

Kevin Howett:

The information in the introduction about stalking is wrong - the NTS DO stalk on their lands (for culling rather than money). In fact they cull out more than any other landowner, only they don't need to instigate any form of 'restriction' to do it. This is actually quite important ideology in the arguments about access and the need for restrictions.

Andy Nisbet:

Cambusbarron, Fourth Quarry:

Page 31:

Gobi Roof is hard for 5c unless you're tall or flexible.

The pillar of Toddle has fallen down, so that route no longer exists. It is not in Scottish Rock Climbs, but The Doobie Brothers may have lost the right wall of its crack and be harder (David Shortt points this out).

Kevin Howett:

ARRAN, Beinn Tarsuinn:

P34 Blundercral (E2) description of ascents is confusing - as written its with the Blunderbuss finish (HVS climbing), the Direct finish written (E5) does not make it obvious that we also did pitch 4 (E3/4 5c) described as part of the direct and that our finish then went off right. We actually did all but 1m of the traverse (the crux E5 bit) on sight but did not have any big cams - Friend4 needed - and so it was a solo pitch and we backed off. Rob managed to beat us to a return to finish it. It may have been better to describe it as we originally did it at E3 (which is actually pretty direct up the crag) rather than with a long and tortuous traverse out left on Blunderbuss? I have done both and our original is better climbing, more in keeping with the lower pitches.

(Answer)

Blundercral (Andy Nisbet)- I deliberately chose to write it that way. So it wasn't a mistake. But it may not be the best way to do it, few if any repeats. I chose to keep the original route in because it made a consistent E2, then describe a direct E5. I was aware that there was an intermediately direct but at hard E3 there was one pitch much harder than the rest. I also know that the first pitch of "the direct" was done by you and Graham, not Robin as implied, but I saved a line by not crediting you with one pitch - sorry. Only time will tell if I have made the right choice. It will be interesting if repeated to see if there are any comments.

BEINN TARSUINN, Meadow Face page 36:

An earlier free ascent of Brachistochrone was made by M.Lynch, E.Cleasby on 26th May 1974.

Andy Nisbet

The Buachaille, Central Buttress, South Face:

Page 81

The abseil descent is down Pegleg and was well equipped in August 2006. It is obvious and easily reached from the top of Pontoon. The rock on both routes is immaculate and they make a fine day.

The descriptions for Pegleg and Pontoon are poor (better in the Glen Coe guide, but still with errors) although following your nose works quite well. The "jagged right-facing groove" of Pegleg is a red herring. It is directly above the belay after pitch 1 and is not climbed. Instead you climb up right, then traverse back left above it. Here is a better description:

Pegleg 90m HVS **

J.R.Marshall, G.J.Ritchie Sep 1957

A bold and serious climb, the name of which will be apparent at the crux where there may be much standing around on one “shakey” leg. Start 7m left of Waterslide Gully at a red clean-cut rake.

1. 20m 4a Climb a left-trending weakness to a second big ledge.
2. 35m 5a Move up and right, then traverse hard left (crux) above the belay to a ledge. Climb the groove above then traverse right to a crack. Follow this to the top of a large flake (in-situ slings).
3. 35m 4a Easier rock leads to a steep crack and so to the top.

Pontoon 80m E1 ***

J.R.Marshall, R.Marshall, J.Moriarty Apr 1959

An excellent climb with a bold fingery first pitch and a strenuous but well protected second. In its lower half it follows a rounded rib and thin crack in an otherwise featureless wall, leading to a prominent black crack above. Start 12m up the rake leftwards from the start of Pegleg.

1. 40m 5a Climb the grey wall above to the left side of the grey rib (or reach this point via Pegleg, moving left from the ledge on pitch 2). Move up left to reach a thin crack with a worrying Zero Friend and little else. Climb the crack and step left to below the main crack.
2. 40m 5b Move left and back right to avoid the initial grassy section, then climb the steep crack for 25m. This leads into a thin crack running up a smooth slab (crux), until easier ground gains the terrace.

Buachaille Etive Mor, Slime Wall page 95

The FAists of Shibboleth should be R.Smith, A.Fraser.

Andy Campbell:

Aonach Dubh:

Technical grades have been missed by accident for: Sir Chancelot, Solitude, Spider.

Should be Sir Chancelot at E2 5c, Solitude at E3 5b (close to 5c) and Spider at HVS 5a (top end HVS).

Mike o' Hara:

Etive Slabs, Spartan Slab: The tree which was helpful to the author in 1974 wasn't there on the FA in 1954.

AN: It was admittedly thin and bendy in 1974, so this is quite reasonable.

Andy Nisbet:

Spartan Slab (page 124)

It has been reported that a flake of rock (0.5m triangular shape) has come off pitch 3 from on top of the overlap. This is the pitch the guidebook says is easier for the tall as they can reach a hold - not any more. Still an "entertaining" move, as the guidebook describes it, but now requires a jam. Note from AN: short people used to layback off the arete at 5a, which presumably is undamaged.

Garbh Bheinn:

Colin Moody notes that The Pincer starts independently up the rib right of Chela, and was written correctly in older guides. Also the photodiagram in Scottish Rock Climbs shows The Clasp slightly wrongly, the line being too high at the end of the roof.

Scimitar – top pitch is 4c.

Allen Fyffe:

Page 132

Butterknife has got to be 4* - its really is an amazing route - forgotten how good it really is.

Page 134

Guinevere is only 1*, I thought although good you can get off route easily.

Page 163 (Wave Buttress, Glen Nevis)

Ground Zero is correct at E3 5c but not high in the grade.

Page 165 (Meadow Walls, Glen Nevis)

Going for Gold might be E5.

Ben Nevis, King Kong (p181)

This variation to pitch 3 by John Shepherd and Steve Scott on 9th June 2009 may have been done before. It straightens the route out and provides a better stance at the bottom of pitch 4.

3. 25m 5c From the block pull left onto the slab and move over the bulge, good protection can be arranged in three slots, then span across right moving round a rib to get established below a good crack directly above the block belay (rusty in situ wire here with krab). Climb boldly up the wall above to the good foothold at the right end of the descending traverse, step up and right across the slab, then move right round the projecting nose. Climb up and left to the bulge at the start of pitch 4, climb this and move up and right to a stance below the crack in the red wall of pitch 4.

The upper pitches don't appear to be getting much traffic, memorably the crack through the triangular roof has an awkward start and is full of very loose choss, giving a worrying 5b pitch; guidebook pitch 7.

John Lyall & Graeme Ertle thought the block which is described as the belay for pitch 3 was loose, and they belayed further on.

Andy Nisbet

Map p184 – Garbh Choire is in the wrong place on Beinn a' Bhuird, actually where Coire na Ciche is.

Shelter Stone Crag:

Page 191

Cupid's Bow

A snapped peg has now been replaced. Julian Lines says it is easier to climb the slab immediately right of the corner, rather than the corner itself.

p192 Shelter Stone Crag:

On the photodiagram, on pitch 4 of Haystack and Steeple, Haystack is shown leaving Steeple too high up. It leaves before the start of the ramp (about 3mm further left).

Hell's Lum Crag:

John Trudgill notes that the line for Hell's Lump on the photodiagram is not accurate. The photo is not taken from a good position for this route and the photodiagram in the Cairngorms guide is accurate.

Andy Nisbet:

Hellfire Corner (page 198)

The first pitch is 50m 4a, not 60m 4b. The photodiagram (p199) shows the first pitch of Damien; the first pitch of Hellfire Corner is the next crack 3m to the left (the description is correct).

Stac an Fharaidh:

Page 203

The Direct Variation on Pippet Slab is more like HVS 4c; in fact it is largely the same pitch as pitch 3 of Rockover, which is given 5a in Cairngorms.

Lochnagar:

Scott Muir did not find a Friend 4 was necessary to protect pitch 6 of Eagle Ridge, as there was other gear.

Creag an Dubh Loch, Central Slabs:

(from Neil Morrison) The description for The Blue Max pitch 4 is too brief and a better version is:

4. 35m 5b This is the line of Cyclops, so leave it by a left traverse to below a huge diamond shaped block in the next overlap. Climb the block by its right side and traverse its top into the corner to climb the main bulge. Follow the corner above to the upper bulge, step right and go over the bulge by a crack, which twists back into the groove. Continue up the groove to belay on the rib; a superb well protected pitch.

The diagram is correct for pitch 4 but perhaps goes too far left on pitch 5.

Central Gully Wall:

The diagram on p228 is wrong for pitch 4 of Voyage of the Beagle, which traverses by a lower slab to join The Ascent of Man.

Page 226

The Naked Ape, pitch 2

Although bridging the groove initially has been done and is the described method, it is more common to climb the left-hand rib from the base.

The photo of two unknown climbers on Cougar on page 232. The climbers are Steve Elliott and Joe Brady on 3rd August 1995.

Andy Nisbet:**Glen Clova:**

Wander should be HVS 5b, but Wandered is OK at HVS 5a.

Dave McGimpsey:**Creag Ghlas:**

P274 On the Creag Ghlas photodiagram, pitch 4 of Salamander, which is immediately after the re-join, should be further left.

P277 Garibaldi is rather close to Spoils of War, not Victory Crack.

Ian Taylor:

Page 277

Garibaldi has grown grass and too close to Spoils of War. No stars. (someone should spring clean it if doing it).

Noel Williams

The first ascent of The Cioch (p289) was by J.N.Collie and **J.Mackenzie** 1906.

Rab Anderson:

Page 290 **Integrity** First line of description should read "A magnificent classic breaking through - ----"

Andy Campbell:

The Snake (Sron na Ciche, p295) should be HVS 4c.

Guy Robertson

Blaven, Stairway to Heaven (page 301)

On the crux pitch, the route traverses down and right from the top of the flake-crack onto the obvious handrail, then follows this horizontally right for about 8m before climbing straight up to the prominent short crack.

Neist, p310

A Fist Full of Dollarite. FA by W.Jeffrey, N.Williams, 16th June 1996.

Neist, Financial Sector (page 310)

Hurricane Hideaway at Neist is E2 5b and not easy at that. Wish you were Here is E3 5c.

Andy Nisbet:

P324 Pitch 3 of Sword of Gideon is wrong on the photodiagram (the traverse of pitch 2 is too long, so pitch 3 is shown too far left).

Andy Nisbet:

Aspects of Far East Wall and Eastern Ramparts in Coire Mhic Fhearchair have been swopped. Far East Wall should be North-West facing and Eastern Ramparts should be North-East facing.

Tom Prentice:

The line of Groovin' High is inaccurate on the diagram on p329. The top half is correct but not the bottom (too far right).

Diabaig:

Kevin Howett:

Condomes, The Con-Con p351 – First Ascent by D.Cuthbertson, K.Howett on 29th May 1987.

Colin Moody:

P351 Diabaig - Pitch 2 of Boab's Corner should be 30m.

Mike o' Hara:

P375 Carnmore Crag - Dragon – The comment about seconds might have to prusik only applies if a back-rope is set up to a runner on the tiny perch (as was done on the FA). Otherwise the second swings and splats against the wall of the corner below.

REIFF, Stone Pig Cliff:

Naloxone (p407) is good, possible ** but 4c – harder than Icarus.

Sheigra:

P430

Bloodlust Direct – K.Howett thinks E3 5b. AN says KH is outnumbered; E2 was favoured. Maybe he went a different way?

Creag Shomhairle (Page 433):

Black Gold – pitch 2 is the serious one, actually very serious. Pitch 1 is fairly well protected. In Northern Highlands North, it suggests abseiling off after pitch 2, since pitch 3 is hard and very vegetated around the holly. Andy Nisbet and Jonathan Preston agree with this. It is recommended either to abseil off from the tree belay (one abseil), or the bold might try traversing right from the belay to reach the arete earlier (or to join The Ramp), but this hasn't been done before.

Land of the Dancing Dead – a magnificent line. Would be four stars if it were cleaner. Andy Nisbet thought E2 5b, though Jonathan Preston (seconding) thought E1 5b.

(p443) Sarclet, East face of Big Buttress – Andy Nisbet

For the approach, parking just before Mains of Ulbster and heading for a small bridge at ND 340 422 near a disused path avoids the worst of the bogs.

The stakes for the abseil descent are well hidden. A large block come flake near the cliff edge is a good alternative (35m abseil). A sloping platform above high tide level is an alternative belay if the tide is in. The Sarclet Pimpernel is E1 5a (Neil Morrison in SMCJ 2006) and this is agreed. It doesn't start up Groove Armada, only starts from the same place. A diagonal line leads right through a bulge to the arete; not along a crack. Groove Armada is worth its three stars also – a fair grade would be HVS 4c. VS 4c has been suggested but it feels rather steep and exposed for VS but certainly a grade easier than The Sarclet Pimpernel.

Steve Scott visited Mid Clyth and Latheronwheel in June 2009. He thought that Mid Clyth - Stack area, was excellent with easy abseil access, the guide fails to really do the venue justice. By comparison he was not that impressed with Latheronwheel.

Andy Nisbet:

Old Man of Hoy, page 468:

Two 4 Friends are not useful, as the wedges are still in passable condition and the relevant cracks are slightly wider than a 4. Those wanting close protection will need to take a 5, but normally one or two 3.5 Friends is enough.

Gary Latter has many comments and opinions:

Page 37 Arran, Cir Mhor - **Arctic Way** is HVS 5a, 5a (not VS 4c).

The Cobbler:

Page 53 - **Dalriada** was climbed in 1995, not 1994 (historical intro. section). Graded E8 6c in photo-diagram; but E6 6b in text.

Page 54 Pitch 1 of **Wild Country** first climbed August 1955 with 1 PA as The Nook by W.Smith, M.Noon, J.Cunningham & G.McIntosh ((p.386 1959 SMCJ) & freed on 5 July 1979
Page 54 Rick Campbell & Paul Thorburn both led **Wide Country**.

Glen Ogle:

Page 61 **Boldfinger** - there is only one solitary bolt on this – it is very run-out, and dirty, as the headwall suffers from seepage. 1 * at a push in its present state.

Page 62 **Mirror Wall, - Munrobagger** does not climb the wide crack (actually unclimbed!), but takes the right-facing open groove, though starts up the initial section of the crack.

Craig a' Barns, Polney Crag:

Page 65 **Ogg's Hindquarters** is the correct name of the route (Duncan Ogg was the infamous cattle rustler)

Upper Cave Crag:

Page 70 "*regarded as some of the finest sport pitches to be found anywhere*" – why only 3 stars then?

Page 71 **Lady Charlotte Direct** is 6b climbing past the peg. The normal route is 6a.

Page 71 pitch 2 of **Warfarin** is 5c also, and the crux of the route.

Page 71 Marlene is surely worth 4*?; **High Performance** is E3 6a (not E4); **Tombstone** is E2 5b (not E3 5c).

Buachaille Etive Mor:

Page 85 **Agag's Groove**. As described, from the block belay at top of pitch 2, pitches 3 & 4 cannot be run together on 50m rope, therefore pitch 3 must be approaching 35m long. Pitch 4 is not bold; very well protected with virtually overhead protection all the way! – if any section on the route could be considered such, then it is the moves out along the shelf onto the nose, though well-protected by a small cam.

Page 87 Kenny Spence made the FFA of **Engineer's Crack** in the 1960's.

Creag a' Bhancair:

Page 102 **The Risk Business** FA 28 & 29 May & 24 August 1980 (i.e over 3 days)

Aonach Dubh:

Page 106 Lower North-East Nose **Crocodile** W.Todd & R.Anderson made FA of pitches 1 & 2, 4 June 1977

Pitch 1 is 5c, pitch 2 (as described) 6a; the route is usually climbed in 3 pitches (as per front cover of guide!)

Lower Walls:

Page 108 **Sir Chancealot** pitch 1 is 5b & pitch 2 5c (no technical grades given). Pitch 1 gives a very good E1 5b on its own, descending by abseil from good thread in cave.

Page 109 **Solitude** is 5b (again no technical grade given).

Page 111 **Quiver Rib** is much better split into 2 pitches; the leader would be faced with considerable rope drag if climbed as described.

Page 112 **Eldorado** 3 PA were used on FA; D.Cuthbertson & K.Johnstone climbed pitch 3 on 18 May 1980.

The Clearances is E3 5c, 6a.

Repossessed 40m pitch, not 30 as described in description.

P 112-113 Both **Eldorado** and **Yo-Yo** mention Pleasant Terrace, yet this isn't described either in introduction or descent.

Bidean nam Bian, Church Door Buttress:

Page 119 **The Lost Ark** is definitely worth at least 3*.

Page 128 Etive Slabs Pitch 3 (the scoop) on **Hammer** is 5a, as is pitch 4.

Garbh Bheinn:

Page 133 **Sgian Dubh** is Very Difficult, and pitches 2 & 3 are 30m when combined. **Kelpie** is worth 4* - stunning.

Page 134 The **Contender** is worth 3*, as is **White Hope**.

Page 136 The **Direct Start to Great Ridge** is definitely Severe 4a for the second pitch up the ramp, and also the awkward (though avoidable) chimney on pitch 4. (Sgian Dubh on the Upper Tier is a grade easier!).

Surely we deserve a better description for the 300m of fantastic varied climbing encountered on this classic ridge, than that offered in the last 3 guides?? *“Continue direct up the crest/more steeply on good holds with a superb view to the summit.”*

Ardnamurchan :

Page 140 **Shark Attack** and **Bondi Beach** are both 8m at most, certainly not 15m.

Response from Colin Moody: ‘I measured the routes with a measured knotted rope for the guide book and the 15m route lengths are correct.’

Glen Nevis:

Page 145 Cavalry Crack Buttress **Heatwave** pitch 1 is HS 4b, not Severe.

Page 149 Secretaries’ Buttress **Ring of Fire Right-Hand** is worth 3* - one of the best routes of its grade in the glen.

Page 151 Pandora’s Buttress **Phantom Slab** - the main pitch is 25m and 5a, and worth 3* - one of the best VS’s at Polldubh.

Page 155 Styx Buttress **Damnation** is definitely worth 3* - most think better than the neighbouring Resurrection, and much quicker drying.

Page 161 Whale Rock **Just a Little Tease** is definitely worth 3*, - much better route than neighbouring Earthstrip.

Gorge Crag:

Page 161 First pitch of **Cosmopolitan** climbed 20 May 1982

Page 163 G.Latter led **All Our Yesterdays** (not D.Cuthbertson)

Wave Buttress:

Page 163 **Ground Zero** is E2 5b, particularly if the RP 4 placement is described – it is certainly not high in the grade at E3 5c. **Walter Wall** is worth 3*; **Edgehog** is 6a.

Ben Nevis, Carn Dearg Buttress:

Page 180 pitch 2 of **King Kong/The Bat** is 5b (not 4c).

Stag Rocks:

Page 201 **Final Selection** is 50m and can readily be climbed in a single rope length.

Glen Clova:

P 241 For the arboreally challenged, **Alder** in fact starts behind an Aspen! There are no alders in the vicinity.

Page 243 Glen Clova Upper Doonie both **Vindaloo** and **The Whoremistress** are dirty and worth 2* only.

Binnein Shuas:

Page 245 **Kubla Khan** although the FA moved out left, it is more logical to move out right at the top to the thread belay below the huge boulder. (This is the way almost everyone climbs it.) pitch 1 is 15m & 4a (not 4b) and pitch 2 45m.

The Keep is HVS 5a (not E1 5b, i.e same grade as Fortress Direct); **Ardanfreaky** E3 by all accounts.

Creag Dubh:

Page 261 - both **Outspan** & **The Fuhrer** are surely worth 3*?

Sron na Ciche:

Page 289 **Collies Route** John Mackenzie was also on the FA! *"We traversed slabs, we worked up cracks, and went right away from the Cioch into the gully on the east side, losing sight of the Cioch altogether. Then we fortunately found a queer traverse that led out of the gully across the perpendicular face of the cliff and back in the direction of the Cioch. But the Cioch itself we could not see, until having got round several corners, suddenly it came into view and we found ourselves on the end of the knife-edge. We sat down on that knife-edge, and slowly made our way to great rock tower at its end, up this we climbed, and John and I were mightily pleased."* – Norman Collie

Page 290 FA of **The Highlander** was 21 April 1989 (not 1992).

Page 292 **Magic** FA was 19 June 1982.

Page 293 **The Chambre Finish** to Vulcan Wall FA was 19 June 1982.

Page 295 **Creagh Dhu Grooves** should be spelled thus (after the Clydeside club). Gabriel Regan made the FFA (not Reagan).

Beinn Eighe:

Page 332 Far East Wall **Sumo** pitch 2 5c (definitely not 6a).

Page 334 **The Pale Diedre** FA climbed in 1980, not 1981.

Diabaig:

Page 351 **Condom** FA led by D.Cuthbertson. As described is E3 5c; the better direct version **Instant Muscle** is E4 6a and FA Dave & Ian Griffiths 4 April 1988, who deserve the credit.

Carnmore:

p378 FFA of **The Sword** was by Ian Duckworth & Rob Kerr May 1980.

Dougie Mullin led the FA of **Wilderness**. An underrated route, perhaps the hardest new route to be climbed on-sight in Scotland at the time.

Page 379 **The Orange Bow** definitely 3*. I recall one of the PR's on the Left-Hand start fell out when we sneezed as we climbed past it on our ascent!

Gruinard Bay:

Page 383 Gruinard Crag **Pistolero** is E2; **How the West Was Won** E3 & **Stand and Deliver** E4 (all dropped a grade). Conversely, the **Direct Variation to How the West Was Won** felt like E6.

Page 387 **Lochan Dubh Crag** Paul Thorburn led FA of **Direct Start to Call of the Wild**; worth 3* when climbed this way.

Stac Pollaidh, West Buttress

Page 403 Tom Prentice led the crux of **Walking on Air**.

Reiff:

Page 410 **Wyatt Earp** is E3 (not E4).

Page 413 **Seal Song** is 5c; **The Executioner** worth 3* - superb.

Page 415 **Reiff Encounter** worth I*, or 2 at most; **Free Base** worth 3*; **The Thistle** E4 6a and 1 or 2*.

Page 418 **Split Personality** – E3 only (not E4) – same grade as adjacent routes.

Page 421 **Necronomicon** is 18m long (not 25).

Rhiconich Crag:

Page 428 **Gneiss Too** is VS 5a.

Creag an Fhithich:

Page 428 **Gaff** worth 2*.

Creag Shomhairle:

Page 436 FA of **Warm Front** was 29 June 1986 (i.e. day after Tank Top).

Beinn an Berie:

Page 454 **Barrier Reef** is definitely the route of the crag 3 or 4*, **Tunes of Glory** bit disjointed & worth 2* only. Both are 15m high, not 20.

Page 463 **Am Buachaille** channel is lot wider than 8m – more like 30! (Old Man of Stoer channel is 8m wide!)

Colin Moody disagrees with some of Gary Latter's comments

Page 128 Etive Slabs Pitch 3 (the scoop) on **Hammer**. Colin Moody agrees with 4c/5b, as in the guide.

Page 133 **Sgian Dubh** (Garbh Bheinn) is Severe, as in the guide.

Page 140 Ardnamurchan. Colin Moody measured **Shark Attack** and **Bondi Beach** with a knotted rope and insists on 15m.

Page 151 Pandora's Buttress **Phantom Slab**. Colin Moody agrees with Gary Latter at HVS 5a.