

President

# THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

No. 3

OCTOBER, 1928

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GUILDFORD AND ESHER

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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB is gradually increasing its membership, which now stands at fifty-eight. The stiff qualification maintains the high standard of the club. Ten candidates were elected at the committee meeting in May.

The weather last winter was admirable, but the snow conditions often left much to be desired, especially early in the season. The British Ski Championship Meeting had to be abandoned, and the L.S.C. Championship was postponed until safer conditions ruled.

During the past year some fine tours have been accomplished by members.

As regards racing this year, the L.S.C. has every reason to congratulate itself on the results obtained by members. A full account of the races in which they have taken part successfully is published.

The Anglo-Swiss Ladies' Race proved a great success for the British competitors, all of whom were members of the L.S.C. It is to be hoped that the event will be repeated next year. Miss Phyllis Beckton is to be sympathized with for injuring herself while ski-ing at Wengen, and thus being unable to compete in the race.

The thanks of the club must be given to the flag-keepers, time-keepers, and course-setters, who so kindly gave up their time and stood about for so long, while the inevitable delays attached to races prevented them from ski-ing themselves.

Special thanks must be given to Mr. Arnold Lunn, who so kindly helped in arranging the various events.

Miss Doreen Elliott passed the First Class Test, and Miss Sale-Barker completed the Qualifying and the No-Fall Section. Lady Raeburn passed Q1 and was awarded the Gold Kandahar badge.

The Hon. Secretary regrets she cannot acknowledge the receipt of proposal forms, contributions to the BULLETIN, etc. The printing of the BULLETIN, the typewritten announcements,

postage, and stationery are all a severe drain on the finances of the club. The membership is still small, and not much can be accomplished with the modest annual subscription of five shillings.

The Editor is grateful to all members who have contributed to the BULLETIN this year. Lack of space unfortunately prevents the publication of all the articles sent in, and has necessitated considerable shortening of others. No account of the Ladies' Golden Ski Race is published. The Editor had hoped to obtain it from one of the competitors, but nothing has materialized.

The annual lunch and general meeting took place at Chez Victor in November, and was well attended. The L.S.C. Championship Cup was presented, by proxy, to Miss Esmé Mackinnon, who was unable to be present.

Members of the club may propose any likely candidates they may meet at the various centres. Proposal forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, or from Miss Leigh, Palace Hotel, Mürren.

## STRAIGHT RACES.

### THE LADIES' SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE L.S.C. Championship eventually took place at Mürren on January 23. It was to have been held on January 9, but owing to bad weather conditions it had to be postponed till January 17. When that time came the snow was still dangerous for racing, and it was decided further to postpone the Championship to a date convenient for anyone wishing to compete from Wengen.

Several of the members of the L.S.C., who had been at Wengen earlier in the season, had come over to Mürren by that time; and there being only one competitor wishing to compete from Wengen, it was settled to hold the race at Mürren for the greater convenience and economy of the majority—the financial situation of the club not being equal to too great a strain on its resources.

The Championship was won by Miss Sale-Barker, who defeated the holder, Miss Mackinnon, easily in both the two Slaloms and in the Straight Race. Miss Sale-Barker ran with great dash and judgment in the Slalom, and thoroughly deserved her victory. Her ski came off in the Straight Race, and at one point Miss Elliott was leading, when she also came out of her binding near the top of *Shrub Slope*, the race being held from the

top of the Maulerhubel to *Test Finish*. Here Miss Sale-Barker passed her and won the race with ease.

Miss Mackinnon did well to secure second place in the Slalom, and third place in the combined results. She is a most promising runner, and great things are expected of her in the future.

Miss Bland, coming from Wengen, was handicapped by not being familiar with the course of the Straight Race, and it is some time now since she stayed at Mürren. She also had the misfortune to lose a stick in the Straight Race.

### THE LADIES' SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (FIRST HELD 1925).

Mürren, January 23. Entries 7. Qualification, L.S.C.

#### SLALOM.

1st.	Miss Sale-Barker	...	...	...	...	100	points.
2nd.	Miss Mackinnon	...	...	...	...	86.84	„
3rd.	Miss Bland	...	...	...	...	80.87	„
4th.	Miss Elliott	...	...	...	...	80.48	„

#### DOWNHILL RACE.

		Time.		Points.
1st.	Miss Sale-Barker	3 min. 12 sec.	...	100
2nd.	Miss Elliott	3 min. 25 sec.	...	93.65
3rd.	Miss Mackinnon	3 min. 58 sec.	...	80.67
4th.	Miss Bland	4 min. 18.2 sec.	...	74.57

#### COMBINED RESULT.

1st.	Miss Sale-Barker	...	...	...	100	points.
2nd.	Miss Elliott	...	...	...	87.06	„
3rd.	Miss Mackinnon	...	...	...	83.75	„
4th.	Miss Bland	...	...	...	77.62	„

### THE ANGLO-SWISS LADIES' RACE.

BY G. H. LEIGH.

LAST season witnessed the first match between representative teams of British and Swiss lady ski-runners. The Ladies' Ski Club had issued a challenge during the previous season, but the Swiss were unable to secure a team in time. This year however, a clarion call went forth through the columns of the "Ski Korrespondenzblatt," and the challenge was taken up by a Swiss team ably captained by Fraulein Gurtner of Mürren. Lady Raeburn captained the Ladies' Ski Club.

The match, which was decided on the combined result of a Slalom Race and a Downhill Race, was held on Sunday, February 5, at Mürren. The weather was perfect, and there had been a fall of fresh snow shortly before. The Slalom, which was set by Mr. Arnold Lunn, was held on the Practice Slopes in the morning and attracted a large crowd of spectators.

The British team secured the first four places in the Slalom, the winner being Miss Doreen Elliott, who ran a good course on both descents. Miss Sale-Barker was second and Miss Foster third. The Swiss were obviously nervous, for to many of them this was their first experience of a Slalom under British rules. What they lacked in speed, however, they made up for in style and steadiness, and with a little more practice in this type of race they will prove formidable rivals. Lady Raeburn has adopted the Arlberg crouch, which, though it may not be as pleasing to watch as the more upright position, has undoubtedly improved her slaloming.

The British team won the Slalom by 88·878 per cent. to 67·892 per cent.

After the Slalom the two teams adjourned to the Palace Hotel, where the Ladies' Ski Club entertained the Swiss team to lunch. Speculation was rife as to whether the Swiss would or would not eat a hearty lunch prior to the Downhill Race, but after some little hesitation on either side both teams decided to fling discretion to the winds and to risk the consequences.

The Downhill Race was held in the afternoon, and the course was set by Herr Hansen from a point above the Blumenthal from the *Hindenburg Line* down to *Kandahar Finish*. The course is not long, but the final fields are tricky, especially to those unacquainted with the country. Miss Elliott followed up her morning's victory by winning the Downhill Race, and Lady Raeburn came in second. Both Miss Elliott and Lady Raeburn thus had the satisfaction of beating every member of the Swiss team in both races, and Lady Raeburn was awarded her Gold Kandahar badge after the event.

Fraulein Oetiker was third and Miss Sale-Barker was fourth. The latter would doubtless have done better had she not still been suffering from the after-effects of her fall down the woodchute in the Inferno Race from the top of the Schilthorn to Lauterbrunnen. Fraulein Ablanalp lost her sticks half-way down the course, but notwithstanding this handicap she ran the last 500 feet in first-class style and was loudly applauded by the spectators.

The Ladies' Ski Club won the Downhill Race by a team average of 83·842 per cent. to 80·066 per cent., and the match by 86·36 per cent. to 73·979 per cent.

The teams were afterwards entertained to tea by Commander Locker-Lampson, who had been an interested spectator of both events.

The cup presented by the club for this match was duly

christened, and the Swiss team presented a cup to Miss Elliott for the best individual performance.

The success of this event leads one to hope that it will take its place among the international fixtures, and that to the British, at any rate, it will become second only in interest and importance to the Anglo-Swiss Universities Race.

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB VERSUS A SWISS LADIES' TEAM  
(FIRST HELD 1928).

Mürren, February 5. Entries 10.

		SLALOM.		Time.	Points.
1st.	Miss Elliott ...	L.S.C.	...	1 min. 1 sec.	100
2nd.	Miss Sale-Barker ...	"	...	1 min. 2·4 sec.	97·74
3rd.	Miss Foster ...	"	...	1 min. 8 sec.	89·71
4th.	Lady Raeburn ...	"	...	1 min. 9 sec.	88·41
5th.	Frl. von Allmen ...	Swiss Ladies	...	1 min. 25 sec.	71·76
6th.	Frl. Niederhausen ...	"	...	1 min. 25·4 sec.	71·42
7th.	Miss Crewdson ...	L.S.C.	...	1 min. 29 sec.	68·53
8th.	Frl. Oetiker ...	Swiss Ladies	...	1 min. 30·8 sec.	67·17
9th.	Frl. Gurtner ...	"	...	1 min. 33·2 sec.	65·45
10th.	Frl. Ablanalp ...	"	...	1 min. 35·8 sec.	63·66

The L.S.C. win by 88·878 per cent. to 67·892 per cent.

		DOWNHILL RACE.		Time.	Points.
1st.	Miss Elliott ...	L.S.C.	...	4 min. 49 sec.	100
2nd.	Lady Raeburn ...	"	...	5 min.	96·34
3rd.	Frl. Oetiker ...	Swiss Ladies	...	5 min. 10 sec.	93·22
4th.	Miss Sale-Barker ...	L.S.C.	...	5 min. 38 sec.	85·51
5th.	Frl. Ablanalp ...	Swiss Ladies	...	5 min. 53 sec.	81·87
6th.	Frl. von Allmen ...	"	...	6 min. 8 sec.	78·54
7th.	Miss Foster ...	L.S.C.	...	6 min. 27 sec.	74·67
8th.	Frl. Gurtner ...	Swiss Ladies	...	6 min. 32 sec.	73·72
9th.	Frl. Niederhausen ...	"	...	6 min. 36 sec.	72·98
10th.	Miss Crewdson ...	L.S.C.	...	7 min. 41 sec.	62·69

L.S.C. win by 83·842 per cent. to 80·066 per cent.

FINAL RESULT.

Ladies' Ski Club win by 86·36 per cent. to 73·979 per cent.

THE ATALANTA CHALLENGE CUP

was held at Mürren at the end of February. The lateness of the date accounted for the lack of entries, there being only three competitors—all members of the L.S.C. The race was held, in conjunction with the Prince Chichibu Challenge Cup, from the top of the Schiltgrat down the south slopes—a vertical descent of just over 1,500 feet. Conditions were not too easy; on the steepest south slopes there was good spring snow, while on the more gradual slopes there was breakable crust.

Miss Crewdson had made a careful reconnaissance and was the only one who took the proper line at the start. She gained a good

lead, but then, unfortunately, lost the right way and found herself on crust-covered slopes. This gave Miss Sale-Barker and Miss Doreen Elliott the chance of passing her. The former caught the edges of her skis in ice-covered tracks and took a bad fall at high speed, thereby dropping a stick and losing time in trying to pick it up. Miss Elliott was more fortunate, having tied her sticks to her wrists, and won the race for the second time—being fifth in the combined results.

1st. Miss Doreen Elliott	...	...	3 min. 16 sec.
2nd. Miss Sale-Barker	...	...	3 min. 34 sec.

#### THE FARNHAM CHALLENGE CUP

was held at Maloja in January. There were twelve entries, the race being won by a man, while Mrs. Turner came in second after a most exciting struggle. The snow was good, but it was badly tracked in parts, and Mrs. Turner's time shows an excellent performance.

1st. T. B. Whitehead	...	...	3 min. 6 sec.
2nd. Mrs. T. F. Turner	...	...	3 min. 23 sec.

#### THE GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG CHALLENGE CUP

always winds up the long list of races taking place at Mürren, and was held on February 26. Snow conditions round about that date were impossible except on south slopes, where, thanks to cloudless weather, there was good spring snow—that is to say, where the snow was untracked.

During this time the south slopes of the Schiltgrat were the daily playground of all at Mürren, and by the time the race was held the best ways down were spoilt by iced tracks, making the going extremely tricky.

The Götterdämmerung is a no-fall race, and twelve competitors entered, running with the utmost caution, doing slow stemming and even kick turns.

Two competitors finished without falling, Miss Doreen Elliott winning from Mr. Clark by 18 seconds.

#### THE LADIES' GOLDEN SKI

was held at Wengen on February 26. There were ten entries.

##### RESULTS.

1st. Miss E. Bland	...	...	10 min. 23 sec.
2nd. Miss E. F. Gossage	...	...	12 min.
3rd. Miss Kessler	...	...	12 min. 31 $\frac{3}{5}$ sec.
4th. Miss P. Beckton	...	...	13 min. 15 sec.

#### THE LADY DENMAN CHALLENGE CUP

was held in Mürren in February. There were seven entries. The race was run from the Maulerhubel to *Test Finish*, and was won by Miss Sale-Barker, who beat the holder (Miss Doreen Elliott) easily.

Miss Sale-Barker and Miss Elliott ran level most of the way, both falling rather more than usual, and appeared together at the top of Shrub Slope. Here Miss Sale-Barker, running in masterly style, took the finishing flags at high speed, while Miss Elliott turned a few somersaults. The former's victory was a fine effort, as she had cracked a rib in the Inferno Race, and was anything but fit for the occasion.

1st. Miss Sale-Barker	...	...	3 min.
2nd. Miss Doreen Elliott	...	...	3 min. 22 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.
3rd. Miss J. Heaver	...	...	5 min.

#### THE HAIG OF BEMESYDE CHALLENGE CUP

was held at Maloja in January. Mrs. Trustram Eve finished sixth out of eighteen competitors. The course was a difficult one, consisting of 1,000 feet from the top of the Piz Aela to the *Haig Finish*. Mrs. Eve was the first lady in and ran magnificently, her time being 5 minutes 38.4 seconds, only 1 minute 18 seconds longer than the winning man's time.

### SLALOM RACES.

#### THE LADY MABEL LUNN CHALLENGE CUP

was held on the north slopes of the Schiltgrat in the Blumentha at Mürren in January. The snow was heavy and soft, and had to be beaten down. In spite of much stamping, great grooves between and around the flags were formed by sudden turnings and the falling of competitors. It is always easy to criticize a set course, but it is not so simple to set it according to the standard of those competing, the condition of the snow, and the steepness of the gradient. But, in this case, part of the course deserved criticism in the way the stem glade (to quote one instance) had been arranged; the snow was not sufficiently hard, nor was the glade sufficiently wide to stem down, and the slope was too steep altogether. It soon became obvious that the most effective method was to put both feet together and fall with the skis well

below, pointing towards the next pair of flags. On the second run down especially the course became so rutted and holed that it was extremely difficult to stand up. The competitors skied far below their usual form, and gave a poor demonstration of their abilities. The race was held in conjunction with the Humphreys Challenge Cup, the standard of the competitors for this race being extremely good. Miss Sale-Barker was the winner and Miss Doreen Elliott finished second, repeating the order of the previous year.

1st. Miss Sale-Barker ...	...	...	86 points.
2nd. Miss Doreen Elliott ...	...	...	82 "
3rd. Miss E. Mackinnon ...	...	...	78 "

#### THE STRANG WATKINS CHALLENGE CUP,

held at Mürren in February, was an example of a course which was too difficult for the class of competitors entered. Flags were set at such angles as to benefit those who were clever at falling. The winner fell at high speed and with a fine discretion, beating the times of the few who ran with steadiness and caution. Miss Heaver, who had a bad knee, ran an extremely good, steady course, especially on the second time down. She is to be heartily congratulated on finishing third out of thirteen entries—a fine performance, in which she ran the race with judgment and conscientiously refrained from taking the flags by falling.

#### THE CUTHBERT SAVAGE CHALLENGE CUP

was held at the same time as the Strang Watkins, but the course set was different, and was better adapted to the standard of the competitors. Miss Doreen Elliott finished fourth out of twelve entries.

#### THE DAVIS CHALLENGE CUP

was held at Maloja in December. The hard snow course was easy, but the soft snow slalom was extremely difficult. Mrs. Trustram Eve finished fourth out of seventeen competitors, with an average of 74.40 points.

#### THE WESTMORLAND CHALLENGE CUP

was held at Maloja in January. Mrs. Trustram Eve finished third out of ten competitors, with an average of 85.41 points. The hard snow course was easy, but the soft snow course was very stiff. Mrs. Eve is a new member of the L.S.C., and has a fine racing record to her name this season.

#### THE STEEPLE CHALLENGE CUP

was held for the first time in February on the Practice Slopes at Mürren. The snow was hard and fast. The course was set with cunning, and only the best runners were able to take the flags at the maximum speed without falling and losing time. Miss Sale-Barker deserves to be congratulated on a magnificent performance. She slalomed in first class style, showing great judgment and control, and finished third, behind Messrs. W. Bracken (1st) and Walter Amstutz (2nd). She was beaten by a narrow margin, and her times were better than those of first-class runners, such as Messrs. A. H. d'Egville and L. L. B. Angas. Miss Sale-Barker was awarded the Beta Cup presented in connection with the event.

#### THE SHOTTON CHALLENGE CUP

is a Slalom Race for members of the P.S.A.S.C. who have not passed or completed the second-class test. It was held at Mürren in February, and there were five entries. The snow was good: sun-softened crust, which tended, however, to become too slow in the extreme heat of the day. The course was set with a nice discretion, well suited to the standard of the competitors, which was unusually high. The experiment of including a no-fall section, on which falls were penalized, was tried out for the first time and proved to be successful.

Miss Crewdson ran a moderately good course on her first descent, but found herself some seconds in time behind one or two other competitors. All were nervous of falling, but Miss Crewdson, on her second time down, threw all caution to the winds and ran a magnificent course. She is to be congratulated on winning the race from Mr. C. A. Weeks (2nd) and from Captain Marsland (3rd).

#### SKI MOUNTAINEERING FOR WOMEN.

BY M. E. POWELL.

THIS article is not intended for those who are already ski mountaineers (I have nothing to say that they do not know), but for those whose tours have not extended beyond the summer snow-line.

It is difficult, sometimes, for a woman to start touring on the glaciers and high mountains; parents or guardians often object on the score of danger; she may not know any other woman who

would accompany her, and a man who is going on a long, hard glacier tour (uncertain of what conditions he will meet) does not, as a rule, invite his women friends to go too. It is difficult for her to find out about suitable guides in the less-frequented places, but here the S.C.G.B. Year Book and Appendix X. in Mr. Arnold Lunn's *History of Ski-ing* are very helpful. Guides who accompanied well-known skiers on first ascents of merit, about twenty years ago, will have experience and be old enough to climb slowly—an important point on long tours. It is easy to find out more from the guides' book and by making enquiries locally.

There are three questions I have often been asked: "Is it hard work?" "Is it dangerous?" "Isn't it very cold?" In answer to the first, I should say that it is no harder than other forms of sport in which women excel, such as hunting four or five days a week, salmon-fishing, following beagles, or playing in tennis tournaments. I think that many more women would ski in the high mountains if they realized that it entails no more exertion than they frequently incur in other sports.

The second question, as to danger, can only be answered by again comparing it with these sports. If led by good guides there is probably less than in some others. Fly-fishing would seem a harmless recreation, but I have twice been near my latter end while following this apparently peaceful sport. So far I have been in no particular danger in the snows. The danger of avalanches or of concealed crevices is often present, but for a woman the crevice danger is lessened by the fact that her weight is probably about half that of the guide in front of her, and it is reasonable to hope that, if he does not break through, she may not; though, of course, this is not a certainty. These dangers exist, but equally so do the dangers in other sports: a spill at a simple fence, a slip into heavy water in waders, or in the various ways of capsizing a motor. As in everything else, the risks are lessened by increasing our knowledge of the subject. It may be safe enough to leave the brain-work of the expedition to the guide, but if any disaster overtook him, the amateur should be able to take over control of the party.

The last question, "Isn't it cold?" makes me think of the reply of the old French emigré. "Sir, a gentleman is never cold." Unfortunately I am not a gentleman, and I am occasionally cold in a very draughty club hut in a storm. But if you can't be warm, you may as well enjoy patting yourself on the back for your stoicism. It is seldom cold outside unless you have the bad luck to be caught in a storm. The dry cold of a low temperature can be dealt with by careful attention to equipment

sufficient socks and fur-lined mitts and a chamois-leather coat are additional comforts beyond the usual outfit.

Snow conditions and wind and weather should be studied. The use of aneroid, map, compass, and clinometer all add to the interest of the expedition.

An eye for country, essential alike to the man who hunts or the man who skis, is only an eye for detail and a capacity to translate what is seen.

If we add a knowledge of our kind to our technical knowledge we shall make a far greater pleasure and success of our expedition; it takes much more skill to get a weak party comfortably through a medium tour than to get one or two stalwart friends to the end of a long one.

### THE SKI CLUB OF INDIA.

BY X. CURTEIS.

THE Ski Club of India was started two years ago, and now consists of over sixty members. The main objects of the club are to promote ski-ing in India, wherever possible, and to make facilities for members to meet at certain times in good ski-ing country.

So far the best ski-ing in India has been found in Kashmir. Last Christmas there were twenty-five members of the club at Gulmarg, in Kashmir.

Gulmarg (9,000 feet) is under snow from December to April. Above Gulmarg rise the Pir Pangal range of mountains. There is a climb of 5,000 feet to the ridge by the shortest way, and here are several shoulders to run down, which give excellent running of varied gradient; in the last 1,500 feet there is good wood-running into Gulmarg. The ski-ing is as good as I have met anywhere in Switzerland. Actually, the shoulders we ski down are bigger than in Switzerland—everything is on a much larger scale.

The club hired four of the summer bungalows for us to live in. It was like living in a small Swiss inn, only rather more comfortable. The catering, etc., was done by one of the firms in Kashmir. These run shooting trips, and we were very well fed and looked after. Everything had to come up by coolie from the end of the motor road, 2,000 feet below Gulmarg.

The club have had skis made of Kashmir ash, copied from Norwegian ones. These have proved a great success. The bindings were made by a native gunsmith, and the straps by a

saddler in an Indian mountain battery. The ski-sticks were made in a native bazaar. But the ski-boots made in India are not good, Indian leather being so bad.

Among the members of the club at Gulmarg at Christmas there were several beginners who found the practice slopes on the golf-links near our huts excellent. Other members made a luge-run and a skating-rink.

We were very fortunate in the weather this winter. Most of the members, being soldiers and their wives, cannot take more than ten days' leave at Christmas, and naturally want good weather and snow conditions. The snow was perfect powder the whole time, and there was sun nearly every day and very little wind, except on the top of the ridge—it did not snow till the day after we had left. One cannot expect to be so lucky every Christmas; the club hope to make this an annual affair, as it proved to be such a success this year. The actual depth of snow was 2 feet, but at Gulmarg in March the usual depth is 7 feet.

This is written to give an idea of what the ski-ing is like at Gulmarg, where I have had my best ski-ing in India; but Gulmarg is by no means the only place where members of the club have skied, nor is the winter the only season. Among other places, we have skied on spring snow at 13,500 feet on the Kolahoi glacier at the end of June.

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### MÜRREN—THEN AND NOW.

BY M. S. LUNN.

My first memories of Mürren date back to the winter of 1912-13. I had just become engaged, and was, consequently, rather occupied; so, if my memory fails me at any point, this must be my excuse.

There was no funicular, and we trudged up the Almendhubel nearly every day. The Half-way House run was a whole-day expedition then. We women wore long skirts (mine were considered rather dashing, as they came half-way down my leg instead of to my ankles). Jumpers had not been heard of, so I suppose we wore blouses—probably they were tucked inside our skirts. A coat and a hood, or a hat with a wide brim, completed our equipment. The hoods were hideous affairs in dark blue, lined with a pale colour, which made us look rather like dissipated and flighty monks. The hats were fastened on with hat-pins! Imagine the discomfort of ski-ing down fairly fast—not very; we fell if we

went too fast—with one's hat insecurely attached to one's long hair by a pin. Olga Major knows all about it, because she has only lately been persuaded to abandon them! She was a little girl then—at school, I think. She was just as independent, obstinate, and genial as she is now.

Mavis Harvey was a little girl too. I remember seeing her in a short, white, pleated skirt, pulling a luge after her up the station road. She did not care for ski-ing. Violet Rendall, also very young, tried ski-ing occasionally, I believe, but even she preferred skating. Di Crewdson and a number of other members of the L.S.C. were babies, hardly out of the perambulator stage. Doreen Elliott was setting the fashions in kindergarten skirts instead of ski-ing trousers. Durell Sale-Barker was very bruised from "taking it straight" between the high chair and her doll's house; and—ghastly thought—Esmé Mackinnon had not been born!

In the evenings we went up to the Palace (I was staying at the Eiger that year). Some nights we had bean-bag "fights." On others a sort of progressive game. Once or twice a week there were dances. It must have been dull.

And now? Young women, of all and any ages, wear smart waistcoats, concertina trousers, and don't bother about hats. We do the Half-way House run and its variations four times a day. Hindmarsh Gully has been discovered, also Kitchener's Crash and Drunkard's Drop. We can dance every evening if we care to. We are as old as we feel, and life is very much more amusing. Without any doubt at all I far prefer Now to Then.

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### MALOJA.

BY S. A. LONG.

MALOJA was one of the very few winter sports centres that enjoyed really good ski-ing conditions throughout the whole season of 1927-28. The hotel opened on December 17, and all those who arrived shortly after that date found several feet of untracked powder snow awaiting them.

Though, for a short period after Christmas, many of the shorter runs became hard and icy, it was possible to find deep powder on any of the longer runs; or extensive patches of it were always to be found off the beaten track.

Maloja is primarily a touring and cross-country ski-ing centre rather than a racing one, as, like the whole of the Engadine valley, the steeper slopes are strewn with rocks, and there are too many



hidden holes and narrow gullies to make straight racing a reasonably safe pursuit. There are many excellent slopes for soft snow slaloms, but great difficulty is often experienced in finding a hard snow course, as the nursery slopes are neither steep enough nor long enough to be of any great practical use for slalom purposes.

The type of racing most in favour at Maloja is the team variety as opposed to the individual. There are the patrol races in which teams of three or four, under a leader, have to pass through various controls indicated on the map. The patrols must keep together at all costs, and the powers of the leaders are highly taxed to set a pace that will get the maximum speed out of the weakest member of the team.

It is obvious that the qualities developed by the leaders in a patrol race are those most necessary in the leader of a tour, comprising, as they do, ability to read a map with accuracy, appreciation of the physical capabilities of each member of the team, as well as the development of a ready understanding and tact in dealing with members who are either tired or inclined to criticize the leadership of the tour.

As a centre for cross-country ski-ing Maloja must remain unrivalled. Almost every type of country is to be met with on any of the longer tours, varying from steep and difficult descents to long wonderful stretches of open slope, and ending almost invariably with several hundred feet of fairly easy wood-running.

The Eagle Ski Club has done great service to British cross-country ski-ing by encouraging all their members, from the veriest novice to the mountaineer of many years' standing, to go out on tours and explore fresh country without the help of a guide. A club map of tours has been compiled, and although the original edition left something to be desired, it is understood that a fresh edition is being prepared, and this, aided by explanatory notes, should prove of very great value to members who wish to tour on their own.

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#### THE SCHEIDEGG AT EASTER.

BY E. F. GOSSAGE.

THERE were quite a number of English at the Scheidegg this Easter, but the conditions for the most part were disappointing. From about March 24, for nearly a fortnight, snow fell almost continuously, often with a terrific wind. Fortunately it was not badly drifted, probably owing to its wetness and consequent heaviness from lack of frost.

When it cleared, the conditions were perfect "spring," but one was afraid to venture far afield, as the fall had been so heavy, and there was still an absence of real hard frost; however, the running was excellent, for the greater part, from the Eiger glacier to Inner Wengen, and on the other side to Grund, and probably continued to be so well into May.

The hotel was almost full at Easter, as about fifty of the Berlin Ski Club came for a ten days' ski course. Evidently their training was on similar lines to that of Bilgeri, as the beginners were put through a number of exercises, including a fall. This must have needed great strength of mind, as most of them wore "shorts" and short-sleeved shirts.

Real spring snow, in my opinion, is the most perfect running possible, but very elusive.

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#### SKI-ING IN THE SILVRETTA GROUP.

BY NELL CARROLL AND JOAN CAMPBELL.

MOST people who planned long ski-trips last winter were disappointed at every turn by the changeableness of the weather and the shocking snow conditions. We were no exception to the rule, and never did we accomplish exactly what we had set out to do. The two trips which are described below may be of some interest, not because they are unusual, or things that are seldom done, but because they were done under such bad conditions, and still proved very enjoyable.

On February 27 we started off, a party of seven, in sleighs up the Fluellatal. The weather was perfect, but there had been no snow for over two weeks, during most of which time a high wind had been blowing, so that the snow everywhere was more like corrugated iron than anything else. The Fluella Hospiz (2,388 m.) is at the top of the pass, between the Davos valley and the Unter Engadine, about two hours' drive and one and three-quarter hours' climb from Davos. It is a comfortable little inn, with excellent food, and we spent the first night there.

We started off next morning at nine, and for about an hour ran down towards the Engadine valley, to the foot of the Val Grialetsch (2,145 m.). Given good snow, I should think that this could be done in about half this time; but it must be remembered that all our descents on this trip took almost twice as long as they should have done owing to bad conditions.

The climb up the Val Grialetsch, to the foot of the Vadret da Grialetsch, took about one and three-quarter hours. This

can only be done when conditions are safe, as it is a bad valley for avalanches. The ascent of the glacier to the Fuorcla Sarsura took us about two hours; the climbing is not steep, but rather monotonous and dull. From the Fourcla we went on to the top of Piz Sarsura (3,176 m.), which was more interesting, and only took three-quarters of an hour. The view from the top of the Piz is gorgeous, the whole of the Bernina group showing up beautifully.

The descent via the Vadret da Sarsura to the Inn valley is a perfect run, about 6,000 feet of fast and varied running. We did it later in the season in perfect snow, and decided that it was one of the world's best runs; but that day, on ghastly snow, taking ski on and off to scramble over fallen avalanches all the way down the valley, it was most exhausting. We arrived at Süs at about 6.30 p.m., and only just had time for light refreshments before catching a train to Ardez, where we spent the night.

The next morning we left at nine, and climbed for about four hours up the Val Tasna. This is also rather a dangerous valley, unless conditions are very safe, but it is beautiful, and not steep climbing until one comes to the end, and one has to climb the Fourcla Tasna. This is a slope that can rarely be tackled; it is extraordinarily steep, and took us one hour to climb, carrying our ski, and scrambling up what seemed to me the side of a house. From there to the top is about another hour of easier climbing, and one then has a lovely view of the peaks and glaciers of the Silvretta group. The run down to the Heidelberger Hutte (2,265 m.) took us about an hour, as the corrugated iron extended even to there!

The fourth day was perhaps the easiest. We left the Hutte, and climbed for two and a half hours to the top of the Kronejoch, and the one-hour run from there to the Jamtal Hutte was on quite good snow, almost powder. These D.O.A.V. huts are extraordinarily comfortable, and supply one with excellent food at any hour of the day or night; the only trouble is that they are usually overcrowded. From this hut down the Jamtal to Galtur took us about two hours, but here again we spent much time scrambling over fallen avalanches and taking ski on and off.

I think that we were all quite glad of a rest the next day, but it was an amazingly interesting trip, and had the snow been good we should have had some glorious running.

On March 25 three of us and two guides left Davos by the early train for Klosters, where we collected a sort of sleigh on

very high wheels, which drove us up the Lanquartal for one and a half hours. After abandoning this we took to our feet, carrying ski, and walked for an hour and a half, which brought us to Sardasca, the end of the valley. There our real climb began.

Instead of going the usual way up on to the Silvretta glacier, we turned south and east, and followed the Verstanklertal to its end, and then up the Verstankler glacier. This climb is less steep than the Silvrettaegg, but very much longer; it took us about four and a half hours from Sardasca to the Verstankler Thor (2,951 m.), but it is a change from the ordinary route, and the view from the Thor makes up for the agonies of the ascent.

We had gone that way because we heard that the Silvretta Hutte was overcrowded, and our guide assured us that the hut that he had in mind, the Tuoi Hutte (2,450 m.), was bound to be empty. We discovered why when we arrived, but more of that anon.

From the Thor we ran for about fifteen minutes in a slightly north-easterly direction, more or less circuiting the Kamm Gletscher, until we reached the pass known as the Mittags Platte (2,922 m.). The snow, as usual, was wind-crusted and hard, giving beneath one in the most unexpected places. However, the other side of the pass was better, and we ran down the Plan Rai more happily. The last bit of this descent, which took us about three-quarters of an hour, is very steep, and can only be done under safe conditions. It lands one at the head of the Val Tuoi, where the hut of that name is situated.

We thought at first that it was a summer shelter for sheep, but discovered that it had a door and two inhabitants. These turned out to be two charming Bavarian gentlemen, who filled us with admiration by ski-ing in suede shorts, and by playing a double-keyed mouth-organ into the small hours of the morning. The interior was not spacious, but contained one long bunk, a stove, table, and bench. It took a long time to cook three separate lots of meals, but it was achieved at last, and then the seven of us rolled into the bunk, which was just long enough for us all, provided we all turned over at the same time. However, after such a strenuous day we slept like tops.

Next morning, to our horror, it was snowing hard, so after lunch, feeling the need of exercise, we ran down the Tuoi Tal to Guarda, an hour's run, which was quite amusing. After a large tea the two and a half hours' climb back was not such fun, but we brought several delicacies to add to our meagre rations, the thought of which spurred us on. None of us seemed to have

grown any thinner during the day, so the second night was no improvement on the first.

The next day it was still snowing, but the guides assured us that it was going to clear, so we started off at 8.30 to climb up the Jamjoch. After about an hour the blizzard was as bad as ever, about half a metre of fresh snow had fallen, and the guides said we must go back, as the steep face of the Joch would be dangerous. We decided to struggle down the Fourcletta into the Urazzatal and the Val Tasna, that being the quickest route.

Of the descent I know little; one could see nothing in the mist and snow, and we were spaced out as far as the visibility would allow. It was all rather exciting, guides throwing snowballs ahead to see if the ground went up or down, and jumping about on likely-seeming slopes to bring down an avalanche, before we were allowed on to it. However, after what seemed like weeks, but was really only two hours, we arrived in the Val Tasna, and from there to Ardez was an easy hour and a half's run, in comparatively good light and gentle rain.

You will agree that little was accomplished on this trip, but we decided afterwards that we had seldom enjoyed anything more, nor would we have missed it for worlds.

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### SAINT ANTON-AM-ARLBERG.

BY A. D. SALE-BARKER AND D. J. CREWDSON.

THREE members of the Ladies' Ski Club visited the Arlberg at the beginning of March in order to compete in the Arlberg-Kandahar Race, and also to learn about the famous technique of ski-ing, of which Hannes Schneider is the great exponent. All the ski-runners in this part of the world (for those who do not know) are taught to crouch with the hands brought well forward and low, which makes for greater control and steadiness.

The race proved to be a great event, and attracted an enormous entry from all over Germany and Austria, many being the best professionals in the world. There were over forty competitors, of which some ten were women.

The Slalom (twice down the course) was a long one, and taxed every bit of the ingenuity and skill of the performers. It was a novel form of race for most, and the way it was tackled could not have been surpassed.

The Straight Race was run in two sections—the first, over a short course, with the competitors started at intervals, was run on the

same day as the Slalom. The original idea was to have the Hindmarsh Start, but the times of the first course showed such small fractions of seconds separating the racers' times that it was decided to start the long race the next day at minute intervals—with the competitors placed in the same order as they would have been in Hindmarsh Start.

Nothing could exceed the kindness of the Austrian ski-runners and Mr. Bernays, who looked after the visitors and acted as guide and sponsor on expeditions over the marvellous ski-ing country in the Arlberg. Herr Hannes Schneider invited the party to a private view of his instructional film in which he himself explains his technique both in slow motion and at the ordinary pace.

The Arlberg is eminently a country to visit, both for its runs and its school of ski-ing.

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### SKI-ING AT KITZBÜHEL.

BY M. DE LINDE.

I HAVE been asked to describe some of the tours at Kitzbühel, but find it difficult to avoid writing in the guide-book manner.

The differences between ski-ing at Kitzbühel and at Mürren or Davos, to mention two typical places in Switzerland, are many. As compared with Mürren, the most marked is the multitude of difficult runs that offer themselves. This is accounted for by the lie of the land—three main valleys join each other here—and by the curve of the railway, which is shaped like a sprawling **M**, with Kitzbühel at the bend of the middle loop. The railway itself is the main Paris-Vienna line, which means that there are none of the troublesome changes necessary in order to get to most ski-ing centres. The comparatively low altitude of the town is compensated by the fact that the climate is more "continental" than that of, say, the Oberland—three hundred miles makes a striking difference. Then there are almost numberless huts to be found between one and two hours' climb above Kitzbühel; many of these are inhabited, and can provide food, drink, and lodging at moderate prices. Indeed, it is rarely necessary when out for a day or half-day run to take any drink with one; the lazy can be sure of a warm meal at half a dozen huts without the necessity of lugging up a thermos and provender. For the lazy, and also for those going out in poor training, porters can always be found ready to carry skis a height of about 2,500 feet for 1s. 9d. Guides, too, are most reasonable in their charges, and are, most of them, cheerful, efficient, and obliging people. You

may find your porter to be a student from Vienna, who in this way makes his holiday in the snows financially possible; he will probably be grateful if you act as his guide down. There are well-defined paths to most of the huts, and up these most people prefer to carry ski, as they are often too steep in places to be easy on skins. These paths twist and turn through some of the loveliest of woods, and for the burdened skier this means shade and coolth almost the whole of the way up to the hut where you intend to lunch. Half an hour's climb after lunch—on skins now—will probably bring you to the start of the run down. A cable railway has just been completed to the Hahnenkamm; thence half an hour's easy going takes you to the starting-points of four or five different runs.

The nursery slopes are near the hotels, and teachers are good and cheap. Most of the shorter excursions are on south slopes, apt to get wet and heavy after several days of sunshine. By shorter excursions I mean affairs that involve little ski-ing and much loafing.

There is an excellent international ski club at Kitzbühel, which is largely guided by Major Cyril Watson, an S.C.G.B. member. This club has two guides attached to it for the whole season, and organizes daily tours in two classes. Members are roughly divided into four groups, according to their competence, and thus even the veriest beginner can get a club run every other day, while the expert can get one probably every day with the club. The secretary will always procure you sleighs or porters at very short notice and at the correct price. The new-comer, especially if alone or in a small party, will be very wise to join the club.

For clearness' sake the runs may be divided into four main groups: the Stangel, the Ehrenbach, the Horn, and the Hochetz-Gebra. These include all the most popular runs, except the Neider Fleck, which is the beginner's tour. For it you take a west-bound train for twenty minutes, put on beskinned ski, and climb across steepish fields for an hour and a quarter to the hut, eat and drink there, and run down almost straight, the main excitement being three narrow gate openings, usually icy.

The Stangel Alm group is approached by train—eastward from Kitzbühel for a quarter of an hour. A stiff two hours' climb brings one to the Stangel Alm hut and Josef, so proud of his English and his chocolate cake! This is a centre for three or four runs. Twenty minutes up and on take one to the start of a direct run to St. Johann station—sharp turning alternating with sudden swoops. Half an hour on and up again leads to a couple of longer routes to the same station, while a further hour's climb

brings you to the Hofer Seidl on the east shoulder of the Kitzbühler Horn, whence there is a steep run down to the road a little beyond the village of St. Johann. These runs are, for the best part of the way down, north or east slopes and across small fields.

The Ehrenbach hut is about two hours' climb from Kitzbühel, up a path through a long wood and over a couple of open fields. From here there is a choice of eight or nine runs, each involving a further climb from the hut before the start of the run. Half an hour's climb will give you four good runs: the Seidl (very steep down to Kitzbühel), the Ober Fleck (an open run), the Kaser and the Ochsen (both over moderately large fields). One hour from the hut and you can start down the Brunn Alm run. From the Jufen Alpe—an hour and a quarter from the Ehrenbach hut—there are four or five ways. These include a short easy walk to the Steinberg Kogel and a descent by Kiglin Alm, a magnificent east run over open bumpy fields, and a descent over Blaufield, rather steeper. These end in the Jochberg valley, south of Kitzbühel, and involve punting or sleighing home, 5 or 6 kilometres. Or from the Jufen Alpe there is the possibility of going to Pengelstein, an hour and three quarters from the Ehrenbach hut. From Pengelstein there is a splendid run down to the valley, at the end of which is Kirchberg station. If you are really energetic you can go "gipfel-fressing," or peak collecting, along and beyond Pengelstein, where there is ridge after ridge to be explored. The Ober Fleck, Kaser, Ochsen, Brunn, and Pengelstein runs, finishing at Kirchberg, all have the advantage of allowing a homeward journey by rail.

The centre of the Horn group of runs is the Alpenhaus. This is two and a quarter hours' climb from Kitzbühel; about two-thirds of the climb through thick woods and the rest over a corner of a huge snow-field. From this hut another half-hour's climb brings you to the summit, from where there is a magnificent view and a tricky run down, not always safe from avalanches, over the Hofer Seidl. Ten minutes from the hut is the start of the Obing Kogel run—a fine open stretch, a short climb, then a sharp open wood run down to the road, which in twenty minutes brings you to St. Johann station. From the Alpenhaus downwards in a south-easterly direction you cross the great snow-filled cup of the Tratt Alpe to Lammerbühel, and thence down to Kitzbühel, or a short climb round the flank of Hochetz Kogel and a longer run down home.

Then there is the Hochetz-Gebra range lying just east of Kitzbühel. The Bichl Alm hut is the usual rendezvous for lunch

on this group of runs; it is just over two hours' climb from Kitzbühel. Further climbing, for an hour or so, is necessary to take one to the Hochetz or Stuck Kogel. If you are ready to do some "Kamm-Wanderung" (wandering over a cock's comb), you can combine three peaks in the day—the Stuck Kogel, the Gaisberg, and the Gebra—or you can get good runs down to the valley from either of them.

Outside these four main groups there are many other runs that can be done in the day without undue straining, such as the Wildseeloder, Höhesalve, Sindsberg. In general, these are slightly more open, and, unlike the great majority of those already mentioned, are better undertaken with a knowledgeable guide—amateur or professional.

If snow conditions at Kitzbühel itself are not good, it is easy to go and put up at the Neider Kaser hut (D.O.E.S.V.) at 4,500 feet. This can be made one's headquarters for a whole series of runs of a type more open than those I have mentioned under the main groups. There are also other huts not far distant from Kitzbühel.

In conclusion, the general type of the country is such as to call for much turning, unlike the vast stretches of open running at Davos, and the adept at turns has a great pull over the dash-and-crash straight-runner. Most of the runs include wood paths, and it is a wonderful sight to see a native of the country take these, scarcely abating his pace a whit.

#### MEMBERS' MOVEMENTS FOR SEASON 1928-29.

Allen, Mrs. R. W. : Wengen.  
 Beckton, Miss Phyllis : Wengen.  
 Brooke-Hunt, Mrs. Godfrey : Kitzbühel.  
 Campbell, Miss Joan : Wengen for Christmas to January 15 ; Davos from January 15 to February 28, glacier tours.  
 Crewdson, Miss D. J. : St. Moritz.  
 Elliott, Miss Doreen : Mürren.  
 Eve, Mrs. Trustram : Maloja for the season.  
 Furse, Dame Katherine : Klosters.  
 Goodyear, Mrs. Gorbell : Wengen.  
 Gossage, Miss E. F. : Pontresina for Christmas ; Davos ; Wengen.  
 Harvey, Mrs. Duncan : Scheidegg.  
 Hordern, Mrs. C. : Klosters.  
 Hunting, Mrs. : Scheidegg.  
 Leigh, Miss G. H. : Mürren for the season.

Linde, Mrs. de : Hongkong ; not coming to Switzerland.  
 Long, Mrs. E. R. : Maloja.  
 Lunn, Lady Mabel : Mürren for the season.  
 Mavrogordato, Miss Julia : Mürren, January 1 to 21 ; The Grisons.  
 Peech, Miss Pamela : Mürren or Klosters, January 24 to February 8.  
 Raeburn, Lady : Mürren for the season.  
 Rendall, Mrs. : Wengen or Scheidegg.  
 Sale-Barker, Miss A. D. : St. Moritz.  
 Spring-Rice, Miss Betty : Klosters.

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*Hon. Secretary :*

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Bray, Miss Winifred.	Coming, Miss Ursula.
Brooke-Hunt, Mrs. Godfrey.	Coryten, Mrs. ( <i>née</i> Hanbury).

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Curteis, Mrs. C. I.	Linde, Mrs. de ( <i>née</i> Thorpe).
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Elliott, Miss Doreen.	Mavrogordato, Miss Julia.
Eve, Mrs. Trustram.	Maxwell, The Hon. Verena.
Findlater, Miss Leslie.	Mercer, Mrs. J. L.
Finnigan, Miss D. M.	Muggeridge, Mrs. K. R. ( <i>née</i>
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