Sword Fence – 200m IV,5. A. Nelson, A. Paul, D. Gunn. 14th December, 1999. Follows the easiest line up the wall between Bowstring and Barn Wall. Start below a protruding cracked block at 20m. Climb up to and over this. Bear left, then up to big ledge. Go up at the right end of ledge, then hard left along a thin ramp. Go up walls above to a shelf. Continue up easy ramps and walls to the top.

STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN, North Buttress:

The Day After – 70m VI,7. A. Nelson, D. Ritchie. 4th April, 2000.

On the right side of N. C. Gully is a large fin of rock which forms a deep chimney and cave on its right side.

1. 40m. Climb the chimney by its left wall and continue up and left to a ledge (easily accessible from higher up N. C. Gully).
- 2,3. 20m, 10m. Left of a sharp overhang is an obvious V-groove directly above the ledge. Climb this in two pitches to the top.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Church Door Buttress:

Dark Mass – 140m VI,6. M. Bass, S. Yearsley. 4th March 2000.

A spooky route. Based on West Face Route on the lower spur, it then takes a complex line through the upper headwall above West Chimney. Start as for West Face Route.

1. 10m. Climb up and through a narrow crack between the buttress wall and a detached pinnacle.
2. 35m. Stand on top of the pinnacle. Climb the steep crack past the left-hand end of an overlap to enter a vice-like slot. Thrutch up the slot, and step left where it widens. Continue more easily up the buttress.
3. 30m. Broken ground leads to a junction with Flake Route which is followed to the ledge and boulder traverse on the fourth pitch of West Chimney Route.
4. 40m. Above the ledge and boulder traverse is a cracked wall. From the top of a large block on the traverse climb the wall by left-trending cracks (8m), then move up and rightwards into a shallow chimney/groove. Climb this, moving right at its top, and cross a short difficult slab to reach a peg (possible belay). From the peg a series of discontinuous ledges lead down and right to the arête (difficult to protect). Swing round the arête and climb two short steep corners directly upwards to easier ground. Traverse horizontally right for 5m to a belay below a steep corner.
5. 25m. Climb the corner, step right and follow a groove line to the top.

Note: It is possible that the route coincides with Un Poco Loco (SMCJ 1994) for a section on pitch 4.

STOB COIRE NAM BEITH:

Crackwork Grooveplay – 150m IV,4. A. Nelson, T. Blackmore. March, 1999.

Between Crack Climb and Central Gully a slab leads to a steep crack and left-facing corner. Climb the corner to the base of a V-groove. Go up the groove to a chockstone to reach the upper section of 'Central Gully'.

Creag Doire-Bheith:

The following routes are located on the right hand section of the crag containing Alan's Arête (SMCJ 1998, p 657), just right of the central vegetated area. The

routes are worthwhile and get the benefit of any evening sun. Two prominent crack-lines will be seen near the right edge. These are climbed by the initial two routes described.

Whiplash – 22m HVS 5b*. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. July, 1997.

The right-hand crack-line. Start on a sloping shelf up right of the lowest rocks at an undercut section. Step left and pull into the crack. Climb the crack directly to easier ground.

Aristocrack – 25m HVS 5a.**. S. Kennedy, D. Hood. 10th September, 1999.

The left-hand crack-line. Start a couple of metres below the start of Whiplash just below a small tree. Pull leftwards into the base of the crack. Climb the crack directly via a small roof to reach easier slabby ground.

Avizandum – 25m VS 4c*. A. Nelson, S. Kennedy, D. Hood. 16th September, 1999.

Sustained climbing up the wall left of Aristocrack. Start by the lowest rocks and climb a rib left of a mossy groove. Step right into a shallow corner system from the top of the rib. Climb the corner to a small pedestal. Move left into a short hanging corner. Climb the corner and slabs above.

Shangabbitt – 22m E3 5c*. A. Nelson, S. Kennedy. 12th September, 1999.

Steep, fingery and bold, climbing the steep wall right of Whiplash. Start just left of a detached block 3m above the start of Whiplash. Make steep moves directly up the wall on side pulls to a bulge at 4m (HB#4 high on right). Move up leftwards from the bulge to better holds (Friend#0). Climb the clean rib above to a ledge.

AN T-SRON, East Face:

The slabby wall described in SMCJ 1996, p 104.

Cold Turkey – 130m IV 4. A. Nelson, A. Paul. 25th February, 2000.

A winter ascent starting up Coco Leaf.

The corner/groove holds ice which is climbed to mixed ground and a belay under a roof on the right (50m). Continue past a sloping shelf and through mixed ground to the ridge (80m).

Bidean nam Bian, Bealach Fhaolain (MR 137 539):

Gunbarrel Gully – 250m I/II. A. Nelson. 10th February, 1999.

Climbs the obvious parallel gully line with occasional short steps.

STOB AN FHUARAIN, Coire nan Craimh (MR 125 527):

MacEwan Sexport – 40m VS 4c. A. Nelson, A. MacEwan. August, 1999.

Climbs a clean black slab left of the corrie burn before the steep rise into the Coire nan Craimh. Climb the slab just right of centre starting up thin flakes, continuing past a horizontal break then a tricky bulge to finish up quartz holds.

BEINN MAOL CHALUIM, Creag Dubh (MR 132 524):

The Foxes Pass – 90m III,4. A. Nelson. 10th February, 1999.

Climbs the obvious, turfey left-facing corner which splits the crag at the Bealach Fhionnghaill.

GLEN ETIVE, Trilleachan Slabs:

The Baldest – 115m E2*. D. Jenkins, C. Stead, C. Forrest. 8th August, 1999.

On the Upper Slabs. Start just left of the leftmost obvious corner (Take Your Chances) at a three-inch-wide flake-crack.

1. 35m 5a. Climb the crack-line, heathery in parts, to its top, and belay in the corner on the right (top of first pitch of Take Your Chances).
2. 45m 5c. Climb the rib, move obviously left, then go up the slab to gain the foot of a right-trending scooped ramp. Follow this to arrive at a groove. Go up the groove to below a short clean-cut section. The next 6m or so is the crux. Either climb the short groove and go left by a blind crack to belay at heather, or step left onto the steep slab and so reach the same point.
3. 35m 5b. Climb up and gain a slab sandwiched between two laps. Go leftwards towards a big corner, exiting rightwards at the top of the corner. Abseil point in the grassy bay on the right.

ARDGOUR:

Holly Tree Slab – 40m Diff.*.

The obvious gneiss slab on the south side of the road between the two parking places for Garbh Bheinn, 10 minutes from the road (MR 91 ? 59?). Start at the lowest point, avoid the grass patches low down, then head for the apex of the slab. There are easier routes either side of this one.

SNAKE CRAG (MR 929 607):

This gneiss crag can be seen from the long approach car park, there is some seepage but the rock is black so looks very wet from a distance. Approach is mostly flat on a path but a bit boggy – 15 minutes.

Scheme Wars – 16m Severe. D. Hood, C. Moody, S. Kennedy. 30th April, 1999. Climb up past the left side of the pale detached block to gain a ramp. Traverse left, then up to finish.

The Timber – 16m Severe. C. Moody, D. Hood, S. Kennedy. 30th April, 1999. Go direct to the left side of the nose which is near the top of the crag. Follow a ramp out left.

Pitcon – 16m E1 5a/b. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 8th May, 1999. Go direct to the right side of the nose with a bulge to finish.

Lamb's Foot – 20m Severe*. C. Moody, C. Black 17th April, 1999. A fault runs up right; start at the base of the fault. Climb up using a thin crack-line to a steep wall. Step left and follow the hidden ramp up right, then finish straight up.

Bring On The Hail – 18m VS 4b. C. Moody, C. Black 17th April, 1999. Start right of the base of the diagonal crack/fault. Climb up to a grass patch on the fault and continue straight up. Steep with spaced protection.

Putyan – 18m VS 4b. C. Moody (back-rope) 7th May, 1999. Climb the black rock past the right side of a holly bush at mid-height.

Magic Triangles – 20m HVS 5a. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 8th May, 1999. Start at the triangular block in the grass. Climb up to the diagonal crack/fault, make an awkward move up this, then pull up left and continue to gain the triangular recess. Move left to finish up Putyan.

The Battle Of Courthill Street – 20m Severe. S. Kennedy, D. Hood, C. Moody. 30th April, 1999.

Start up One Snake Or Two? and follow the ramp up left.

One Snake Or Two? – 15m Severe. C. Moody, C. Black. 17th April, 1999.

Start just right of the blunt edge where the steep wall meets the slabbier rock on the right. Move up left on diagonal cracks. Before reaching the heather pull over the bulge and continue up a thin crack finishing left of the tree. Belay on small wires 10m farther up.

Lambleg Slab – 15m E1 5a/b*. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 8th May, 1999.

Just right of One Snake Or Two? gain a ledge, then another ledge up right. Climb the steep slab and continue right of the tree.

The pale wall up on the right is a 10m Diff*.

BEAR CRAG (MR 930 609):

Looking from the car park another crag, often with a waterfall, can be seen behind China Crag. This is the crag mostly hidden behind the waterfall crag.

The slab on the left side is Diff.

Garden City – 16m VS 4c*. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 8th May, 1999.

The main fault.

Unnamed – 16m Severe*. C. Moody. 1st April, 1999.

Start at the right side of the steep wall where a crack runs up right. Climb straight up. A climb just left is easier except for the bulging start. There is also a Diff. to the right which crosses a grass ledge high up.

An unnamed V. Diff. climbs an obvious scoop rightwards. Step right, then climb the buttress.

Crag Name Unknown (MR 941 603):

This is the gneiss crag overlooking the burn above Inversanda which can be seen from the road.

The Gathering – 25m HVS 5a. A. Nelson, M. Shaw, S. Kennedy, C. Grindley, C. Moody. 7th June, 1999.

Start just right of the toe of the buttress. Climb easily towards the roof, then move out right. Continue up, then left.

GLEN GOUR, Wooden Gazelle Crag (MR 934 650):

This gneiss crag is far up the glen on the north side of the burn. The end of the crag can be seen from the road but clean rock cannot be seen till well up the glen – 1hr. 10min. from the road.

Fallow Chili – 40m HVS 4c*. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 4th July, 1999.

The rib at the left end of the crag. Start up a corner just left of the tree, step right on to the rib and climb to the top. Maybe E1 5a with different route finding.

THE SLAB:

Gazelle – 25m VS 4c. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 4th July, 1999

Attempts to climb the rib on the left side. Near the top where it steepens, avoid the difficulties by stepping left, moving up the corner, then back right again.

Dik Dik – 25m HVS 5a*. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 28th August, 1999.

Start at the black streak. Climb up left, then follow a crack back right to a circular recess in the centre of the face. Step left (mossy but easy) or climb more directly and finish up the right-facing corner.

Catapult – 25m E2 5b**. C. Moody, C. Grindley, S. Kennedy. 28th August, 1999. Start at the right side and follow the obvious line up leftwards. Fairly bold.

Three Blind Mice – 85m E2/3*. T. Fryer, Y. Taylor, J. McKenzie. 24th July, 1999. Farther right is the highest section of cliff.

1. 30m 5a. Follow a shallow right-trending groove with a black left wall, then trend left on slabby rock. Pull over a bulge, then go rightwards across a slab and finish rightwards up a short groove to a blocky ledge.

2. 30m 5c. Traverse left for 3m, then make long reach over a bulge. Trend slightly rightwards, then go left before pulling over another bulge via a thin crack. Go up the rib to the left of the heather groove to belay left of a heather ledge.

3. 25m 4b. Trend left up slabby rock to the top.

ARDNAMURCHAN, Beinn Gheur:

MacGillivray's Grip – 45m VS 4c. F. Templeton, C. Templeton. 13th August, 1999.

The crag is situated on the flank of Beinn Gheur, east of the road from Acharacle to Doirlinn, about 400m towards Acharacle from the phone box. Approaching Doirlinn the road leaves the River Shiel and cuts through a steep-sided, heavily forested wee glen. There are parallel buttresses rising above the treeline. To the left of these crags is a wide open gully. The crag is triangular and left of the gully – 10 minutes walk.

Ascend an initial bulge in the centre of the crag. Move rightwards to the edge and continue upwards to a larger overlap. Traverse left to the foot of a small double niche. Go up here breaking out left at the top. Move up rightwards and follow the edge to the top of the crag, a pinnacle (25m). Climb on to a sharp grass and moss arête and cross this to large cracked blocks (10m).

ARDNAMURCHAN, Rubha Carrach:

Heart of Darkness – E4 6a**. R. Campbell, P. Thorburn (on sight). May, 1998.

Climbs sensationally up the right-hand groove line in the seaward prow. Start up the right wall of the cave and climb with increasing difficulty on to a limy ledge. From here it would be possible to finish straight up, probably harder. Move up and right across a wall (crux) to better but dodgy holds on a ledge. Climb over scary blocks to a traditional Rubha Carrach finish.

THE ARDNAMURCHAN RING CRAGS

A number of route descriptions and comments have been received and passed on to the authors of the new guide, due out very soon.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

KNAPDALE NOTES (R. Everett):

Pocket Wall is worth three stars.

The Razor's Edge is solid HVS.

Metamorphosis is a terrible route, not worth a star.

The Trial is E1 5b (easier than Pocket Wall).

Several bolt belays have appeared on the tops of many of these buttresses, and there are peg runners in The Changeling, Metamorphosis and Not Waving But Drowning.

BEN VORLICH CRAGS:

Two routes were climbed by R. Anderson (E1 5a) and M. Garthwaite (E5 6a) but no details given.

BEINN IME:

Chockstone Chimney – 160m IV,4/5. S. McFarlane, G. Houston. 20th November, 1999.

Start at the lowest point of the buttress forming the right-hand wall of Fan Gully at a short corner leading to an obvious chimney.

1. 45m. Climb the short corner to easier ground leading to a belay below a large chockstone at the base of the chimney.

2. 45m. Climb up to the dubious chockstone where climbing back on foot leads to a bay below an icy chimney. Climb the left wall on very thin ice leading to belay on the left overlooking the crag.

3. 70m. An easy shallow gully leads to the top.

THE COBBLER, South Face of North Peak:

Gangway – 40m V/VI,7. R. Anderson, R. Milne. 30th December, 1999.

Follow the summer line of Gangway to Fold Direct, then finish up this in three pitches. Climbed under a heavy coverage of snow, thawing in the sun. (See article, this issue.)

ARDVORLICH (LOCH LOMOND-SIDE), The Hidden Walls – MR 324 123:

These two fine mica-schist walls face away from the A82 3km after Loch Sloy power station and can only be found by wandering up through the bracken from the parking spot by the Ceann Mor peninsula (10 minutes, 5 minutes when the bracken's not out!). The left wall has two routes.

That Sinking Feeling – 20m E3 6a*. C. Lampton, J. Watson. Spring 1998.

The groove by the left arete is followed with difficulty to the big slots on the next route, finishing by the same.

Tripping the Waves – 20m E2 5b**. J. Watson, G. Foster. Summer 1997.

The next groove is followed with interest to a difficult move up to the quartzly slots where Friends can be placed to protect the exciting headwall.

The wall on the right has one direct line so far, from the overhang at the bottom to the apex of the wall.

Magic Carpet Ride – 25m E2 5b***. J. Watson, C. Lampton. Spring 1998.

A tremendous and bold wall climb. Start at the overhang and surmount this on good holds to a Friend placement. Tiptoe up and right to a peg, then straight up wall to a farther peg. From here a bold assault is made straight to apex of the wall (crux).

Note: These routes were retro-bolted in summer 1999 and are currently being debolted by J. Watson.

STOB GHABHAR, Coire Dhomhnaill (MR 232 470):

Leave the A82 at Bridge of Orchy and park at Victoria Bridge and take the West Highland Way (mountain bikes used) north from Forest Lodge. When the northern end of the Forestry plantation at MR 282 463 is reached, walk east over moorland toward Coireach a' Ba. After crossing the Allt Coire Dhearbhadh skirt the tip of Sron nan Giubhas, a prominent ridge which descends westward from the northern spur of Stob Ghabhar and continue westward for 2km to enter the small Coire Dhomhnaill. From here the line of a prominent stream will be seen draining the upper reaches of the corrie, however the gully itself remains hidden. Remain on the southern side of the stream and climb steeper ground from the corrie floor to reach a point where a deep cleft splitting the buttress on the left can be seen, from here a steep 15m icefall barring entry to the upper gully is visible.

The Great Divide – 275m III**. D. Stewart, N. Wightwick. 13th April, 2000.

A deeply incised gully cleaving a surprising line through an obscure buttress.

1. 75m. Enter the gully and climb snow to a stance below the icefall, belay on the right.
2. 25m. Climb the icefall and move up to a belay on the right wall.
- 3 & 4. 125m. Easy ground now leads to a point where the gully splits to form a narrower chimney on the left and an open groove on the right.
5. 50m. The open groove leads over short steps to the ridge.

BEINN DORAIN, Creag an Socach:

The Enemy Within – 110m VII,7. S. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 28th December, 1999.

A difficult climb taking the easiest line up the vertical wall between False Rumour Gully and Days of Future Past.

1. 35m. Climb the first pitch of Days of Future Past and belay on the right edge of the vertical wall in an obvious niche with an old peg and thread.
2. 25m. Step down and left and make a rising left traverse above roofs to reach a good stance on the crest of the buttress below a large roof. A demanding pitch with few positive placements and spaced protection.
3. 50m. Climb the steep corner to the left of the prominent prow above the roof and gain an easier groove system which leads to the top.

Golgotha – 150m VII,7. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 5th March, 2000.

A right-to-left rising line with a spectacular finish up the vertical wall to the left of Messiah. Start directly below the 'conspicuous rib' of Scorpion.

1. 40m. Climb a short wall just right of the initial snow gully of The Prophet to gain a right to left ramp. Follow this past a narrow section to the base of the rock ramp of The Sting.
2. 25m. Ascend the rock ramp and groove above (The Sting pitch 2) and step right onto a terrace at its top.
3. 30m. Trend up and right up mixed ground across the wall right of Antichrist to join the curving ramp of Second Coming. Move up to belay in a niche on the right

level with a ledge which extends rightwards across the vertical wall on the right.
 4. 35m. Move right along the ledge and pass behind a huge flake. Continue the traverse slightly down and right to reach a slim turf groove (crux) which leads to a good stance. A serious pitch with sensational exposure and spaced protection.
 5. 30m. Continue up the groove-line above to the top of the crag.

BEINN AN DOTHADH, North East Coire:

Rebate – 250m V,5. P. Figg, D. Johnson, M. Bass. 18th December, 1999.

Start at a tiny snow bay underneath the steep left wall of West Gully, between the foot of the buttress and the ramp of Journey to the East. The climb takes the icy corner above which is well adorned with icicles.

1. 45m. Climb the icy corner, initially on its left side. At 15m step right awkwardly on to a rib, then continue upwards to easier ground.
2. etc. 215m. Climb the buttress above by icy walls finishing up the easy mixed buttress to the left of Taxus Original finish (ground shared with Femme Fatale and Spring Fever).

Note: J. L. Bermúdez and A. Thomas straightened out Clonus on 16th January, 2000, by continuing up in a straight line after the crux over a bulge to reach the normal belay – V,5. It may have been climbed before, but is a better and more logical line.

BEN CRUACHAN, Drochaid Ghlas:

Century – 100m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson. 20th February, 2000.

An interesting mixed climb up the wall to the left of Drumnadrochaid. Start just left of the parallel grooves of Drumnadrochaid below a groove with a prominent 3m finger of rock on its left side.

1. 30m. Pull up a small wall into the groove and climb it exiting right at the top. Follow a ramp up and left to a good stance at its end.
2. 35m. Climb up to the steep headwall which is cut by a prominent slot. Move up the wall to a roof, step left into the slot and climb it to a terrace.
3. 35m. Trend left up snow and finish up the easy left-facing corner above to reach the summit ridge.

MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Cam Chreag, Fan Buttress:

Note: J. Irving notes a return to the crag with The Cider House Rules (SMCJ 1999), climbing the line to the right. Reading the guidebook with a highly critical eye suggested that the two routes might be Chimneys One and Two, but this seems unlikely as neither is chimney like and both would be very technical and sustained grade II's. There are two narrow gullies that would seem to deserve the name of chimney better. The name is an Abbey Road reference.

Something Grooves – 100m III. J. Irving, G. Allan. March, 2000.

Right of The Cider House Rules a line leads up the turf face. It is well defined in the lower half leading to an overhang. This was avoided on the left, and a belay taken on a rocky island in a sea of turf. Further turf lead to easy ground and the top.

GLEN ALMOND:

Pinnacle Gully Buttress – 120m II. C. McNee, D. Kirk. 31st January, 1999.

Take the buttress immediately left of Pinnacle Gully, keeping generally to the crest. The quality is reported as similar to the previous winter route on the crag (SMCJ 1986, p384). The crag is described in the Southern Scotland District Guide.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

THE GLASGOW OUTCROPS, Auchinstarry Quarry:

This needs substantial revision in the guide due to further 'rock stabilisation' work and change in routes. Routes 46 to 54 in particular are probably no more.

Bowling Crag (near Dumbarton):

Bowling crag has been cleaned and lower-offs put in place to help resurrect this worthwhile little venue. The crag is situated by the cycle path in the woods directly across from Bowling train station (the Railway Tavern is good for a pint) and gets the sun in the afternoon. The rock is generally sound quarried basalt. Old bolt-heads suggest the walls have been climbed on before and aided, but since they're not documented the main routes have been led free by John Watson and given descriptions and grades. The routes are well worth their 10 or 15 metres, packing in some eccentric moves! For the faint-hearted, all routes can be top-roped (though someone will have to lead!), and double-rope technique is a must for route 3.

From left to right:

Tom's Chimney – HVS 5a. Bridge up the chimney, using natural rock and the brick wall, to gain a brick ledge (crux). Place crucial gear and either finish through the blocks, or step delicately right and finish up a scoop. Way better than it looks.

Yogi's Wobble – E1 5b*. Climb the arête and step out on to the wall, clip a peg, then take the groove direct with a precarious step-through. Bold but worth it for that move.

Booboo's Knob – E2 5b**. Superb, sustained balances from the arête of the last route traversing across the horizontal break to finish up Yosemite crack. Drop a point if you tweek the old bolt-heads!

Astroboy – E2 6a*. The crack in the middle. A boulder problem start to gain the peg leads to the crack which traverses at the top to the left lower-off. Take RPs and a rock#2.

Yosemite Crack – E3 6a**. The fine obvious fingerlock crack, turning the nose on the left, leads to a perplexing finish. Finishing up the wall direct from the flake bumps the grade up to a powerful E4 6b.

Eiger Suction – E4 6b*. Gain the groove by the sycamore tree with difficulty, and continue through the bouldery crux (RP#0) to better holds and small Friend placements. Go left along horizontal cracks to finish up the previous route. Hard for the grade.

THE GALLOWAY HILLS, Craignaw:

The Dow Spout – 150m II/III. A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 20th December, 1999.

This is the prominent waterfall which occasionally cascades down the east face of Craignaw, about 500m south of the summit. A lovely climb, sustained scenic and varied although infrequently in condition, requiring good conditions then a hard freeze. Rumoured to have been climbed previously.

THE DUMFRIES OUTCROPS, Clifton Crag, Hollowstones Wall:

Infill – 10m E1 5b. S. J. H. Reid, S. Stout. 26th June, 1997.

The thin crack-line between Outcast and the upper section of Hollowstones Chimney is climbed by devious means. Start from the grassy platform as for

Outcast, gained by climbing the first easy section of Jeune Ecole. Climb 2m up Hollowstones Chimney and make a bewildering move leftwards across a slab to gain a short slanting crack and ultimately easier ground to the top.

Infill Direct – 10m E2 5c. C.King, S.J.H.Reid. 22nd October, 1997.

The direct start - strenuous!

Jigsaw Buttress:

Stiff Upper Lip – 22m VS**. S. J. H. Reid, C. King (Alt.). 22nd October, 1997.

A rising girdle. The first pitch makes an excellent Severe in its own right. Start as for Lipstick.

1. 12m 4a. Climb up to below the crack on Lipstick and traverse right to gain a rightwards slanting line of jugs that leads to a finish at the top of Liplet.

2. 10m 4c. Descend slightly the corner of Ratten's Rest and traverse the horizontal break under the grooves, crossing Wall Street, and finishing as for The Groove. Beware dubious blocks.

Note: S. Reid notes that the access details for this crag are wrong in the guide. They should be: From most areas, the approach will be via the A710 south from Dumfries. A few miles before reaching Sandyhills Bay there is a narrow lane on the right (west) and some outcrops can be seen on the hillside to the north of this lane. Follow the lane for about a mile to a small lay-by on the left just past Upper Clifton Farm. A granite stile leads into a field. Walk across this, well to the left of the farm buildings, to an angle in the far wall. A second stile is hidden some 15m to the right. Cross the next field to a gate in the far corner, under Hollowstones Wall. (There has been known to be a bull in the second field – tread cautiously!). There is no need to ask permission (as mentioned in the current guide). Please keep dogs on a lead when in the fields. In spring, birds often nest near the Main Area or Red Slab and these buttresses should be avoided.

THE SOUTH-WEST SEA CLIFFS, Portobello, Cracked Block Bay:

Man Shot by Shed – 15m E1 5a. N. Taylor (unsec.). 3rd May, 1999.

About 3m left of Only Monsters is a similar route which climbs the seaward wall of the block just left of centre. Interesting rock with minimal protection (only a large Friend just below the top).

Labrax, The Central Slab (SMCJ 1999):

The Lotus Eaters – 16m E1 5b**. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 23rd July, 1999.

Fine climbing to gain, then follow the central crack on the slab.

Right-Hand Slab:

Caledonia Dreaming – 20m HVS 5a**. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 1st September, 1999.

A good varied climb. Climb the left arête of the Cranberry Jam slab, using the cracks on the left to gain the ledge at the foot of the wide crack. Traverse right for 2m to the edge. Continue with difficulty to gain and climb the shallow crack just left of the edge.

Laggantalluch, Laggantalluch Head:

Sea Monkey – 20m E2 5c*. N. Taylor (unsec. on sight). 2nd May, 1999.

Start 4m left of Seal Song. Climb a steep left-slanting diagonal groove and crack system to a small rectangular overhang. Pull through its left side with difficulty,

then move up and right to a welcome rest. Continue easily up a small yellow slab, then move back left to follow twin wide cracks to the top.

Note: Peregrine Corner (SMCJ 1999, p158) may well be the same as Stolen Moments (SMCJ 1997, p367).

THE CENTRAL OUTCROPS, Cambusbarron West Quarry:

About 5m to the left of Cha is a clean slabby buttress with two prominent converging cracks.

Mutant Crocodiles – 15m E1 5b**. M. Somerville, A. Morriss, A. Walker. June, 1999.

An excellent route which tackles the left-hand crack. Starting beneath a small overhang, climb the crack and finish direct.

Queer Uncle Henry – 15m E1 5b*. M. Somerville, A. Morriss. August, 1999. Gain the right-hand crack by climbing the short corner. Move left on to the slab, climb the crack, then finish up *Mutant Crocodiles*.

Arse On Stumps – 15m E2/3 5c. M. Somerville, A. Morriss. August, 1999. An bold eliminate line which starts 1m to the right of *Queer Uncle Henry*. Climb the short arête of the smooth slab up to the overlap. Step left, move up and finish up the slab, stepping slightly rightwards, avoiding the right arête.

Looney Tunes – 9m E5 6b**. M. Tweedly, M. Somerville (both led). May, 1999. A bouldery, gritstone-like (complete with unprotected crux and bad landing) route which climbs the front face of the Cha buttress using the right-hand arête. Starting from a tiny ledge make hard awkward moves to gain the horizontal break. From here step right onto the arete and finish straight up. The route was top-roped prior to the ascents and has been graded for an on-sight lead.

Jason's Dilemma – 13m HVS 5a. M. Somerville (on sight), A. Morriss. March, 2000.

Starting just right of Force 8, climb up and right to a huge hold. Climb the crack/arête above this until just below the top, where a traverse left avoids the horrendous looking top-out.

Almost directly opposite Cha is a (fairly) obvious buttress with some prominent clean cracks.

Dark Side of the Spoon – 9m E3 5c*. M. Somerville (on sight). August, 1999. Climb the clean hand crack with help from the left arête of the buttress. A good, well-protected struggle.

Following the walls round to the extreme right end of the quarry (about 250m right of *Dark Side of the Spoon*) is a tiny natural bulging buttress.

Somnambulism – 5m HVS 5b. M. Somerville. August, 1999. Climb the bulging mossy wall with some nice moves. Gritstone micro-routes come to Cambusbarron!

EAST LOTHIAN, Traprain Law:

The Fox – 7m E3 6a. M. Somerville, J. Barker. February, 1999.

At the top of the Law there is a blank diamond-shaped wall. Starting on the left make hard thin moves up the centre of the wall on small sloping holds, passing a poor quadcam#0, to reach better holds and some RP's at the top. Avoid the corner on the left. Side-runners reduce the grade.