

# SMC New Routes 2004

## OUTER ISLES

### **LEWIS, GREAT BERNERA, Creag Liam (SMCJ 2002):**

**Note:** Grade opinions from I.Taylor - Interactive E2 5b \*, The Prow E2 5b \*\*\*, Ticallion Stallion E3 5c \*\*\*, Garden of Eadan E2 5c \*\*, Bostadh Strangler E2 5c \*\*.

### **VALTOS/REIFF , Traigh na Berigh:**

*Rainy Days and Golden Evenings* 40m E2 5b. K.Magog, S.Crowe. 7th July 2003.

A high level girdle of the wall at Traigh na Berigh, starting on the right and traversing the break below the top to finish on the left.

### **Geodha Maladale:**

The following routes lie on the big west-facing cliff in Geodha Maladale just north of Valtos. An old boundary wall runs towards the cliff edge at NB 0893 3785; an abseil can be made from here using a threaded embedded boulder in the wall some way back from the edge.

A large tidal shelf runs beneath the cliff and the abseil gains this close to where it terminates at a sea cave. The shelf can be easily traversed southwards for 100m or so. There are very few breaks in the steep lower band of black rock at the left end of the shelf.

*Shallow is the New Deep* 40m E1/2 5a \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 19th April 2003.

This takes the wide shallow groove that runs the height of the cliff above the initial band of black rock towards the left end of the shelf. Start just to the right of the groove where there is an obvious break in the steep lower wall. Climb steeply to the break and then move up left and across into the base of the groove. Climb the groove to the top. Both the gear and the rock are poor at the top.

Some 20m or so further along the shelf to the south (right) an obvious square-cut tower feature can be identified at the top of the cliff. The next route climbs a crack leading into the blocky corner forming the left side of this tower.

*Easy Does It* 40m VS 4c. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 19th April 2003.

Start at the edge of a tidal pool just off to the right of the line, then traverse up left past a groove and climb up the slabby wall to the base of an obvious crack. Climb the crack to a recess at the base of the blocky corner running up the left side of the tower and climb this, gingerly in places, to the top.

### **UIG SEA CLIFFS, AIRD UIG AREA, Gallen Beag 1:**

This is the continuation of Gallen Beag 2. A narrow inlet/geo cuts into the large platformed area leading out towards the island of Gallen Beag. The wall overlooking this narrow inlet is composed of excellent waterworn rock, its northern end overlooks Gallen Beag 2. In the centre of the wall a right-angled corner can be located, the line of North Atlantic Drift. Routes are described from here, first right then left.

*North Atlantic Drift* 25m E2 5c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

The right-angled corner, gained by abseil.

The arete to the right is broad and has a good ledge on it. Scramble out to this from the base of the corner.

*Seven* 25m E2 5b \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

Climb a crack-line just left of the edge to a steepening, then pull over left on to the wall (Camalot#0 useful). Climb to a break, move up right, then pull steeply up left and finish more easily.

*Tidal Rift* 25m VS 4c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

Climb cracks in the front of the broad arete.

An abseil down the slim corner to the north gains a ledge. The first route climbs the left edge of the right-angled corner taken by North Atlantic Drift.

*Washed Out* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

Move out right onto the arete, climb this on the right and then on the left to finish.

*Competitive Stress Disorder* 25m E3 5c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

Climb thin cracks in the black wall right of the slim corner with an awkward finish just left of the final moves of Washed Out.

*Panic Attack* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

The slim corner.

*Rising Tide* 25m HVS 4c \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 13th July 2003.

The bigger corner to the left, finishing up the crack just left of the corner.

*Eightsome Reel* Very Difficult. . R.Anderson. 18th July 2003.

The corner and steps at the northern end of the wall.

#### **The Boardwalk:**

*Face Off* 30m E2/3 5c \*\*. R.Anderson. 18th April 2003.

The obvious groove-line just right of Shadows in the Sun. Climb directly into, then up a left-facing groove-line and continue via a right-facing groove-line to easier ground leading to the top.

*Jagged Little Thrill* 20m HVS/E1 5a \*\*. R.Anderson. 17th April 2003.

Climb up to the right-bounding arete and climb steeply up its left side via a shallow groove, stepping left at the top to pull over the final jutting shelf.

*Edgy* 20m E1 5b \*. R.Anderson. 17th April 2003.

Just left of Quartzvein Crack. Climb a crack-line in the arete to a finish on its left side.

#### **The Point Wall:**

*Spaced Out* 25m VS 4c \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 19th July 2003.

Immediately right of Black Sabbath, climb thin cracks just left of a chimney to step across this and gain a ledge. Climb up on to a ramp and follow this across the top of the wall.

#### **Geodh a' Bheannaich Area:**

The following routes lie in a shallow square-cut recess between Geodh a' Bheannaich and Chapel/May Day Geo. The recess can easily be located on the cliff top, as can the big exit corner to Seal Dive (SMCJ 1988). An abseil can easily be rigged down the back of the recess, down a deep groove just right of Seal Dive. Ledges at the bottom appear safe from all but the biggest seas and they can be traversed left to a deep rift where the Abyss (SMCJ 1988) starts, or rightwards towards the tidal pond area just north of Geodh a' Bheannaich itself.

From the slabby shelf at the base of the big groove forming the back of the recess, traverse left to a deep and narrow tidal rift, The Abyss. The next two route start from ledges just up to the right.

*Pushed Over* 30m E2 5b. R.Anderson. 18th April 2003.

Climb a short corner and crack leading to a ledge at the base of a wide crack. Contrive moves up the wall just left of the crack directly into a shallow groove and follow this to the top.

*Edged Out* 30m E3 5b. R.Anderson. 18th April 2003.

Climb to the ledge as for the previous route, then continue up the wide crack on to the edge, just left of the upper corner of Seal Dive (SMCJ 1988), then make some bold moves to a large hold and some gear. Finish up the short groove above.

*Heatwave* 35m Difficult. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 18th April 2003.

From the shelf at the base of the left-hand corner forming the square cut recess, climb up right towards a higher recess then follow corners and ledges back up left to the top of the left-hand corner

**Geodha Caol:**

The following route lies on the west-facing wall on the seaward side of the Geodha Caol promontory.

*Vein Glory* 30m E1 5b \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 20th April 2003.

Start in the corner at the top left of the large sloping shelf at the base of the recessed section of the cliff, at the start of Backslip Way (SMCJ 2001). A two foot wide pink vein of quartz starts on the floor of the ledge and snakes its way out left and up to the top of the crag. Follow this vein of quartz out left above the void and then up corners and an edge to a small shelf, gear on right can be arranged and extended. Climb the protruding vein for a steep and spectacular finish.

**The Red Wall:**

Just beyond the first cliff north of Seil na Berie is a south-facing reddish wall with an obvious hole in the wall. Walk over the top of the crag just beyond Seil na Berie to locate a wide fault running down the side of the reddish wall. An abseil down this wall gains a spacious ledge below the hole, which is a body sized solution pocket. Continue the abseil to ledges just above the sea at the base of a large right to left-slanting fault.

*The Hole Solution* 30m E2 5b \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 9th July 2003.

1. 10m 5b Climb into a V-groove, then go right to the arete and climb to the spacious ledge.
2. 20m 5b Move up left into the hole, then climb thin cracks above to the top.

**Seil na Berie:**

Beneath the northern top of the Berie headland is a sheltered rocky bay, an impressive spot when there is a big sea running. The most prominent feature is a slabby rib of blocky corners overlooking a right-angled quartz corner, then a series of crack-lines through an upper section of quartz rock. The routes finish beneath the two Gloop Holes.

*Cornerstones* 30m Severe. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 11th July 2003.

The central corner system in the slabby rib.

*Edgeway* 30m Very Difficult. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 11th July 2003.

The slabby right arete just right of Cornerstones.

*Whitecap* 30m VS 4c \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 11th July 2003.

The thin crack just right of the quartz right-angled corner.

**Torcaso Geo (SMCJ 2000):**

**Note from I.Taylor:** Running Scared E1 5b \*\* and 42nd Street are 25m not 40m, Life in the Old Dog Yet is 25m E3 5c \*\*, Happy Returns is 15m E2 5c \*\*.

**UIG SEA CLIFFS, MUNGERSTADH AREA, Eileen Geo:**

*Takeaway* HVS 4c. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 8th July 2003.

The right side of the large quartz streak just left of Breakout gained by starting as for that route to the accommodating ledge, or tide permitting directly.

*Red Veil* E2 5b \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 8th July 2003.

The obvious corner between Sea Pink and Deep Blue.

**Painted Geo, The Friendly Wall :**

*Becalmed* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 6th July 2003.

Start at the same point as Isle Be Back in the centre of the seaward wall on sloping ledges just above the sea. Climb the shallow corner and where Isle Be Back steps left to a small ledge on the wall, continue straight up a crack-line and finish up a slim quartz groove

*Beguiled* 20m HVS 4c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 6th July 2003.  
A direct line up the juggy wall and crack-line 1-2m right of Becalmed.

*Bewildered* 20m E1/2 5b \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 5th July 2003.  
The thin crackline in between Beguiled and Bewitched.

*Bewitched* 20m E1 5a/b \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 5th July 2003.  
The thin crack-line immediately left of the arete taken by Swell Time. Pull over the initial steepening and climb the crack-line to the top.

### **Painted Geo, The Black Wall:**

The following routes are reached by abseiling down the large west-facing slab which forms the outer edge of Painted Geo. A short wall lies at the base of the slab.

*Veinity Fare* 50m VS 4c/5a \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 7th July 2003.  
Climb a wide quartz vein in the centre of the short wall and climb the slab easily to the top.

*Edged Out* 50m HVS 4c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 7th July 2003.  
Climb the slabby left arete of the short wall to a junction with Foaming at the Mouth, then climb the right side of the arete to finish easily up the slab.

The following routes lie just around the edge where there is a small tidal ledge that can be gained by a traversing in from the base of the slab, or by a more direct abseil. This is the far end of the Black Wall. Four routes start from this ledge with the first taking the right edge, just left of Edged Out. A belay can be taken at a horizontal crack on the slab.

*Foaming at the Mouth* 50m E1 5b \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 16th July 2003.  
Move up right and bridge across a short chimney to gain the right edge, then climb the thinner, right-hand of two cracks to gain the slab via a short v-slot. Finish easily.  
RA & CA 16/7/03

*First Cut* 50m E3 5b \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 16th July 2003.  
The thin crack-line in the blunt edge a short way left of the right edge. Boldly climb the thin crack-line to a ledge, then continue up the edge to the right of a groove.

*Divided Loyalty* 50m E2 5c \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 16th July 2003.  
The wider crack immediately left of First Cut leads to ledges where moves up right gain a V-groove leading to the slab and an easy finish.

*Gear Shifting* 50m E3 5b/c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 16th July 2003.  
The crack-line immediately left of Divided Loyalty. Move up left into the crack-line and climb this to a blocky protrusion, then climb steeply up thin cracks to easier ground leading to the slab. Finish up the slab.

### **Magic Geo:**

*Gas* 30m E3 5b \*. T.Fryer, I.Taylor. 1st June 2003.  
Start at the base of Campa Crack and follow a right-slanting pink dyke to join Limka after 20m.

### **Magic Geo, Mitre Wall (SMCJ 2001):**

*Too Wild for Feral Fyffe* 40m E4 6a. E.Tresidder, T.Bridgeland. 9th June 2003.  
The prominent crack right of Black Crack. Good climbing with lots of poor small gear (RP's and aliens). One crucial Friend#2.5 at half-height. Climbed on sight.

**Screaming Geo:**

*Shonkey* 50m E2/3 5c. T.Fryer, I.Taylor. 6th June 2003.

Lies on the same wall as Conundrum and climbs the left-hand dog-leg crack. Some suspect rock in the upper half. Abseil to a small stance 5m above high tide level. Trend left following the crack to below roofs. Move left 1m to pull through at the point of least resistance and continue more easily on quartzite rock to a slab. Follow discontinuous cracks to the top.

*Great Gig in the Sky* 25m E4 6a. S.Crowe, K.Magog. 5th July 2003.

Climbs the wall right of Hughies Cocktail.

**Notes from I.Taylor:** A direct start to Bonxie (SMCJ 2001) was climbed at the same grade, E3 5c \*. The Alchemist is actually between The Sorcerer and Am Burrach.

**MINGULAY, Rubha Liath, Seal Song Geo:**

Five routes on the south wall, all starting from the mid-height band of ledges, in the vicinity of The Power Of The Ocean. Abseil approaches to comfortable stances. All routes on immaculate rock and about 15m long.

*The Boat* HVS 5b \*. R.Durran, A.Taylor. 9th July 1999.

The striking left to right slanting groove in the wall left of the top corner of The Power Of The Ocean. Much pleasanter than first acquaintance would suggest if dry. Good jamming and bridging to a steep finish. This may be the line climbed in 1998 by Sarah Gardiner.

*The Girl In The Boat* E4 6a \*\*\*. R.Durran, A.Taylor. 4th July 1999.

The thin flake/crack in the right wall of the top corner of The Power Of The Ocean. Climb the wall to a good side-pull at the base of the flake. Make hard moves with improving protection to a good flake below the top. Finish more easily.

*Boat Song* E2 5b \*\*. R.Durran, A.Taylor. 9th July 1999.

The arete to the right of The Girl In The Boat. Start down and right of the arete and climb past a large flake to a bold and airy finish.

*The Mooring* E1 5c \*\*. R.Durran, A.Taylor. 9th July 1999.

The unappealing corner to the right of Boat Song has a crack in its right wall. Steep, but with excellent protection.

*The Wake* E4 6a \*. R.Durran, A.Taylor. 9th July 1999.

An eliminate up the wall right of The Mooring with some excellent moves. Climb a steep broken crack and then make harder moves between thin breaks to the top

A further route starting from the extreme left end of the ledge beneath the obvious hanging groove capped by an small roof.

*The Extraordinary Relief Map of Iceland* 25m E2 5b \*\*. R.Durran, H.Lawrenson. 13th August 2003.

Start below the groove. Climb very steeply up, move left, then up and back right to the base of the groove. Climb the groove and turn the capping roof on the right.

The following route climbs the full height of the wall and is well right of the above routes.

*The Sun Has Got His Hat On* 40m E3 5c \*\*. C.Henderson, R.Durran. 23rd July 2000.

Abseil from the lower apex of the slabby area about 50m right of The Power Of The Ocean to a good ledge just above high tide level at the foot of a prominent corner system split by a clean roof at half height. Climb leftwards and then turn the roof on the right to gain a good ledge. Continue up the corner using the fine

finger crack in the left wall. Exit rightwards below a second roof in an exposed position to reach easy ground.

The following route lies on the opposite side of the Geo.

*The Girl With Extraordinary Eyes* 25m E3 6a \*\*\*. R.Durran, C.Henderson. 23rd July 2000.

Down and to the right of the wall taken by Fergus Sings The Blues is a clean wall undercut on its right side by a low cave. Abseil to the slightly tidal platform below the wall. Surmount the left edge of the cave and move right to the prominent line of right-trending flakes. Climb these to a rest below the capping roof and surmount this with difficulty in a fine position to finish.

### **Rubha Liath, Geirum Walls:**

The following three routes are easily identified by the prominent right-facing corner. It is possible that others may have claimed the first and possibly second of them.

*Seal Of Approval* E1 5b \*\*. R.Durran and partner. July 1999.

A crack in the left wall of the corner. Climb the corner for 3m and then move left along a break to the base of the crack. Surmount a bulge (crux) and continue to the top.

*Seal Clubbing* E2 6a \*. R.Durran and partner. July 1999.

The arete left of the corner. Make a boulder problem start from the left and then climb direct to the top.

*Sealed With A Kiss* E3/4 6a/b \*\*. R.Durran and partner. July 1999.

The shallow arch to the left of the arete. The difficulty is reach dependent. Climb the wall to a good break and make a long reach for the obvious hold on the lip. Pull on to the wall with further difficulty and continue direct to the top.

### **Guarsay Mor:**

*The Mushroom Of My Fear* 50m E3 5c \*\*. R.Durran, C.Henderson. 21st July 2000.

Five metres right of the start of Hill You Hoe is a left-facing corner capped at 10m by a small roof. The usual high quality climbing on this wall.

1. 15m Climb the corner and surmount the roof and short wall above with difficulty to gain the right end of the ledge of Ossian Boulevard.
2. 35m Climb up and slightly leftwards for a few metres, then slightly rightwards before continuing directly through some entertaining bulges to reach easier ground. A superb and sustained pitch.

*Sruth na Fir Gorm* 50m E5 6b. R.Campbell, P.Craig. 13th May 2003.

This route is on the southerly section of the main Guarsay Mor cliff. The ledge at the base of the wall terminates at the flake-crack of Taxing Macphee. From the top of the flake an intermittent ledge runs rightwards under the smooth bulging wall to disappear into a quartz recess that is the first weakness in the wall and is part of pitch 1 of Save Our Souls. Lost Souls climbs the wall just to the left of this recess breaking through the bulge via a niche (the rightmost of several similar features). This route is a counter-diagonal trending leftwards through the first weakness in the bulge 10m left of Lost Souls. Move up and right along ledge into the quartz recess on Save our Souls. Belay. Move left round rib and climb up wall to flake hold on Lost Souls. Move up left to a position under centre of overlap, move left again before making a hard move up into groove. Continue steeply to easier ground and finish as for Lost Souls.

**Note:** Save Our Souls was repeated by R.Campbell, P.Craig at E5 6b on 11th May 2003.

**Note from A.D.Robertson:** *Crystal Daze* should be E3 6a (not 6b).

*Lost Souls* (E4 6a, 5b). The route description for the first pitch was found to be misleading. A more accurate version would be:

1. 30m 6a Climb rightwards off the ledge, then move up to a higher ledge. From near its right end make thin moves out right and up to a small flake. Step right and go up past small quartz holds up a narrow wall between two small roofs. Step left to the edge of the second roof and climb through the break to better holds. Move up to a small roof, step

right under it then climb to a horizontal crack. Follow this leftwards to belay in a niche.

**PABBAY, The Pink Wall:**

*Cormorant your Way to the Top* E5 6b,5c. R.Campbell, G.Latter. 14th May 2003.

Climb monster flakes up wall left of “I Suppose...” past a hard move to an impasse 3m below roof. Step right into “I Suppose....” and follow this to top.

*What! No Puffin* 85m E6 6b. S.Crowe, K.Magog. 15th May 2003

Climbs the grooved arete on the right edge of the Pink Wall, starting right of Ancient Mariner but eventually finishing in the same place. Hard moves gain the ledge; move up to the Y-shaped crack. Move up, then left to climb a steep bulge, before moving left again to join and finish as for Ancient Mariner.

*Fondue Macpac* 70m E6. P.Robins, J.McHaffie (alt). 2nd July 2003.

A line in between In Profundum Lacu and Raiders of the Lost Auk.

1. 20m 6b From the small pinnacle at the top of the gully, gain the right-hand side of a small overlap above. Move left and up to a good flake and steepening. Strenuous moves gain a crack and then a belay on the left-hand side of a small ledge.

2. 50m 6a Go up a corner and move right to join I.P.L. Pull over the bulge as for that route, then move up and right to gain protruding flakes and an undercut break. Continue more easily to the top, first right then left.

*Night Terrors (or The Haunting?)* E4. L.McGinley, T.Leppart. July 2003.

A route between Tomorrow People and Tickled Pink.

1. Goes up right of Tomorrow People to the same belay.

2. Traverses into Tickled Pink.

3. (crux - 5c?) Follows a slanting groove left then up to top.

**Notes:** A.D.Robertson & P.Craig made the second complete ascent of In Profundum Lacu. thought to be E5 6a 6a 5b \*\*\* and superb. The second pitch was very strenuous then bold, certainly not 5c. The final pitch (common with Raiders of the Lost Auk) is worth 5b, not 5a.

P.Robins & J.McHaffie thought the following grades:

A Cormorant's E5 5b,6a/b,5b; The Bonxie E5/6 6a,6a; Ancient Mariners E4 5c; The Guga E5 5c,6a,4c.

**The Grey Wall:**

A.D.Robertson & P.Craig made the second ascent of Spits in Paradise/ Elysium and agreed with E4 5c 6a 6a. It should be noted in the description that the second pitch has a very loose initial chimney. The rest of the pitch is solid and excellent.

**The Great Arch:**

Prophecy of Drowning was thought to be E2 5b 5a 5c 5b \*\*\*\* by P.Allen & M.Atkins.

A truly outstanding climb and worth 4 Stars. The original E3 grade understandable given the position, as escape would be very interesting.

The crux sections of Child of the Sea and Sturm und Drang were thought to be the same by A.Arnott and R.I.Jones despite being graded 6b and 6a (i.e. the routes overlap).

P.Robins & J.McHaffie climbed a very good combination, climbing the first four pitches of the Arch project, then up the corner to the left-hand end of the arch and round the arete into Prophecy of Drowning. E6 5a, 5c, 6b, 6a, 5b, 5b, 5b.

**Banded Geo:**

*Spring Squill:* M.Gear suggests an improved way of approaching the route, by the abseil to the bottom of Spooky Pillar. This gives a 15m pitch, following Oh No, Norman's in Reverse! across the top of the black slab (4c) and then climbing down and traversing left (facing in) at about Difficult to the distinctive eyehole

flake belay. The route was then climbed in 3 pitches, 25m 5a, 25m 5b, 15m 4b, since the belays seemed better. Pitch 2 as in the guide is 5a at the start.

*Oh No, Norman's in Reverse!* To reduce rope drag and with better belays, climbed as three pitches, 1. 25m 5a, 2. 25m 5a, 3. 15m 4c. Description provided.

*At The Drop Of A Hat (Endolphin Rush Direct Finish)* 5c. C.Henderson, R.Durran. 11th August, 2003.  
Pull directly over the roof above the stance into a small hanging corner. Step left to the arete, pose for photos and finish up and left. No change in overall grade.

*Vomtanion and the Three Punterneers* 50m E5 6a. J.McHaffie, T.Badcock, P.Robins. 4th July 2003.  
A line up wall right of Ship of Fools. Start from the left-hand end of the main ledge at the bottom of the geo. Climb easily up a shallow groove for about 10m to a steepening. Step left beneath the upper of two overlaps; continue awkwardly left for 3m to some larger undercuts and a rest. Move up on small holds (crux) to gain a break. A short traverse right gains a flake. Climb more or less directly past some small ledges and a vague crack to a final bulge and the top.

*Fat Les* 60m E3. P.Robins, T.Badcock, J.McHaffie. 4th July 2003.  
The obvious overhanging crack left of Endolphin Rush.  
1. 40m 5c Climb the crack on good holds to a step right and rest. Climb up to a short hanging corner and up to join Endolphin Rush on pitch 2. Follow this left and over a bulge to belay on a large block.  
2. 20m 4b Straight to the top.

*Ug-Spudchucker* E3. M.Perrier, J.Spanken. 3rd July 2003.  
A line left of Fat Les, gaining the right-facing corner.  
1. 5c Climb steeply up a crack to gain the corner and follow it to a roof. Traverse left beneath this to belay.  
2. 4c Climb easily to the top.

*Copper Got a Pollock* E3. R.Pullen, J.Spanken. 2nd July 2003.  
The obvious diagonal line running from bottom left to top right of the geo, starting by Chockarockaholic and finishing as for Spring Squirrel.  
1. 4c Follow the fault to belay before Ship of Fools' wall.  
2. 5c Traverse steeply across the break of S.O.F's wall to easier ground.  
3 and 4. 4c Continue in the same line to reach and finish up Spring Squirrel.

### **Banded Geo, South Face:**

*Ice Box Prose* 35m HVS 5a \*. R.I.Jones, M.Gear. 6th June 2003.  
This is the next route right of Cereal Killer (SMCJ 2002), but is probably best described in relation to a right facing corner. Four metres left of the corner crack of Corn Choked Chimney (SMCJ 2002) is the right-facing corner. Climb this and the cracks up the wall system above. Shares the last 5m with Wine Box Chimney.

*Wine Box Chimney* 35m E1 5b \*. A.Erskine, J.Wardman. 6th June 2003.  
A chimney sits 2m left of the corner. Climb this and the short right-facing corner above (crux). Finish up the steep wall.

The next two routes use a belay at the bottom of the corner of Corn Choked Chimney.

*Refrigerator Poetry* 35m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, M.Gear. 6th June 2003.  
Takes the wall between the corner and Muses from Afar. From the bottom of the corner step right to the wall and climb the centre to the top.

*Muses from Afar* 35m VS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, M.Gear. 6th June 2003.  
From the corner traverse right to the crack in the centre of the wall. Climb this to the top.

### **Rubha Charnain, Small Buoys Geo:**

*Time for a Cormorant* 15m Very Difficult. H.Salisbury, V.Hennelly. 3rd June 2003.

Climb the corner left of the crack of Reprieve until an awkward step right into a shallow sentry box. Climb up and left of this to easier ground,

**Rubha Charnain, Evening Wall:**

*Nom* 8m 4c. R.I.Jones (solo). 7th June 2003.

Climbs the centre of the wall 2m left of Sandgorgan to the right end of a ledge and direct to the top above.

*The Sandgorgan* 8m 5b. R.I.Jones (solo). 7th June 2003.

Two metres left of Stalking the Corncrake are two small cracks at 1.5m height. Climb these and the wall direct above.

*Stalking the Corncrake* 10m VS 4c. D.Carr, V.Hennelly. 7th June 2003.

Left of Beach Bums. Climb the crack to a prominent thread on the left and climb this direct. Continuing up the crack right of the thread lowers the grade to 4b.

*Pleasant Rib* 10m Very Difficult. D.Carr (solo). 7th June 2003.

Climbs the rib immediately left of Beach Bums.

**Allanish Peninsula, Hoofers Geo:**

*Skuaed* 35m Hard Severe. H.Salisbury, V.Hennelly. 4th June 2003.

Climb the crack right and parallel to The Ramp. Move slightly right on to the wall at 5m and up to a ledge. Continue up the crack 2m on the right and chimney above.

*Cast and Shadow* 40m HVS 5a. D.Carr, A.Arnott. 4th June 2003.

The prominent sharp arete to the right of The Ramp. Climb up to the arete. Climb this first on the right and then up the arete to a large ledge and easier ground above.

*Boosh* 25m E5 6a. P.Robins, J.McHaffie (both led), N.Dyer. 3rd July 2003.

Climbs the striking left-slanting crack on the right side of the deep chimney just left of the first described route, right of the descent (looking in). Gain the crack and go up to a small overlap. Tricky moves over this lead to better holds as the crack approaches a corner. Climb straight up the wall above to the top.

**Big Bloc Sloc:**

The following routes climb the wall left of the deep sea cave. To access scramble down to a small terrace above the wall and abseil.

*Ying* 15m Very Difficult. R.I.Jones (solo). 5th June 2003.

The wide crack on the left.

*Yang* 15m Severe. R.I.Jones, A.Erskine. 5th June 2003.

The central crack to a short steep wall and the crack above.

*Yo* 15m Difficult A.Erskine, R.I.Jones. 5th June 2003.

On the right via a shallow groove.

**Shags Geo:**

*A Semblance of Reason* 50m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, M.Snook. 31st May 1999.

3m right of Quartz Waltz and left of the next prominent corner. Climb the wall and cracks to the large ledge. Climb through the roof on the left above as for Quartz Waltz.

The following routes are concentrated around the conspicuous groove/corner of Wok On The Wild Side which is mid-way between the corner right of A Semblance of Reason and the next corner of Hunting the Gripper. It has a distinctive quartz patch at its base and a large triangle shaped rock at ¼ height in the corner. Access is gained by abseil down the corner from a block on the terrace that can be thread.

*Sweetness* 35m E1 5b \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Wardman. 4th June 2003.

Climbs the rib between Mussel Crack and Hunting The Gripper. Belay at the bottom right of the rib. Step onto the wall and make delicate moves up the wall (double zero cam essential). Trend slightly rightwards as you gain height moving to easier ground. Finish direct through the overhanging finishing slot.

**Note:** Hunting The Gripper thought to be VS 4c \*.

*Groovy Attitude* 35m VS 4b \*. J.Wardman, R.I.Jones. 4th June 2003.

Six metres right of the corner is a groove with a spike at the bottom. Climb the small right facing corner to an overhang. Take this on the right to a ledge. Step right and climb the corner above to a steep juggy finish.

**The Galley:** The buttress at the foot of the twin corners of *The Abridged Version* and *The Complete Works* has fallen away. However, a solid belay ledge remains, so it is still possible to abseil in to do these routes, plus Wiggly Wall, which now goes at HVS 5a and remains superb.

### **Rubha Grotach, The Galley:**

N.Morrison thought Winos in a Barren Land to be E3 5c, not E3 6a.

### **The Poop Deck:**

*Pabbarotti* 25m E1 5b \*. N.Morrison, W.Moir. August 2002.

The meat of this route is the flakey wall right of the crack-line on Geovannie. Start right of Geovannie and climb the left side of the slab running into the corner-ramp of The Immigrant. Join that route just below the ledge. From the ledge step out right on to the wall and follow flakes and juggy breaks in a fine position to the top.

*Pause For Jaws* 25m E2 5c \*\*. C.Henderson, R.Durran. 27th Jult 2000.

The slim left-facing groove 5m right of Incommunicado gives surprisingly technical and interesting climbing. Finish direct above the mid-height ledge.

### **Allanish Peninsula, Allanish Wall:**

*Zen Left-hand* 15m E2 5c \*. N.Morrison, W.Moir. August 2003.

Where Zen and the Art of Corncrake Management's dog-leg moves right, climb direct in the line of a crack to a ledge. The crack-line continues up a steep juggy headwall.

**Note:** Zen seems best started from the ledge below the crack, as such it is 15m not 25m.

### **Rosinish Wall:**

*Taxi For Tam* 10m E3 6a. W.Moir, N.Morrison, M.Atkins. August 2003.

The left-slanting groove 8m left of The Ethics Police.

### **Bay Area:**

*Baywatch* 10m E3 6a. W.Moir, M.Atkins. August 2003.

The roof and rib left of Stoney Middleton.

*Irish Rover* 14m E3 6a. W.Moir, P.Allen, M.Atkins. August 2003.

Cracks on the left side of the wall left of Rum, Sodomy and The Lash. Start up black rock, then make a hard pinch move to better holds.

### **Small Box Geo, Squall Wall:**

Squall Wall is the bounding wall immediately left of the Small Box inlet, providing short climbs on immaculate rock. Routes are described left to right.

Descent: Abseil down the line of Squall Wall to reach a ledge system.

*Tempest* 15m VS 4c \*. P.Allen, M.Atkins. 8th August 2003.

The obvious crack line to the right of Squall Wall.

*Eliminator* 15m HVS 5a. M.Atkins, P.Allen. 8th August 2003.

Takes the sheet of rock right of Tempest, starting at a small box corner. Climb straight up to join the stepped ledge system. Good climbing on in-cuts, but unfortunately escapable leftward.

*Zephyr* 15m HVS 5a. P.Allen, M.Atkins. 8th August 2003.

The fault line to the right of Eliminator provides pleasant technical moves to finish.

The following route is on the island opposite the camping place.

*Bouncing Bim* 20m E3 5c. P.Robins, R.Pullen. June 2002.

Climbs the wall left of the deep chimney which becomes more closed at the top (right again is sharp overhanging arete). Move up on slots and then left to gain the arete near the top. Climbed in the rain so the grade may be wrong.

### **COLL:**

Routes by J.Spencer, J.Sadler, L.Spencer and party in July 2001 and August 2003 (the An Caisteal Slab routes may have been climbed before).

### **Hogh Bay, An Caisteal:**

Park by the Project Trust Hebridean Centre at Ballyhaugh (NM 175 581) and follow the track NW for 200 metres, then joint a faint path running along a fence. Follow the dogleg in the fence, turn left through gate and head for highest point on skyline (named as An Caisteal at NM 172 583). Pass through a notch on the left (south) of the high point. Immediately to the left is an easy angled slab ('Beginner's Slab'), and to the right, a dyke ('The Gully'). Straight ahead for 75m, bearing right along a platform reach an undercut, west-facing slab ('The Slab') and surrounding walls. The rock is gneiss, ranging in colour from black to orange through pink, and mostly of excellent quality. Nearby Traigh Hogh (10 minutes walk) is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful beaches in the Hebrides.

### **Beginner's Slab:**

*Izzy Whizzy* 8m Very Difficult. Up the middle of the slab by a black streak

*Emma's Dilemma* 8m Severe. Direct line to the left of Izzy Whizzy

*One Move Wonder* 8m Hard Severe. The overhang over the water at the right hand end of the slab.

Many variations are possible.

### **The Gully:**

The bottom of the dyke is boggy. From right to left.

*Yo Hogh* 7m Severe 4a . Up twin cracks formed by a hanging block.

*Hogh* 10m VS 4b. Start at boulders at lowest point of rocks, beneath twin overlap. Climb up over the overlaps, bearing left into a hanging corner (bearing right at the top gives a 4c finish).

*Hogh, Hogh* 8m VS 4c. Start below the highest point of the wall. Straight up to the break and over the overlap via a 'thank god' hold.

*Hogh, Hogh, Hogh* 7m Hard Severe 4a. The blocky crack at the left end of the wall. Break out right at the level of the overhang.

*Hogh Hum* 5m VS 4b. Up the brown streak.

**The Slab:** From right to left.

*Grooved Slab* 8m Very Difficult. The grooved slab on the right side.

*Scorpion* 10m Severe. Follows left-slanting crack reached by a strenuous move over the overhang to its right. Continue direct up thin crack.

*Skid Marks* 10m Hard Severe. Climb the brown streak, moving in from the left on small holds.

*Callum's Callisthenics* 10m Severe. Step on to the undercut slab, move right and follow crack and groove, moving right at the top.

*Basking Shark* 10m Very Difficult. Step on to undercut slab then straight up blocky crack to the overhang, turning on either left (easier) or right.

*Abseil Slab* 10m Very Difficult. Turn the big overhang at the left end on its right, then straight up the slab (harder and thinner towards the right side).

*High Hogh* 10m VS 4b. To the right of The Slab is a steep section with a left-leaning groove system. Climb the slightly overhanging groove on big holds.

**Black Wall:** This short wall of black, sea-worn rock lies several tiers below The Slab.

*X* 7m VS 5a. The crack on the right.

*XX* 7m VS 5a. Climb the centre of the wall.

*XXX* 5m VS 4b. The crack on the left.

About 200 metres north of The Slab cross a barbed wire fence to find a solitary pinky grey buttress with *The Missing Hat* 8m HVS 5b. Climb the buttress via a faint crack-line.

### **Picnic Rocks (NM 171580):**

From the gate in the fence, instead of heading for the An Caisteal notch, turn left and walk (SW) towards Traigh Hogh. Pass by a rocky knoll on the right, and cross grassy meadows, heading for a rocky shelf which leads down to the Picnic Rocks, a short section of pink, grey and black slabs riven by cracks and corners, with a green pool at its base. From right to left:

*Route 1* 5m Very Difficult. Climb the right-trending flakes up the grey wall at the right hand end.

*Pets' Corner* 8m Hard Severe. Starting to the right of the green pool, climb the corner.

*Pet Scorner* 8m Very Difficult. From the green pool climb the blocky corner. A variation finish takes the short hanging corner to the left.

*Renroc Step* 8m VS 4c. Surmount the overhang and climb direct to the top.

*Route 2* 8m Very Difficult. Up the black wall left of above.

*Anerr Corner* 8m Very Difficult. Climb on to the overlap at its lowest point, and move right into the corner. Veering left at the top is harder.

*Flake Crack* 8m Severe. Up the flaky crack.

*Crax* 8m Severe. Climb the next set of cracks on the wall between the two main corners.

*Yet Anerr Corner* 8m Very Difficult. Good bridging up the corner.

*Crax Crax* 8m Severe. Climb the crack-line just left of the arete.

*Trident Right Hand* 8m Severe. The right-hand (widest) crack.

*Trident Central* 8m Very Difficult. The central crack.

*Trident Left Hand* 8m Severe. The left-hand crack.

**Creag nam Clamhan:** The SMC District Guide mentions 'of particular note' Creag nam Clamhan (crag of the buzzard) at NM 237 622. To reach, it park by the cattle grid (NM 234 628) where a stream flows under the road. Follow the stream (keeping ears and eyes peeled for corncrakes in season) veering rightwards (SE) onto boggy ground, flanking the right hand (S) side of a boulder strewn grassy hillock. The crag is about 40m long, 8-10m high and of grey and pink gneiss of variable quality. Some large boulders beneath the mid-point of the crag provide a useful reference point. Right to left.

*I'd Rather Be At The Beach* 8m VS 5a. Follow the obvious left-slanting flake-crack at the right-hand end, bearing right at the top. Left finish via a block is harder.

*Incy Wincy* 8m VS 4c. The square-cut groove to the left of the boulders.

*In the Groove* 8m Severe 4a. The vegetated crack-line 5m left of Incy Wincy.

### **MULL, Scoor, Horse Wall:**

**Note:** Paul Tattersall thinks Eat My Shorts is E5.

### **Ardtun, Yellow Block:**

*Gone Again* 12m E2 5b \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 12th October 2003.

The obvious off-width crack right of Everything He Hates About Climbing.

*Back From China* 10m HVS 5a \*.C.Moody, D.Brooks. 11th June 2003.

Left of White Heather Club, move round the overhang to start.

**Ardtun, Stirk Crag:**

This is between Green Hill and Blow Hole, about 60m east of the fence; north and east facing.

*Gribun Phone Box Vandals* 10m VS 4b. C.Moody. 29th February 2004.

Twin cracks on the east face.

**Erraid, Asteroid Chasm:**

*Mars Watchers* 22m VS 4b. C.Moody. 27th August 2003.

Gain the shallow chimney right of Asteroid Groove. Follow the ramp up left, go over a bulge and finish up the wide corner crack. The easy start was not climbed, but had been climbed before with a low tide.

**ISLAY, Lossit Bay Area:**

*Blackback Stack* 20m Difficult \*. G.E.Little. 22nd April 2000.

This is the highest stack at the south end of Lossit Bay. The south face of the stack is split by a distinctive wide crack. Gain the base of the crack from the right (at low tide for a dry crossing) and climb it on big holds.

**Geodha Cam (Map Ref 176 562):**

This narrow geo lies on the north side of Lossit Bay. Its east flank comprises a slab of immaculate rock. Two short routes have been done, the centre of the slab and the obvious slabby rib (both about Very Difficult).

The west flank of Geodha Cam is a vertical, part vegetated wall.

*Small Boy Waiting* 15m VS 4c. G.E.Little, C.Woodrow. 2nd April 2002.

This route climbs the highest and cleanest section of the wall. Start below the point where a leftwards-slanting turfy fault reaches the top of the wall. Climb easy rock to pull on to the steeper face. Climb straight up on strange pocketed rock to finish at good jugs.

**Black Face (NR 172 565):**

This fine north-facing slabby black wall lies on the east side of Lossit Point and is relatively sheltered from the waves that pound this stretch of coastline. The rock, contrary to its appearance, gives good friction and the climbing is on (mostly sound) incut flake holds. All the routes start just above normal high tide and are accessed by abseil.

*Blackjack* 30m Severe \*. G.E.Little. 4th April 2002.

Start at the foot of a long crack that springs from a small ledge at the bottom left-hand corner of the face. Follow the crack to a short black corner. Climb this and then pull on to the slab above. Climb the long scoop (staying right of the clumps of vegetation) on excellent, often hidden holds.

*Ace of Spades* 30m HVS 5a \*. G.E.Little. 4th April 2002.

Start at a small ledge slightly up and to the right of the foot of the initial crack of Blackjack. Move right and climb incipient cracks to an obvious undercut flake overlap. Pull over this and continue via the obvious crack (first crux). Surmount a short wall and then climb straight up aiming for the slight rib forming the left edge of a clean triangular slab. Pull directly on to the rib (second crux) and climb it to the top.

*Darkness into Light* 30m VS 4c \*\*. G.E.Little. 4th April 2002.

Start at plaque-like flakes near the bottom right-hand corner of the face. Climb an immaculate black slab to the left-trending black overlap. Continue up the slab parallel to this until forced to move left. Cross a short wall and then go up to climb a short stepped groove. Finish up the centre of the clean triangular slab above.

**Sanaigmore Area, Leac Dubh (NR 229 719):**

This very fine slabby wall, displaying dramatic dipping strata, lies in a grand position on the east face of a rocky promontory on the east side of Port na Diollaidh. The promontory is accessed by a short scramble. The black wall of Leac Dubh is footed by a wide easy angled grey slab. All the routes start from this footing slab (which is sea-washed in its lower part). Access to the footing slab is by abseil from a big block at a little grassy trench situated just before the top of the promontory. The first few metres of the abseil are down a vegetated scoop and all routes converge to finish up this scoop.

*Rampant Razorbill* 25m VS 5a \*\*. G.E.Little. 13th July 2002.

Start a few metres above the high tide mark below some distinctive splodges of quartz. Climb to the quartz then straight up on excellent holds to below steeper rock. Traverse up and right to a little right-facing block overhang (of doubtful stability). Pass the block without using it (crux) and then gain and climb the vegetated scoop to finish (in common with Gallus Guillemot).

*Gallus Guillemot* 20m VS 5a \*\*. G.E.Little. 13th July 2002.

Start near mid-way down the footing slab below a little stack of flakes wedged in a horizontal crack. Climb straight up on immaculate rock aiming for the little right-facing block overhang (in common with Rampant Razorbill; finish up this).

*Crafty Cormorant* 25m VS 4c \*\*. G.E.Little. 13th July 2002.

Start a couple of metres down from the top end of the footing slab. Move up to gain a wide horizontal crack. Foot traverse this left for a couple of metres, then trend up and slightly left on small holds until a left traverse gives access to the vegetated scoop and thence the top.

### **Portnahaven Area, The Fan (NR 173 513):**

This splendid wall, in the shape of an open fan, forms the west flank of a little hidden geo (Geodha na Toine Moire) half a kilometre east of Port Wemyss. Access to the base of the wall is effected by scrambling over the top of The Fan then traversing back along its base on a perfect dipping dyke gangway. The routes, all of good quality (one or two stars), are described from left to right as approached along the dyke gangway.

*Rust* 6m VS 5a. G.E.Little. 12th July 2002.

Start a short distance down the dyke gangway where a rounded flake fault runs up rightwards. Climb straight up the steep wall on small holds.

*Pretty in Pink* 15m Severe 4b. G.E.Little. 5th April 2002.

A short distance down, at a level section of the dyke gangway, a right trending rounded flake runs up and across the wall. Gain it, follow it to a slight ledge then finish straight up.

*Burnt Umber* 10m HVS 5a. G.E.Little. 5th April 2002.

Start at a blank wall between the start of Pretty in Pink and a right-facing flake lower down. Climb the wall on excellent small holds to join Pretty in Pink at the slight ledge.

*Raw Umber* 15m VS 4c. G.E.Little. 5th April 2002.

Gain and climb the obvious dark right-facing, right-trending flake to its end. A weakness runs up and left. Follow it for 2m, then climb directly up to finish on generous holds.

*Aquamarine* 15m VS 4b. G.E.Little. 5th April 2002.

A second right-facing flake system lies to the right of Raw Umber. As the name suggests, the start of the route is below high tide (as is the start of all the routes further right). Gain the flake, climb it and continue straight up on rock displaying an embarrassment of good holds.

*Amber* 18m HVS 5a. G.E.Little. 12th July 2002.

Start at the lowest point of the dyke gangway (well below high tide) a couple of metres right of Aquamarine. Climb boldly up the centre of the 'blank' wall on small flakes, then continue by a profusion of generous holds.

*Yellow Ochre* 20m Severe. G.E.Little, C.Woodrow. 12th July 2002.

Start at a black pod-like crack below the left end of the prominent roof high up. Climb the pod and continuation crack to reach the left end of the roof. Surmount bulging pink rock above to finish.

*Chrome Yellow* 20m Difficult. G.E.Little. 12th July 2002.

Start below the right-hand end of the prominent roof high up. Climb straight up passing the right-hand end of the roof on steep rock festooned with good holds.

*Graphite Edge* 20m Very Difficult. G.E.Little. 12th July 2002.

Climb the right edge of The Fan, in a splendid position, at a surprisingly friendly grade.

**Dead Truck Geo (NR 158 535):**

This narrow cliff-flanked geo lies 150m north of the Wave Energy Plant. Despite the fact that the head of the geo has been used as a dumping site for old vehicles, it offers some worthwhile climbing. Access by abseil.

*Sacrum Crack* 25m Very Difficult \*\*. G.E.Little, C.Woodrow. 17th April 2003.

This diagonal crack is the most striking feature on the south wall of the geo. Start at a big wedged block (just sea washed at high tide) and follow the flake crack, in a magnificent position, to finish up a short corner at the highest point of the wall.

*Sunshine Slab* 10m Difficult. G.E.Little, R.W.Little. 17th April 2003.

This line takes the pink slabby face on the north flank of the geo. Start above a wedged block (above normal tidal influence), then gain and climb the pink slab covered in a profusion of small holds.

## SKYE

### **SGURR NAN GILLEAN, Lota Corrie, South-West Face (SMCJ 2003):**

*Cuddy* 50m VS 4c \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 18th April 2003.

To the right of Arbroath is a deep chimney. The buttress right of the chimney contains a huge flake in the upper section. Start directly below the flake at the left end of a ledge. Climb flakes to a another ledge which is followed rightwards, past a perched block, to a small corner. Climb the corner, then move left into another short corner. Continue up slabs on the left to the base of the flake (25m). Pull on to the flake, step right, then finish straight up (25m).

### **GLEN SLIGACHAN CRAGS, Low Crag, Panoramix Wall:**

*Journey Into Space* 60m E5. S.Broadbent, K.Wigmore, A.Baugh. 30th May 2003.

A devastating climb up the blank right-hand side of the wall. Easy for the grade, but bold with some heart-stopping run-outs. Probably the big line of the crag with some of the finest sustained climbing the wall has to offer.

1. 35m 5c The epic first pitch has three good runners with long sections of interesting climbing between them. Start up the sloping ramp as for the previous route, but after 4m head straight up to break through a weakness in the overhang above (Peg in wall just above overhang). Traverse rightwards on the basalt until a line of holds leads back leftwards to another basalt dyke and good nut runner. Hand traverse along this dyke to belay on a cluster of cams close to the right side of the crag.

2. 25m 6a The blank wall on the upper-right part of the crag provides the crux of the route, and amazing exposure. Move back left to pull through the overhang on small holds. A very poor peg runner provides the last protection on the route. Trend up and left on improving holds across the superb blank wall until the ledge of Grand National is reached. Step right and climb the shallow groove as for that route, before continuing straight up on excellent holds to the top of the crag.

### **Panoramix Left-Hand:**

*Pulse* 25m E2 5b. A.Baugh, K.Wigmore. 30th May 2003.

Interesting climbing which skirts the vegetation on the right side of the wall. Start at a series of mantelshelves below the right-hand end of the half-height overlap. Climb 10m to the overlap and good protection. The overlap is then turned using the crack on the right (cleaner than it looks!). Move left up a ramp (tiny cams) to gain handholds in the basalt. From here, climb direct to the top using imagination to move between the well spaced holds. Airy.

### **COIRE A' GHREADAIDH:**

**Note:** C.Moody notes that the Eag Dubh from this side has been climbed at I/II \*\*\*.

*Stag Do* 100m III. S.Muir, R.Hewison. January 2004.

A gully to the left of White Wedding with about 8m of steep ice. The upper gully was easy apart from a short ice step that could bank out.

### **SGURR DEARG, South Buttress:**

*Hobo* 65m E3 \*. J.Lines. 22nd April 2003.

This route climbs the obvious slabby arete right of Styx.

1. 25m 5c Start at a small basalt dyke 3m right of an undercut rib and follow it over a ledge to a resting point at 8m. Make thin moves left to the arete and follow it to its apex.

2. 35m 5a Step off the pinnacle and make a thin traverse rightwards to gain a niched crack, then direct up slabs to a large ledge.

### **SRON NA CICHE, Cioch Buttress:**

*Integrity, Variation* 15m Severe (original grade). P.Fletcher, B.Ripley. June 1962.

Where the crack-line of pitch 1 enters a corner and is then blocked by an overhang (optional belay), instead of climbing over the overhang, pull out left on to a triangular ledge on the left arete of the corner and climb the superb arete to the normal stance. Similar standard to the normal route.

**ORONSAY (Loch Bracadale) - NG 311 357:**

The island is accessible only at low tide. At the SW tip of the island, a descent can be made at low tide to the sea via a grassy promontory, passing an intriguing cave. Now traverse westwards to gain *The Twins*. These are two small stacks. The left-hand finger gives a 10m Very Difficult up the southerly face. The right-hand stack is climbed via its SW Edge, 12m Very Difficult. Despite some trundling, the stacks still remain rotten basalt (C. Dale, 20th May 2003).

**NEIST, The Upper Crag, Financial Sector:**

*Red Currantcy* 22m E1 5a. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th September 2003.

The wide crack just right of Loom of The Land. Abseil to the start of the crack, or start up the heather for a 30m route. Finish slightly left, a bit intimidating at the top.

**Poverty Point:**

The landward side of the point forms a large non-tidal bay bounded by a large loose looking groove on the right and a prominent jutting pillar on the left.

*Golden Shower* 30m E4 5c \*\*\*. M.Reed, G.Robertson. 23rd August 2003.

A groovy route, with technical climbing all the way, taking the obvious line up the front of the jutting pillar (immediately right of a deep chimney come cave). Pull directly up on to the pillar, then step left and follow the slim groove to a precarious move right onto a sloping ledge. Gain the steeper upper groove (bold) by means of a spooky undercut, then exit this immediately left to finish up good cracks.

*The Man from Ankle* 25m E3 5c \*\*\*. G.Robertson, M.Reed. 23rd August 2003.

Moving left from the previous route, passed a series of steep black walls and grooves, one arrives at a big crumbly corner / recess (this approximates the high tide line). This first class route, technical and well-protected, takes prominent thin cracks and grooves just right of the recess. Follow the dwindling lower cracks until thin moves lead to a small ledge at the base of the right hand groove. Climb this direct (crux) to the top.

The following four routes are just north of the main cliffs.

*Shelter* 18m E1 5b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th July 2003.

The second corner left of Any Spare Change?

*Any Spare Change?* 20m Severe \*\*. C.Moody. 20th April 2003.

Between Keeler and Chugger's Elbow are two short corners. Climb the crack between the corners.

*Thrift Is A Virtue* 14m Severe \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 31st May 2003.

The corner right of Any Spare Change?

*Fool's Gold* 16m Hard Severe 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 31st May 2003.

At the right end of the cliff is a pinnacle. Start at the right side of it and climb up left behind it, then go up to bulging rock. Move right through the bulge and continue to the top.

**Conductor Cove:**

**Note:** M.Hudson notes that a massive block of rock went missing a few years ago, presumably removed by a winter storm. The block is most of Conductors Arete. Desmond the Slapper (SMCJ 2002) more or less re-climbs the resulting sandy scar.

**Baywatch Area:**

*Juniper Rib* 15m Severe \*. C.Moody. 19th July 2003.

Going to Baywatch from the concrete ramp, this route is 12m before the drystone dyke.

*Call International Sheep Rescue* 20m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 19th July 2003.

About 20m left of Baywatch is a pale flake. This is left of a black corner which is left of a rib with overhangs at 5m. Climb the pale flake and continue up to overhangs above. Go through the gap up left, then step right and finish above.

**Note:** An HVS has been climbed just left of Sonamara. Start up a corner-crack, then climb the rock left of the continuation grassy corner.

**The Lower Crag, Yellow Walls:**

*Comeuppance* 20m Severe. M.Hudson, A.Holden. 17th April 2003.

A short diagonal line starting about 20m right of Sugaree (SMCJ 2000) and higher up the blocky ledges. Take cracks diagonally leftwards towards a groove exit.

*JCB* 25m Severe. A.Holden, M.Hudson. 17th April 2003.

The open grooves immediately left of A Type of Cooker (SMCJ 2001).

The next two lines are reached by turning right after the descent, towards Supercharger.

Immediately right of the recess taken by Smeg is a square tower holding the following routes:

*Senora* 20m E1 5b. M.Hudson, N.Bassnett. 28th October 2003.

The strenuous front face of the tower via a pod. Gain the pod from the right and exit precariously. Follow the open chimney above.

*Angora* 20m VS 5a \*. M.Hudson, N.Bassnett, R.Brown. 28th October 2003.

The grooved right-hand arete of the tower. Start directly below the arete, and exit the small niche with a strange move to reach jugs above. Follow the blocky groove above more easily.

**TROTTERNISH, Dun Dubh (394m, NG 442 666):**

*NE Face/North Ridge* Difficult. C. Dale. 15th May 2003.

A fine pyramidal peak with a triangular NE slope consisting of steep grass cut by rotten basalt bands. Rigid boots used for step kicking. Start from a grassy shelf on the left edge of the face. Traverse diagonally rightwards across the first turf field. A short rock hose gains the second turf field. Another rock hose gains the slender third turf field. Follow this rightwards to gain the exposed crest of the north ridge. Ascend the ridge steeply over a couple of reed cornices and a rock step to gain the knife-edge summit ridge, taken a' cheval to gain twin boulders which are the airy summit. Reverse the ascent route.

*North Ridge Direct.* C.Dale. 3rd June 2003.

As titled. The ridge can also be gained at half height by “the traverse of the sods”, a very exposed track passing three bad steps and which traverses the vertical west face (C. Dale. 3rd June 2003).

**Druim an Ruma (385m):**

*West Face* 50m Difficult. C.Dale. 15th May 2003.

Start 15m right of the grassy apex abutting the west face. Climb through a basalt band to gain a ledge. Follow this rightwards for 10m, then climb through a short dolerite band. Follow a vegetable weakness leftwards, then naturally up (a botanical paradise). Below the final vertical band, follow a vegetable cornice on hands and knees to one last pull through the cornice to gain the “Lost World”, a flat summit with dwarf trees and a tiny pool. Reverse the ascent route.

**STAFFIN SLIP NORTH, Toy Buttress:**

The routes are described from right to left.

*Toy* 20m VS 4c \*. M.Hudson, A.Holden, P.Arden. 7th May 1999.

In the centre of the buttress a clean boot-width jamming crack leads past an awkward bulge at half-height.

*Bow Crack* 25m VS 4b. M.Hudson, A.Holden. 7th May 1999.

Two metres left of Toy lies a slimmer crack system with a bow-shaped deviation half way. Start up a subsidiary slab and finish carefully up ivy.

*Above & Beyond* 25m HVS 5a \*. M.Hudson, A.Holden, P.Arden. 7th May 1999.

Ten metres left again a clean tower is split by a striking crack which narrows to nothing at two-thirds height. Follow the crack pleasantly then mount a suspicious flake with care. Finish on rounded bulges.

### **FLODIGARRY, South Tunnel Buttress:**

Routes described from left to right:

1. *Spantastic* - as in guide

*Sea Slaters Crack* (variation to Spantastic) HVS 5b. S.Sadler, J.Richardson. 5th June, 2003.

From the belay ledge, climb to the opening of the cave (as for Spantastic). Make a rockover move right, 5b, on to a ramp which rises diagonally leftwards. Follow this to a small shelf on the right. Move up and right to reach a large flake/block. Continue up the crack which rises diagonally leftwards to the belay of Spantastic (pitch 2 as for that route).

2. *Lucy in the Sky* - as in guide.

3. *Captain Mainwaring* (1997). This route was not climbed by W.Jeffrey as earlier reported.

4. *Raindance* 35m HVS 4c. S.Broadbent, K.Wigmore, A.Baugh. 26th May 2003.

Fascinating and varied climbing up the centre of the face, crossing the grassy ledges at half height. From the hanging belay at the bottom of Raining Men climb the crack for 3m until an awkward step left can be made into a shallow left-slanting groove. This is followed with interest to the grassy ledges (possible belay). From here, follow a series of cracks straight up the steep headwall above to finish close to the right arete.

5. *Raining Men* (2000) is definitely the route climbed by W.Jeffrey in 1990 and not thought worthy of reporting! On pitch two, W.Jeffrey finished up the arete, whereas the *Raining Men* traversed left to finish up Spantastic.

6. *Singing in the Rain* 45m HVS. S.Broadbent, K.Wigmore, A.Baugh. 26th May 2003.

A delicate climb up the groove in the arete right of Raining Men.

1. 25m 4c From the hanging belay at the bottom of Raining Men make an exposed traverse rightwards on good flake holds. A series of hard moves to enter the groove above provide the crux of the route, and are poorly protected by small wires. Follow the groove more easily to belay at the top of Raining Men pitch 1.

2. 20m 4b Follow pitch 2 of Raining Men.

### **South Stack:**

*North Face* 20m VS 5b. S.Broadbent, K.Wigmore, A.Baugh. 28th May 2003.

A rather artificial route up the centre of the stack's north face. The difficulties are all easily avoided but are very well protected and enjoyable. Start from the rock ledge at the foot of the East Face and traverse rightwards on big ledges to the centre of the North Face. The first real difficulty is a steep thin crack which leads to the right end of the *Captain Quibble* traverse. From the top of this move back left to finish up the strenuous flake crack that bisects the headwall at the left side of the face. Finish gracefully if you can...

### **KILMALUAG, Balmacqueen (NG 445 749):**

At the right-hand end of the bay at Balmacqueen there are some short cliffs. At the right-hand end of the obvious easy angled slabs lies a small zawn relatively unaffected by the tide and with the following three routes.

*Romeo* 12m Very Difficult. R.Taylor, B.Mitchell. 31st August 2003.

The left-hand of the obvious twin crack-lines to the left of Tango.

*November* 12m Very Difficult. R.Taylor, B.Mitchell. 31st August 2003.

The right-hand of the crack-lines.

*Tango* 12m Hard Severe. R.Taylor, B.Mitchell. 31st August 2003.

The obvious crack-line on an arete running through a series of small bulges.

**RUBHA HUNISH, Meall Tuath:**

*Willey's Last Stramash* 75m E4/5 \*\*\*. B.Birkett, G.Sharp (alt). 21st September 2003.

Climbs the great corner system just left of centre (left of Drifting Too Far From Shore). A route of two halves with the first offering a classic pitch on denatured rock – not unlike Mousetrap on Gogarth. Whilst technical difficulties are reasonable and the climbing good, there are limitations of the rock. On the second pitch both rock and protection are excellent. The initial forty foot corner overhangs continually and the hand traverse left along the lip of the overhang to the final crack up the headwall is sensational. Start beneath the shallow cave-like recess.

1. 40m 5b Steep grass and easier rocks lead to the corner. Climb to the black cave. Move up and right out of the cave to pull into the right-hand corner groove above. Climb this until possible to move into the left-hand corner-crack which is followed with interest to a ledge.

2. 35m 6a Climb the impending corner with sustained interest to the roof. Gain the hand traverse which is followed leftwards across the lip until moves up gain the crack. Climb the crack to the top.

The following line is on Tulum Island, the steep island in the bay facing Duntulm Castle.

*West Face* 40m Severe. M.Hudson, D.Hudson. 1st November 2003.

Launch from the slip below the Duntulm Castle Hotel and put ashore on the east coast at a rock shelf. Scramble round the south end of the island to reach slabs on the west face. Start below the summit of the island at a huge square block. Follow the slabs above the square block, taking care with steeper turfey grooves to finish. Belay on blocks well back down the grassy slope.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

### **BEINN DEARG, Diollaid a' Mhill Bhric (Gleann Sguaib):**

**Note:** Sidewinder (SMCJ 1999) and Inverlael Buttress (SMCJ 1999, on The West Buttress) were accidentally missed out of the new guide.

### **Cona' Mheall, Coire Ghranda Face:**

*Tower of Enchantment* II. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 21st March 2004.

Below the final tower of the route is formed a vague ridge which descends well down. Climb the ridge to the final tower. This was climbed up its crest, which is much easier than the right side.

### **SEANA BHRAIGH, Luchd Coire, An Sgurr:**

*Summit Rib* 250m II. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 15th December 2003.

The second from the right of the six ribs, leading directly to the summit of An Sgurr.

*Nether Rib* 250m II. I.Small, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 15th January 2004.

The third from the right of the six ribs, with a steeper start.

### **SEANA BHRAIGH, Luchd Coire, Central Massif:**

**Note:** The following route is in SMCJ 1999 but was accidentally missed out of the new guide.

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

This route takes the rightmost of the three icy corners on the face left of Flowerpot Buttress.

### **BEINN AN EOIN, Sgorr Deas, West Face:**

*Sgorr Deas Chimney* 120m IV,4 \*. D.Moy, D.Allan. 31st January 2004.

The obvious chimney at the north end of the face. The chimney is climbed direct with the half-way chokestone turned on the left side. Approach the climb from the east end of Loch Lurgainn via the lochan on the col between Sgorr Deas and Sgorr Tuath.

### **STAC POLLAIDH, East Buttress, South Face:**

*Underground Resistance* 170m V,6. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 27th February 2004.

This climbs the left edge of the large south face and takes the easiest line through the impressive headwall. Start at the left side of the very steep bottom tier about 20m right from the left edge at an obvious left-slanting ramp/corner. Climb the ramp and continue up and right via ice smears and turfy walls (35m). Continue up and right over steep turfy walls aiming for a short but prominent left-facing corner in the next tier (directly below an impressive corner cutting through the headwall) - (45m). Climb the wall just to the left and continue up heathery ground left to some roofs on the left edge of the buttress (30m). Climb through the roofs and continue up steep blocky walls near the left edge until a short flake-crack is reached below a large snowy niche. Climb this and belay in the niche (40m). Above is a short chockstone-filled chimney; climb this and easy ground to the top (20m).

### **CUL MOR, Coire Gorm:**

*Steeplejacks Climb* 200m IV,5. D.Allan, D.Moy. 2nd January 2004.

Start about 10m up and left from the start of Three Chimneys.

1. 40m Traverse rightwards up an easy ramp, then cross the ice pitch of Three Chimneys to continue up a turf rib. Traverse up left about 15m, bypassing a short continuation chimney and a further break in the wall above. Where the ground steepens, step up on to the wall beneath a small semi-detached block and swing right (good thread). Continue up awkward turf steps (crux).

2. 50m Follow easier ground to beneath the upper chimney of Three Chimneys.

3. 45m Traverse right beneath this and the right-hand chimney and climb an open turfy groove.

4 and 5. 65m Follow the easy gully above.

*Far West Buttress* 150m II. V.Chelton, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 14th January 2004.

A series of ribs to the right of the main wall. Much less steep and with a higher base, they may hold snow when the main cliff is bare. This is the best defined rib, second from the right (west). Climbed solo by varying lines.

**REIFF, Pinnacle Area:**

*Old Fart At Play* 9m VS 4b. B.Trevelyan, M.Phillips, S.Bostock. 25th March 2004.

Pleasant climbing up the black wall between Kiddies Corner and Toddler's Crack, following a thin crack trending left, then back right. Start from the very bottom of the cleft.

**Seal Song Area:**

**Note:** *Modern Thinking Direct Start* (E4 6b) was climbed by I.Taylor, T.Fryer in August 2003.

**Pooh Cliff:**

*Fish Fingers* E2 6b. W.Moir, R.Hewitt. July 2002.

The scoop right of Body Swerve, aiming for crimps on the left.

**GLAS BHEINN:**

*Eas a' Chual Allan* 75m IV,5 \*. D.Allan, D.Moy. 2nd March 2004.

Unlike its illustrious neighbour, this is one of the shorter waterfalls in Britain. Visible from the road, it lies at NC 248 281 above the south end of Loch na Gainmhich. The first 15m is near vertical.

**QUINAG, Spidean Coinich, Bucket Buttress:**

*Paily Wally* 55m III,5. E.Christison, D.McGimpsey. 31st January, 2004.

Climbs the north-west facing wall round to the right of the existing routes. Best approached by a short descent of the north-west ridge from the top of Spidean Coinich and traversing in.

1. 25m Go up into a small bay and gain a turf groove on the left which leads to a terrace.
2. 30m Climb grooves up the wall, trending slightly left.

**FAR NORTH WEST CRAGS, Serendipity Crag (Guide p253):**

*Outside Right* 18m E1 5a. R Anderson. 17th February 2004.

The thin blind crack immediately right of Central Wall.

*Serenity* 18m E2 5b \*\*. R Anderson. 17th February 2004.

The obvious blunt arete where the crag changes aspect. Start just left of the edge taken by Right Arete and climb the slab to a horizontal crack where a step up left gains the base of the blunt arete. Climb the arete on its left side to gain a short groove and move up right on to a ledge where an interesting finish awaits directly up the edge.

**Creag Gharbh Mhor, Red Wall (Guide p255):**

**Note:** Many of the routes here were climbed by D.Wheeler and partners in 1994 and 1995, also Jewel in the Crown (Glaciated Slab), Prester John (Polin Geo), some of the easier routes on School Buttress and much bouldering, most notably at Sandwood Bay on the hilltop between the second and third beach.

*Wrycrack* 15m E2 5c \*. R.Anderson & C.Anderson. 20th February 2004.

The thin crack-line 1m left of Rhicorner, after the initial section the crack is climbed on its left side. A touch eliminate but as with the other routes here, good

**Note:** R.Anderson started up the ramp of Rhikkie Tikkie Tavie, stepping right but then going straight to the top and presumably cutting through that route as it comes back left before finishing as for the 4c finish up horizontal breaks to the highest point of the crag - E2 5b. Description for Goosemon-mon seemed a bit vague and grade odd.

**Oldshoremore Beach Crag:**

Go down the steps, past a neat little slab (*Turn Around and Take it in*, Very Difficult, J.Price, May 1989), and keep going till at very low tide, an orange flake-crack is E1 5b. Next right is a barnacled steep wall to a

good hold, then finish slightly right up flaky folds (*Down by the Seaside*, HVS 5b). The best line is right again: *Surfin OSM*, E1 5b/c. Right again is a blunt arete and crack (*Led Zep Rip Off*, HVS 5a). Routes by D.Wheeler, B.Leng, G.Howard, 1st August 1995. Routes are 10m, low tide required.

### **CREAGAN MEALL HORN:**

*Moonlight Shadow* 300m II. B.Davison. 28th February 2004.

A big left-slanting gully left of Cesfall has several short icy steps and two interesting chockstones, the first passed by a squeeze on the left side and the second by ice on the left wall. Much of the rest of the gully is easier.

### **MEALL HORN, Creag an Lochan Ulbha:**

This is the cliff above Lochan Ulbha.

*Guantanamo* 150m V,4. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 28th February 2004.

At the right end of the cliff, west of the west end of the loch, is an easy gully leading into a steep corner-chimney with icy turf (and little protection) and finishing by an iced ramp, well seen on the approach.

*Sedna* 150m V,4. A.Nisbet, D.McGimpsey, B.Davison, D.Allan. 28th February 2004.

Towards the left end of the cliff is an obvious big hanging slab. About 100m right of this is an icefall flowing from a gully on to a big slabby wall. This gave a fine exposed pitch on sometimes thin ice, hence the grade. A fine route on continuous ice.

*Sunlight Shadow* 150m III. B.Davison, D.Allan. 28th February 2004.

Above and left of the hanging slab, an icefall can be seen. Start up an iced groove system leading to a large ledge and move across to the base of the icefall. On the first ascent the lower section of this was poorly formed and so it was mixed climbed on the left. The continuation of the route is a pleasant icefall cutting through the buttress at the back of a broad terrace.

### **BEN LOYAL:**

*Marathon Corner Direct* 280m VIII,8 \*\*\*. G.Robertson, P.Benson. 31st January 2004.

A magnificent natural winter line, one of the North West's finest, climbing mainly frozen turf, with short sections of snowed-up rock and ice. The winter ascent follows the lower and upper corners direct throughout, with the crux being the barrier wall connecting the two. The hard sections are very precarious and protection is poor throughout.

1. 50m Start below the lower corner and climb steepening turf to a rib of rock with a small niche on the right.
2. 45m Climb the corner direct, harder than it looks, to an impasse, then step across left to belay.
3. 35m Move left to gain a snow ramp leading up round the crest to a huge perched block.
4. 30m The crux pitch. Climb the crack behind the block and continue up grooves to where a hard mantelshelf gains a small sloping niche. Make committing moves into a blind crack above, then lurch right to a haven of turf. Continue up steep turfy walls to a bay below a chimney.
5. 40m Climb the chimney, then easier ground up left towards the big upper corner. Gain the base of the corner by a tricky step on to a slab, then climb the corner for 10m to step left to large detached blocks.
6. 45m Climb the corner direct to the capping overhang, then make difficult moves up and right to a ledge.
7. 35m Climb the continuation corner direct to the top.

### **BETTYHILL CRAGS, Farr Point:**

*The Dark Mennis* 60m Severe. P.Gorry, M.Dennis. 20th July 2002.

On Farr Point sea arch. Scramble down the grass slope on the left hand side of the promontory and across a large rocky ledge to arrive at the left hand side (when looking out to sea) of the tunnel. This route takes the slabby landward wall of the tunnel, opposite the overhanging wall of The Farr Side. An enjoyable little route, the first pitch of which requires low tide or a snorkel. Start on the large wave-cut platform at the entrance to the arch.

1. 50m 4a Traverse into the tunnel and along the black slab. Wriggle through the porthole at the far end (semi-submerged at high tide) and belay at the corner beyond.

2. 10m 4b Continue traversing to a sea level ledge.  
Either climb Bombs Away or reverse the route.

*Bombs Away!* 60m E1. P.Gorry, M.Dennis. 20th July 2002.

Start from the ledge at the end of The Dark Mennis (a sea-level ledge on the landward side, on the right-hand side of the promontory, looking out to sea, at the mouth of the arch.). Impressively loose.

1. 30m 4b Traverse diagonally right up to a black boulder situated at the apex of the arch. Traverse diagonally left a little further to a broken ledge.
2. 30m 4a Continue diagonally left up a grassy ramp, past Fulmar nests, to a shallow groove. Climb up the grassy headwall to the top. Belay on a turf bollard.

### **CAITHNESS EAST COAST, Noss Head:**

*The Ugly Sister* 35m VSL (Very Severely Loose). S.M.Richardson, M.Robson. 6th July 2003.

The prominent stack at ND 385 550, east of Castle Sinclair Stack. Abseil from the fence post at the end of the Lighthouse boundary wall to non-tidal ledges opposite the stack. Swim 10m to a platform on the north side of the stack and climb a short wall to gain the west ridge that leads to the summit. Abseil descent down east wall.

*Fantasy Golf Stack* 35m HVS. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 7th July 2003.

The rectangular grass-topped stack at ND 378 549 directly beneath the west side of Sinclair Castle. Discovered after a lengthy search for a stack once featured on a fantasy golf calendar. Can be approached by stepping across a narrow channel either side of high tide.

1. 20m 4c Starting on the north side, climb a pillar just right of a prominent arch, step left across the arch and traverse left on to the west wall. Belay on a large ledge next to a steep crack splitting the wall.
2. 15m 4c Climb the crack to the top. Simultaneous abseil descent.

*The Tee* 10m HVS 5a. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 7th July 2003.

The small non-tidal needle-like stack 100m west of Fantasy golf stack at ND 378 548. Climb cracks on the west face. Abseil descent.

### **South Caithness:**

*Ramsraig Stack, Alternative Start*. R.Benton, R.I.Jones. 31st August 2003.

This provides better climbing and allows the stack to be climbed in two pitches. It joins the original route by pulling up through the bad step on pitch 2.

1. 30m 4b Start from the ledge at the corner right of the south-eastern arete on the east face of the stack. Climb this and pull through onto a ledge, step right and climb the steep wall above to a grassy ledge. Follow this leftwards to the arete.

### **ORKNEY, Yesnaby:**

*The Numbtease Dance* 20m Very Difficult. I. and M.Miller, C. and H.Clarke. 3rd March 2004.

Approx. 8m to the left of Old Man's Folly, climb a right-trending, left-facing fault on big holds/small ledges. Finish either direct or continue on the fault to a wee niche and the top.

### **The Tower Area:**

*The Forgotten* 18m E1 5b \*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 4th March 2004.

Climb the thin full-height groove come crack immediately to the left of Bobbin's Groove (right of Deceptively Groovy). Easy at first to a ledge, followed by crimping through a black slab, then strenuous jug pulling up the last steep 6m. Excellent rock and adequate protection.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL

### **AN TEALLACH, Toll an Lochain:**

*Lady's Gully, Swiss Approach* 90m III. J.Preston, M.Hirsbrunner, C.Koenig. 26th January 2004.

A more direct approach through the rock barrier. Start about 100m right of the left end of the barrier wall where there is an obvious line of weakness. Traverse a few metres right, then step up steeply through a rock band. Continue up and diagonally right on turf to below and left of an obvious corner (45m). Traverse right again for a few metres, then up through two rock bands to the base of the snowfield, directly below the gully.

### **Badrallach Crags, Goose Crag (NH 107 896 Alt 240m West facing):**

The closest climbing to the Badrallach road is this scruffy crag with the best looking rock on the left side. Once the road leaves the forestry, there is a sheep fank on the left by the junction of fences. Park in the next passing place or verge on the left. The crag is directly above, reached in about 10 minutes.

*Cow Dumped In JR's Soft-Top* 40m VS 4c. A.Cunningham, K.Geddes. 13th September 2002.

At the left side is an undercut pillar of rock with short corners bounding either side, the left-hand corner crack has a small rowan tree at the top. Start at the lowest rocks and climb a crack to a ledge under the pillar. Move leftwards and up the corner-crack and finish easily up the slab.

### **Sgurr na Muice, North-East Face:**

*Ribsticker* 140m III. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 24th March 2004.

A reasonable route starting from the terrace and climbing the shallow rib between Tusker and Three Little Pigs.

1. 50m Start below and right of Tusker at a thread and climb directly up the steepening rib over short walls.
2. 50m Continue in the same line up the rib over more short walls.
3. 40m Follow the vague crest to the top.

*Three Little Piggies* 300m II \*. D.Broadhead, J.R.Mackenzie. 22nd February 2003.

To the right of Pigsty Gully another shallow break runs up the three-tiered face, with the top tier split by a shallow gully. The climb starts opposite the northern end of the loch. The lower tier gave continuous ice at a moderate angle followed by snow to the middle tier which gave a fine 25m ice pitch to snow. Another short ice pitch above then leads to a long snow slope and the final tier split by a fine gully that gives a good mixed pitch to finish up snow.

*The Trough* 200m II \*. J.R.Mackenzie, D.Broadhead. 11th January 2004.

A long turfey ramp borders the right edge of the bay containing Slaughterhouse Blues and gives a pleasant excursion up a natural line. Approach for that route but start lower down and to the right of the slab which bottoms it. Easy climbing keeping to the left for two pitches arrives at a short steep wall. This is climbed centrally or on the left for most interest. The ramp now steepens and the route keeps near the rock on the left to arrive at a slabby pinnacle. Move up left to a wide groove to gradually easing ground and the top.

### **Sgurr na Fearstaig, South Top, East Face:**

*Torque of the Devil* 165m IV,5 \*\*. D.Broadhead, J.R.Mackenzie. 9th February 2003.

A good natural line up the buttress right of Red Champion. The climb takes the leftmost buttress which has a conspicuous triangle of snow 50m up and is bounded on the left by the snow ramp of Red Champion. To the right of a small icefall at the toe of the buttress is a left-slanting turfey ramp.

1. 45m Follow the ramp past a bulge to traverse left along the top of the snow triangle to reach a small recess with a large block.
2. 40m Continue the traverse to the left-hand edge of the face where a prominent notch will be seen 20m up the edge. Climb up to this notch steeply to below an overhang. Twin cracks then enable difficult moves leftwards to the base of a turfey ledge, a well protected crux, and continue for 10m past a step.
3. 40m Continue left for about 10m, then climb up or near a thin ice smear and some steep mixed ground to an easing to where the summit snowfield begins.
4. 40m Continue up steepening snow to the top, sometimes corniced but usually outflanked to the left.

*Tendril* 50m II. D.Allan, J.R.Mackenzie. 6th March 2004.

About 30m up the right-slanting section of Sea Pink Gully it is possible to gain entry to the slab above. Above, move up left then back right to finish up a scoop; sometimes heavily corniced.

*Dancing With Calluna* 90m III \*. J.R.Mackenzie, D.Broadhead. 22nd February 2003.

The buttress that separates Sea Pink Gully from Enchanters Nightshade has a good initial pitch.

1. 50m Start at the foot of the buttress and follow a line of weakness up left then back right to below the final step.

2. 40m The short step, then snow and a possible cornice at the top.

To the right of the main crag lies a smaller one split by a gully and overlooking the Bealach Dearg.

*A Wee Cracker* 75m III \*. J.R.Mackenzie. 21st February 2004.

A good steep climb with attitude. It takes the prominent narrow gully just right of a thinner cracked groove. Snow leads to a minor pitch followed by steepening snow to the obvious crux, a near vertical rocky corner (potentially good gear on left wall). Struggle up this to finish in a good position; possible cornice. Often in condition.

### **Fuar-tholl Mor (NH 237 437):**

This open corrie has mixed ground below the summit of Sgurr Fhuar-thuill. Besides the route below, other much longer Grade I and possibly Grade II climbs could be made here if not swamped in snow. Often in condition with a base of around 900m.

*The Glass Scribe* 120m III,4 . J.R.Mackenzie. 21st February 2004.

Just left of the summit is a broken buttress with snow ramps and steps and below that another slabby buttress. Contour in or descend Grade I slopes to the foot of this. A fine icefall runs down the middle of this lower buttress issuing from a spring. Climb steeply up a groove to a large iced slab and up the middle of this to a short fat vertical pillar. Ascend this and easier ice above to snow and mixed ground to the top. A good contrasting climb with reliable ice.

### **Creag Ghorm a' Bhealaich (NH 245 435):**

A slender ridge falls directly from the summit into upper Coire na Sguile. Either side are narrow gullies. Often in condition with a base of around 930m.

*SE Passage* 80m I/II \*. J.R.Mackenzie. 21st February 2004.

The left-hand gully is scenic, quite steep and well defined, having a small but interesting pitch at some narrows.

*NE Passage* 80m II. J.R.Mackenzie. 21st February 2004.

The right-hand gully is blocked by a rock buttress at half-height. Above are two ramps; traverse left across to the top one and make airy moves across and up to finish up the last few metres of the ridge.

### **CREAG GHLAS, East Buttress:**

*Oh Dearie Me* 250m III,4 \*. A.Dennis, J.R.Mackenzie. 9th February 2004.

A good technical exercise with mainly good protection. It takes the thin discontinuous turf streaks to the right of the slab edge of Oh Dear and Oh Dearie Me and finishes up the last two summer pitches of the latter route. The route is graded for the slab section as the headwall can be avoided by easier ramps and grooves on the left. As climbed it is a technical 5. The route is probably only in condition after north-westerly blizzards.

Turn the short bottom slab on the left and move right to the turf streak. Climb this past a thin section to belays left of a small tree. Move right to the tree then up increasingly tenuous slabs to a large cracked block on the left. Move right and climb a groove and then easier ground. The climb as described takes the steep short wall via a vertical ice slot followed by easier ground to a large flake below a steep wall. This and the next pitch can be turned on the left by more broken ground. Climb the corner to the right of the flake and then the awkward crack and chockstone above, as for the summer description of Oh Dearie Me. Now finish up the optional V-slot as for the summer route.

**West Buttress:**

*Cut Glass* 90m E3 5c \*\*. R.Brown, J.R.Mackenzie. 25th June 2003.

A good but serious route up the narrow slabby buttress to the left of Sweet Charity.

1. 45m 5b Climb the centre of the lower slab as for Sweet Charity to below the niche where that route escapes (crucial nut runners in the niche). Step left and climb thin moves up the fine slab, past a flake to left-trending edges and go up these to follow a short heather rake to a good crack on the left.
2. 45m 5c A short wall leads to the slab. Step up on this and climb it delicately to a narrow ledge and welcome gear. Continue to the left of a steeper crack on knobblies to vital Rocks#7 and 5 runners at the end of the crack. Climb up and left delicately to a rounded horizontal edge, step up right then straight up to a tricky final move. Finish by 5m of scrambling. Escape up left to reach the descent gully.

*The Unknown Soldier* 25m E7 6b \*. J.Lines, R.A.Biggar. 18th July 2002.

An eliminate offering extremely bold slab climbing on impeccable rock. Start 2m left of Victory Crack and just to the right of Tales of the Old Days. Climb directly up the bald slab to some quartz blocks at 12m (RP 5). Stand on the quartz and make a long reach for a fingerhold, make a rockover on to this and stand up (crux). Reach a good hold on the left and clip the peg on Tales of the Old Days. Stand on a good hold and move diagonally left, then up to a horizontal break. Step left to a vertical crack and finish up this (as for Tales of the Old Days).

**BEN WYVIS, Coire Mor, No.2 Spur:**

*Fox Gully Arete* 200m II. J.R.Mackenzie, D.Allan. 18th February 2004.

This is the left bounding edge of Fox Gully clearly seen as a strip of snow or turf near the left edge of the steep buttress left of the gully. Scenic and a pleasant way up the cliff.

1. 50m Climb the broken walls and ledges left of the edge, steeper than they look.
2. 50m Continue up the narrow snow or turf strip and arrive at an arete.
3. 100m Continue up the level arete then over two towers, best climbed on the right, then up a steepening snow slope to finish.

*The Last Resort* 200m IV,4 \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, D.Allan. 13th March 2003.

A steep and natural line up the main buttress right of Fox Gully. It is sustained at the grade and twists and turns amidst good crag scenery. To the right of the left edge, bounded by Fox Gully, is a shallow bay perhaps 30m or so right of the edge, bordered to its right by a right slanting gully ramp. In the centre of the bay is a steep wall leading up left to a narrow ramp and chimneys below a prominent pinnacle. The climb starts up the wall and ends up on the top skyline just right of the first of three horns. The direct start is described; an easier break to the left would reduce the grade to IV,4.

1. 40m Climb a steep turfy wall that leads to the base of the left-slanting break. Follow the break up and left to chockstones in the chimney that leads to the pinnacle.
2. 45m Step down and move right along a vanishing ledge for 10m to a tricky step right. Move up and then back left along a ramp for 15m to below steep walls right of a left-slanting break. Climb the difficult stepped walls then move right.
3. 45m Above is a steep wall. Step down and move right below this to a bay and climb a splendid narrow chimney to its top. Move left past a rocking stone to gain a hidden chimney. Climb this steeply over delightful bulges and chockstones to a chockstone below the final bulge.
4. 40m Climb the tricky bulge above and then more easily an isolated outcrop.
5. 30m Steepening snow leads to the top.

*Tempress* 180m V,5 \*\*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Dennis. 8th March 2004.

Probably the best line on the crag giving excellent varied climbing that is exposed, scenic and adequately protected and with a sensational finish. It starts up the big right-facing corner in the central bay and ends up the hanging corner by the second horn.

1. 35m Climb the corner direct to the overhanging wall. A foot traverse left to the edge is followed back right via turf. Continue up the left branch and poor belays back left on the shelf above; possibly better to belay slightly lower.

2. 50m Cross the shelf to below a left-slanting ramp. Climb the difficult wall on its right to turf and climb straight up past a serendipitous spike to and over a yellow chockstone and up into a shallow bay and ledge above.
3. 25m Move up left along a narrow shelf to a below a steep groove below the final wall. Climb the groove to a tiny shelf.
4. 20m The overhanging wall has an off-width crack and chockstone; climb the wall to its left first by turf then by torques, step right and climb the blocks and shelves in an amazing position.
5. 50m Easy snow to the top.

*Interrupted Gully* 200m II \*. D.Allan, J.R.Mackenzie. 18th February, 2004.

A good interesting climb with only the start visible from below. It takes the right-slanting ramp at the right of the bay.

1. 50m Climb ice or turf up the ramp to a snow patch. Instead of continuing to its end (and a possible escape) belay below a prominent slanting flake-crack mid-way along the patch.
2. 50m Step left and climb a very awkward short wall to a ledge, crux, and then up the narrow turfy gully above which then slants right.
3. 50m The gully now jinks back left and up. Climb steeper ice or turf up the gully to a cracked block on the left.
4. 50m A steepening snow fan and probable cornice to exit.

### **Creag Bealach Culaidh (NH 447 726):**

This remote, south facing, quartzite crag lies above its namesake loch about 4km west of Wyvis Lodge. The most distinctive features are a vertical pink holdless wall and a two-stepped corner to its left.

*Badger up a Plum Tree* 35m E1 5b \*\*. G.E.Little, J.Lowther (alt). 7th June 2003.

This excellent climb takes the obvious two-stepped corner.

1. 25m 5b Climb the fine corner until it is possible to pull out left on to a slab (the lower corner-line turns into a wide messy crack above). Climb the upper corner to a grass ledge and tree.
2. 10m 4b Climb the block-filled chimney and thence to the top.

*Sett Up* 25m E1 5b. J.Lowther, G.E.Little. 7th June 2003.

This route lies well to the right of the vertical pink wall on an obvious rib lying between an open vegetated groove (holding a rowan) on the left and a wide tree-filled grassy gully on the right. Start at the very toe of the rib. Climb over a huge flake, then up past a sapling to better rock. Move up to below an overhang. Traverse hard right until moves back left give access to the slabby face above. Climb the unprotected slab and vegetated ground to finish (no belay).

### **THE FANNAICHS, Garbh Coire Mor:**

*Tormentil* 200m IV,5 \*. A.Nisbet. 18th November 2002.

A narrow ramp across the steep wall parallel to and overlooking Primrose gully. Start right of the depression and Ramp Tramp and climb steeply on turf sods to reach the ramp. Follow it to a short corner which gives a couple of strenuous but well protected moves to gain a continuation of the ramp, less well defined but which leads in the same line to the top.

*Triffid* 220m VI,7 \*\*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 4th January 2003.

Climbs the right side of the buttress, passing right of a band of overhangs which cap the central area of the buttress. Start about 10m left of Burdock.

1. 40m Climb a groove with thin turf to the right end of an overhang. Traverse left and pull through the left end of the overhang to another longer groove which is followed curving right to a slight crest below steeper ground.
2. 20m Move right and climb a turfy corner. Traverse back left along a ledge for about 10m and pull through a bulge. Traverse left again and pull leftwards through another bulge to reach a flake below a steep corner. There may well be icicles, or even an icefall, just right of the corner.
3. 20m Climb the steep corner (or the icefall) to turf. Continue slightly rightwards, then up to a good ledge.
4. 50m Go rightwards, then up steep turfy ground to finish up a short bulging chimney.

5. 50m Trend left into a broad fault and up it.
6. 40m Continue up the fault to the top.

### **Coire nan Eun:**

The cliffs are divided into three distinct buttresses, East, Central and West separated by two gullies, Descent Gully and Inner Sanctum (1994).

*Lava Luvva* 100m III. D.Morris, H.Stagg. 1st February 2003.

This route climbs an icy recess and the gully above in the centre of the east buttress. Climb the ice recess via the right wall to gain a right-trending ramp and easier ground (40m). Continue above to a fork, take the left branch up a defined gully and finish up the right wall to the top.

*Kitekat Rib* 90m II. D.Morris, H.Stagg. 1st February 2003.

This route climbs the rib overlooking Descent Gully. Start on the right side of the buttress at the foot of Descent Gully, attain the rib and climb direct to the top.

*Feral Buttress* 75m III,4. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 10th January 2003.

Start at the base of Inner Sanctum and traverse leftwards on to the front face of the Central Buttress via the obvious ledge to a large block. Climb left-trending turfgy grooves to a bay below twin parallel grooves (30m). Climb the left-hand groove and continue in the same line to the top (45m).

*Slam* 90m VI,6 \*. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 10th January 2003.

This route climbs the turfgy groove system on the left edge of the West Buttress. Protection is generally spaced and of dubious quality. Start at the bottom left toe of the buttress and climb the deceptively steep left-trending turfgy groove system to a recess below the very steep upper section (50m, similar first pitch to Fatal Attraction). Continue up the continuation ramp leftwards until it levels out below a steep flaky wall. Climb thinly up this to another ledge and traverse left to a protruding block. From the top of this climb boldly up and right through the blocky overhangs to easy ground and the top (40m).

*Bunny Boiler* 100m III. D.Morris, H.Stagg. 15th February 2003.

On the western side of West Buttress several icefalls form readily. This route tackles the second of two parallel falls. Climb the icefall direct and continue above trending right up a ramp to the top.

*Saddle Up* 120m II/IV,4. D.Morris, H.Stagg. 15th February 2003.

This climbs a vague right-trending icy recess starting to the right of the main icefalls at the right side of West Buttress. Climb the icy recess for 50m to a snowfield. Cross the snowfield to below two ice falls. The wide left-hand icefall is II. The narrow central fall is IV,4.

### **SGURR NAN CLACH GEALA:**

*Summiteer* 180m II. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 26th January 2004.

A route up the right face of the summit buttress. Start on a terrace above and right of Fusilier's gully. Climb a prominent groove to a steep wall (25m). Go diagonally left, then back right to reach the top of the groove's continuation (45m). Cross a snow ramp slightly leftwards, then move right under a wall to reach a line of weakness (40m) which leads naturally (45m) to the upper crest, and finish as for Fusilier (25m).

### **Fionn Bheinn, Creag Toll Mor:**

*Crystal Visions* 65m IV,5 \*. D.Allan, J.R.Mackenzie. 14th December 2002.

The hanging chimney provides the line of the crag.

1. 25m Climb the turf over a step to below the wall guarding entrance into the chimney.
2. 40m The wall provides the crux. Climb to an overlap, move back right and gain and surmount a turfgy overhang to another similar overhang immediately above. Once in the chimney things ease; another short chimney can be taken on the left or avoided on the right.

*The Kilted Raven* 80m II. J.R.Mackenzie. 10th December 2002.

A well defined ramp runs up right to left beyond Prophetic Voices. It has only one point of difficulty, a short rocky block which needs to be climbed over to reach the continuation and the top.

*The Plaid and The Bonnet* 75m III. J.R.Mackenzie, D.Allan. 14th December 2002.

About 50m to the right of Crystal Visions are some narrow grooves leading to a black summit crag, prominent from below. Some good climbing particularly on the first pitch.

1. 40m Climb the leftmost and most interesting groove over a series of short steps to below the summit crag.
2. 35m Continue along the dwindling ledge to a steep pull up on the left at its termination and continue up turf ground above.

#### **GRUINARD CRAGS, Jetty Buttress, Back West Wall:**

*After the Storm* 20m HVS 5b. R.I.Jones, S.J.McNaught 12th April 2003.

Start as for Gruinard Corner (the crack-line directly beneath the arete) for 5m to a shelf. Continue but before reaching the main corner, step right into the bottom of a corner on the arete above an overhang. Climb this and the arete to the top.

*Trespass* 20m E2 5c \*\*. C.Meek. 5th May 2001.

The crack-line just right of the arete, with a move right after the bulge.

*The Rowan* 20m E1 5b \*. C.Meek, C.Dryer. 20th May 2001.

Another crack-line 2m to the right.

#### **GRUINARD CRAGS, Inverianvie Wall, Optic Wall:**

*Lock-in* 15m E1 5b. C.Cartwright, N.Wilson, S.Campbell. 30th March 2003.

Climb the slab between The Parting Glass and Gill to the widest section of the overlap, pull through and then follow a faint groove trending slightly right.

#### **BEINN AIRIGH CHARR, Martha's Peak:**

*2003 Route* 380m III. M.Shaw, I.Humberstone. 29th December 2003.

This route zigzags up the main face of Martha's Peak, finishing on the summit. It is only the second route up this impressive face and follows a natural winter line up a series of ramps and shelves. Initially the 2003 Route follows a line left of the 1910 Original Route (which was climbed in winter in 1999 by Lyall/Webb). At the "platform halfway up the upper crags" it crosses the Original Route and finishes up an easier chimney line to the right.

Start near the bottom left corner of the main face and follow an obvious ramp line up and left. This leads to a platform overlooking Staircase Gully. From the platform a large shelf leads easily up and right to beneath a deep chimney slot (obvious from the base of the crag). From beneath the slot a short rock band needs to be climbed up and left to gain access to another left-trending ramp line. This leads to a shallow gully which is followed back right up to the "platform halfway up the upper crags". The well-defined chimney of the 1910 Route could be climbed from here but, instead, a separate chimney line further to the right was climbed in two pitches, finishing just beneath the summit.

#### **LOCH TOLLVIDH, Hidden Crag:**

*Back to Business* 20m E1 5b. F.Fotheringham, A.Tattersall. 4th May 2003.

The blocky looking line through the bulge to the right of Frog Dance, then directly to the top.

#### **CREAG BHADAN AN AISC, Curtain Wall:**

*Tired of Creation* 10m E5 6a/b. P.Tattersall, T.Doe. 18th February 2003.

A central line on the overhanging right-hand sector of the crag, finishing by a hanging groove. Climb the wall, stretch right to reach and climb the slim hanging groove.

#### **SLIOCH:**

*Avalanche Goose* 225m VI.7. I.Small, N.Wilson. 1st February 2004.

To the left of The Slioch Slim Plan are a line of narrow chimneys. Start as for The Slioch Slim Plan but climb 15m of easy ground to below the line.

1. 25m Climb icy/turfy grooves to the base of the lower chimney.
  2. 20m Climb the first chimney to belay on a terrace.
  3. 25m Climb the second chimney, which is more of a flake at the bottom (crux), to belay out to the left on the terrace above.
  - 4 and 5. 80m Traverse right, then up short walls to gain an obvious gully on the left.
  - 6 and 7. 60m Climb the gully, with one steepening, to the crest of the main ridge.
- From here about 150m of easy scrambling leads to the top of the hill.

*Pinnacled Gully* 450m III,4. C.Cartwright, R.Webb. 1st February 2004.

This line initially follows the right-hand base of the “three pinnacles” overlooking Surprise Gully before entering a continuation gully. This gully gives access to some very impressive rock scenery.

- 1, 2 and 3. 150m From the start of Surprise Gully climb out leftwards towards the first pinnacle (Pinnacle Buttress). Follow relatively easy ground skirting the base of the pinnacles to reach a small crest overlooking a col and the intersection of the gully running up behind the pinnacles.
  - 3, 4 and 5. 150m Follow the crest a short way, then drop down to the col. Continue up the gully, bounded on the right by the main cliff and on the left by further pinnacles, for three pitches until it ends at a final narrow col. This col separates the main cliff from the top of a further pinnacle.
  6. 20m Facing the main cliff, traverse leftwards a short way to enter a left-facing corner come shallow groove. Climb this to a bulge, tackled on the left, to reach easier ground.
- Follow easy ground for 3 pitches to the reach the top.

#### **THE BONAID DHONN:**

*Scales of Justice* 40m E3/4 5c \*. G.Robertson, T.Woods. June 2003.

Start from the very left end of the first belay on Vertigo. Climb straight up a thin overhanging crack with difficulty to better holds and a rest below right-curving overlaps. Climb straight up to the overlaps on dwindling holds and with dwindling protection, then follow the overlaps more easily rightwards into the centre of the headwall. Finish direct up cracks. Probably joins the very top of Balances of Fate (SMCJ 1997).

*Consolation Prize* 70m E1. T.Fryer, I.Taylor. September 2003.

A line up the wall right of Stoater. Start at the large block as for Vertigo.

1. 15m Go up and left to belay just right of the flake-crack of Stoater.
2. 20m 5a Climb up a wall then a short groove; trend left, then up to a ledge.
3. 35m 5b Go up a scoop and flake, swing right, then go up via a short corner. Finish up slabs and overlaps.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH

### **SOUTH GLEN SHIEL, Creag Coire an t-Slugain:**

*Trumpet* 140m III,4. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 3rd January 2004.

Start below the central ridge (climbed by The Ridge Direct) and take a groove which leads to the right side of the ridge (50m). Continue into the left corner of the triangular snow patch, then leave it by a line of turf and flakes which leads slightly left into a well defined groove in the crest of the ridge (40m). Finish up this (50m).

*Tipperary, Direct Start* 40m III,4. A.Nisbet. 5th March 2004.

Gain and climb an obvious chimney set in a left slanting slab-corner. Continue left up slabby corners to join the normal route at the end of its right traverse and where it starts to rise rightwards.

*Hypotenuse* 120m III. A.Nisbet. 5th March 2004.

A line of grooves parallel and right of the bigger grooves of The Triangle. Start just right of The Triangle and climb a parallel groove (may not be distinct with a good build-up). Exit right through a slot in a right-bounding wall into the main groove system. Follow this to the top, finishing close to The Triangle.

### **SGURR A' BHEALAICH DHEIRG, Ghlas Choire:**

*Resolve* 50m IV,5. J.Preston, M.Kinsey. 8th March 2004.

A steep icefall 50m right of the prominent pinnacle flows over two vertical rock walls interspersed by a sloping ledge with a large block belay. Ice screw protection. An easy traverse off left and down a ramp reaches the base of Resolution Gully.

### **FIVE SISTERS, Coire na h-Uaighe:**

*Canine Buttress* 150m IV,4. V.Chelton, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 27th January 2004.

The most prominent buttress, which lies between a dog-leg gully of grade I and another shorter gully with a steep finish (Grade I/II) to its right. Start just right of its base and take the rightmost of three possible turf lines slanting left to a short steep wall (30m). Climb the wall to a bay, then make a descending traverse left to pull through a shorter wall (20m). Climb a groove to the crest and follow it to a barrier wall (40m). Go up a turf fault on the right to regain the crest and follow it more easily to the top (60m).

*Flying Ridge* 120m IV,4. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 8th February 2004.

The ridge left of Grovel Gully features twin crests at its base, the right-hand crest being a prominent rock arete. Start up a well defined V-groove between the crests and from its top, gain the right crest. Move steeply up left (crux) and up a shallow groove to an easier section. The crest becomes a well defined arete. Climb this for a few metres, then move right into a long groove. Climb the groove to finish up the crest.

*Hanging Garden* 120m II. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 8th February 2004.

The rightmost ridge on this section of cliff, just left of a wide open gully which separates it from Babylon Buttress. Climb shallow grooves in the lower crest, then easier ground to where the crest steepens (easy escape right here). Move right on to the gully wall, then left up two short steep walls to regain the crest. After a small descent, go up left to finish just left of the crest.

### **BEINN FHADA, Sgurr a' Choire Ghairbh, North-East Face:**

*Needle's Eye Buttress Direct* 150m IV,4. M.Shaw, I.Humberstone. 30th December 2000.

This climb follows the crest of the buttress up slabby rock, threading the needle halfway up the buttress. It thus follows the line of the Summer Difficult mentioned in the Volume 1 guidebook and is a completely separate line to the 1994 Grade II climb which follows an obvious turf trough to the left.

### **BEINN BHAN, Coire na Poite:**

*Realisation* 370m VI,6 \*\*\*. S.Yearsley, M.Bass. 31st January 2004.

A sustained climb of great character with superb situations which takes a direct line up the front of the buttress between March Hare's Gully and Mad Hatter's Gully. Good protection except for the precarious slabs on pitch 3. Start at the lowest point of the buttress.

1. 60m Climb the lower toe of the buttress and continue to the first large snow terrace via a steep corner. Belay at a large rock finger at the foot of the second rock tier.
2. 40m Climb a groove 2m left of the belay for 10m, then take a groove on the left to gain a large snow ledge. Move to its left-hand end and climb a short steep corner. Continue up and slightly rightwards to the second of two parallel snow terraces.
3. 50m Move 4m left and climb an open groove. Continue trending right then up via precarious slabs to another snow terrace. Move up to the foot of the next steeper rock tier and traverse right to a flake-crack. Climb this for 3m, then move left at its top and continue up a steep groove until it is possible to step right in a superb position on to the rocky crest. Move up and right round the toe of a small buttress.
4. 55m Climb easier ground for 20m, then a wide open fault-line cutting through the next tier.
5. 55m Continue up an open groove to easier ground.
6. 55m Up easy ground to climb a large corner cutting through the next tier.
7. 55m Easy ground to finish.

### **Coire an Fhamair:**

*Biblical Knowledge* 300m VI,5. J.Edwards, G.Hughes. 17th January 2004.

Takes the arete left of Genesis. Start on a ledge left of Genesis some 10m up from the very toe of the arete.

1. 40m Climb a corner for 20m until a zigzag right then left allows a ledge on the left to be gained (this pitch could be shortened by coming out of Genesis from higher up).
2. 40m Climb up a niche and gain a ledge on the arete via a flake. Move up the right side of a cracked slab and follow a rising left-trending ramp until below a stepped wall.
3. 40m Move up and right to a right-facing corner, then go right and up via turfey ledges until a move back left leads up to an apexed ledge right of a steep wall.
4. 60m Climb the wall on the left to reach easier ground. Go up a snow slope trending right to a large detached block, 30m right of the easier exit gully.
5. 50m Go up and right above the block to reach a left-trending break in the wall above. Climb this to reach easier ground.
- 6-7. Climb easy ground to reach the broad crest leading to the summit cornice.

*Revelations* 300m VI,6. J.Edwards, S.Barron. 30th December 2003.

Start left of the barrelled arete of the line of Biblical Knowledge below some small roofs.

1. 40m Climb up through the small roofs on thin ice to trend left to an open corner.
2. 25m Climb the corner on the left wall moving right at its top. This was tricky on the first ascent but would be easier with more ice in the corner.
3. 40m Go right along the ledge system for 7m to a short steep corner which is climbed to easier ground trending up and right to the base of a weakness above.
4. 30m Go up the right wall of the weakness to a spectacular belay on a block overlooking Genesis (or continue to make the next pitch shorter).
5. 60m Go up a short steep wall to much easier ground.
- 6 to 8. 105m The ground is now much easier. A hidden easy gully leads left up to the arete which is followed with a short tricky mixed section at its start to the summit.

### **APPLECROSS CRAGS:**

*Cas Chrom* 12m VS 4c. S. Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 28th September 2003.

Situated a short distance west of Fearnbeg on the west facing crags on the east side of a large bay (NG 731603). The crags contain a natural arch. Left of the arch is a tree. Start just left of the tree and traverse out leftwards to gain a left-facing slabby corner. Climb the corner.

### **BEN DAMPH FOREST, Creag na Speireag:**

**Note:** The unnamed E3 6a in SMCJ 2003 was led with a rest point.

### **BEN DAMPH:**

*Aquila* 235m VI,7 \*\* (2004)

A.Nisbet, J.Preston 26th February, 2004

Staying as near the crest as possible, but bypassing a steep second tier. Start on the right side of the ridge, below the base of Aquila Gully.

1. 30m Go up to and climb an awkward wide crack on the right side of a tier to a terrace below a steep wall. It has a clean cracked corner on its right side but instead, go to its left end.
2. 30m Climb a grassy groove until possible to move right above the steep wall. Climb up steps to belay on the crest below flake-cracks.
3. 10m Climb these to an overhang, then crawl left to a small corner.
4. 30m Climb the corner and the cracked overhang above to an easy section of crest. Walk along this and climb a corner-chimney.
5. 25m Climb cracks to a rest on the right, then move up left to a steep but short wide crack. Above this, reach the easier upper crest.
6. 50m Follow the crest.
7. 60m Continue in the same line (Aquila Gully takes the gully at right angles heading right) to a crest on the skyline.

Easy turfey ground leads to the top.

### **TORRIDON CRAGS, Seana Mheallan, Western Sector, Bedrock Buttress:**

*Mind The Trench* 20m Severe. C.Moody. 19th April 2003.

The left side of the slab is separated from the right by a left-slanting corner. Start about 4m left of the corner at some white patches. Climb up past the right side of the bulge, step left and continue up the slab to the grass ledge. Climb the short steep wall between the overhangs.

*Trench At Top* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Moody. 19th April 2003.

Climb past the left end of the first overlap on Lapland, go past the second overlap by a shallow left-facing corner to a grass ledge. A short easy wall leads to the top.

### **BEINN EIGHE, Far East Wall:**

*Divine Ambition* 50m E1 6a. S.Ritchie, J.A.Edwards. 19th April 2003.

A direct version of Epilogue.

1. 30m 6a Climb the parallel crack-line right of Karaoke Wall for 20m to a ledge. Make a difficult move to continue up to a bay.
2. 25m 5a Continue up a corner above to easy ground.

### **Sail Mhor:**

*Expanding Universe* 100m VI,5 \*. E.Tresidder, G.Robertson. 9th February 2004.

Although short, this route provides two excellent and contrasting pitches, the first on thin ice, the second up steep turfey chimneys. Start at the base of a big obvious groove, some 200m up and on the left wall of Morrison's Gully.

1. 30m Climb the thinly iced groove, poorly protected, to a good belay below steep chimneys.
  2. 50m Continue directly up the chimneys to easier ground.
  3. 20m A short step leads up on to the shoulder and the end of the difficulties.
- Easy ground on Sailing Buttress (about 200m of grade II) leads to the top, but it should be possible to climb down and right to gain a ledge leading back into the gully.

**Note:** The following has been written for the forthcoming guide. Mentioned here because bouldering is becoming popular and this is a good venue. Also because T.Rankin has sent the subsequent description:

### **LIATHACH CRAGS, The Celtic Boulders (NG 909 557):**

There are a set of huge boulders behind the gap between two young roadside plantations. After a 5 minute boggy walk, they offer some short routes up to 10m, an intriguing cave and some "Celtic" carvings. A minor venue for a spare couple of hours. The routes include (left to right): a corner (VS 5a), an overhanging leaning corner-crack with some superb holds (VS 4c), a narrow chimney with a chockstone (VS 4b) and a south-facing wall of knobbly rock (two Very Difficult routes with a common start). Also climbed is the impressive arete of the largest boulder, the arete furthest away from the main wall (6b). Other routes have been done.

*Trend Setter* 10m E5 6b/c \*\*. T.Rankin (unsec). 5th April 2003.

On the right-hand of two obvious south-west facing walls half-way along the crag. Start just left of the tree. Climb a thin crack to the first break, make a desperate move to gain a good hold at the base of a thin crack above. Follow the crack up right, then straight up to finish.

### **DIABAIG, The Main Cliff:**

*Botanic Warrior* 30m Severe 4a \*. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 31st August 2003.

To the left of The Grunter and close to the lowest point of the Main Cliff lies a short slabby corner leading to the right end of the prominent roof. Climb the corner, then pull out right by a cracked block. Continue up a short corner to a steepening, then move leftwards to the buttress edge. Finish up the edge to finish at the abseil slings at the top of Dead Mouse Crack.

## **CAIRNGORMS**

### **LOCHNAGAR:**

**Note:** R.Clifton & T.Fox finished the Right Branch of The Black Spout by a right-hand variation in January 2004 at 40m III,4. Break out right on to water ice about 40m from the cornice. This short icefall was followed on to mixed ground towards an obvious wide chimney about 20m right of the cornice. This provided a short and entertaining crux, well protected.

*Causeway Rib Direct* 130m VS. S.M.Richardson, J.Ashbridge. 27th July 2003.

A direct version of the original route taking the centre of the buttress.

1. 35m Climb the first pitch of Causeway Rib to the stance at the head of the V-cleft.
2. 30m 4c Move left to the centre of the buttress and climb a crack splitting the front face to a stance in a small notch.
3. 45m 4c Continue up the slab above and climb the wall at its top via shallow cracks to reach the causeway. Move along this to its end.
4. 20m 4a Finish up the front face of the final tower via steeped shelves as for the original route.

### **The Stuic:**

*Shepherd's Warning* 70m III. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 14th March 2004.

The first feature right of the crest of Stuic Buttress is a shallow left-facing corner. Start just left of the depression of Daybreak Corners and climb mixed ground over steep steps to the corner. Climb the corner for 15m to reach a good platform on the right (45m). Continue up the line of the corner above before exiting left onto the crest (25m). Continue up the crest of The Stuic to the plateau (50m).

### **The Stuic, Coire Lochan na Feadaige:**

*Goldie* 110m III. B.Findlay, G.Strange. 15th December 2002.

On the larger, most westerly buttress in the corrie, right of Feadaige Buttress. Start up a slanting depression, passing a pink overhang on the left. Continue by a groove, then trend right on easy ground to finish by a left-slanting ramp on the upper rocks.

### **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Central Slabs:**

*Cerberus* 165m E1. S.M.Richardson, J.Ashbridge. 15th June 2003.

A good line up the clean sweep of rock left of Nemesis. Start 5m left of Nemesis at 'the big obvious boulder at pink rocks.'

1. 45m 5a Climb a right-facing corner to its top, and continue up a crack in the slab above to below a steep wall. Move left and climb a crack in the wall to a ledge.
2. 30m 4a Step left and climb a grey rib just left of a depression on good holds to reach a large terrace below the steep upper wall cut by the chimney of Nemesis.
3. 30m 5a Traverse left along the terrace and climb up awkward slabby walls to the prominent twin cracks that split the left side of the wall.

4. 40m 5b Step right on to the subsidiary pillar on the right and climb this to enter the right-hand crack. Climb this and move left where it joins the left-hand crack. Continue up the chimney above, passing a loose chokestone, to reach easier ground. Finish up Central Buttress.

#### **Central Gully Wall:**

*Gorilla* 105m E6 \*\*. G.Robertson, T.Rankin. 24th August, 2003.

An excellent superdirect version of Bombadillo, taking the true crest of the nose all the way. The first ascent started up grooves to the left of Bombadillo, but it is probably better to follow that route until where it moves right to the hidden flake crack.

1. 45m, 5c Start up Bombadillo, but where it moves right, go up left over a bulge on to a cracked slabby wall. Trend right across the wall via thin cracks to near the edge where bold moves up then right gain a good flat hold. Swing right into Bombadillo and follow this to belay uncomfortably at the left end of the ledge.
2. 30m 6b From the ledge pull left into a tiny groove and where this ends make hard moves left across the wall to gain a big side pull. Pull directly into another groove and follow this to its top, then move up right on to the crest and follow this in a superb position to ledges at the top of Bombadillo's second pitch.
3. 30m 5c Bombadillo pitch 3, etc.

#### **The Buff Slabs:**

*Buffy* 55m E6 \*\*. N.Morrison, W.Moir. 24th August 2003.

A fine but fairly serious route taking the central line through the steeper red wall between Stark and Naked, then the slab above finishing via an obvious corner system. Top-roped prior to lead.

1. 15m Start as for Naked right of the crevasse feature and follow the initial cracks of that route until a belay can be taken on the left in an area of more broken ground below a left facing corner.
2. 25m 6b Climb the overlaps left of the left facing corner to the slab below the steep wall. Follow the crackline up the centre of the wall (crucial Alien#2 or Friend#0 equivalent in finger pod, this blocks the hold but the edge is still available), to a good layaway flake at the base of the upper slab. Move up and left via faint cracks to belay on the right below the corner.
3. 15m Follow the corner to an exit onto the Caterpillar.

Get off the cliff by escaping up the grass and occasional rock into False Gully or descend the Caterpillar a short way to a superb nut placement and abseil.

*Bare* 40m E5 6a. W.Moir, N.Morrison (on sight). August 2003.

Start well left of the through-route at a small pink corner. Start awkwardly by the corner, then step left and climb rippled slabs to reach a grass ledge. Continue up to the right side of the bulge above (good protection), and climb the bulge (crux), using a good flange to start. Go up to reach more wires at a green-speckled flake. Continue very boldly by the line of flakes to reach a belay under the steep headwall. Abseil off, or finish via Stark, or its direct finish.

#### **GLEN CALLATER, Coire Kander:**

**Note:** S.Muir thinks that Wee Gem (SMCJ 2003) is the same as Pick Breaker (SMCJ 2002), despite the difference in grades.

*Tuircish Delight* 55m III. S.Muir, H.Watson. 7th March 2004.

Climb the icefall on the left of the deep gully which descends from the col between Carn an Tuirc and Cairn of Claise. A good sustained pitch.

#### **BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche:**

**Note:** A free winter ascent of Sandy Crack taking the lower chimney direct (crux) Climbed under mixed conditions in February 2003 by B. Findlay & G. Strange. No change of grade (V,6).

*Unnamed* 160m VII,8. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 7th March 2004.

The unclimbed area of crag between Pigs in the Wing and Hot Toddy is characterised by a prominent arch-shaped feature at mid height. This prominent winter line takes a right slanting ramp to the arch and continues up the gully above. Start at the foot of Jason's Chimney.

- 1 and 2. 75m Climb the ramp, easy at first, passing a thinner section beyond a right-facing corner. Continue for a further 10m and belay just before the ramp narrows on a large flake with the arch visible up and left.
3. 25m Surmount the flake and move left to under the arch. Climb up via a free-standing flake to under the roof of the arch then move right across a steep wall to gain a groove on the right (crux). Climb the groove to a snow slope.
4. 60m Move up and left into a shallow gully that leads to the top of the crag.

### **Coire an Dubh Lochain:**

*Mortal Coil* 70m III. S.M.Richardson. 15th February 2004.

The corner-chimney between The Vital Spark and Birthday Route. Steep cornice exit.

*Big Foot Buttress* 80m E1. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 12th July 2003.

The well defined buttress on the north side of Coire an Dubh Lochain at NJ 091 994. Start in the centre of the front face just left of 2 metre-long foot-shaped flake below the prominent crack system

1. 40m 5b Climb the crack for 20m, step right into a parallel crack and follow this passing the capping roof on the left.
2. 40m Continue up the easier upper ridge to the plateau.

### **Coire nan Clach:**

*Nipped in the Bud* 100m V,6. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 22nd February 2004.

A direct line following the crest of the buttress between Crocus Gully and Snowdrop. The upper half of the buttress is split by a vegetated right-facing corner.

1. 30m Start at the toe of the buttress and climb mixed ground up the crest to where it steepens.
2. 15m Climb the steep wall on the crest to a good ledge.
3. 15m Continue up the awkward bulging wall above and climb the vegetated slab to where the angle eases at the foot of the right-facing corner.
4. 50m Climb the corner to the top.

*Narcissus* 150m III. S.M.Richardson. 15th February 2004.

Start 50m right of Crocus Gully and climb a short gully and left-facing grooves and easier mixed ground at the top.

*Ribeye* 70m III,4. S.M.Richardson. 15th February 2004.

The short north-facing rib midway between the Promontory and Summit Buttress. Climb snow to the foot of the steep prow and continue up a right-trending fault-ramp with a difficult section at half height.

### **Stob an t-Sluichd:**

*Caprice* 100m Severe. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 7th December 2003.

The clean well defined pillar just the left of Token Groove. Move up and left from the foot of Token Groove and climb up to a steep crack. Climb this on good holds to easier ground and the narrow final arete.

### **CAIRN TOUL, Coire an Lochan Uaine:**

*Solitude Rib* 250m II. I.Small. 6th March 2003.

This route climbs the most prominent rib directly to the summit. Climb an initial ice pitch then traverse left to gain the rib and follow it to the top.

### **LOCH ETCHACHAN CRAG:**

The squat crag above the head (south-west corner) of the loch.

*Bacchus* 50m E3/4 5b \*\*. J.Lines (on-sight solo). 13th July 2003.

A beautiful climb on good rock, both balancy and scary. A quartz dyke runs from the bottom right of the crag diagonally leftwards above a steep wall. Follow the dyke until it runs out, step left round the rib into a scoop, toe traverse the scoop (absorbing and precarious) to gain the superb diagonal crack which splits the slab above. Climb the crack (good gear halfway). When crack turns into a runnel, move left to a flake and follow good holds.

### **STACAN DUBHA:**

*Observers Buttress* 150m II. J.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 19th February 2004.

The triangular buttress between the 1987 gullies. Start on its left side. Climb shallow grooves until a ledge leads right. Climb a narrow chimney with a through route which leads right on to the crest. Follow this ill defined crest to the top.

*Ribbon Ridge* 150m IV,4. J.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 19th February 2004.

Climb slabby turfgy ground to the base of the ridge. Climb a subsidiary buttress on the left, then step right on to the main ridge immediately above a chimney. Climb a steep turfgy groove, then the easier crest to a tower. Climb this by a turfgy ramp on the left, then follow the sharp crest to the miniature “tower gap”. After this is a steep finishing wall. There is an easy escape right here; if used the route becomes grade III. Make a rising traverse left across the wall, then step down and cross a groove before climbing straight up to the top.

### **CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:**

**Note:** I.Small & J.Walker climbed a counter-diagonal line to Poison Dwarf, description not received.

*Dreadlock* 90m V,6. J.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 18th February 2004.

Climbs the crest at the right end of the Pagan Slit wall, well marked by a steep area of pink rock. Start 5m right of The Hairpin Loop.

1. 25m Climb a fault which leads slightly leftwards into a bay at the lower left end of the pink rock. Traverse right past a step with a wide crack to a ledge. This last traverse is shared with The Hairpin Loop, which then goes up to a bigger bay.
2. 15m Instead, step up and move right to reach a spike in an overlap formed below a left-slanting ramp. Gain and climb the ramp to a large ledge.
3. 20m Climb a wide crack on the left to a higher ledge and continue up the steep wall on the left. Return right by a blocky groove.
4. 30m Follow the crest easily to a wide crack; climb this and pull out left. Continue slightly leftwards to finish up a groove with a capping chokestone (as for The Hairpin Loop).

### **SHELTERSTONE CRAG, Central Slabs:**

*Icon of Lust* 115m E8 \*\*\*. J.Lines, P.Thorburn. July 2003.

A monumental voyage up the full height of the Central Slabs, taking a direct line through Realm of the Senses and L’Elisir d’Amore. Start 20m down and left from the initial crack of The Pin.

1. 35m 6a The serious pitch! Climb a cracked groove to a ledge at 10m. Pull on to a bleached slab and climb it veering right into a vague left facing corner at its top (good gear). Then go straight up the steep wall on small positive edges to pockets over the top, step left and pull onto the ramp and follow this rightwards to the belay.
2. 25m 6c A brilliant pitch, desperate and bold. Follow the Realm of the Senses groove to the overlap, step right and pull through the overlap with disbelief, sketch up the slab to a weird pocket (#00 cam), move diagonally leftwards, very thin, to join Missing Link amidst its crux. Gain good holds and gear then traverse down and left above the overlap to gain a flake leading to the Thor belay.
3. 55m 6b Extremely bold, a cool head required. Climb Thor to the crescent crack, step up into pockets, make thin moves up and left to a jug in the red streak. A precarious stretch left enables a #00 cam to be placed blind, the only protection in 25m of climbing. Climb the red streak to a pocket, step right and up the right edge of the red streak past a flat hold into a scoop (frightening). Climb vertical wall past a PR (RP#2 one metre above) to gain flakes in a scoop, move diagonally left along flakes and on to the slab above. Continue up slab to grassy ledge and possible belay. Continue up the wall above to the apex of the slabs, peg belay.

### **GARBH UISGE CRAG:**

*Feld Spur* 100m III. J.Lyall. 3rd January 2004.

The spur right of Quartz Gully.

### **HELL’S LUM:**

*The Bats, The Bats* 50m HVS 5a \*. B.Fyffe, A.Fyffe. 14th August 2003.

Takes the crack-lines in the clean pink slab right of The Vaccum. Descend by traversing left from the top of the pitch. Good climbing on immaculate rock. Climb a clean crack into a short shallow right-facing corner. From the top of the corner, trend left to gain a prominent crack and climb it to where it disappears, then move right to a square nose. From the right side of the nose follow another crack to the fault.

*Road to Nowhere* 25m HVS 5a. A.Fyffe, B.Fyffe. 14th August 2003.

Takes cracks bordering the left side of the smooth slab. Climb the cracks to where they run into a grassy left-facing corner and move right into a clean open groove. Climb this to ledges, go to a thin crack in the upper slab and then move right to finish up the deeper cracks of Two Little Devils to the glaciais.

*Omen Direct* 35m E3 6a. J.Lines. 15th July 2003.

A direct version of pitches 2 and 3. From the first belay climb the thin slab directly above straight into the corner on pitch 3.

*Paranormal* 165m E1 \*\*. A.Fyffe, R.D.Barton 24th August 2003.

Some excellent climbing although it uses bits of other routes. Mostly sustained with the hardest move at the top of the last pitch. Start at the crack about 3m right of the obvious pink initial crack of Auld Nick and Devil Dancer.

1. 50m 4c Start just right of the crack and climb up to join it after the initial mossy section. Where this runs into a left-facing corner, take the diagonal crack going right, then return left to climb the edge overlooking the corner to big ledges below the overlap.

2. 25m 5a Climb the crack up the next slab via the crack right of Auld Nick's. This starts with a short left-facing corner, gives excellent climbing and is quite well protected. Go right on the horizontal crack of Auld Nick and belay at its end.

3. 50m 5a Work leftwards through the steep wall above, just right of the jutting nose to reach the glaciais (common with Devil's Alternative). Climb up cracks and corners to reach the slot at the right end of the long low roof and belay on the horizontal flake above (as for Big De'il).

4. 40m 5b From the flake belay go right and work up the wall on rounded flakes to the right edge of a shallow recess. Go back left and up on flakes to a ledge, go up a small corner to an upper ledge then go right to climb a grey flake leading to the upper horizontal fault. Make an awkward move to gain a standing position (as for Devil's Alternative) and then a grassy terrace and easy finish rocks. A surprising pitch.

### **STAG ROCKS, Cascade Area:**

*The Red Planet* 60m E1 \*\*. A.Fyffe, R.D.Barton. 24th August 2003.

Another good route but slow to dry. It takes the straight crack-line left of Lost in the City. Start at twin cracks just right of that route's initial left-facing corner.

1. 25m 5b Climb twin crack then ramp leading into the cracks. Climb the left hand cracks to the rock ledge.

2. 15m 4c Climb the short right-facing corner on the right, then the crack through the headwall. It is possible to scramble off from this point.

3. 20m 4a Climb the corner system to the top.

### **COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.2 Buttress:**

*Reprieve* 50m IV,5 \*. M. Bass, S. Yearsley. 18th March 2003.

An icy counter diagonal to the Executioner, sharing the block-capped groove of that route. Start in the Couloir about 5m above the dead end left branch at the foot of a short steep wall adorned with an ice smear. Climb this icy wall, and move up to the foot of the block capped groove. Climb the groove, overcome the blocks and step left. Climb a steep ice bulge to enter a right-facing corner which is followed to the cornice. This may be large; on the first ascent there was an unusual natural tunnel through the cornice which was passable after enlargement.

*Lagopus* 100m V,6. I.Taylor, N.Carnegie. January 2004.

A direct start to Snow Bunting.

1. 30m Start 30m right of Central Crack Route at the entrance to The Couloir. Climb a crack-line to a ledge at 5m. Traverse up and left below an overlap to another ledge then follow steps up and right to gain a small gully and belay at the top of this.
- 2.& 3. 70m Trend up and rightwards to gain the easy-angled snow bay of Snow Bunting and finish up this.

## **NORTH EAST OUTCROPS**

### **DEAD MCIVOR GULCH:**

*Arachnaphobia* 10m E4 6a/b \*. W.Moir. October 2003.

The roof and alcove right of Spiders Walk. Lean across from the slab opposite and gain a good flat hold. Monkey up to a good break and move left to the alcove, exit this to easier ground. Essentially a highball boulder problem, best done with spotters.

### **SOUTER HEAD, Girdle Traverse Wall:**

*Shoestring* 10m E3 6a \*. N.Morrison, P.Allen. May 2003.

Climbs the arete right of Bootlace Crack. Start up Bootlace Crack and reach over the overlap to place a runner. Traverse right to the arete using finger pockets on the lip of the overlap and pull over to the slab. Finish up easier ground directly above.

*Jeelyfish* 10m E1 5b \*. N.Morrison, P.Allen. May 2003.

Climbs through the overlap left of Black Corner. Start at the foot of that route and climb up left to the overlap. Pull left through this into the corner above. An obvious finish is available but is very grassy at its top so climb the clean right rib.

### **Overhanging Gully:**

The following routes have almost certainly been done before but not recorded.

*Yum Yum Bubble Gum* 8m Very Difficult. R.Henderson, P.Randall. 4th September 2003.

One metre right of Scylla, there is a slanting corner then a bulge. Climb over the bulge direct and continue to an obvious large break at the top.

*Cunning Linguist* 8m Severe. P.Randall, R.Henderson. 4th September 2003.

One metre right of Yum Yum Bubble Gum there is a flake which slopes from right to left. Below the flake there is an overhanging bulge below which is a sloping ledge. Climb the flake direct and continue to the obvious break at the top, joining Yum Yum Bubble Gum. Or climb the overhanging bulge direct, traverse right and join up with the obvious break.

### **SOUTH COVE:**

*Super Cracks in Reality* 45m XXS 6b S3 \*\*\*\*. J.Lines. 27th May 2003.

The true start to Cracks in Reality providing the best route on the Aberdeen coast. Start just below the starts to Procrastination and Space Rats. Bridge between the slab and the hanging wall, grab a smooth boss hold and traverse the break leftwards. Go left round the rib and move down to a small foot ledge just above the sea. Make a thin move leftwards across a smooth black slab to gain a ledge (awkward rest), climb the vague diagonal crack in the black rock leftwards to gain the original route just after its right traverse on undercuts. Then finish as Cracks in Reality.

**Note:** This new start is not affected by seeps, but will be unclimbable in heavy seas and damp conditions. The start can be used as a variation start to Procrastination (has been climbed to the Procrastination belay at 20m 6b), which would avoid the seeps on the original first pitch.

Thought is definitely required for protecting the second on the initial section (and to reduce rope drag for the leader) if attempting a lead. Possibly best to back-rope the initial peg of Procrastination to stop a swing! The route was deep water soloed on sight, with two splashdowns on the initial traverse, the day before the successful ascent.

### **FINDON NESS, Kay Hole, Lesser Kay Hole:**

The following three routes are on a very steep little wall at the very eastern end of the Kay Hole inlet. Easily seen and reached on the approach to The Glider. The rock is sound and juggy, similar to Berrymuir Head. Small Friends are essential, including a #00.

*Through the Kay Hole* 10m E2 5c \*. T.Rankin, M.Scott. April 2003.

The central line. Climb a steep juggy crack to a spike. Rock up left below a roof and use a hidden hold on the lip to gain jugs above. Continue direct over the next roof, then finish up and slightly right.

*Kay Holed* 10m E2 5b \*. T.Rankin, M.Scott. April 2003.

Start up Through the Kay Hole but continue up and right to below the obvious break in the overhang. Climb through the overhang and finish straight up.

*Independent Start:* E3 5b. Up the corner to the right, then trending across the wall leftwards to gain the horizontal break below the overhang. Less satisfying.

*Kay Hole Surgery* 10m E1 5b \*. T.Rankin, M.Scott. April 2003.

The left-hand line. Climb the initial roof at the obvious jug 2m left of Through the Kay Hole. Go straight up to a shelf above; finish left, then right up an easy slab.

### **The Grey Wall:**

*No Doubts* 35m E2 5b \*\*. T.Rankin, R.Birkett. 8th July 2003.

An excellent exposed route up the wall right of Gronk on reasonably good rock. Climb Gronk for about 20m (possible belay to avoid rope drag) until an obvious exposed traverse leads out right past a jammed block on to a hanging slab. Move up to take the flake-crack through the roof into a hanging flake-groove above. Climb this to pull out left to finish.

At the back of the dry inlet to the right of The Grey Wall is a shallow cave with an impressive red granite dyke running through the roof.

*Fascination Streak* 15m F7c. T.Rankin. May 2003.

Perhaps the most outrageous sport route in Scotland. The route climbs the dyke on jugs to a lower-off at the lip. Prone to dampness; the best chance would be on a sunny morning or with a favourable breeze.

### **Findon Ness South:**

*Odin* 20m E3 5c \*. T.Rankin, M.Reed. 3rd June 2003.

Right of Halo is a left-slanting crack. Climb the crack to a niche, avoid the temptation to pull out right and continue up left to join Halo below the final wall. Step right and finish up the wall in a fine position above a roof.

### **PORTLETHEN BOULDERS, Octopus Inlet:**

This is the short narrow inlet which cuts back in towards Craigmaraoinn beach from the large bay of Portlethen harbour. The routes are all on the very steep east-facing wall and all but Little Octo require a low tide. The rock in general is excellent. There is a belay stake on the saddle of the ridge well back from the lip. Routes described left to right.

*Little Octo* 5m E3 5b. T.Rankin (on sight solo). 22nd July 2003.

Before the main wall is a short steep wall above a left-trending groove. Climb the wall direct above the groove on good holds to a horizontal break (possible protection) and use a jammed block above to pull over on to a ramp. Good moves but a bad landing.

*Monster of the Deep* 12m E5 6a \*\*. T.Rankin, A.Crofton (inspected). July 2003.

The obvious central line. Climb to below a left-trending crack; follow this to pull right to the base of a small triangular niche. Climb straight up to good holds, step left and finish right. Low in the grade.

*The Relic* 10m E3 6a \*. T.Rankin, M.Reed (inspected). 26th July 2003.

Right again is an obvious crack high up. Climb a right-trending ramp to the base of the crack. Climb the crack direct to its top. Pull out right to finish.

*Deep Rising* 10m VS 4c. T.Rankin. 22nd July 2003.

Climbs directly up shallow grooves to finish up the fine short flake-crack in the upper part of the wall.

### **Sports Wall Left-Hand:**

The steep little left-hand continuation to Sports Wall. It contains one route and some good bouldering, the best being *Razor Rump* (5b+), the sharp steep right-trending ramp. Out to Lunch (6c, Font 7b \*\*), the undercut arete just right of Razor Rump without using holds on that problem. Jump off from the lip (high!).

*The Incredible Sulk* 7m 7b \*. T.Rankin. 2003.

A desperate extended boulder problem taking a little hanging groove and wall above.

### **CRAIG STIRLING:**

*Raw Meat, Direct Finish* 10m E2 5c. W.Moir, P.Allen. August 2003.

Rather than finishing up Lean Meat, go up the right side of an elongated pocket to gain a horizontal break. Go left along this, then climb flakes, finishing at the pointed block. Climbed this way, the route is perhaps worth \*\*.

**Note:** Roaring Forties is a fine DWS at XS 6b S0. Raw Meat lower section is XS 6a S2.

*Red Meat* 20m XS 6a S0/1 \*\*. J.Lines (on sight). 15th May 2003.

A lovely deep-water solo, but not for the liking of vegetarians. Start as for Lean Meat and follow the horizontal traverse right where Lean Meat goes diagonally up. Keep traversing on finger crimps to a final slap for a jug on the arete. Climb the arete to the top.

*Sushi* 25m XS 6c S1/2 \*\*\*. J.Lines. 3rd June 2003.

An absolutely outrageous deep-water solo, the climax to DWS developments at Craig Stirling. Start as for Jack Sprat. Follow Jack Sprat on to the wall at good finger pockets, then climb the wall to a roof. Sidle leftwards and then make a powerful move to gain the next break, beneath the huge roof. Using a weird flake in the lip, cut loose and make powerful and technical moves to establish oneself in the overhanging scoop above. Move left to a respite, then move up to join Lean Meat and continue straight up the overhanging wall as for Raw Meat.

**Note:** Three splashdowns and not even off the crux (some shunt practice at the lip of the big roof). May be nudging E7.

### **CLASHRODNEY:**

*Perseus* 15m XS 6a S0/1. J.Lines. 6th June 2003.

A short but fun deep-water solo. Start on the ledges underneath Gorgon, then traverse rightwards to a good hold in a groove in the left side of a hanging prow. Using small finger holds climb the prow head on, utilising a heel hook on the right (don't fall off rightwards). Easier up the slab to finish.

### **BERRYMUIRHEAD:**

*Fist Full of Barnacles* 12m XS 6a/b S1. J.Lines. 9th June 2003.

A good deep-water solo where high tide is essential. From the start of the niche stretch left and gain a jug, traverse leftwards around the arete just above the water. On the left of the arete a rising set of holds leads to a quartz ledge just right of Quick Draw McGraw. From the ledge, use a small quartz layaway to start a blind sequence of moves up the overhanging wall on good but hidden holds.

A deep water boulder is situated 30m to the south-east of Quick Draw McGraw. It faces north-east and is the shape of a black pyramid with an overhanging face. The face is 5m high at high tide. A calm sea and a high tide are required for these routes. All the routes are crimpy and bouldery and provide a new concept to Scotland, deep-water bouldering. All routes are perfectly safe at high tide and exiting the sea is straightforward. All routes start at the seaward end where a slab-ramp joins the base of the face.

*Majuro* 12m 6a/b S1. J.Lines. 9th June 2003.

The traverse from left to right just above the high water mark, gives varied climbing. 6b to on-sight, easier once the holds are chalked.

*Enewetak* 8m 6a/b S1. J.Lines. 9th June 2003.

Climb along the traverse to gain the good holds at the prow, then climb the prow moving right on huge jugs.

*Taongi* 8m 6b S1. J.Lines. 9th June 2003.

Climb along the traverse to gain the good holds at the prow, then move up and left past an obvious finger jug to finish at the apex of the wall.

*Kwajalein* 5m 6a S1. J.Lines. 9th June 2003.

Start as for the traverse, step right and make a blind reach for a good hold, then stretch right to another good hold. Finish straight up just left of the apex of the wall.

#### **THE GRAIP:**

*Nest Route* 15m HVS 5a. B.Duthie, B.McAdam. 6th September 2003.

Start left of Unhinged. Climb straight up until beneath the overhang. Pull over on the right side and follow a left-trending line on easier ground to the top.

*The Vineyard* 15m Hard Severe \*. G.W.M.Allan, K.Wallace. 28th July 2003.

Climb Knee Trembler to where that route goes slightly right, traverse left above the large overhang and climb the wall near its left edge.

#### **Roseheartly, Murcurry South Wall:**

*Tombstone* 15m E5 6a \*. N.Morrison, W.Moir. 6th September 2003.

Takes the wall between Heart of Stone and Stone the Crows, giving fine and surprisingly independent climbing. Cleaned on abseil, some snappy rock and shoogly holds remain but are nothing out of the ordinary for this wall. Start up either, the true diagonal crack of Stone the Crows, or the subsidiary crack. Where the two meet step left onto the wall and move up and left to gain a right slanting crack. Move up this to a niche with a large shaky block (well wedged). Follow the continuation crack up right to a further niche which is exited on its left to a slopy finish.

#### **CLACH NA BEINN:**

*Glen Dye Slab* 25m E4 6b \*\*. J.Lines. 12th March 2003.

A unique all out crystal route taking the slab between Bogendreip Buttress and Crack o' the Mearns. Start up Crack o' the Mearns but after 3m bridge between to vertical cracks to reach holds on Bogendreip, then up to a good hold in the slab (large cams in a diagonal crack on the left). Scratch up the centre of the slab on crystals to better holds and the top.

**Note:** A good combination is to climb Bogendreip buttress to the big jug at 15m, then make a thin move left to join and finish up Crack o' the Mearns. Possibly E1 5a/b \*\*\*.

#### **BENNACHIE, Mither Tap:**

*Best Forgotten Art* 15m E6 6b \*\*. T.Rankin, M.Reed. 23rd August 2003.

The strangely neglected Flake-line left of Finger Ficker. Step up Finger Ficker and arrange protection on the left wall. Make hard moves left to a painful jam in the flake and crucial protection. Pull up to a jug, then use the crack on the left to gain a break above. Step right and pull up to an obvious pocket; climb the slab above to the next break. Step left to pull over at a good jug. An excellent route on clean rock.

*Reed's Bogey* 20m E3 5c \*. M.Reed, T.Rankin. 23rd August 2003.

Start below the left arete of the wall. Climb the crack in the crest to its end, then make bold moves up a slab to a break. Go left and up a flake to the next break. Step right and finish as for Best Forgotten Art.

#### **Mither Tap, West Wall Upper Tier:**

This fine little wall emanates directly from the summit of the tor. It is directly in front of the trig point when facing west. Gain the base of the wall down a little gully to its south.

*Gift of Contentment* 10m E6 6b \*. T.Rankin, M.Reed. 30th September 2003.

Start at a low protruding ledge 2m right of an obvious crack. Boulder up to gain the first break and protection. Move up right to the next break (Friend# $\frac{1}{2}$ ), step left and climb the upper slab trending slightly leftwards to an easier but serious finish.

**ANGUS, Ley Quarry, The Waterfront:**

*Ley Jungle* 19m F4. N.Cole (roped solo). 13th July 2003

A further route to the right of The Magic Thumb. Unlike most Ley Quarry routes it is possible to top out! Poorly protected with loose rock and earth and no bolts. Start as for Magic Thumb. Gain the mantelshelf, move right across and on to a narrow ledge to another small ledge with a bush and rotten stump in a corner. Scramble on to the ledge under a small overhang. Move right and continue upwards trending left to top out between two overhanging rock piles.

## HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

### **MALLAIG CRAGS, Ardnish Peninsula, Lizard Crag (SMCJ 2000):**

*Chameleon* 12m Severe \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, T.Hamilton. 8th November 2003.

A large block leans against the right side of the crag forming a cave. Enter the cave and climb a thin crack up the slabby left wall to a roof. Traverse left to gain the edge. Finish up a groove.

*Gecko* 7m Severe. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, T.Hamilton. 8th November 2003.

A short distance left of Lizard Crag, just above the idyllic beach, is a prominent leaning block. Climb the short seaward face surmounting a small ledge at the foot.

**Note:** The lengths of the routes described in SMCJ 2000 seem to be overstated; 15m for The Lizard and 10m for The Snake.

### **STRATHSPEY, Shillochan Rock (NH 937 217):**

The crag is well hidden by trees but marked on the 1:25000 map.

Approach: Park near Boat of Garten sawmill. Follow a forest track north of the A95, keeping straight on after 500m to pass a shooting lodge after 1.5km. Keep taking left turns thereafter to reach the end of the road. The crag lies over a ridge from the road end. The most obvious features are the three corner lines.

*Friendly Fire* 6m Severe. B.Sparham. 28th June 2003.

The wall to the right of the rightmost corner.

*Tony* 10m VS 4c. B.Sparham, P.Edwards. 5th May 2003.

The right corner, finishing slightly left.

*George Junior* 10m HVS 5b. B.Sparham, J.Mason. 28th June 2003.

The central corner, moving into Tony at the top.

*Saddam* 10m E1 5b. B.Sparham, P.Edwards, S.Partridge. 15th May 2003.

The left corner gives a good sustained climb.

*Colateral Damage* 12m HVS 4c. J.Mason, B.Sparham. 28th June 2003.

Go left to the arete from a stump on Saddam. Climb the arete to finish with an exciting run-out.

*Old Pulkeney* 5m Severe. B.Sparham, S.Partridge. May 2003.

A short wide crack left of the bay left of Saddam.

### **BINNEIN SHUAS:**

*Cubist* 40m HVS 5a. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 10th August 2003.

A direct line up the right side of the slab taken by Cube Wall. Climb the initial corner flake of Cube Wall and step left on to the ledge. Continue straight up the slab above to reach the right end of the diagonal fault of Cube Wall. Cross this and climb up the nose above to the top.

### **ROCK DUST (Pitlochry):**

*Moulin Rouge* 20m 6c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 2002.

A direct line between 21st Century Citizen and Quiet Revolution, sharing the lower-off of those routes.

*Cabaret* 18m 6b+. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 2003.

A bit of an eliminate just left of 21st Century Citizen to a lower-off slightly down and left of the lower-off for that route.

*Rubrique* 18m 5+. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 2003.

The rib to the right of Ha Ha Tarawangee to reach the lower-off of Cabaret.

**DUNKELD, Upper Cave Crag, Sinners Wall:**

*Sinners Paradise* 15m 7a+ \*. R.Anderson. 12th October 2003.

Straight up the steepest bit of the crag left of Six Fours-les Plage, noted in the guide as a project.

**NEWTYLE QUARRY, The Tube:**

*Hurlyburly* 18m F8b \*\*. D.MacLeod (also soloed after leading). 14th June 2003.

The left hand of the three bolted lines on the roof of The Tube. Starting at the highest point, it is possible reach the rock (further bolts extend downwards into the manky depths). The climbing is totally sustained on completely manufactured slots, finishing at a lower-off at the lip. Excellent and unusual climbing.

*Gone in 60 Seconds* 15m E7 6c \*. D.MacLeod (headpointed). 19th August 2003.

A serious line taking the left arete/lip of The Tube. Start at a cracked block and smear rightwards to a good jug. A hard technical sequence on the lip gains a borehole thread. Continue up the arete (reaching right to clip the belay of Hurlyburly) to finish up the easy wall above.

## **BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH**

### **BEN NEVIS, North-East Buttress:**

**Note:** On an ascent of Slingsby's Chimney on 10th March 2004, A.Hughes & M.Stygall climbed the Chockstone Variation at V,5. It may bank out under heavy snow conditions, so perhaps has been climbed before.

### **Douglas Boulder:**

*Turf War* 250m V,6. G.Hughes, J.Edwards. 21st December 2003.

Based on the summer line of Militant Chimney. Start at the middle of the lower tier.

1. 60m Climb up into a bay in the middle of the lower tier and head for a short V-groove in the second band. Climb the groove until a slant up right leads to overhangs.
2. 40m Move round to the right (avoiding the knobbly wall) and back left heading for the line of Militant Chimney. Go up this to a good thread on a ledge.
3. 30m Climb the Militant Chimney.
4. 50m Continue up and then teeter rightwards across slabs and go up a turfy right-facing corner to a huge block.
5. 60m Climb easier ground leftwards to a short overhanging chimney to reach a slab. Go up the corner to gain a ledge on the right. Move delicately left and climb the exposed arete (bold) until it is possible to step right and move up to gain a belay.
6. 10m Move up to reach easy ground leading to the summit of the Douglas Boulder.

*Left-Hand Chimney, Alternate Start* 7. G.Hughes, J.Edwards. 22nd December 2003.

A two pitch start taking a left-trending line heading for an overhanging black wall which was bypassed on its shorter right-hand side. Left-Hand Chimney itself was much harder than IV,4 in the lean conditions.

*Jacknife* IV,6. J.Baird, A.Turner. 26th November 2003.

By the summer line, but with a start on its left.

### **Number Three Gully Buttress:**

*Arthur* VIII,8. B.Poll, T.Shepherd. 2nd January 2004.

No description received.

*Chinook* IV,5. M.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 3rd April 2002.

Described in the guide as a direct finish to Number Three Gully Buttress (route 89a), but was an ascent of Chinook on ice (the initial 5m including the spike were banked out).

### **Creag Coire na Ciste:**

*Central Rib Direct* 200m VI,7. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 3rd April 2004.

A direct ascent of the rib avoiding the deviation into Central Gully Right-Hand and finishing directly up the final tower. Excellent climbing.

- 1 and 2. 100m Climb the crest of the rib starting up a right to left ramp, to reach the snow terrace where the rib steepens.
3. 35m Climb a right-trending corner cutting the right edge of the rib and pull onto a huge flat chockstone below the capping roof. Step left onto the overhanging arete on the left and climb this to easier ground. A sensational pitch.
4. 50m Continue up the rib to below the final tower.
5. 15m Climb the overhanging chockstoned crack just right of the summer Tower Finish to reach the cornice.

### **South Trident Buttress:**

*Poseidon Groove* 100m IV,5. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 3rd April 2004.

The steep groove-line splitting the central part of the south-facing upper tier of South Trident Buttress. Start by climbing easy snowy grooves from the mouth of Number Four Gully to below twin grooves in the centre of the wall.

1. 35m Move up and right into the right groove and climb this over two steep sections to reach a ledge 5m right of a wide vertical crack.
2. 50m Step left and climb the left of two corners to reach easier ground. Climb the snow gully above to reach a belay.
3. 15m Finish up easy ground to the top.

### **Carn Dearg Buttress:**

**Note from I.Taylor:** The Banana Groove Pitch 3 is 30m, not 45m.

### **STOB BAN (Mamores):**

*Overlooked Gully* 150m I. J.Lyall, S.Fraser, M.Twomey. 8th February 2004.

The gully between the East Ridge of North Buttress and Foxtrot (which seemed worth III,4 \*).

### **AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, North-East Face:**

*Outer Limits* 90m III. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 6th March 2004.

The buttress left of Sprint Gully. Start at the lowest point of the buttress just left of a slabby right-facing wall. Climb up a shallow depression by a series of grooves to reach more open ground (50m). Finish by easier ground close to the left edge of the buttress (40m).

*Streamline* 90m III \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 16th February 2004.

Sideline starts up a short gully/groove and then takes a line up the right side of the wide fault-line some distance left of the Prow. This route climbs the left side of the same fault up a corner which is overlooked by a steep rock wall defining the left side of the fault. Start above and left of Sideline and follow a wide ramp leading rightwards to below the steep wall (40m). Climb the corner directly under the steep wall to the steep upper snow slopes. Finish high on the left where the cornice often forms an unusual through route (50m).

*Three Kings* 70m IV,5 \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 6th March 2004.

This route follows a system of ramps and corners situated close to the crest of the steep rock wall defining the left side of the wide fault-line containing Streamline. Start up the ramp a short distance left of the start of Streamline to reach a prominent steep corner with a slabby left wall at 20m. Climb the corner (crux) to a ledge. An exposed move back right just above the corner leads into the upper system of ramps which are followed to a thread belay on the left (50m). The easier upper slopes lead to the cornice (20m).

### **The Prow:**

*Pro Libertate* 90m V,6 \*\*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 6th March 2004.

A fairly sustained mixed route on the buttress between The Guardian and Stirling Bridge following a prominent chimney/corner in the upper reaches. Quite close to The Guardian in the lower section. Start at the foot of The Guardian and climb the buttress just to the right (banks out later in the season) to reach a short wall. Step right under the wall into a slabby corner. Follow the corner then move up rightwards over a jammed block to below a steep corner. Steep moves across the wall on the left lead to a ledge. Move back up rightwards into another corner containing a large booming flake. Make exposed moves out left from the top of the flake to easier ground close to the chimney of The Guardian. Belay at the foot of the prominent chimney on the right (45m). The right wall of the chimney was climbed to a wide ledge below the steep upper corner. Climb the corner to a large block belay on the crest overlooking Stirling Bridge (20m). Finish up the easy upper slopes as per Stirling Bridge (25m).

### **Homo Buttress:**

*Ayrton Senna* 70m V,6. R.Durran, O.Samuel. February 2003.

1. 40m The groove in the left edge of the buttress.
2. 30m The easier crest above.

### **The Ribbed Walls:**

**Note:** J.Lyall & J.Preston climbed Nid Arete direct at the start on 24th March 2004, making the route V,5.

**An Cul Choire:**

*The Vice* 45m IV,4 \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 16th February 2004.

The icy chimney/groove on the right side of the prominent buttress containing Bishop's Rise. Short but often in condition.

*Knobbing Madge* 130m III. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 21st February 2004.

The slabby buttress containing The Killing Fields often forms large quantities of ice although it is affected by the sun from mid season. This route starts up a series of left trending icy ramps close to the left defining edge of the buttress. This is about 40m left of The Killing Fields. Climb ramps out left then climb directly by a groove line to more broken ground (50m). Broken ground and the upper snow slopes lead to the top (80m).

**Coire an Fhir Dhuibh:**

*Rib Dubh* 100m III. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 22nd December 2003.

The rib which forms the right end of the face. The middle section was climbed by grooves right of the crest.

**AONACH BEAG, West Face, Skyline Buttress (NN 188 708):**

The following routes are situated on Skyline Buttress (p 264 of the current guide) which is well seen from Steall. The buttress presents a cracked right (south) wall and steep bulging left (west) wall split by a left-facing corner. Descend on the right (south).

*Zigzag* 45m Severe \*. S.Kennedy, A.Nelson. 19th April 2003.

Approximates to the arete between the west and south faces following a system of exposed ramps. Start at the toe of the arete which is climbed for a short distance before stepping left on to a leftwards-trending ramp on the edge. Follow the ramp to a wide ledge running across the face on the left. Step back right on to the arete which is followed a short way then move left on to another left-trending ramp. Climb the ramp and a short wall to finish.

*Flake Out* 65m HVS 5a \*. S.Kennedy, A.Nelson. 19th April 2003.

Follows a line just left of the left-facing corner on the west face. Start by a small flake and climb steeply into a small depression. A natural line leads back left to below a bulging crack. Climb the crack and trend right to a grassy ledge below the upper corner (35m). Finish up slabby rock left of the corner (30m).

**AONACH BEAG, An Ghaidh Garbh, Braxton-Hicks Buttress (SMCJ 2003):**

*Catabasis* 100m IV,4. I.Small. 16th March 2003.

This takes the left-hand groove (the right one being Braxton-Hicks) to easier snow slopes and a cornice finish.

*Inducement* 110m III. I.Small. 16th March 2003.

Start down and right of Catabasis. Climb a slanting gully line to easier snow slopes.

**Notes:** I.Small also did Goblet of Fire (SMCJ 2003), a great ice line, easy to combine with a route on Braxton-Hicks Buttress. Also thought Anabasis worth a star. Aurora (SMCJ 2003) felt like III but in icy conditions.

**STOB COIRE AN LAOIGH (Grey Corries):**

*Socialist* 60m V,7. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 2nd March 2004.

Climbs the centre of the left wall of Centrepoint buttress. Start along a ledge about 6m right of Tat Gully (lean conditions).

1. 10m Climb leftwards through an overhang to gain a ledge above (crux).
2. 25m Traverse right until possible to climb the wall above and gain the highest ledge below a steep wall.
3. 25m Move right again and climb a chimney to a ledge. Step right and climb the wall above slightly leftwards to the top.

**Note:** The obvious corner left of Centrepoint was climbed by J.Edwards and R.Martin in March 2003. This led to the girdling ledge (35m, 6, moss reluctant to freeze).

*Jaws* 60m IV,5. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 24th February 2004.

Climbs the two tiered section of buttress left of The White Streak. Start as for Yee Ha but soon climb the wall on its right to move into an obvious widening crack. Climb its upper chimney and the corner above to easier ground. Go rightwards and up a step to a smooth V-groove about 20m right of Yee Ha chimney and 10m left of the big groove of The White Streak (35m). Climb the smooth groove past an overhang and up turf to finish (25m).

*Switchback* 60m IV,5. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 4th January 2004.

Start at the same point as Jaws/Yee Ha but move up right to a steep flaky corner, the least steep feature in this band. Climb the corner, then go more easily up right to belay as for Jaws below the smooth V-groove (35m). Climb diagonally rightwards up a line of weakness, then traverse left into the top of the groove and pull out of its top. Steep turf leads to the top (25m).

**Note:** J.Edwards & J.Thacker repeated Sloppy Suzie but climbed the fault direct at V,6.

**BEN ALDER, Garbh Coire Beag:**

*Pat-a-Cake* 300m II. A.Nisbet. 8th April 2004.

A shallow gully right of Culra Couloir. An apparently steep section at two-thirds height was breached by an easy hidden diagonal gully, There was a break in the cornice above the rib between this route and Culra Couloir.

**GEAL CHARN (Drumochter):**

The following routes lie on the Geal Charn crags at NN 593 802, approximately 1km from the main Creag Dhubh Crag. The crag is smaller than Creag Dhubh.

*Flight of the Navigator* 100m VI,6 \*\*\*. I.Rudkin, K.Watson, K.Neal. 29th February 2004.

An obvious piece of ice. Start up easy ground (40m) to belay left under a hanging ice pillar. Turn the pillar on the left to finish on steep ice pulling right and on to the top of the ice pillar (30m). Finish up easy ice above (30m).

*Map and Compass* 120m III,4 \*. K.Neal, I.Rudkin. 28th February, 2004.

About 40m to the right of Flight of the Navigator is a gully which cuts quite deeply into the hillside. Climb on easy ice for about 40m. The second pitch takes a narrow right-trending gully. The final pitch was taken on the right to finish; an easier exit could be taken on the left.

## GLEN COE

### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Rannoch Wall:**

*Glaistig* 40m Hard Severe 4b. S.Kennedy, D.Ritchie. 10th August 2003.

Takes a line close to the striking arete forming the right wall of Domino Chimney. Sparsely protected in the middle section. A couple of metres right of foot of the arete is a pinnacle leaning against the wall. Climb the corner forming the left side of the pinnacle. From the top of the pinnacle step on to the wall above and move diagonally left to the edge overlooking Domino Chimney. Follow the arete to the top.

### **Cuneiform Buttress Note:**

C.Cartwright & I.Small thought The Mighty Atom deserving of E3 5c.

### **STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN, North Buttress:**

*Tuberculosis* 50m VI,6. D.Hollinger, G.Willett. 7th February 2004.

Right of Crest Route is a steep groove leading to an impending corner. Begin at the top of a snow bay beneath a short chimney. Make a few moves up the chimney before a difficult swing left gains the groove proper. Follow the groove (sustained) and continue up the steep corner to a snow ramp which leads to the top of the buttress. Excellent climbing but a little rattly in places - well frozen conditions helpful.

### **Diamond Buttress:**

*Crazy Diamond* 110m III. J.Lyall. 27th January 2004.

Start at the beginning of the narrows in Central Gully. Move left along a ledge and up over a bulge to gain a turf fault which is followed to easier ground and the top.

*Choker* 100m III. J.Lyall. 27th January 2004.

Start 15m higher up Central Gully and climb the first narrow gully in its left wall.

### **Collie's Pinnacle:**

*North Chimney* IV,5. S.Taylor, J.Danson. 31st January, 2004.

A good short route.

*West Face (maybe?)* 50m IV,6. R.Cross, D.Hollinger. 30th January 2004.

This is the obvious cracked corner-line at the bottom of the right branch of Easy Gully. Climb the corner past some loose blocks and make a tricky move right into an off-width slot. Squirm up this exiting left and climb easier walls and ledges to the top of the pinnacle. Entertaining!

*Fever Pitch* 60m V,7. D.Hollinger, R.Cross. 30th January 2004.

Good climbing up the steep groove-line on the left side of the west face of the pinnacle. Begin at an overhung slot. A tricky move out of the slot leads steeply to gain a rest beneath the turf groove. Another hard move gains the groove which is followed to easier ground and a huge boulder. An easier pitch leads to the top of the pinnacle.

### **West Top of Bidean, Bishop's Buttress:**

*Under the Weather* 60m VII,7. G.Hughes, J.Edwards. 28th December 2003.

Climbs a right-facing corner to an overhang about 5m left of the arete on the left section of the upper tier of Bishop's Buttress. Start 50m along a widening terrace left of the Fang at an open V-slot below the obvious right-facing corner on the left-hand side of the arete.

1. 45m Climb the corner slot to reach a platform at 10m (possible belay). Go up to the right facing corner and climb it until possible to surmount the overhang and reach cracks. Continue in the same line via ledges and steep grooves (bold) to a large ledge.
2. 15m Climb the right-slanting crack behind to reach easy ground.

*The Crook* VI,7. D.King, A.Nelson. 28th December 2003.

By the summer line. The crux was well protected but some bold moves thereafter.

**Note:** J.Lyall climbed The Gallery on 27th January 2004 and thought it grade III.

**AONACH DUBH, Terrace Face:**

**Note from I.Taylor:** De Vreemde Stap is 30m rather than 40m and best climbed in one pitch, one star. Hesitation first pitch is 35m and should read "...move up and right to a ledge at 25m...". E1 and one star.

**STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, No.4 Buttress:**

*Tarbh Uisge* 65m E1/2 5b \*. A.Nelson, S.Kennedy. 7th September 2003.

A thin crack-line runs up the steep wall about 5m right of Isis. The crack-line leads to a corner which eventually leads into the final corner of Isis. From the foot of Isis, traverse horizontally right on to the initial wall just left of the crack-line. Follow the wall and crack-line (peg runner) before pulling out right to better holds. Continue up easier ground into a corner leading to a grassy bay at the junction with Isis (45m). Finish up the corner (20m).

**CREAG DOIRE-BHEITH:**

The tree filled amphitheatre up right of the Aristocrack area has a black corner in its top left side.

*Jist Hingin' Thegither* 35m HVS 4c. J.Lyall, H.Burrows-Smith. 12th April 2003.

Climb the corner and slab on the left, before moving boldly back into the corner, which is followed to finish up a narrow right-slanting wall.

*The Rowling Stones* 30m HVS 5a. H.Burrows-Smith, J.Lyall. 12th April 2003.

The wall right of the tree filled amphitheatre has an obvious right-slanting wide crack. Just left of this is a thin crack which is climbed, moving out right at its top to finishing up the edge above. Either abseil off from the tree belay or follow heather and easy rocks to the top.

**CREISE:**

**Note:** C.Moody notes that the obvious line left of Inglis Clark Ridge, finishing up a gully/chimney, has been climbed at grade III \*\*.

**GLEN**

**ETIVE,**

**Trilleachan**

**Slabs:**

**Note:** J. and L.Biggar think that p4 of The Pause is more than 4c, more like 5b.

C.Moody notes that the peg runner on pitch 4 of Hammer is long gone.

**GLEN GOUR, Indian Slab Crag:**

**Note:** C.Moody does not agree with G.Latter's times (SMCJ 2003) but is willing to split the difference.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### **THE COBBLER, Centre Peak Buttress:**

*The Cathedral* X,11 \*\*\*. D. MacLeod (unseconded). 28th Jan 2004.

A wild and strenuous line through the roof of the large cave/recess feature which defines the lower half of the Centre Peak Buttress (just left of Lobby Dossier). Although short, the climb features 6m of horizontal climbing through the roof section. Start directly below the cave. Move up to the right-hand corner and torque up this until it is possible to swing left and mantel on to a turf ledge (harder than it looks). Now climb directly to a tight niche in the back of the cave roof, from where the central thin roof-crack emerges. Launch across the roof-crack using overhead heel-toe jams to aid progress (Friend protection extremely strenuous to place and dubious if ice is present), the crux being about 4m out. The climbing eases just above the lip with good turf eventually leading to a thread belay. Descend by abseil or continue up easy (Grade II) ground if desired. FA ground up/ on sight at the 2nd attempt.

### **Buzzard Crag (NN 247 061):**

High up on the west side of the Cobbler is this crag. It is visible from the top of the Rest and be Thankful, directly above the forestry plantation. Park in the layby on the A83 for the path up the back of the Cobbler, then head up the path. When the forestry starts curving up to the right, break away from the path and follow the edge of the plantation. At the highest point of the trees strike up the hillside to the crag. 40mins. The crag is in three sections with the highest on the right. This starts as a steep slab, then rears up to a leaning headwall. To the left is a corner, then a large boulder at the base of the cliff. This section is bulging, with an overhanging bouldering wall on the left. Left again is a smaller section above a grassy terrace. There are two routes on this.

*Alzheimer Arete* 15m VS 4c. R.Wallace, A.Wallace July 1993.

Climb a curving arête at the left end of this section.

*Eye to Eye* 15m E2 5c. A.Wallace, R.Wallace July 1993.

Walk along the terrace to the right-hand end. Struggle up an off-width crack in a corner.

### **BEINN UDLAIDH, Coire Ghamhnain:**

*Tinkerbell, Left Hand Variation* 9m III. M.Karatay, G.North. 7th March 2004.

After the main difficulties climb the collection of hanging icicles on the left wall of the gully to escape.

### **CRUACH ARDRAIN, Creagan Dubha (NN 420 214):**

This crag lies on the south-east flank of Cruach Ardrain, and is approached from Inverlochlarig.

*Hard Rain* 240m III/IV. W.Jeffrey, D.Barry. 11th February 2001.

The main stream draining over the crag gives a good climb when frozen.

### **BEN CRUACHAN, Stob Garbh, Coire Chreachainn (NN 096 302):**

This crag lies in the North-East corrie of Stob Garbh. The corrie consists of two buttresses, Summit Buttress and East Buttress which are separated by two gullies which in turn are separated by an impressive fin of rock.

#### **East Buttress:**

This is the long tapering north-facing buttress on the left side of the corrie. The following two climbs are located on the steep upper gully wall of the buttress, opposite the prominent fin of rock. Although short, the climbs provide interesting technical climbing in a fine setting.

*Great White Groove* 60m III,4. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 22nd February 2004.

Start at a prominent V-groove at the bottom left side of the upper buttress and level with the start of the fin. Climb the groove and continue in the same line except for a minor deviation right, then back left along turf ledges to avoid a cracked roof. Belay above the roof (30m). Continue up and right and follow a right-

trending chimney line formed by a large block. Continue straight up over large blocks to easy ground and the top (30m).

*Riddles* 55m IV,7 \*. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 22nd February 2004.

Start at a steep corner-line 10m up and right of Great White Groove. Climb the perplexing but well protected corner (crux) and continue in the same line avoiding a steep blank slab by a flake-crack on the right. Climb up and left to a ledge (30m). Finish as for Great White Groove (25m).

*Shark Gully* 100m I. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 22nd February 2004.

The narrow gully on the left side of the fin.

### **Coire Chat:**

The buttress is situated at the head of Coire Chat on the north side of the ridge running west from Cruachan's summit.

*East Gully* 40m I.

A descent gully that can cornice up quite quickly; abseil possible to the base of Chatter Rib.

*Chatter Rib* 50m III. S.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 23rd November 2003.

The obvious rib defining the left-hand side of the buttress. Start at the left-hand toe of the buttress.

1. 25m Climb the left edge of the buttress for 15m, then trend slightly right to an obvious recess.
2. 25m Step right and surmount large blocks. Continue up grooves to the top.

*Quickfire* 45m III. I.Small, C.Cartwright. 25th January 2004.

The obvious left to right ramp-line starting in the recess immediately right of Chatter Rib. Climb the ramp with one awkward step, pull out into the gully and continue to the top.

*Toxic Brew* 60m IV,4. C.Cartwright, S.Richardson. 23rd November 2003.

Follow a line of shallow icy chimneys and grooves starting 20m right of Quickfire.

1. 30m Climb the initial groove to a steep wall barring access to the continuation chimney. Surmount the wall and bridge the chimney to a belay on the left.
2. 30m Follow the right-trending groove to the top.

*Tainted Elixir* 65m V,6 \*\*. C.Cartwright, S.Richardson. 14th December 2003.

Right of Toxic Brew there is a right-facing corner.

1. 25m Climb up between the corner and a large perched block. Surmount the bulging corner and continue up to belay on the left.
2. 25m Climb the cracked wall above and continue with interest to an overhanging barrier wall split by a tapered slot. Pull up and into the slot, then exit and go left to overlook Toxic Brew. An excellent pitch.
3. 20m Step into Toxic Brew groove and follow it to the top.

*Double Chaser* 65m V,6 \*. I.Small, C.Cartwright. 25th January 2004.

Climbs the intermittent double crack system starting 3m right of Tainted Elixir.

1. 30m Climb the crack system by a series of ever-steepening steps to a bulging crux. Contemplate the left and right options, choose the right and step awkwardly up on to a small ledge. Reach high for a right tool placement, then make a committing pull up and left to easier ground.
2. 35m Immediately above is wide overhanging chimney. Bridge spectacularly up this to easier ground. Step left to a short right-facing corner and crack and follow this to the top.

*In the Knoe* 85m VI,6 \*\*. I.Small, C.Cartwright. 12th February 2003.

This climbs the left-facing corner come fault-line dividing this section of the buttress in two. The route requires some build-up of ice.

1. 30m The fault-line starts up an overhanging left-facing corner. Climb the steep right wall of the corner via a turfy crack and continue straight up to a good ledge below and to the right of the continuation chimney.

2. 40m Step left 2m, surmount a short wall and slab to enter the chimney. Climb the chimney to an impasse, make hard moves to exit out right and continue up the steep groove come left-facing corner to below a deep, wide crack/corner (visible from the ground). Spectacular bridging leads to a good belay.
3. 15m Easy ground leads to the top.

*Goldfinger* 85m VII,7 \*\*\*. C.Cartwright, S.Richardson. 29th December 2003.

A surprisingly steep route that climbs the third section of the buttress, starting down and right of In The Knoe. The primary feature is an apparent off-width crack splitting the clean wall high on the buttress. Start at a slightly raised platform 3m right of the left edge.

1. 30m Above is a short wall with twin cracks. Climb this into a small niche, then step higher before moving rightwards to a short left-facing corner. Surmount this, then step right on to a sloping ledge and into a fault-line. Climb the bulging wall above via the fault and work up and slightly left to a ledge with a recess on the left. On the right is a right-trending, off-width groove. Climb this and so to the ledge shared with In The Knoe.
2. 35m From the left end of the ledge, climb the left-facing corner directly above and pull right on to a ledge (possible belay). Continue up the cracked corner come groove until it runs into the headwall. Make a hard move up to a horizontal break, then commit rightwards and step up into the apparent off-width, a short shallow right-facing corner. Climb the corner, then a bulge to easier ground. Continue to a belay on the left overlooking In The Knoe.
3. 20m Continue above trending right, then back left to a final steep bulge. Pull through this bulge to the top.

*Dr Noe* 85m VI,6 \*\*\*. S.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 4th January 2004.

Right of Goldfinger there is a stepped ramp-line running left to right up to a point overlooking Noe Gully. This is best seen by standing well over to the right and down from Noe Gully. Belay as for Goldfinger.

1. 35m Move off right from the belay over to the base of an obvious stepped fault-line taken higher up by Goldfinger. Climb up and right into the start of the ramp-line. Step right, then up and left to then follow the ramp-line via a series of steps to an obvious ledge.
2. 35m Continue along the ramp-line by a series of ever steepening steps to the crux step, an awkward right-facing corner with an off-width crack. Pull out right from the top of this and continue until a final pull on to a ledge overlooking Noe Gully.
3. 15m Step down and right on to the left-hand wall of Noe Gully. Make a couple of steep moves directly up the wall to easier ground before a final awkward move to the top.

*Noe Gully* 70m I/II. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 9th February 2002.

An impressive, free-standing square-cut fin of rock, the Noe Fin, marks the right-hand end of this section of buttress. The fin is defined by a distinct gully on the left-hand side, Noe Gully and a deep chimney, Thunderbolt Chimney, on the right. Climb the gully via a narrowing to the base of the fin then continue up the left hand easy gully.

*Thunderbolt Chimney* 70m IV,5 \*. R.Webb, C.Cartwright. 11th January 2004.

The right-hand side of the Noe Fin is defined by a deep chimney.

1. 35m Climb to the base of the fin as for Noe Gully and belay on the right at the base of the chimney.
2. 20m Climb the chimney via three large chockstones, the second being the most awkward.
3. 15m Continue up easy ground to the top.

*Noe Buttress* 100m IV,4. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 9th February 2002.

This route climbs the left wall of the next buttress, down from the Noe fin. Start some 30m up from the lowest toe of the buttress in Noe Gully.

1. 50m Move on to the left-hand edge of the buttress, climbing mixed ground above to gain a shallow right slanting chimney. At its top turn the rock nose on its right side, climbing a groove, then a right-slanting fault to easier ground.
2. 50m Follow the buttress crest more easily to finish.

*Noe Buttress Direct* 120m VI,6. I.Small, A.Hume. 27th January 2004.

A direct version of Noe Buttress up the front face. Start at the lowest point of the buttress.

1. 40m Climb slabs to a right-facing corner, go up this to top and pull out left on to a ledge. Take a small icy corner and strenuously pass a small flake to an overlap and ledge above. Move left up a flake, then back right across a steep wall to gain a slabby recess. Exit this to an easier groove and up rightwards to a huge flake.
2. 50m From the flake climb a left-slanting ramp to below a monstrous perched block. Swing right to gain the wide crack behind it and climb to the top and the crest of the buttress. At this point the original route joins from the left. Continue up the buttress crest by the original route.
3. 30m Finish easily to the top.

*Yes Gully (left-hand)* 50m II. S.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 14th December 2003.

The right-hand side of the buttress is bounded by a double gully system divided by a rock fin, similar to, though less impressive than the Noe fin. Climb the left-hand of the two gullies.

**MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Cam Chreag, Forgotten Buttress:**

*Something Grooves Direct* 100m III,4 \*. G.E.Little. 15th February, 2003.

Climb the groove without deviation to make exposed moves out right where it ends at an overhang. Finish straight up on easier ground.

**Fan Buttress:**

*Bunting Rib* 80m II. G.E.Little. 15th February, 2003.

Start at the foot of the rib just to the right of the open icy scoop of Knuckleduster Corner. Climb the rib and progressively easier ground above.

**Lozenge Buttress:**

*Lozenge Buttress Right-Hand* 120m III,5 \*. G.E.Little. 15th February, 2003.

This is a short and meaty start to the normal route. Start just right of the overhung toe of the buttress. Climb very steep ice or a rippled wall further right to gain a recess, then go straight up to join the normal route.

**BEINN GHLAS (by Ben Lawers):**

The shallow corrie to the north of the summit of Beinn Ghlas contains a short steep escarpment below the summit ridge. The route was climbed in lean conditions.

*Pint Size* 70m II. S.Muir. 6th March 2004.

Climb a short gully in the centre of the escarpment and then trend right up a shallow scoop on turfy ledges to the ridge. The summit of Beinn Ghlas is just to the west.

## **ARRAN**

### **CIR MHOR:**

The pitch grades for Incus (SMCJ 2002) should be 5a 6b 5c.

### **BEINN A' CHLIABHAIN:**

*Haakon's Highway* 75m IV,6 \*\*. C.Schaschke, G.E.Little (alt). 4th January 2003.

The north-facing buttress holding Haakon's Highway lies at NR 967 411 and is the slim buttress lying to the east of a more sprawling mass of slabby rock and separated from it by a shallow boulder-choked gully. This fine winter line follows the somewhat neglected summer route. The chimney on the last pitch provides a well protected but very troublesome crux.

## **LOWLAND OUTCROPS**

With a new guide imminent, no descriptions are published.

### **Dumbarton Rock:**

*Calm Before the Storm* 40m E6 6c \*. D.MacLeod, S.Richardson (headpointed). 27th August, 2003.

A bold and serious lead on the wall right of Cyclops. Follow Cyclops to the bolt belay. Place a Friend#1 two metres up the corner and step down. Committing moves diagonally right lead to a thin technical section to gain a huge diagonal 'thank god' jug. Much easier, but virtually unprotected climbing leads directly to the top.

### **Milldown (738m NX 512 839):**

There is some winter climbing in the NE corrie of this hill at the southern end of the Rhinns of Kells range. The corrie is best reached from the car park at Forest Lodge (NX 553 863); 4km of forest road lead to the north side of Loch Dungeon, from where a path leads to a memorial and over the Hawse Burn. The corrie lies about 1km to the south, total walk about 2 hours from the car park, less if using a mountain bike to the memorial. The climbs could also be approached from the bothy at Backhill of Bush in about 1½ hours.

An old drystone dyke runs up towards a gully on the right hand side of the corrie. Biggar Gully II/III climbs the gully above the dyke in a series of short pitches, including the inevitable through route behind a large chockstone near the top. The gully 250m to the right (north) holds more ice and gives a more continuous and interesting climb, Better Gully III. Both climbs are approximately 150m long. Routes climbed by J.Biggar & L.Biggar on 11th March 2004.

### **Moffat Valley Note:**

Al Matthewson notes that he climbed Broken Cleugh (SMCJ 2003, p429) with Jamie Andrew on 5th January 2002. It was suggested by a party at the GMT car park who said they had just done it. A very pleasant ice route, easily escapable, and likely to be in climbable condition far more often than the GMT itself due to lower water volume. A good route for a recuperating quadruple amputee in fact!

### **Cambusbarron West Quarry:**

The 1st six routes were climbed in June 1993.

Left of Cha is a hanging slab crossed by two diagonal cracks, left again is a jamming crack containing a chock-stone. This was led by myself (un-seconded) to a ledge, but unfinished due to loose rock at the top. 5a 8m.

*Cross in Oz* 10m E1 5b Raymond Wallace, Allan Wallace

The left-hand crack on the slab. Pull through a bulge, then follow crack to a sloping ledge on Rt. Finish straight up.

*Cross-town Traffic* 10m E1 5b R. Wallace, A. Wallace

The R-hand crack. Move up an open groove on R of slab to gain crack. Make hard moves onto slab, then follow crack to finish up L-hand arete.

The next two routes are on the Force 8 buttress.

*Yoshimi* 10m E1 5b R. Wallace, A. Wallace

Climb the L-hand arete and crack.

*Pipistrelle* 10m E1 5b A. Wallace, R. Wallace

Start below Force8. Follow a line of holds dia. R to a flat hold on arete. Follow arete and crack to top.

Left of Easy Contract is a ramp with three trees.

*Ramplin'* 11m Severe A. Wallace, R. Wallace

Start at bottom of ramp. Make a few moves on R. hand wall to pass first tree. Follow ramp to top.

To the R of the buttress the guidebook describes "a really tottering pillar".

*Toddle* 10m Severe A. Wallace, Chris Mc Daid 25/09/02

Climb wide cracks on pillars R. hand side, finish up a short corner. Not as tottering or loose as the guidebook suggests.

The back of the quarry contains several large piles of boulders. Immediately R of the 1st pile is a tapering slab, visible as you enter the quarry.

*The Cutter* 12m E1 5b A. Wallace Un-seconded 1st June 02

From the L move up to a break on the slab. Move up R to a wide crack, follow it to a ledge. Climb the off-width crack and arete above onto a narrow ledge, then move L into a corner. Climb this onto a slab, move up this and finish up a short groove. This is a fairly decent line, but has a lot of loose rock and needs a decent clean.

### **Auchinstarry Quarry**

Between Mr. Men and First Footer are a crack and a groove.

*Mister, Ye' can walk up roon the back* 10m Severe. Allan Wallace, Carol Newlands 27/07/03

Start at bottom of Mr. Men, climb flake crack immediately right. At top follow right trending ramp/groove to finish at big tree.

Just right again is a crack in an open groove.

*Mister, You're on fire Mister* VS 5a 10m Allan Wallace, Carol Newlands 27/07/03

Climb the crack, then continue past two trees to top.

Between Tar and Knockback is a steep wall with a big jug in the middle. The next route is an eliminate using this.

*Three cheers for yr Uncle Bob* 15m VS 5a. Allan Wallace (solo) July 1992

Start up Slinky Lizard to a spike then climb the wall on the left to the jug. Climb up until forced onto Tar, finish up this.

Between Slinky Lizard and Cats Whiskers is a big tree. Up behind this are two converging groove/cracks. In July 1992 Allan Wallace cleaned and solo climbed both of these at about VS. They are both a bit overgrown now, but if anyone is interested; CP1 and CP2 6m.

The present guidebook describes an old route called Fourth Wave as being destroyed by the council, now:

*Orange Flash* 12m E1 5b. Allan Wallace, Chris McDaid 23/07/03

Start at bottom of corner. Climb cracks in left wall, up right into corner. A few hard moves up back of corner to finish.

*Mac's Wall Direct Start* 25m HVS 5a. Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 29/03/03

Directly below the prow is a slightly grassy groove. Climb this, then the cracks in the prow. "Misses out the original scrappy start and gives a better climb at the same grade."

*Cruiser's Creek* 10m E1 5b Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 11/10/03

Start in the middle of the smooth right wall of Cracked Arête. Mantel onto a small ledge at head height, then go up to finger edges in a thin seam. Crank up left to a ledge on the arête then back right to a mantel over the top.

The next route is on the buttress containing Caftan.

*Danger! U.S.R.* 14m HVS 5a\* Raymond Wallace, Allan Wallace 11/10/03

Climb onto the warning sign then up the grey wall to a ledge. Finish up the excellent crack.

The next climb is on the slabby wall of Stir Crazy.

*Bouldermouse* 10m HVS 5a Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 12/10/03

Scramble up the short corner on the left to a niche, then layback the left arête.

*The Return of the King\*\*\** 14m E3 5c Raymond Wallace, Allan Wallace 12/10/03

Sustained and technical bridging up the prominent groove three meters right of Lion, leads to a small overhang. Step onto a small ledge on the left then climb the shallower groove using holds on the right wall.

*Golddigger* 20m E1 5a Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 11/10/03

To the right of After the Grave Dig is a slim black groove. Climb the groove with few holds but excellent friction. At the top of the groove join the previous route to finish.

Right of Foxy Woxy the present guide mentions “a smooth wall with strange circular striations”. Four metres’ right is an area of rock like a smaller tapering version of the Trundle slab, above it is a bulging wall and a series of grooves.

*Kein Trink Wasser* HVS 5a 25m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 31/03/04

Climb the corner at the right edge of the slab to a ledge at the apex. Go directly up the central

The following is “an obvious line immediately right of Slinky Lizard, but apart from 2m below the top where you could step onto that route it offers independent climbing”:

*Cubigoruasry* 15m HVS 5a Allan Wallace, Wayne Upson 08/02/04

Climb a short slab then pull up right, into a groove/pod. A hard move at the top gains a niche then a finish up a ramp.

### **Croy Quarry**

In June 1992 Allan Wallace climbed a route at the far left end of the quarry on a wall above a scree slope. At the right hand side of this wall is a jamming crack in a groove.

*Crojan Horse* 10m Severe. Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace

### **Craigmore**

In the present guide is an area called "Extreme Right-Hand Slab". The guide says "... a small buttress is passed (wot no routes?) ...":

*Extrarete* 5a September 1995

Climb shallow groove in the arete, finish up r-hand side of arete.

*Sunshine Arete* 5a September 1995

The right-hand wall goes at 5a.

### **Cambusbarron Quarry (Thornton's Quarry)**

As you enter the quarry there is a long mossy wall on the right. About two-thirds of the way along is a big semi-detached pinnacle with a platform at its base. On its right is a jamming crack running up to a roof.

*Dr. Dre's Orgazmatron* E3 5c 20m Raymond Wallace, Allan Wallace 17/08/03

Start on the platform and pull round into the crack. Strenuous jamming leads to a roof. Move onto a ledge on the left then go up a short finger crack onto the top of the pinnacle. Finish up a stepped groove on the right. The crack can be a little damp, best climbed in a dry spell.

*Phantom Power* E2 5c 20m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 28/09/03

Start on the platform at the base of the pinnacle. Layback the flared crack on the left, to an awkward mantel onto a small ledge. Move up to easier climbing in the deep groove, leading to the top of the pinnacle. Finish up the corner on the left.

At the back of the quarry is a blank, overhanging blank striped wall. To the right of this is a rectangular pod just above head height.

*Bobbin Robin* 23m E2 5c Raymond Wallace, Allan Wallace 26/10/03

Mantleshelf into the rectangular pod then move up diagonally right over blocks to the base of a shallow chimney. Make awkward moves up the chimney onto a sloping ramp then climb the left hand corner above to a ledge. Climb the corner with a large offwidth crack in it to the top.

These three routes are on the tapering wall to the left as you enter the quarry.

*Fast and Cheap* 5c 4m Allan Wallace 24/11/03

Start in the middle of the first bit of rock. Lunge for a three-finger hold, pull up, rock over and go for the top.

*Ninja Jihad* 5a 5m Allan Wallace 24/11/03

Starting with a wee niche foothold, climb the right side of a clean arête using small edges. Finish up a jamming crack.

*Rocks Are Slow Life Severe* 8m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 24/11/03

Start up the right arête of a reddish curving corner then follow the right trending cracks to a dirty top-out.

*Tiger Feet* HS 20m Allan Wallace, Wayne Upson 10/03/04

Start 5m left of Power of Endurance. Climb a rising traverse up the three huge flakes on the left.

### **Cambusbarron West (Forth Quarry)**

Immediately left of Easy Contract is a left-facing corner.

*Here Come The Mini-monks* Severe 4c 14m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 17/08/03

Climb the corner then the cracks directly above, to a big ledge down left of a birch sapling. Follow a left-trending line of stepped holds and finish past a big block.

The next three routes are on the back wall containing Scaresville. They are a little loose at the top but still give good climbing. Five metres left of Scaresville is a roof at the top of the crag; the next route starts below this.

*The Consolation Prize* E2 5c 16m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 02/08/03

Climb a line of sloping ledges, then a rectangular leaning block. Above on the left is an overhang split by a finger-crack. Make hard moves over this (crux) then go up to the roof and turn it on the right.

Nine metres left of the last route is a birch sapling halfway up the face, start directly below it.

*Smack My Birch Up* HVS 5a 16m Raymond Wallace, Allan Wallace 16/08/03

Climb up to the sapling and pass it on the left. Go straight up and finish up a narrow chimney. Four metres left again is a short black and green wall.

*Furrowed Prow* HVS 5b 15m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 16/08/03

Climb the black and green wall directly, to a section of broken ground. Go over this carefully until you can move onto the good rock to the left. Climb up grooves then directly up the prow using a crack and the arête, in a very exposed position.

Allan Wallace advises of some revisions to route lengths:

*Ramplin'* 15m;

*Toddle* 14m.

The left side of the "Daniel Can Walk" slab is characterised by a grooved arete, sharply sheared at its base. (6a/b direct, unled). The following description gives a more consistent route:

*Where is my Mind?* E1 5a \* 9m Ian McCabe, Nick Bowen, Mhairi Davidson: 27th August 2003

Sneak up the boulders to the left of the arete until it is possible to make a long step rightwards onto a foothold on the arete. Swing unprotectedly round onto the right face of the arete, and make a tricky move upwards to gain a step on the arete and protection. Above, steady easier climbing leads to a rounded finish.

About 12 meters left of *Where is my Mind?* is a clean-cut arete.

*Withdrawal Wall* VS 5a 5m Ian McCabe: 30th June 2003

Climb the right wall on positive but spaced holds to gain an easier finish.

*Almost Easy Contract* E1 5b 15m Allan Wallace, Raymond Wallace 30/08/03

Start up *Easy Contract*, when the crack splits take the wider left-hand option. Follow it to a ledge then go straight up the wall above, following a short groove.