

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

OUTER ISLES

LEWIS, The Uig Hills, Hidden Buttress:

Note: With reference to SMCJ 2002, p94, R. Everett notes (with agreement from M. Tighe):

1. Hunting for History is the same as Election Special.
2. Con John follows Election Special for the first 10m.
3. Where Eagles Nest is an independent line for its first half, then it joins Con John.
4. Hidden Treasure was climbed by M. Tighe and B. Newton in June, 1987 but with a runner pre-placed in Election Special which provided a top-rope for the crux traverse. R. Everett's is therefore the first true ascent of the direct line. M. Tighe and B. Newton did climb a less direct line in good style.
5. R. Everett has written descriptions which are available by e-mail and has provided photos for the next guidebook author.

LEWIS, GREAT BERNERA, Geodha Mor (NB 133 386):

A Fiver in the Fickle Hand of Fate 18m VS 4b. K. Archer, S. Armstrong. 3rd June 2002.

Abseil in to the south-facing slab with obvious cracklines well seen from across the geo. The route takes the right-hand crackline. From the abseil, step left to the crack and follow it to the top.

Sgeir Rebrie:

The Moral Low Ground 40m HVS 5a. N. McAllister, P. Woodhouse (alt). 3rd June 2002.

Make a scrambling descent to just above a wave-washed platform with cracked overhangs at the north end. At the bottom of the descent are two grooves, the left being Return of the Absent Friend. This route climbs the right groove. From a notch above the platform, take the right groove through an overlap to a ledge. Take the obvious groove and another overlap (hard but safe), then the wall above trending right.

Part Time Potato Peeler 40m HVS. K. Archer, S. Armstrong. 3rd June 2002.

Take the steep wall immediately right of The Moral Low Ground to a fierce-looking horizontal jamming crack. Follow this to the right arête and pull around this to share a stance with The Moral Low Ground (5a). Take the slab and blocky arête above.

CRULVIG:

An inland crag just before the bridge to Bearnera. Reported as "fantastic" by the first ascensionists, it may be the same as a crag on which Andy Macfarlane climbed some routes in 1989-1990 (not recorded). If the same, it was reported as lichenous in its top third. It is recommended that, during the lambing season, permission for access is asked from the croft opposite. The most obvious and probably best line is the clean groove and overhang on the left.

Lard of the Pies HVS 5a ***. P. Woodhouse and party. 4th June, 2002.

Trend left up the very steep lower wall on excellent holds, then take the groove direct, then through the top overhang using a 'bucket' of a jug on the left. Very sustained and strenuous but the holds are big and it's very safe (if you can hang around to put the gear in!). This would be a classic tick in the peak.

GEODHA MALADAIL (NB 088 379, West facing):

The headland north of Valtos has a number of good varied crags.

Approach: Park at the side of the road just west of Valtos, overlooking the golden sandy beach of Camas na Clibhe, just beneath water treatment works. Head north for about 1km to a long band of clean cliffs extending north on the east side of the open geo. 20 minutes.

The Main Cliff:

Descent: Abseil from a prominent large block about a third of the way south from the left side of the cliff, to gain a large tidal platform running along the base.

Just Fantastic! 35m Very Difficult ***. G. Latter, L. Mackay. 10th May 2002.

An excellent route up the centre of the cliff, only marred by a loose exit past poised blocks. A prominent flake system runs up the left side of the large central open groove. Start at the left end of a long narrow pool, at the right end of a long overhang at the base. Foot traverse out left along a narrow ledge to gain the main groove, then move left and follow the flake crack with perfect holds and protection to finish.

The next three routes are on a fine 20-25m pink wall of pegmatite 200m further north. Descent: A 25m abseil from a large block leads to tidal ledges at the base.

I'm Enjoying this! 25m Difficult **. L. Mackay, B. Rose. 10th May 2002.

The fine left-slanting fault at the left end, stepping right to finish by cracks in the beautiful pink slab.

So Am I! 22m Severe **. L. Mackay, B. Rose. 10th May 2002.

Climb easy juggy rock, passing to the left of a square projecting block to finish up the short steep crack in the headwall.

This is great! 22m Very Difficult **. B. Rose, L. Mackay. 10th May 2002.

A direct line up the wall, passing right of the block, to finish by a crack up the right edge of the steeper headwall.

Eala Sheadha (NB 089 382, West facing):

The northernmost point of the headland forms an immaculate 15m off-vertical wall dropping straight into the sea. In its centre it is capped by a short overhanging headwall. The base of the wall can be gained at about Severe by descending easy ground on the north side and traversing in just above sea level, or alternatively a diagonal fault leads down rightwards, then back left to gain the right end of the crag – about VS or so.

Wander at Will 15m HVS 5a **. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 10th May 2002.

The arête delineating the right side of the open groove on the left side of the crag.

Diratissima 15m HVS 5a **. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 10th May 2002.
The central line, finishing by a shallow V-slot.

Stravaiging 15m E1 5b ***. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 10th May 2002.
The rightmost line, finishing spectacularly on good holds through the overhanging headwall.

AIRD UIG AREA, May Day Geo (near Gallan Head, SMCJ 1998):

Bathtime for Mark 30m E1 5b *. R. Benton, A. Callum. 30th May 2002.
Climbs the crackline in the centre of the north (south-facing) wall of May Day Geo. Start from the tidal ledge under a steep crack, 3m right of the pink quartz band. Climb the crack (crux), then follow flakes rightwards to a good ledge. Trend leftwards easily to the top.

GALLAN HEAD, The Truillich Headland:

The following climbs are located on the headland forming the west side of Geodha an Truillich.

True Grit 30m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson, M. Garthwaite. 20th July 2002.
On the north-west tip there is a crack running up the right side of a fine slabby arête to the left of a black corner. Gain the crack directly, then climb it and the arête, stepping right to finish up a short final arête.

Over the Edge 30m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 20th September 2002.
The crack immediately to the left of the slabby arête, climbed direct. Either finish up the top section of True Grit, or easily up the fault.

Slippery When Wet 30m E1 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 21st September 2002.
The groove immediately to the left of Over the Edge. Climb the groove and crack, cross a small hanging slab, then move up towards the big groove at the back, before going out right across the wall and climbing a crack onto the edge and easier ground leading to the top.

Homerun 30m VS **. R. and C. Anderson. 20th September 2002.
The crack which slants diagonally up left across the slab into the final moves of True Grit.

Dumb and Dumber 25m HVS 5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 20th September 2002.
Left of the abseil corner and just right of True Grit, climb the slabby groove running up the right side of the slab, move up right along a break, then make a few steep moves up a crack and move up right to finish.

Easy Out 25m Very Difficult. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 20th July 2002.
A line up the slabby back wall, right of Truilly Madly, left into the corner, then out and up right to finish.

Moby Dick 40m E2/3 5c **. R. and C. Anderson. 17th July 2002.
Just around the edge before the cliff turns the edge to the West Face, start beneath twin cracks cutting through the lower, black wall of a narrow, frontal buttress.

Climb the cracks, continue through an obvious break in the steep grey wall, then step left and finish up slabby grooves.

Minky 40m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 17th July 2002.

Just around the edge to the right of Moby Dick, climb a short, wide crack through the lower band of black rock, then its short continuation through the next band. Continue over a reddish slab and climb the centre of the 'tower' to the top.

Bonaventure 40m E2 5b/c ***. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 20th July 2002.

An impressive route up the centre of the imposing West Face. Start in the centre of the face beneath the only obvious break in the lower black wall. Climb this, then move up and left to an obvious undercut flange in the overlap. Pull up right into a groove and from the top of this step left to gain a line leading directly into the upper groove, which is climbed to the top.

Swell 40m E2 5b/c **. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 20th July 2002.

A parallel line just right of the previous route, breaking through the lower band, as for that route, then moving up and right, before climbing back up left to a thin crackline leading over small overlaps to a steepening beneath an obvious short leaning wall with a break in it. Step up left and move right into the break, then pull boldly through the break to gain a blocky feature and finish more easily.

Static Fear 30m E1 5a. R. Anderson, M. Diggins. June 2002.

This and the next two climbs start from a pedestal on the right side of the face. Climb the obvious crackline over a steepening to where it peters out beneath the final eaves, then lurch steeply up right on slightly dubious rock into a shallow groove leading to the top.

Charged 30m E2/3 5c **. M. Diggins, R. Anderson. June 2002.

Climb thin cracks directly to the base of the obvious smooth groove. Climb the groove to its top, then continue a short way before moving up right to finish more easily.

Cool Running 30m VS 4c **. R. Anderson, M. Diggins. June 2002.

Step up right and climb thin cracks just right of Smoothy, which soon widen and lead to a V-shaped groove. Climb the groove then easier ground to the top.

Washing of the Spears 30m E2 5c **. R. and C. Anderson. 17th July 2002.

This climb lies on the continuation face, just around an edge where there is a pedestal at the foot of a slab, seamed with cracks. A fine line up the edge forming the left side of the slab, overlooking the West Face to the left. Step up left from the pedestal and climb cracks just right of the edge, staying on the front face to below the final steepening. Climb a left-slanting thin crack to the top.

Gallan Cracks 30m Very Difficult-Severe **. R. and C. Anderson. 17th July 2002.

The area of slabby rocks above the pedestal can be climbed anywhere on fine rock. A central line between the deeper cracks is probably just harder than the cracks themselves.

A short way down and right from the pedestal, almost on the last ledge, is a deep wide crack.

Thinner Better 35m VS 4c **. R. and C. Anderson. 21st September 2002.

Just right of the deep wide crack, climb a thin crack and continue on fine rock always just right of the bigger crack and its continuation.

AIRD UIG, The Gallan Beag Geos:

Two small geos are located on the cliffs just east of the small island of Gallan Beag; Gallan Beag 1 and Gallan Beag 2.

Gallan Beag 2:

The base of the wall has a ledge running along its base from a sea cave on the right to a pedestal on the left. The first three routes start from the pedestal where the ledge peters out.

Every Which Way 25m VS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July 2002.

From the pedestal go left around the edge, follow a groove, then step down left to a short cracked wall. Climb the wall and continue up the left side of the tower to finish.

Little Boomey 25m VS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 15th July 2002.

From the pedestal climb black rock just right of the edge to reach an obvious crack. Climb the crack and then grooves leading out on to the left-bounding edge where easy rocks lead to the top.

Rawson's Retreat 25m HVS 4c/5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July 2002.

From the pedestal step up right and climb a thin crack in the initial short, leaning wall, then continue up somewhat eliminately between Little Boomey and the groove of Jacob's Creek to finish up the obvious groove in the final eaves.

Jacob's Creek 25m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 15th July 2002.

From the base of a large groove, climb up and left into cracks leading to a short V-groove. Climb the groove, pull out right, then step back left through the final eaves.

Leftwing 25m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 15th July 2002.

The edge left of the large groove. Immediately left of the groove, climb black rock and shallow grooves to beneath the final steepening. Step up right, then pull steeply up left into a crack and finish up this in a fine position.

Rightwing 25m HVS 4c *. R. and C. Anderson. 15th July 2002.

The right side of the large groove. From the foot of the groove climb a V-groove up right, then back left on to the edge. Continue to below the steep upper rocks and make a few bold moves up the edge, then move up and swing left to easier ground leading to the top.

Savage Slant 40m HVS 4c/5a. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July 2002.

The obvious right-slanting ramp. Those of a nervous disposition may not wish to

place any protection under the mass of rock that is perched on the top edge of the ramp!

Aird Uig, The Boardwalk Walls

These walls extend south westwards above a non-tidal shelf, 'The Boardwalk', south of Gallan Beag.

Boardwalk Left (The Black Wall):

This is the area of black rock extending leftwards above The Boardwalk from Chapel Crack.

Chapel Crack (1986) was climbed and found not to be Hard Severe; it is certainly VS and maybe even HVS!

Funky Corner 30m VS 4c **. R. and C. Anderson. 16th July 2002.

Some 20m left of Chapel Crack is a short thin crack in the lower wall, immediately left of a storm pool. Climb the crack, head up into the slabby corner, which is climbed leftwards, then up to finish.

Disco Fever 30m VS 4c **. R. and C. Anderson. 16th July 2002.

Just left of Funky Corner, gain a black shelf and follow this up right, then head directly up into a slim groove which leads to steep rock, then the top.

Northern Soul 30m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 16th July 2002.

Follow Disco Fever to the top of the shelf, then head up left to climb a steep crack and groove, then finish steeply up a short wall.

Boardwalk Central:

This is the area extending rightwards from Chapel Crack to a large-bouldered bay.

Groove Armada 15m E3 6a **. R. and C. Anderson. 26th July 2002.

The wall and steep V-grooves right of Chapel Crack. Scramble up black rock to belay on a shelf below the line.

Shelf Life 35m E1 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 24th July 2002.

Start in the large-bouldered bay at the leftmost boulder beside a pool. Move up and left to climb a stepped corner into the base of the crack. Climb the crack and its left edge to the top.

Magic Dragon 35m E4 6a ***. R. and C. Anderson. 26th July 2002.

The crackline immediately to the right of Shelf Life, gained by a hand-traverse rightwards from the corner.

Divided Fears 35m E2 5c **. R. Anderson, M. Garthwaite. 21st July 2002.

The obvious crackline in the left wall of the chimney-crack in the big corner. The crack is formed between two distinct types and colour of rock.

-uffing Crack 35m E4 6a ***. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 21st July 2002.

The thin cracks running up the impending right wall of the big corner, climbed directly all the way.

The RiverKwai 35m E4 6a **. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 22nd July 2002.
Just around the edge is another big corner; climb this to a common finish with the next route.

A Bridge Too Far 40m E3/4 6a ***. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 22nd July 2002.

Just to the right is an obvious crackline slanting up left into the top corner taken by the previous route. Start from a boulder in the right corner of the bay, beneath an undercut crack. Move off the ground with difficulty (the vertically challenged will have a problem). Follow the crackline up left in a stupendous position to a steep finish.

Quartzvein Crack 15m HVS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 15th September, 2002.
The steep quartz crack just right of the arête a short way up the shelf to the right of Shadows in the Sun.

Boardwalk Right (The Point Wall):

This is the west-facing wall at the far right end, just above the sea.

Paranoid 20m E2 5c **. R. and C. Anderson. 5th September 2002.

On the left-hand section of the cliff, passed beneath on the approach, just before the edge to the right is turned, is a fine, steep slabby wall of grey rock. Climb a thin crack through a quartz patch in the centre of this slabby wall.

Seamed Sane 25m HVS 5b **. R. and C. Anderson. 15th September 2002.

Just right of the edge is a thin quartz seam running the height of the wall. Climb this quartz seam up and around the edge to finish up a short crack.

Going Spare 25m HVS 5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 15th September 2002.

Just right of Seamed is a stepped rib of rock, with a corner on its left and a wide crack on its right. Climb the centre of the stepped rib.

Utter Nutter 25m HVS 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 15th September 2002.

Just left of the deep chimney-crack formed next to the right-angled corner, is a protruding rib. Climb the centre of this rib, firstly up steep black rock, then up a thin crack.

Bampot 25m HVS 5b **. R. and C. Anderson. 25th July 2002.

The corner running up the left side of the wall, hard up against the face, immediately right of a deep chimney-crack.

Anxiety Nervosa 20m E3 6a **. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 21st July 2002.

The thin crackline running up the wall just left of the central diagonal crack.

Cracking-up 20m VS 4c/5a **. R. Anderson, M. Garthwaite. 21st July 2002.

The central diagonal crack.

Black Sabbath 20m E1 5b ***. R. and C. Anderson. 15th September 2002.

The right-hand crack.

CAMAS UIG, Fiavig Tarras:

Groove is in the Heart 40m E3 5c **. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 23rd July 2002.

At the left end of the main wall, left of An Dobhrain, is a striking groove/cornerline that terminates at a triangular roof. At low tide traverse the tapering ledge just above the sea and climb to a belay ledge in the corner. Climb the corner and go out left around the roof, then up the headwall.

MUNGARSTADH AREA, Landlubber Geo (SMCJ 1998, p561):

Ceol na Mara (Sea Music) 25m Severe. F. Macleod, F. T. Macleod. 14th May 1999.

The obvious chimney-crack next to Mutineer's Return and parallel to it.

Screaming Geo:

Port a' Bheul (Mouth Music) 50m Mild VS. F. Macleod, F. T. Macleod. 14th May 1999.

This is the route referred to in SMCJ 2000, p327 as being marked with string and right of The Heebie-Jeebies. Climb an overhanging cracked orange wall to a roof. Step left to an arête and go up to a ledge with a flake (belay). Traverse left to the exposed arête, go up a wall and finish up obvious left-sloping handrails. Photograph supplied.

Magic Geo, East Face:

Note: M. Tighe notes that Flannan Slab Direct was more direct than the original and that he also climbed the line in SMCJ 2002, p102 and called it the Superdirect (but hasn't claimed it).

Island Fling 25m VS 5a **. B. Rose, L. Mackay. 8th May 2002.

A spectacular left finish to the slabby corner of Island Life, taking the obvious in-cut ledge and slanting crack to finish by pulling round the arête in a fine position.

Note: Island Life was thought to be Severe 4a, not VS.

AIRD FENISH HEAD, The Biorach Wall (SMCJ 2002), Slabby Buttress:

On the right of the Recessed Slabs in the centre of the cliff is Slabby Buttress. This contains five routes, the first of which is Dry Roasted (2001), taking the rib overlooking the slabs on the left.

Ready Packed 20m VS 5a **. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July 2002.

A parallel line to Dry Roasted, starting just up to that routes right. Climb a short wall, then go directly up quartzite rock to finish up the ensuing slabs.

In-step 20m HVS 5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July 2002.

Start at the highpoint in the centre of the buttress and climb short, stepped walls to gain a crackline, which is followed to the top.

Out-step 20m HVS 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July 2002.

Immediately right of In-step, climb stepped walls to an obvious right-angled groove in the right side of a block-like overlap. Enter the groove and continue to the top.

Seaprey 25m HVS 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July 2002.

Start beneath the right-bounding arête of the buttress. Climb a groove in the arête and move up until forced steeply up right into the corner, which is followed to the top.

Recessed Slabs:

The following routes lie on the central area of recessed black slabs.

Ready Rubbed 25m HVS 5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July 2002.

The groove in the arête on the left side of the main slab, just right of a corner.

Tight Lipped 25m HVS 5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 4th July 2002.

The thin crack in the middle of the main slab, immediately left of a large crackline.

Close Knit 25m VS 4c *. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July 2002.

The large crackline just left of the slabby corner defining the right side of the slabs.

DALBEG AREA, Solus Wall (NF 231 466):

From Preacher Zawn, walk 8 minutes north, cross a dry stoned dyke at the head of a pebble bay containing an arched split sea stack. On the NW tip of the bay is a mitre-shaped wall. Around the corner facing seawards and protected by a square-cut bookend buttress with windows lies a stepped wall, a roofed recess, projecting prow and blocks. Routes lie from right to left facing inward. Abseil to good ledges.

Solus 20m HVS 4c. F. Macleod, C. Humphries. 9th November 2002.

Climb the wall trending right into the bottomless right corner of the recess/buttress crack.

Dealanach 20m VS 4c. F. Macleod, C. Humphries. 26th October 2002.

The short right-facing corner and crack direct to the left corner of the recess.

An Grian 20m HVS 5a. F. Macleod, C. Humphries. 26th October 2002.

Climb direct to the left side of the blocks. Surmount them and finish up the right corner of the prow.

Rionnag na Maidne 22m E1. F. Macleod, A. Sutton. 30th December 2002.

The sustained direct off-width V-crack before the central arête.

Tigh Solus 22m Mild Severe. A. Sutton, F. Macleod. 30th December 2002.

Start left of the central arête on a low ledge below a left-facing short corner. Climb the obvious fault line through an overhang, finishing across a cracked slab.

Soisgeul 18m Severe. A. Sutton, F. Macleod. 21st December 2002.

The series of right-facing corners direct to the overhang. Step left, climb a short wall to a horizontal break and over an overlap.

PABBAY, Pink Wall:

Paradise Regained 115m E4 ***. I. Taylor, T. Fryer. 12th May 2002.

1. 45m 5a Start approx. 20m right of U-Ei. Climb a crackline through a small overlap to a niche.

2. 30m 5c Trend up and left wards to a hanging corner between two large roofs. Pull left into the corner, then follow cracks to a belay on a ledge below the final corner of U-Ei.

3. 15m 5b Traverse left along a break to belay below the final pitch of Spit in Paradise. Very exposed.

4. 25m 6a The final pitch of Spit in Paradise.

Finishing up the final pitch of U-Ei would give a *** E2.

The Grey Wall:

Mixmaster Snipe 100m E1 **. M. Davies, P. Newman, G. Latter. 12th May 2002.

A direct line up the left side of the right wall of the recess. Start at the base of the prominent crack system right of U-ei.

1 40m 5b Climb the crack direct through the prominent roof (or easier on the right) and continue in the same line, trending up right to a good ledge.

2 30m 5b Continue up the prominent right-facing corner above, then in the same line to traverse left along a shelf.

3 30m 5b Move left and climb a short steep right-slanting groove, then continue up a crack system, finishing direct.

Bravura 140m E7 ***. G. Latter, R. Campbell (ground-up). 15th May 2002 (p1); 17th May 2002 (p2-4).

Stunning very sustained climbing up the twin intermittent cracks up the left side of the main wall, just right of the arête. Start at the right end of the sea-level platform, beneath a short blunt arête.

1. 55m 6a Arrange a runner/belay in an obvious deep triangular slot up in the right side of the arête. Make hard moves up the left side of the arête, then pull rightwards and up into a groove. Continue up this, passing an overhung jam slot with interest, leading to easier ground. Go direct up a crack to a platform directly beneath the arête.

2. 25m 6b A stunning pitch. Climb a wide gritty crack up the left side of the arête to the top of the pedestal. Hard moves lead past cams in pockets (Camalot # 0.1 crucial) to a good hold in a crack almost on the arête. Move up right and follow the crack system, eventually transferring to a further crack system on the right which eases to a fine finger-crack leading up into an easier short left-facing corner.

3. 25m 6b From the base of the corner, traverse right along a diagonal crack to gain good holds and protection in the short left-facing groove of Amber Nectar. Finish up this.

4. 35m 5a As for Amber Nectar.

The Great Arch:

Prophecy of Paddling 45m E1 5b *. I Taylor, T. Fryer. 16th May 2002.

Start 3m left of Customs and Exercise. Climb up the left side of a flake, gain an overhung ledge then pull left round onto a black slab. Climb up the arête above and finish up slabs and blocks.

Sloc Glansich:

The stream that drains westwards from the islands central col flows through this impressive boulder-choked sloc. Rumour has it that this was once the site of an illicit still. The north wall overhangs dauntingly while the south wall is slabby. It is possible to scramble into the east end if the sloc.

The Jaws of Hell 30m E3 5b. T. Fryer, I. Taylor. 12th May 2002.

A serious route on very poor rock. Halfway down the slabby south wall are three diagonal cracks; the left two forming the letter 'A'. Climb up the right-hand of the 'A' cracks, pulling through an overlap at a tottering pinnacle. Stand on the pinnacle, pull rightwards on to the slab above and boldly climb to the top.

Note:

Blo' na Gael – Rockfall has altered the start of this route. Possibly now E3 5c.

Wiggly Wall – Rockfall has seriously affected the start of this route.

EIGG, An Sgurr:

The Nose 90m E8. B. Bransby, A. Long, J. McHaffie. June 2002.

The sensational prow goes free (headpoint style).

1. 30m 5c Follow a vague corner leftwards up the lower wall, stepping left to avoid the band of roofs, to a grass ledge.
2. 60m 6c Traverse right along the large break for 8m before launching up through the roof on large but loose holds. A succession of hollow columns now leads up the wall to the left of the old aid bolts, climbed via fingertip laybacking and long reaches off undercuts (in-situ RURP), to a hard move right to gain the undercut flake and bolts of the old belay. Easier but unprotected ground leads to the top. Belay on the trig point (well back, additional rope required).

COLONSAY:

These lines are on the beautiful west-facing buttresses of Sliabh Riabhach. They are close to and left (north) of the existing route called '367936', and follow obvious natural features. The routes are described from left to right.

A series of ribs drop down westwards dividing the area into grassy bays as the guide says. The second bay to the south holds the line '367936'. The northernmost bay is bounded on its left by a steep and striking arête pointing north-west which overlooks Glen Raonabuilg. This gives an airy and characterful route. The lower part of this arête is a prominent open-book corner.

Rose Rib 50m Severe *. M. Hudson, A. Hutt. 14th June 2002.

1. 20m 4b Climb up to and out of the steep open corner on sharp incuts. Step right on to a ramp in a fine open position and belay above at a spacious ledge below a wall.
2. 30m 4a Move carefully up on to the reclining heathery slabs and follow the right edge above more easily to blocks at the summit. Descend to the south either down the steep gully by '367936' or down a gentler bay further south.

Crex Wall 30m VS 4b. M. Hudson. 15th June 2002.

The slabby wall forming the right-hand wall of the northern grassy bay, and 25m right of the previous route. A bit dirty at the moment, but quite sound and satisfactory.

Start below a dark slot at 10m. Climb rightwards up the wall past blocks to a slot. Step out left on to the wall and make for the shallow groove in the centre. Good balance climbing follows to a V-notch on the skyline. Belay as for the next route. Scramble to the summit and descend as before.

Blunt Rib 30m VS. M. Hudson, A. Hutt. 15th June 2002.

The blunt-nosed rib forming the right-hand side of the northern grassy bay 15m right of the previous route, featuring a square white wall high up. Some splintery rock but fun nonetheless. Start below the nose.

1. 20m 4b Take a right-slanting groove up the front of the rib. Zigzag up flaky ground via a delicate overlap on the right of the nose, to a small ledge below the square wall.

2. 10m 4c Climb the steep wall to blocks on the ridge above. A very ancient peg found 5m back from edge denoted earlier activity of some kind. Scramble to the summit.

Note: 25m further right in the back of the next grassy bay lies the existing route '367936' - well worth doing, with the option of finishing direct over the final overhang at Severe).

ORONSAY:

There is a bird ban on Priory Buttress for nesting choughs (March to July). A nearby outcrop with no ban exists 400m away, which can be seen looking west from the Abbey as a plug split on its west face by a deep cleft. Labelled on the OS map at 354 890 as Dun Domhnuill, it can be reached easily from the track back to the crossing. Approaching from the track you first meet an impressive and terminally loose band of overhangs on the south wall, then some better-looking possibilities to the left which run up the steep right-hand side of the cleft on the west face. A couple of short and fairly forgettable lines now exist on the gentler rock left of the cleft - barely compensating for heaving gear over the water. Both by M. Hudson and A. Hutt on 11th June 2002.

Route 1. Start steeply as close to the cleft as you fancy, and finish up the right-hand of the steeper top wall (20m, Very Difficult).

Route 2. Start more easily 10m further left on slabs and finish over the alcove in the middle of the top wall. (20m, Difficult).

MULL, Balmeanach:

Endless Summer 20m E1 5b *. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 12th July 2002.

Crack, bulge and slab between Mushroom Picking and Glam Rock.

Scoor:

The Cleat 15m Severe. K.V. Crocket, P.F. MacDonald. 16th September 2002.

A square-cut tower dominates the east flank of the bay (NM 4131 1834). Climb the centre of the west face, overlooking the bay.

Scoor, The Slab:

Splitting Hares 18m E3 6a. M. Tweedley, C. Grindley. 2nd June 2002.

The thin crack right of Everything Flying By. Wimp on to that route near the top.

Ardtun, Waterfall Wall:

Russian Bustards 20m HVS 5a. C. Moody, C. Grindley, D. Mercer. 8th June 2002.

Start left of Roadrunner. Climb the crack in the arête and continue up the rib.

Ardtun, The Yellow Block:

Caterpillar 10m VS 4c. C. Moody. 20th September 2002.

A corner-crack right of Midge Shirt.

Ardtun, The Blow Hole:

Mud In Your Eye 14m VS 4b. C. Moody. 3rd August 2002.

Start right of Tarmac Frogs. Climb the right side of the pinnacle, then follow twin cracks above. A bit wet so may be Severe.

Ardtun, The Green Hill:

Spider and Me 7m Severe. C. Moody. 27th August 2002.

The crack round left of No Pyjamas Required.

Erraid:

Most of the following routes on Erraid were on sight soloed by J. Lines. A map and topos were provided.

Upper Tier:

The Round House 10m E1 5c *. J. Lines. 22nd August 2002.

On the left side of the tier, between Pharos and Covenant. Step off the right end of the boulder and make an awkward move to gain a grey foothold. Layback the flake to gain a grey jug and finish on jugs (similar finish to Pharos).

I Hear of the Red Fox 10m E1 5b/6b *. J. Lines. 22nd August 2002.

Start just left of Walls without Balls. Reach, jump, scratch —! for a jug, go up to undercuts and stretch right into WWB for a move to gain a jug, then go out diagonally left to finish through a small crack in the headwall.

Note: J. Lines thinks that Chickenhead should be E2 6a and Covenant should be ***.

The Otter Walls (NM 293 193):

The Otter Walls join on to the Paradise Wall (SMCJ 2002, p124), facing south and on the seaward side. The Longest Yet (SMCJ 2002) is on these walls. The best access is to climb or abseil down The Longest Yet. Routes described from right to left (facing in).

Gourmet Crab Crack 12m Hard Severe *. J. Lines. 20th August 2002.

Cracks to the right of The Longest Yet.

The Otter's Breakfast Table 15m E3 5c ***. J. Lines. 21st August 2002.

Beautiful climbing on beautiful rock. Start 5m left of The Longest Yet on a large barnacle-encrusted boulder (the breakfast table). Climb a slanting groove/crack up the centre of the concave wall. Where it steepens, move rightwards on flakes to reach a large flake on the right edge. Continue up this to a jug and finish at twin cracks and a chokestone hold.

Black Eye Rib 12m E1 5c *. J. Lines. 20th August 2002.

Start on the right side of an obvious rib, low tide necessary. Make crux moves on

undercuts and barnacle encrusted footholds to reach better holds (or start from further right, as per TOBT, and traverse at 5b). Climb the arête on the right, then swing left around the arête to a spike and continue on its left.

Amphibian 14m VS 5a **. J. Lines. 20th August 2002.
Climb the obvious square-cut groove. Low tide needed.

Note: The line to the left of Amphibian has not been climbed. The first half is E1 5b and very good but the second half needs a brush.

About 30m right of Amphibian are some slabby rock shelves about 8m above the sea. This is where the next two routes start.

Tarka 15m XS 6a S0 (DWS) *. J. Lines. 21st August 2002.
Start at the inland end of slabby shelves and climb down on to a flakey/juggy wall. Move right for 4m to a large granite chokestone. Squirm out above into a roof, slap for a grey nubbin and climb a flake on the right to a big jug. Ramble up a slab to finish.

Ring of Bright Water XS 5b/c S0 (DWS) **. J. Lines. 21st August 2002.
From the seaward end of the shelves, go down easy slabs with grey nubbins and traverse along the slabs just above the water line (best done at high tide) - interesting and technical in places. Cross the flakey/juggy wall to the chokestone and then rightwards across a square-cut bay, along jugs to where the rock changes direction through 90 degrees and becomes very steep (6a above boulders, so no longer DWS). Here, rock up on to a slab for a rest and then reverse. If done like this, then there is good water underneath for all the way.

Strawberry Pig Slab (NM 290 192, West facing, Alt 20m):

A pleasant 8m slab on the peninsula to the west, with some obvious red intrusions, one of which looks like a pig. All routes J. Lines on sight solo, 19th August, 2002, except Jules' Pistachios (on sight, 21st August, 2002).

1. *Jo's Plums* 8m VS 4c *. An obvious straight crack at the left end.
2. *Davi's Bananas* 8m HVS 5a *. Broken cracks.
3. *Strawberry Pig* 8m E2 5b *. Start at a short crack and make a hard move right to gain the pig, then direct up the slab.
4. *Jules' Pistachios* 8m E5 6b/c. Start directly below the pig and climb up to a red blotch to the right of the pig. Scratch desperately to the top.
5. *Raspberry Lips* 10m E3 6a *. Make hard moves to gain an undercut in an overlap. Go right and finish as for Ripe Mangoes.
6. *Ripe Mangoes* 8m E1 5b/c *. Go up past a red blotch and continue direct.
7. *Rotten Pineapple* 8m VS 4c. An obvious dog-leg at the right end.

Sunshine Wall (NM 290 192, W-facing, Alt 10m):

Situated about 50m down and left (facing in) of the Strawberry Pig Slab. A small crevasse forms the right side of the crag. Routes by J. Lines, on sight solo on 21st August 2002. Described left to right.

1. *Melanoma* 10m Severe. The initial corner.
2. *Hydrogen* 10m E2 5b. Climb the arête initially on the left via a flake, then on the right.
3. *Daniel's Dihedral* 10m VS 4c *. The off-width corner.
4. *Vermelho Quente* 10m E1 5b *. The obvious arête where the crag changes direction, using the crack on its right side.
5. *Spidery Cracks* 10m VS 4c *. The spidery cracks.
6. *Black Square* 10m HVS 5a *. The crack with the black square.
7. *Sun Spots* 10m HVS 5a *. A crack with a hanging corner and red blotch.
8. *Grey Matter* 10m E1 5b *. A crack and roof with an aerated flake.
9. *Where's Your Tan, Karen?* 10m E1 5b *. Go up to a short corner in an overlap. Pull through and up a hand crack.
10. *Topping up your Tan* 5/10m E1 5b *. Either start from low down by a tongue of flake, or bridge across the void to gain grey footholds. Make delicate face moves using a small ear-type flake.
11. *Anticyclone* 10m E1 5b **. Great climbing into the A-shaped roof and wall above.
12. *Rays* 8m VS 5a. A hand crack through a bulge.
13. *Is this Scotland??* 8m E2 5c *. The centre of the roof via a big hold, then veer left along a diagonal.
14. *Ellipse* 10m HVS 5b. Start right of an arching flake. Move left to a bulge and climb twin cracks to the top past a red knob.

Asteroid Chasm (NM 289 193):

A stunning piece of rock architecture approx. 4m wide, caused by the erosion of a basalt dyke. It has a SW-facing wall, just off vertical and a NE-facing wall, just overhanging. Also a huge block (the asteroid) wedged in the top. There are a few nests so maybe best avoided in the spring. 45 minutes from the car park.

Infinitesimal 8m VS 4c. J. Lines. 20th August 2002.

On the approach to the NE-facing wall from the seaward end, the first line is a tapering crack in a square-cut corner. This is the route.

Passing some amazing looking cracklines, you reach the base of a tapering hanging groove.

Asteroid Groove 22m HVS 5a **. J. Lines. 19th August 2002.

Move left into the groove and climb to its top and a ledge (nest in summer). Move left and continue up the obvious line to finish by the asteroid block.

Milky Way 22m HVS 5a *. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 14th September 2002.

In from Asteroid Groove, the Chasm branches. This route is on the prow beyond the branch; climb the west-facing crack.

Space Traveller 22m E1 5b **. J. Lines. 20th August 2002.

On the SW-facing wall. The central curving twin cracked corner.

Black Hole 25m E1 5b **. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 21st September 2002.

Right of Space Traveller is a right-slanting ramp. Make thin moves to gain the ramp. Follow it to the ledge then climb the steep corner crack. The start is slow to dry and was a bit damp.

Mink Walls:

About 50m north from Asteroid Chasm is the start of the Mink Walls, a red slab with an arching overlap.

The Mink 15m E1 5a *. J. Lines. 19th August 2002.

Climb the right side of the slab, just right of a hairline crack, to gain the start of the overlap/arch on the right. Follow the overlap leftwards to finish up a corner-groove.

The walls extend leftwards for 50m. About 40m left of *The Mink* is a hanging off-width corner. To the right is a nice flake/groove.

Abby 7m VS 5a *. J. Lines. 19th August 2002.

Climb the flake/groove.

Emma 7m VS 5a *. J. Lines. 19th August 2002.

Just to the right are some flakes going up a slab, the route.

THE GARVELLACHS, Eileach Naoimh (NM 6338 0931):

A landing on *The Garvellachs* produced a surprising climb up steep limestone rock leading to the mini lighthouse. This island is reputed to be the burying place of the mother of St. Columba, and is well worth a visit in its own right.

Like a Moth 30m Severe. K. V. Crocket, P. F. MacDonald. 17th September 2002.

Start under the light, where the lightning conductor runs down the cliff (avoid this in stormy weather!). Go up then left across the wall to a jutting nose. Continue up then left across a grey wall to ledge. Finish up short wall to belay at light.

Note: C. Orr and M. Slessor climbed a route to the right, following the lightning conductor, probably Severe.

SKYE**SGURR NA H-UAMHA, East Face:**

The Crescent 150m (then scrambling) Very Difficult. S.Kennedy, D. Ritchie 21st July 2002.

High on the left side of the east face is a prominent hanging groove topped by an overhanging wall. This is well left of *Aslan's Tongue*. The face to the left of the groove drops down into a corner and forms an extensive area of slabs. Approach from *An Glas-choire* and traverse away leftwards along a grassy terrace until directly below the groove. Start in a small grassy bay and follow a basalt fault over a small bulge to gain the right side of a small hanging slab. Climb the slab into the main groove which almost forms a gully in the lower section (45m). Move left from the base of the groove on to a slabby wall. Follow a crackline until below the overhanging wall (60m). Traverse up leftwards to the buttress edge in a fine position. Move up the edge then pull back right to reach the easier upper section of the face (45m). Scrambling leads to the summit.

SGURR NAN GILLEAN, Lota Corrie (NG 473 252):

The following routes are situated on a clean buttress high on the south-west slopes

of Lota Corrie below the south-east ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean. Approach by a diagonal descent from the tourist path on south east ridge across broken ground. The buttress presents a slabby left-hand section and becomes progressively steeper towards the right culminating in a deep chimney. Another steep buttress lies to the right again with a prominent flake crack near the top. The routes are described from right to left.

Arbroath 50m VS 4c/5a **. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 22nd September 2002. Takes the striking line of cracks just left of the deep chimney finishing up a steep upper wall.

Fairy Nuff 45m Severe 4a *. S. Kennedy, A. MacDonald. 22nd September 2002.

Start on the right of a detached pinnacle well left of Arbroath and beyond some steep corners. Climb the left side of the pinnacle to a block. Move out left, then up and back right into an obvious fault running to the top. Follow the fault.

Adamant 45m Severe 4a *. S. Kennedy, A. MacDonald. 22nd September 2002. Shares the same start as Fairy Nuff. From the top of the pinnacle move out left to the edge then finish directly up cracks and slabs.

Faded Message 45m Severe 4a *. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 22nd September 2002.

A short distance left is a basalt fault which runs up diagonally leftwards. Climb the initial section of the fault into a short chimney/groove at 5m. Step right onto a wall right of a tiny groove. Climb straight up following a short groove at mid height and a blocky bulge to finish.

Ladies Day 48m Very Difficult. S. Kennedy, A. MacDonald. 22nd September 2002.

Climb the basalt fault all the way out left for 25m to the left edge. Climb a groove to slabs then finish up right.

GLEN SLIGACHAN CRAGS, Sgurr na h-Uamha:

Situated on the lower slopes of Sgurr na h-Uamha, close to where Harta Corrie meets the main glen, is a small heart-shaped slabby buttress (NG 487 242).

Hartatak 90m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. June 2002.

Takes a diagonal line from right to left. The slabby buttress has a recessed area in the middle with two small bulges low down. To the right of the bulges are some pale streaks. A narrow grassy ledge runs diagonally left across the slab. From the right side of the slab, roughly below the right-hand bulge, follow a line leading diagonally left, above and parallel to the grassy ledge. A flake-line leads to near the left edge just below a small grassy recess (45m). Traverse back right along a narrow ledge to the middle of the slab then directly up via some short corners (45m).

Riabhach Wall:

Coolin Off 20m E1 5a ***. A. Baugh. 31st December 2002.

At the right-hand side of the wall is a prominent blunt rib. Start at a fault

immediately right of this and trend up and left to reach a horizontal break with poor protection. Make insecure moves to gain better holds above, and then monkey out wildly to gain a huge bucket. Finish up the easier rib left of the corner above.

Taliban Groove 20m E1 5a *. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 31st December 2002. The shallow corner in the steep headwall right of Kandahar is a bold and technical undertaking. Start as for The Groove but follow the left-hand crack to a small ledge. From here make precarious moves leftwards before finishing up the superbly exposed groove.

Around the corner at the left end of Riabhach Wall, before the North Buttress is reached, there is a small buttress about 10m high. Three corners have been climbed here, all at Difficult standard.

North Buttress:

A short distance further around the corner lies another larger and more intimidating buttress. On the north face of this buttress there are a number of lower grade climbs on immaculate rock. The first of these starts at the extreme right of the wall, just below a steep corner at the foot of the grassy ramp.

Alison's Rib 25m Difficult. K. Wigmore, G. Damerell. 31st December 2002. Climbs the vague rib to the right of a prominent square corner. The initial few metres are the hardest part of the route, with pleasant easier climbing above.

Electra 25m Very Difficult. S. Broadbent, C. Atkinson, K. Wigmore. 31st December 2002.

The square-cut corner at the right side of the wall is often damp but provides an entertaining and well protected climb.

Venus 25m Very Difficult *. A. Ross, K. Wigmore, S. Broadbent. 30th December 2002.

A good route with sparse protection. Start below ledges a few metres left of Electra and follow the easiest line straight up the blunt rib above.

Warmin Up 25m Mild Severe. A. Baugh, J. Wakeham, G. Damerell. 30th December 2002.

From the large ledge on Venus, make an airy but well-protected step left into the large depression in the centre of the upper wall. Climb straight up this and exit via a small slab above. Good, varied, and interesting climbing.

Faithless 25m E1 4c **. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore, A. Ross. 30th December 2002.

Follows the vague basalt dyke up the centre of the face. Start just left of a rocky step on the grassy approach ramp. The climbing is interesting and sustained with barely any worthwhile protection.

Mercury Rib 25m Very Severe 4b ***. S. Broadbent, A. Ross, K. Wigmore. 30th December 2002.

A stunning pitch up the blunt arête at the left side of the North Face. The climbing

is superb and sustained on immaculate rock, though protection is worryingly sparse. Start just right of the arête and traverse up and left to gain a prominent niche on the arête itself (crux). Continue up the front of the arête until a large belay ledge is reached. From here the top of the crag is reached by easy scrambling.

Continuing around to the left of Mercury Rib on to the East Face of the buttress the rock becomes steeper and less solid. About 30m along the East Face there is a huge blank slab half way up the wall, with an overhung basalt dyke above. Running up from the left-hand side of this slab there is a tempting rightwards-slanting crack with a small overhang at half height. This is the rather adventurous:

Varsity Crack 55m Very Severe *. S. Broadbent, A. Ross, K. Wigmore. 30th December 2002.

1. 25m. Follow the crack with relative ease, making several steps right onto the face. Belay in the unpleasant vegetated basalt dyke.
2. 30m 4c. The crack above the basalt is overhanging and often dirty, but does contain excellent holds. After a few difficult and exhilarating moves the gradient eases into pleasant scrambling right to the top of the crag.

High Crag, Black Wall (SMCJ 2001):

Directly below the Black Wall, out of sight from the approach, there is a shorter wall which offers climbs of more reasonable grades (The Lower Tier). The rock is fairly slow to dry, but can offer a number of worthwhile single pitch routes, described from right to left.

Bedrock 25m Severe. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore, A. Baugh. 29th December, 2002.

An interesting route that wanders up the walls and ledges at the right side of the crag. Start a few feet left of a shallow broken groove and climb the series of short steep walls above.

Jacob's Ladder 30m Severe *. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 29th December 2002.

An exciting route following an obvious diagonal line across the centre of the crag. Start up the rightwards slanting basalt ramp and climb up into the steep corner above. Pull awkwardly up the left side of a block before finishing to the right.

Haribo 20m Very Severe 5a **. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore, A. Baugh. 29th December 2002.

The prominent right-facing shallow corner provides a well-protected struggle! Reach the foot of the corner via a basalt ramp, and climb it on excellent side-pulls. Arrange protection before racing to the top on good but small holds. An excellent pitch.

High And Dry 15m Hard Severe. A. Baugh. 29th December 2002.

Near the extreme left of the wall is a corner with two slanting cracks to its right. Climb between these and pull over onto an easier right-trending steep ramp. Romp up this to a tricky and exposed exit.

Pink Umbrella 10m Difficult *. G. Damerell. 29th December 2002.

Around the corner at the left end of the wall is an inviting small slab with an obvious diagonal crack. Follow the crack leftwards and continue over the bulge above.

SGURR DEARG, Coire na Banachdich:

Grey Rib 60m Severe. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 2nd August 2002.

The rib between North-West Buttress and Banachdich Gully. There is a chimney/gully just right of the route. It gets more sun than North-West Buttress but needs some trundling.

Note: Toolie Grooves has had a few failures, VS perhaps HVS.

SGURR THEARLAICH, West Face:

Note: Gully D (SMCJ 2002, p230) was climbed by D. Ritchie and M. Shaw, not N. MacGougan.

SRON NA CICHE, Cioch Buttress:

Rat on a Stick 50m E1. G. Ertle, J. Lyall. 17th September 2002.

1. 20m 5b Climb the crack just right of Stormy Petrel until near its top, then step delicately right and go boldly up to the big diagonal crack which is followed to below a steep wall.

2. 30m 5b Move a short way right and climb a tricky corner up the steep wall, then go easily to the top.

Note: Stormy Petrel was considered VS 5a.

The Nipple: R. Durran felt that the crux move across the top of the groove on the second pitch was at least 5c and that the route was very hard for the grade.

CD ROM 160m VS/HVS. G. Ertle, J. Lyall. 17th September 2002.

An eliminate line, some of which has been climbed before. Start at the stone shelter left of Cioch Direct.

1. 20m 4b Step on to a rib and climb through an overlap by a crack on the left. Follow the edge to a large ledge.

2. 40m 4b Follow cracks up the rib and slabs to belay in Cioch Direct.

3. 30m 4b Follow Cioch Direct for a few metres and go left to climb the corner-crack of Cioch Grooves until possible to break back right across Cioch Direct to a bay right of a steep prow.

4. 25m 5a/4b Either climb the scoop and pull left on to the rib (HVS) or go left up a ramp on to the top of blocks and up the rib to slabs (easier).

5. 45m 4a Follow slabs straight up to the base of The Cioch.

COIR' A' GHRUNNDA:

This route is on the prominent buttress at NG 449 202, left of the route to the Bealach Coir'a' Ghrunnda from the Upper Coire. Its steep profile is seen from well down the coire. It is reached in a few minutes from the lochan. This is possibly the buttress with Stormwatch but if so, the relationship with the route is unknown.

A Walk On Part In The War 50m E3 **. R. Durran, R. Pybus. 6th April 2002.

A direct line up the front face of the buttress. A little dubious rock on the first

pitch, but excellent rock and protection where needed. A superb and sustained second pitch. The most obvious feature of the lower part of the buttress is a large pale right facing and leaning corner. Start on the rake about 8m left of the corner's foot.

1. 30m 5c Gain the steep right-trending broken crackline from the left and follow it, with difficult moves at a small cracked roof and at the bulge above, to a broken ledge.

2. 20m 5c Move the belay about 8m right along the ledge. Above and on the left is an overhanging nose and a final cracked bulge above. Climb a short wall to a break below the nose. Pull onto the wall right of the nose and climb steeply leftwards to the final bulge. Cross this rightwards via the crack with difficulty and finish leftwards.

Alasdair-Thearlaich Cliff:

Stone Shoot Gully 90m Difficult. A. Nisbet. 13th September 2002.

The gully which goes up left from the base of T-D Gap Gully and leads into the scree which is the opposite side of the Great Stone Shoot. Perhaps climbed before but useful in boots as an exit from the cliff to Coire Lagan. Start as for Bower's Climb but soon go left into the gully. There is an obvious independent but harder start.

BLAVEN NOTE:

Several parties have had trouble finding Ecstasis, whose position may not be well described. The Whip (SMCJ 2001, p604) was after a failure to find Ecstasis. C. Dale climbed a route which he thought was Ecstasis, but it took the obvious left-slanting gangway on the wall about 100m left of Clough's Cleft (4c 4c 4b **, p3 being sensationally exposed on the last steep crack).

ELGOL, Suidhe Biorach:

Hairy Mary 35m VS/HVS 4b/c ***. D. McAulay, P. Johnstone. 15th May 2002.

Takes the exposed wall to the right of Fertility Right. The climb shares the start of Fertility Right but moves right to a platform at 10m, then up a wall and crack for 10m to a rightwards traverse along a break to finish up another crack and wall. The uncertain grading is due to a difference of opinion. A great addition to the easier routes here and is much better than the lichenous appearance suggests.

MINGINISH SOUTH:

Stac an Tuil 35m VSL (Very Severely Loose). S. M. Richardson, M. Robson. 21st September 2002.

This spectacular basalt stack is characterised by a huge hole that cuts through its base. It lies between Glen Brittle and Loch Eynort at NG 356 215. It stands 20m offshore below 200m crumbling basalt cliffs. The best descent lies to the north at NG 353 222 where an 80m abseil can be made to a rock platform. From here swim south for 800m to the stack to reach a plinth on the west side. Climb the west ridge via a series of cracks, which becomes progressively more difficult as it steepens and becomes more rotten as height is gained, to the (more solid) summit block. Stac an Tuil is one of the most inaccessible sea stacks in Scotland – it would be cheating to use a boat!

Stack of Ulbster 45m VS. S.M. Richardson, M. Robson. 22nd September 2002. Approach the stack (NG 340 416) by swimming 70m to a sloping platform on its south side. From the west end of the platform climb a series of steep cracks just left of a deep corner, then trend right along a chimney-ramp to finish.

MINGINISH, Talisker Point, Stac an Fhucadair:

West Ridge Variation HVS 5a. C. Dale, L. Sell. May 2002.

A middle sized peg (not in situ) helps protect the first (crux) moves. Instead of belaying on pegs in suspect rock, continue by traversing left for 10m to belay in good dolerite. Then traverse leftwards with occasional good runners in "islands of rock", then climb the steep "field" to the summit (peg hammer useful for step cutting). The rock island of the summit was deemed solid enough for an abseil descent down the steep south face.

Note: On the Lesser Stack, a 12ft sling allows a conventional abseil to be made.

DUIRINISH, Macleod's Maidens:

Note: C. Dale thought The Old Lady was 75m HVS 4c with p2 as 30m. The moves past the flake on p3 were the crux, as the flake was potentially very dangerous. p3 and p4 were best run together. An abseil descent was made from a horn of rock just below the summit to reach the second stance.

DUNVEGAN HEAD, Am Famhair Sea Stack (SMCJ 2000):

A Peach for the Boys 15m HVS 4c. R. I. Jones, O. Dewhurst. 22nd June 2002. Climbs the south-east face of the stack. Climb direct up the middle of the wall and through the overlaps at the top. Belay above the arch. A more solid and enjoyable line compared to the north-west face and has a belay!

NEIST, The Upper Crag, Financial Sector:

C. Moody notes that Lottery Live (SMCJ 2002) is a left start to Gammy's Purse (SMCJ 1999), joining it after 5m but is not as intimidating as the original start. Jam For Brains (SMCJ 1999) is the same as Worm's Eye View (SMCJ 1997).

The Fin:

The Furry Horse E1 5b. A. Cave, N. McAdie, D. Green. 29th May 1995.

An adventurous route.

1. Climb up the front face of the fin right of centre. Not too hard but has a committing feel. Belay on top of the fin.
2. Continue along the ridge in alpine style turning towers on the right.

The Lower Crag, Destitution Point:

Come Around to my Way of Thinking 25m E1 5b **. D. McAulay, M. MacCuish. 28th June 2002.

The crack/corner immediately right of Man of Straw. Excellent and well protected on clean rock.

As seen from the Financial Sector, the next routes are on a small headland to the north (Destitution Point?), round to the north of the south-facing prow. The climbs are very short on good rock.

Yan Taylor on the first ascent of Charger the Tiger E2, Raven's Crag, Mull, with Rum in the background. Photo: Danny Brooks, (Colin Moodie collection).

Neaster's Crack E1 5b (G. Strange and R. Archbold, 30th May 1998.)

An obvious crack, the first good feature on the west wall round from the prow.

Black Groove Hard Severe (RA and GS. 30th May 1998.) A pleasant line a little further north.

Note: Three corner lines were reported by T. Blakemore. They are located by diagram and C. Moody has repeated them. Fine rock, Severe to VS.

The Ramp:

No Access Severe. C. Moody. 24th August 2002

The right-facing corner crack right of Patricia.

An t-Aigeach:

Overcharged E4 6a **. A. Cave, S. Nadin. May 1995.

1. Climb a shaped crack to the right of Supercharger and belay under a bulge.
2. Move up and right in a superb position on good holds until a right-trending crack can be reached. Follow this to the ledge of Supercharger and finish up that route

Conductor Cove:

Vidal Sassoon E3 6a. S. Muir, S. Johnston, S. McBride, M. Saunders. 2003.

The wall 2m to the left of Natural Look, climbed direct with small wires for protection.

WATERNISH:

Caisteal an Fhithich 60m Difficult. C. Dale. 15th May 2002.

This 30m stack is at NG 263 647. Down climb steep grass and rock steps opposite the stack to land on a boulder beach, accessible at all states of tide. Traverse northwards at sea level to gain a grassy ramp line on the seaward face. This leads to the summit. A "rock and two veg" experience, with lots of orchids.

Note: Repeated by M. Hudson on 28th October, 2002 and thought Very Difficult.

Rogheadh (NG 216 602):

The Arches 60m Difficult. C. Dale. 15th May 2002.

At low tide the seaward extremity of a granite-like protruding dyke can be gained. Follow this pleasantly over twin arches and a grassy continuation ridge to finish via a short steep corner. A "rock and one veg" experience.

TROTTERNISH, The Storr:

On the spur leading north from the summit of the Storr, some smaller outcrops of dolerite occur at 500m altitude, above and south of Carn Liath (NG 493 552). For the gentlest and most picturesque approach take the Old Man path from the car park then follow north as for the summit, traversing the bowl of upper Coire Scamadail on a good path to a plateau on the spur 200m south of Carn Liath.

A 10m high band of cliffs extend west for 100m featuring some wet corners of little interest. But some longer possibilities exist on a buttress that runs down the steep hillside below this band of cliffs. It is separated from the higher band by a distinctive square doorway, a collapse between the top of the buttress and the higher band. This buttress actually appears to be a wide dyke about 100m high. Two routes climb the buttress from its toe. Scramble down a gully east or easier slopes west of the buttress to shattered shelves at its foot. An open black chimney takes the centre of the buttress.

North East Outcrops Guidebook Editor Neil Morrison on Family Life, E3 5c, Bridal Cave, Longhaven Sea Cliffs. Photo: John Wilson.

Unswepth Chimney 40m Severe. M. Hudson, N. Williams. 28th September 2002. Follow the black chimney easily to a rightward swing on a blunt beak at 15m. Continue more easily above until it is possible to step left into a short V-corner. Finish up this and scramble up the blunt nose to the rock band a little higher. Traverse off into the east gully or continue easily up the rib, to an abseil descent into the doorway.

Catwalk Tower 40m HVS 4c *. M. Hudson, N. Williams. 28th September 2002. The front face of the blocky tower immediately left of the chimney. Marvellous positions and trustworthy rock. Start as before. Step left out of the chimney on to the front of the rib. Move carefully up on a series of small ledges (unprotected). From the left-hand end of the highest ledge, step on to the blunt arête poised over the gully. Using some rather airy footholds (crux), gain a spacious ledge and runners. Mount blocks and a delicate wall above with sustained interest to the same belay as Unswepth Chimney. Descent as before.

STAFFIN, Sgeir Bhan (Staffin Slip North), Toy Buttress:

Directly below the scramble descent to Staffin Slip North lies a small crumbly buttress of rock. Below again lies a wider tier of medium height shrouded by trees and hard of access due to the legbreaking terrain at its foot. The rock here is some of the soundest in the area, and the routes have clean finishes on to the meadow above with good tree belays. This and the slightly gentler angle of 70-80 degrees makes these routes more leisurely undertakings than the routes on the higher buttress.

Approach: Drop down either to the right-hand side of the buttress from Frequent Flyer area, or to the left-hand side from the Earthquake area. Or, for a fuller preview of the buttress, walk in from below by following the coastline round from the jetty and cutting rightwards up a grassy strip once level with a pair of huge salt and pepper pots on the coast.

Hold Music 25m HVS 5a *. M. Hudson, A. Hutt. 30th September 2002.

Five metres left of Above and Beyond past an ivy-filled gully is a slim pillar capped by a diagonal roof. This is the last-but-one pillar of the whole tier. The line takes cracks up the face of the pillar to the roof which is passed at its right-hand end. Surprisingly clean rock with good large to extra-large gear. Climb the steep jamcrack past a footless section. Step left briefly to a flake-crack and hand traverse back right under the roof. Fight up through the bulges (crux) to finish.

FLODIGARRY:

A First 25m Very Difficult. D. McAulay, M. MacCuish. 25th June 2002.

This route can be found just south of the main climbing on a clean buttress to the right of Buoy Racer, reached by abseiling from half way down the arête on the south of the bay containing Newspaper Taxis. The buttress is just right of a large corner/zawn and starts from a large block. The line climbs the wall starting at a shallow scoop just right of a thin crack line and trends left to gain the crack at half height.

KILMALUAG, Stac Buidhe:

Note: Original Route and North Ridge (Skye guide, p334) appear to be the same route. C. Dale thought VS 4c and provided a new description.

Stacan Lachlainn:

South-East Face 30m VS 4c. C. Dale, L. Sell. 26th May 2002.

First climbed in the 19th century by local man Lachlann McLeod, this stack is accessible at most states of tide. From the boulder beach which attaches the stack to the mainland, traverse right (eastwards). Once on the SE face, make an ascending traverse rightwards on good solid rock to gain easy grassy slopes. Return leftwards to belay directly above the start.

RUBHA HUNISH:

The Big Breakfast 25m VS 4c. J. and D. Preston. 20th July 2002.

The corner-crack on the mainland cliff directly opposite the narrow gap of Split Stack. Start by stepping off a pointed boulder right of the wide hanging crack. Climb steeply up the corner passing two useful flakey chokestones until a step left can be made. Follow the main crack pleasantly to the top.

Split Stack:

Note: C. Dale thinks that the "easy scramble" approach down the gully is anything but easy and most folk would prefer to abseil.

Forty 30m E3 5c. C. Dale, L. Sell. 29th May 2002.

At the base of the descent gully, at mid to low tide, climb up 5m to gain the rift that separates the two summits of the stack. Climb through the rift seaward and turn left to traverse the NE face of the northern summit on easy ledges. Continue to gain the slender NW face, overlooking the north stack. The route starts here.

A well protected sustained climb on perfect rock, easy for the grade. Climb the central crack/groove until moves can be made rightwards to gain a ledge on the arête. Climb the steep wall just right of the arête on huge holds to the top of the north summit.

The excursion can be continued by traversing to the south summit (Severe) and abseiling from here.

BORNESKETAIG, Stack of Skudiburgh:

Note: C. Dale reports that the 'hairtrigger' state of the summit area has been improved. Extensive rock stabilisation has been carried out on the seaward face and summit area. There will inevitably be some small loose rocks on the seaward face route but the route should now be intrinsically solid.

Rubh a' Chairn Liath (NG 364 706):

The Obelisk 60m HVS. C. Dale, K. Grindrod. 10th June 2002.

Park at the slipway and approach via an awkward bouldery hillside and beach westwards to arrive beneath a grooved pillar leading to a land-based pinnacle summit.

1. 25m 4c Climb the cleaned groove to exit leftwards to a ledge and stance a few metres higher.

2. 35m 5a Climb the groove directly above. After pulling through a bulge at 10m, step right and continue up a crackline to finish up the wall right of an obvious but very loose flake.

To descend, a 5m abseil gained the col behind the pinnacle and a 5m wall was climbed to a grass plateau. A return to the base of the climb can be made by a long detour to the west.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

KNOYDART, Gleouraich:

Peekaboo Gully 200m I/II. D. Morris. 16th February 2003.

This climbs the deep gully on the right side of the face leading to the East top of Gleouraich. The true line is hidden until right beneath the gully where the route becomes obvious. Climb the gully direct over several steps. The grade can vary depending upon the snow build-up.

Skinny Gully 100m II. D. Morris. 16th February 2003.

This climbs the thin gully bounding the right side of the buttress on the north side of the col between Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach. Climb the gully past a narrowing at one-third height and continue to the col.

SOUTH GLEN SHIEL, Creag Coire an t-Slugain:

Hourglass Groove 120m IV,6*. J. Colverd, E. Gillespie, A. Nisbet. 16th February 2003.

A narrowing groove system on the vague crest between The Triangle and Pioneer Gully. Start just left of Pioneer Gully and climb an icefall into the turfy groove system. Climb this to where it narrows into twin shallow grooves and go up these, keeping left above to reach an easier finishing pitch.

SGURR NAN CONBHAIREAN, West Crag (NH 124 136):

A rather broken crag on the north side of the west ridge of Sgurr nan Conbhairean (Alt 900m, North-West facing). To approach, start as for the other crags on the mountain but continue to Gorm Lochan and go up a gully to the col between it and Drochaid an Tuill Esaich. Go west for 30m and descend a gully on the north side. The only significant buttress is on the east of the descent gully.

Category Five 100m II. A. Nisbet. 31st October 2002.

Climb a system of grooves just right of the crest of the buttress.

MORUISG, The Great Grey Slab of Moruisg:

Slapstick 95m HVS. E. Christison, B. Fyffe, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 1st September 2002.

A direct line up the blankest slab available. Start from the same ledge as Rock Surfer, at the base of the right-rising overlap.

1. 45m 4c Climb up, then go diagonally right above the overlap along a line of quartz before going straight up the smooth slab left of Rock Surfer to the terrace. The line could be climbed truly direct but there was a wet streak on the line and a runner to the right.

2. 50m 4c Climb the easy slab as for Rock Surfer, but then continue direct up the blank slab right of the corner and between two grassy cracks.

SGURR CHOINNICH, North Face (NH 076 446):

The crag is often in condition. The rock is a variety of rather demoralised schist that lends itself to form tottering crannies and rather unreliable protection. All this

is irrelevant if properly frozen and the turf is excellent. There are five right-slanting gully lines on the face.

Occluded Ridge 150m II. V. Chelton, N. Harrison, D. McGimpsey. 20th January, 2003.

Start up and right of the long toe at the left-hand end of the main face. From the back of the bay, climb turf up and left into the left-hand of the twin gullies above. Climb two tricky steps then continue up easier ground, moving into the right-hand gully below the top.

Stirling Moss 250m IV,4 **. J. R. Mackenzie, D. Allan (alt). 19th March 2003. Takes the discontinuous hanging ramp directly below the summit (leftmost gully).

A fine line with much variety. Start 40m left of the easier-angled curved ramp line that is the most obvious line on the cliff. The discontinuous ramp is bottomed by mixed ground and ice with a straight snow section which is prominent from below.

1. 50m Climb up to and past the snow section to a little cave.

2. 55m Step left on to thin ice that leads to tricky rock and turf steps which lead to the hidden ramp above (possible belay). Continue up snow to a shelf on the right.

3. 50m Climb pleasant snow and ice steps up the ramp to a tiny cave below a steep iced corner.

4. 45m Climb the fine corner either by ice or turf and continue straight up the ramp to below the steep headwall up on the right.

5. 50m Step right, then move back left and climb past a rockfall scar with some difficulty. Continue straight up steep walls and little ledges to finally traverse left to below a jutting block. Climb past this and up snow to the summit cairn. A complex pitch with some dubious rock.

Note: Also recorded as Baghdad Bypass, III ** by D. Allan.

Chemical Alley 140m IV,4 **. D. Allan, D. Moy. 25th February, 2003.

The second from the right of the five gully lines. It has a steep middle pitch.

The Bow 100m II *. D. Allan, D. Bell, E. Christison, D. McGimpsey. 17th March, 2003.

Climb the long right-facing corner at the right hand end of the main face. It held an excellent 50m pitch of continuous ice on this occasion.

Downhill Racer 150m I/II *. J. R. Mackenzie. 19th March 2003.

This is a Y-shaped and rightmost gully in the centre of the main face. It was descended on perfect neve coated with a thin layer of water ice, was quite steep and had a little ice pitch near the narrows at its base. The gully also has a left-hand exit which looks more or less the same grade.

MAOILE LUNNDAIDH, Toll a' Choin:

The Shiner 80m III,4. P. and G. Robertson. February, 2003.

Takes the wider and less steep icy scoop defining the right side of the Spiral Search buttress (see below). A fine if short climb on more or less continuous water ice.

Hellfire and Brimstone 110m VII,7. G. Robertson, M. Halls, P. Ebert. 4th January 2003.

The steep buttress with Spiral Search (SMCJ 2001) has two obvious gully lines at its left end. This route starts at the base of the right-hand gully and trends up slightly right before tackling the bulging headwall direct. The first pitch may share some ground with Spiral Search. A fine route with some unlikely and strenuous climbing.

1. 45m From the base of the gully, traverse right into a steep groove and climb this to gain easier ground. Continue in the same line then pull on to an obvious right-slanting hanging ramp. Belay at its right end below a very steep groove with a crack in its right wall.

2. 15m Climb the groove to its apex, then make hard moves out right into another groove that leads to a commodious belay in a recess.

3. 50m Exit the recess via a flared chimney on the left then continue up an overhanging groove to below a roof. Pull leftwards through the roof and continue up more or less directly with diminishing difficulty to the top.

FB Gully 100m IV,4. P. and G. Robertson. February, 2003.

Takes the fine narrow gully defining the right side of the Spiral Search buttress. Soloed in perfect conditions, providing around 80m of continuous water ice.

GLAS BHEINN, Creag na h-Iolaire:

Two routes on the section of crag left of Greenhorn Gully.

Frozen Pipes 90m III. A. Matthewson, A. Tibbs, H. Tibbs. 4th January 1995.

Start up a curving gully seen on the approach from Tullich (New Kelso Couloir). Go easily along a terrace to the right until an obvious pinnacle/huge flake is reached (route length from here). The right end of the terrace overlooks Greenhorn Gully. Go up the icefall left of the pinnacle, then easier up a gully to the top.

New Kelso Couloir 180m II. R. Blackburn, E. Blackburn. 4th January 1995.

The curving gully, via its right fork (left fork is hidden on the approach).

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Poite:

Harlequin Rib Right-Hand 265m V,7. C. Dale and party. 12th February 2003.

An ascent of Harlequin Rib by a line suitable for the prevailing lean conditions (2PA). Start a short way up Mad Hatters Gully.

1. Traverse a horizontal terrace leftwards to the foot of a left-facing slabby corner-groove which bounds the extreme right edge of the "steep wall" (the original route turns its left edge).

2. Climb the corner and turfey cracks to a "blank exit" up a smooth slab (1PA).

3. Traverse easily leftwards for 20m.

4. Climb a slabby wall by a central turfey weakness, then continue more easily to beneath the next steep band.

5. Climb this by gaining an obvious right to left ascending traverse line. Follow this to its end, then climb a short groove to a blind and rounded finish. A poor peg was used as a handhold to traverse an undercut slab; continue up the subsequent groove.

6 etc. Continue much more easily.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, A' Chioch:

Rapid Pulse 70m E1. G. Eittle, J. Lyall. 12th September 2002.

1. 25m 5b Climb the left-facing corner 10m left of Impulse.
2. 45m Easy ribs and slabs lead to a grass ledge and descent as for Impulse.

Cioch Nose Superdirect VII,8 ***. C. Dale, M. Moran. 5th February 2003.

An ascent was made during winter 1986 by John Sylvester and Dave Toombs but not recorded and it is uncertain what conditions were like. The 2003 ascent recorded pitch grades of 7, 8, 8, 6/7, 6. Five pitches of sustained technical well protected climbing. The party were not inclined to continue up Cioch Corner which in any event was fairly bare of snow. A winter ascent of the combination in a single push would be a grade VIII "tour de force".

BEN DAMPH FOREST, Creag Dubh an t-Sall:

NOTE: At the left (north) end, the crack on a side wall is a short Severe. To its right is a deep chockstoned crack (Very Difficult) which leads to a ledge. Walk right and climb the corner behind a tree to finish. The next prominent feature to the right is a big wet black corner.

Unnamed 10m Very Difficult. D. McGimpsey. 14th July 2002.

Climb the arête to the right of the black corner and the wall above, trending right above a small holly.

Unnamed 15m E1 5a *. D. McGimpsey, E. Christison. 14th July 2002.

Two slabby right-facing corners lie 15m right of Bombus. Climb the right corner and step left on to a small ledge. Cross an overlap and finish up a wall. Small RP's useful.

Creag na Speireag:

Unnamed 30m E3 6a **. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 20th June 2002.

The most continuous crackline in the middle section of crag has a hard but well protected section. A low horizontal break leads right from near the base of One Cog Missing. About 15m right is a pink streak emerging from the left end of a wide section of crack. The crack itself passes a block on its right to pass the right end of this wide section of horizontal crack. Climb the crack past the wide section and steeply above to make a thin move on to easier angled ground leading to the main horizontal break. Pass its capping roof on the left (or direct up the crack, harder), return to the crack and finish up it.

Cuir Tigear Na Do Thanc, Easier Version E1 5b (overall). D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet 20th June 2002.

Go up the first crack to below its top, then pull out right. Traverse right (crux) to a flake line leading back left to the top of the second crack of the direct route and finish as for that route.

BEINN EIGHE, West Buttress:

Note: A large rockfall in West Central Gully was noted in March 2003.

Creag Mhor (Independent Pineapple Cliff):

Smilodon 100m IV,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 5th January 2003.

By the summer route except that the groove was climbed direct throughout.

TORRIDON CRAGS, Seana Mheallan, Western Sector:

Heather Said Sunshine HVS 5a *. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 10th August 2002.

Just left of Polythene Bag. Climb a short black corner, go over a bulge and follow a crack up leftwards.

Better than a Slap in the Face Severe. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 10th August 2002.

Right of Polythene Bag is a slabby wall topped by a bulge. Climb the left side of the wall, over the bulge using a rib and continue to the top.

Luing Rib Very Difficult. C. Moody. 10th August 2002.

Climb the short slabby wall left of Mr Bean. Go left into the corner to avoid the overhang then back right and continue up pleasant rock right of the edge.

Lap Land 20m Severe *. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 10th August 2002.

Left of Quartz Warts. Take a line through two overlaps to a heather ledge, then a short wall to finish.

KINLOCHEWE, Meall an Ghobhar (NH 026 643)

This route is situated on one of the many crags which border the higher ramp of Bac an t-Sniomha. The first proper crag encountered on the ramp is orange, overhanging and stands above a deep bed of deer droppings. This route lies 70m further up the ramp.

The Blitz 50m HVS. C. Dale, P. and A. Lunn. 30th May 2001.

Start about 10m left of deep tree-filled recess at the foot of a left-facing corner-crack. The route was extensively cleared of blocks on lead but care is still needed.

1. 25m 4c Climb the corner-crack to a ledge system. Move along this for 4m and climb a short steep wall (crux) to gain a short right-facing corner. Climb this and traverse left to the base of a fine right-trending gangway, followed to an eyrie stance.

2. 25m 4b Climb up 2m to gain a ledge system running rightwards into a corner. Follow this to the top.

GAIRLOCH CRAGS, Creag Bhadan an Aisg, Curtain Wall:

Windhover 12m E2 5b. P. Tattersall, J. Buchanan. 19th March 2002.

Go directly up to an alcove with a small tree. A heathery exit.

Hobbyhorse 12m E3 5c P. Tattersall. 10th June 2002.

The widish crackline (second from right).

LOCH TOLLAIDH, Raven's Nest:

BaBa 15m E6 6b. P. Tattersall. 13th April 2002.

A strenuous well-protected line right of Blow-out.

Ming Mong 35m E5 6a *. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 8th April 2002.

Start up MacDonald to the left end of the diagonal overlap. Place a good nut on

the left and make a long move straight over. Follow the overlap rightwards using holds below and above to join, then finish up Feathering the Nest. Micro-wires useful.

Gairloch Wall:

Steer Clear 15m E5 6b. P. Tattersall. 16th July 2002.

The rib between Ageing Bull and The Imposter with a boulder problem start.

Dinosaur Buttress:

Off The Bone 20m HVS 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 6th April 2002.

Swing rightwards above the roof a short way up In the Pink and climb directly to the top, eliminate.

Reeperbahn 20m E4 6a/b. P. Tattersall. 19th May 2002.

The wall and hanging groove left of Scarlatina.

Ewe Walls:

Right On 15m HVS 5b. R. Anderson, M. Garthwaite. 8th April 2002.

Just left of New Horizons, climb a thin crack to a wide crack, then swing out right and climb directly to the top.

Frozen in Time 20m E1 5a. T. Doe, A. Gorman. 20th August 2002.

The wall right of New Horizons.

Left Out 15m E1 5b. R. Anderson, M. Garthwaite. 7th April 2002.

The obvious left slanting crackline immediately left of Right On.

Peweky 20m E1 5b **. M. Garthwaite, R. Anderson. 7th April 2002.

Climbs the right side of the arête between Incisor and Ewereka.

Hidden Crag:

Monte Cristo 35m E2 5b **. R. and C. Anderson. 6th April 2002.

The thin crackline immediately right of Malpasso and just left of the corner. Climb as for Malpasso to above the grass ledges, then move up right to a steepening and the crack.

Unnamed Crag:

A small crag of fine compact rock, just left of and set back from the top of Hidden Crag. The crackline on the right side has been climbed (HVS 5a with a finish out right just below the top). At its highest point at the base of the crag an obvious wide crack provides a break in the small lower section of the cliff, with an obvious heathery fault slanting up leftwards just to its left. All routes start here.

The Walline 15m E2 5a/b **. R. and C. Anderson. 10th April 2002.

The centre of the wall immediately left of the crackline, passing a small rock scar.

The Nextline 15m E1 5a *. R. and C. Anderson. 10th April 2002.

Immediately left of The Walline. Climb the initial wall and make a few moves leftwards up the heathery fault to a tiny roof, then swing out right and climb the wall to the top.

Fraggle Rock:

Tall in the Saddle 25m E6 6b. P. Tattersall. 20th July 2002.

The white wall left of Heave-ho. (Toprope practiced)

Top Crag Left:

Poles Apart 20m E2 5b *. R. and C. Anderson. 8th April 2002.

Just left of Dr Beaker, climb to the left end of a horizontal roof crack, then pull up left into a shallow rising line of weakness and follow this up right to a tiny niche, then swing out left and climb the crack in the wall above.

Top Crag Right:

Nippy Heed 15m E3 5b. M. Garthwaite R. Anderson. 7th April 2002.

Climb the centre of the wall going up, then slightly passing a thread (wire) near the top. Worthless protection although the climbing does ease a bit towards the top.

Itty Bitty Gritty 15m E1 5a. M. Garthwaite R. Anderson. 7th April 2002.

The rightward trending line immediately right of Nippy Heed to a ledge, then up the groove above.

GRUINARD CRAGS, The Beach Wall:

Saga of Sewage 10m E5 6a. P. Tattersall. 29th March 2002.

A thin crackline on the left side of the steep wall at the right-hand end of the crag.

Post Crag:

Instantly Forgettable 10m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, J. Dale. 23rd May 2002.

Start near the right end of the crag. Climb up steep blocky ground just left of a dirty left-facing corner and finish awkwardly onto the terrace.

Bog Meadow Crags:

Bloody Flake 10m VS 5a *. A. Cunningham, J. Dale. 23rd May 2002.

The next crag right of the short right-hand section of Bog Meadow Wall is a narrow buttress split by flake cracks. This route climbs the undercut flake corner crack a few metres up left of the toe of the buttress. Start under a chimney crack and swing right and up to the overlap. Climb the corner and flake to its top and continue to the glaciais. Possibly done before.

Inveranvie Crag, Lower Tier:

Haywire 20m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, J. Dale. 21st May 2002.

A route up and left of Temporary Beauty, left of the ivy patch. Start at black streaked slabby rock left of a grassy fault. Climb into a crack in a shallow left-facing corner. Move up and right into a crack in the slab and up to the bulge. Move awkwardly left into a wider crack through the bulge and finish up this.

Optic Wall:

The Saloon of Life 20m E2 5b **. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 12th May 2002.

Right of the end of Optic Wall, the crag turns uphill into a sidewall. To the right of a tree filled fault about half way up the sidewall is a fine clean steep prow. This

route climbs a crackline splitting the prow. Start up the slab below the prow and pull right onto it at a flake. Climb steeply into the crack and follow this line direct through bulges and all to the top.

Note: Repeated by A. Cunningham and M. Blyth on 26th May 2002 and named Spit and Polish (same grade).

Inverianvie Crag, Yellow Wall:

Predator 20m E3 5c. P. Tattersall, A. Tattersall, T. Doe. 16th June 2002.
The groove-line on the left.

Bloomsday 20m E5 6a. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 16th June 2002.
The thin left-slanting crackline on the right.

Riverside Slabs (NG 958 890):

These are 20m slabs lying immediately above the Inverianvie river path, just past the turnoff for Dog Crag and with an obvious holly tree at the right-hand end. The climbing is good but the quality is reduced by a degree of mossy rock. There is a left-hand section, a heather filled fault, a main central section followed by another heathery fault and a final rib on the right. Descend to the right.

Pipistrelle Crack 18m HVS 5a. A Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 9th October 2002.
Climbs the left-hand buttress. Start at the lowest point and climb directly into a pod. Follow cracks left and up to a horizontal break. Move right, climb a short mossy crack and move right again to finish up the crack in the centre of the buttress.

The next routes are on the central section.

Blues Before Sunrise 20m HVS 5a *. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 9th October 2002.

Start by a thin right diagonal crack at the left end of a low heather ledge. Climb direct to gain thin cracks leading to the base of a left-facing mossy corner. Finish by the obvious left diagonal crack.

Passing Glance 20m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 9th October 2002.

The obvious crack springing from a recess and lower left-facing dirty corner. Start left of the corner and heather patch and climb cracks in a vague rib to the base of the main crack. From its top move right and up to finish.

Blitzkrieg Bop 20m E1 5b *. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 9th October 2002.

A right trending line starting from the right end of the low heather ledge. Climb up and through a shallow slot to gain the right slanting crack and up this to below the heather. Trend right and up to finish.

Sunlight Slab 20m MVS 4b *. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 9th October 2002.

Follows thin cracks in the slab split by a heather ledge. Start by some pale streaks and climb cracks to the ledge. Continue up the cracks heading right towards the edge and finish up a more obvious crack returning left.

Autumn Rib 18m Severe *. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 9th October 2002.
The rib right of the right-hand heather fault. Climb obvious clean cracks up the rib with a deviation on to the left edge at the top section.

Echolocation 12m Hard Severe. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 9th October 2002.
The left arête of the block right of the holly tree. Start on the front face and follow the obvious crack over the arête to finish up its left side.

Jetty Crag:

Pikeys Wall HVS 5a. G. Etle, J. Lyall. May 2001.
Between Buttress Crack and Route 6 is a more direct version of previous routes. Ascend the dark recess to step left and climb pillar direct.

Carn Dearg an Droma, Weird Crag (NG 974 947, South facing):

This seemingly insignificant and scrappy crag lies on a knoll north of the high point of Carn Dearg an Droma; about 25 minutes walk from parking at NG 981 934 on the A832. It is an unusual sandstone conglomerate with sometimes huge boulders dubiously embedded in a shattered looking matrix. Contrary to first impressions, the rock is solid and runs to jugs and incuts, especially on the more weathered rock, allowing steep climbs at an amenable grade. The crag about 60m long and steadily rises from 8m at either end to a maximum height of about 18m in the middle where it is hugely undercut. The protection is generally very good, as are the views! The crag may be the same as in the following note:

Note from SMCJ 1947 by J. H. B. and P. Bell: A remarkable undercut face of Torridonian sandstone on Carn Dearg an Droma, about 1 mile NW of the road afforded a few short climbs.

Near the left end of the crag is an obvious chimney set in a right-facing corner.

Blood Brothers 8m Severe. M. Blyth, A. Cunningham. 11th May 2002.
Start at the base of the chimney and climb a left-trending crack in the left wall. Finish straight up.

Clotting Agent 10m Hard Severe 4c. M. Blyth, A. Cunningham. 11th May 2002.
About 6m right of Blood Brothers is a right-facing corner with a grassy bay near its base. Pull over the bulge and into the grassy bay. Finish up the corner.

Wedgetarian 12m E1 5b *. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 11th May 2002.
About 6m right of Clotting Agent is a thin steep crackline leading through a series of bulges. Climb the crack direct, passing a lichenous jammed block near the top.

Burnt Offering 10m Severe **. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 11th May 2002.
The next obvious feature to the right is a steep right-facing corner with a bulge near the top. Climb the corner moving onto the left edge at the bulge.

Below! 15m E1 5a *. M. Blyth, A. Cunningham. 11th May 2002.
Start about 2m right of the corner of Burnt Offering. Climb to a handrail leading right to the edge and up this on good holds to a roof. Pull through at a short right-facing corner and easier to finish.

Ban the Burn 18m E1 5b **. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 11th May 2002.

A few metres right of Below! is a wide scooped area of rock above a break in the undercut base and a step in the ledge at the base of the crag. Pull left through the undercut and up the scoop via good horizontal breaks to a short roof. Turn the roof on the right, move back left above and finish direct.

At the right end of the crag is a turf fault where the undercut peters out.

Thicker Than Water 10m Hard Severe 4b. M. Blyth, A. Cunningham. 11th May 2002.

Start just left of the turf fault below a V groove high up. Pull over the bulge, climb up to the V groove and finish easily above.

Charity Crack 10m VS 5a*. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 11th May 2002.

Start about 2m left of Thicker Than Water below a crack higher up. Pull through the undercut and move up to the crack. Climb the crack and easier ground above.

Sheiling Crag (NG 992 912 - 991 908, Alt 230m North-West facing):

This is a line of gneiss outcrops descending in a north - south escarpment. They vary in height from roughly 8m to 25m and most climbs will usually require an amount of cleaning to give quality climbing. The quickest access is from car park at NG 003 928 on the A832 passing Loch an Eilich on the east side - 35 minutes.

Corner Crag (NG 992 911):

This is the second most significant buttress encountered approaching from the north, with an undercut wall on the left side and a series of short corners and grooves set into the south-west edge. Descend the gully bounding the left side. The following four routes centre around the short corners.

Basil 10m HVS 5a. M. Blyth, A. Cunningham. 12th May 2002.

The most significant mossy left-facing corner left of the SW edge. Climb mainly on the left wall of the corner.

Laughing Loopworm 10m E3 5c ***. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 12th May 2002.

Climb the slim double hanging grooves just right of and overlooking the corner of Basil. Steep and awkward.

Camel Ride 10m HVS 5a **. A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 12th May 2002.

The left-facing corner crack set in the edge of the buttress.

Wild Goose Chase 10m HVS 5a *. M. Blyth, A. Cunningham. 12th May 2002.

Climb the crack about 2m right of the corner of Camel Ride, on the south-west side.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH (VOLUME TWO)

With a new guide (650 pages) containing a lot of unrecorded routes imminent, there seems no point in reproducing routes here.

CAIRNGORMS

LOCHNAGAR, Tough-Brown Face:

Frozen Sorrow 80m X,11. A. Mullin, S. Lynch. 17th November 2002.

The route climbs the second pitch of Crazy Sorrow. Ice forms readily in this natural summer drainage line. Climb the first pitch of Mort and traverse right to the end of the ledge and the left side of the huge standing block (50m). Climb up to the back of the roof and gain a horizontal crack in the back of the roof. Torque out and hook the lip of the roof. Climb boldly over the lip of the roof and mantle hard on to a small mono hold above. The obvious groove above was climbed mainly on ice, providing good hooks for the tools but scant protection. The top slanting crack was very hard but adequately protected. An abseil was taken from above the second pitch of Crazy Sorrow to gain the ground below.

Note: The grade is as submitted and will not necessarily be used in the next guide.

Coire an Loch Nan Eun, Balloon Buttress:

About 100m left of Whacky Buttress is another steep buttress characterised by a smooth rectangular front face. Approach by climbing steep mixed ground from Loch Nan Eun, or descend from the plateau by a snow gully just to the west.

Feelin' Groovy 40m IV,5. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 16th March 2003.

The right-angled corner defining the left edge of the rectangular wall. Climb the corner to a ledge and continue up corners and walls to the top.

Slip Slidin' Away 40m V,6. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 16th March 2003.

The V-groove cutting into the left edge of the wall. Make a difficult pull into the groove and climb it over a bulge to a ledge. Move up and right to the top.

Freewheelin' 40m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 16th March 2003.

The fault cutting through the centre of the wall is guarded by a one-metre roof. Climb up to the roof, make a long reach for turf and pull through to the fault above. Wild! Follow this trending slightly right up the centre of the wall to reach easier ground and the top.

The Staic: North-West Face:

Bonanza 85m V,7. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 11th January 2003.

This line climbs the right-facing corner system that defines the right-hand side of Millennium Buttress.

1. 40m Climb turfey slabs with occasional awkward steps to where the corner steepens.

2. 25m Step down into the corner and climb it via steep ramps on the left wall. Belay on a ledge under the final headwall at a steep off-width crack. (It is possible to traverse right into Twilight Groove at this point – but don't you dare!).

3. 25m Arrange devious cowboy protection, climb the offwidth (steep, puzzling and technical) and follow the continuation crack through overlaps to easier ground.

Broad Cairn Bluffs:

Call My Bluff 130m III,4. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 2nd February 2003. A counter-diagonal to Yoo Hoo Buttress. Start below the broad right edge of the buttress.

1. 25m Climb up and left past a couple of blocky steps to gain the right end of the terrace at the top of the ramp on Yoo Hoo Buttress.
2. 40m Above are two diverging groove-lines, that are separated by a knife-like flake at their base. Climb the left-hand groove-line that opens into a square-cut gully in its upper reaches, to reach a large ledge. A good pitch.
3. and 4. 65m Scramble through blocky ground to where the angle eases. Continue up easy ground joining the upper part of a wide ramp that slants up from the left.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Central Gully Wall:

Snakes and Ladders 150m V,7. G. Robertson, T. Rankin. 11th January 2003. This climb takes the easiest line up the broad buttress right of Sabre Cut, aiming for an obvious flake crack high up. Start at the base of a prominent right curving groove.

1. 35m Climb the groove for 25m, passing a delicate slab, then pull over an icy bulge to an enormous flake.
2. 45m Move left on to the rib, then continue easily up rightwards to a steep turfey groove leading direct to the steep upper wall. Climb the groove, then a series of steep left-trending steps until forced back right to the base of an overhanging corner.
3. 10m Climb the overhanging corner direct and belay below the flake crack.
4. 10m Pull leftwards, then direct over a bulge to the right end of a long ledge.
5. 50m Follow the ledge out left, then up to the top.

A more determined effort could take the final wall direct but would be very hard and out of keeping with the rest of the route.

COIRE KANDER (Carn An Tuirc):

Wee Gem 120m IV,4. G. Penny, C. Horne. 10th January 2003.

This is an underrated venue in a good freeze with not too much snow to bank out the lines. At the centre of the back of the coire is a burn at NO 185 806 which forms a good ice route.

1. 40m Start at the bottom of a buttress which bounds the lower left side of the ice fall. Climb easy angled ice until the angle steepens.
2. 30m Climb steeper ice to gain a grand ledge.
3. 50m Climb up a broad icefall (steep to start), move up and over bulges to gain the line of the watercourse.

CANNES GLEN:

Where Eagles Dare 135m V,5. N. Batchelor, F. Watt. 9th January 2003.

Climbs the watercourse in the obvious steep depression on the cliffs facing south-east in Cannes Glen (south-east of the summit of Glas Maol). The climb only comes into view at the last minute on the walk in. Ice screw protection. Start at the bottom of a gully running up and left under some steep rock. Climb this easily

over ice bulges to an alcove (25m). Cut back right above the overhang and traverse up and right on ice to a cave/alcove (40m). This pitch is technically straightforward, but fairly steep and very exposed with ice screw protection. Climb out of the left side of the cave, then up right on a large sloping ledge to under the obvious icicle (25m). Climb the icicle direct and the steep bulge above to easier angled ice which is followed over short bulges to the top (45m).

CAENLOCHAN:

Have Faith 90m IV,4. G. Penny, C. Horne. 5th January 2003.

The next watercourse north of The Central Runnel flows over a crag with a distinctive vertical band of red rock. This forms a fine icefall in a good freeze.

1. 40m Climb the steep icefall at the bottom of the crag, then follow the line of the watercourse upwards at a reduced angle.
2. 50m Follow the line of the watercourse to top with a short steeping to finish.

DRIESH, Winter Corrie:

Easy Gully Buttress 130m II. M. Raistrick, M. Stutter. 2nd March 1998.

Perhaps climbed before. Approach as for Backdoor Gully.

1. 40 m Go left opposite the base of Backdoor Gully, follow snow over short rock steps working up and left until blocked by a steep 10m wall.
2. 30m Move down a few metres and traverse right to gain a steep left-slanting gully and follow this to its top overlooking the right branch of Easy Gully.
3. 15m Move right to climb a short steep chimney (crux).
4. 50m Climb easy convex snow slopes to the plateau.

Coire Brandy:

Smuggler 70m HVS. S.M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 29th September 2002.

The impressive buttress of mica schist at the head of the Loch Brandy at NO 339 759.

1. 40m 5a Start below the centre of the buttress and climb a series of steep cracks interspersed with heather ledges to reach a stance by some huge blocks below the impressive buttress headwall.
2. 30m 5a Climb a rib, step left at its top and then move straight up through a scoop (crux) to below a steep wall. Move right into a steep crack that leads to the top of the buttress.

GLEN DOLL, Cairn Damff:

This is the crag with Maud Buttress. This solid crag lies on the eastern side of Glen Doll and has a sunny aspect. Most of the cliff dries quickly, although it is higher and more exposed than the Glen Clova crags. Approach from the Glen Clova track and turn right on to the good path signposted Jocks Road. On leaving the forest, the main crag is the triangular lower buttress of a series of broken crags. Descent is by abseiling from a solid tree above the slab at the right hand side of the crag. The routes are described from left to right.

Dolly Sprint 25m HVS 4c/5a. K. Milne, J. Ashdown. 20th June 1999.

At left end of crag is an obvious corner facing right. Climb this using cracks and escape left before an overhang. Belay in a large crack up and left. Descend by first scrambling up and across to the abseil tree.

John Ellison climbing on Central Buttress of Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Beinn Eighe. Photo: Scott Muir.

Surprise, Surprise 25m E3 5c *. K. Milne, S. Richardson. 24th August 1997.
Start at the left side of the lowest crag.

1. 25m 5c Climb a short slab, step up and left on to a ledge, then climb up to a steep niche. Traverse right precariously on to a large sloping ledge and belay (old pitons).
2. 25m 5c With a runner in a crack above, traverse strenuously left until it is possible to move up the wall and then bridge awkwardly on to a sloping ledge on the left side of the crag. Finish straight up more easily.

Old Boys' Route 45m E1. J. Ashdown, K. Milne. 20th June 1999.

Based on the finding of pitons, the first pitch of this route has been climbed before, but the previous occurrence of loose rock on the second pitch makes it very unlikely that the route was completed. Start in the middle of the crag

1. 25m 5b Wander over large flat boulders to a short corner crack, then climb up and right to an awkward recess. Move up to a ramp. Climb left up the ramp to a belay (old pitons).
2. 20m 5b Climb delicately up and right along a ramp and swing around a bulge to easier ground. A bit dirty in places.

Long John Silver 40m E2 5b **. K. Milne, M. Atkins. 23rd June 2001.

This route takes a fine line straight up the middle of the slab at the right-hand side of the crag. A full rack is recommended. Starts a few metres right of the lowest point of the crag at a shelf below a niche. Climb surprisingly steeply up into the niche then move around left on to a large ledge. A Friend#4 can be placed on the right before moving up the main slab. Aim for a small overhang (good runner just above). Move left and up (crux) to gain a ramp. Climb straight up a series of breaks following the cleaned line.

Upper Crag:

This is a compact grey crag about 150m above the main crag. It is approached from the right-hand side via grassy slopes. Traverse back in across steep heather.

Between the Showers 30m E1 5b/5c *. K. Milne, M. Atkins 15th September 2002.

Takes the corner line behind a sapling. Steeper than it looks, the corner is climbed with an awkward finish into an easier groove leading slightly left. Step right and then up a slab.

BEINNA' BHUIRD, Coire an Dubh Lochan:

Tearaway III/IV. A. Runciman and party. December 2002.

Climbed on thin but good ice. A good route but banks out unless conditions are lean.

Coire nan Clach:

Bluebell Buttress 200m II. S. M. Richardson. 23rd March 2003.

The broad buttress left of Crocus Gully. Climb Crocus Gully for 50m and follow a left-slanting gully for 50m to reach the buttress crest, which leads easily to the top.

Unknown climbers enjoying superb granite on the 6c pitch 5 of Echech et Marc, Red Pillar of the Blaitiere, Mont Blanc Range. ABO inf. 250 m 6c. Photo: Ross Hewitt.

Garbh Choire:

Elixir 230m III. S. M. Richardson. 23rd March 2003.

Start 50m left of Alchemist's Route and follow an open gully over two bulges for 180m to enter an amphitheatre topped by rocky walls. Move up and left to enter a hidden right-slanting gully that leads to final snow slope and cornice.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Mor:

Up and left of Crown Buttress, there is a long rectangular wall directly below the plateau. It can be reached by traversing left from the foot of Crown Buttress and climbing straight up easy mixed ground.

Cockade 70m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 29th December 2002.

The next buttress left of Coronet Arête. Start below the left edge of the buttress.

1. 30m Climb a groove and step right to a good ledge below a V-shaped roof.
2. 40m Step back left into the continuation groove and follow this to where it fades. Traverse right across a thin slab (crux) to the right edge, then move up and left up a wide crack to reach the plateau.

Feather Gully 50m III,4. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 29th December 2002.

Approximately 50m left of Cockade a hidden right-slanting gully cuts through the long rectangular wall. Climb the gully past a jammed chokestone and continue up the steep exit corner to the top.

Comanche 60m V,5. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 19th January 2003.

The next fault right of Cherokee Chimney. Start 10m right of Cherokee Chimney, just left of the start of the right-slanting line of Custer Corner.

1. 40m Climb the right facing corner fault for 25m, then move left across a steep wall to regain a chimney-fault. Climb this to belay below the steep final corner of Cherokee Chimney.
2. 20m Move left across a slab and climb the slab-corner above to the final snow slope.

Note: It is more logical to inter-change the top pitch with Cherokee Chimney pitch 3 to give more continuous lines.

Positive Charge 100m III,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 31st December 2002.

A mixed line climbed early season and based on the second groove (more of a left-facing corner) right of Phoenix Buttress. Start in the snow bay right of Phoenix Buttress, but climb a groove leading left into the first groove above its steep initial wall. Climb the groove, then return right to cross Forked Lightning Route and enter the second groove. Follow this until it peters out, then make moves right over a rib into another groove which leads to the top.

Coire Bhrochain:

Black Pinnacle Crest 50m VS 4b. A. Nisbet. 23rd September 2002.

Not "impossible", as the 1960 guide suggested. This is the crest left of Direct Route. Start by an easy wall leading to a band of overhangs. Go up into a corner on the left. Make an airy step out right above a roof (crux), then follow the crest as closely as possible. Some of the rock is hollow, particularly the summit!

Black Pinnacle Direct Route 90m V,6. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 8th December 2002.

A superb expedition under heavy snow, accessed down Central Buttress Gully and returning down its left fork from the neck behind the pinnacle and back up the right, thereby avoiding all cornices. Climbed by Bell's line. The traverse of the summits under heavy snow is unique in Scotland.

Black Pinnacle Direct Route, Variation 90m IV,4. A. Nisbet (roped solo). 29th October 2002.

The variation was climbed to a ledge overlooking Slab Route (30m). An exposed move back left on to the face was the crux (as in summer), followed by slabby ground to the arête and the outer summit (30m).

CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN:

Note: K. Milne and S. Helmore climbed a short V,6 with two worthwhile turf pitches up on the right side of the crag near Stanley.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

Flying Ridge 100m Difficult. A. Nisbet. 22nd August 2001.

Climb the crest of the right leg until beside the easy grassy trough of the upper part of Cherub's Depression. Move right on to a steeper buttress immediately above overhangs and climb a groove just left of the crest to reach and follow the crest to the top.

Winter: IV,5. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 5th December 2002.

Following the summer route throughout provided an independent finish.

CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:

Finishing Line 95m III,5. G. Eittle, J. Preston. 14th November 2001.

The first large sloping shelf, below Inside Edge.

1. 30m Climb turf cracks up the slab; move left to belay on Gonaeno Groove.
2. 20m Go up a square fault to an awkward exit left, then traverse left for 10m.
3. 15m Technical grooves up the buttress edge.
4. 30m Easy to the top.

Note: Poison Dwarf (SMCJ 2002) was graded VI,8, with useful ice throughout. Snake Charmer was repeated, easy V,6 and Snake Bite agreed at V,7.

STAG ROCKS:

Gladiator 75m V,5. J. Lyall, J. Preston. 23rd January 2003.

Climbs the left wall of The Amphitheatre, starting 10m below the choice of gully exits. Follow a straight turf fault to a mossy recess below a roof and turn this on the left. Regain the fault and reach the crest (45m). Follow the crest to the top.

Paraskevidekatriaphobia 65m V,6. J. Lyall, J. Preston. 13th December 2002.

A good sustained route up the narrow fault line 5m right of the right-hand finish to Amphitheatre Gully.

1. 30m Climb up through a short corner and follow a shallow chimney to a ledge.
2. 35m Move up left to follow a groove line to below an impending wall and make a tricky traverse left to finish up the last few metres of the Right-Hand Finish.

COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:

Pot Doodles 110m IV,6. J. Lyall, E. Pirie, J. Preston. 19th November 2002
(Upper part has had several previous ascents).

Climb the shallow right-facing corner half way between Yukon Jack and Jacobs Ladder and lying above the Haston Line. Gain it up the thin lower slabs. Follow The Slant left and climb the steep crack up the buttress between Frozen Assets and the chimney left of Yukon Jack.

COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.3 Buttress:

Note: A free ascent of Daddy Longlegs summer line (see SMCJ 1999) at VII,9 on 7th December 2002 by P. Benson and G. Robertson. The grade assumes the downgrading of Big Daddy to VII,8.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS**Cruden Bay, Seals Cave:**

Mezzanine 25m E2 5c. M. Reed, R. Birkett. 23rd March 2003.

The slabs right of Teardrop. Start right of the green chimney just below the short hanging crack. Go easily up right on the first slab, then back left up a dirty slab to jugs below a short steep corner. Pull up on good finger locks (crux) then swing right on to another narrow slab and small black corner below the big capping roof. Pull out right again to the mother of all jugs and move right along the easy slab to a comfy belay. Easy ground above to finish.

Arthur Fowlie, South Wall:

Saraman 30m E5 6a (E4 5c?) M. Reed, R. Birkett. 23rd March 2003.

The easiest line up the pink granite wall between Incabus and Pink Panther. Start from the left side, below the Incabus corner. Go up on edges to a juggy small corner, then up to a bigger corner with a flat top. Stand on this and climb the bulge (some gwano splattered holds here!) passing a small undercut block with a small but good runner in the crack (crux). Continue up on bold but easier slabby ground trending slightly left to join the finish of Incabus near the top. Take tiny wires.

PANNANICH CRAG:

Scottish Tactics 40m VII,7. T. Rankin, P. Benson. 2nd March 2003.

Basically a winter ascent of English Tactics. It offers two excellent sustained pitches and is a good choice for a cold stormy day.

1. 25m Climb a thin icefall to the base of the corner. Climb the corner to gain turf on the left. Use this to swing wildly left around the arête to steep thin cracks, climbed to grass ledges. Easier ground leads up right, then back left to below the steep upper crack.
2. 15m Climb steeply into the niche and follow the crack above until forced out left just below the top. Finish up turf to a tree and abseil.

Note: One fall on pitch 2.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

GLEN NEVIS, Buzzard Crag:

Juggernaut 30m E7 6b ***. D. MacLeod. 18th August 2002.

This outstanding line, probably the best on the crag, takes the immaculate wall between Handren Effect and The Monster, featuring fairly well protected but sustained and strenuous climbing. Start up the left facing scoop and step left to the pegs. Launch directly up the wall above to reach a jug (good wire behind this). Move up and left to the deceptive break (RP) and dyno to a good hold directly above (crux). Move left and mantle onto the sloping ledge which gives access to an easy finishing rib on the left.

Whale Rock:

Hold Fast 25m E9 7a ***. D. MacLeod. 16th December 2002.

A death defying line on the pristine wall between Run For Home and Femme Fatale. Start at the right edge of the small ledge (poor skyhook possible). Climb directly up the faint rib through a desperate, technical and sustained crux to gain a tiny finger flake (no protection). Continue with further difficulty to a hard finishing move to gain a line of good edges leading leftwards into Run For Home. Finish up this. Top rope practice used.

The Half Dome:

This micro crag lies 100m up the ridge above the river walls at the top of the gorge. Cross the boulders at the upper edge of the gorge and follow a faint path up the side of the ridge until the crag can be seen. So named because of its resemblance, if not in size to its Yosemite namesake.

Fontindundar 5m E5 6a **. B. Fyffe (solo). July 2002.

This serious micro route takes the shallow groove in the centre of the wall. Move up leftwards to reach an incut hold. Make a precarious rockover and long reach to gain a good edge near the top.

Corduroy 5m E6 6b **. D. MacLeod (solo). July 2002.

This technical route takes the diagonal striations right of Fontindundar. Start at the same point as this route. From the sloping shelf move up and right on thin diagonal edges until it is possible to stand on the shelf and gain a pinch. Keep cool and reach for the top.

MALLAIG CRAGS, Ardnish, Fool's Crag (NM 717 812):

Two crags can be seen to the NNE from Peanmeanach, above the path. The top crag does not warrant closer inspection. The lower is characterised by a large broken boulder slope. This is Fool's Crag. Two lines have been climbed.

The Joker 10m VS 4b. R. I. Jones. 12th May 2002

The clean leftwards slanting slab right of the trees gives good, but unprotected climbing.

The Fool 8m VS 4b. R. I. Jones. 12th May 2002

Slightly further up is slab with a broken left-facing corner. Climb the slab. Loose at the top. Protection is poor.

Wee Crag (NM 701 805):

Beyond the ruins at Glanacardoch are two small beaches before you arrive a much larger sandy beach at Map Ref 700 806. The second beach has a few 8-10m walls. The nearest and highest provides the following:

Mulling It Over 10m Hard Severe 4b. R. I. Jones. 12th May 2002

Start left of the rib and heather at the left end of the wall. Climb through a small overhang and then the wall above.

Pausing For Thought 10m VS 4b. R. I. Jones. 12th May 2002

Climb the rib and crack to its top, then the centre of the wall above. Pause, before pulling on the heather to exit at the top with a good hold for the left hand.

Lizard Rib (NM 701 806):

This is a small 8m rib with a wall on its left-hand side that lies in the gully just behind Lizard Crag by the large sandy beach. It provides two good short routes.

Persuasive Persistence 8m E1 5a/b *. R. I. Jones. 12th May 2002

Climbs the left arête. Make difficult moves to get established just left of the arête. Pull around and on to the arête, taking care of a creaking block at the small break that crosses the rib. Balance your way to the top.

Evolutionary Delight 8m HVS 5a *. R. I. Jones. 12th May 2002

Takes the right side of the rib and crack line above. Layback moves get you established. The break provides excellent footholds to survey the crack above. Climb this. Good protection.

BINNEIN SHUAS, The Fortress:

In Xanadu 45m E1 5b *. G. Latter, J. Baird. 13th July 2002.

A direct line midway between Kubla Khan and The Rubaiyat, although a little close to the former at times. Start on the heather terrace 4m right of Kubla Khan. Step awkwardly up on to the slab and follow a direct line, stepping out right to finish up a vague crack where The Rubaiyat foot traverses out right. Belay/abseil from the thread belay under the huge boulder.

Note: The Rubaiyat was repeated and thought to be E1 5b **.

DUNTELCHAIG, Pinnacle Crag:

A Brazilian 10m E3 6a. D. Moy. 21st August 2002.

Start just right of Pinnacle Chimney, step right on to the arête and go straight up this to the top of the Pinnacle. Poor gear and a very bad landing.

No Crack 10m E1 5b. G. Andrew, D. Moy. April 2002.

Lies between Stepped Corner and Jam Crack. Climb to heather ledge just to the left of Jam Crack. Go up the wall to a small scoop, then climb to a small step in the middle of the wall using one good hold to lay off. Bold at the top. A good clean climb.

Big Nose 10m E3 6a. T. Wood (solo). 19th June 2002.

Start between Jam Crack and Left Bay Groove. Go straight up the prominent arête and the overhanging prow above. Poor gear.

Left Bay Diagonal 5c. D. Moy. 6th September 1998.

Start at Left Bay Groove and go left up a steep diagonal crack, then up to a ledge and traverse off left. Finish up Stepped Corner.

Right Chink 8m VS. D. Moy. 25th April 1999.

Start at the far right end of the crag at a small left-facing corner. Go up to beneath an overhang and step awkwardly on to a slab. Finish straight up.

Notes: There is a Y-shaped crack to the right of the top corner on Stepped Corner – 8m VS 4c. It has been climbed several times but the first ascent is not known. T. Wood has soloed the fin of rock between Left Bay Groove and Broken Groove at 6a on 22nd August, 2002. D. Moy has soloed the diagonal crack just left of Pinnacle Chimney at 5c.

The two routes reported in SMCJ 2002 were done by S. Steer and R. Webb on 20th May, 1999. The grades were the same but they were called Everest and K2. J. Mackenzie had, however, climbed them in the 1980s. A large number of boulder problems have also been climbed around here by D. Moy during the last 10 years including the easier of the two routes.

Dunlivity Crag:

Midgesummer Night Madness 30m E3 5c. T. Wood, D. Moy. 16th July 2002.

A route to the left of the overhanging prow. Go up a line in the centre of a big slab to a ledge below a steep wall. Go direct over a bulge and climb broken rock, working up and slightly left.

Ault-na-Goire (Map Ref 544 228):

Blanched 10m Severe. D. Moy, T. Wood. 15th May 2002.

On the left-hand section of crag. Start at the first left-facing corner and go straight up, passing a small left-facing corner.

Two Left Feet 10m E2 5c. T. Wood, D. Moy. 15th May 2002.

Start 3m right of Blanched below the middle of a bulge. Climb the wall direct to the bulge, pull through the bulge to a good hold and finish up a precarious slab.

Wall and Slab 10m Severe. D. Moy, T. Wood. 15th May 2002.

Start 3m right of Two Left Feet. Go up a slab to the base of a rib and finish up a groove to the left of the rib.

Revealed 10m Severe. D. Moy, T. Wood. 15th May 2002.

This is on the right-hand section of crag. Follow a fault in the middle of the crag to a crack at the top.

INVERFARIGAIG, Monster Buttress:

Note: Monster Magic (SMCJ 2002) was recleaned and led without the preplaced

runner by A. Nisbet, D. McGimpsey, 17th June 2002 at E1 5b **. Dances with Blondes will definitely require recleaning for another ascent.

Nessie 60m Severe. A. Nisbet. 18th June 2002.

Sensational positions for the grade, but some loose rock and vegetation too. Start from the left side of the same pile of blocks as The Monster Mash. Traverse left on big jugs to gain the start of a big ramp leading left. Go up this low angled ramp past a narrowing near its top to ledges. Go over a bulge to a big crevasse (as for The Monster Mash?). Wriggle rightwards up the crevasse, then step down at its far end. Go rightwards up a narrow ramp (crux, more wriggling required) and over a final block to trees.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

BEN NEVIS, Douglas Boulder:

Note: On an ascent of Direct Route 2 on 16th July 2002 by J. and D. Preston, the “slab just right of the sickle shaped scoop” was very bold. We climbed “the steep upper section direct” at VS 4c on excellent rock with good gear. This bit can be bypassed on the left over towards Direct Route 1, possibly where the route is supposed to go, as it looked the only feasible way at Severe, but not direct. We didn’t need to climb a “leaning block” (which again seemed to be away over on the left) to gain easier rock but continued in our line from below.

Pinnacle Buttress of the Tower:

Pincer 200m IV,4. C. Cartwright S. M. Richardson. 15th December 2002.

A good mixed route taking the left crest of Pinnacle Buttress. Start by climbing Broad Gully for 100m to below the foot of the ridge. Climb mixed ground for four pitches just right of the crest to reach the top of the Pinnacle. The final pitch involves a fine 15m-high V-chimney that leads to the summit of the Pinnacle. Continue along the easy angled ridge to the foot of the Great Tower.

Goodeve’s Buttress:

The Borg Collective 150m V,6. C. Cartwright S. M. Richardson. 4th January 2003.

The prominent chimney cutting through the centre of the triangular front face of the buttress. Start midway between Goodytwoshoes and Beam Me Up Scotty.

1. 40m Climb mixed ground leading up into the initial chimney (or approach from the right in lean conditions). Follow the chimney to its termination below a steep V-groove.

2. 30m Step right and climb mixed ground to below a steep cracked wall that blocks access to the upper chimney. Climb cracks in the centre of the wall (crux) and belay at the foot of the chimney.

3 and 4. 80m Climb the chimney to its top and continue up easier ground to reach the plateau as for Hale Bopp Groove.

Comb Gully Buttress:

Great Circle 160m VI,7. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 5th January 2003.

A difficult mixed climb between Comb Gully Buttress and Clough’s Chimney.

It follows a natural cleavage line that slices right to left at an acute angle through the buttress.

1. 50m Climb the easy lower section of the buttress to a belay at the foot of Clough's Chimney.
2. 15m Climb the wall left of Clough's Chimney via discontinuous cracks to a good ledge.
3. 25m Continue up the corner and fault-line above to reach a terrace.
4. 40m Move 5m left along the terrace, and climb the left-slanting flake and offwidth cutting through the wall above. Continue left across the ice of Comb Gully Buttress and belay in the groove system cutting through the tower on the left.
5. 35m The groove splits at this point. The right branch is the Annick Exit to Comb Gully Buttress. Follow the left groove to the top of the tower and the plateau.

South Trident Buttress:

Spartacus VI,7. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 11th November 2002.

By the summer route except that for pitch 2, from the base of the small groove on the right, the wall on the right was traversed to the arête. Slab Route was then followed for 10m until the flake-crack above the overhang was reached. The summer route follows Slab Route for 5m anyway (unless wearing blinkers). The traverse at the end of pitch 3 of the summer description should read left, not right. This and the rest of the summer route was followed.

Notes: J. Preston thought Strident Edge worth VS 4c ***.

1944 Route: J. and D. Preston note that there was definitely some 4b climbing on the second and fourth pitches as described ungraded in the guidebook. Pitches 3 and 5 are 4a, as described. The route is at least Hard Severe, possibly mild VS overall. A good pitch was also climbed from the "large leaning block" of 1944 Route, pretty well straight up and slightly left to the middle ledge, VS 4b, on excellent rock (35m). 18th July 2002. Possibly Eastern Block?

Raeburn's Rib 90m III,4. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 16th February 2003. The well-defined rib splitting the upper reaches of Central Gully. The upper crest was first climbed in winter by Raeburn in 1904 by a line further left. Start up and left of the broad toe of the rib in a small alcove, where an icy fault cuts up and right to the crest.

1. 40m Climb the icy chimney-corner passing a tiny pine tree to a ledge. Continue up the continuation fault to the crest of the rib.
2. 50m Follow the crest of the rib to the plateau.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, Homo Buttress:

Ribbon Development 60m IV,4 **. A. MacDonald, K. Grant. 13th February 2003.

A direct variation of Ribbon Groove, starting as for that route. After pulling out steeply left as per Ribbon Groove, move up right into a narrowing chimney with a chockstone at the top. Climb the chimney (well protected) and pull over the chockstone on to easier ground. Move left to belay at the top of Ribbon Groove (50m). Easier ground leads to the top (10m).

The Ribbed Walls:

Jaws 110m VI,6. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 9th February 2003.

The pillar between White Shark and Tinsel Town.

1. 40m Climb easily up the right edge of the buttress to a steep wall. Surmount this on the right then move left along a sloping shelf to its end and climb straight up to easier ground.
2. 30m Follow a shallow gully up and right then move up to belay below a vertical V-shaped prow.
3. 30m Climb a shallow groove just right of the apex of the prow and continue up into the "Jaws", the steep chimney-corner above. Continue up this until it overhangs, then swing left onto the arête and climb steep cracks to easier ground.
4. 10m Finish up snow to the cornice.

Barbie Boy 80m IV,5 C. Cartwright, R. Webb. 18th December 2002.

Climbs the crest of the buttress between Easy Gully and Muddy Waters. A narrow chimney splits the crest, starting half way up and broadening as it continues.

1. 35m Start from the toe of the buttress immediately right of Easy Gully and climb the crest, first on the right, then moving left to overlook Easy Gully, up to the base of a ramp that cuts leftwards across the right wall of the gully. Move rightwards into a short, left facing corner. Pull out of the corner and continue to a ledge at the base of the chimney. Belay on a block at the right side of the ledge overlooking Muddy Waters.
2. 45m Enter the chimney (awkward) and climb it, then easy slopes to then top.

Coire an Fhir Dhuibh:

On the front face of the steeper right-hand buttress are two groove lines separated by enormous blocks and compact rock.

Sapience 90m V,5 *. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey. 14th December 2002.

The slim groove near the right edge of the buttress. First pitch on ice.

1. 45m Follow the icy groove to a steeper section, then the thickening smear above to a bay.
2. 45m The ice runs out so traverse out right, then back left and up into the long turf groove.

Raga Groove 100m IV,5. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey. 14th December 2002.

The lower half of the left-hand groove looks hard but might go with thicker ice. This route climbs a turf line on the right wall initially, then finishes up the groove.

1. 45m Start right of the groove proper by a ramp and climb turf above, then left along a ledge. Move back right and up on to a flake. Turf leads up and back left into the easier upper groove.
2. 40m Follow the icy groove past one large ledge and go to another large ledge below the final tier.
3. 15m Climb the steep flake and groove above.

Nautical Arête 100m V,6. V. Chelton, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 29th January 2003.

The left wall of the two-tiered arête left of Easy Gully. Start behind a giant flake and gain the ramp which curves up left on to the terrace (30m, 30m). Left of the edge above is a slabby wall with a steep turf corner on its left. Belay off blocks

below the wall and climb a slim corner (hidden) near its right edge, then flakey grooves up and left to a ledge; then gain the next ledge - a good bold pitch (20m). Climb the easier arête to the top (20m).

On the south side of the corrie is a large buttress with a rambling north face. On its east face the long gully is an easy Grade I, the rib to its right is also Grade I. Right again, in the bay where the faces meet is a snowy groove with a steep left wall and distinctive slabby right wall:

Roundhead 200m II. D. Bell, E. Christison, D. McGimpsey. 19th January 2003.

Climb the groove, then follow its continuation (a turfy ramp) on to the north face of the buttress. Turf leads up to the crest, which is followed over a few steps to the top.

Bright Side 150m II *. D. McGimpsey. 16th February 2003.

Climbs the north face. A number of turfy ramps and short walls slant up left from the base. This starts up the topmost ramp below the most prominent left-slanting wall. Climb ice steps into the ramp and follow it to its top. Above climb gradually steepening turf steps to the top of the face

CARN DEARG MEADHONACH:

Monox 130m IV,4. E. Brunskill, G. MacFie. 24th February, 2003.

Climb the terrace/ramp in two long pitches until the ramp steepens to form two slabby grooves (100m). Climb the left-hand groove and a crack, then step left and traverse across the steep wall. Climb up and left through bulges to the buttress crest and easy ground.(30m).

AONACH BEAG, West Face, Broken Axe Buttress:

Snake Charmer 150m II/III. A. Kimber, T. Coar, P. Foulkes. 4th January 2003.

Takes the right edge of Broken Axe Buttress and overlooks the deep gully on the right. Ascend broken grooves and cracks in the crest, climbing a distinctive quartz scoop at one point. The last steep pitch goes left on to the final nose of the buttress, before reaching the easy exit ridge.

An Ghaidh Garbh:

Munro's Last Ridge 150m (plus walking) II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 9th February 2003.

The ridge left (south) of the North-East Ridge. It angles rightwards towards the top of the North-East Ridge but ends in a new Munro top. The climbing is on the lower section of ridge; the upper is walking and not included in the length. Start just left of a central groove. Move left up a ramp, then traverse left round a nose until a turfy trough leads up to the left end of a ledge (45m). Follow the ledge right into the central groove and climb this to where it steepens (55m). Traverse left to follow snowy grooves to the easy upper crest of the ridge.

High in the north-west corner of the corrie just to the south of the ridge of Munro's Last Ridge is a steep buttress containing a large right-facing corner, the line of Goblet of Fire (NN 198 714). It is well hidden from most directions and the

routes only become obvious from below. The routes were approached by descending from the summit ridge at a small rocky outcrop (NN199 713) to the south-east of the summit of Aonach Beag followed by a long traverse back across the corrie to the base of the buttress. Careful consideration of snow conditions should be made as the summit slopes catch the morning sun and are avalanche prone. Large cornices often form. The best and quickest approach is probably by the Gondola over the summits of the Aonachs or for the traditionalist an approach from Glen Nevis. The only previously recorded route, Anabasis, also lies on this buttress and follows a fine looking line of icy grooves up the centre of the face. The easy snow slopes above the buttress lead to the summit cornices (which can be huge) in approximately 200m.

Goblet of Fire 115m IV,4 **. S. Kennedy, A. MacDonald. 18th February 2003. The obvious right-facing corner. An easy initial pitch leads into the corner proper (25m). Climb the corner on ice to a chimney branching off left near the top (45m). Follow the chimney to reach the easy upper slopes (45m). A fine route.

The Chamber of Secrets 135m V,6 **. S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 15th February 2003.

An excellent route taking the prominent deep chimney running up the right side of the buttress. Start as for Anabasis up a groove which leads to a cave at the foot of the chimney (50m). Enter the deep recesses, back and foot up into the roof of the cave, then follow the through route to emerge directly above the belayer at the foot of a steep bulging groove. Climb the groove to a fine belay on the buttress crest (45m). Continue up grooves on the left side of the upper buttress to the easy upper slopes (40m).

Hidden Hope 300m IV,5 *. D. Ritchie, F. MacCallum. 19th February 2003.

Start 20m right of Anabasis. Climb a right-trending groove, then straight up to belay 10m right of Anabasis (55m). Climb straight up easier angled ice to a rocky alcove (60m). Climb up and right then follow thin ice through the short steep wall above to easier ground. Follow easier snow to the left of some rocky buttresses and break through the cornice to finish directly at the summit cairn.

The following route is found on a small buttress situated just under the summit plateau well above and just left of the previous routes.

Braxton-Hicks 100m IV,6. D. Ritchie, F. MacCallum. 15th March 2003.

A short route following the obvious central groove formed between two large flakes. Follow the icy mixed groove surmounting a short steep wall at mid height to reach easier ground (55m). Easy snow leads to a cornice finish.

High on the south side of the huge eastern corrie is a line of buttresses just under the summit ridge. The following routes are situated on the largest north-west facing buttress which is well seen from the summit of Aonach Beag. The routes are best climbed early in the season before the lower sections bank out. Approach from the level summit ridge between Aonach Beag and Stob Coire Bhealaich by descending an easy gully to the foot of the buttress.

Blockheid 150m IV,4 *. S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 4th January 2003.

Towards the left side of the buttress is a prominent chimney/groove line containing a projecting block near the top. Climb a steep groove to enter the chimney system. Follow the chimney in three long pitches via short ice steps and chockstones. The final projecting block is turned on the left (a through route may be possible) to finish on a narrow ridge. Climbed in thin conditions.

Instant Recoil 200m III,4. D. Ritchie, D. Sinclair. 9th February 2003.

A rising rightwards-trending line across the face. Start 10m right of Aurora at a right-trending groove. Follow grooves to belay just right of Aurora (50m). Follow a right-trending snowfield past a small pinnacle to belay on Blockheid (50m). Follow Blockheid for 20m then trend right to below an obvious V-corner groove (50m). Follow the groove and mixed ground to the top (50m).

Aurora 185m IV,4 *. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson, D. Ritchie. 11th January 2003.

Based on the north-east ridge of the buttress. Descend to the lowest point of the buttress. A ledge leads round to the foot of the north ridge. The ridge is bounded on the left by a gully. Start just right of the ridge and follow grooves for 20m before moving up leftwards via ledges until below an open groove right of the ridge crest (45m). Climb the groove and continue up mixed ground to below a wall (45m). Traverse right below the wall to reach another groove close to the crest. Follow the groove passing a large flake, then follow mixed ground to the crest (45m). Finish by the ridge above (50m).

Guilt Trip 120m II. D. Ritchie, F. MacCallum. January, 2003.

Left of Aurora are two Grade I gullies which join at the top forming an inverted V. This route climbs the small buttress left of and above the left-hand gully. Follow the broad left-hand gully, then move on to the buttress following grooves to the top.

Antipasta 145m II/III *. S. Kennedy, A. MacDonald. 18th February 2003.

Takes the most prominent left-facing corner line situated roughly in the middle of the face right of Blockheid. Climb the stepped corners in three pitches crossing a broad snow terrace at one third height. Harder early in the season.

BEINN NA SOCAICH (Grey Corries):

Allt an Leth-chinn Duibh 300m (plus walking) II. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey. 15th December 2002.

The frozen burn (at NN 226 737) cascades over slabs for some distance down this rough hillside. A steep and not fully frozen wall half way up was turned by steep turf. Approach as for Coire an Fhir Dhuibh, but cross the dam and follow the opposite bank of the Allt Coire an Eoin.

Another section of crag lies at NN 238 736. Its main feature is a long easy gully.

The Worm 150m I. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 27th October 2002.

The gully has two short steeper sections of snow.

The Fox 150m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 27th October 2002.

Follows shallow grooves in the very crest of the buttress to the left of The Worm. The crux was a steep section with many flakes at half height.

Note: Arguably not the first ascent as a fox took a different line but reached the top first.

STOB COIRE AN LAOIGH (Grey Corries):

White Widow 55m V,6 **. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 21st December, 2002.

Right of Spider Man is a deep groove which starts 15m up. Reach the groove by climbing a short clean-cut and undercut corner directly beneath it (15m). Climb the steep but helpful groove (15m). Go up left, then back right above the belay and finish up short steep walls.

Tarantula 55m V,6 *. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 2nd January 2003.

A crackline just right of the arête between White Widow and Arachnaphobe. Start up a clean-cut corner about 10m left of Arachnaphobe and just above the left end of a ledge system which leads left from Arachnaphobe. Climb the corner to a ledge, then traverse left to the crackline. Climb the crackline (steep but very helpful) to a huge smooth block (30m). Step right round the block and return left above it to finish up the now vague arête (ie. keeping right of White Widow).

The Epithany 60m V,6. J. Edwards, G. Hughes. 5th January 2003 (feast of the epithany).

Start at the easiest line in the middle of a bay at the right end of the leftmost buttress.

1. 50m Climb up and move left to climb the left-hand side of the bay directly into a chimney.

Easier ground leads to a belay below an obvious line 5m right of Arachnaphobe.

2. 10m Climb this (unprotected).

The Alternate 60m IV,5. J. Edwards, J. Thacker. 11th January 2003.

Start just to the right of the bay on the easiest line.

1. 35m Go up and move left along the ledge to the right-hand side of the bay. Climb this, moving right to easier ground.

2. 25m A hidden gully line leads easily back left to the top.

Sloppy Suzie 60m V,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 16th November 2002.

The left-hand groove in the face right of Loopy Louie. Various deviations right and left until the groove ends at a final wall which was climbed on the right.

Note: On an ascent of Loopy Louie in January 2003, D. Amos and A. Nisbet found that without a build-up at the cliff base, an overhanging wall of about technical 6 had appeared, so they started on the opposite side of the crest and climbed a groove which led into a through route behind the pinnacle to regain the route.

The next two routes are on the left-hand wall of Central Gully.

Choc-a-Block 60m VI,6. J. Edwards, G. Hughes. 4th January 2003.

Climbs the first fault line on the wall.

1. 25m Climb the steep grassy fault to the terrace.
2. 25m Continue in the same line to the next terrace.
3. 10m Climb up to easy ground.

Chaf Direct 55m IV,6. J. Edwards, J. Thacker. 11th January 2003.

Climbs the second fault/corner line on the wall. Start as for The Chaf.

1. 45m Tricky hooking leads to easier climbing to the first terrace. Continue by the fault/corner line to a spike. Move right and climb up to the terrace.
2. 10m Continue in the fault/corner to the top.

Sleeping Dog 50m IV,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 18th January 2003.

The upper of two faults on the right wall of Central Gully. This is the line wrongly marked as Central Wall in the new guide. The lower fault is Central Wall and has been climbed twice as a mixed route at IV,5. The upper fault was climbed in 3 pitches, each with a short hard section, and ignoring an escape right below the third pitch.

Udder Madness 50m IV,5. E. Brunskill, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 15th February 2003.

The wall between the faults of Central Wall and Laughing Cow is steep but very helpful. Start centrally and take a line of weakness curving left and up through a couple of terraces to a bigger terrace near the top (35m). Climb the final tier right and back left to pass an overhang.

Laughing Cow 60m V,6. J. Edwards, G. Hughes. 3rd January 2003.

This next line climbs a fault about 10m left of Moo Moo.

1. 25m Climb the groove, then go left and up to surmount a pillar with difficulty. Carry on up the groove until it is capped by an overhang, then go out delicately and boldly up and right to surmount the bulge.
2. 20m Go up and left through a slightly bulging wall with turfy ledges to easy ground. Continue easily to the top (20m).

Cameron's Cooz 55m V,6 *. E. Brunskill, D. Morris, W. Payne. 5th January 2003.

This route climbs the system of thin cracks up the rib between the MooMoo scooped recess and Laughing Cow. Start at the base of the rib at a ledge and step right on to the edge and climb the cracks trending slightly left to an obvious small square chimney. Climb this to a ledge (40m). A superb pitch. Climb the steep cracked wall above to easy ground (15m).

Topside 50m V,7 **. E. Brunskill, P. Greene. 30th January 2003.

A great wee route following the snaking groove line just left of MooMoo. Climb the wall at the left side of the recess to a small ledge, then traverse right to below the groove. Climb the very steep groove through bulges and a flake crack to a small ledge below a roofed groove in the overhangs.(30m). Climb the groove to easy ground.(20m)

MooMoo 50m V,7 **. E. Brunskill, D. Morris. 16th November 2002.

Another fine steep mixed route taking in the crack system springing from the

right side of the large scooped recess left of The Calf. Climb the crack until a large slab is reached just below the overhangs. On the right edge of the slab is a small turf niche. Climb up and over to this (crux) and go up and right to a ledge (25m). Up and left is a very steep blocky chimney-groove. Climb this and the continuation chimney above (25m). Climb easy ground to the top.

The Calf Direct 60m V,7. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 12th February 2003.

Follow The Calf along the start of its "crawling ledge" but stop immediately round the arête. Make hard moves up under a roof and right to turf on the arête. Go up on turf to a big chimney behind a pillar. Climb this to pass behind the pillar and rejoin The Calf for a short chimney. A steeper finish right of The Calf was taken.

Cobra Corner 80m VI,6 ***. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 13th December 2002.

The huge roofed gully right of Calf Buttress. Climb the gully over two steps as for Jammy Dodger (20m). Continue up the very steep corner (the moss is slow to freeze), move right and up turf to a ledge. Traverse right into a groove and climb this to below a steep corner (30m). Climb the corner and its continuation (or move left and climb steep turf) to reach a ledge leading left to easier ground. Go up over steps to the top (30m).

Hoverfly 80m VI,7 **. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 13th February 2003.

A line up the buttress right of Taliballan. Start at the next groove right of Taliballan. Climb the groove until level with the base of a distinctive cracked smooth wall on the right. Traverse 5m left and climb a shallow corner forming a steep ramp to gain a ledge. Traverse left round an arête to below a corner (30m). Climb the corner to a ledge below overhangs. Traverse the ledge rightwards with a notable step across a gap to reach a bigger ledge with a wide roofed chimney at its left corner (15m). Climb the wide chimney almost to the roof, then use a horizontal crack to traverse left round an arête. Move up, then traverse left again to a sensational position on the lip of a big roof before finishing straight up (35m).

Billy Whizz 70m VI,7 *. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 11th February 2003.

A line up the same buttress but moving right from Hoverfly. Start as for Hoverfly and climb the groove until Hoverfly goes left. Continue up the groove until level with the top of the distinctive cracked wall. Make a spectacular and strenuous traverse right across the top of the wall until the ledge above can be gained. Climb the left-hand chimney above, then either corner of a square recess to reach the bigger ledge (35m). Climb a narrow chimney with a prominent chokestone (right of the wide roofed chimney), then two steps above to gain an easier groove leading up left to easier ground (35m).

Rampant Jack 60m IV,6. J. Edwards, R. Martin. 15th February 2003.

A mixed route close to Yee Haa. The only difference seems to be that it climbs the chimney for 2m before exiting on the right to reach easy ground after 10m.

At the eastern end of the crag there are a series of grooves and corners above the ramp for Tidal Groove.

Two Stone Groove 55m IV,5. J. Robinson, D. Richardson. 1st February 2003.

1. 35m Start up Tidal Groove and reach a sloping terrace below a grooved

wall. Gain the leftmost groove, recognised by its two chockstones, and climb this with interest to reach a narrow terrace.

2. 20m From the left end of the terrace, climb a shallow gully and short steep rock step to gain the top.

No Stone Groove 60m V,6. D. Ross, K. Neal. 1st February 2003.

A distinctive crack that can be seen clearly from the ground and looks harder than it is.

1. 10m Start up Tidal Groove to the beginning of its traverse right.

2. 25m Climb directly up and right to a distinctive break below two open grooves.

3. 15m Take the right-hand groove, trending slightly left to arrive at a second big break. Traverse 3m left to below an open corner on the right-hand side of a slab.

4. 10m Climb this and pull out left at the top to finish.

MEALL GARBH, Creagan Coire nam Cnamh:

Merciless Mary 60m IV,3 *. C. Wells, M. Twomey. 11th January 2003.

This short but enjoyable cascade lies on a small 70m cliff situated about 200m right of, and slightly uphill of the base of the main cliff.

1. 30m Climb thin ice at around 70°-75° angle for 10m before the ice thickens and lies back to ca. 60 degrees and leads to a large ledge.

2. 30m Traverse diagonally up and left from the ledge on to an ice ramp traversing beneath fearsome-looking ice daggers and umbrellas. Where the ice thins and steepens to near vertical angle, traverse 3m left along a ledge to a giant flake. Surmount the flake and traverse back right above the ice umbrella to finish up easy-angled ice.

CREAG MEAGHAIDH, The Post Face:

The Lost Post 120m VI,5. K. Neal, I. Rudkin. 15th February 2003.

1. 50m Start at the niche as for Post Haste, immediately climbing a right-trending traverse to below a steep icefall.

2. 70m Climb the ice to reach a shelf, traverse 4m left on turf to rejoin ice and then follow easy ground to the top, avoiding the cornice on the right.

Graded VI,5 due to poor gear in lean conditions but might be V,5 otherwise.

Note: M. and P. Cocker climbed a left-hand start to Staghorn Gully in March 1987 (grade III). This has been used as access to Postman Pat but its complete ascent via Staghorn finish has never been claimed despite being marked (wrongly) on the diagram on p302 of the new guide.

STOB POITE COIRE ARDAIR (near Creag Meagaidh), Garbh Coire (NN 436 896):

This north-facing coire held a vast sheet of generally low-angled ice, roughly 100m square, which was not visible on the descent of convex slopes until almost at the coire floor. Conditions were cold and almost snowless; much banks out later in the winter (as a later visit found). In similar conditions there would be no point in carrying anything other than ice screws. The ice sheet formed from a twin watercourse in the centre of the backwall of the coire, east of the stream marked on the map.

La Rive Gauche 150m III,4. A. Nisbet. 20th December 2002.

The line of the left watercourse. Start up a groove at the top left side of a steep lower band to reach the ice sheet. Trend leftwards up this, initially walking but always steepening, to a finish up a 10m wall of 80 degree ice. An escape left below this would reduce the grade to II.

Mer de Glace 200m III. A. Nisbet. 20th December 2002.

Start up ice right of the groove to reach the ice sheet. Trend right up this to finish up a shallow gully (stream bed) in the rocks above.

CARN LIATH, Coire nan Gall:

Lurgainn Groove 90m IV,4. S.M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 2nd March 2003. The obvious line of zigzag grooves on the right side of the steep front face of No.4 Buttress. Start by climbing snow slopes up and right from the toe of the buttress to where a turfy break cuts left into the face.

1. 40m Move easily left along the break, then right and left again to gain the right side of a huge pointed triangular flake. Move up and right across a short steep turfy wall to gain a narrow V-groove. Pull into this (crux) and continue to a stance on the right of the buttress.

2. 50m Climb the slabby turfy wall on the left to gain an easy corner-ramp that leads to the top of the buttress.

BEN ALDER, Garbh Coire Beag:

McCook's Gully 300m III. I. Small. 16th February 2003.

A parallel gully to the left of Left Gully's start and right of Alderwand. Cross a snow terrace and continue up a left-slanting gully line containing an ice pitch. The gully ends on a buttress crest which leads to the plateau. No cornice problems on the day.

Bheoil Pfeiler 300m IV,4. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 23rd February 2003.

A good mixed climb up the right side of the triangular buttress between McCook's Gully and Left Gully. Start by climbing easy icy grooves right of McCook's Gully, first trending right then straight up, to gain the wide snow terrace crossing the face. Continue up to the right edge of the triangular buttress. Move left 10m and climb a 5m mixed wall and follow a left-trending corner-ramp past a cave to an excellent stance below a steep corner crack (40m) Step back right above the cave and continue up mixed ground on the right side of the buttress for three pitches to the top.

MONADHLIATH, Loch Dubh Crag:

Lumpy Mixture 100m II. J. Lyall, D. MacDonald. 20th February 2003.

Roughly 100m right of Wee Team Gully is a straight narrow gully, climbed on thin ice.

Youth in Asia 55m II. J. Lyall, D. MacDonald. 20th February 2003.

An ice sheet high on the right end of the crag.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Slime Wall:

The Appraisal 30m E2/3 5c. I. Taylor, B. Sheddon. 6th August 2002.

Left of Bloody Crack is another wider crack. This route climbs the wall to its left. Climb directly to gain a thin crack, which leads to a small roof. Pull over the roof and continue more easily.

Cuneiform Buttress:

Long Chimney Direct 220m VII,6. E. Brunskill, S. McFarlane. 12th December 2002.

A sustained and serious direct version of Long Chimney. Climb Ordinary Route to the big ledge (60m). Climb out right from the ledge into a steep groove and continue straight up (Ordinary route goes up and left) to a cave recess formed by a blocky undercut groove (30m). Climb up right on to a small rocky ledge and step delicately down and right to another capped groove; climb this for 5m and make delicate moves right into another groove. Climb this to a small ledge (35m). Climb the continuation chimney line until a flat easy section of the shelf is reached (45m). Continue in the same line up another chimney crack and above this, make a desperate and serious traverse right for 10m to the obvious ledge below two large detached flakes (35m, a very serious pitch). Climb the flakes and wall above to easy ground beside the descent path to Great Gully (10m).

Cuneiform Buttress Right-Hand Start 60m IV,4. M. Hind, R. Webb. 2nd January 2003.

Climb the obvious right-hand fault to reach the central ledge on the buttress. Slightly harder but better protected than the normal (left) way.

Central Chimney Direct 135m V,7. M. Hind, R. Webb. 8th January 2003.

Climb the summer route, probably a much better winter route than a summer one, especially the final chimney.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Sron na Lairig:

Trickle 200m III. A. Spink and party. 8th January 2003.

A deep stream with ice bulges between easier sections which lies NE of the bealach (741m) and SE of Sron na Lairig at about NN 166 533 and between the 450m and 650m contours. Normally banked out.

Lost Valley Minor Buttress:

Note: The Nipper (SMCJ 2002) is the same as Men o' War in the new Glen Coe guide.

STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN:

Scabbard Chimney, alternative finish (Celtic Connection) 45m V,5. N. Bullock, M. Tweedly. January 2003.

From the abseil point on Scabbard Chimney, there is a buttress straight ahead to the right of the Scabbard Gully. Climb the centre up grooves to a obvious jutting roof. Climb left on to a wee wall and pinnacles.

Scabbard Chimney, alternative finish 25m VII, 7 ***. M. Garthwaite. January 2003.

Climb the obvious thin crack on the left wall of Scabbard Chimney just after the sentry box. Well protected and very steep.

Micro Rib Direct 70m IV,5. E. Brunskill, P. Greene. 11th December 2002.

This route climbs the crest of the rib in two pitches with the tower half-way up providing the crux.

Central Buttress:

The Douglas Pebble 50m V,7. J. Edwards, G. Hughes. 1st February 2003.

A hard and well protected alternative start to Original Route. Climb the overhanging corner and into the snow field, then takes the right-hand chimney.

Church Door Buttress:

Fundamentalists 100m E4 6a ***. G. Latter, P. Craig. 15th September 2002.

The crackline at the left side of the face, just left of Lost Arrow. Start at the block belay as for that route.

1. 25m 5b Move up leftwards on to a ledge, then up left over blocks. Step right and climb a wall above a block to belay on the right, as for Lost Arrow.
2. 25m 6a Climb the slab on the left into the base of a grey corner. Step right into a crack with difficulty and follow it past an old PR to a small recess just right of the prominent square-cut roof.
3. 20m 6a Undercut left and pull spectacularly round the roof. Climb a crack above to a good no hands rest on top of the huge block forming the roof. Continue steeply on good holds to a ledge. A superb pitch on impeccable rock.
4. 30m 5c Move diagonally up left and climb a short arête on its front face. Continue trending leftwards to a deep corner crack. Step left and climb a short finger crack with difficulty to a ledge above. Scramble to finish.

West Top of Bidean, Bishop's Buttress:

Ambush VI,7. B. Fyffe, D. Hollinger. 23rd January 2003.

By the summer route. Although short, it packed a fair punch with the first 50m being very sustained, and the gear a bit poky.

Hourglass Groove 60m III. S. McFarlane, A. Clark. 16th February 2003.

Start half way up Hourglass Gully and 10m right of Surely at a groove below a notch in the skyline.

1. 40m Climb the groove trending slightly right (runners) then back left to a ledge beneath a large groove.
2. 20m Climb the groove above to the top.

Beinn a' Chrulaiste (see SMCJ 1998):

College Daze 300m II/III. A. Spink, S. Johnston and party. 1st February 1996.

A stream bed at approx. NN 238 560 over slabby ice for many pitches. It finished a way to the left of the summit of Beinn a' Chrulaiste, almost 1km away from the summit.

Surf and Turf III. A. Spink, S. Johnston and party. 2nd February 1996.
The longest stream bed with 7 pitches over nice steep bulges, approximating the line of grid square 240, again finishing way to the SW of the summit.

Note: A. Spink and party followed a frozen watercourse further to the right (which may coincide with the highest gully?) on 10th January, 2003 at grade II for six/ seven pitches.

GLEN ETIVE, Glen Ceitlein Slabs:

Viagra Falls 35m IV. A. Cave, P. Carol. February 1996.

Directly opposite Patey's Old Man, climb an icefall direct to reach the main slabs and continue up these

GARBH BHEINN:

Hare Course 200m II. R. Milne. 15th February 2003.

The buttress between Winter Buttress and Pinnacle Buttress, not mentioned in the guide.

Garbh Choire Slabs:

Jerking Crocus 110m III. S. Kennedy, A. MacDonald, D. Ritchie. 3rd February 2003.

Generally follows the corner bounding the right side of the main slab in two long pitches. Climbed on a wild day when the slab was plastered with a thin layer of snow ice. Approximates to a line just right of the summer route Lodestone.

GLEN TARBERT, Meall a' Bhraghaid:

Note: *John West* (Coe guide, p.353) - A revised description from C. Moody: Scramble to the base, climb 50m to the overlap, then another 30m to the top.

GLEN GOUR, Indian Slab Crag:

Mullenium Direct Start 50m Severe 4a ***. G. Latter, J. Birkbeck. 16th August 2002.

A logical entry, the integral providing four excellent full length pitches. Start at the very toe of the crag, down right of the shelf at the base of Indian Slab. Move up right over initially broken ground to gain the superb smooth slab and follow this, taking the cleanest line trending slightly right to gain the base of the original route. Poorly protected, but straightforward, on superb rock.

Note: (C. Moody):

North facing, belays are usually good. Mullenium might be Very Difficult. First ascensionists: Outrider – L. Brown, P. Brown Easter 1972

Indian Slab – I. Davidson, L. Brown Easter 1972

Time Change – I. Davdson, L. Brown, J. Mitchell

Other routes – C. Moody, C. Grindley 2000

(G. Latter): The approach description (page 315 of new guide) is inaccurate. The track from Sallachan extends for 3km (not 10!) to the sheep fank, and, even with the use of mountain bikes as far as the sheep fank (rough going), the approach to the base of the crag took a little over 2 hours (not 1hour 10 minutes!) Furthermore,

the crag faces north (not south!), though being easy-angled, does receive a fair amount of sun and dries remarkably quickly.

Descent: From the large heather terrace at the top, traverse left and across the stream bed, then down the slope just to its right (east), re-crossing the stream lower down to slant down left to regain the base.

Paleface 30m VS 4c **. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 16th August 2002.

Obliquely up left from the base of the main cliff, on the opposite side of the open gully, is an obvious pale slab with a prominent thin crack. Climb the crack, finishing by an easier ridge at the top. Descend down the right side of the crag.

ARDNAMURCHAN, Beinn Gheur, Ranald's Buttress (NM 667 709):

The crag lies on the flank of Beinn Gheur, east of the road from Acharacle to Doirlinn. Approaching Doirlinn the road leaves the River Sheil and cuts through a steep-sided forested wee glen. Parallel buttresses rise above the tree line. The triangular shaped crag lies to the left of these and a wide open gully. It provides two walls split by the arête – 10 minutes walk. The buttress has a heathery air to it, but this does not detract from the good rock in between.

Ranald's Claim 25m Mild VS 4c. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

Climb the cracks left of the centre of the wall left of the arête. Climb the slab above and through the overlap 2m left of MacGillivray's Grip (crux) and then direct to the top.

MacGillivray's Grip 30m VS 4c. F. and C. Templeton. 13th August 1999.

Climb the initial bulge in the centre traverse right to the arête and continue up to an overlap. Traverse left to a double niche breaking out left at its top. Move rightwards and follow the edge to the top, a pinnacle (the niche taken on the right is also 4c).

The True Line 25m Mild VS 4b/c. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

This is an almost direct ascent of the arête. The technical grade depends on how direct you make the start (crux). Start just left of the undercut arête, pull through this (a long reach helps). Climb the wall/arête to the top.

Makalester 25m VS 5a. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

Good and enjoyable climbing up the thin crack just right of the arête to join it at 5m. Initial layback moves lead to more delicate moves to gain the arête. Continue to the top.

A Sure Thing 25m Mild VS 4c. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

4m right of the arête two cracks split the centre of the wall. Climb the centre of the wall direct to gain the arête at 9m at the overlap. Climb this and the arête to the top.

Lord of the Isles 20m VS 4c *. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

Start 5m right and just left of a small left-facing corner topped with heather. Difficult

moves get you established to enjoy the fine climbing up the wall above to finish left of the small trees.

General Persuasion 20m Severe 4a. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

Climbs the wall further right to finish right of the small trees.

Two hundred metres further up, the gully levels out. Centre left is an obvious buttress split in to a higher and lower section with a crack down its lower section, topped by a small tree.

Contemplative Solitude 20m VS 4c *. R. I. Jones. 11th May 2002.

A fine line on excellent rock. Climb the crack to the tree. Traverse left and upwards to the next buttress. Climb this to the top.

To the left of the higher section is a short wall with three micro routes, by R. I. Jones on 11th May 2002.

Busy 4b: Climb just right of the left end up onto the arête to finish.

Bumble 4c: 2m right up into a small niche.

Bee 5a: 3m right again.

ARDNAMURCHAN, Garbhlach Mhor (NM 418 654 Alt 50m WSW facing):

The climbs are on the short upper cliff over looking the sea. The clifftop forms a flat area of rock which is easily seen walking along the grass. The rock is a red and grey gabbro with horizontal breaks similar to some sandstones. Access is easy down either side. The lower cliff might give some more adventurous climbing on different rock. Routes climbed by C. Moody and C. Grindley on 6th April 2002. S. Abbott and M. Tighe have climbed routes south of these.

Free Nelson Mandela 25m E1 5b **.

Just left of the lowest point of the cliff base is a rib. Start left of the rib and climb straight up to a grass patch. Move right to the rib, make a thin move up the rib, then move right and up on immaculate rock.

Stop The Corry Bill 25m VS 4c *.

Follow the previous route to the grass patch but climb the flake line above. Possibly HVS.

Disband The S.P.G. 22m VS 4b.

Left of the last route is a corner-crack; left again is a huge flake which runs half way up the cliff. Start just right of the flake and climb straight up with an awkward bulge near the top.

There is a short cliff at the left end of this face. The corner is Moderate, the crack 3m right is Severe with some loose rock near the top. 3m right is a fine wall E1 * (E2?) starting up a short right-facing corner.

ARDNAMURCHAN, Sgurr nan Gabhar:

Acting Soft E2 5c. M. Howard, T. Carruthers. 18th April 2003.

The hairline crack between Ozone Layer and High Plains Drifter (no touching allowed!).

Meall an Fhir-Eoin, Summit Buttresses, Upper Tier:

Barbarella 20m E4 5c **. J. Lines (on sight solo). 4th June 2002.

The beautiful square-cut gritstone style arête. Start from the left to gain the arête, climbed to a break. Pull through a capping overlap and continue easily.

Fear of Flying 40m VS 4b **. S. Kennedy, R. Hamilton, P. Harrop. May 2002.

A good route in a wildly exposed position for the grade. Follows parallel cracks running horizontally left above the overhanging wall just left of Pyroclast. Climb the initial corner of Pyroclast before pulling out left into the parallel cracks. Traverse horizontally left along the cracks to the edge. Continue left a short distance then directly up to finish.

RUBHA CARRACH:

Gun Fhiamh 30m E5/6 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog (on sight). 3rd August 2002.

Start just left of a small triangular cave above head height. Climb on good pockets following a faint hairline crack until the dolerite band. Step left here to finish boldly up the final headwall. The name means 'without fear'.

ARDNAMURCHAN POINT, Left Wall Area:

No Mucking About 8m E1 5a. R. I. Jones (unsec). 6th April 2002.

Takes the very thin crack line up the middle of the wall left of Muck Climb. Start 3m left of the start of Muck Climb. Take the small overlap at mid-height on the left.

Tidal Wave 15m E5 6a. K. Magog, S. Crowe. 4th August 2002.

Right of the roof and left of the black corner is a steeper wall. A good route with reasonable climbing for the grade but relies on small wires and micro cams, which are difficult to place. Start up a short groove beneath the roof and step right to gain the steep wall. Climb the narrow groove on side-pulls and undercuts to the small roof (micro-cam on the left). From here reach right to gain good crimps on the blank-looking wall above and follow these to a powerful last move at the top of the prominent diagonal crack.

Rum For Your Money 15m HVS 4c/5a. R. I. Jones, S.J. McNaught. 6th April 2002.

The corner left of E-numbers. Climb the corner taking care to avoid loose rock on the right near the top.

On The Cusp 15m Mild Severe. R. I. Jones, S.J. McNaught. 6th April 2002.

Climbs the line at the far right of the Left Wall and just left of the Chimney. Steep moves lead to a right facing corner at mid-height and easier ground to the top.

Becalm 15m E2 5b. S. Crowe. 4th August 2002.

A bold right to left traverse of The Left Wall. Traverse in to the twin cracks of

Incoming Tide along a prominent low-level break. Climb up the twin cracks to gain a higher-level traverse that leads boldly into the black corner. Continue to traverse up the diagonal break to finish with a powerful but well protected move.

Main Wall Area:

Diamond Days 5m VS 5a. K. Magog, S. Crowe. 4th August 2002.

Good crimps and edges up the wall right of The Chimney. Take care with the last move.

Open Book 6m Difficult. R. I. Jones, 6th April 2002.

Between the Chimney and Home for Tea is an obvious open book corner.

Whale Watching 10m E1 5b. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 4th August 2002.

A small groove right of Home for Tea leads to beneath the roof. A powerful move soon leads to better holds and protection.

Hmmmmmm 15m Severe 4b. K. Magog. 4th August 2002.

Good holds up the arête lead to the ledge. Finish up Westering Home.

Whoosh 5m VS 5a. S. Crowe. 4th August 2002.

Climbs the narrow V-groove at the right-hand end of the crag making full use of the left arête at the start. The most westerly recorded route on the British mainland!

Plimsoll Line 30m VS 5a. S. Crowe. 4th August 2002.

A right to left girdle of Main Wall starting up Whoosh and finishing up Diamond Days.

Beinn Na Seilg, Hebrides Wall:

The Intrepid Mountain Elephant 35m Very Difficult. W. Sweeney, J. Kimber. 29th December 2002.

Scramble halfway up the triangle of grass leading to Gabbro Slab. On the right there is a prominent corner. Climb this (or the slab to its right) until it steepens. A thin move up to the right leads to a comfortable ledge. Climb the slab above this to another corner. Step left onto an arête here and finish up to the summit. An enjoyable route on very clean gabbro with good friction. The finish up the arête feels wonderfully exposed.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

MULL OF KINTYRE, Campsite Crag:

Rainy Day 25m VS 4c. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 7th June 2002.

Between the hanging groove of The Tablet and Campion Crack is another hanging groove. Start up the face of a detached flake-pinnacle. From its top step on to the face and move up to an overlap. Move right and up into the groove. Follow this to the top.

Inhouse Crag:

To the right of Hooded Groove is a blunt arête climbed at E1 5b (7m) and the

wall to its right starting at a small rock at its left and trending right to an overlap at VS 5a (7m). Both B. Davison and A. Nisbet on 8th June 2002.

Ballinamoill Crag:

Silver Surfer 30m E1 5b. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 8th June 2002.

The spectacular undercut arête. Start up Cresting the Wave and where that moves up into the groove continue left to the undercut arête. Climb this on its right side to the top.

Bay City Roller 25m E1 5b. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 8th June 2002.

The arête between the two parallel grooves. Start up Rites of Passage until it is possible to move left above the lower roof. Ascend the wall moving diagonally left to the arête. Climb the wall just right of the arête to a final bulging section. Climb just left of the arête to reach the huge capping roof. Traverse right under the roof to finish at the same point as Rites of Passage.

Between Outhouse Crag and Wee Half Dome but about 200m uphill is a small steep wall with a prominent arête at its right side (The Arête, 6m, VS 5a, B. Davison, 8th June 2002). The left side of the crag has a large steep flake crack which sounds loose. To its right is a wall containing two hanging grooves. Route 1 (8m, E2 5c, B. Davison, A. Nisbet, 8th June 2002) takes the first groove with an unprotected start and lichenous rock. Route 2 (8m, VS 5a, K. Kelly, M. Powell, 8th June 2002) takes the right-hand groove. To the right the arête and wall gives Route 3 (8m, VS 4b, G. Gatherer, K. Kelly, 8th June 2002) while the next wall right of the corner gives Route 4 (8m, VS 4c, B. Davison, 8th June 2002) with The Arête and the end of the crag being another 6m further on.

GLEN CROE, Upper Crag:

Tick Tock 18m E6 6b ***. D. MacLeod. July 2002.

The stunning and bold arête right of The Sharp Kiss features a bouldery crux with a serious finish. Climb easily to a jug (wire behind this). A hard move gains incuts on the arête. Make a long reach from here and finish on improving holds.

The Fugue 20m E9 6c ***. D. MacLeod. 16th October 2002.

A very serious and hard climb with sparse protection, taking the very steep wall left of Short Sharp Shock. Start just left of this and climb a short groove to good holds. Place an assortment of dubious gear behind the soft jug on the right. Step left and launch up the overhanging wall with increasing difficulty to a desperate crux move from a small undercut. Move left to a jug at the lip and in a serious position, reach rightwards through the bulge to twin finger pockets (wires in the left hand pocket). Climb the steep wall above direct on crimps to a good finishing jug. Very powerful climbing (F8a+) with groundfall potential. Top rope practice used on the first ascent.

Independence Crag:

Imposition 10m E4 5c *. D. MacLeod. 10th May 2002.

This short but pleasant solo takes the left end of the bulging wall. Start below a small groove. Climb this and move right along a handrail. Pull over the bulge

(crux) moving right to good holds. Climb the easier finishing slab leftwards to good finishing holds.

THE COBBLER, North Peak, South Face:

Note: The bolt runner on Whither Whether is no more (broke off Sept 2002).

Cat Crawl VI,7. A. Clarke, M. Garthwaite. 3rd February 2003.

A winter ascent of the summer line in snowy conditions.

Centre Peak Buttress:

Note: M. Garthwaite notes that Turftastic (SMCJ 1999) is a winter ascent of Lobbydossier, bypassing the wide crack mentioned on the right.

BEINN AN DOTHAI DH, Creag Coire an Dothaidh:

Cool Riders 170m IV,5 **. D. Redpath, D. MacLeod. February 2003.

An amenable line through the steeper left-hand section of the cliff left of Beelzebub. Start below a large easy left-slanting ramp, directly below a band of roofs high above.

1. 60m Climb the ramp for 8m, then break out right to a flake. Step down and traverse awkwardly round a nose to gain a turf bay. Move diagonally right to gain a line of turf grooves and climb these until level with the big roof on the left. Traverse left over a nose to a a short steep corner.
2. 30m Bridge up the steep corner (crux) and follow a ledge/ramp system leftwards to past an awkward step to gain a large expanse of easy angled slabs.
3. 60m Climb directly up the easy slabs to reach the headwall.
4. 30m Walk right along the big ramp (as for Professorial Seat) to finish.

BEINN UDLAIDH, Coire Ghamhnain:

Three long watercourses are seen at the head of the coire. The right-hand one is an easy Grade I. The central one is an open series of icefalls.

Coput 200m III. J. A. Sumner P. Gibson. 2nd February 2002.

Takes the central watercourse. The first 75m is climbing a series of short icefalls separated by snow bays. The upper section has a fine 40m stepped icefall.

BEN CHUIRN:

Goldmine Gully 180m IV. A. Cave, R. Hutchby et al. March 1996.

1. Before the waterfall of Eas Anie, climb up left to the foot of the goldmine (jutting railway tracks).
2. Climb out of the mine entrance on the right-hand side (mixed) until a snow bay is reached.
3. Traverse left to reach a thin icefall. Climb this direct (crux).
4. Follow the line of weakness leftwards on turf and a steep rocky exit.

MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Creag an Lochain, Coire nan Easan:

Tote Gully, Icicle Entry III,4. R. Simpson, A. Reid. 13th January 2001.

This classic line first climbed in the snowy 80's can be difficult to enter these days. One solution is to scale the 6m icicle which drools from an overhang on the left, then lunge for the first bulge of ice in the gully.

Note: Fragile Fall (SMCJ 2001) should be grade IV,4.

An Caisteal:

Sleepless (M)ice 70m IV,4. G. Nicoll, R. Simpson (alt). 12th January 2003.
The conspicuous icefall which forms on the lower tier of An Caisteal offers continuous ice for two pitches with two vertical sections. Finish by climbing the buttress or Y-gully for 100m.

Cam Chreag, Forgotten Buttress:

Forgotten Buttress, the wide face to the left of Fan Gully, is poorly described in the guide. It is bounded on the right by the diagonal Fan Gully (with a left-hand branch low down, normally grade I but can be harder) and on the left by the open Cam Gully (grade I). On the left-hand (upper) side of Forgotten Buttress (close to Cam Gully) are two distinctive short gullies, Chimney One and Chimney Two.

Fan Buttress:

Note: M. McKenna and A. Percival climbed a more entertaining finish to Clark's Gully on 15th February 2003 at Grade II (Clark's Commandos). They climbed the shaded turf and rock wall left of the finishing gully to below a large rock pinnacle at the top of the buttress.

ARRAN**BEINN TARSUINN, Consolation Tor:**

Note: Consolation Arête (SMCJ 2002) is the same as Draugen (SMCJ 2001).

LOWLAND OUTCROPS**GLASGOW OUTCROPS, Craigmor:**

Note: The route Craig's Wall reported as first being led in 1997 in SMCJ 192 was soloed by A. Ford in May 1989.

THE GALLOWAY HILLS, The Tauchers:

Dragonslayer 30m E3 *. C. King, S. Reid. 4th September 2002.

1. 20m 6a The sustained crack left of Dungeonmaster leads to a grass ledge.
2. 10m 5b Traverse horizontally right under the upper groove of Dungeonmaster to a second slimmer hanging groove which is followed to a ledge.

Smaug 30m E2 5b. C. King, S. Reid. 4th September 2002.

The right-hand groove (right of Dungeonmaster) gives a rather grubby pitch with a worrying feel. An extra-large Hex is useful to protect the crux.

Dungeon of Buchan, Silver Slab:

This clean slab up and right from Dungeon Buttress, and above the descent ramp from Cooran Buttress, provides some good climbs in the lower grades.

The Scribe 50m VS 4c **. J. Biggar, S. Reid, C. King. 26th October 2002.

Start at the lowest point of the slab and follow the rib and twin cracks of The Slanter until just below the grass ledge where it is possible to move left into a

scratch-like crack in the slab. Follow this with interest to a good flake and then continue directly through bulges, crossing The Wee Slanter, to a bold direct finish. A good pitch.

The Wee Slanter 55m Severe 4b *. J. Biggar, L. Biggar. 26th August 2001.

1. 25m Start at the lowest point of the slab, just right of a large overhang. Climb a crack in a rib to a horizontal grass ledge, then follow the obvious large twin cracks to the left end of a larger grass ledge and belay below a large flake.

2. 30m Climb the flake above on good holds, steeply at first. Make an airy step left at the top to finish up the easy angled rib on the left.

The remaining routes start from the large grass ledge that cuts in from the right at half height, or can be reached by climbing the first pitch of the Wee Slanter.

Sprauchler's Groove 30m Severe ***. J. Biggar, L. Biggar. 16th October 2002. Climbs the obvious thin dogleg crack in the upper slab. An excellent route with some unusual climbing for the grade. Follow the second pitch of Wee Slanter for 4m, then step right to the foot of the crack. Climb elegantly up the crack or sprauchle your way to the top.

The Big Smirr 30m Mild Severe 4a *. J. Biggar, C. King, S. Reid. 26th September 2002.

Only Very Difficult except for one tricky move early on. Start 3m right of the left-hand end of the grass ledge and below the central crack in the upper slab. Climb rightwards, then back leftwards, past a good flake, to reach the crack which is followed to the top.

Unnamed 30m Severe. L. Biggar, J. Biggar. 2002.

Start at the lowest point of the grass ledge on the right hand side of the upper slab (a poor pitch has been climbed up the slab below). Climb the obvious little staircase, cross vegetation leftwards, and then climb the thin crack in the slab above with a choice of three finishes. The right-hand crack (hardest), ledges on the slab on the far right (easiest) or the left-hand crack. A good climb apart from the heather in the middle.

Cooran Buttress:

Snakes and Ladders 110m E1 *. S. Reid, C. King (alt). 1st September 2002.

Four good technical pitches though little in the way of a line. Start just right of Traitor's Gait where two ragged cracks spilt the sidewall of the buttress.

1. 25m 5a Climb the right-hand crack to a large ledge stance on Traitor's Gait.

2. 25m 5b Climb the short crack on the back wall to a rib on the left and follow this boldly to a ledge which is traversed past a spike to a block in the gully. Climb the crack system above, moving left to the arête near the top, and belay at a wide crack at the back of a commodious grass ledge.

3. 30m 5a Climb the crack to a footledge and traverse this left to a crack in a rib which is followed to grass. Scramble up a few metres to a square tower. Follow a groove on the front face to a ledge on the left then step right on to the slabby upper face and go up to belay in a paddock under an attractive blocky grey pillar.

4. 20m 5a The pillar.

Unnamed 120m Mild VS. S. Reid, C. King (alt). 12th October 2002.

A reasonable route with a very good top pitch, but some vegetation on the first pitch. However it is very quick to dry and all the difficulties are short and well protected. Start just right of Cooran Buttress Original Route at an obvious left-slanting jamming crack with a wedged spike at its base.

1. 55m 4c Climb the crack (Friend#3.5) and the vegetated rib above for a few metres, then step left to the base of a steep buttress (possible belay). Climb up this, moving left to cracks which are followed through a bulge to easier ground and a belay on a terrace by a huge leaning block.

2. 30m 4c Climb the slab on the right of the block for a metre or so, then traverse right to a prominent spike at the left end of the shelf. Move right along the shelf to a hidden groove and climb this to a terrace. Scramble up to the base of a clean narrow slab descending from the left-hand end of the overhang.

3. 35m 4c Climb the centre of the slab to a thin crack that just skirts the left end of the roof. Follow this with assistance from the wider crack on the left (all about 2m right of Traitor's Gait Direct), to an easier groove and finish up this.

Castles in the Air 130m HVS *. S. Reid, M. Cundy. 5th May 2002. Climbed direct on p1 by S.Reid, C.King, 13th September 2002.

A fine series of variations on Monkey Puzzle. Start as for The Highway Man.

1. 45m 4c Climb a shallow groove to the central crack but quit this at 6m for a left-slanting crack system (this may also be reached rather unpleasantly direct from below). Follow the cracks up and left to an impasse below a smooth slab. Either climb this direct (5b), or traverse left along a ledge 3m and climb up a blocky gully to easy ground. Scramble up and rightwards up heather to belay at an obvious wide crack (P2 of Monkey Puzzle).

2. 25m 5a Climb a slim right-slanting groove just right of the crack, to step left on to a slab. Go up to flake cracks and pull up these to the right-hand end of an overhang. Scramble up heather to the obvious crack in the short wall above.

3. 30m 4c One metre right of the crack is a line of jugs up the wall. Follow these to a slab and more heather.

4. 30m 4b Left of the finish of The Highway Man are some fluted cracks leading to a perched block. Climb the wide left-hand crack almost to the block, but then trend up leftwards into a crack 2m to the left. Finish up this with interest.

High in the centre of the area to the right of Cooran Buttress is a prominent hanging arête which is best gained by traversing from the top of Cooran Buttress. Buchan Arête (20m, HVS 5a *, S. Reid, A. Gillies, 2002) takes a crack in its left side, passing two large blocks with care.

The Lion's Head:

This is the old name for the area of slabs that until this year only contained the classic E2 Saddle Tramp.

Aughty Star 115m E1 **. S. Reid, C. King (alt, via direct finish). 10th October 2002.

C. King, S. Reid, 17th October 2002, as described.

A fine series of sustained pitches, with the option of a fierce finale on the third. Start at the right-hand side of the initial slab of Saddle Tramp.

1. 40m 5a Climb easily up rightwards to gain and follow a thin crack up the right side of the slab to grass. Follow the continuation crack in the upper slab, overcoming a bulge with difficulty, to belay on the bilberry ledge on the right below the lower of two diagonal cracks.
2. 20m 5b Make a rising traverse rightwards along the crack to a shallow niche. The awkward crack above leads to an easy left-leaning scoop and a rib on the left which is followed to a large ledge.
3. 45m 5b Ignore the final pitch of Saddle Tramp above left, and follow the ledge leftwards, with interest where it narrows, to join the twin right-slanting cracklines of Horns of a Dilemma. Make a very puzzling move up the left hand one, exiting leftwards and follow a leftward-rising ramp to a crack on the left. Climb the crack to an overlap and step down and right to belay on a slab.
4. 10m 4a Overcome the overlap directly to finish up slabs. Alternatively, continue to follow the narrowing rampline leftwards (5a).

Direct Finish: 15m E2 5b *.

On gaining the ledge at the top of pitch 2, belay on a flake over to the right, below an overhanging offwidth that cuts through the left end of the impressive roof of Aslan. This skin-rasping cleft succumbs only to the most masochistically determined. A Friend#5 is a useful booster of determination.

To the right of the Lion's Head is Dungeon Stone Coire, an atmospheric area containing several interesting looking crags. However close approach reveals these to be of the shrinking and broken variety, and the only route recorded is Brishie Buttress (25m Mild Severe, S. Reid, C. King, 17th October, 2002) which climbs the longest area of rock on the crag at the very far right-hand side of the buttress, just below the crest of the ridge.

Craignelder, Craig an Eilte:

Although these routes are short, nowhere more than 20m, they are very quick to dry and on excellent rock. All were climbed on 30th August, 2002 by C. King and S. Reid. Thirty metres to the left of Eilte Gully (the gully to the left of Eilte Tower) is Hind Gully. *Snuzzle* (VS 4b) climbs directly up the rib on its right. *Slab-u-Like* (HVS 4c) boldly climbs the centre of the slab on its left via a fluted scoop to finish just right of a poised block, and *Slabadabadoo* (VS 4c) follows cracks on the left, via a dodgy block to finish just left of the poised block.

Flowers of the Forest 45m III,4 **. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 10th January 2003.

Great positions and fine climbing. One metre left of the initial chimney of Gloom is a rock groove. Climb this, then continue up the mixed ground above (as for Gloom) to the neck of the tower (25m) The next pitch heads rightwards across icefalls to exit from an icy niche. While the exact line will depend on the build up of ice, the FA took the following line. Move 2m down right to a split flake. Step off this and climb the thin wall above to gain turf, then a ledge with block. Traverse 3m right into the icy niche and exit this on the right (20m).

Gorm 25m III. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 10th January 2003.

Short but meaty. Some 500m down and right of the main cliff, is a deeply recessed bay. This route climbs the back of the bay, the lower bulge being climbed by steep

ice, just right of centre. A walk of 150m uphill from this climb leads to a 20m grade II/III icefall.

Eilte Tower:

In the Hall of the Mountain King 40m VS 4b *. S. Reid, C. King. 30th August 2002.

A pitch of some character following the obvious line of weakness via niches up the centre of the wall. Start at a crack with a stalactite hold about 6m left of the cave and 3m right of the open groove of Kerb Crawler. Climb directly up to a narrow ledge, then make a rising traverse to the right up stepped holds to a flake crack which leads to a huge slabby niche. Traverse left across this and gain a rib on the left which leads back right to a steep groove. Go up this to a grass ledge and continue up a crack and bulging ledges above until it is possible to step left onto a large sloping ledge and make a puzzling finish up the hanging arête.

Some 100m to the right of Eilte Tower are a pair of similar but lesser towers. Minas Tirith (VS 4c, S. Reid, C. Bonington, 17th August 2002) is the left-hand and better of the two and gives a good steep 25m pitch following the undercut rib up into a blocky niche from the top of which a hand-traverse right gains a V-groove splitting the top of the tower. Minas Morgul (Severe 4b, C. Bonington, S. Reid, 17th August 2002) on the right is longer but more broken. The blank upper wall is avoided by a crack on the right.

Craigdews:

Up Perisgoat! 50m VS *. S. Reid, J. Biggar. 31st October 2002.

Good climbing via direct variations on the first two pitches of Das Goat, starting as for that route.

1. 20m 5a Follow Das Goat via the short rib to the white scoop. Make hard but well protected moves up rightwards from this to a bald slab, then follow the crack above, finishing boldly up the juggy wall. Traverse left to belay at the end of the thin grass terrace.
2. 30m 4c Traverse 2m right, then take a rising line rightwards up the wall until it is possible to step down left onto a large patch of heather. Leave this via its left rib to gain the obvious central groove which is followed to an exciting exit and a scramble to the terrace. Traverse right to descend via the Ramp.

Craignaw, Shot Cleugh:

The Sleigh Team 120m III,4 *. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 5th January 2003.

A satisfying mixed climb, better than appearances suggest. The difficulties are largely on frozen turf and snowed-up rock and it does not require a build up of ice. High on the crag, some 75m left of Shot Cleugh, and immediately above a tree, is a chimney line. Start down and slightly left of the chimney, at a small gully. Climb this over a bulge, then move up and right across easy ground to the foot of the chimney (45m). Climb the steep chimney above by excellent torquing (30m). Continue up the chimney, taking the right-hand of two steep sloping cracks at the top (45m).

Goat Track Gully II. J. Biggar, S. Reid. January 2003.

The right-hand of the "three gullies", followed by the Direct Finish (IV, 4)

Broad Gully II. J. Biggar, S. Reid. January 2003.
The gully between the three gullies and Shot Cleugh.

Shot Cleugh, Left-Hand Start II. A. Hinkes, S. Reid. 8th January 2003.
A thin ice gully.

Shot Cleugh Right Hand Start II. S. Reid, A. Hinkes. January 2003.

Hidden Chimney IV,5 *. S. Reid, A. Hinkes. 8th January 2003.
A good pitch of steep ice with a rock overhang, situated half way up Shot Cleugh
Left-Hand finish.

Secret Sliver IV,3. A. Hinkes, Prior. January 2003.
An ice/turf smear to the right of Hidden Chimney.

Shot Cleugh widens into an easy basin in its central area. The main gully is the left fork, which is easy and a reasonable descent to the next route.

Full Metal Jacket 60m II/III. I. Magill, A. Fraser. 5th January 2003.
This takes the right-hand icy gully, which springs from the central basin of Shot Cleugh. A fine icefall leads to an easier upper gully.

Loch Grannoch Crag (NX 535 686):

It consists of four groups of slabs lying in a splendid position on the hillside above the sandy beach at the southern end of Loch Grannoch. However although the rock is good, the shortness of the climbs together with the long approach means they are unlikely to prove popular except with instructors based at the Loch Grannoch Lodge. Park as for Clints of Dromore, then continue on the track, turn left and take a forest track past Meikle Cullendoch. Then take the next left and left again to the lodge (one-and-a-half hours but much quicker by bike). Follow a vague path through woods to the crag (a further 15mins). Some routes were recorded in 1981, the remainder in 2002, though some, particularly on Lodge Buttress, had obviously been climbed before. Please note that there is a ban on climbing on this crag from 15th February to 30th June due to rare birds nesting.

Lodge Slabs:

The lowest slabs on the right. The left-hand slab is climbable anywhere at about Diff., but the right-hand slab is more interesting. *Spike Slab* (V. Diff) gains and climbs the ramp above the big spike. To the right, *Wall Left* (Severe 4a) takes a vague crack, *Wall Centre* (VS 4b) goes via a niche and *Wall Right* (H. Severe 4b) take a crack to ledges and a wall. Just right again the striking right-slanting diagonal crack is taken by *Diagonal 1* (VS 5a) which crosses the obvious central crack line of *Centre Crack* (V. Diff) before finishing up slabs on the right. Just right again, *Diagonal 2* (HVS 5b) gives a hard start up a faint line of tiny flakes before crossing Centre Crack and then finishing up the upper of two diagonal faults. *Diagonal 3* (H. Severe 4b) starts at the foot of Centre Crack and follows the lower fault in its entirety, and *Diagonal 2.5* (E1 5b) climbs boldly and slightly artificially up the slab between the two faults. All the routes are 10-15m long.

M Slabs:

These are 60m up the hillside above Lodge Slabs and gives some very clean but short (8m) routes. The centre of the white left-hand slab is taken by the very bold

Kid's Stuff (E2 5c). *Kids R Us* up the arête to the left is V. Diff and *Kid You Not* (Mild Severe 4a) climbs the short wall to the right. The remaining routes lie to the right of the vegetated central groove. *M1* (VS 4b) takes the thin wiggly crack on the left and *M6* (VS 4c) the excellent right-slanting diagonal crack starting at the same point, whilst *M62* (HVS 5a) follows *M6* until it is possible to step left into the upper crack and boldly follow this. Right again, *Bypass* (HVS 5a) takes an unlikely line up the blank-looking slab, and at the far right, *Detour* (Diff.) follows the clean cracked slab.

Goat Slabs:

These are 50m to the left. *Stemlines* (E2 5b) gives a sustained pitch up the thin triple crack system on the right of the main slab, whilst *Goat Slab* (Hard Severe 4a) climbs the unpleasantly vegetated left-hand side to finish up the wall/arête. The inaptly named *Goat Grooves* (Mild Severe 4a) starts up a subsidiary slab on the left, before crossing heather to finish up the pleasant upper slab. All these routes are 25m long.

Madman's Slabs:

Situated 200m to the left again, at the far side of an open gully. *Black Ball* (25m Severe 4a) gives rather vegetated climbing up the centre of the large dark convex slab on the right. To its left are two prominent clean ribs. *Right Rib* is an 8m Diff., while *Left Rib* (10m V. Diff) starts up a steep crack then more easily follows the rib above. Up and right of the ribs, *Shortie* (Severe) is a pleasant if heathery 12m wall leading to the foot of the upper slab where *Captain Madman* (VS 4c) gives a good 25m pitch up the thin right-slanting crack just right of the vegetated crack.

First Ascents: Left Rib, Shortie, Captain Madman, Goat Grooves, Goat Slab, Kid's Stuff, M1, M6, Bypass: D.Gibson, A.Fraser, April 1981.

Spike Slab, Wall Left, Wall Centre, Wall Right, Centre Crack, Diagonals 1, 2, 2.5, and 3, Kids R Us, Kid You Not, M62, Detour, Stemline, Black Ball, Left Rib: C. King, S. Reid, 19th September, 2002.

Clatteringshaws Crag:

There are no climbs recorded in the unattractive quarry opposite Clatteringshaws Dam, but on the hillside above this lie the easy angled vegetated slabs of Clatteringshaws Crag (NX 549 754) which is best reached by taking the first left turn 100m down the Raiders' Road and then striking directly up the hillside. The sole climb is *Dam It*, a pleasant 25m Moderate which takes the rib formed by fallen blocks on the left of the crag (S. Reid on 7th November 2002).

The Merrick, Black Gairy:

The Lang Scots Mile 155m IV,4 **. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 5th February 2003.

A fine long ice route. 150m right of the Black Gutter (50m left of the icicle of Interstellar Overdraft), at mid height on the face is an overhanging square black wall. Start below the right end of this, mid-way between a shallow groove and a large spike at 3m. Climb iced walls directly to beneath a short steep chimney. Ice screws needed for runners and belay (30m). Climb a bulge to the left of the chimney, then easier ground to below the square black wall. (25m). Climb the icefall corner on the right of the wall, then continue up the hidden gully above (50m). Continue by icefalls to the top (50m).

Swatte Fell (near Hart Fell), Upper Coomb Craig, Right Coire:

M.W. Holland and J. Blackford climbed two possible new routes on 11th January 2003 after an extended freeze. The routes are escapable on to turf on either side and may bank out with more snow, but were good in the conditions. The routes were on good water ice and frozen turf to the left of the grade II central gully mentioned in the Lowland Outcrops Guide.

1. 160m III. Starting from the left-hand side of the second bay left of the central gully, 30m of stepped water ice was followed by an easier gully line. The left-hand fork of the gully was taken for the second pitch.
2. 140m II. Starting approx. 40m left and higher than the previous route, a stepped water ice pitch was followed by further easier angled water ice in the gully as it dog-legged back right. After the gully, turf was followed up and left to the top.

Moffat Valley:

Broken Cleugh 500m II/III. S. Mortlock, J. Lawrence, C. Barr. 11th January 2003.

A frozen burn with several short pitches on the north-facing (south) side of the valley opposite and 800m above Grey Mare's Tail. On the day, Grey Mares Tail was very wet. Also climbed by an another party the same day.

THE DUMFRIES OUTCROPS, Clifton Crag:

Main Wall Girdle 110m HVS. S. Reid, W. Hurford. 13th February 2002

Artificial, but with some good exciting pitches. Climb Jeune Ecole, or any other pitch to the top of Hollowstones Wall.

1. 30m 4c Follow Gramercy until just below the mantelshelf, then traverse right along the flake and step across Dirl Chimney. Descend down rightwards with difficulty and traverse the lip of the roof, to gain the crack of Gibbon in Wonderland. Use this to gain a platform up on the right, and traverse right to the top of the groove of Tour de Force. Descend this for 2m, and step right awkwardly on to a heathery ledge.
2. 20m 4b Traverse rightwards across a slimy slab into Owl Chimney, and step out right on to a platform. Descend the crack of Lipstick for 2m, then follow the rising traverse of Stiff Upper Lip to a huge block at the right hand side of Main Wall.
3. 35m 4c Descend slightly the corner of Ratten's Rest, and traverse the break under the roof taking care with loose blocks to pull out at the top of The Groove. Descend halfway down the Esplanade, then make a slightly rising traverse across the mossy wall, and go up to a small oak tree, just left of Red Slab.
4. 25m 5a Cross the red slab to join DIY and finish up this. Alternatively, continue the traverse to an awkward finish up Nebula (E1 5b).

CENTRAL OUTCROPS, Cambusbarron Closed Quarry:

Grangemouth High Grooves Hard Severe 4b. N. Tait, S. Tait. 24th September 2002.

As you walk in, stay left against the small cracked wall as it rises and follow this until it gets about 8m high. Just before a blocky corner, and after a small block which makes a wee 1m roof, there is a groove system which is followed to finish on small blocks.

Daniel Can Walk! E1 5b. N. Tait, S. Tait. 24th September 2002.

Continue beyond the above route around a leaning/hanging corner and start at the bottom of a steep slab, just right of an arête. The first few moves are a well protected crux on clean rock, using the arête to layaway, then easier but poorly protected.

LIMEKILNS, Gellet Block:

Note: A. D. Robertson notes that The Struggler can be climbed independently of the neighbouring E2 by climbing the wall direct (slightly left, then right) to the peg at about 5m (E3 6a but harder than the original). Recommended. Iron Fist has now lost two crucial jugs and is much harder than the current grade. Certainly 6b, E5 suggested.

EAST LOTHIAN, North Berwick Law:

Note: M. Raistrick has led the slab which is top roped occasionally by groups at 15m, Severe.

THE FAST CASTLE SEA CLIFFS, North Brander Bay:

Whalers Crack 15m VS. A. McKay, M. Raistrick. June 2000.

On the striking shark's fin-like pinnacle, a few hundred metres north of Crimpanzie Fin and the Souter. Tidal. Approach as for Souter. Follow solid twin cracks for 10m, then move right to a wee friable rib which is followed to a ledge near the top of the pinnacle. Scramble off the back.

Brander Slabs:

Mince and Tatties 50m Difficult. M. Raistrick. September 2000.

Start opposite the end of Brander Slab across the Geo.

1. Follow an attractive corner with a slabby left wall for 15m to a steepening.
2. Follow cracked slabs more easily to belay at a col on the ridge that leads to Brander Slab.

Fatlips Crag:

This crag is composed of dolerite and not of sandstone as indicated in the current guide.

Fatlips Rib 35m VS 4b. G. E. Little. 12th May 2002.

Start just to the left of Fatlips Corner and climb slabby rock to a diagonal, left-trending stepped overlap. Follow it up and left to its end, then move up and step right on to a clean rib. Climb the rib to its top at a big detached flake and finish on slabby rock.

THE CHEVIOT, Hen Hole, Peake's Buttress (Map Ref 887 202):

Although this north-facing buttress actually lies in England (about 300m from the Scottish border), it is most conveniently accessed from Sourhope or Cocklawfoot in Scotland in just over one hour.

Muzzlehatch Arête 70m II. G. E. Little. 11th January 2003.

This is the right-bounding edge of the crag. Start at the lowest point of the crag. Gain the arête from the right (or more directly by an obvious rock groove, III,4), then follow it to a blunt rock nose. Bypass the rock nose on the left, then move right on to a platform. Continue on easier angled but slabby ground just left of the edge to the top of the buttress.

Prunesquallor Gully 60m III,4. G. E. Little. 11th January 2003.

This is the obvious central gully that does not reach the foot of the crag. Start up and left of the fall line of the gully at a short groove. Climb straight up to a ledge, then traverse right to gain the gully. Climb a short pitch, then go up to below a steep constriction where the gully bends to the left. Surmount this (crux) and climb to the top of the buttress.