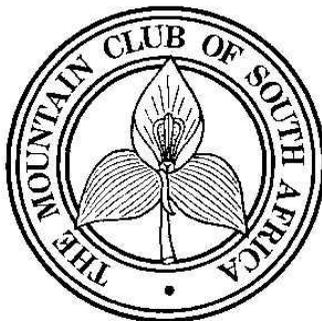


**ROCK CLIMBING ROUTES AT
GROOTKLOOF, YSTERHOUTKLOOF,
GROBLERSKLOOF**



DATE OF PUBLICATION: January 2013

**PUBLISHER: MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA
(JOHANNESBURG SECTION)
PO BOX 1641
HOUGHTON
2041**

Preface

This guide is basically a reprint of the previous update to the route book. A number of new routes have been included and in a few cases, existing routes have been described differently, in an attempt to make it easier to find/follow a route. As far as possible the volume is complete. If however, any routes are missing or incompletely described, this is unintentional.

The intention behind the publication is to provide frequent issues of the route guide each containing the latest set of route updates. Feedback regarding any errors, omissions or additions is most welcome. Please submit all feedback to ClimbZA (www.climb.co.za), the MCSA or the author.

This route book is the collective work of many people and I would like to thank all those who helped in any way. Mention must be made of the contributing authors of routes, without whom there would be no route book.

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All photos were taken by the author unless otherwise stated.

Andrew Porter, January 2013

Indemnity

Mountain climbing, rock climbing, abseiling and other related activities are dangerous and can lead to or cause serious injury, material loss and death. The Mountain Club of South Africa advises you not to participate in these activities unless you are competent to do so or are under the guidance of a competent person, and unless you are using the correct equipment.

This route guidebook serves only as an indication as to those routes that have been done before and the degree of difficulty encountered by the opening party. The degree of difficulty expressed herein is highly subjective and will vary from person to person. There is no warranty, express or implied, that these routes are safe for you to do, that you will be able to do them, that you will find and identify them correctly or that you will stay on route.

You climb entirely at your own risk. While every effort has been made to ensure correctness and accuracy, the Mountain Club of South Africa accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any accident, injury, death or material loss arising from the use or misuse of this guide book. Please note that bolts are not placed by the MCSA, but by individual climbers some of whom are MCSA members and some of whom are not. The MCSA therefore cannot and does not check bolt placement for safety. Furthermore bolts deteriorate over time. Check the bolts yourself and try and find when they were placed and by whom before you rely on them. Bolts are not failsafe.

Conventions Used

The Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) wholly owns Grootkloof. Access to non-members is restricted by permits issued by the Magaliesberg section of the MCSA. Access to Groblerskloof is not controlled but it is suggested that you contact the MCSA to determine the latest status.

The true right of a gully is defined as the side of the gully on the right hand side of an observer who is facing downstream. Similarly, the true left of a gully is defined as the side of the gully on the left hand side of an observer who is facing downstream.

The routes in this guide are listed on the true right hand side of the kloof followed by the true left side of the kloof. In each case, the routes are listed from the upstream end working downstream.

The star rating of the individual climb is a guide to the quality of the route. In general the following applies:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| No stars | The route has not been rated yet. Try it if it looks good from below, or give it a skip |
| * | A route of little merit |
| ** | A mediocre route |
| *** | A good route |
| **** | An excellent route |
| ***** | One of the finest. Exceptional. |

For grading, the newer numeric system is used. Grades have been converted from the old alphanumeric system, using the convention as per the article "Grade Comparison Guide" by

Clive Curson, p118 of the MCSA Journal #98 of 1995. This is a guide only so some of the grades may be out by a grade or two.

Please note that bolting is not allowed in the Magaliesberg.

The natural vegetation in the kloofs has been sorely depleted by human impact. For this reason, camping in the kloofs is prohibited. Please try to avoid any activities which would result in an increase in soil erosion, destruction of vegetation or would in any way harm the environment.

GROOTKLOOF: List of Climbs

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| A VENTURE OF FAITH | 28 | ***** | 24 |
| EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES | 27 | ***** | 16 |
| THE POWERS THAT BE | 27 | **** | 24 |
| SWITCHBLADE | 27 | ** | 14 |
| TRICK OF THE LIGHT | 26 | *** | 20 |
| BLADERUNNER | 26 | ** | 14 |
| THROWING TOYS | 26 | | 58 |
| UNDER PRESSURE | 26 | | 67 |
| GUEST APPEARANCE | 25 | *** | 41 |
| AVALANCHE POODLE | 25 | ** | 19 |
| BLUE SKY DESERT SEA | 25 | | 21 |
| ROOF OF ALL EVILS | 24 | *** | 57 |
| WOUNDWARD FLIGHT | 24 | ** | 57 |
| ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS | 24 | | 22 |
| DESPERATE BUT NOT SERIOUS | 24 | | 21 |
| UNFINISHED BUSINESS | 24 | | 68 |
| FEAR OF FLYING | 23 | *** | 16 |
| HUNKEY DORY | 23 | *** | 66 |
| KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN | 23 | *** | 65 |
| INTO THE BLACK | 23 | ** | 69 |
| RISKY BUSINESS | 23 | ** | 12 |
| SORROW | 23 | ** | 25 |
| THE MERCHANT WANKER | 23 | ** | 47 |
| POTTY TRAINING | 23 | | 58 |
| STEEL BREEZE | 22 | **** | 14 |
| MAD PILOT | 22 | *** | 6 |
| HOT TIN ROOF | 22 | ** | 12 |
| SUFFRAGETTE CITY | 22 | ** | 66 |
| DIVE BOMBER | 21 | **** | 20 |
| SOFT SOCIETY | 21 | **** | 43 |
| MISPLACED CHILDHOOD | 21 | *** | 48 |

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| TOO LOW FOR ZERO | 21 | *** | 49 |
| WHIRLPOOL | 21 | *** | 41 |
| YOU ASKED FOR IT | 21 | *** | 5 |
| IN DIRE NEED | 21 | ** | 37 |
| KANGAROO | 21 | ** | 44 |
| STEEL MONKEY | 21 | ** | 22 |
| BASSOON | 20 | *** | 63 |
| CANDLEHORSE | 20 | *** | 24 |
| GOOFPROOF ROOF | 20 | *** | 12 |
| A MOMENTARY LAPSE IN REASON | 20 | ** | 37 |
| THE HAMPSTER | 20 | ** | 18 |
| TWENTIETH CENTURY | 20 | ** | 46 |
| VALKYRIE | 20 | ** | 17 |
| STREETWALKER | 20,A1 | | 47 |
| NUNS IN BLACK LEATHER | 19 | *** | 35 |
| ONE FOR THE ROAD | 19 | *** | 42 |
| PILGRIM'S PROGRESS | 19 | *** | 60 |
| SILVER RAVEN | 19 | *** | 3 |
| THE CRYSTAL SHIP | 19 | *** | 53 |
| TMT | 19 | *** | 45 |
| AND SO TO BED | 19,A1 | ** | 68 |
| ELECTRIC CAMEL | 19 | ** | 25 |
| HEFFALUMP TRAP | 19 | ** | 23 |
| PINNACLE OVERHANG | 19 | ** | 7 |
| THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS | 19 | ** | 8 |
| YOU GOT IT | 19 | ** | 6 |
| SIREN | 19 | * | 64 |
| TRESPASSERS W. | 19 | * | 29 |
| PARADISE DECLINED | 19 | | 56 |
| RUNNING OUT OF LUCK | 19 | | 22 |
| BLEEKER STREET | 18 | *** | 38 |
| CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE KLOOF | 18 | *** | 53 |
| UNDER A BLOOD RED SKY | 18 | *** | 11 |

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| SPARK TO A FLAME | 18 | ** | 36 |
| CHINA GIRL | 18 | | 66 |
| HYDRA | 18 | | 13 |
| CHERRY ON THE TOP | 17 | **** | 5 |
| LILLIPUT RIDGE | 17 | **** | 54 |
| AMPER SONDER ONDERBROEK | 17 | *** | 61 |
| CATHEDRAL WALL | 17 | *** | 30 |
| FIRST NIGHT | 17 | *** | 2 |
| ISOLATION PINNACLE FRONTAL | 17 | *** | 8 |
| MISS PIGGY | 17 | *** | 19 |
| SPHINX | 17 | *** | 18 |
| TYKES DELIGHT | 17 | *** | 15 |
| CAIRN DO | 17 | ** | 31 |
| DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR | 17 | ** | 49 |
| VERMILION | 17 | ** | 29 |
| LOST CAUSE | 17 | * | 61 |
| BROBDIGNAGIAN | 17 | | 52 |
| LOVER'S LEAP | 17,A1 | | 34 |
| SECOND THOUGHTS | 17 | | 13 |
| TEN O'CLOCK CRAWL | 17 | | 43 |
| NO VIBRAMS | 16 | *** | 51 |
| HEADLONG | 16 | ** | 32 |
| PRECIOUS LITTLE | 16 | ** | 6 |
| STY | 16 | ** | 38 |
| CHAMELEON CRACK | 15 | **** | 50 |
| PHOENIX | 15 | **** | 17 |
| EPITHALAMIUM | 15 | *** | 1 |
| ONE FOR THE BOYES | 15 | *** | 40 |
| SPAGETTI | 15 | *** | 40 |
| CENTURY CRAG | 15 | ** | 45 |
| PYRAMID | 15,A1 | ** | 2 |
| BROADWALK | 15 | * | 47 |
| LA CANDELA | 15,A1 | * | 27 |

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| TRUMPET | 15 | * | 63 |
| WEDGIE | 15 | * | 52 |
| CENTURY CHIMNEY | 15 | | 46 |
| CLARION | 15 | | 65 |
| EUPHORBIA | 15,A1 | | 11 |
| GAATJIE BUTTRESS | 15 | | 28 |
| HEADLESS CORPSE | 15 | | 41 |
| NAMMIT | 15 | | 7 |
| SLICKENSLIDE WALL | 15 | | 4 |
| A CHEVAL | 14 | *** | 26 |
| HI HO | 14 | ** | 31 |
| CHRISTMAS CRACK | 13 | * | 3 |
| FIVE O'CLOCK RUSH | 13 | * | 44 |
| LEMON | 13 | * | 15 |
| WINGS | 13 | * | 65 |
| EN BLOC | 13 | | 62 |
| EPIPHENOMENON | 13 | | 21 |
| THREE SPEED WALKING STICK | 13 | | 10 |
| WALK ON THE WILD SIDE | 12 | | 35 |
| ISOLATION PINNACLE | 11 | **** | 8 |
| R.A.F. CHINK | 11 | *** | 51 |
| WATCHAMACALLIT | 11 | ** | 33 |
| THE BLUNDERBUSS | 11 | * | 33 |
| BABOON BUTTRESS | 11 | | 58 |
| SONDERBROEK | 11 | | 59 |
| THE PIN | 11 | | 10 |
| NEW ERA CRACK | 10 | * | 55 |
| POOL DESCENT | 10 | | 59 |
| BENEDICTION | 9 | ** | 36 |
| EN PASSANT | 9 | ** | 48 |
| VANGUARD | 9 | | 67 |
| CAVE CRAG | 7 | * | 28 |
| DELTA | 7 | * | 39 |

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| SLAB GULLY | 7 | | 67 |
| GROOTKLOOF GULLY | 5 | | 42 |

GROOTKLOOF

General

Grootkloof offers one of the most fun and interesting kloofing experiences in the Magaliesberg. A great option for hiking out from the climbing area at the end of the day is to follow the kloof downstream. You will need to abseil down a 20m high waterfall, swim across several pools and will even encounter rocks that are easier to negotiate via jumps or bum slides. A unique feature of the kloof is a huge suspended chockstone with trees growing on it straddling the whole kloof. You will see this below the main climbing area, if you choose to take the kloofing option.

The climbs are up to 60m in height and the rock is generally excellent.

Water is always available as the stream flows strongly throughout the year.

The meet point is 20m upstream from the base of GROOTKLOOF GULLY, next to a large 15m high rock buttress in the kloof.

Access

The Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) wholly owns Grootkloof. Access to non-members is restricted by permits issued by the Pretoria section of the MCSA.

The usual approach is through Ysterhoutkloof, and then scrambling into Grootkloof via GROOTKLOOF GULLY at grade 5.

Due to the crime in the area (mainly near the bottom end of the kloof by the campsite) recently, a combination lock has been placed on the walk-in. Contact the MCSA for the code.

Safety

The first aid dump is in the gully opposite 3 huge boulders 50m downstream of the meeting place. It is in a cave on EN PASSANT, 40m above the river on the true left side.

Aspect

The kloof runs roughly north-south. As such, the climbs on the true right receive morning shade and afternoon sun.

Conversely, the climbs on the true left receive morning sun and afternoon shade.

PHOENIX etc will always be in the shade as it is south facing, and the second pitch of ISOLATION PINNACLE + CHERRY ON THE TOP will always be cool due to the narrow chasm between the main kloof wall and the pinnacle.

Descents

For climbs near ISOLATION PINNACLE, a convenient tree can be found at the top of CHERRY ON THE TOP.

GROOTKLOOF GULLY is quick and easy to descend for climbs on the true left side of the kloof.

For climbs near PHOENIX, find the top of the chimney climbed by LEMON. A good tree can be found here for a suitable abseil.

Conservation

BLACK EAGLES nest from April to October inclusive and the following climbs should NOT be done during this period. NEW ERA CRACK, LILLIPUT RIDGE and THE CRYSTAL SHIP.

Camping

These is a pleasant campsite along the path just before you enter Ysterhout Kloof. This campsite has however seen some

crime of late, and it is not recommended that you camp here anymore.

If you really do want to camp near Grootkloof, it is suggested that you hike past the normal entrance to Grootkloof, and camp at the extreme upper end of Grootkloof itself. Some decent spots can be found here, a long way away from the criminal elements, and close enough to running water.

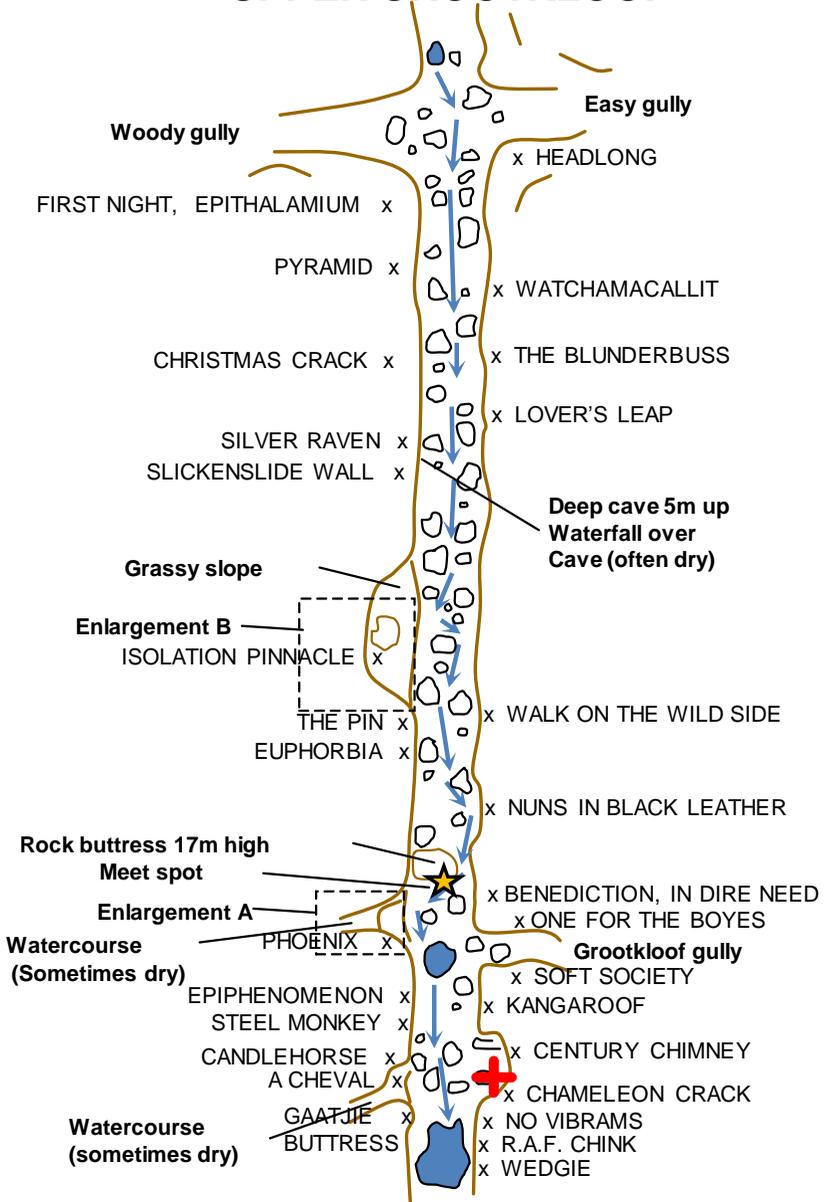
Finding Routes

Once you descend the gully into Grootkloof, head about 30m upstream to where a large boulder blocks much of the kloof. It is possible to scramble up this, and to then access a mini-kloof running into the main kloof at right angles to it. Scramble 30m this to a pile of tumbled blocks. On the left (looking up) is a steep right angled corner, about 40m in height. PHOENIX is on the left hand wall of this corner.

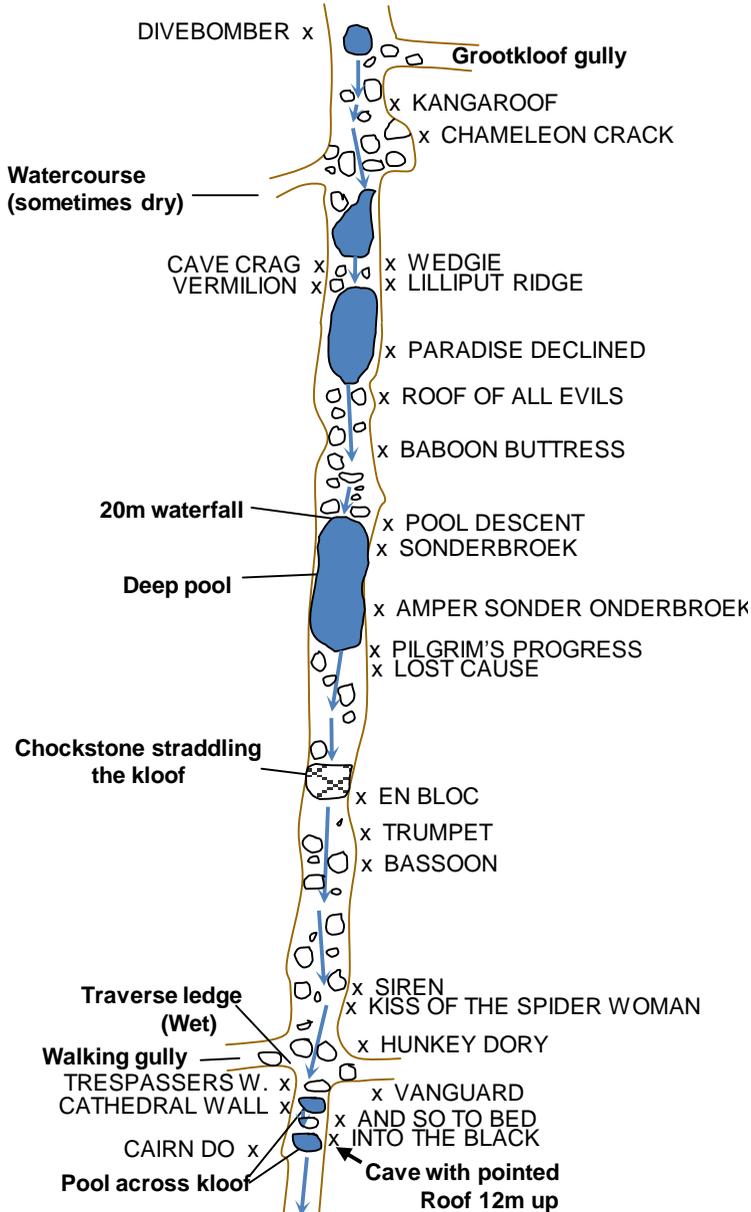
To find ISOLATION PINNACLE, proceed 80m upstream from the meet point to where the ground rises to being about 5m above the stream bed. A large tree will be seen at the top of a 4m cliff to your left. Scramble up left, over easy rock and roots (usually wet) to the pinnacle, which is some 40m high. The front and downstream sides are undercut and the pinnacle stands 1,5m from the main kloof wall, forming a chimney.

To find CHAMELEON CRACK, walk about 40m below Groothoek Gully. A buttress forms the downstream end of a setback face. This climb takes a corner system on the upstream side of this buttress and passes impressively through the roof above. Scramble about 10m above the stream bed and start a few meters right of the first aid dump.

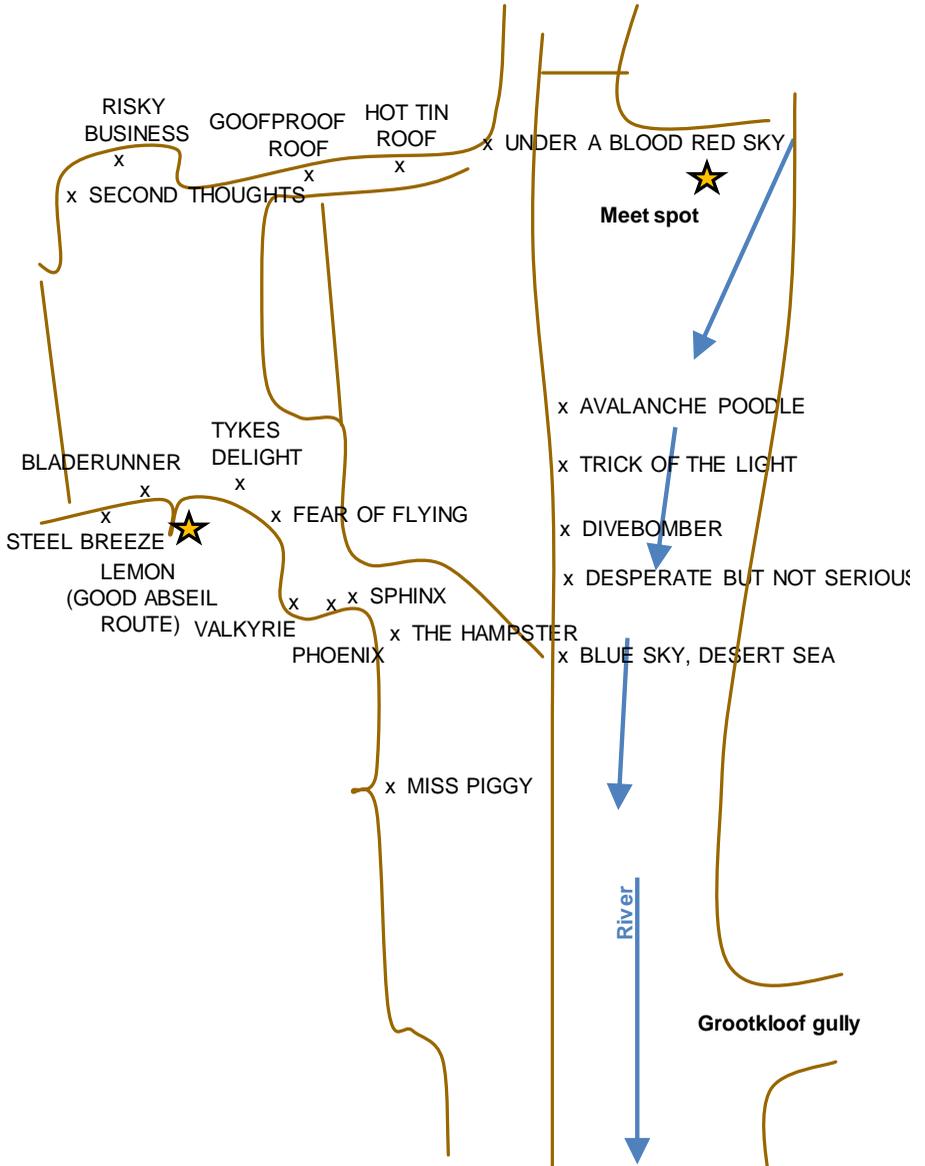
UPPER GROOTKLOOF



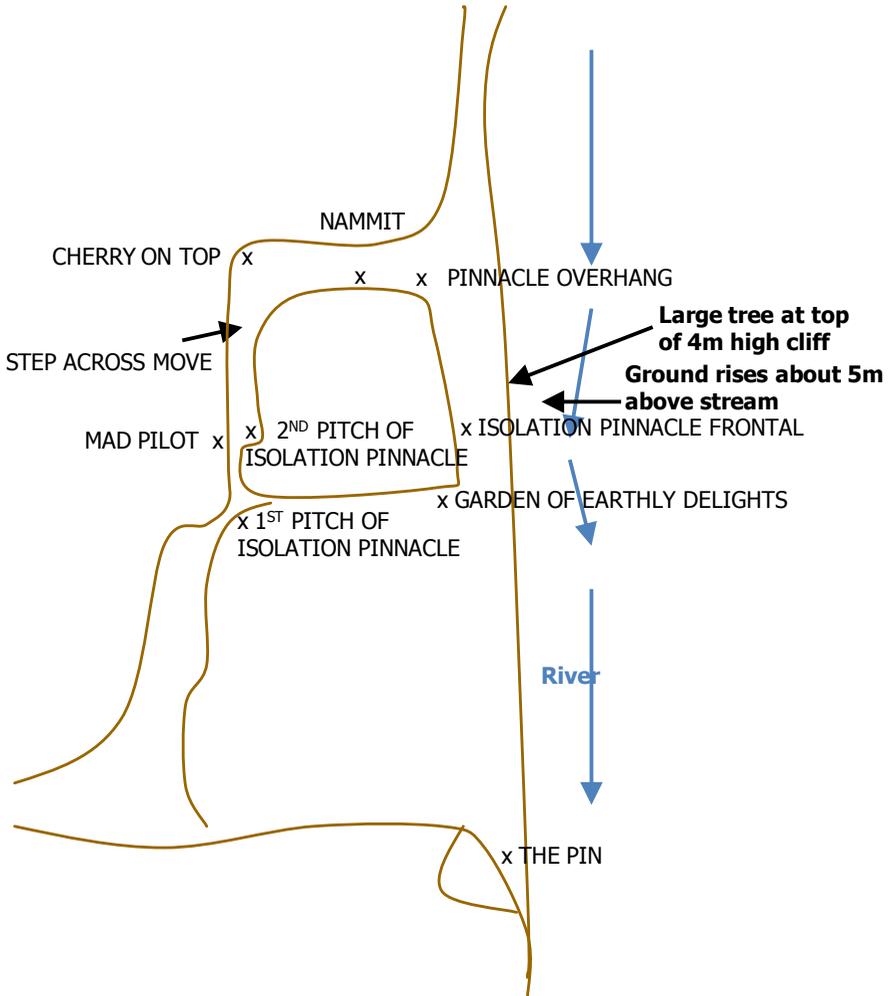
LOWER GROOTKLOOF



GROOTKLOOF – ENLARGEMENT A



GROOTKLOOF – ENLARGEMENT B



Climbs on the true right

EPITHALAMIUM

15 ***

The climb is about 10m downstream of Woody Gully. The main feature of the route is a well defined V-shaped crack which starts from a wide ledge 15m above the stream bed and continues almost to the top, the start being at the first tree (75cm diameter trunk, that was ages ago though!).

1. 15m 10 Traverse 2m left on a ledge 2m up. Then ascend past the left hand end of an overhang which runs downstream more or less unbroken from Woody Gully. Continue up diagonally right, on grey knobbly rock to a wide grassy ledge with numerous trees. The V-shaped crack is directly above.

2. 9m 10 The bottom of the crack is overhanging and one must use some roots to climb this portion. Stance at good tree from which the roots come.

3. 22m 15 Climb the crack for about 12m and then move onto the left hand containing wall to avoid an overhang on the right hand wall which partly roofs the recess. Finally move back into the recess, which is now more of a chimney and continue to a rock ledge at the top of the recess. This pitch is the crux, especially in the first 6m and the last 3m.

4. 9m 10 Climb straight up pleasant easy sloping slab above the recess.

First ascent: 1 Mar 1952 D. Bell, F. Villa and T. Bright.

FIRST NIGHT

17 ***

- 1. 15m 10** The same as EPITHALAMIUM.
- 2. 23m 17** This pitch starts from the same ledge as EPITHALAMIUM but about 5m downstream. Take off from a tree stump at the bottom of a steep crack about 150-220mm wide. Climb this for about 10m, passing two chockstones. Another 3m gets you to a small stance which has an "eye" and good belay cracks.
- 3. 20m 17** Traverse left 2m and ascend the thin face for 6m. Traverse back into the main crack. (Alternatively, continue up the main crack to overhanging block and move strenuously out onto face before continuing.) Ascend crack for a further 3m and then climb easy face to tree belay.

Note:

HOWLER and HUBRIS follow the same line as this route and have been excluded.

First ascent: 1952

D. Gilham and M. Prior.

PYRAMID

15,A1 **

This climb starts 5m downstream of EPITHALAMIUM. The start is in a recess which is about 3m to the right of another shorter, root-filled recess.

- 1. 12m 15** Ascend the recess to the wide ledge mentioned in the description of EPITHALAMIUM. To avoid chockstone at top of recess go onto face to left. Walk 15m to left to start of next pitch.
- 2. 9m 15,A1** Above is an obvious large recess, about 25m high, roofed at the top, and starting about 3m above the ledge. The difficulty of the pitch is in the 3m section to the bottom of the recess. Use a shoulder (human pyramid used in first ascent) or a tree on the left to negotiate the first awkward section. Walk up into depth of recess where there is a cave.

3. 22m 8 Ascend left hand wall of the recess, making use of a crack. This is a pleasant pitch.

First ascent: 1951 R. Davies, F. Villa, Miss J. Slinger and Miss E. Laesser.

CHRISTMAS CRACK

13 *

Situated between PYRAMID and SLICKENSIDE WALL. The climb begins in a recess by a small waterfall about 30m upstream from SLICKENSIDE WALL.

1. 35m 13 Start at bottom of crack in recess. Climb for about 20m past two trees and loose rock. Move onto the right hand wall. Climb wall past a tree to a large platform.

2. 40m 10 Move left into a V-shaped chimney. Climb this to the top.

First ascent: 25 Dec 1971 E. Druschke, A. Allen and C. Ward.

SILVER RAVEN

19 ***

This climb starts about 10m upstream of the start of SLICKENSIDE WALL, and follows a prominent crack up the middle of a downstream facing face.

1. 18m 19 Climb the crack to the overhang exiting right to easier ground and tree belay.

Note:

Abseil from convenient tree.

First ascent: 1 Jan 1986 N. Margetts and D. Margetts.

SLICKENSLIDE WALL

15

The route is located by a very smooth wall which is bounded on the left by a small buttress, the side of which forms a face at 135 degrees to the smooth wall. There is a crack in the corner formed by the wall and buttress. Below the smooth wall the rock becomes slightly more broken and still lower there is a cave about 5m above the stream bed. In wet seasons there may be a small waterfall down the wall and over the cave. At a tree about 15m left of the cave, scramble 5m to a ledge.

1. 18m 15 Traverse 11m right along the edge to just past the buttress. Ascend in the corner formed by the wall and buttress. After about 6m move diagonally right to a small ledge. (The very smooth section of the wall lies above this ledge.)

Walk 5m right to a stance.

2. 15m 13 A short easier face leads to a big ledge about 6m higher. Continue up steep but rather dirty rock to another ledge. (An easier way here is to climb from the first to the second ledge further to the right, grade 10 but dirty.)

3. 28m 13 Traverse left to a reddish ridge which is approximately above the smooth wall. Climb the downstream face of this ridge. Steep but good grips. The rock is clean in compensation for the previous pitch.

First ascent: 9 May 1965 R.F. Davies and M. Prior.

CHERRY ON THE TOP

17 ****

Behind Isolation Pinnacle on the upstream corner is a crack in a corner of the main cliff.

- 1. 12m 17** Climb crack until just before it begins to overhang, then traverse right and up to a stance.
- 2. 8m 13** Climb face above to large ledge with tree and block (level with top of pinnacle).
- 3. 10m 15** Climb diagonally left to a corner. Move just around corner and then straight up to top.

Variation:

- 1. 20m 17** Climb crack straight through overhanging section to belay at top of pitch 2. The Cherry (a 4m overhanging fingerjam crack) lies above this but was not attempted. (5 Aug 1984 T. O'Connor and Tim Willmot)

First ascent: Jan 1983 D. Hartley and T. O'Connor.

YOU ASKED FOR IT

21 ***

The objective is the "Cherry" perched above CHERRY ON THE TOP.

- 1. 4m 21** Climb the crack.

First ascent: 17 Mar 1985 K.M. Smith.

YOU GOT IT

19 **

A prelude to YOU ASKED FOR IT. When combined with YOU ASKED FOR IT a good technical pitch is the result. Starts from the step across from the top of the pinnacle to the mainland. (Or, via CHERRY ON THE TOP.) Belay on top of pinnacle near the step across.

1. 7m 19 From step across follow the thin crack up the steep wall to ledge below YOU ASKED FOR IT. A loose block lurks on a ledge halfway up and must be stood on with caution.

First ascent: 28 Dec 1986 S. Middlemiss, A. Margetts, G. Margetts and A. Lainis.

MAD PILOT

22 ***

Takes the break up the centre of the wall behind ISOLATION PINNACLE.

1. 15m 22 Climb up to and negotiate the relatively featureless corner (crux) before climbing the finger crack and continuation off-width crack in the dihedral above.

First ascent: 17 Mar 1985 K.M. Smith.

PRECIOUS LITTLE

16 **

Start in gully behind pinnacle about 6m to left of standard Pinnacle Route i.e. halfway between CHERRY ON THE TOP and MAD PILOT, but on the pinnacle itself.

1. 27m 16 Chimney up to base of thin rightward leaning crack. Follow crack to overhang near top. At overhang move 1m right and follow layback flake and face above to very top of pinnacle. This is the only route that goes to the very top of the pinnacle. Protection could be better.

First ascent: 23 Jun 1985 P. Greenfield and S. Middlemiss.

NAMMIT

15

Located on a south facing wall, between PINNACLE OVERHANG and CHERRY ON THE TOP.

1. 25m 15 Start at cairn 3m to the right of cairn marking PINNACLE OVERHANG. Climb up flake, move diagonally right upwards (thin) to base of vague crack for about 3m to small tree. Above tree move to the left and up to the top.

Notes:

- 1.** On this climb, although the protection is far apart it is reasonably good.
- 2.** On the Isle of Wight, "Nammit" means "Lunch".

First ascent: 18 Nov 1984 P.S. Greenfield and S. Middlemiss.

PINNACLE OVERHANG

19 **

The climb starts on the upstream (right hand) side of the pinnacle just to the right of a shallow cave at ground level.

1. 20m 13 Climb the blocks onto the face above and move up diagonally left around the corner to easy ground. Continue moving up and around to some boulders on a large ledge above a small tree.

2. 20m 19 Go straight up the wall with smallish holds to beneath the prominent overhang. Pull through the overhang on very small holds (crux). Continue straight up until you can step over a crack and up to the top.

First ascent: 14 Aug 1983 S. Middlemiss and K. Swanson.

THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

19 **

This route goes up the front of Isolation Pinnacle at a tree 2m left from where the Frontal route starts.

1. 40m 19 Climb the steep rock and head diagonally right to the vague recess (the Frontal route climbs the jam crack to the left). Good climbing leads up the thin crack above. Step right at the top and continue up the slab above.

First ascent: Mar 1985 M. Brunke and M. Giddy.

ISOLATION PINNACLE FRONTAL

17 ***

At the level of the start of ISOLATION PINNACLE walk right, passing cave to tree at corner.

1. 23m 17 Start climbing from large block platform 3m to the right of tree, up series of blocks to below main face. Diagonally left around corner up a slab to obvious crack on left hand side of frontal face. Ascend crack to tree belay. Crux.

2. 20m 10 Straight up sloping slab at bottom of first pinnacle and left around pinnacle. Ascend crack to top.

Note:

A previous frontal route is believed to have been opened by J. Langmore and party but no record is available.

First ascent: 18 Jul 1971 E. Druschke and C. Ward.

ISOLATION PINNACLE

11 ****

Proceed 80m upstream from the meet point to where the ground rises to being about 5m above the stream bed. A large tree will be seen at the top of a 4m cliff to your left. Scramble up left, over easy rock and roots (usually wet) to the pinnacle, which is some 40m high. The front and downstream sides are undercut and the pinnacle stands 1,5m from the main kloof wall, forming a chimney.

Both of the first pitches described below start at the downstream end of the pinnacle, where the pinnacle meets the main kloof wall.

1. 20m 11 Climb in the recess, make some awkward moves over the bulge and enter the neck between the kloof wall and the pinnacle atop some large blocks.

2. 20m 10 Climb the magnificent crack running up the back of the pinnacle to the summit. A superb pitch!

Variation:

1. 20m 11 Commence on the kloof wall downstream of the pinnacle (crux at start) and climb 20m to a stance behind a small tree.

2. 20m 10 Traverse right to the gap between the kloof wall and the pinnacle. Step down and cross the gap. Traverse right easily to two-thirds across the pinnacle and climb the steep rock to the summit.

Notes:

1. Most people climb only the second pitch of this route, which is superb. To reach this, approach the pinnacle on the upstream side and enter the narrow gully/chimney. Continue until the obvious corner on the pinnacle is seen.

2. To descend, jump from the ledge on the upstream side to a ledge on the kloof wall. Traverse right to a tree in recess. Scramble to top or abseil down.

First ascent: 1938

G. Langmore and A. Tom.

THREE SPEED WALKING STICK

13

The route takes the obvious crack line 1m downstream of the start of ISOLATION PINNACLE and follows this to the top.

1. 30m 13 Climb the crack, tricky to start, until forced onto the face to the left. Continue straight up to a comfortable belay stance on top.

First ascent: 16 Oct 1994 U. Kiefer, M.T. Willmot and T.P. Willmot.

THE PIN

11

Climb starts just downstream of ISOLATION PINNACLE. Scramble up little gully just left of the pinnacle. At base of rock face is a small pinnacle/buttness about 24m high. Use tree belay. Climb the upstream side of the pin, in obvious crack.

Note:

A pleasant short climb.

First ascent: 7 Sep 1978 J. Esterhuyse and R. Davis.

EUPHORBIA

15,A1

The climb starts from a large balancing boulder at the first waterfall downstream from the Isolation Pinnacle gully and is on the same side (the true right).

1. 18m 11 Climb a few metres up some tree roots to a ledge. Traverse left to a substantial tree and belay. Climb steep face behind tree to large ledge.

2. 10m 7 Climb diagonally left into chimney which is directly above the cave between SLICKENSIDE WALL and THE PIN.

3. 14m 15,A1 Climb chimney 6m to the ceiling. Move round to right using a microwedge and sling for aid. This could probably be done free but a loose block would make this dangerous. Climb steep corner to ledge.

4. 12m 15 Climb the arete and face on the right side of the chimney using layback technique. Cross face 3m to right to exit crack. Climb crack.

First ascent: 17 May 1981 H. Winder and M. Prior.

UNDER A BLOOD RED SKY

18 ***

Starts on the same ledge as GOOFPROOF ROOF, 15m to the right (small cairn).

1. 35m 18 Climb up onto block and move up steep wall on the left. Move right under overhangs, up onto a ledge. Awkward moves onto face above, and follow vague crack/groove system on good holds to top.

First ascent: 21 Jun 1986 S. Middlemiss (unseconded).

HOT TIN ROOF

22 **

Starts on same ledge as GOOFPROOF ROOF, 10m to the right of GOOFPROOF ROOF where the overhang is at its biggest (small cairn).

1. 15m 22 Jump for hand hold on wall on right, and pull up on jugs until face level with roof. A vague rail enables you to move left to very good jugs at the lip. A long snatch for holds high above the roof, followed by an easy open book above up to ledge with small tree belay. Scramble off up to the left at grade 17.

Note:

A #1 friend is useful for protection at the lip of the roof.

First ascent: 19 Jul 1986 S. Middlemiss and P. Lazarus.

GOOFPROOF ROOF

20 ***

Scramble up the watercourse above the lunch spot. Around the level of the tumbled blocks near the base of PHOENIX walk out along the clean red ledge on the true left hand side. Halfway along the ledge a break leads through the 2m roof.

1. 10m 20 Pull through the roof and climb the break.

First ascent: 24 Nov 1984 G. Mallory and K.M. Smith.

RISKY BUSINESS

23 **

A route up the centre of the wall, immediately opposite BLADE RUNNER.

1. 25m 23 Climb up the centre of the wall to gain the crack. Climb the crack exiting to a tree on the right.

First ascent: 9 Apr 1988 P. Lazarus.

SECOND THOUGHTS

17

The climb starts opposite LEMON, in the left hand corner of the large recess.

1. 20m 17 Belay to tree and climb straight up corner on thin holds. Use of the tree was found to be essential. Continue up till you can traverse to a good stance with a tree belay.

2. 10m 6 Scramble to top.

Note:

Maximum crater potential, dangerous climb.

First ascent: 14 Aug 1983 S. Middlemiss and K. Swanson.

HYDRA

18

This climb starts about 12m upstream of, and on the same side as LEMON starting on the ledge immediately below the first waterfall. The climb is 2m right of a leftward slanting open book, and follows a crack line, passing to the left of the top of the waterfall (tree and aloe at top of waterfall).

1. 20m 18 Climb the crack, and bulge, using hand jams and friction moves. Once above the bulge move right, and then continue up past the top of the waterfall to a tree belay.

Note:

Protection is good.

First ascent: 2 Mar 1986 P.S. Greenfield, S. Kelsey, T.P. Willmot and R. Mulder.

STEEL BREEZE

22 ****

Start 5m left of HYDRA just before the head of the PHOENIX subkloof.

1. 20m 22 Climb the layback type crack, past a peg at 4m to a block (crux). Move slightly left and up onto easier rock ending just right of the large roof.

Note:

This route was kindly prepared by S Kelsey. Perhaps "Steel" should read "Steal".

First ascent: 1988 C. Lesley-Smith and R. Dodding.

BLADERUNNER

26 **

The gully above the lunch spot becomes a (dry) scoured waterfall just beyond LEMON (a chimney). BLADERUNNER climbs the thin double crack system up the steep grey wall between LEMON and the waterfall.

1. 20m 26 Step up right from a boulder and climb up to a roof (bolt). Follow the crack system to the second rail, then exit via the continuation of the left crack.

Note:

Trust the bolts at your peril!

First ascent: 23 Nov 1986 K.M. Smith.

SWITCHBLADE

27 **

The direct finish to BLADERUNNER.

First ascent: 1990 R. Lord and M. Hislop .

LEMON

13 *

The climb is situated on the same side, in the same gully, as PHOENIX, about 10m before the gully is terminated by a waterfall.

1. 22m 13 Climb a strenuous overhanging chimney before moving out and up 12m past some small trees. Ascend the right hand of two cracks above to a broad grass ledge with a tree belay.

2. 25m 11 Traverse right under an orange overhang, round a corner, and diagonally right up a grey face for 18m. Where the overhang first breaks, ascend a 6m chimney on knobbly rock to the top.

Note:

This forms a useful abseil route for climbs in the area.

Variation:

After passing the small trees mentioned in Pitch 1, follow a shallow open book on the left hand buttress to the top. (13). (Jun 1971 J.C. MacNae and R.D. Hoare)

First ascent: 29 Sep 1974 M. Prior and R. Green.

TYKES DELIGHT

17 ***

Takes the front of the buttress right of PHOENIX (with the wild fig tree in its centre). Start from a large boulder, directly below a right slanting ramp, on the left edge of this buttress.

1. 18m 17 Execute a strenuous pullup onto bottom of the ramp. Ascend ramp, tending rightwards. Tend right, cross thick fig root; climb up immediately right of this. Cross over to left to good block stance. (Belay on tree.)

2. 30m 13 Ascend directly above stance to small overhang; step rightwards for 2m into vertical crack. Follow crack and blocks to top. Block belay.

First ascent: 14 Aug 1983 P. Wallek and R. Dodding.

FEAR OF FLYING

23 ***

Climbs the dihedral and crack system on the arete to the right of PHOENIX i.e. the route is situated between VALKYRIE and TYKES DELIGHT.

1. 25m 23 Pull up onto the base of the arete (as for TYKES DELIGHT). Climb leftwards to gain the dihedral system and follow this to the top.

Note:

The first free ascent was on 21 Jan 1985 by K.M. Smith, A. de Klerk and S. Bradshaw.

First ascent: 5 Nov 1984 K.M. Smith and K. Kruger (1 aid point).

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES

27 *****

Climbs the face between FEAR OF FLYING and VALKYRIE.

1. 25m 27 Climb the face past the three bolts and exit diagonally right to join FEAR OF FLYING. Continue to the clouds.

First ascent: 28 Apr 1991 P. Lazarus.

VALKYRIE

20 **

Start 3m to the right of PHOENIX in open book with crack leading to ledge 9m up.

1. 9m 17 Climb handjam/layback crack to ledge under small overhang. (Stance shared with PHOENIX.)

2. 25m 20 Take off from right hand side of ledge in corner. Surmount overhang (crux) and continue straight up on small face. After this the grade eases to 14/15. Climb up in direct line with crux until forced left into corner with crack leading to top (4m to the right of PHOENIX). Climb crack and belay from small tree.

First ascent: 5 Apr 1981 J. van Eeden and S. Mallory.

PHOENIX

15 ****

Scramble 30m up the watercourse opposite GROOTKLOOF GULLY. This brings one to a pile of tumbled blocks. On the left (looking up) is a steep right angled corner, about 40m in height. The climb is on the left hand wall of this corner. Start on the left of a rock pillar in the corner.

1. 35m 15 Ascend to the top of the pillar, where there is large block which can easily be made to rock. Climb the left wall of the corner passing to the right of a small stamvrug tree 9m up. Bear left, then ascend a steep grey face (some lichen) on slightly friable rock. About 6m above the stamvrug tree move diagonally right, until below a second, larger tree (crux). Pass this tree on its right and climb to top.

First ascent: 1951 D. Gillham and R. Walker.

SPHINX

17 ***

The route starts about 4m to the left of PHOENIX. It goes almost straight up the face and exits through the break in the skyline directly above.

1. 35m 17 Start in a small corner that faces PHOENIX. Climb up to a ledge and bush at 15m. Move left into a hidden chimney which leads to the top. The final off-width crack is avoided by pulling through on the right (crux).

Variation:

1. 15m 19 Start in the same corner as for the normal start. Climb up to the right hand end of the roof, move left under the roof and pull through using crack and initially thin holds, good holds follow. Step right onto corner, and climb up diagonally leftwards, to a large ledge.

Continue up hidden chimney as per the normal SPHINX route. (2 Feb 1986 P.S. Greenfield, S. Kelsey and T.P. Willmot)

Note:

Protection at the roof is good.

First ascent: 1982 G. Mallory and E. Boje.

THE HAMPSTER

20 **

Start 3-4m left of SPHINX.

1. 15m 20 Move up steep rock to a roof, pull through and up diagonally left to stance below a chimney left of a off-width crack.

2. 15m 19 Move up and left onto wall. Pull through a succession of roofs in an exposed position to the top.

First ascent: May 1988 P. Lazarus and 2 unnamed seconds.

MISS PIGGY

17 ***

Immediately downstream of the PHOENIX/SPHINX face is a small right angled buttress which is bounded by two open books. The route ascends the rippled face to the right of the left hand open book.

Start 17m left of PHOENIX and from the same ledge. There are two good trees close to one another at the start for belay purposes.

1. 20m 17 Ascend the rippled face (thin) staying close to the arete at the right extremity of the face to a small resting ledge. Step left onto the steep slab above. Climb up the slab diagonally rightwards to a small sloping nose on the arete, above which is a vague crack. On the opening ascent this nose was wet and tricky. Pull up the vague crack to a comfortable belay stance.

2. 10m 13 To one side of the belay stance is a large detached block. Climb the wall of the main buttress, behind this block, to the level of the short Dassie traverse. Hand traverse 2m to the right to gain the base of a narrow chimney. Make an awkward move over a loose chockstone at the base of the chimney (dangerous) and thrutch comfortably up to the top of the buttress.

Note:

The slab and vague crack of pitch 1 are poorly protected.

First ascent: 20 Jan 1985 T.P. Willmot, G. Zippel and P. Greenfield.

AVALANCHE POODLE

25 **

1. 10m 25 Climb the wall with 2 bolts to the right of TRICK OF THE LIGHT.

First ascent: 1991 M. Hislop.

TRICK OF THE LIGHT

26 ***

Start 2.5m upstream of DIVEBOMBER, more or less opposite a tall tree.

1. 8m 26 Pull through the overhang at 2m and climb straight up the face above, finishing via a small left facing dihedral. A selection of small wires is handy.

First ascent: 31 Aug 1986 K.M. Smith.

DIVE BOMBER

21 ****

The route provides highly technical and strenuous climbing. Start 1m downstream from the large tree opposite Grootkloof Gully.

1. 40m 21 Ascend the scooped, rippled face about 11m to cubbyhole. Delicate and strenuous, especially the last move into the cubbyhole at 21 (or 19 if tall). Continue straight up the wall above.

2. 9m 11 Ascend final tier on outer corner then up open book to right, past tree and to platform on block on right. Traverse back left into open book and ascend to overhang (PHOENIX final face is on the right), then traverse 5m left out of open book, around corner and up final 8m crack.

Note:

Pitch 1 as described was first climbed on 24 Nov 1984 by G. Mallory and K.M. Smith. The original ascent made use of a top rope in the tree, and after the cubbyhole traversed right 3m, up easily for 3m, and then left for 12m at grade 15 to a tree in a crack which was followed to the ledge.

First ascent: Jan 1967 M. Makowski, J. Anderson, L.P. Fatti and I. McLachlan.

DESPERATE BUT NOT SERIOUS **24**

1. 15m 24 Climbs the wall to the left of DIVEBOMBER.

First ascent: 1986 C. Edelstein.

BLUE SKY DESERT SEA **25**

Takes the wall 3m to the left of DESPERATE BUT NOT SERIOUS.

1. 15m 25 Start beneath the bolt and climb straight up passing to the left of the peg. Pull directly through the bulge of the rightward curving crack and exit straight up. Follow easy rock to the top.

First ascent: 1 Aug 1988 S. Bradshaw.

EPIPHENOMENON **13**

Start 6m left of DIVE BOMBER, at a tangle of roots and below a line of corners.

1. 15m 11 Climb roots for 3m. Traverse 3m left on narrow ledge to tree. Go up short knobbly wall on the right to belay ledge of DIVE BOMBER.

2. 15m 13 The corner above is overhung at its base and has a root running the full length. Climb the corner and gain a ledge. Scramble up blocks to tree belay. This is a continuation of the ledge from which PHOENIX begins.

3. 22m 13 Climb the crack and corner above, until a niche is gained below a large overhang. Traverse the wall on the left and go round onto the face. Up this to a belay. Scramble to top.

First ascent: June 1971 R.A. High and I.L. High.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

24

Climbs the wall to the right of RUNNING OUT OF LUCK.

First ascent: 1987 R. Natrass.

RUNNING OUT OF LUCK

19

Climb takes the corner and crack to right of prominent undercut buttress right of HEFFALUMP TRAP, virtually opposite KANGAROOF. Scramble up 15m to a bushy ledge and tree belay.

1. 20m 19 Traverse easily to below nose. Up cracks and corner to top of buttress. Left and up crack to tree belay.

First ascent: 14 Mar 1986 A.J. Smith, B. O'Meara, C. Curson and H. Gill.

STEEL MONKEY

21 **

Climbs the left hand side of the hanging buttress between RUNNING OUT OF LUCK and HEFFALUMP TRAP. Start as for the latter below a recess in the rock.

1. 20m 21 Climb the wall to the right of HEFFALUMP TRAP up to a large root. Use this to pull through the roof and follow the corner above past a peg to a ledge on top of the buttress.

First ascent: 1991 S. Middlemiss, A. Hislop and M. Hislop.

HEFFALUMP TRAP

19 **

The climb is situated on the same face as DIVE BOMBER and about 12m downstream of it. The face on which these two climbs are located is directly opposite the normal entrance into Grootkloof. About 6m downstream of the start of HEFFALUMP TRAP, the face breaks up right to form a large recessed gully. The climb starts opposite a large boulder in the stream, which forms a minor waterfall into a pool below. By stepping diagonally left from the boulder onto the face one is now over the small pool.

1. 15m 19 Step off the boulder left and up over easy rock to a large ledge which runs left into the corner of the face (3m 15). In the right hand corner of the ledge is an A-shaped cave recess which is topped by a small overhang. Climb this recess to its apex (5m 9), break out via a straddle and move up onto the ledge above the overhang (1,5m 21). Gain a few metres in height from the ledge and traverse by a series of undercut holds left (3m 17) and then up to a ledge (3m 17).

2. 12m 13 Ascend the face directly above via a crack and move right onto a ledge on top of the open book forming the right-hand edge of the belay stance (6m 11). Traverse to the right for (3m 9) and then ascend to a stance via a broken recess in the face (3m 10). Here one can continue to the top via an indifferent scramble, or traverse off right to the base of PHOENIX.

Note:

The grade 21 move can be protected by means of a sling placed level with and to the right of it on a liana creeper. This involves some scrambling. A technically pleasing climb which is well protected.

First ascent: 1968

M. Makowski and I. McLachlan.

THE POWERS THAT BE

27 ****

Start on the large ledge at the beginning of the second pitch of CANDLEHORSE. Climbs the far right end of the steep red wall to the right of CANDLEHORSE.

1. 20m 27 Climb the wall following the bolts to a rail. Easier climbing leads to a ledge. Wander up the right to the top.

First ascent: Oct 1990 G. Murray.

A VENTURE OF FAITH

28 *****

On the left of THE POWERS THAT BE.

1. 20m 28 Climb up the wall past the bolts to the top.

First ascent: 1991 T. Rogers.

CANDLEHORSE

20 ***

Start just to the right of A CHEVAL, at the large tree growing horizontally out into the kloof from the gully. This is about 20m below the main decent gully (GROOTHOEK GULLY).

1. 25m 18 Climb the face for about 4m, 2m left of the corner, and then swing right onto the corner below an overhanging crack just to the left of the corner. Climb this strenuously for 3m and then swing right around the corner along a horizontal break. Traverse right for 5m and then climb a crack system leading to an open book topped by an overhang. (Later section is common with pitch 2 of HEFFALUMP TRAP.) Move right at the overhang to a small tree and climb up steeply on good holds via a broken recess to a large ledge. Walk around left into gully and scramble up to a tree below a prominent steep recessed crack in the right hand wall.

2. 30m 20 Climb the crack to the top. Crux at the overhang about 20m up.

Note:

A more direct finish to pitch 1 may be climbed by moving left at the overhang on HEFFALUMP TRAP rather than moving right.

*First ascent: 1976 L.P. Fatti and A. McGarr (Pitch 1);
1975 A. Dick and P. Dawson (Pitch 2)*

ELECTRIC CAMEL**19 ****

Climbs the arete avoided by the first pitch of CANDLEHORSE.

1. 20m 19 Start just above stream level in a short dark corner. Climb the corner and exit right and up to CANDLEHORSE's horizontal break. Climb up the arete on it's left hand side finally moving on to the front to finish up to a ledge.

First ascent: 1991 S. Middlemiss and I. Schwartz.

SORROW**23 ****

Climbs the steep wall to the left of the top pitch of CANDLEHORSE.

1. 25m 23 Climb past a few ledges to below a steep face split by a few cracks. Climb up the face and diagonally right to a ledge on the right arete of CANDLEHORSE. Move back left and jug haul to the top.

First ascent: 1990 S. Middlemiss and R. Lord.

A CHEVAL

14 ***

Start about 9m up gully (which has a cave higher up) opposite EN PASSANT.

1. 15m 14 Start by climbing a narrow crack. Then follow open book which changes into crack again. Stance at big ledge. Walk 9m to right.

2. 11m 8 Ascend external corner. Alternatively, go right onto easier face veering into gully.

3. 9m 8 Traverse left onto edge. Move left around corner. Step up. Climb up edge or on slab in chimney to the left. Move into crack and then pull up to stance.

4. 15m 13 Left on sloping slab to edge. Then move up and left onto ledge. From here continue up an open book, or mantleshelf to left of open book. Then ascend steep narrow crack. Finish by passing up between large blocks.

Note:

Pitch 1 may cause problems for shorter people. It is possible to "escape" to the right at the top of each pitch.

Variation:

1. 10m 19 Start 5m right of normal start behind a large tree. Ascend the shattered shallow corner in the right wall to ledge and piton belay 10. Then make a very difficult move up the crack behind and mantle shelf up left to a ledge, (3m 19). Move left and scramble to the big ledge which is the top of the normal first pitch.

First ascent: 9 Aug 1963 M. Prior, O. Oppler and E. Wiedeman.

LA CANDELA

15,A1 *

Start in the cave left of A CHEVAL.

1. 15m 13,A1 From deep inside the cave straddle up the chimney to the overhangs at the roof of the cave. (Loose rock can be easily avoided.) Use a nut runner as aid to enable one to exit to the ledge on the right. Chockstone belay. The pitch may be wet, in which case it will be harder.

2. 20m 5 Scramble up gully to tree belay at the base of a broad setback buttress, broken by an overhang 12m up.

3. 17m 15 From tree belay climb left side of projecting buttress for 9m inclining slightly right to gain horizontal ledge 3m below overhang (steep and poorly protected). Traverse right to corner of buttress and belay in gully.

4. 17m 13 Ascend just to right of the corner of the buttress for 9m to prominent horizontal crack line. Traverse left onto the exposed buttress for 5m to a vertical crack. Ascend this and continue up centre of buttress to top of pinnacle.

Note:

If wet, pitch 1 may be avoided by climbing the first pitch of A CHEVAL.

First ascent: Feb 1973 D. Peters and P. Anderson (Pitch 1); J. Linke and A. Goyns (Pitches 2-4)

GAATJIE BUTTRESS

15

Starts on the corner of the gully directly opposite A CHEVAL.

- 1. 20m 8** Climb face and corner to ledge.
- 2. 15m 10** Continue up corner to second ledge.
- 3. 15m 15** Climb 6m up middle of orange face. Traverse left 4m to crack. Climb 2m to overhang and place sling on chockstone. Move 1m around corner and climb corner to top.

Variations:

- 2. 15m 18** Climb right hand crack using jams to move through bulge.
- 2. 15m 17** Start 5m to left of usual pitch, move up crack 3m, right 2m and follow off-width crack to top. (2 Aug 1986 S. Middlemiss and A. Margetts)

First ascent: 1967 M. Prior and P. Venter.

CAVE CRAG

7 *

Commences about 15m downstream of RAF CHINK below a prominent cave.

- 1. 9m 7** Start over stream and proceed up to cave.
- 2. 18m 7** Continue up right-hand side of cave in corner. A grade 13 variation starts to the left of cave and traverses over roof of cave.
- 3. 15m 7** Chimney immediately above second pitch.

First ascent: 4 Aug 1946 G. Burrow, N. Clarke, H. Rowland and S. Penny.

VERMILION

17 **

The climb is about 9m downstream of CAVE CRAG.

1. 25m 5 Follow obvious break which slopes slightly left, to big ledge. Walk 11m along ledge to left to clean red face.

2. 22m 17 Starting below hanging boulder, climb right hand crack (hard) for 11m, traverse around ridge to left hand crack, climb recess and, after turning overhang, proceed to ledge.

3. 9m 8 Climb obvious crack above stance to top.

Variation:

2. 25m 10 Start of second pitch above, mantleshelf onto ledge at bottom of left hand crack and traverse around corner to left by stepping down. Climb recess to tree belay.

3. 9m 8 Climb fault on right hand side of recess. (Left hand side easier).

First ascent: 1962

M. Prior, B. Gordon-Brown and P.

Gillard.

TRESPASSERS W.

19 *

The route starts from the same point as CATHEDRAL WALL at a tree in the second recess downstream from Walking Gully. Traverse from Walking Gully along a sloping ledge for 18m then 3m up into the recess (7). (Precarious when wet, a rope is recommended).

1. 35m 19 Directly above the stance the recess overhangs. Climb the left wall for 6m to a small ledge. Move right and up for 3m to the overhang. Ascend the overhang (crux) and continue up the groove for 5m. At the top, move left to a ledge and descend diagonally left on a ramp then an awkward step away from the crack and across to a tree (crossing CATHEDRAL WALL). Continue down leftwards to another tree in a corner crack (6m).

2. 35m 17 From the tree move up the left face for 6m to a ledge then diagonally right to the base of the overhanging crack. Surmount the overhang to a sloping ledge and continue up the crack and out left then 5m to the top.

First ascent: Feb 1968 I. McLachlan, M. Makowski, A. Barley and M. White.

CATHEDRAL WALL

17 ***

The climb is in the lower part of the kloof, about 18m downstream of Walking Gully. To reach the start, scramble down kloof along a ramp on the right hand wall. (When wet, this ramp can be precarious and a rope is recommended.) The ramp commences at the point where Walking Gully enters and it passes about 6m above the pool, which is just downstream of the junction of the gully and kloof. The start of the climb is at a tree a little way up the second recess which is reached via the ramp.

1. 25m 17 Traverse 4m left across a steep face with small grips into a shallow recess. Ascend the recess for about 9m keeping to the right hand side until it is possible to traverse left onto easier rock. Ascend past tree with a slender trunk to stance in cave. The section just below the cave is again difficult.

2. 28m 17 There is only one way up from the cave, via a forbidding looking overhanging crack. The crack is climbed by judicious use of legs, arms and shoulders. The crack gives way higher up to an open book which is followed to the top.

Note:

The walls of the kloof in this area are steep and unbroken. The climb therefore maintains a good standard and is strenuous.

First ascent: 14 Oct 1962 D. Smith, R. Davies and I. Cohen.

CAIRN DO

17 **

The climb takes the recess 40 to 50m downstream of the common start of TRESPASSERS W and CATHEDRAL WALL. It is the first feasible line downstream of these routes. If approached from upstream, it is necessary to wade to reach the start.

- 1. 8m 15** From the top of a cairn in the stream bed reach for some high holds on the face and ascend recess to tree. (It may be necessary to construct your own cairn, and if the start is wet, a shoulder may be preferable).
- 2. 20m 17** Continue up recess and through overhang to large stance above overhang.
- 3. 30m 13** Move diagonally left up face to left of stance and then up easier rock to top.

First ascent: 13 Jun 1971 A. McGarr and D. Peters.

HI HO

14 **

This climb is situated at the junction of Grootkloof and Kleinkloof, at the right hand side of Kleinkloof as you turn into Grootkloof a short wall is found which leads up to a steeper wall. Start the climb about 5m to the left of long thin ledge about 1.5m up leading left to a tree in a crack.

- 1. 30m 14** Climb the initial face using a handjam in a good sloping crack (difficult move off ground), continue up to wide grassy ledge. Move up face following break to small ledge. Move slightly right wards up an off-width crack, continue up a series of blocks to final wall. Climb up final short wall with a tree to the left.

Note:

A pleasant climb ruined by ledge at third height.

First ascent: 11 May 1986 N. Margetts, D. Margetts and T. Langford.

Climbs on the true left

HEADLONG

16 **

Approaching GROOTKLOOF from the YSTERHOUTKLOOF side, move down Easy Gully towards the top of GROOTKLOOF. Just before reaching GROOTKLOOF proper, on the left is an off-width crack moving up and slightly leftwards.

The route takes this off-width and the fainter crack above the wide ledge above. (cairn)

1. 18m 16 Start up the off-width crack, thin to start. Move past the chockstone (appears solid) into the wider crack above. Stay on the outside and climb up to the cubbyhole under the roof. Exit using the off-width crack on the right.

2. 25m 13 Move across the grassy ledge to reach base of the continuation crack above. Climb this until forced left up the obvious ramp to its top. Move diagonally up to the right to regain the original crack line and exit to the right to a comfortable stance. Scramble to the top.

First ascent: 3 Mar 1996 T.P. Willmot and U. Kiefer.

WATCHAMACALLIT

11 **

On the opposite side of the kloof to PYRAMID and 25m downstream the wall of the kloof bulges into the kloof. Just upstream of this there are two large trees in the middle of the kloof. One of them leans right back across the kloof touching the bulge and the recessed crack which the route follows. Large chockstone belay.

1. 30m 11 Climb the recessed crack which narrows to chimney width for 21m where there is a large balanced block on the left. Move onto this block and climb face to ledge. Good tree belay to the right.

2. 26m 8 From the centre of the ridge directly above, climb diagonally left to tree. Climb up corner for 5m then climb diagonally right up exposed face to top.

First ascent: 9 Jan 1972 D. Peters and S. Spottiswoode.

THE BLUNDERBUSS

11 *

About 15m upstream from LOVER'S LEAP a large buttress projects into the kloof. The climb starts in a shallow recess 5m upstream from this buttress.

1. 22m 8 Climb the recess to a grassy ledge.

2. 18m 11 Climb a series of ledges directly above, before moving up slightly right on a steep face with good holds.

First ascent: Oct 1971 A. McGarr and R.D. Hoare.

LOVER'S LEAP

17,A1

The climb is situated about 70m downstream of PYRAMID on the opposite side of the kloof. There is an island of about 5 large boulders in the centre of the stream with 3 thin trees growing out of it. On the left hand wall, looking downstream, are 2 large recesses. The route starts on the face between the two.

1. 34m 17,A1 Climb the face for 3m, move left slightly and then up 6m to a handrail. Stretch right and pull up onto a good ledge. Traverse 9m right to the right hand recess mentioned earlier. Ascend 2m to a small tree and move out right on delicate holds. (Crux). A peg was used here for balance. Traverse 1,5m under a prow and climb diagonally right up past a few aloes to a broad ledge.

2. 34m 13 Walk 15m left to a buttress forming the right hand edge of a large open book. Ascend a crack in the middle of the buttress for 6m to an overhang. Move left onto the right hand face of the open book, ascend 2m and then move back on small holds onto the buttress. A further 22m of grade 10 leads to the summit.

Note:

The traverse into the open book on the second pitch can be avoided by a strenuous pullup through the overhang.

First ascent: Aug 1971 D.W. Sole and R.D. Hoare.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

12

The climb has as its objective the deep chimney high up and directly opposite THE PIN.

The route starts in the deep recess immediately downstream of the large waterfall below the scramble up to the start of CHERRY ON THE TOP.

1. 25m 12 Climb the grey recess to the tree in the gully at the level of a large grassy ledge. Walk along the ledge downstream for approximately 25m to the base of the deep chimney. Beware of loose choss at the top of this pitch.

2. 26m 12 Climb the chimney in classical style until able to stem. Climb up to a large ledge below the final roof.

3. 10m 12 Traverse on the wall to the right for 2m to reach the base of the crack above. Pull up this and climb the very narrow chimney to a comfortable belay stance on top.

First ascent: 16 Oct 1994 T.P. Willmot, M.T. Willmot and U.Kiefer.

NUNS IN BLACK LEATHER

19 ***

Starts 30m upstream of the meet spot on the opposite side.

Scramble up 10m to ledge with large pillar feature at base of rock.

1. 25m 19 Climb up just to the left of the pillar. Move up past a steep nose/block using a jam crack on the right to a small ledge. Technical climbing up the corner to a rail 3m below the big roof. Rail right onto the arete and up to the ledge. Climb straight up steep rock past aloes on the left to the top.

First ascent: 15 Mar 1987 S. Middlemiss and A. Margetts.

BENEDICTION

9 **

The start of this climb is on top of the earth bank immediately opposite the large block above the meeting place. Start at base of chimney.

- 1. 12m 8** Climb the left hand recess into the chimney, avoiding some loose rock halfway up. Stance in large yellow recess.
- 2. 22m 9** Climb over nose on left corner of recess (delicate) and diagonally up to the left to a large grassy ledge.
- 3. 9m 8** Climb the centre of an inclined face immediately above the ledge.

Notes:

1. Easier variations to left can be made for each pitch.
2. Extreme care should be taken not to dislodge rocks as they tend to fall onto the meeting place.

First ascent: 20 Oct 1946 B.I. Harris, K. Parrot, N. Clarke and W. Grace.

SPARK TO A FLAME

18 **

This climb starts 1m left of IN DIRE NEED.

- 1. 15m 18** Climb the recess. When you reach the overhang rail left for 5m onto a nose. Climb easy ground to a good ledge.

First ascent: Aug 1989 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

IN DIRE NEED

21 **

Climbs a steep corner one to two metres to the left of A
MOMENTARY LAPSE IN REASON.

1. 25m 21 Climb up slightly left of the corner then traverse rightward across a slab to gain the base of the corner. Climb the corner to a small ledge. Move about 1m right, climb up for 23m and then climb diagonally right to a good ledge in a cubbyhole. (Shared with A MOMENTARY LAPSE IN REASON)

First ascent: 10 Jan 1988 D. Margetts, M. Seegers and E. Boyes.

A MOMENTARY LAPSE IN REASON

20 **

This route is found on the true left of the kloof in line with the normal meet site. Scramble up a short slope to a large soil covered ledge. Move left to below a steep buttress. The route follows a line through a small overhang and then rightward into a corner.

1. 25m 20 Climb an overhang (crux micronuts for protection) moving right into a corner. Continue up to a small stance. Then move right and climb a wide crack (off width) up the left side of a pillar. Continue up to a good stance in a small cubbyhole.

2. 20m 16 Climb the face on the left side of the cubbyhole to a crack system. Continue up on easy rock to a good stance. Scramble off to the right.

Notes:

1. After the first pitch it is possible to scramble off to the right of the climb.

2. On the opening ascent the leader held onto a small, dead tree whilst doing the crux. The tree broke when weight was placed on it causing a leader lob, hence the name of the climb.

First ascent: 8 Nov 1987 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

STY

16 **

Climbs the attractive crack 2m to the right of A MOMENTARY LAPSE IN REASON.

1. 25m 16 Climb the crack following in the small open book to a small stance. Continue up on the right side of a pillar to the cubbyhole stance shared with A MOMENTARY LAPSE IN REASON.

Note:

Well protected, good climbing. Scramble off to the right of the climb.

First ascent: 8 Nov 1987 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

BLEEKER STREET

18 ***

This climb starts on the true left hand side of the kloof directly opposite the normal meet site. Scramble up onto a higher grass ledge. A crack line passing through two overhangs marks the first pitch.

1. 20m 18 Climb directly up to the first overhang, which is passed on the left. Continue up to the second overhang, pull through this (crux) and climb up to a good ledge.

2. 15m 13 Move up and then left past a bush. Climb rightward up to a crack. Follow this crack to a good ledge. Scramble to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 29 Oct 1988 D. Margetts and M. Townshend.

DELTA

7 *

From the normal gathering point at the bottom of GROOTKLOOF GULLY walk up the gully for 3m. Traverse left and then diagonally upwards about 9m (still walking). The climb starts at the bottom of a low open book recess. There is a small cubbyhole at the bottom of this recess (a larger overhanging recess is to the left).

1. 15m 7 Climb the open book about 4m and move right and upwards around a steep section onto an easy ridge of large steps and trees to stance below next face.

2. 12m 5 Ascend grey rock, bearing right to avoid steep red face, onto sloping grass ledge 9m wide.

3. 14m 7 Climb 3m in a corner, then traverse left over the top of a square block to a corner about 2,5m away. Ascend the recess, where there is one harder move, and continue up and slightly right to a small platform with a tree as belay.

4. 8m 7 Move to the left into a gully and climb up the side under the tree, traversing to the right over stance at end of previous pitch, continue up through a break, move to right under steep rocks and cross over top of chimney to finish of climb at a point where a small gully gives a walking route to the top of the kloof.

First ascent: 29 Jun 1958 R.L. Forsyth, B.I. Harris, Miss B. de Vos and Miss A. Stalkhart.

ONE FOR THE BOYES

15 ***

The climb is located on the true right of the main descent gully and begins just below the position where one encounters a difficult move past a large boulder lodged in the corner. The climb ascends a crack surrounded by roots.

- 1. 20m 15** Climb the crack (and face) to the right of the face covered with roots. Continue up the crack using the roots as holds. Move right near the top and climb up to a good ledge.
- 2. 10m 8** Scramble rightward past bushes to a ledge below an overhanging corner.
- 3. 25m 15** Climb the chimney/crack system moving leftward over a slab near the top in order to avoid a large bush.

First ascent: 10 Jan 1988 E. Boyes, M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

SPAGETTI

15 ***

This climb ascends the true right hand wall of the descent gully. It starts just before the 1st steep step encountered while descending the gully. The first pitch is marked by a steep face capped by an overhang with a "V" shaped groove.

- 1. 20m 15** Climb up the face moving left to a small stance. Move up to the overhang and then right for 1m to a small open book. Ascend the open book to a good ledge. Traverse right about 6m past a tree and then ascend the corner to a ledge.
- 2. 20m 15** Climb the attractive corner above moving right near the top. Step left across the top of the corner. Move left to another recess and ascend this to the top. Scramble up to the top of the crag.

Variation:

One pitch 1, instead of traversing right 1m below the overhang, traverse further right and climb easily to the ledge.

First ascent: 29 Oct 1988 D. Margetts and M. Townshend.

GUEST APPEARANCE

25 ***

Takes the reddish overhanging wall halfway down the descent gully. Three bolts.

1. 15m 25 Climb up to the hand rail and go left. Climb up to below the small roof and pull through on the right. Continue to the top.

First ascent: 1990 I. Guest.

HEADLESS CORPSE

15

This climb is located on the true right of the normal descent gully and ascends an obvious corner crack about 20-30m down from the top of the gully. The start is located just before a very steep wall capped with grass tufts on the true right side of the descent gully. The climb starts on the right hand side of the overhanging face.

1. 15m 15 Climb up the crack recess tending left until able to step onto a bulge near the top. Ascend easier rock to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 30 Oct 1988 M. Townshend, D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

WHIRLPOOL

21 ***

This climb is located on the true right of the normal descent gully and begins about 2m from the top of the gully. The start is marked by a steep face leading to small cubbyhole with a tree and crack above.

1. 15m 21 Ascend the middle of the steep face up to the small cubby hole with a tree. Continue up the crack to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 30 Oct 1988 D. Margetts, M. Townshend, M.J. Seegers and K. Phyle.

GROOTKLOOF GULLY

5

This gully is the most convenient route of access to the general climbing area from the north.

First ascent: 20 Oct 1946 D.P. Liebenberg and H. Trainor.

ONE FOR THE ROAD

19 ***

This climb ascends a slab on the true left of the normal descent gully. Traverse left from the top of the normal descent gully. Climb the steep slab with an overlap at its base and a grassy crack up its middle.

1. 15m 19 Climb the face up to the overlap to where the crack cuts the face. Ascend the overlap and continue up the face to finish on the same ledge as CENTURY CHIMNEY.

Notes:

1. The crack on the slab was only cleaned to facilitate protection; if the crack was cleaned more extensively the climb might become easier.

2. A short pleasant climb to finish the day off.

First ascent: 9 Jul 1988 D. Margetts and K. Fyles.

SOFT SOCIETY

21 ****

Situated at the bottom left of the descent ramp on the right hand side of the cavelike recess. The most dominant feature of the climb is the smooth, slightly off vertical slab at the top. The climb goes more or less straight up the centre of the broken face below the largest roof, through the roof and up the slab above. The line is marked by two bolts. Start directly under the first bolt.

1. 25m 21 Climb easily up to below a small roof. Moving slightly right make an off balance move to a good jug then pull through the roof to a hands off rest. Move diagonally left below the main roof to a good friend rail. Pull through the roof, clipping the bolt on the way, and gain a sloping grip. Make strenuous moves to the right, past the bolt, and then up to a rest on a small ledge. Climb up the centre of the slab to the grassy ledge.

Note:

Excellent climbing with good protection.

First ascent: 23 Jun 1990 M.J. Seegers and D. Margetts.

TEN O'CLOCK CRAWL

17

This climb starts about 10m upstream and around the corner from 5 O'CLOCK RUSH. The route starts directly below (23m) a small ledge (about 10 cm sq) projecting from the face.

1. 15m 16 Climb the face past a small ledge. Continue up past a large block using layback moves on the right side of the block. Continue up and rightwards to a tree (part of 5 O'CLOCK RUSH) traverse right to a good exposed ledge.

2. 12m 14 Traverse 23m rightwards to the arete, climb the arete to a broad ledge (protection sparse).

3. 22m 17 From the top of pitch 2 walk rightwards to the base of an open book with two trees in it. Climb past the trees moving slightly rightwards into a prominent narrow open book,

climb the open book (crux) and continue up a crack through the final bulge, scramble off the ledge leftwards.

First ascent: 27 Oct 1985 D. Margetts and R. Brand.

FIVE O'CLOCK RUSH

13 *

Climb starts in Grootkloof descent gully near the start of CENTURY CRACK.

1. 12m 13 Ascend thin face for 6m to overhang. Hand traverse 2m to the left and continue a further 3m left to an open book. Ascend open book 2m to tree. (A large ledge may be reached by climbing a few metres higher).

2. 12m 10 Ascend layback crack 4m to the top of a small pinnacle. Move up 2m into chimney. Ascend chimney for 5m then move out onto face. Climb face for 2.5m to large ledge.

3. 9m 8 Ascend knife edge ridge to the top.

First ascent: 18 Oct 1970 M. Prior and party.

KANGAROOF

21 **

Climbs the overhang avoided by CENTURY CRAG. Start at the base of the buttress immediately downstream of GROOTKLOOF GULLY i.e. directly opposite HEFFALUMP TRAP.

1. 20m 21 Climb easy grey rock to beneath the right hand side of the roof. Negotiate the roof at the point it is cut by a finger crack, and continue up to a ledge.

First ascent: 25 Nov 1984 K.M. Smith and G. Mallory.

CENTURY CRAG

15 **

From 20m to 40m below GROOTKLOOF GULLY the upper half of the kloof is well set back. CENTURY CRAG is situated on the buttress which is thus formed by GROOTKLOOF GULLY on the upstream side and the setback on the downstream side. Start at the base of this buttress. Ascend up to overhang and then traverse right and continue up the right hand flank of the buttress. A difficult right angled open book is negotiated here. Continue on bearing right until the tree belay at the base of the chimney pitch of CENTURY CHIMNEY is reached. Traverse left onto the front of the buttress and continue as directly as possible to the top.

First ascent: 1949
Charlton.

R. Davies, H. Davies and H.

TMT

19 ***

This route starts downstream and around the corner from KANGAROOF. A short scramble up a gully to a cave leads to a steep face on the left (looking inwards). Two open books are seen. A prominent one on the left side and a shallow one on the right. This route starts up the shallow right hand open book.

1. 20m 19 Climb up easy rock to the base of the open book. Continue up the open book to the bulge. Move up past the bulge (crux) to a good ledge.

2. 45m 17 Move rightwards and upwards from the ledge to the base of a crack system. Climb the crack past a rail moving leftwards near the top. Continue up easier rock past two trees moving rightwards into another open book. Climb this open book to a ledge and belay.

Notes:

1. Good clean climbing, mainly on first pitch.

2. One may scramble off at various places on the second pitch.
3. The top part of TEN O'CLOCK CRAWL's third pitch is shared with this climb.

First ascent: 9 May 1987 D. Margetts and G. Lainis.

CENTURY CHIMNEY

15

On the downstream side of the buttress in which CENTURY CRAG is located is a deep chimney formed by the buttress and the main (set back) wall. The bottom of the chimney is about halfway up the face. To reach this point climb up the easy rock and slopes on the immediate right of the buttress. The chimney is 28m long. It requires exertion and a slender figure. The first 12m are hardest. The climb is enhanced by climbing the CENTURY CRAG route as far as the bottom of the chimney.

First ascent: 7 Aug 1938 C. Nicholls and A. Tom.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

20 **

Start below a steep shallow recess, about 5m left of the large flake on the traverse near the start of EN PASSANT, and leading up to the right hand end of the deep chimney of CENTURY CHIMNEY.

1. 30m 20 Climb the recess, pulling outwards on a nut to overcome a steep section about 8m up, to a resting place just inside the chimney. Climb the chimney to the top.

Note:

The first free ascent was in Mar 1982 by K. Smith.

First ascent: 1975 A. Dick and L.P. Fatti.

THE MERCHANT WANKER

23 **

Takes the huge off-width roof crack from the rest ledge of 20TH CENTURY.

1. 15m 23 Climb the roof using the crack in the most imaginative way possible.

First ascent: 1987 A. de Klerk and A.J. Smith.

STREETWALKER

20,A1

The route takes the left hand crack in the broad recess 3m right of 20TH CENTURY, and therefore left of EN PASSENT.

1. 35m 20,A1 Climb up past a small tree to a cubbyhole below the recess's overhang. Then move left onto the face, and follow the crack line to about 2m below the main roof. Traverse 4m right using one point of aid (peg in place) to the broken recess, and ascend this to the right hand end of the roof. Climb the rightward slanting groove (on the right), followed by an open book, to the top.

Note:

At the cubbyhole and the top of the crack, there is some loose sounding rock.

First ascent: 20 Apr 1986 P.S. Greenfield and N. McFarlane.

BROADWALK

15 *

Start 3m to right of STREETWALKER i.e. 8m to right of 20TH CENTURY.

1. 25m 15 Starting from ledge at top of block, climb right hand crack, joining STREETWALK at 15m. Continue to top.

First ascent: 15 Mar 1987 S. Middlemiss and P. Lazarus.

MISPLACED CHILDHOOD

21 ***

The route takes the blank looking wall between STREETWALKER and EN PASSANT. Start behind the large flake, with chockstone, on the EN PASSANT traverse.

1. 15m 21 Chimney to the top of the flake and take off from its upstream end. Follow the crack (crux) to a good rest. From this ledge climb past the rails to the small ledge on the route STREETWALKER under the overhanging wall where a stance can be taken.

2. 15m 13 Follow the rightward slanting groove of STREETWALKER to the top.

Note:

Climbing on the crux is bold. Excellent thin face climbing.

First ascent: 15 Jan 1989 S. Kelsey and T.P. Willmot

EN PASSANT

9 **

Start at the bottom of the CENTURY CHIMNEY this point can be reached by some scrambling which may require use of a rope near the bottom.

1. 15m 7 Traverse right behind large flake to corner or recess which is at the downstream end of the setback face (see CENTURY CRAG).

2. 35m 9 Ascend the corner until an overhang at the top is reached. Traverse right to bypass this and continue the remaining few metres to the top.

First ascent: 15 Jul 1951 R.W. Charlton and J. Randall.

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR

17 **

Climb the crack immediately left of the upper section of CHAMELEON CRACK. Start from the righthand end of the large grassy ledge from which EN PASSANT begins.

1. 30m 17 Follow the crack until it steepens, step right and climb back left to continue diagonally left to avoid the overhangs above. Climb easy rock to the top.

First ascent: 20 Oct 1985 C. Edelstein, M. Brunke and K.M. Smith.

TOO LOW FOR ZERO

21 ***

Climbs up a corner and roof to the left of CHAMELEON CRACK.

1. 40m 21 Climb up the corner and nondescript rock above (as for DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR). Where that route moves left, climb straight up and through the roof via the left hand crack. climb the face above to the top.

First ascent: 1991 S. Middlemiss.

CHAMELEON CRACK

15 ***

About 40m below Groothoek Gully is a buttress marking the downstream end of a setback face. The climb takes a corner system on the upstream side of this buttress and passes impressively through the roof above. Scramble up to a ledge about 10m above the stream bed. Start a few meters right of the first aid dump below the corner system.

1. 12m 13 Climb directly up the face for 9m then traverse left emerging on left hand corner of the face. Move to the base of the crack.

2. 25m 15 Commence immediately below a small overhang in the crack. Surmount the overhang, using the steep face on the right. Thereafter climb easier and sometimes loosish rock

to a stance below a prominent overhang.

3. 15m 10 Surmount the overhang by following the line of the crack through it. There is a good chockstone in the crack immediately above the overhang which can be used for a belay. This section is very sensational but not excessively difficult. This section ends with chimney work onto a smooth sloping ledge and a 3m face on the left concludes the climb.

Variation:

2. 15m 10 The "overhang below the crack" may be avoided by climbing around the corner to the right.

First ascent: 28 Aug 1938 C. Nicholls, C. Purdham and C. Gebhardt.

NO VIBRAMS

16 ***

Starts about 3m to the right of the start of CHAMELEON CRACK.

1. 14m 13 Up grey face between aloes and then diagonally right around corner and up to ledge with good tree belay. A slight buttress lies above.

2. 15m 15 Ascend steep rock for about 5m, move right and up 5m (easy) and then chimney through small overhang and stretch to high hold. Move up and right to large ledge.

3. 15m 16 Move up and out left. Then continue straight up thin face. This face is just to the right of the final crack pitch of CHAMELEON CRACK.

First ascent: 9 May 1965 J. Anderson and P. Venter.

R.A.F. CHINK

11 ***

Commence about 14m below CHAMELEON CRACK on a ledge (well covered by a wild fig tree) about 2m above the stream.

1. 6m 11 Climb up the crack where the ledge terminates against a small buttress on the main kloof wall. Climb to the top of the buttress. From here a long smooth V-shaped recess blocked at the top can be seen over to the right. (The first pitch may be avoided by climbing the tree filled gully to the right).

2. 22m 8 Proceed diagonally up towards the recess and end at a ledge.

3. 12m 8 Climb directly up for about 5m and then bear diagonally left into a neat square crack. (An alternative to this pitch lies on the reddish wall to the left, ending also at the base of the square crack).

4. 12m 10 Follow the square crack to a ledge.

5. 9m 7 Climb up a grey face directly above the square crack to end the climb. The finish is about 3m left of the top of the smooth V-shaped recess referred to above.

First ascent: Unknown H. Wong.

WEDGIE

15 *

The climb starts about 6m to the right of R.A.F. CHINK and ascends the prominent wedge shaped recess between R.A.F. CHINK and LILLIPUT RIDGE. Scramble up 15m from the stream to a stance at the base of the recess.

- 1. 9m 13** Ascend recess to ledge.
- 2. 22m 15** Continue up the recess to stance on blocks beneath overhangs. The move through a bulge near the bottom of the pitch is the crux.
- 3. 12m 15** Continue up recess to top. A loose looking block forms an overhang part way up the pitch. The block seems sound and is passed on the left.

First ascent: 23 Aug 1970 C. Swain and A. McGarr.

BROBDIGNAGIAN

17

The climb starts from a tree in the recess at the top of the gully between R.A.F. CHINK and LILLIPUT RIDGE i.e. the same start as WEDGIE.

- 1. 20m 7** Climb sloping face 3m right of start for 10m. Move left and continue up recess to large ledge with tree belay.
- 2. 25m 17** From the belay, traverse 3m right to small ledge on arete. Climb open book/crack above to ledge above large aloe. Continue up crack with loosish (but apparently safe) rock to resting niche (from which it is possible to step off right to large ledge on LILLIPUT RIDGE). Continue up crack to ledge with large blocks.
- 3. 22m 17** Pull up steep face 2m left of belay to ledge. Continue up vague, right slanting crack to ledge with blocks and tree belay.
- 4. 15m 13** Climb the crack immediately behind tree for 3m. Move 2m right to shallow recess and climb recess to top.

First ascent: 13 May 1984 A. Seebregts and T.P. Willmot.

CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE KLOOF

18 ***

Start as for BROBDIGNAGIAN i.e. upstream side of LILLIPUT RIDGE buttress. Scramble 20m up to ledge with tree belays.

1. 25m 17 Hand traverse 3m right to ledge. Climb corner above until stopped by wall with crack in it. (First pitch of BROBDIGNAGIAN.)

2. 12m 18 Pullup left onto blocks on arete (as for BROBDIGNAGIAN). Instead of climbing face on right, traverse left under overhang (exposed) to small corner just to right of gully and move up 2m to small stance.

3. 20m 17 Climb corner above to large ledge with blocks (10m). Climb steep nose above making use of flakes to finish just to left of creeper.

First ascent: 1 Nov 1986 S. Middlemiss and A. Ashford-Jack.

THE CRYSTAL SHIP

19 ***

This route should not be done from April to October as eagles nest on the large ledge.

Climbs the sharp arete between BROBDIGNAGIAN and LILIPUT RIDGE. Scramble up the gully on the left and traverse out right to a small ledge bellow the arete.

1. 20m 19 Climb up the face through a small overlap until below the level of the obvious triangle shaped overhang. Move up diagonally left below the roof to the left and go up on to it. Follow the arete to the large ledge with the eagles nest.

Note:

CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE KLOOF at 18 makes a suitable second pitch for this route if two pitches are climbed.

First ascent: 1991 S. Middlemiss, W. Jenkin and I. Schwartz.

LILLIPUT RIDGE

17 ****

This route should not be done from April to October as eagles nest on the large ledge.

The climb is situated on the prominent red ridge or buttress on the immediate right of the V-shaped recess referred to under R.A.F. CHINK. This ridge is about 75m downstream of GROOTKLOOF GULLY and almost opposite CAVE CRAG.

Start at a tree with two trunks growing from the wall about 1m above the stream. This point is about 18m downstream of the start of RAF CHINK (which is the gully leading all the way to the top of the kloof about 40m upstream of the abseil into the pool when descending the kloof).

1. 40m 7 Climb to small overhang, traverse right and then up diagonally to left to small ledge with pyramid block. Continue straight up for about 3m then diagonally up to left on easier rock to a wide grass ledge. Head diagonally left to a tree filled ledge. Move to the base of an obvious right angle open book with layback finger width crack.

2. 12m 17 Ascend open book then up to left onto step with eagles nest on front of ridge. Continue up for 3m to another step.

3. 5m 12 Climb the crack immediately above which slopes up to the right. This ends at a good stance on triangular ledge.

4. 12m 16 Above is an overhanging recess. Ascend the right wall (grey face) and traverse left into recess just below overhang. Alternatively, climb directly to the overhang. Climb the overhang by a strenuous pull up to the left. Continue diagonally up to the left on easy rock past some poised blocks to a ledge with more blocks.

5. 8m 15 Climb straight up for 3m until able to move right into a vine filled recess. Ascend face/arête to left of recess to top. Take care not to dislodge blocks from the ledge at which the pitch starts.

Note:

The first section of the climb, i.e. up to the grass ledge, serves to warm one up for the ridge which is of consistently good standard, although of miniature proportions which accounts for the climb's name.

First ascent: 28 Oct 1957 R. Davies, M. Urban and P. Urban.

NEW ERA CRACK**10 ***

This route should not be done from April to October as eagles nest on the large ledge.

The climb starts about 45m downstream of R.A.F. CHINK just above a pool which has to be waded to proceed further downstream. Good climb for club meets (mostly grade 7 with 8/9 moves in each pitch).

1. 25m 8 Start on upstream side of depression in rock wall. Climb 6m to depression, then up and traverse left for 8m where a running belay can be made. Ascend 9m in recess to bushy tree.

2. 12m 5 Climb 3m and walk right along grassy ledge to large tree at base of crack.

3. 18m 10 Climb crack, going on to right hand face after 8m and up to tree.

4. 12m 8 Up 5m and traverse left immediately below overhang in exposed position.

5. 9m 8 Climb face on right. This pitch can be avoided.

First ascent: 16 Jan 1955 R. Kinsley and E. Scholes.

PARADISE DECLINED

19 ***

The climb starts at the boulder near the lower end of the wade pool shortly above the main waterfall (between NEW ERA CRACK and ROOF OF ALL EVILS).

1. 30m 17 Start up the thin crack and make an awkward move up left. Continue diagonally up left to below a small overhang. Move with difficulty up the crack to the left of the overhang to a prominent chimney which is climbed to easier, vegetated rock above. Continue up and right to a stance on a ledge below a steep face with some roots down it.

2. 10m 19 Walk to the right along the ledge past the first recess to a steep V-groove going up from its right hand end. Climb this using a combination of layback and jamming moves to a good ledge above.

3. 35m 15 Step left around the corner and climb up past a large precarious block to a point just right of a scruffy recess. Climb the right hand face to the overhang and then step right on to the arete. Continue up to the top.

Note:

The name refers to the attempt to climb up and right from the second stance. After two delicate moves right holding on to micronuts (first one was left in place) followed by a hand swing on to a small ledge in the middle of the exposed face, the leader was so intimidated by the steep hold-less rock above that he abandoned the attempt without anymore ado.

First ascent: 1983

L.P. Fatti, M. Prior and R. Cooper.

WOUNDWARD FLIGHT

24 **

The crack up the wall 2-3m left of ROOF OF ALL EVILS. Start below and left of the crack.

1. 25m 24 Climb up and diagonally right to the crack. Pull through a small roof (tricky) and continue up the crack to the level of a sloping ledge on the left. Traverse right and around the arete to an abseil tree above ROOF OF ALL EVILS.

First ascent: 15 Mar 1986 K.M. Smith, M. Brunke and S.M. Bradshaw.

ROOF OF ALL EVILS

24 ***

Scramble up a gully/recess on the left side of the kloof, downstream of the first wade pool and upstream of the waterfall. The route follows the crack through the cave like overhangs above.

1. 15m 24 Starting on the left, climb up to the roof and step right onto a short slab. Negotiate the overhangs by means of strenuous arm pulls and stance where the angle eases to vertical.

2. 20m 17 Climb the pleasant corner above.

Note:

This route is the free version of the aid route BLACK QUARTER opened in Sep 1974 by M. Briggs and E. Haber.

First ascent: 16 Jun 1985 K.M. Smith and G. Mallory.

THROWING TOYS

26

Next to ROOF OF ALL EVILS.

1. 15m 26 Climb up the face past five bolts.

First ascent: 1991 T. Hoole.

POTTY TRAINING

23

Next to THROWING TOYS.

1. 15m 25 Climb up the face past three bolts.

First ascent: 1991 S. Isabek.

BABOON BUTTRESS

11

The climb starts a few metres upstream from the main waterfall, at a clean corner of grade 7 standard. Above and high up to the right is the buttress, distinguished by a very prominent overhang.

1. 12m 7 Climb corner (facing upstream) to tree on loose slope. Scramble up slope to the left, under and beyond the overhang, until a distinct corner on grey rock is reached.

2. 18m 8 Climb corner to large tree.

3. 12m 10 Climb crack on right to reach a large stance and view site above the overhang.

4. 12m 11 Climb exposed corner immediately above previous pitch, starting with a delicate movement.

First ascent: 30 Oct 1949 E. Scholes, J. Nunn, R. Forsyth and R. Wishart.

POOL DESCENT

10

About 90m downstream from CAVE CRAG a large pool extending over the full width of the kloof leads to a waterfall with another large pool immediately below it. The route is on the left face of the kloof just below the fall and immediately above the lower pool. One or two movements only in about 5m of this descent warrant 10 classification. To reach this spot from either downstream or upstream involves wading through pools spanning the whole width of the kloof. Alternatively, abseil from a tree on the left hand side.

First ascent: Unknown H.J. Barker.

SONDERBROEK

11

So called because the opening party are said to have climbed without trousers after wading through pools. Situated 18m along the traverse below POOL DESCENT.

1. 6m 6 An obvious and easy nose rises from the stance for 5m. A slightly more interesting variation is to climb a short face to the right through some branches.

2. 11m 11 An overhanging crack is climbed for 5m and at the overhang a traverse is made for 3m to the left hand corner which is then climbed direct to the stance.

3. 6m 7 Continue straight up on arete.

4. 18m 7 Slanting crack leads diagonally across the face to the right.

5. 12m 6 The crack continues across the face and is very easy at this point.

Variation:

The second pitch can be turned by going round the corner on the left which will make the pitch grade 5.

First ascent: 4 Aug 1946 T. Bright, B. Cobb, H. Stone and E. Chadwick.

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

19 ***

Good climbing although easier options on either side of the route detract somewhat. The route begins a little downstream of the point midway between the waterfall and the huge chockstone wedged across the kloof. The first pitch goes up a prominent groove fault which leads diagonally right wards up the left side of the kloof to a large ledge 17m up, situated beneath an overhang.

- 1. 17m 13** Climb directly up to meet the prominent groove/fault about halfway along its length and follow it to the ledge below the overhang.
- 2. 25m 19** From the left side of the ledge traverse delicately leftwards round the corner and climb up to a small stance (8m 17). Climb up a few metres from stance and traverse right onto the steep face. 8m of sustained technical climbing straight up the face leads to a large ledge. (Possible to split pitch at 8m.)
- 3. 18m 15** Climb the corner/chimney on the arete above to a good ledge.
- 4. 20m 17** Climb the face to below the overhanging arete. Move around to the right side of the arete and, keeping close to the arete, climb up to a good ledge. (Alt. easier climbing lies to the right.)
- 5. 20m 17** Climb the yellow face above, first by using the crack on the left and then by continuing up the centre of the face (easier options may be found on the edges of the face) to finish at the top of the ridge.

First ascent: 11 Mar 1984 L.P. Fatti and D. Peters.

LOST CAUSE

17 *

Situated on the true left hand wall of Grootkloof, the route starts halfway between the high waterfall and the huge hanging chockstone. Scramble to cave-like ledge just above the stream bed, with a steep recess on its left.

1. **15m 17** Left into the recess and steeply up it to a ledge.
2. **45m 10** Climb nondescript rock to top.

Note:

A bit of a quickie, but there are some fun moves on the first pitch.

First ascent: 1 Feb 1981 K. Smith and C. Mitchell.

AMPER SONDER ONDERBROEK

17 ***

The start of the climb lies a third of the way downstream from the 15m high waterfall to the huge chock stone wedged across the kloof i.e. at the lower end of "the pool across the kloof". The climb starts up the obvious crack on the left side of the kloof which leads up to a gully. The climb continues up the faces to the left of the gully.

1. **20m 17** From a small cave a few metres above the river traverse left to the obvious crack. Climb the crack passing a small chockstone (crux) just over halfway up and continue to a large ledge.
2. **30m 13** Climb the crack/ramp to join a large ledge at 25m. From the left side of the ledge traverse left onto the grey face, climb up several metres then traverse left to a large ledge.
3. **25m 15** Climb the easy grey face to a grassy ledge at 15m. Climb up the middle of the 5m face above at grade 15 then traverse left to a corner at the foot of the final buttress.
4. **30m 15** Climb the polished corner on the buttress for a few metres to gain a ledge on the right of the corner where the corner ends in an overhang. Straddle across the corner and

continue traversing leftwards to the crest of the buttress. Climb the crest of the buttress using cracks and corners to reach the top.

Notes:

1. The first and last pitches are particularly enjoyable.
2. This route is possibly the same as LOST CAUSE.

First ascent: 6 May 1984 D. Peters, T. Snijders, A. Fatti and G. Moseley.

EN BLOC

13

The climb starts beneath the massive chockstone which straddles the whole of Lower Grootkloof. The climb remains dry even after recent rains, but it is necessary to wade through thigh-deep pools in either direction to reach the start.

1. **15m 13** Climb the recess below the downstream side of the chockstone, moving right into a small cave. Move back diagonally left and press up on to a small triangular block then continue left and up over rounded holds (crux) to the top of the chockstone (belay). Scramble up the vegetated ledge above and move right to a recess just short of the overhung gully to the right.
2. **22m 11** Climb the series of short recesses ending in the abovementioned gully.
3. **15m 6** Scramble to the top.

First ascent: 7 Mar 1982 R. Fox and D. Scott.

TRUMPET

15 *

About 60m upstream of SLAB GULLY and about 30m downstream from the large boulder straddling the kloof there is a prominent recess leading up on the true left hand side. It is necessary to wade to reach the foot of the climb.

- 1. 28m 15** Climb this recess to a point about 5m below the overhangs and then swing out left and diagonally up out of the recess. Traverse across left to stance and nut runner belay.
- 2. 30m 15** Pull up into the shallow recess above and continue up, leaning slightly right for 8m to where the angle eases. Continue up the recess to stance and tree belay.
- 3. 25m 8** Continue straight up on easier rock to the top.

First ascent: Dec 1972 A. McGarr and L.P. Fatti.

BASSOON

20 ***

Start about 55m upstream from SLAB GULLY and 35m downstream from the large boulder straddling the kloof. A few metres downstream of the prominent recess of TRUMPET and on the same side of the kloof, there are two short recesses, each capped by an overhang, leading to a ledge 10m above the stream bed.

- 1. 10m 13** Climb the right hand of the two recesses to the large ledge.
- 2. 18m 15** Above the ledge a narrow ramp leads up diagonally rightwards. Step up to reach the base of this ramp and follow it to a stance, passing some loose rock near the top.
- 3. 18m 20** Step left and up into a short, steep recess. Move up 2m and swing left onto steep face and climb up to where angle eases. Climb up recess above to a large ledge.
- 4. 20m 19** Above and to the left of the stance a prominent nose-like arete juts out over the kloof. Climb the crack next to this arete for 4m and then traverse left across it to the edge, where it is possible to move up and then around the corner to a

resting point. Climb the crack above past a small tree and continue to the top.

First ascent: 1979 D. Peters and C. Ward (pitches 1 and 2); L.P. Fatti, D. Peters and A. McGarr (pitch 3); B. Gross and D. Peters (pitch 4)

SIREN

19 *

About 15m upstream from CLARION and 30m up from SLAB GULLY there is a very prominent deep recess up the true left hand side of the kloof. The climb takes the line up a secondary recess, just left of this, which ends up in a narrow curving chimney above. It is necessary to wade to reach the climb.

1. 27m 19 Starting from a tree about 5m above the stream, climb up steep sustained rock for about 9m and then surmount a short overhanging section above ending in an awkward resting spot below and slightly to the left of the narrow curving chimney. A difficult move leads into the base of the chimney and then continue up strenuously for 3m until a small handrail and foothold around the corner enables one to swing out left onto a ledge on the face. Climb a further 3m to a small ledge with nut runner belay.

2. 33m 15 Move diagonally up right and then straight up to a point about 2m below some overhangs. Traverse right around the corner for 5m and then climb up to a good stance.

3. 22m 18 Continue straight up over easier rock to the top.

First ascent: 10 Dec 1972 P. Fatti and A. McGarr.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

23 ***

Situated 25m upstream of SLAB GULLY on the arete to the right of SIREN.

1. 35m 23 From the base of the gulley climb diagonally up right to the base of the undercut arete (peg). Climb up the arete to the left of three more pegs, (last peg a little doubtful) to the tree/bush.

First ascent: 1990

S. Middlemiss and S. Hofmeyer.

CLARION

15

Situated 15m upstream from SLAB GULLY.

1. 9m 11 Ascend diagonally left (slightly off balance) to a cubbyhole in crack 6m above and 9m to left of start. This crack slopes up to the right.

2. 9m 15 Up the crack which is difficult, especially for a large person. End at a ledge with trees. Above this point the face eases off.

3. 35m 7 Pick out the cleanest route to the top. Difficult variations can be included towards the top, on some red slabs.

First ascent: 1955

F. Junod, R. Charlton and Miss M. Armstrong.

WINGS

13 *

This route affords a pleasant way to climb out of lower Grootkloof. It goes up the true left hand side of the kloof, 10m upstream of the large tree at the junction with Slab and Walking Gullies.

Climb to tree at 12m, via cracks and recesses. Continue up in a corner, until the crack overhead closes in. Move left (Crux) onto easier rock, and up leftwards to a large ledge. Scramble to top.

First ascent: Jun 1977

K.M. Smith and P. Bender.

CHINA GIRL

18

The climb starts on the upstream corner of SLAB GULLY (cairn).

1. 35m 18 Climb up the crack beside block to tree. Move into corner and ascend recess above to apex (where rock closes in). Move through to ledge and up off width crack to roof. Move left 1m and up V groove to top.

Note:

A chock approximately 3cm bigger than a #4 friend would be useful for protecting the off width crack.

Variation:

From ledge above apex of recess climb left hand open book to top (15).

First ascent: 15 Oct 1985 S. Middlemiss and M. Cartwright.

SUFFRAGETTE CITY

22 **

Situated on the true right wall of SLAB GULLY in lower Grootkloof. The route follows a brunt arete/groove about 7m right of WINGS and CHINA GIRL. Start just left and above a small tree.

1. 25m 22 Crank up a steep wall past two poor pegs to a ledge. Step right onto an undercut red wall and follow this to and pull through a small overlap to the top.

First ascent: 1990 S. Middlemiss and R. Lord.

HUNKEY DORY

23 ***

1. 20m 23 Start 5m left of SUFFRAGETTE CITY below a vague break. Boulder up to a small ledge, then climb the corner above to the top. Technical climbing using small holds and small wires.

First ascent: 1990 S. Middlemiss and R. Lord.

UNDER PRESSURE

26

Climbs very steep rock on the true right of SLAB GULLY, approximately 10m to the right of SUFFRAGETTE CITY and 5m to the right of HUNKY DORY.

1. 20m 26 Start up a short pillar and climb steep rock past 3 bolts to a horizontal break. Move 2m right and climb the corner above to a ledge

First ascent: 1991 S. Middlemiss and R. Lord.

VANGUARD

9

Situated on left hand wall of SLAB GULLY follows crack going up wall.

1. 35m 9 Follow crack which peters out after 18m and climb becomes an easy scramble.

First ascent: 1 Dec 1985 S. Middlemiss, B. Slater and M. Cartwright.

SLAB GULLY

7

This gully affords a convenient abseil route into the kloof for CLARION and other climbs in the vicinity.

First ascent: Date unknown R. Charlton.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

24

Climbs the steep wall on the left side of the Kloof about 10m downstream of the WALKING GULLY / SLAB GULLY intersection. It follows an obvious right leaning crack/weakness in the relatively smooth wall. Starts from a downstream sloping ledge system about 3m above water level. Getting to the base of the route can be tricky if there is a lot of water in the kloof.

1. 35m 24 Climb up the on the LH side of the recess & pull the bulge (fixed piton), then follow the crack line diagonally right to the top.

First ascent: 1991

S. Middlemiss.

AND SO TO BED

19,A1 **

The climb starts from a boulder in the middle of the pool in lower Grootkloof immediately opposite the beginning of CATHERDRAL WALL and TRESPASSERS W.

1. 15m 17 From the boulder ascend the wall on the left side of the kloof to a ledge about 4m above the water level. Climb diagonally right up a prominent recess for about 6m to the overhang, above which the recess becomes a narrow crack on a steep face. Climb through the overhang and continue up the steep face for about 3m to a tiny stance in a triangular recess on top of a loose chockstone.

2. 18m 19,A1 Move slightly left and up about 2m to a small ledge. Traverse right 2,5m using two pitons and then up a scoop for about 6m to a sloping ledge. Traverse left about 3m then up an obvious hand jam crack for 3m. From this point move left with difficulty to a small ledge around the corner. Continue up for about 3m and then right for 4m along a sloping ledge to a comfortable stance behind small trees.

3. 37m 11 Climb face and recess behind the stance for 9m and then continue up the face to top on very pleasant rock.

Note:

Pitch 1 was first climbed in Sep 1968 by I. McLachlan and B. Tyson.

First ascent: 2 May 1971 L.P. Fatti, I. McLachlan and A. McGarr.

INTO THE BLACK

23 **

A triangular cave/recess peaks 12m above the river level in Lower Grootkloof about 50m downstream of SLAB GULLY. INTO THE BLACK takes the crack line immediately to the left (upstream) of the cave.

1. 20m 23 Starting slightly right gain the crack and follow it to easier ground.

2. 25m 15 Climb rightwards over a blocky ledge and continue to the top.

Note:

A pre-placed wire nut has been left insitu at the base of the crack. Second followed on aid.

First ascent: 17 Mar 1984 K.M. Smith and M. Smith.

YSTERHOUTKLOOF: List of Climbs

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| DON'T SINK THE BOAT | 23 | * | 75 |
| GERIATRIC NERVE ENDING | 21 | *** | 72 |
| THE RUBBER MAN | 20 | *** | 71 |
| KNEE DEEP | 20 | ** | 71 |
| THE GUNK MAN | 19 | * | 72 |
| HANDS ACROSS THE CHASM | 19 | | 73 |
| DUST IN THE WIND | 17 | *** | 75 |
| LEAVITT ALONE | 17 | *** | 74 |
| THE FAIR MAIDEN | 17 | *** | 74 |
| RHIZOME RHYTHM | 17 | | 73 |
| NO NAME BRAND | 15 | | 73 |

YSTERHOUTKLOOF

Ysterhoutkloof, also known as Kleinkloof, is the usual campsite for Grootkloof and is crossed on the walk in to Grootkloof. A commercial tree canopy tour is possible within the upper parts of the kloof. It is actually rather fun.

Climbs on the true right

KNEE DEEP

20 **

On the walk-in to Grootkloof, as you enter Ysterhoutkloof upstream of the campsite, is a very obvious off-width crack above a small roof on the far side of the kloof (true right).

Note:

Please note that the Canopy Tour has a platform underneath this route.

1. 20m 20 Climb up to the roof and climb the crack.

First ascent: Mid 1988 P. Lazarus.

THE RUBBER MAN

20 ***

Taking the right buttress 8m upstream of THE GUNK MAN.

1. 20m 20 Climb up the centre of the front of the right buttress heading for the obvious finger crack. Gain the finger crack and follow it to a small roof. Continue up the crack through the roof with difficulty to easier ground above.

First ascent: 4 Jan 1986 I. Guest and I. Hoole.

THE GUNK MAN

19 *

Situated about 20m downstream of the lower campsite, Just above a pool that spans the kloof. On the right hand side of the pool is a cave/recess bounded on either side by buttresses with a cairn at the stream bed. THE GUNK MAN takes the left buttress front.

1. 25m 19 Starting slightly to the right of a square root climb 2m up a pillar of blocks. Swing left and up a thin crack leading past the roof on the right to a flake jug. Using straddle and layback moves, break through to the right of the roof and thence up and left over a series of ledges to stance.

First ascent: 4 Jan 1986 T. Hoole and I. Guest.

GERIATRIC NERVE ENDING

21 ***

About 100m downstream of the campsite (about 20m downstream of some caves on the right and where the old Grootkloof path exits eastward from Kleinkloof) is an overhanging dihedral bounded on the left by a cave and on the right by an arete.

1. 25m 21 Climb the dihedral.

First ascent: 27 Jan 1988 S. Middlemiss and J. Colenso.

Climbs on the true left

RHIZOME RHYTHM **17**

10m upstream from NO NAME BRAND. Just before a recessed corner there is a short wall.

- 1. 20m 15** Climb the wall to a good stance (you can miss out this pleasant wall by climbing the recessed corner).
- 2. 20m 17** Move left into the corner where roots extend down. Climb past the roots moving right and up through brick red overhanging rock.

First ascent: Nov 1983 N. Carr, T. Maddison and C. Ward.

NO NAME BRAND **15**

20m upstream from HANDS ACROSS THE CHASM, the climb takes a vertical fault line via a ledge.

- 1. 20m 11** **Climb** a crack and recess to a large ledge.
- 2. 20m 15** Continue up the fault crack through slightly overhanging rock to the top.

First ascent: Nov 1983 N. Carr, T. Maddison and C. Ward.

HANDS ACROSS THE CHASM **19**

Start in the upstream chimney/gully. Scramble up 20m into the chimney/gully until below a short corner

- 1. 10m 19** Climb the corner crack to a ledge on the right.
- 2. 20m 17** Traverse right along a natural break for approx. 10m (Chimney/gully closes in considerably! Climb up slightly left on overhanging rock to the top

First ascent: Nov 1983 N. Carr, T. Maddison and C. Ward.

LEAVITT ALONE

17 ***

About 50m downstream of THE GUNK MAN is a prominent buttress split by an off-width crack 15m above stream level. Scramble up from the left onto a ledge halfway up.

1. 15m 17 Climb the off-width crack using obvious techniques.

First ascent: 4 Jan 1986 I. Guest and T. Hoole.

THE FAIR MAIDEN

17 ***

When climbing down into Ysterhoutkloof from the Grootkloof side, one is confronted with a section of orange rock with numerous small overhangs in the upper half. This is about 40m downstream of the campsite. On the downstream side of the orange rock is a smooth obvious open book at about mid-height, which is topped by a small triangular overhang. The downstream side of the open book is grey and smooth and has a horizontal crack.

1. 35m 17 Start in a recess of smooth rock below the open book. From the top of the recess trend left, then right into the open book. Swing right out of the open book (good runner) onto rough, sloping rock and so bypass the overhang. 10m delicate climbing takes one to the top of the cliff. Sustained climbing throughout.

First ascent: Dec 1983 K. Kruger, T. White and M. Giddy.

DUST IN THE WIND

17 ***

The route is in Ysterhoutkloof, about 70m upstream of the lower campsite. It takes a line up a good looking face that can be seen from the path above the campsite.

1. 25m 17 Climb out of the indigenous forest and up the steep face above. Keep fairly close to the left arete. The rock is fairly polished but solid.

First ascent: 16 Jun 1985 G. Mallory, K. Smith and P. Weasle.

DON'T SINK THE BOAT

23 *

About 300m down Ysterhoutkloof from the main campsite is a steep and fairly wide greyish wall on the right. On the left hand side of the wall, a large tree arches over to touch the top of the wall

1. 15m 23 Climb up directly below where the tree touches the wall.

First ascent: 8 Apr 1989 P. Lazarus.

GROBLERSKLOOF: List of Climbs

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| IN THE PINK | 26 | **** | 121 |
| RUFUS | 25 | **** | 97 |
| BUDAPEST COMPRESS | 24 | *** | 123 |
| WONDERING ALOUD | 24 | *** | 121 |
| SHANGHAI SURPRISE | 23 | **** | 120 |
| DANCE OF THE LITTLE FAIRIES | 23 | *** | 87 |
| TURKEY SHOOT | 23 | *** | 96 |
| CASCABEL | 21 | ***** | 85 |
| THE CORNER | 21 | **** | 122 |
| ANCIENT DUST | 21 | *** | 122 |
| GLENDAS ROUTE | 21 | ** | 99 |
| THUGS WALL | 21 | ** | 86 |
| FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOAT | 20 | ***** | 90 |
| CALCANIUS | 20 | **** | 121 |
| COME WE GO DOWN THERE | 20 | *** | 121 |
| DANCE ME TO THE END OF LOVE | 20 | *** | 115 |
| SPOONER | 20 | *** | 95 |
| TRISDIDECAPHOBIA | 20 | *** | 119 |
| DEADLY PURSUIT | 20 | ** | 120 |
| HLOMO AMABUTO | 20 | ** | 124 |
| POWERS THAT BE | 20 | ** | 123 |
| SAKKIE | 20 | ** | 90 |
| ALOE ANARCHY | 19 | **** | 116 |
| ROGUE'S CRACK | 19 | **** | 86 |
| STICKY CORNER | 19 | **** | 96 |
| ROCK'S DIFFERENT | 19 | *** | 85 |
| SILVER TONGUE DEVIL | 19 | *** | 100 |
| THE NAMELESS ONE | 19 | *** | 124 |
| CHILCOOT CHARLIE | 19 | ** | 89 |
| DESPERATION | 19 | | 111 |
| PAPER TIGER | 19 | | 81 |

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| A TOUCH OF CLASS | 18 | **** | 87 |
| PHALLUS | 18 | **** | 101 |
| ALL CRACKED UP | 18 | *** | 98 |
| WALKING ON SUNSHINE | 18 | *** | 105 |
| SLANG | 18 | ** | 91 |
| AMADEUS | 18 | | 84 |
| SHAKA ZULU | 17 | *** | 123 |
| DONALD | 17 | ** | 94 |
| FEELING GROOVY | 17 | ** | 115 |
| LOUIE | 17 | ** | 92 |
| SAREL | 17 | ** | 91 |
| THE BUSH COMPANY | 17 | ** | 88 |
| SCROOGE | 17 | * | 93 |
| X-SPIRE | 17 | * | 106 |
| SYMBOL | 17 | | 102 |
| THE VAN SAKSTEEN SAGA | 17 | | 119 |
| TRIPLE CONCERTO | 17 | | 82 |
| HAPPY HEDGEHOG | 16 | ** | 118 |
| OUBOY | 16 | ** | 118 |
| SUZI | 16 | ** | 92 |
| TOP GUN | 16 | ** | 98 |
| BRUCE | 16 | * | 117 |
| PERSPIRATION | 16 | | 110 |
| ANGEL OF MERCY | 15 | ** | 99 |
| GEORDIE CRACK | 15 | ** | 94 |
| HUEY | 15 | ** | 93 |
| JEZEBEL | 15 | ** | 111 |
| PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS | 15 | ** | 97 |
| DECEPTION | 15 | * | 81 |
| COMPROMISE | 15 | | 114 |
| TASK FORCE | 15 | | 116 |
| CHICKEN CRUMPET | 14 | * | 112 |
| CATBURGLAR | 13 | *** | 108 |

| Climb Name | Grade | Stars | Pg |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| CENTIPEDE | 13 | *** | 88 |
| LOAFER | 13 | *** | 103 |
| PINNACLE FACE | 13 | ** | 106 |
| SLOB-A-GOB | 13 | ** | 108 |
| STORM | 13 | ** | 95 |
| SIN-TIL-LATE | 13 | * | 83 |
| LATE START | 13 | | 112 |
| PINNACLE CHIMNEY | 13 | | 105 |
| TURDOCHARGED | 13 | | 89 |
| TANGLES | 12 | *** | 118 |
| BAGSCRATCHER | 12 | * | 83 |
| SNOOPY | 12 | | 120 |
| RED WALL | 11 | **** | 104 |
| BULLDOG ARETE | 11 | ** | 119 |
| DUEY | 11 | ** | 92 |
| MISDIRECTED | 11 | | 114 |
| THREE WAYS | 11 | | 113 |
| WHOOSH | 11 | | 113 |
| BLOCKTOP PINNACLE | 10 | ** | 107 |
| DEAD EASY | 10 | | 107 |
| THURSDAY SPECIAL | 10 | | 109 |
| LITTLE MOLAR | 9 | *** | 101 |
| OPUS ONE | 9 | *** | 100 |
| DAISY | 9 | | 93 |
| MANYANA | 9 | | 117 |
| TUNNEL | 8 | * | 110 |
| CRACKUS | 8 | | 104 |
| FOUR WAY JUNCTION | 7 | | 103 |
| OLD DEVIL | 7 | | 109 |

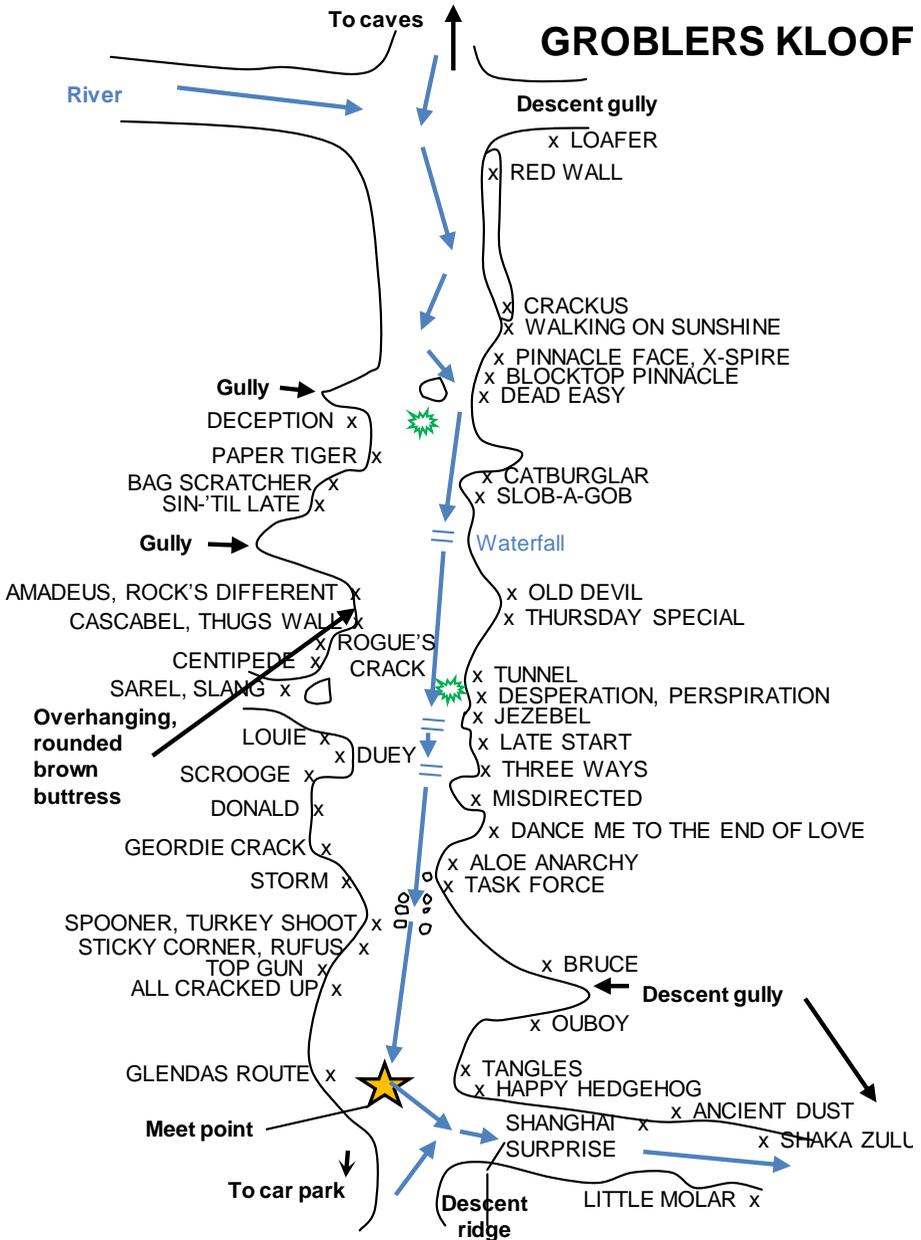
GROBLERSKLOOF

This is a miniature kloof with rock climbs of 40m or less. Access is very easy. Water is always available and pleasant camping is available in the caves at the upper end of the kloof. The meet point is at the eastern end where the kloof makes a right-angle turn to the north. The rock is generally clean and un-vegetated, with a good selection of grades. Descent gullies present no problem, except for the climbs along the northern (left-hand) wall when returning to the meet point. Inexperienced parties should descend north of the meet point down the partially hidden, easy, but steep gully opposite LITTLE MOLAR (a conspicuous brown pillar on the far side of the kloof).

Safety

There is a large tree with a "ball and claw" in a clearing 400 paces upstream from the meeting place at the junction of 2 streams. The safety dump is 15m up a gully on the true left side of the kloof, 13m downstream of this tree. This is the second gully upstream of CATBURGLAR.

GROBLERS KLOOF



Climbs on the true right

DECEPTION

15 *

From the cave where the stretcher is kept, proceed 30m upstream to a huge dead tree on the left. Continue up gully (upstream from BAGSCRATCHER) immediately left after the dead tree. Halfway up the gully on the left is a prominent recess with a chimney blocked in at the top. The climb takes the recess and the chimney.

1. 25m 15 Climb the recess to the base of chimney. Continue up the chimney to the roof. Traverse out left using a semi-hand traverse for 3m. Mantleshelf onto the final ledge.

First ascent: 2 Dec 1978 J. Esterhuysen and R. Davis.

PAPER TIGER

19

Six paces upstream of TRIPLE CONCERTO on the right-hand side of the gully capped by overhangs is an easy looking wall with rounded holds leading to a ledge at 6m. Start behind the tree.

1. 35m 19 Climb the wall until a move right by a little ledge can be made then straight up to large ledge. To the left is a short undercut corner. Climb this until pull-up right can be made to ledge. Step right and up easier rock to a ledge with a niche which has a short steep slab above it to its left. Bridge up the niche and make a delicate traverse left using a pinch grip until a ledge is reached. Climb straight up to the top of the cliff.

First ascent: 10 Oct 1981 N. and R. Cleaver.

TRIPLE CONCERTO

17

16 paces downstream of the 1m tree with "bag-and-claw" feet on the same side of the kloof as DECEPTION and BAGSCRATCHER, is a little gully capped by overhangs. On the left side of this gully is a short wall characterised by a large knob / ledge of rock about 7m up. Start 1,5m to the right of this knob.

1. 10m 17 Make difficult starting moves and continue upwards heading for the knob of rock. From here continue on easier rock until the large ledge is reached.

2. 30m 17 Pull up to the ledge on the left at shoulder height. Traverse 2m left and move up to a large ledge with many loose blocks. Walk right 3m until past a large protruding block at shoulder height in the bay above. Climb the rock on the right of the block until it becomes overhung then use a flake to traverse left into a small bay. Scramble up to the top.

First ascent: 10 Oct 1981 N. and R. Cleaver.

BAGSCRATCHER

12 *

On the true right-hand side of the kloof and 10m upstream of the gully is a recessed corner capped by a huge tortoise-shaped block 12m up with a huge tortoise head projecting under an overhang.

1. 15m 12 Climb the recessed corner with the slightly overhanging start to a small triangular ledge level with the tortoise head. Move right using the hands for friction atop a sloping block to gain a foothold to the right (crux). Move right to stance behind block.

2. 18m 11 Climb the recessed corner immediately behind the stance end continue up to a broad ledge. Walk off to the right or climb a nondescript grade 6 pitch.

Note:

Short persons may find the crux move to be 13.

First ascent: 16 Apr 1978 R. Fox, Miss C. Chester and D. Scott.

SIN-TIL-LATE

13 *

Start 4m left of BAGSCRATCHER below a small tree in the brown recess 2m up and below a band of overhangs.

1. 15m 13 Climb diagonally right surmounting a series of stepped brown blocks to gain a triangular ledge (stance common with BAGSCRATCHER).

2. 20m 13 Ascend the recess immediately above the stance. Move tight across the large precariously placed block and up to a large ledge bisecting the entire buttress. Walk 10m left and scramble up to cave-like recess. With whitish roof and rocks piled at rear.

3. 10m 10 Climb to the roof level inside the cave. Move out left onto the exposed brown face to the top of the buttress.
Variation:

3. 10m 19 From the roof of the cave move right onto the face almost devoid of holds. Move up into tapering jamming crack (crux) to the top of the buttress. (21 Jul 1978 M. O'Reilly and M. Arsenjevic)

First ascent: 27 May 1978 R. Fox and D. Scott.

AMADEUS

18

Upstream and around the corner from CENTIPEDE lies a short recess leading to a ledge with it V-groove above,

1. 8m 17 Climb the recess to the ledge.

2. 12m 18 Climb up the V-groove past a poor piton and continue up past a sapling to it small ledge on the right, then reach up and mantleshelf on to a large ledge.

3. 25m 17 Climb the obvious crack with loose flakes in it, using bridging movements when it becomes overhung. Step up right and continue straight up on broken ground until below a little chimney with a steep wall on the left. Climb up the wall to reach the top of the cliff.

First ascent: 10 Oct 1981 N. and R. Cleaver.

ROCK'S DIFFERENT

19 ***

On the true right-hand side of the kloof is a very clean krantz, the lower corner of which is totally undercut. The climb takes a line between ROGUE'S CRACK and AMADEUS. The climb starts as for AMADEUS but traverses left across the undercut slabs and up the arete. Scramble up the first pitch of AMADEUS to the base of the V-groove, or walk in from the left.

1. 26m 19 Climb slightly up and onto the undercut face on the left, traverse left until a good move is made up. Swing slightly left to mantleshelf into a V-groove capped by an overhang. Mantleshelf up left, then make an awkward move up to a very large ledge. Scramble to the top.

Notes:

1. A short good-quality route on excellent rock, with good exposure, which is rare in this kloof.
2. The first free ascent was on 13 Apr 1985 by J. Brown and I. Slatem.

First ascent: 1 Aug 1984 J. Brown and D. Young (3 points of aid)

CASCABEL

21 *****

This route starts 2-3 m to the right of ROGUES' CRACK and follows a direct line up the steep wall to an overhanging open book.

1. 25m 21 Climb directly up to the bolt. Continue up the open book with a crack in the back (crux) and climb the face above to a small ledge, where a stance may be taken. Continue up the headwall above moving slightly right, and then slightly left, passing a peg. Continue directly up to the large ledge shared with ROGUES' CRACK,

2. 10m 10 Climb the crack at the back of the ledge to a stance. Scramble right into a recess and continue up to the top of the crag.

Note:

Sustained climbing on direct clean line with good exposure near the top of the 1st pitch.

First ascent: 18 Sep 1988 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

THUGS WALL**21 ****

Takes the break 2m to the left of CASCABEL.

1. 25m 21 Climb strenuously through the short overhang onto a steep face and continue up to the ledge. Finish as for CASCABEL.

First ascent: Apr 1990 S. Middlemiss.

ROGUE'S CRACK**19 ******

On the right hand side of the kloof looking downstream there is a very clean krantz, with a clearly visible chimney in it (CENTIPEDE). The climb starts about 3m to the right of the large fig tree at the base of the chimney. Belay on the same tree.

1. 30m 19 Climb the broken, slightly overhanging face to 1,5m below the overhang, then traverse delicately to a small ledge on the right. Continue up the overhanging crack to a chockstone. Continue up to the chockstone. Swing out right under the chockstone and traverse 3m to large ledge on right. Scramble to the top.

Notes:

- 1.** A short strenuous climb, but clean with good protection.
- 2.** The first free ascent was by K. Swanson and T. Mercer.

First ascent: 29 Jul 1978 J. Esterhuysen and R. Davis.

DANCE OF THE LITTLE FAIRIES

23 ***

Takes the steep crack 5m to the left of ROGUE'S CRACK i.e. directly behind the large fig tree.

1. 25m 23 Climb the very steep hand/fist sized crack to a small ledge below the stepped roofs. Pull through both roofs above and move onto the steep face. Avoid the roof directly above by moving slightly left. Continue up the face to the ledge shared with A TOUCH OF CLASS.

Note:

Finish as for A TOUCH OF CLASS. In summer beware of the wasps in the crack.

First ascent: Apr 1990 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

A TOUCH OF CLASS

18 ****

Climbs the steep face just to the right of CENTIPEDE.

1. 36m 18 Start as for CENTIPEDE and climb up to the small ledge. Instead of moving left climb the crack on the right. At the top of the crack move right onto the slab. Climb up the middle of the slab to a good ledge.

2. 15m 12 Climb the face above the ledge to the top of the crag.

Note:

Very enjoyable exposed climbing on the 1st pitch.

First ascent: 7 Feb 1988 M. Seegers, D. Margetts, Miss E. Boyes and Miss R. Parr.

CENTIPEDE

13 ***

Start 10m upstream of the gully wall behind a large fig tree with split trunk and 3m left of ROGUE'S CRACK.

1. 30m 13 Climb the obvious crack-cum-chimney passing a broad ledge halfway up. Emerge on the left at the top where the crack closes and move left to a good ledge (or continue straight up to the top).

2. 8m 8 Walk left and climb the short recess to the top.

Note:

The name derives from the length of the climb i.e. 100 ft crack.

First ascent: 15 Oct 1978 R. Fox and D. Scott.

THE BUSH COMPANY

17 **

This climb takes the buttress just to the left of CENTIPEDE.

1. 30m 17 Climb the centre of the buttress forming the left hand side of the CENTIPEDE crack-cum-chimney. About two-thirds of the way up a good ledge is reached. From here climb a crack on the right hand side (just around the corner from the CENTIPEDE recess) past a hollow block. Exit rightwards at the top of the crack to finish up the last 3m of CENTIPEDE.

Notes:

1. Finish as for CENTIPEDE.

2. The name of this climb is the same as a well known strip club in Anchorage, Alaska, as is CHILCOOT CHARLIE.

First ascent: 26 Oct 1986 D. Margetts and A. Mercer.

TURDOCHARGED

13

Ascends the large recess 5m downstream of CENTIPEDE.

1. 25m 13 Starting on the right hand side of the recess, climb up to a small ledge. Move left into the corner and climb it. (An easier variation climbs the face to the right of the corner, but protection is sparse). Move right near the top and stance on the same ledge as CENTIPEDE.

2. 15m 13 Move left into the recess, climb it and then traverse left. Climb to the top of the crag. Alternatively climb the last pitch of CENTIPEDE.

First ascent: 24 Apr 1988 Miss E. Boyes, D. Margetts and M.J. Seegers.

CHILCOOT CHARLIE

19 **

The climb follows a beautiful line in a groove that starts about 10m from the ground. Start in the middle of the face 10m left of CENTIPEDE, 1,5m left of the large groove above.

1. 30m 19 Climb the face on thin holds to the ledge where one moves right into the large groove and good protection. Climb up the groove to the top through the tree. The crux is near the bottom of the groove.

First ascent: 31 Jul 1983 T. Mercer and K. Swanson.

FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOAT

20 *****

Climbs the steep wall to the left of CHILCOOT CHARLIE.

1. 30m 20 Climb directly up the face to a small ledge. From the right hand side of the ledge climb up the steep face past a bolt into a crack line. Continue straight up to a small ledge with a short, right facing corner. Climb the corner moving left to below a small tree. Climb up liberally using the tree and stand on it. It is easier to climb on the left side of the tree. Move up to a big ledge. (The last move is the crux).

2. 10m 10 Climb the recess at the back of the ledge past a tree to the top of the crag.

Note:

A sustained, direct climb with good protection. Hardest move is 19, but due to sustained nature graded 20.

First ascent: 23 Oct 1988 M.J. Seegers and D. Margetts.

SAKKIE

20 **

Located downstream and around the corner from FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOAT. The climb is characterized by an overhanging face with a crack ending at about two thirds height. The face is set back in the rear of a wide recess.

1. 25m 20 Climb the recess up the right hand corner to the steep face with the crack in it. Using the ledge on the right climb to the top of the crack and then rail left onto a ledge. Climb the corner to another ledge and traverse right and then move up to a large ledge. Belay here and/or ascend the short face to the top of the crag.

Good climbing, however, the line is non-continuous.

First ascent: 1 May 1988 D. Margetts and M.J. Seegers.

SAREL

17 **

Start 1m to the left of SAKKIE.

1. 25m 17 Climb the crack to the left of the fig tree roots, moving through a bulge. Continue upward, over easy rock, to a good ledge. Climb up the obvious corner to another ledge (shared with SAKKLE). Finish as for SAKKIE. i.e. Traverse right and move up to a good ledge. Climb a short recess to the top of the crag.

The opening party avoided the obvious direct finish up the chimney, since the chockstone looked unstable.

First ascent: 1 May 1988 M.J. Seegers and D. Margetts.

SLANG

18 **

Start 2m to the left of SAREL.

1. 20m 16 Climb the recess up to a good ledge.

2. 20m 18 Move up and right from the ledge to a chimney. Ascend the chimney until forced out on the right to a small ledge. Climb up for 2m and then move left, back into the chimney. Climb the chimney to the top of the crag.

Note:

The opening party found that the chimney was too narrow to climb at a certain point and were forced out of it. However, a smaller climber may be able to climb the entire chimney. If this variation is chosen then the grading given is not applicable as the crux move was stepping out of the chimney.

First ascent: 12 May 1988 D. Margetts and M.J. Seegers.

SUZI

16 **

Starts 2 to 3m left of SLANG.

- 1. 10m 12** Climb the face moving right onto a ledge with a small tree. Continue up to the good ledge shared with SLANG.
- 2. 15m 18** Climb the open book at the back of the ledge, moving left at the top to a good ledge. Climb the short recess in the back of the ledge to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 2 May 1988 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

LOUIE

17 **

Climbs the obvious break which is capped by an overhang 3m to the right of DUEY.

- 1. 15m 17** Climb the face up to the overhang. Move slightly left and break through the overhang at the narrowest point. Continue up the recess above exiting to the right to a good stance.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1989 D. Margetts, M. Seegers and T. Truter.

DUEY

11 **

Begins 2 to 3m right of HUEY. and ascends the obvious recess.

- 1. 15m 11** Gain the recess and climb this to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1989 M. Seegers, D. Margetts and T. Truter.

HUEY

15 **

Starts 5m to the right of and around the corner from SCROOGE.

1. 20m 15 Start in the middle of the face. Climb the face to a tree in a narrow chimney. Climb the chimney to a large block and then proceed up the face which overlooks the river below, to a tree. Traverse right to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1989 D. Margetts, M. Seegers and T. Truter.

SCROOGE

17 *

This climb ascends an obvious recess/chimney on the first buttress downstream of the CENTIPEDE buttress. (i.e. left of the descent gully, when looking upward.) The start is marked by an undercut shallow chimney capped with an overhang.

1. 20m 17 Climb the recess and then move right onto a ledge. Climb the wall on the right of the chimney for a few metres and then move left into the chimney. Climb to the top of the chimney and then traverse left to a good ledge. Climb the crack, at the back of the recess to the right of the ledge, to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1989 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

DAISY

9

Climbs the open book 5m to the left of SCROOGE.

1. 20m 9 Climb the easy groove past a tree to a small ledge. Move right and climb to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1989 M. Seegers, D. Margetts and T. Truter.

DONALD

17 **

A slab capped with an overhang is located about 5m downstream of SCROOGE. The climb is marked by a short left facing corner leading up to a fairly large tree.

1. 20m 17 Climb the crack in the corner to the tree and then traverse left across the slab. Climb the recess above to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1989 D. Margetts, M. Seegers and T. Truter.

GEORDIE CRACK

15 **

The climb is situated approximately 180m upstream from the meet point and above short faces at stream level. Start left of large cavern recess at an obvious crack with roots for the first 3m vanishing into the crack.

1. 26m 15 Climb the crack until crack closes. Move onto left face and continue up until just past the ledge with the Acacia tree. Traverse left on large flake to the ledge above.

2. 12m 10 Climb directly upwards in the corner into the chimney and out to the top.

First ascent: 4 Dec 1983 K. Gallager and R. Jans.

STORM

13 **

Start 150m upstream from the meeting place (beaconed) next to a shallow red cave i.e. near GEORDIE CRACK.

1. 35m 13 Climb the distinctive steep open book until it stops (last move is the crux). (This open book is right-angled with a crack in its corner.) Traverse out delicately to the left until on the ledge at the dead tree. Climb the deep recess above.

Note:

Miss. R Parr drastically altered the lower section of this climb by removing the majority of the open book. The grade was not altered. The remainder of the climb is exposed with good protection.

First ascent: 1983 V. Nienaber, M. Richter, D. Margetts and N. Margetts.

SPOONER

20 ***

Takes the left facing corner 5m right of TURKEY SHOOT.

1. 20m 20 Climb up to the corner using a good but suspect sounding block/flake. Climb the corner to below the small roof and step right onto the small ledge shared with TURKEY SHOOT. Finish as for TURKEY SHOOT.

First ascent: Nov 1990 D. Margetts, M. Seegers and N. Margetts.

TURKEY SHOOT

23 ***

On the right wall of STICKY CORNER is a rounded arête. This climb takes the steep face to the right of the rounded arête. The face is characterised by small upward pointing fins of rock.

1. 20m 23 Climb up to the cubby hole 2m off the ground. Step right into the faint recess and climb up using a series of strenuous lay away moves. Pull up onto a small ledge. Proceed up the juggy face to a comfortable stance.

Amble up the non-descript rock above. Move left onto the mega ledge of STICKY CORNER. Descend as for STICKY CORNER.

First ascent: Nov 1990 M. Seegers, D. Margetts and N. Margetts.

STICKY CORNER

19 ****

About 15m upstream of TOP GUN there is an impressive roof with a triangular notch in the centre. An obvious dirty looking corner is situated about 5m to the right.

1. 25m 19 Climb up the crack on the left wall of the corner so as to avoid the dirty looking bit. Move right into the corner at about 5m. Bridge up through the roofs and then move left on good holds onto the face and climb up to a small ledge. Climb the small recess on the right side of the ledge to another narrow ledge. At this stage it is possible to step right to gain easier rock, however for more good climbing (a little runout), climb the open book above, exiting left to gain a mega ledge.

Note:

Even though this climb looks pretty grotty it is actually quite good. Care should be taken in the summer months as it is infested with wasps. Descent is by abseil from the horizontal branch of the big tree.

First ascent: Jun 1991 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

RUFUS

25 ****

This route climbs through the roof mentioned in STICKY CORNER on the left side.

1. 25m 25 Start directly below the left most point of the roof. Climb up the easy angled rock to the left of the small overhang, up to the first ledge. Make an awkward move right, across the gap to the base of a short left leaning corner capped with a small triangular white roof. Climb the corner to the small ledge. Climb diagonally left across the slab up to the left end of the roof. Pull through the roof and amble up to the mega ledge.

Note:

Abseil down using the horizontal branch of the large tree.

First ascent: 1991 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS

15 **

Climbs the very broken left facing recess below and left of the big roof with the triangular notch,

1. 25m 15 Climb up the easy face to gain a large block. Make an awkward move (crux) off the block into the smooth undercut left facing corner. Climb the corner and then straight up the steep recess above to a big ledge.

Note:

Abseil down using the horizontal branch of the large tree.

First ascent: Apr 1990 M. Seegers, D. Margetts, A. Margetts and P. McCann.

TOP GUN

16 **

This climb is situated on the first major buttress upstream of the meet site. The climb is characterised by a large overhang near the top of the buttress and a short crack about one third way up the face on the right.

1. 26m 16 Climb the face starting on the right-hand edge to a short crack. Move leftwards to a small tree below a large overhang. Opt out of crack through the roof and traverse left. Climb the chimney-crack awkwardly to the top (crux).

Note:

Good exposure near the top.

First ascent: 21 Sep 1986 D. Margetts and G. Margetts.

ALL CRACKED UP

18 ***

Immediately downstream of and around the corner from TOP GUN is a short corner. There is a prominent crack beginning 5m above the ground, higher up is an off-width crack with a slab on its right.

1. 15m 18 Climb the corner to gain the crack. Climb the crack to a ledge. Step right under the small roof to get to the off-width. Climb the slab on the right to a ledge.

First ascent: Apr 1990 M. Seegers, D. Margetts, A. Margetts and P. McCann.

GLENDAS ROUTE

21 **

This climb is located on the short buttress virtually directly above the meet site. The buttress is characterised by the large fig roots on the right-hand side. The climb is protected with two bolts.

1. 15m 21 Climb up from the left side of the face to the overlap. It is advisable to place a sling on the vine/root on the left. Pull through the overhang and onto the face (crux). Continue to the top of the slab to the ledge with tree belay.

Note:

It is possible to climb the left arete and use the bolts for protection. In this case the grade is 20.

First ascent: Oct 1990 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

ANGEL OF MERCY

15 **

The climb takes the centre of the buttress to the right of OPUS ONE.

1. 25m 15 Start in a small recess. Climb up the recess to easier rock. Continue up to the first small overhang. Move through the overhang and continue up to a second overhang with a crack running through it. Surmount this overhang (crux) and move right to climb a short face to the top.

First ascent: 21 Sep 1986 D. Margetts and G. Margetts.

OPUS ONE

9 ***

Start 10m to the right of LITTLE MOLAR in extreme right of the small gully (160 paces downstream from meet point).

1. 30m 9 Climb over two brown blocks to gain access to the greyish slabs which are climbed to the foot of the crack. Climb the crack which widens into a chimney. Emerge on the right atop a pile of brown blocks.

Note:

Descent gully behind pillar on left or abseil off large tree.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1978 R. Fox, Miss C. Chester and D. Scott.

SILVER TONGUE DEVIL

19 ***

Between OPUS ONE and LITTLE MOLAR is a steep overhanging buttress. The climb takes a line up the middle of the buttress.

1. 30m 19 Scramble up easy rock to the base of the first overhang. Climb the face just to the right of the first overhang. Continue up the crack system to a good ledge, move leftward to small stance below the roof with crack running through it. Move through the roof and continue up, moving slightly right, onto the top of the pinnacle.

Note:

Good, clean, exposed climb.

First ascent: 3 May 1986 N. Margetts and D. Margetts.

LITTLE MOLAR

9 ***

On the right-hand side of the lower kloof, 180 paces downstream from the usual meet point is a 40m pile of smooth brown pillar-like rocks. The climb starts 15m from the stream bed in a crack behind a tree in front of the left-hand pillar.

1. 30m 9 Climb the crack to a ledge with a large block on the right. Move up to the overhang and move left into the chimney (crux). Climb over two chockstones in the chimney then climb to the top of the right hand pillar or surmount the pillar from behind (7).

Descent as for OPUS ONE.

First ascent: 19 Mar 1978 R. Fox, Miss C. Chester and D. Scott.

PHALLUS

18 ****

This climb is situated on the downstream face of the LITTLE MOLAR. (See LITTLE MOLAR description).

1. 30m 18 Climb up the middle of the face avoiding the recess on the left. Use a running belay on the tree to the left, as protection is minimal. On reaching a comfortable ledge traverse right and move up underneath the overhang. Traverse further right and then, after moving up, make a very committing gymnastic move left to a small ledge on the face above the overhang (crux). Move up an exposed face to an airy stance just below the final summit block.

Note:

Use the peg (Lost Arrow) for the crux move. The first slab can be avoided by traversing in to the comfortable ledge from the gully on the left. The climb can be divided into two pitches, by using the comfortable ledge after the initial slab as a stance. Descend as for OPUS ONE.

Variation:

1. 10m 19 From the large ledge climb directly up the groove above the ledge and make an awkward move right onto the face. Climb the slab above as for PHALLUS.

(Circa 1985 D. Margetts and A. Mercer)

First ascent: 4 Nov 1984 D. Margetts, A. Maddison and V. Nienhaber.

SYMBOL**17**

Situated on the same pinnacle as PHALLUS.

1. 30m 17 Climb up to the comfortable ledge as for PHALLUS but ascend the chimney with the tree situated in it rather than the face. From the ledge, instead of moving right as for PHALLUS, climb up the crack system above the ledge to a slippery, small stance. Then traverse 1m left and climb the face to a stance.

Variation:

1. 30m 19 Climb up to the comfortable ledge as for SYMBOL. Continue up the recess. Instead of traversing left make a difficult move up and right onto the front of the buttress. Climb the buttress to the ledge (the last part is shared with PHALLUS).

(12 Dec 1986 D. Margetts and A. Mercer)

First ascent: 4 Nov 1984 D. Margetts and A. Maddison.

Climbs on the true left

LOAFER

13 ***

Upstream of the 4 Way Junction on the true left hand side of the kloof before the first cave is reached is a little bay with a rightwards sloping slash. The route starts at the far left by a little tree and low cave, and follows the diagonal slash.

1. 30m 13 Pull up the V-crack at the start and step right to a large ledge. Climb up on the left into the crack which is followed until forced out onto the centre wall. Continue up to a tree on the grassy ledge. Step right to the ledge with a big block low down, and climb the rock above to the top.

First ascent: 10 Oct 1982 N. and R. Cleaver.

FOUR WAY JUNCTION

7

The climb is on the left side of the kloof upstream from PINNACLE CHIMNEY on the corner formed by the descent gully and starts at an old well-constructed fireplace.

1. 16m 7 Climb the face bearing right to an upright sharp-edged rock. Go round this to the right then traverse left over the top and up to a 10m wide grassy ledge.

2. 17m 7 Climb up the face and later to the right of the buttress which gives way to large blocks and ledges finishing up on a squat block-like pinnacle to the right of a wide shelf separating it from the main buttress.

First ascent: 30 Dec 1978 J. Langmore, M. Pallet and A. Scott.

RED WALL

11 ****

Starts 20m downstream from FOUR WAY JUNCTION and the descent gully. A metre square block is on the face about 2m above the start.

1. 20m 11 Climb the grey face to the right of the block and then move into the shallow groove. Climb the groove or move further left and up the easy arete. Continue to a ledge and tree below red wall with black rock to the right.

2. 20m 11 Climb the left edge of the red wall on excellent holds and continue up the shallow groove to the top.

First ascent: 10 Feb 1991 M. Prior, B. van der Riet and U. Kiefer.

CRACKUS

8

The climb is situated just left of some red overhangs 15m up next to PINNACLE FACE. Start at the upstream end of an avenue of ten trees, 1m above the stream level.

1. 18m 8 Find your way up easy rock to a fair ledge at the base of a large crack running to the top of the krantz.

2. 30m 8 Move up the crack past a tree to a large ledge 5m from the top where the chimney closes in. Move right for 2m then up a small face to the top.

First ascent: 1978 G. Langmore, A. Burrow and K. Prior.

WALKING ON SUNSHINE

18 ***

This climb ascends the red faces upstream of the pinnacle routes just before the upper junction of the kloofs. Scramble up the initial rock to the base of the red faces. Move to the right of the faces and to the base of a chimney.

1. 25m 18 Move up the chimney/recess to the base of an overhang. Traverse left at the base of the overhang 2m and continue up to a hollow sounding block. Move to the top of the block then traverse right again for 3m to a 2 man stance.

2. 11m 11 From the stance move up and leftwards to a pleasant face, move diagonally leftwards to the top.

Variation:

1b. 16 Continue straight up through overhang to small stance.

First ascent: 9 Feb 1986 D. Margetts, N. Margetts and A. Margetts.

PINNACLE CHIMNEY

13

The climb is situated on the large clean face on the left-hand side of the kloof looking downstream 30m below the southern descent gully. Seen from the descent gully the climb takes the form of a chimney behind a pinnacle.

1. 15m 8 Ascend from the big pool up the face to the base of the chimney.

2. 18m 13 Ascend into the chimney - a "stamvrug tree provides a good running belay. Chimney up to the chockstone, surmount this and climb to the top.

Note:

During 1974 G. Langmore and D. Anderson climbed the lower third of PINNACLE CHIMNEY and the upper two-thirds of PINNACLE FACE.

First ascent: 1978 Various ascents by J. Esterhuyse, R. Dalvis, C. Ward, D. Scott and R. Fox.

PINNACLE FACE

13 **

Climb the face of the largest pinnacle on the right hand side of the kloof (looking upstream) 30m downstream from the top descent gully. The climb is adjacent to PINNACLE CHIMNEY. Scramble up easy rock over grass to ledge 20m above stream.

1. 28m 13 Climb a small recess to the right of the pinnacle for 3m. Move over to the wall on the left and traverse onto the outside face of the pinnacle. Continue traversing to the left hand edge. Climb up a small corner and climb diagonally right. Continue straight up and over the overhang on top.

Note:

A very pleasing and sound route.

*First ascent: 1978 Various ascents by J. Esterhuysen,
R. Dalvis, C. Ward, D. Scott and R. Fox.*

X-SPIRE

17 *

As one walks up the kloof, a pinnacle or spire about two-thirds of the way up the kloof is clearly visible on the true left hand side of the kloof. A huge block at the top of the pinnacle bridges the gap between the pinnacle and the face. From a point where the river forms a pool against the true left hand wall of the kloof, a steep rib about 3m wide is visible. Scramble to base of the rib.

1. 25m 17 Climb up the centre of the rib and then follow a thin crack on the right hand side of the rib to a small overhang (13m). Swing left underneath a roof onto a very steep face. A good move up and slightly right is made through the bulging rock above. Move up then back up the centre of the lichen-covered rib to belay on the huge block on top of the spire.

First ascent: 13 Apr 1985 J. Brown and I. Slatem.

BLOCKTOP PINNACLE

10 **

Located 10m downstream of PINNACLE FACE, about halfway between it and the pinnacle with the natural ridge. It starts a few metres downstream of a small gully.

1. 20m 10 Climb the grey face to the grass ledge and scramble to the foot of the pinnacle.

2. 20m 10 Climb the steep front of the pinnacle on good holds, veering left to turn the overhang at the top which is a large block.

First ascent: 10 Feb 1991 M. Prior, B. van der Riet and U. Keifer.

DEAD EASY

10

From the cave where the stretcher is kept, proceed 30m upstream to two pools divided by a medium sized boulder. Start on the left hand wall (looking downstream) just upstream of the last pool, at a tree.

1. 45m 10 Ascend directly up the face above the tree line to an open book. Climb the crack in the open book and ascend until a slab split by a crack running up and to the left is reached. Climb the crack and ascend to the top.

First ascent: 12 Dec 1978 J. Esterhuyse and R. Davis

CATBURGLAR

13 ***

The climb is situated just downstream from the stretcher gully. Scramble up gully from the stream bed 4m left of SLOB-A-GOB then move right to the foot of the grey recess level with the first stance of SLOB-A-GOB. (Alternatively, climb the excellent first pitch of SLOB-A-GOB, 13)

- 1. 10m 8** Climb the sloping grey recess to the foot of the chimney with wormhole at the top.
- 2. 10m 7** Climb a chimney behind the pillar (on the other side of which lies pitch 2 of SLOB-A-GOB).
- 3. 10m 13** Move left and climb the grey 90 degree open book to the top of the buttress - an enjoyable pitch easier than it at first appears.

First ascent: 16 Apr 1976 R. Fox, Miss C. Chester and D. Scott.

SLOB-A-GOB

13 **

The climb starts to the right of stretcher gully where a buttress comes right down to the water level.

- 1. 8m 13** Start in the centre of the buttress moving diagonally right for 2m then straight up to a ledge with a small tree.
- 2. 20m 11** The route goes up the arete straight above the tree to the base of a pinnacle.
- 3. 15m 13** Move left behind the pinnacle then up to a large suspended aloe. From the aloe either proceed straight up to the top (10) or traverse left under the overhang to a ledge around the corner then up to the top.

Note:

Clean rock all the way.

First ascent: 1974 G. Langmore and D. Anderson.

OLD DEVIL

7

Commence 25m downstream from SLOB-A-GOB and 6m left of THURSDAY SPECIAL on broken rock with a slight recess.

1. 30m 7 Ascend the recess for 15m to a grassy slope. Traverse right, then continue up the line of least resistance to the shady tree mentioned in the second pitch of THURSDAY SPECIAL.

2. 14m 7 Climb from the tree in the corner up to the overhang. Move left and around the corner. Follow the ridge to the top.

First ascent: Oct 1974 J. Langmore.

THURSDAY SPECIAL

10

Commence 30m downstream from SLOB-A-GOB on a face with prominent, slightly sloping handrail/slot in the middle.

1. 20m 10 Climb the 15m face to a grassy slope. Follow the 5m ridge on the right to a platform.

2. 15m 8 Enter a brown crack with a small tree in it. Climb 9m to an overhang and then move left to a large shady tree.

3. 12m 10 Climb the face onto a hollow sounding flake. Climb the flake, then up and left around a bulge. Follow the ridge to the top.

First ascent: Oct 1974 J. Langmore, J. Abercrombie and R. Griffith-Jones.

TUNNEL

8 *

10m upstream of DESPERATION and 5m right of a broken vegetated gully. Walk 10m up from the stream bed through bush to the start of the climb. Start at the tree which touches the face.

1. 25m 8 Climb the sloping face on a series of easy steps, moving right at the start and then straight up. Stance below a vertical tunnel which goes through the rock above.

2. 15m 8 Climb through the tunnel (evidence of use by indigenous population as a longdrop) and emerge to finish on a short face.

An interesting climb, good for beginners. Remains on clean easy rock throughout. Most of the climb is grade 7.

First ascent: 1983 A. and D. Heher and N. Basel.

PERSPIRATION

16

The route starts immediately upstream of DESPERATION i.e. a few metres above the tallest tree. It goes up a crack in the corner between the face and the arete.

1. 20m 15 Climb a slight recess for 3m to reach a crack about 150mm wide. Proceed up the crack, using the face, until a stance is reached below a large overhanging block.

2. 30m 16 Use a thin, strenuous lavback move to surmount the overhanging block. Climb the crack again until a grassy, overhanging face is reached. Traverse left 10m to the base of an obvious chimney with a large chockstone. Ascend the chimney to the top of the climb.

First ascent: 18 Feb 1990 M. Prior and U. Kiefer.

DESPERATION

19

The route is situated on the opposite side of the kloof from CENTIPEDE. It starts opposite a large tree which is as high as the krantz itself. Just to the right of the tree is a square overhanging face.

1. 15m 13 Climb the little recess just to the right of some fig tree roots. Ascend the recess to a ledge with a good tree on it. Belay on the same tree. (A poorly protected pitch.)

2. 20m 19 Climb the face above, delicately, to just below a small overhang. Traverse left about 1m into a crack with a chockstone in it. Climb over the chockstone to a little cubbyhole. Continue rightwards to the top.

Note:

Poorly protected.

First ascent: 7 Sep 1978 J. Esterhuysen and R. Davis.

JEZEBEL

15 **

Starts at a point adjacent to the tallest tree in the kloof i.e. between LATE START and DESPERATION. The route follows the diagonally leftwards slanting crackline - prominent overhangs are visible above and to the right of this system.

1. 20m 13 Climb easy rock then, keeping to crack. system, move diagonally leftwards negotiating two awkward steps until a long (2m) narrow ledge is reached below the overhanging crack overlap.

2. 20m 15 Ascend the overhanging overlap to the large roof above (4m – crux). Traverse left below roof (possible stance 3m left) across to the obvious chimney. Climb this to the top (loose).

An entertaining route of great variety.

First ascent: 11 Mar 1984 J.K. Gallagher and R. Jans.

LATE START

13

The climb starts at the rock face next to a 2m waterfall and to the left of CHICKEN CRUMPET. Trees lean away from rock face at start.

1. 20m 13 Start at the base of a small overhang. Proceed up the corner to the overhang, moving right for 1m then up the crack to a large ledge (loose rock at ledge)

2. 15m 13 Move rightwards off the ledge around the corner and then up the chimney or face to the top.

Note:

There is a flake in the wall which seems suspect. However it has withstood a number of very heavy tugs. A good, demanding route.

Variation:

1. 30m 15 Climb the first pitch as for LATE START. Continue straight up the wall behind the first stance to a roof. Traverse right from under the roof (an interesting finger traverse) to the edge. Continue up to good belay. (1978 H. Seuring, T. Patyeki and C. Ward)

First ascent: 1978 G. Langmore and D. Prior.

CHICKEN CRUMPET

14 *

Immediately to the right of the buttress and nose which LATE START traverses, there is a face which leans back. Start in the corner where the buttress and face meet.

1. 30m 14 Climb up to a crack in a steep wall. Continue up to a small platform, step over to the left under an overhang. Either move further left and up a small defined recess or continue directly above the overhang in a shallow knobbly recess. (The latter offers far better technical climbing.) A solid and pleasing route.

First ascent: 17 Dec 1978 C. Ward, D. Scott and R. Fox.

THREE WAYS

11

Climb starts 6m to the left of WHOOSH and midway between it and CHICKEN CRUMPET.

1. 12m 11 Climb 9m up the bulging broken face on smooth sloping holds to a ledge. Walk. 3m right to the small tree at a recess.

2. 23m 11 Climb 5m above the recess to a small tree. then climb 12m diagonally up to the left (near the top of the flat overhanging wall on the left there is a superb 30cm spike belay point). Move to the right and scramble to the top.

Variation:

2. 23m 15 Start 3m left of tree belay and climb straight up the steep face to the top (unprotected).

First ascent: 29 Jul 1984 A. Hughes-D'Aeth, G. Wilson and H. Winder.

WHOOSH

11

The climb starts at the first 2m waterfall upstream from the meet point.

1. 25m 8 Start at the tree deep in the chimney and move out diagonally right with the aid of the tree, and just above the tree, move back diagonally left to a cubbyhole in the chimney with a tree in it.

2. 20m 11 Move out to the right for 3m then straight up the face to the top.

Variation:

1. 25m 19 At the start of pitch 1 climb straight up to the cubbyhole at the top of the pitch.

First ascent: 1978 G. Langmore and D. Prior.

COMPROMISE

15

Start as for WHOOSH but continue to the right and finish near MISDIRECTED.

1. 17m 13 From the tree in the top of the gully, climb 7m diagonally to the right, using the tree to reach the corner. Traverse 5m to the right with a tricky balance move (unprotected). Climb the narrow crack in a steep open book to a small stance at a tree.

2. 15m 15 Climb 2m above the tree. Traverse 1,5m to the right and climb 3m up a steep sharp arete. Move to the left under a recess and climb straight up the steep 6m lichen-covered face to the top with a strenuous crux move halfway up.

First ascent: 29 Jul 1984 A. Hughes-D'Aeth, G. Wilson and H. Winder.

MISDIRECTED

11

The climb starts below the pinnacle on the arete immediately to the right of WHOOSH.

1. 35m 11 Start 2m to the left of the nose of the arete and move right under the overhang onto the nose where there are fig tree roots. Continue straight up the arete which becomes very sharp halfway up.

First ascent: 10 Oct 1981 S. Middlemiss and F. Smit.

DANCE ME TO THE END OF LOVE

20 ***

This climb takes the impressive red wall just upstream and on the same side as TASK FORCE and ALOE ANARCHY. (downstream of MISDIRECTED.)

1. 35m 20 Start in the middle of the downstream red face. Climb diagonally leftwards up steps then back rightward to a ledge. Climb the short open book above the ledge tending slightly rightwards. Move up to small flake (good friend protection). Traverse leftwards for 3m to resting spot (crux). Climb recess to the top, moving right to the ledge.

Note:

Well protected climb on clean rock. Good exposure on the crux section.

First ascent: 26 Oct 1986 D. Margetts and A. Mercer

FEELING GROOVY

17 **

This route ascends the open book just downstream (5m) from DANCE ME TO THE END OF LOVE.

1. 26m 17 Climb the shallow open book until it runs out. Then move slightly rightward and continue up the sleep face to a tree belay.

Note:

Sustained grade 16 climbing with tricky protection placements, hence it is graded 17. Good tree for abseiling at top of route. Superb clean route.

First ascent: 29 Mar 1987 A. Mercer, D. Margetts and N. Margetts.

ALOE ANARCHY

19 ****

This climb is situated about 150 paces from the meet point where the arete meets the water. Scramble up a short wall to the grass ledge. TASK FORCE takes the right recess, ALOE ANARCHY takes the left recess, i.e. 5m to left of TASK FORCE.

1. 30m 19 Climb up the recess moving left past the first overhang to below the second overhang. Pull through the second overhang. Continue up the steep recess to the bulge. Move through this bulge and continue to the top.

Note:

Sustained climbing on a direct aesthetic line.

First ascent: 3 May 1986 N. Margetts and D. Margetts.

TASK FORCE

15

Situated 140 paces from the meet point on the left hand side of the kloof just before the arete meets water level.

1. 27m 15 Scramble up a little 3m wall to a grassy ledge with trees. The route follows the right hand of the two grooves. Climb up the groove until stopped by the overhang. Step left onto the wall and up to a ledge. Move back into the groove and upwards, moving right onto the rib to avoid the vegetation in the crack.

First ascent: 6 Apr 1982 N. and R. Cleaver.

BRUCE

16 *

This climb is situated about 50m upstream of OUBOY. It ascends a buttress of rock just to the left of the descent gully. A crack system with a tree in it is situated just to the right of the stance.

1. 15m 10 Climb up buttress just 2m left of the recess with a tree in it. Continue up to a good ledge.

2. 25m 16 Climb the right hand recess with the crack in it. Move left at the top of the recess to the ledge. Continue up easier ground past the tree to the top of the pinnacle.

Note:

Unsustained pleasant climb. Climb down easily behind the pinnacle.

First ascent: 3 May 1986 D. Margetts, N. Margetts and L. Viljoen.

MANYANA

9

A short on angle slab to the left of the descent gully. The start is guarded by thick shrubbery.

1. 15m 9 Climb up the centre of the slab to the top ledge.

Note:

Bad gear.

First ascent: Feb 1991 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

OUBOY

16 **

This climb is situated about 50m upstream of TANGLES on a reddish face capped by a small overhanging face.

1. 15m 16 Climb up the middle of the face to a small overhang. A good vertical finger crack is situated near the base of the overhang, (one can opt out to the left at this stage). Move through the overhang to the top of the face.

Note:

Sustained clean climbing.

First ascent: 3 May 1986 D. Margetts, N. Margetts and L. Viljoen.

TANGLES

12 ***

This climb is situated on the short rock face immediately above the meet spot on the true left of the kloof. The start can be distinguished by a tree growing to the left of a reddish recess. Also there are white blotches on the face below a small overhang three-quarters of the way up the cliff.

1. 15m 12 Climb up the recess to a vertical crack behind a flake. Move left into another recess. Climb up past a bush on the left to a stance with a tree belay.

First ascent: 4 Apr 1984 D. Margetts and A. Maddison.

HAPPY HEDGEHOG

16 **

The face to the right of TANGLES.

1. 15m 16 Climb up the centre of the face to the roof. Pull through and move to the top.

First ascent: Feb 1991 N. Margetts, D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

THE VAN SAKSTEEN SAGA

17

This climb starts 5m downstream of TANGLES and ascends an obvious open book.

1. 15m 17 Climb easy rock up to the open book. Ascend the open book to a good ledge. Abseil off the convenient tree located at the top of TANGLES.

First ascent: 12 Nov 1988 D. Margetts, A. Margetts, M. Seegers and T. Truter.

BULLDOG ARETE

11 **

Climbs the arete to the left of TRISDIDECAPHOBIA.

1. 15m 11 After a tricky 1st move up to a tree, climb up the arete to the top.

Descent as for SNOOPY.

First ascent: 8 Aug 1988 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

TRISDIDECAPHOBIA

20 ***

Climbs a slightly overhanging face 15m downstream of TANGLES. The climb is located roughly above the meet site.

1. 15m 20 Start in the middle of the face. Climb the face to a good hand hold and clip the 1st bolt (difficult!!!). Climb diagonally left to the second bolt and then continue directly to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 6 Aug 1989 M. Seegers and D. Margerts.

DEADLY PURSUIT

20 **

This climb starts 2m to the right of TRISDIDECAPHOBIA in a pronounced corner.

1. 15m 20 Climb the short corner onto a good ledge. Move right onto the steep face and follow the break up the face to a rail. Continue up the steep face moving slightly left near the top of the crag to avoid a grassy section.

First ascent: 6 Aug 1988 D. Margetts and M.J. Seegers.

SNOOPY

12

Climbs the recess to the right of DEADLY PURSUIT.

1. 20m 12 Climb the recess until a steeper face is reached. Move left through the tree and climb onto the wide ledge. Abseil off the good tree in the corner.

First ascent: 13 May 1988 M.J. Seegers and D. Margetts.

SHANGHAI SURPRISE

23 ****

Found on the left side of the steep wall above and downstream of TRISDIDECAPHOBIA. The wall can be reached by walking 30m downstream from the base of TRISDIDECAPHOBIA until a gully is reached. Scramble up the gully to gain a large ledge with a small tree. Walk to the left end of the ledge to a triangular roof. Two bolts.

1. 10m 23 Starting directly below the bolt, climb up easy rock until level with the roof. There is a perfect placement for a rock 5 in a slot to the right. Pull up through the roof on thin holds and climb the face above to the large ledge. Descent is via the easy gully at the left hand end of the ledge.

First ascent: Aug 1989 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

WONDERING ALOUD

24 ***

To the left of IN THE PINK.

1. 10m 24 Climb directly up to the second bolt. Move left to the top bolt of SHANGHAI SURPRISE and then to the top. It is possible to climb directly to the top without moving onto SHANGHAI, but it is a little contrived.

First ascent: Feb 1991 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

IN THE PINK

26 ****

Climbs the pink wall and roof to the left of CALCANIUS.

1. 10m 26 Climb the wall, following the line of bolts, to the roof. Pull through and gain the ledge. Descend as for SHANGHAI SURPRISE.

First ascent: Jul 1990 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

CALCANIUS

20 ****

The climb is located in the middle of the wall.

1. 10m 20 Start directly below the first bolt. Climb up past the bolts to the ledge. Move slightly left into the left facing corner and climb this to the big ledge. Descend as for SHANGHAI SURPRISE.

First ascent: Feb 1990 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

COME WE GO DOWN THERE

20 ***

Found on the steep wall between CALCANIUS and ANCIENT DUST.

1. 26m 20 Start below the bolt in the short recess. Climb the recess to below the bulge, pull through and continue up the face to the small ledge. Climb the face directly above to below

a roof. Avoid the roof by stepping right and then moving up to the large ledge above.

Descend as for SHANGHAI SURPRISE.

First ascent: 30 May 1989 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

ANCIENT DUST

21 ***

Climbs the wall to the right of COME WE GO DOWN THERE.

1. 26m 21 Start immediately to the right of COME WE GO DOWN THERE. Climb up to the first rail and then traverse right for about 2m until it is possible to reach up to the next rail. Move up past the next two rails and then make a delicate move to the left to stand on the narrow ledge. Try to avoid using too much force on the flake as it is sensitive. Climb directly up to the roof and circumvent it by traversing to the right. Move up onto the large ledge.

Notes:

- 1.** The climb was opened without the bolt, but in the interest of later parties the bolt was added to make the climb safe.
- 2.** Descend as for SHANGHAI SURPRISE.

First ascent: 30 May 1989 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

THE CORNER

21 ****

Takes the obvious corner to the right of ANCIENT DUST.

1. 15m 21 Climb the corner. Pull through the roof and continue up the headwall to the large ledge. Descend as for SHANGHAI SURPRISE.

First ascent: May 1989 M. Seegers, D. Margetts and R. Brand.

BUDAPEST COMPRESS

24 ***

Scramble up the rock step to the right of the start of THE CORNER.

1. 25m 24 Climb up the crack system to the bolt and then move up to the roof. After pulling through the bulge it is possible to chicken out onto the large ledge on the left, however, if you want more then climb the arete to the top.

First ascent: Apr 1991 M. Seegers and D. Margetts.

POWERS THAT BE

20 **

Located on the steep slab to the right of THE CORNER. There is a tree on the right side of the slab about half way up. To gain the base of the slab scramble up the short step.

1. 30m 20 Climb up the steep face immediately to the left of the chimney at the head of the gully. Upon reaching the tree step right and then pull through the overhang to a small ledge. Climb the buttress above to gain a small open book and climb this to the top of the crag.

Descend via the gully about 50m downstream.

First ascent: 4 Feb 1989 D. Margetts and M. Seegers.

SHAKA ZULU

17 ***

This climb is situated on the steep buttress on the opposite side and downstream of OPUS ONE and LITTLE MOLAR (i.e. downstream of the decent gully). This climb takes the first of a series of crack lines from left to right.

1. 25m 17 Climb the left-hand crack line up to a good broad ledge (avoid the steep recess above - this line is taken by the climb THE NAMELESS ONE). Move leftwards and continue up an easier recess to the final face. Climb this face to the top (crux in last few metres).

Note:

Protection is sparse on the top section. Pleasant climbing.

First ascent: 16 Dec 1986 D. Margetts and A. Mercer.

THE NAMELESS ONE**19 *****

This climb takes the second crack line from the left on the same buttress as SHAKA ZULU.

1. 18m 19 Climb the crack up to a small ledge. Continue up the steep recess using the left and right crack systems. Exit leftwards at the top of the recess.

Note:

Crux near top, well protected.

First ascent: 16 Dec 1986 D. Margetts and A. Mercer.

HLOMO AMABUTO**20 ****

Starts 2m to the right of THE NAMELESS ONE and SHAKA ZULU. i.e. Downstream and on the opposite side of the kloof to OPUS ONE. A prominent corner capped with an overhang lies 2m to the right.

1. 20m 20 Climb a tricky initial section up to a small overhang. Pull through the overhang on the left and climb the recess to a small ledge. Continue up the break, exiting on the left at the top.

First ascent: 11 Dec 1988 M. Seegers, A. Margetts and D. Margetts.