

*President*

# THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

No. 4

OCTOBER, 1929

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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB has had another successful year and its membership stands now at seventy. Fifteen candidates have been elected and the general standard of the Club is maintained at a high level.

Miss Sale-Barker and Miss Doreen Elliott, both members of the Club, were chosen to represent Great Britain in the European Ski Championships at Zakopane, in Poland. This is the first time that Great Britain has ever been represented in an International ski-ing event. The British competitors were entered for the downhill race only. The two ladies must be congratulated on their brilliant performance in finishing 13th and 14th in a field of 60—all men. The meeting was a great success, and the kindness and consideration with which the British team was treated by the Poles could not have been surpassed.

The Anglo-Swiss Ladies' Race was held for the second time and resulted in a win for the British ladies. The Swiss ladies have just formed a Club, the Schweizerischer Damen Skiklub, and have been successful in the Jungfrauoch meeting this summer. We wish all success to the new Club.

Miss Doreen Elliott won the Ladies' Ski Club Championship, which was held at Wengen with an entry of ten competitors. The slalom and the downhill race were admirably organised by non-competing members.

Mrs. Turner beat all comers in the British Ski Championship at Maloja.

Miss Sale-Barker was awarded the Gold Medal. The number of awards this year were two, the other successful candidate being Major Bracken.

Our congratulations to the Committee of the Ski Club of Great Britain for altering the title of the *First Class No-Fall Test* to that of Q1. Many people, especially foreigners, were often confused by the similarity between *Gold Badge* and *Gold Medal*, and in consequence a certain amount of discredit fell on the British ski tests.

We are also glad to note that the untimed no-fall, Part B of the third class test, has been abolished. Anyone who judged this last season will remember the painful and lengthy descent of these unhappy candidates. R.I.P.

Flag-keepers of intelligence (those *rarae aves*) are exceedingly difficult to come by where the racing community is extensive, and competitors have found themselves faced with the necessity of guarding their own flags. This was a successful practice: the last competitor in the draw would take the bottom pair of flags and then gradually work his way up to the start, while the first one down would repeat the process—and so on.

The Ladies' Ski Club renders grateful thanks to all those who helped in the organisation of the Club Championship and the Anglo-Swiss Ladies' Race. Mr. Arnold Lunn kindly set the slalom for this last event, and his help was much appreciated.

We were pleased to note that Miss Olga Major had sufficiently recovered from the effects of a weak heart to allow her to enter for races of the no-fall variety.

The annual lunch and general meeting took place in a private room at the Criterion Hotel at the end of October, when the L.S.C. Championship Cup was presented to Miss Sale-Barker.

Members of the Club are reminded that they can 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.

The date for the Ladies' Ski Club Championship has been fixed for December 27th, 1929. It will take place at Grindelwald on account of the British Ski Championship meeting being held this year at Mürren.

The Anglo-Swiss Ladies' Race is scheduled to be run on February 9th, 1930, as it is difficult for the Swiss ladies, scattered as they are, to compose a team at the beginning of the season.

The Editor is grateful to all who have contributed to this year's BULLETIN. She much regrets that some articles were received too late for publication this year, and that lack of space has necessitated considerable shortening of others.

The Editor would welcome accounts from members in different centres, and especially of races in which any members of the Club have participated.

Contributions for the next issue of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN should be sent c/o The Hon. Secretary, 1, Camp View, Wimbledon Common, S.W.19, not later than July 15th, 1930.

## COMBINED DOWNHILL and SLALOM RACES.

### THE LADIES' SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE Ladies' Ski Club Championship was held in good weather and at the advertised date at the Scheidegg, the snow on the slalom course being hard and extremely fast. The slalom was a long one—the timekeepers at the finishing posts looking like small ants—and the competitors, ten in number, only ran the course once.

There were many hillocks and these, with other natural hazards of the course were ingeniously made full use of by the setters of the slalom. Steep descents with sudden sharp uprisings tended to throw the unwary off their balance.

Miss Doreen Elliott won the slalom without a fall. It was noticeable that most of the competitors who fell lost about four seconds each time. Miss Sale-Barker, the holder, missed a flag and was disqualified—an unfortunate occurrence, as she was skiing fast and steadily. Miss Kingsmill, at the time only a candidate for the Club, ran with dash and precision and took the third place.

At the finish of the slalom competitors proceeded to the top of Tschuggend Glade, where they were lined up for the start. The snow was badly cut up and beyond Mac's Leap, which was pure ice, the snow was hard and rather rutted. Miss Mackinnon's time of ten minutes, from the glade to the finish by the end of the bob run, was quite remarkable. She is a strong and courageous runner and great things are expected of her in the near future.

At first the field kept pretty well together down the glade, with the exception of Miss Mackinnon, who forged ahead (doubtless stimulated by the prospect of lunch at Grund) and maintained her lead most of the way. Miss Carroll ran well at the beginning, but she soon tired and fell back. At Mac's Leap Miss Elliott passed Miss Mackinnon and the two ran together for a bit, but soon Miss Mackinnon's greater steadiness enabled her to draw away, and she won a long and exhausting race with twenty-five seconds to spare. Miss Hayes-Sadler ran very well, and will make a good racer. She was only a candidate at the time of the Championship.

The race was organised by Mrs. Caulfeild, Mrs. Rendall and Mrs. Crisp, helped by many volunteers from Wengen, and the arrangements went without a hitch. The downhill course was flagged extraordinarily well, and the competitors who did not know the way had only to follow the flags for the best route.

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

Entries 10.

SLALOM.

|      |                     |     |     |       |              |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|-------|--------------|
| 1st. | Miss Doreen Elliott | ... | ... | 100   | points.      |
| 2nd. | Miss D. Kingsmill   | ... | ... | 91-66 | "            |
| 3rd. | Miss E. Mackinnon   | ... | ... | 90-72 | "            |
| 4th. | Lady Raeburn        | ... | ... | 82-24 | "            |
| 5th. | Miss Hayes-Sadler   | ... | ... | 80-74 | "            |
| 6th. | Miss Crewdson       | ... | ... | 66-5  | "            |
| 7th. | Miss Finnigan       | ... | ... | 65-67 | "            |
| 8th. | Miss Carroll        | ... | ... | 47-40 | "            |
|      | Miss Sale-Barker    | ... | ... |       | Disqualified |
|      | Miss Douglas-Jones  | ... | ... |       | "            |

DOWNHILL RACE.

|      |                     |     |     |    | Time.        |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|----|--------------|
| 1st. | Miss E. Mackinnon   | ... | ... | 10 | min.         |
| 2nd. | Miss Doreen Elliott | ... | ... | 10 | min. 25 sec. |
| 3rd. | Miss Carroll        | ... | ... | 11 | min. 42 sec. |
| 4th. | Miss D. Kingsmill   | ... | ... | 14 | min. 42 sec. |
|      | Miss Finnigan       | ... | ... | 14 | min. 42 sec. |
| 6th. | Miss Hayes-Sadler   | ... | ... | 16 | min. 43 sec. |
| 7th. | Lady Raeburn        | ... | ... | 17 | min. 57 sec. |
| 8th. | Miss Crewdson       | ... | ... | 18 | min. 4 sec.  |

COMBINED RESULT.

|      |                     |     |     |        |         |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| 1st. | Miss Doreen Elliott | ... | ... | 196    | points. |
| 2nd. | Miss E. Mackinnon   | ... | ... | 190    | "       |
| 3rd. | Miss D. Kingsmill   | ... | ... | 159    | "       |
| 4th. | Miss Hayes-Sadler   | ... | ... | 139    | "       |
| 5th. | Lady Raeburn        | ... | ... | 137-95 | "       |
| 6th. | Miss Carroll        | ... | ... | 137    | "       |
| 7th. | Miss Finnigan       | ... | ... | 133    | "       |
| 8th. | Miss Crewdson       | ... | ... | 121    | "       |

THE ANGLO-SWISS LADIES' RACE.

By A. D. SALE-BARKER.

THE second contest between the English and the Swiss ladies took place at Mürren on January 21st. This year the Swiss had an excellent team, but had exceptionally bad luck when their Captain had the misfortune to sprain her ankle running over the course for the downhill race. However, she most pluckily raced the next day.

The slalom, which took place in the morning, was set by Mr. Arnold Lunn, and the two teams ran twice down the course, the last competitor on each side not counting. The snow was iced to begin with, but by the time the slalom was over the sun had softened and slowed up the course considerably.

The English ladies won the first three places, but Fräulein Sohm, who was the first of the Swiss ladies, skied admirably.

The downhill race was run from the Parson's Shoulder on the Schiltgrat down to the bottom of Martha's Meadow. The course is excessively steep to begin with, followed by a tiring bit of traversing on rough country, and the snow was badly cut up.

The competitors raced in couples (one Swiss with one English) at half-minute intervals. Miss Elliott ran an excellent race, beating Miss Sale-Barker, who came in second, by fourteen seconds.

Frau Doktor Bornhauser arrived third in spite of her handicap.

Miss Mackinnon, who did so well in the slalom, had very bad luck: getting slightly off the course, she ran over a small precipice and found herself hanging head down. Failing to extricate herself for a considerable time she had to abandon the race. Any competitor who accepts assistance from spectators is disqualified, and Miss Mackinnon refused help on that account.

The Swiss ladies have now formed a Club, which will enable them to collect the best skiers from all over Switzerland.

The next meeting between the two countries will therefore be an exciting event.

After the race the British team entertained the Swiss ladies at a beer party, which wound up the day most pleasantly.

[Miss Sale-Barker has failed to mention the fact that she won the slalom by a large margin.—ED.]

THE ANGLO-SWISS LADIES' RACE (FIRST HELD 1928).

Mürren, January 21st. Entries 14.

SLALOM.

|        |                     |     |              |     | Time.      |
|--------|---------------------|-----|--------------|-----|------------|
| 1st.   | Miss Sale-Barker    | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | 76.6 sec.  |
| 2nd.   | Miss Mackinnon      | ... | "            | ... | 84.2 sec.  |
| 3rd.   | Miss Carroll        | ... | "            | ... | 87.4 sec.  |
| 4th.   | Frl. Sohm           | ... | Swiss Ladies | ... | 89.8 sec.  |
| 5th.   | Miss Elliott        | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | 92.5 sec.  |
| 6th.   | Miss Kingsmill      | ... | "            | ... | 100.2 sec. |
| 7th.   | Lady Raeburn        | ... | "            | ... | 106 sec.   |
| 8th.   | Mlle. Maillard      | ... | Swiss Ladies | ... | 107.4 sec. |
| 9th.   | Frau Dr. Bornhauser | ... | "            | ... | 110 sec.   |
| 10th.  | Frl. Bijornstad     | ... | "            | ... | 121.4 sec. |
| 11th.  | Frl. Ablanalp       | ... | "            | ... | 126.2 sec. |
| *12th. | Miss Crewdson       | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | 132.4 sec. |
| 13th.  | Frl. von Allmen     | ... | Swiss Ladies | ... | 136.1 sec. |
| *14th. | Frl. Niederhäuser   | ... | "            | ... | 153.2 sec. |

British Ladies win the Slalom.

\* Last competitor of either side not counting.

DOWNHILL RACE.

|       |                     |     |              |     | Time.            |
|-------|---------------------|-----|--------------|-----|------------------|
| 1st.  | Miss Elliott        | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | 4 min. 5 sec.    |
| 2nd.  | Miss Sale-Barker    | ... | "            | ... | 4 min. 19 sec.   |
| 3rd.  | Frau Dr. Bornhauser | ... | Swiss Ladies | ... | 4 min. 32.2 sec. |
| 4th.  | Mlle. Maillard      | ... | "            | ... | 4 min. 46 sec.   |
| 5th.  | Miss Carroll        | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | 6 min. 2.6 sec.  |
| 6th.  | Miss Kingsmill      | ... | "            | ... | 6 min. 15 sec.   |
| 7th.  | Frl. Sohm           | ... | Swiss Ladies | ... | 6 min. 21.5 sec. |
| 8th.  | Frl. Bijornstad     | ... | "            | ... | 6 min. 22.5 sec. |
| 9th.  | Frl. von Allmen     | ... | "            | ... | 6 min. 32.8 sec. |
| 10th. | Lady Raeburn        | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | 6 min. 35.8 sec. |
| 11th. | Miss Crewdson       | ... | "            | ... | 6 min. 59 sec.   |
| 12th. | Frl. Ablanalp       | ... | Swiss Ladies | ... | 9 min. 17 sec.   |
| 13th. | Frl. Niederhäuser   | ... | "            | ... | 9 min. 35 sec.   |
| 14th. | Miss Mackinnon      | ... | L.S.C.       | ... | Did not finish.  |

British Ladies win the Downhill Race and the Match.

## THE BRITISH LADIES' SKI CHAMPIONSHIP.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE British Ladies' Ski Championship was held at Maloja on the same courses and at the same time as the men's championship. Unfortunately there were only four entries for the Ladies' Championship: disappointing and somewhat unsatisfactory for the competitors.

The downhill race was held on January 11th in perfect weather conditions in the Muirtairace Valley, starting just below the Margna Glacier, a descent of about 2,800 feet to the Lake at Isola. Commander Long and Mr. G. N. Samuelson set the course, and great credit is due to them for the fair and sporting course and all the arrangements in general. The competitors were even provided with hot rum and coffee at the start and beer at the finish. Everything was up to time in spite of the long climb, and the point chosen for the start was such that, although there were twenty-five entries there was no jostling or crowding.

The first 100 yards or so were open and gentle, and then came a very steep pitch of perhaps 1,000 feet with a series of gullies, on one side of which was soft powder snow and on the other crust. This separated the competitors considerably, and a great deal depended upon a good choice of line. Then a long, open and gradual descent was succeeded by the most difficult part of the course; a descent of about 700 feet to the lake; very steep and with one control at the top and another near the bottom, as rocks and precipices had to be avoided. The snow here was deep and heavy, making turns, tired as everybody was, very nearly impossible. But the slope was too steep and too narrow to be taken straight. The course was a fine test, not only of ski-ing technique, but also of good judgment and endurance. Mrs. T. F. Turner, who finished ninth in the combined result, was the first lady down, 6 minutes 15 seconds after the first man, and 3 minutes 29 seconds after the second one in. Her victory was a really fine effort and she thoroughly deserved her win. Miss McConnell was second, coming in fourteenth, and Miss Gossage and Mrs. Curteis followed some minutes later.

The Hard Snow Slalom was held on the morning of January 13th. It is never easy to find hard snow at Maloja, and the course-setters had to enlist a large army of beaters to assist them in their difficult task. They succeeded in providing a quite troublesome course of about 500 feet, but the snow never attained the complete hardness such as is found on beaten-down practice slopes. The ladies did themselves perhaps less credit in this event. Mrs. Turner was again first, with Miss McConnell second, but Miss Gossage, of whom we had great hopes, had bad luck at the top of the slalom. Taking the flags at a high speed she overshot some of them and falling, buried her ski. Neither she nor Mrs. Curteis took any further part in the championship.

The soft snow slalom, a descent of about 480 feet, was held in the afternoon, and was a very ingenious and difficult course. The snow was excellent, but trees growing and fallen, as well as rocks and other natural obstacles, had to be navigated as well as the usual flags. Again, Mrs. Turner was first lady in, thus winning the British Ladies' Ski Championship in fine style.

### THE BRITISH LADIES' SKI CHAMPIONSHIP.

#### DOWNHILL RACE.

|      |                   |     |     |     |     |       |         |
|------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| 1st. | Mrs. T. F. Turner | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51.62 | points. |
| 2nd. | Miss McConnell    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42.03 | ..      |

#### SLALOM.

|      |                   |     |     |     |     |       |         |
|------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| 1st. | Mrs. T. F. Turner | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45.22 | points. |
| 2nd. | Miss McConnell    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41.54 | ..      |

#### COMBINED RESULT.

|      |                   |     |     |     |     |       |         |
|------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| 1st. | Mrs. T. F. Turner | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48.42 | points. |
| 2nd. | Miss McConnell    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41.78 | ..      |

## THE ARLBERG-KANDAHAR.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE Arlberg-Kandahar Challenge Cup was held at St. Anton-Arlberg on March 13th and 14th. There were 107 entries, including twenty-three ladies. Of these seven were British. Miss Elliott, the first of the British ladies last year, was unfortunately forced to leave St. Anton before the day of the race.

Competitors from Germany, Switzerland, England and all parts of Austria crowded the hotels. An elaborate slalom had been set on the practice slope, and all day it was busy with intense skiers, apparently under the impression that this was the actual course for the race. Mr. Lunn, who arrived from Kitzbühel two days before the race, had some difficulty in explaining that this was against all the best Kandahar traditions. The next day he flagged an entirely new course, of unusual length, variety and difficulty.

The Downhill race was run from the top of the Galzig to just above St. Anton, a descent of about 2,300 feet. This makes an excellent course and very fast, but for a level stretch of path just before the finish. The weather was perfect and the snow ideal spring snow, very fast and consistent.

The slalom was run on the first day. Owing to the large entry, there was only time for each competitor to race once; the ladies ran this event after the men. As the flag-keepers were provided with shovels to fill in and to smooth out any unnatural obstacles that might occur, and owing to the heat of the sun, the course was neither cut up nor iced.

An imposing crowd had gathered round the finish. The usual long expectant delay before the first man starts. Then a blast on a trumpet. A sudden hush and all eyes turn towards the distant start. "Zwei! Ein! Los!" He is off! Dives down the first steep slope, flashes through the first pair of flags, and

disappears. The next two pairs of flags are invisible from the finish; all eyes are fixed on the place where we expect him to re-appear. From above comes a shout of "Zurück!" He has missed a flag! There is a great commotion. But he never appears in the fourth pair of flags. Instead he takes the sixth pair at head-long speed. Then, missing all the rest he dives straight down the slope and through the finish, a wild, hunted look in his eyes. It is his first experience of a slalom.

After the first runner, very few missed flags; but nearly everyone fell once or more in the course of the race. Although Neuner, a German from Partenkirchen, won the event, the descent of Schuler, of St. Anton, was perhaps the most spectacular. Miss Carroll was the first lady to start and Frau Polland, last year's winner of the combined events, ran second. She had the misfortune to run into a small chalet. Fräulein Hilda Horn, of the Arlberg Ski Club, ran beautifully, and won the event.

On the 14th the weather was again perfect. Long strings of skiers, competitors and spectators, set off with their lunches. Some went by road to St. Christoph and others climbed up the course of the race.

The competitors started at half-minute intervals, and the ladies went first. The course was lined with spectators, some of whom were not in place at the beginning of the race. Miss Carroll, the first to start, ran particularly well in view of this fact. She finished second to Miss Sale-Barker, who ran magnificently. Her courage and skill excited universal admiration. She was the first lady in the combined events.

David Zogg, of Arosa, was the winner of the Men's Downhill Race. He finished the course in 4 minutes 55 seconds. Friedrich Schneider, the winner last year, took 5 minutes 9.2 seconds. That twenty-two competitors finished in under 6 minutes shows how high was the standard of ski-ing.

That evening the prizes were distributed in the Post Hotel. There were speeches in German and English, and the festivities continued until well into the next morning. It was evident that the meeting had been an unqualified success, and Miss Sale-Barker's fine performance undoubtedly did much to maintain the high reputation of the ski-ing of the British ladies.

#### THE LADIES' KANDAHAR.

|       |                           | SLALOM.        |      |       |         |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------|------|-------|---------|
|       | Name.                     | Club.          | m.   | s.    | Points. |
| 1st.  | Frl. Hilde Horn ...       | Arlberg ...    | 1    | 12.2  | 78-66   |
| 2nd.  | { Frau Dr. Torggler ...   | Innsbruck... 1 | 16   | 74-73 |         |
|       | { Frl. Ina von Stein... 1 | Arlberg ...    | 16   | 74-73 |         |
| 4th.  | Frl. Inge Lantschner ...  | Innsbruck... 1 | 22   | 69-26 |         |
| 5th.  | Miss Sale-Barker ...      | Kandahar... 1  | 24   | 67-61 |         |
| 6th.  | Frl. Irma Schmidegg ...   | Innsbruck... 1 | 24.2 | 67-45 |         |
| 7th.  | Frl. Gretl Matousek ...   | Munich ... 1   | 26.4 | 65-73 |         |
| 8th.  | Frau Polland ...          | Vienna ... 1   | 29   | 63-81 |         |
| 9th.  | Mrs. Curteis ...          | Kandahar... 1  | 34.2 | 60-29 |         |
| 10th. | Miss Diana Kingsmill ...  | Kandahar... 1  | 35   | 59-78 |         |

#### DOWNHILL RACE.

|       | Name.                     | Club.           | m.   | s.    | Points. |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|---------|
| 1st.  | Miss Sale-Barker ...      | Kandahar... 7   | 6.9  | 69-39 |         |
| 2nd.  | Miss Carroll... ...       | Kandahar... 8   | 8.1  |       |         |
| 3rd.  | Frl. Irma Schmidegg ...   | Innsbruck... 8  | 13.1 | 60-24 |         |
| 4th.  | Frl. Inge Lantschner ...  | Innsbruck... 8  | 28.5 | 58-12 |         |
| 5th.  | Frau Dr. Torggler ...     | Innsbruck... 8  | 40.2 | 56-75 |         |
| 6th.  | Frl. Hilde Horn ...       | Arlberg ... 8   | 16.4 | 53-09 |         |
| 7th.  | Frl. Ina von Stein ...    | Arlberg ... 9   | 26.7 | 52-18 |         |
| 8th.  | Frl. Gretl Matousek ...   | Munich ... 9    | 43.4 | 50-63 |         |
| 9th.  | Miss Diana Kingsmill ...  | Kandahar... 10  | 43.5 | 45-91 |         |
| 10th. | Frl. Grete Lantschner ... | Innsbruck... 10 | 48.5 | 45-45 |         |

#### COMBINED RESULT.

|       | Name.                     | Club.         | Points. |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------|---------|
| 1st.  | Miss Sale-Barker ...      | Kandahar ...  | 68-50   |
| 2nd.  | Frl. Hilde Horn ...       | Arlberg ...   | 65-875  |
| 3rd.  | Frau Torggler ...         | Innsbruck ... | 65-74   |
| 4th.  | Frl. Ina von Stein ...    | Arlberg ...   | 64-42   |
| 5th.  | Frl. Irma Schmidegg ...   | Innsbruck ... | 63-845  |
| 6th.  | Frl. Inge Lantschner ...  | Innsbruck ... | 63-69   |
| 7th.  | Frl. Gretl Matousek ...   | Munich ...    | 58-18   |
| 8th.  | Frl. Grete Lantschner ... | Innsbruck ... | 51-70   |
| 9th.  | Mrs. Curteis ...          | Kandahar ...  | 50-685  |
| 10th. | Frl. Honigmann ...        | Arlberg ...   | 48-705  |

## DOWNHILL RACES.

### THE LADY DENMAN CHALLENGE CUP.

HELD always at Mürren, the Lady Denman aroused enthusiastic competition this year, there being an unprecedented entry of sixteen. The start was on the Maulerhübel with the classic finish at the bottom of Shrub Slope, the competitors all leaving the top together. Miss Sale-Barker and Miss Doreen Elliott took it in turns to lead. Both were falling more than usual, but eventually Miss Sale-Barker bore away, never to be overtaken. Miss Raeburn, now a member of the Club, is nine years old, and she ran a remarkable course in this race.

#### THE LADY DENMAN CHALLENGE CUP.

|      |                              |                |
|------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1st. | Miss Sale-Barker ...         | 2 min. 40 sec. |
| 2nd. | Miss Doreen Elliott... ..    | 2 min. 43 sec. |
| 3rd. | Miss J. Heaver ... ..        | 4 min. 39 sec. |
| 4th. | Miss Patricia Raeburn ... .. | 4 min. 45 sec. |

### THE ATALANTA CHALLENGE CUP.

THERE were six competitors for this race, which was held in conjunction with the Hindmarsh Challenge Cup—an entry of seventeen in all for the two events. Miss Maxwell raced supremely well, finishing second in the Hindmarsh and winning the Atalanta from Miss Wolseley by three seconds. Considering that she finished

the wrong side of the finishing posts and had to come through them again, Miss Maxwell's time was excellent. Even so she beat ten men competitors. The snow conditions were fast and easy, and the race was held on the Half-Way House course from the Maulerhübel to test finish.

**THE ATALANTA CHALLENGE CUP.**

|      |                     |     |     |     |                |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1st. | Hon. Verena Maxwell | ... | ... | ... | 2 min. 45 sec. |
| 2nd. | Miss Wolseley       | ... | ... | ... | 2 min. 48 sec. |

**THE FARNHAM CHALLENGE CUP.**

No account of this race has been received. It was held at Maloja on January 31st, and Miss Maxwell was fourth out of an entry of fourteen.

**THE DIANA CHALLENGE CUP.**

THERE were seven entries for this Cup, which was held at Mürren for the first time on January 15th. The Cup was presented by three members of the L.S.C. for lady members of the Kandahar who have not obtained their gold K. badge. The course from the Blumenlücke to the top of the Blumenthal was short and open, but the bad light and varying snow at the time of the race made it quite difficult. Miss Crewdson led at the start, but kept too high and ran into an old avalanche, and Miss Kingsmill, who chose a better line, took the lead and won with ease.

**THE DIANA CHALLENGE CUP.**

|      |                      |     |     |     |                |
|------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1st. | Miss Diana Kingsmill | ... | ... | ... | 3 min. 15 sec. |
| 2nd. | Miss D. J. Crewdson  | ... | ... | ... | 4 min. 7 sec.  |
| 3rd. | Miss G. H. Leigh     | ... | ... | ... | 5 min. 44 sec. |

**SLALOM RACES.**

**THE CUTHBERT SAVAGE CHALLENGE CUP.**

THIS was held at Mürren on December 27th, with a large entry of twenty-six. Miss Sale-Barker, who finished fourth, ran with great judgment and speed. She excels as a slalomer, and is consistently good.

**THE LADY MABEL LUNN CHALLENGE CUP.**

THIS race was held in conjunction with the Cuthbert Savage, and was won for the third year in succession by Miss Sale-Barker, Miss Doreen Elliott, though again runner-up on this occasion.

skied much below her usual form, and was placed fifteenth in the Cuthbert Savage. A well-deserved win for Miss Sale-Barker.

**THE LADY MABEL LUNN CHALLENGE CUP.**

|      |                     |     |     |     |                |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1st. | Miss Sale-Barker    | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 40 sec. |
| 2nd. | Miss Doreen Elliott | ... | ... | ... | 2 min. 18 sec. |
| 3rd. | Lady Raeburn        | ... | ... | ... | 2 min. 27 sec. |

**THE STRANG WATKINS CHALLENGE CUP.**

THERE were sixteen entries for this race, which was held at Mürren on February 21st. Miss Heaver slalomed admirably, and must be congratulated on being an easy winner. Control, combined with steadiness, always pays in a well-set slalom, as Miss Heaver's time shows. In this case the men were severely beaten by the women.

**THE STRANG WATKINS CHALLENGE CUP.**

|      |                     |     |     |     |                  |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1st. | Miss J. Heaver      | ... | ... | ... | 2 min. 53 sec.   |
| 2nd. | Mrs. Somerville     | ... | ... | ... | 3 min. 13.2 sec. |
| 3rd. | Miss Crewdson       | ... | ... | ... | 3 min. 15.8 sec. |
| 4th. | Hon. Verena Maxwell | ... | ... | ... | 3 min. 37.5 sec. |
| 5th. | Mrs. Curteis        | ... | ... | ... | 3 min. 43 sec.   |

**THE MRS. SEDDON-BROWN SLALOM CUP.**

THE slalom was held above Villars on January 3rd. There were fifteen entries and Miss Helen Blane must be congratulated on being third, the first two places being taken by men.

**THE MRS. SEDDON-BROWN SLALOM CUP.**

|      |                  |     |     |     |                  |
|------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1st. | D. Seddon-Brown  | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 19.8 sec. |
| 2nd. | R. E. Lloyd      | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 28.6 sec. |
| 3rd. | Miss Helen Blane | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 30.4 sec. |

**THE CALLIAS LADIES' SLALOM CUP.**

WE have no account of this race, which was won by Miss Helen Blane from six competitors by more than half a minute.

**THE ORSINI CHALLENGE CUP AND THE ANDREW IRVINE CHALLENGE CUP.**

THIS first event is open to lady members of the Kandahar, and was held at Mürren on January 19th. Miss Sale-Barker slalomed at the top of her form, winning the Cup and being placed third in the Andrew Irvine with which the Orsini was being run. Miss Patricia Raeburn ran an excellent course in splendid style, and Miss Crewdson skied well.

**THE ORSINI CHALLENGE CUP AND THE ANDREW IRVINE CHALLENGE CUP.**

|      |                     |     |     |     |                  |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1st. | Miss Sale-Barker    | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 10.2 sec. |
| 2nd. | Miss D. J. Crewdson | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 40 sec.   |
| 3rd. | Miss P. Raeburn     | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 57.2 sec. |

### THE SHOTTON CHALLENGE CUP.

THIS was held at Mürren on February 12th, there being seventeen competitors, and was won by Mrs. Somerville, who has improved her ski-ing tremendously this year. She slalomed with great control and steadiness.

#### THE SHOTTON CHALLENGE CUP.

|      |                     |     |     |     |                  |
|------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs. Somerville     | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 4.6 sec.  |
| 2nd. | Lord Farnham        | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 7.6 sec.  |
| 3rd. | Hon. Verena Maxwell | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 10.8 sec. |

### THE STEEPLE CHALLENGE CUP.

MISS SALE-BARKER just failed to repeat her success of last year in this slalom, which was held at Mürren on February 23rd, with an entry of nineteen. Her slaloming was good, however, and she secured fourth place, with Miss Doreen Elliott next. The course was long and varied, starting at the top of the Hog's Back and finishing by Scara Gate. The snow was hard most of the way, but the last two flags were cut up and difficult to negotiate.

#### THE STEEPLE CHALLENGE CUP.

|      |                    |     |     |     |                  |
|------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1st. | W. R. Bracken      | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 9.4 sec.  |
| 2nd. | Dr. Walter Amstutz | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 11.2 sec. |
| 3rd. | J. F. Collins      | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 31.4 sec. |
| 4th. | Miss Sale-Barker   | ... | ... | ... | 1 min. 35.8 sec. |

## NO-FALL RACES.

### THE ANONYMOUS CHALLENGE CUP FOR NO-FALL STYLE RACING.

No kick-turns were allowed in this race, which was held at Mürren for the first time on February 3rd. The no-fall standard of racing has improved so tremendously that kick-turns are rarely to be seen except on difficult snow. Part of the course was of breakable crust, varied with patches of powder, and Mr. Arnold Lunn (with his profound knowledge of snow customs and habits) was an easy winner. Miss Wolseley survived and finished second, four minutes after the victor. But thirteen fell.

### THE MONTESANO CUP.

THIS race took place at Villars on January 25th, and was won by Miss Helen Blane. There were seven competitors. Unfortunately no times have been sent in.

### THE DOWNHILL RACE IN THE EUROPEAN SKI CHAMPIONSHIP.

BY AN EYEWITNESS.

[This article is written on the assumption that readers are cognisant of the Hindmarsh Start. For those unfamiliar with the subject a full explanation will be found in the S.C.G.B. Handbook for 1926-27, or in the S.C.G.B. Officials' Handbook for December, 1928.—ED.]

ZAKOPANE in Poland was the centre chosen for the European Ski Championship held in February, 1929.

A Downhill race was included in the meeting for the first time on record, the credit of which is due to Mr. Arnold Lunn, for it was his eloquence which persuaded the International Ski Congress at St. Moritz in 1928 to adopt our methods.

Nine British competitors arrived at Zakopane three days before the race and spent the intervening time in going over the course, piloted by many of the Poles.

The night preceding the event sixty competitors of all nationalities slept at the Gasienicowa Hut, which was situated between the two sections of the race.

The snow was exceedingly dangerous, it being windswept crust. There were pockets of soft snow, varied with gigantic frozen waves, patches of ice and expanses of breakable crust.

The race was run (in compliment to the British) with the Hindmarsh Start, the first part consisting of a descent of 1,800 feet from the summit of the Kopa Magory, on the frontier of Poland and Czecho-slovakia. The top was so steep that it was controlled with two pairs of flags, thus necessitating a zigzag descent, and the last part consisted of an undulating path down to the finishing posts by the Gasienicowa Hut.

The competitors were sent off at half-minute intervals. Many were quite incapable of coping with the snow, and were passed by others before they had emerged from the control flags.

It was a noticeable fact that the broad ski favoured by the British rode far more steadily over the crust than did the narrow *Langlauf* ski used by most of the other nations competing.

Bracken ran superbly and finished second to Czech, a Pole, and Miss Sale-Barker beat Miss Doreen Elliott by fifteen seconds. All the British were placed among the first fifteen.

The end of the first section was reminiscent of a Bank Holiday crowd. The meeting was graced by the Polish President, and a band played each competitor through the finishing posts.

The President and his *entourage* monopolised the Hut for lunch and competitors had to fend for themselves at some near-by chalets before setting out to climb up to the start of the second section of approximately 1,400 feet.



The first 500 feet consisted of a large, exposed slope beginning with the familiar breakable crust and eventually turning into powder snow which was preserved by a small shoulder to the right.

Direction flags were planted liberally, indicating an easy angle of descent to the left, but leading the competitor into an exposed length of breakable crust (running parallel to the portion of powder snow) before reaching a path which heralded a short, steep climb.

Reconnaissance on the ascent showed that a direct, slightly right-handed line from the start was possible and would enable the competitor to benefit from the easy snow.

An unfortunate episode occurred at the start when Bracken lost four valuable seconds in getting off owing to the time being counted out in Polish. The starter then woke up to his obligations and gave everyone a push at the correct moment.

Miss Sale-Barker chose to follow the guiding flags, while Miss Elliott, leaving fifteen seconds later, took the direct route and her impetus carried her up the path well ahead of the other.

The final glade of 800 feet long and thirty degrees steep was covered with tree stumps and the snow was extremely cut up.

The racer emerged, breathless from a stiff little climb to the top of the glade, bewildered by the sight of countless blue control flags standing up and lying down where they had been knocked over. Instead of there being the usual *pair* of control flags there were alley ways some twenty deep. Excited spectators crouching behind tree stumps and policemen on ski and point duty shouted and waved—threats or encouragement, it may have been either, for Polish is a difficult language.

Dazed, the unfortunate competitor turned and plunged deep and prayed for the best.

Miss Doreen Elliott and Miss Sale-Barker met in conversation at this point. The former was heard to reprove Miss Sale-Barker for using unseemly language, while the latter retorted with, "Take it straight, you fool." Miss Elliott, startled, obeyed and thereby shot first through the finishing flags.

Guy Nixon ran admirably and there was not much to choose between Riddell, Maitland and Richardson, who also ran well. Mitchell finished twenty-fourth in spite of breaking a ski in the crust near the start of the second part of the race.

Miss Elliott and Miss Sale-Barker were the only two women entered for the men's Downhill race. They had originally been entered for the ladies' event on the assumption that it was a Downhill race, but was afterwards discovered to be a *Langlauf*.

The Committee in Zakopane decided that mixed racing could not be countenanced, and that if ladies wished to race gentlemen they must do so *hors concours*.

On the eve of the race men were offering and taking bets as to their chances of beating the women. Some were heard to swear that should they be beaten they would make a bonfire of

their ski and retire into private life. But in spite of any feelings that they may have entertained in the matter nothing could have exceeded the courtesy and kindness of all competing.

The hospitality with which the British team were entertained was beyond praise, and the organisation went without a hitch. There is not a member of the team who does not cherish grateful memories of the kindness he received.

#### DOWNHILL RACE.

*Entries 60.*

|       |                            |                |
|-------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1st.  | Czech ... ..               | Poland.        |
| 2nd.  | W. R. Bracken ... ..       | Great Britain. |
| 3rd.  | Lauener ... ..             | Switzerland.   |
| 4th.  | Kaufmann ... ..            | Switzerland.   |
| 5th.  | Trojani ... ..             | Switzerland.   |
| 6th.  | Guy Nixon ... ..           | Great Britain. |
| 7th.  | Karzeptowski ... ..        | Poland.        |
| 8th.  | W. J. Riddell ... ..       | Great Britain. |
| 9th.  | Czech, Junior ... ..       | Poland.        |
| 10th. | F. P. Maitland ... ..      | Great Britain. |
| 11th. | Tullenmeier ... ..         | Switzerland.   |
| 12th. | E. W. A. Richardson ... .. | Great Britain. |
| 13th. | Miss Doreen Elliott ... .. | Great Britain. |
| 14th. | Miss Sale-Barker ... ..    | Great Britain. |
| 15th. | C. Pitman ... ..           | Great Britain. |

[There are no times to hand.—ED.]

#### SKI-ING ON THE OBERLAND GLACIERS IN JUNE.

BY D. M. L. ANSON.

SINCE I am asked, I venture to describe one of the ski tours I have done, although many others have been over the same ground.

With only eight days to spare from England my husband and I set off for Grindelwald on Friday, June 1st, 1928. On Saturday we spread out the maps with Adolph Rubi to help us select a tour. We did a training climb and run on Sunday from Scheidegg to Eigergletcher and back.

Monday morning saw us and our guides, provided with food for five days, the necessary extra supplies and complete touring equipment in our sacks aboard the Scheidegg train. Adolph Rubi was our guide and Herman Steuri came as porter. After lunch at the Jungfrauoch we saw the clouds coming down and decided to leave at once for our destination for that night—the Concordia Hut. We got over the first steep part of the glacier quite quickly, but had to push along the lower part as the snow was sticky.

It was a beautiful evening and all around Concordia Platz was clear, as I believe is often the case there, but we could not see up to the Jungfrauoch. Already in the hut were three Swiss without guides. They were very friendly and kindly gave up the kitchen to us, as our party just filled the bunks there. There

was always a most penetrating smell of herbs drifting about from this party, and I was anxious to know what it could be. There seemed to be nothing to account for it: they ate quite usual food, but there it was; no doubt, a great comfort to them.

The morning dawned dull and grey: one could not see across the glacier at 6 a.m. By 11 a.m. conditions improved and we climbed to the Grunhornlücke and ran back over good snow to Concordia in time for lunch.

On Wednesday morning we left about 10 a.m. as the weather was still doubtful. However, part of the time the sun was blazingly hot, as on the previous day, and only with the application of Dr. Séchehayé's cream did we avoid the agonies of sunburn. We wore dark glasses with an extra layer of green mica inside, which proved most comfortable. By lunch time we were at the Egon von Steiger Hut. Visibility was bad, and we only got glimpses of the view down to Goppenstein when the sun came through. The run back to Concordia was great fun and in parts fast, but again the lower part was sticky and slow.

Another evening spent basking on the rocks and with the aid of an air cushion gave one the feeling of a good holiday and safe from interruption by letters or any such inconveniences. The other party had left and with them the smell of herbs. Concordia seemed to have become our home, and it was sad to contemplate leaving it on the following day.

We left at 5 a.m. on the morning of Thursday in a dim grey light which improved and then clouded over again. Most of the way up to the Grunhornlücke was thick cloud. We climbed much more quickly than on the previous occasion and arrived at the top quite fresh. We were bound for the Oberaarjoch which seemed enveloped in mist like the mountains around us. Running down the Walisser Fiescher Firn was very exciting and rather crusty: the kind of snow that trips one up when turning, but is not so bad on the straight. We could only see a few yards, and I kept pretty close to Rubi for fear of losing him. Suddenly he burst into a splendid yodel as he came out of the cloud and we all went straight ahead to the flat below. The track across the Rotloch is interesting and not fatiguing. Butterflies were lying on the snow, or sometimes half buried in small holes. I thought they were frozen and attempted to take one home, but as soon as I picked it up off it flew, very much alive, although there seemed nothing for them to live on.

By about 9 a.m. the sky was still dense and white. We began the ascent up the Galmi Firn and gradually the conditions grew worse. Finally up the last steep part we fought against a blizzard, with no possibility of seeing more than a few yards. It did not take us long to reach the top, not long enough to get really cold and we scrambled up the high rock on which the Oberaar Hut stands. The fixed cable was frozen into the rock, but one could still get a good hold on it which was most comforting. To go

into the hut was to enter a haven of peace, but I felt, too, that there was something familiar about the place: almost as if I had been there before. Ah! yes, in the corner sat the herbalist of the Swiss party smoking his long pipe, and the air was heavily laden with the fragrance we had lived in at Concordia.

The storm continued: it was now 11 a.m.; there was no view at all and a good wind still blowing. Our clothes were wet and the hut was not a very warm one, so we hung our trousers over the stove and wore blankets instead. During the afternoon it was so cold we went to bed with books and plenty of blankets. In the evening while we sat round the stove the Swiss entertained us by singing many of the country songs most charmingly. The wonderful smell proved to be mint, which our friend alternately drank as tea or smoked in his pipe. It will always remind me of this glacier tour when I eat mint sauce.

After a splendid night we awoke to a most unpromising morning. All hope of seeing the Matterhorn and other peaks of the valley was gone for the day. We started at 8.15 a.m. in mid-winter conditions for the Grimsel Pass. Visibility was still very bad and the glacier was wind swept. One could, however, proceed slowly and carefully down the first two steep pitches from the Oberaar Glacier. One particularly large crevasse stood open, green and shining in spite of the lack of sun. As we got lower conditions improved, and we had one magnificent run down a good steep drop with a long run out at the bottom. By 10.30 a.m. the bad weather was behind us, but the snow was soft and there was no more fast running.

The country was fascinating as we approached the lower end of the glacier. The stream bubbled down the middle from under the ice in a beautiful serpentine and left it in a fall of froth and foam. The warmth of spring was in the air. We stepped off the glacier on to the rocks between which the snow still lay thickly. Traversing the side of the Unteraar Valley that heads to the Grimsel Pass there was decidedly more rock than snow, and soon the ski-ing was between large bushes over what almost resembled a rock garden with patches of snow spread about among the boulders.

To my delight the Grimsel Hospice was open, and we had an excellent lunch. Rubi telephoned to Interlaken for a car to meet us further down the valley. We walked down the road towards Handegg, carrying our ski. Here the car met us and we drove down the flower-bedecked valley of the Aare in brilliant sunshine through Meiringen to Interlaken which was enjoying midsummer. At 6.30 p.m. we saw the friendly door of Frau Wolter's standing open. Our tour was complete, and hot baths and a good dinner awaited us inside.

The following day, Saturday, June 9th, we left the mountains and the snow, the spring flowers and the sunshine, and our guides who had contributed so much to our pleasure and comfort.

## SKI-ING NEAR MONTREAL.

BY BETTY GONIN.

DURING the winter of 1927-28 I was in Montreal and did a considerable amount of ski-ing. Montreal itself has a mountain with a toboggan slide—at least the Montrealers call it proudly a *mountain*, but newcomers, especially those who have seen the Alps, think that a small *hill* would be a better term.

There are short runs on all sides of the mountain, varying in angle and the denseness of the trees; but the snow, as soon as it falls, is either trampled into cement by the hundreds of enthusiasts who ski at all hours of the day and night, or turned at once into hard crust by a piercing wind that seems to make itself felt very frequently.

The temperature varies, of course, from day to day, or even from morning to afternoon. My first experience on ski in Montreal was on a Saturday afternoon when the slopes were black with people and the temperature was fifteen degrees below zero, with a cold wind blowing. There was a continuous stream of people, with frozen cheeks, noses or fingers, back and forth from a hot drink shop.

Some days were very much more pleasant, but the thought of wearing one jacket or sweater, as in Switzerland, is ludicrous even on the mildest day.

To the north of Montreal, forty miles or so away, there are some good ski runs among the Laurentian Mountains, where one is protected from the wind and, as a rule, the snow is good. The runs, though very brief compared with those of Switzerland, are good. The mountains are low and so it is not possible to run downhill for more than a few seconds without having either to *langlauf* or to climb. However, I spent many happy hours running cross-country in the Laurentians, and I infinitely prefer them to the slopes around Montreal.

A number of residents in Montreal ski every single week-end in the Laurentians, staying in a small hotel and leaving their ski and sticks behind in readiness for their next visit.

This year the snow was better at Easter than it was at Christmas, and sometimes it is possible to ski right up to the first week in May. It must be extremely pleasant then as the days are long and the temperature is warm enough to allow ski-ing in bathing suits.

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## ON FINDING NEW SKI-ING CENTRES.

BY M. E. POWELL.

IN a train or funicular filled with ski-runners you will be certain to hear "I wish I could hear of a new place to go to," or some remark of that sort. I should like to answer, "Why not make

the new place"; after all each new place is started because someone goes there. Why not try a week at a little inn where perhaps no other skiers will come, but where living is cheap, if simple, and where you go to bed early and are fresh for an expedition next day?

The amount saved on the hotel bill can be spent on a local guide or a lad who will show you the best runs in the neighbourhood and afterwards you would return to the comforts of a big hotel with a better appreciation of the joys of bathrooms and well-served food.

Last winter I spent two nights at Bedretto in the Valle Leventina, and I thought, "Some day I will come here again." We arrived from the Corno Hut in time for the midday dinner at one of the two small hotels. The little salon was occupied by a young workman asleep on a bench by the stove, and Cesar, a small child of three years old, who ran in and out but who would only come near enough to take the piece of chocolate held out to him and then run off again. Soup, omelettes, meat, potatoes, tinned fruit, with plenty of good bread, butter and jam composed the meal. Our party consisted of four; two women and two guides. The guides had their meals and sat with us in the only heated room. We each had a separate bedroom, clean and with comfortable beds, though not heated.

There are no aids for the ski-runner in the way of sleighs or funiculars, but it is easy to go to the Corno Hut or Rotondo Hut and ski from them. The Passo San Giacomo provides a good run, and the Cristallina is an interesting expedition. There are probably many more runs, but our stay was too short to explore them.

There must be hundreds of places of this kind all over Switzerland which, although well-known to the summer visitor, are almost unvisited by British ski-runners. I should like to hear of Brigels above the valley of the Norder Rhein, of the ski-ing above Flims on the Spitzmeilen (where there are hotels), and of any other little known ski-ing districts where there are small inns or hotels, from those who have first hand knowledge. There are many small places in the Haute Savoie which look delightful, but I have not done any ski-ing in that district and some of the C.A.F. chalets in the Dauphiné should be well worth a visit, the Chalet-Hotel de la Pra at a height of 2,100 metres, among others, though it might be crowded at week-ends.

It would be interesting to read an account of such centres in one of our journals.

## FROM SWITZERLAND TO POLAND BY CAR.

BY D. J. CREWDSON.

[Miss Crewdson gives us an account of her motor trip from Lauterbrunnen to Zakopane in Mr. and Mrs. Eaton's three-litre (open) Sunbeam car.—ED.]

WE were told, that in this exceptionally cold and snowy winter, it would be impossible to motor from Mürren to Zakopane, in Poland, where the European Ski Championships were being held. However, we decided to have a shot at it, and we left Mürren at crack of dawn on Thursday, January 31st, to pick up the car, which was garaged at Lauterbrunnen.

It took us ages to start up the car, but after pushing it a long way down the valley, and incidentally holding up all the traffic, we were successful and reached Berne after lunch.

We spent the night at the Schweizerhof Hotel, so as to give Hugh Eaton a chance of thoroughly overhauling the car. The next morning we began to realise some of the difficulties ahead of us when we discovered that all the obvious routes were snowed up and therefore impassable, necessitating a long detour through Germany.

We did not leave Berne till half-past ten and we hoped to make Stuttgart that night, but the roads were so dreadful that the going was very slow. To make matters worse we spent two hours by the side of the road while Hugh took most of the car to bits.

It was half-past four when we reached Zürich and the cold was intense. We had continual engine trouble, and the wheels would not hold the road, so when we got to Schaffhausen we decided to stop and spend the night at the Hotel Müller.

We left on Saturday at ten o'clock and the magnificent spectacle of the partially frozen Rhinefall compensated us to some degree for all previous discomforts.

For some time we motored along the banks of the Danube, which was frozen solid, with all kinds of craft firmly embedded in mid-stream.

We had wanted to get to Nuremberg for the night but the car was running so badly and the cold was so intense that, when we stopped at Ansbach, we were almost as frozen as the hot water arrangements in the hotel.

The next morning (which was February 3rd) nothing would induce the Sunbeam to go, and the entire population of the place—so it seemed—was entertained by the sight of the car being towed up and down the main street by an ancient taxi. Finally, with sufficient inducement, we had quite a fair run to Grafenburg, where we lunched. Later on in the day the roads grew worse, and we had to plough our way through deep snow. We stuck in various drifts and had to dig the car out with our one and only shovel and then push it on to the road again.

We saw a fox and several roe deer practically inside the villages, evidently driven to the point of starvation by the terrible cold.

We hoped to reach Dresden, but the snow was so bad that we changed our minds and spent the night at Plauen.

On Monday morning the car was going much better and the roads, though still deep in snow, were not so difficult to negotiate, and we hoped to make up for lost time and reach Breslau. Eight o'clock found us at Leipzig, so we had dinner, feeling very stiff and cold after our long drive. From there onwards the roads fulfilled our worst expectations, but we arrived at Breslau at about half-past eleven, feeling rather pleased with ourselves. For the first time since we had left Mürren we reached our intended destination and we went to bed in high fettle, determined to get to Krakow the next day and even with a faint hope of making Zakopane. Man proposes . . . .

Tuesday morning found us on fair roads and the car going marvellously. Just before lunching at Oppelen we nearly ran into two very dead cows; an ill omen, we feared, and sure enough the clutch began slipping, and finally—in the middle of a great white open plain, without a sign of any living thing—the car died on us. Constant *revving* out of snow drifts had proved too much and though we washed out the clutch with petrol, when the car started we went so slowly that we found we could walk quicker ourselves, and this we did to keep warm.

Finally the Sunbeam stopped for good and, after waiting about for an hour, a heaven sent lorry came lumbering up the road. We persuaded him to tow us to the nearest village, called Gross Streilitz, and there we left the car in the garage with a completely burnt-out clutch.

The garage owner (who also combined the trades of doctor, veterinary surgeon and organist) promised us a car to take us the odd fifty miles to the station. We had to wait three and a half hours for that car, and our host entertained us with a very loud wireless and war photographs. Occasionally he left us to tune a ghastly violin with the help of an untuned piano and the wireless.

It was pitch dark when the car came, and it had no lights. Its seating capacity was negligible and four of us, with our luggage and ski, were jammed in in an astonishing way. A nightmare journey and the car jumping light-heartedly from the hard snow banks on to the frozen ruts. The road was too narrow to allow of double traffic and it seemed as if hours were wasted as we drew into special cuttings in the bank provided for such cases of emergency.

In time we reached Beutnen to find we had missed the last train for Krakow. Dog-tired, we stopped at the first inn we saw with thoughts of hot victuals uppermost in our mind. The resources of the inn seemed limited so we decided on eggs and

bacon as a safe foundation for a meal. We managed to convey the German for *egg*, but *bacon* defeated us until I thought of drawing a picture on the tablecloth. The waiter said, "Hund," all brightly and *Hund* it turned out to be; it certainly was not bacon. A severe reflection on my drawing.

We got up early the next morning to catch our train at half-past nine and found we had very little money left. Hugh went out armed with a letter of credit which he failed to cash, and nearly missed the train in consequence. When we pooled all our small change we had just enough to pay our hotel bill and our fares.

We had great difficulty with the Customs and were getting hopelessly involved when one of us suddenly shouted "Ski-ing—Zakopane." Immediately, with excitement running high and officials shouting, we were pushed with all our goods into the train and finished our journey at half-past nine in the evening.

We had taken six days over nine hundred miles, the length of time being due to the exceptional cold (seventy to seventy-five degrees of frost Centigrade) and the bad surface of the road, which affected the car so disastrously.

## SHOULD WOMEN RACE AGAINST MEN ?

BY THE SINISTER FATHER.

"A MAGNIFICENT achievement, but the principle is all wrong."

Such was the comment of a friend of mine on the performance of Miss Elliott and Miss Sale-Barker at Zakopane. The principle to which my friend referred so feelingly was the principle of women competing in the same race as men.

It is, of course, trying for a man to be beaten by a woman, but no mistaken sense of chivalry towards the stronger sex should be allowed to affect our judgment. Men should not be protected from competition by a tariff wall based on sex. It is illogical to describe an event as open if women are excluded.

My own view is that women should be guided simply and solely by the nature of the race, not by whether the race is regarded as a virtual monopoly for men.

Langlauf is, of course, a most unsuitable event for women. Even the shortest of langlaufs is extremely exhausting and even the Norwegians have come to the conclusion that women should not enter for this type of race.

Very long downhill races are also unsuitable. I say this in spite of the fine performances of two ladies in the first Inferno race. Two thousand to two thousand five hundred feet of racing at high speed is probably the limit which a woman should be asked to attempt.

The slalom is, of course, the most suitable race for women,

though a slalom is a far greater test of stamina than some people imagine. Relative to men women seem to do better in slaloms than in any other form of racing. Miss Sale-Barker, for instance, has twice won a Beta cup at Mürren finishing third to Bracken and Walter Amstutz and defeating several men Gold Medallists.

So far as racing in general is concerned two questions arise which should be, but which seldom are, kept distinct.

First, should women enter for the same races as men ?

Secondly, should women draw for places just as if they were men competitors ?

I am in favour of women racing against men subject to the reservations mentioned above. I am strongly against women drawing for places as if they were men. I believe that women should all start as a separate group—the group start is provided for in our racing rules—and should start some time before or some time after the men.

If all competitors start together, as in the Kandahar race, women competitors are, frankly, a nuisance. The age of chivalry is not quite dead, even at Mürren, and the toughest of "Tough Guys" would be reluctant to "tread in" a lady competitor.

But there is no logical reason that I can see to prevent women from racing over the same course, and therefore entering for the same event, as men, provided that the course is not too long or too severe.

We have so far considered the question of women entering for open races. A peculiar problem arises when a cup open only to women is competed for at the same time and over the same course as a cup open to men.

There is not the least difficulty where the cup is a slalom cup and where both parts of the slalom are run on hard snow. In this case the woman who has the best aggregate time wins the women's prize. When, however, as was the case in the Arlberg-Kandahar, the downhill race is combined with a slalom race or where the second part of the slalom is run on soft snow, it is necessary to mark the women separately, and to give the best woman in the race 100 points rather than the points determined by the ratio of her time to the best man's time.

For reasons which it would take too long to explain but which anyone who understands the rule of three can work out for him or herself, one might quite conceivably get a totally different result by treating for the purposes of marks both events as one event and by treating the women's event separately.

Yet another problem arises in connection with the slalom where the second part is run on soft snow. Under these circumstances the order of starting in the second part is determined by the order in which the competitors finished on the hard snow section. Let us presume that the best men will beat the best women on the first part of the slalom and will, therefore, have first cut at the soft unspoiled snow in the second part.

The best woman competitor is thereby deprived of an advantage to which she is entitled over the other women competitors because she will be ski-ing on snow which has already been to some extent cut up. On the other hand the weaker women competitors will suffer still more heavily in comparison with the other competitors because the snow will not only be cut up by the stronger women competitors but also by a large number of men.

This is a problem which will arise next winter in connection with the British Ski Championship meeting. The women will doubtless be started in one group in the hard snow slalom and will doubtless race over the same course as the men. It would be interesting to know the views of the Ladies' Ski Club as to whether a separate soft snow slalom should be set for the women in the afternoon. Personally, I think this would be a mistake as it would thereby deprive the women of the opportunity of doing well in the open slalom. It is conceivable that a woman might be placed in the open slalom and it would be a pity to deprive the Ladies' Ski Club of this opportunity of proving the prowess of their sex.

It may even be possible to arrange that the downhill race for the Ladies' Championship should be run over the same course as the straight race for the Men's Championship, but this may be more difficult. In any case the women will race in a separate group both in the slalom and in the straight race.

I have used throughout this article the term "women" rather than "ladies" partly because we do not talk about a championship open to "gentlemen," and partly because the problems that I have discussed do not apply exclusively to "ladies."

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### A JUDGE'S PLAINT.

THE time has come to air the grievances of the Judges of the British Ski Tests.

There are Trades Unions for world workers—why then should there not be one for judges?

On considering the matter it seems ridiculous that such a large and growing body of earnest workers should not be protected. Has anyone ever heard a judge mention eight hours in the day? There is not even an early closing day, and as for Sunday. . . .

A judge, poor fish, is unprotected: in bed, and a knock at the door. Is it breakfast? No, it is Jones or Miss Gwladys Jones demanding to be passed instantly in righthand telemarks. Or again, at tea; even in the bar; a dance partner—all snares and delusions, oh, unhappy judge.

Now I am a seasoned veteran, but I am not proof against those Insidious Beings who recur at every test; who fail time and

again on identical turns; who look pathetic, appealing, remorseful, dogged, hysterical, resentful (mostly resentful), and are all overcome by some soul-shaking emotion. In turn I am made to feel brutal, unfair or culpable.

How many candidates, I ask myself as I gaze on their serried ranks with growing distaste, how many candidates finally pass on their own merits? (It has been said that constant dripping wears away stone.) How many of these Insidious Beings attain their heart's desire only because the Judge is sick of the sight of their faces? Have we not all heard of another judge who had to deal with an Importunate Widow?

Morbid, of course, but who would not be morbid when he has to stand uncomfortably on a traverse watching wretched candidates jumping and sitting and turning, and most of them trying to cheat the judge into the bargain?

One last word: judges don't judge (in my experience) for mere pleasure, but for the betterment of the Human-Ski-ing-Race-as-a-Whole. And being partly human themselves they often appreciate a word of thanks when the test is done, both from the successful and the less fortunate.

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### THE WINTER AT MORGINS.

BY H. CAVENDISH CLARKE.

IN common with the rest of Switzerland Morgins provided her visitors with the most delightful weather. Hot sun, the absence of wind and fresh snow whenever required, what more could be desired? What matter if one remembers eating a hasty standing lunch, with faces well muffled up, at 8,000 feet and a temperature of fourteen degrees below zero? No one got frostbitten!

New and longer runs were adventured on and tested and enthusiasm ran high. Captain Swan (the official representative) kept an accurate and detailed account of every day's climb, throughout the season, which amounted to just over 100,000 feet of climbing and running, and several of the lady visitors' records were only just short of this.

Although there is only one race in the season for ladies only the open ones were all hotly contested by the female brigade. Miss Cavendish Clarke won the Open Challenge Cup of the Corbeau Ski Club from Monsieur Mezentin and a field of eleven runners, including three women. Conditions were variable, as the race was begun in deep soft snow and ended in breakable crust. Miss Cavendish Clarke was also successful in the Ladies' Race.

There were four women competitors for the Rhone Valley Challenge Cup which was won by an entrant from Villars. Miss K. Reynolds, Miss E. Reynolds, Miss B. Philpot and Madame Mezentin were all able to finish their Second Class Tests by the end of the season. They worked very hard and with great perseverance (as the judges had proved "impossible to suborn"! ) and had turned them down ruthlessly more often than not.

Altogether, a very happy season, thank you.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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### CHAMPIONSHIPS.

*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—It is unfortunate, but perhaps inevitable, that the British Ladies' Ski Championship should be confused with the Ladies' Ski Club Championship by the Press. Miss Doreen Elliott was acclaimed as British Lady Champion in a weekly paper, thus usurping the position gained by Mrs. Turner at Maloja. Have your readers any suggestions as to how this difficulty could be surmounted?

Yours faithfully,  
NON-COMBATANT.

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*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—Two Ladies' Championships are held yearly, and it is a curious fact that the competition for the Ladies' Ski Club Championship is far keener than that for the British Ladies' Championship. On many occasions I have heard discussion on the futility of running both these events, and of the ambition to win the Ladies' Ski Club Championship in preference to the British Ladies' Championship or any other event.

The Ladies' Ski Club Championship is not confined solely to members of the Club. Any promising skier with the necessary qualifications in tests or touring capacity can become a candidate for the Club, and thus enter for the Club events. And it stands to reason that it is not likely that anyone whose ski-ing is below the Club's standard will have much chance of doing herself credit in the races.

Yours truly,  
PARTICIPATOR.

### ON ENROLLING NEW MEMBERS.

*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—I hear on all sides of the discovery of good women skiers at well-known and also at obscure centres—quite good enough, I am told, to belong to the Ladies' Ski Club. Very few seem to come out of their obscurity. It seems a pity that good ski-runners should not be able to join the only British ladies' skiing club in existence. The Committee does its best, but lack of co-ordination and inertia on the part of members is responsible for losing sight of many promising skiers. Perhaps they do not realise this. I was "discovered" by a member of the Committee who paid a chance visit to the centre at which I was staying.

I feel such things should not be left to chance.  
I beg to remain,

Yours truly,  
G. H. M.

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### ARM-BANDS.

*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—It seems to me that the Committee of the Ski Club of Great Britain have missed an opportunity of designing a suitable emblem for the skiers who represented Great Britain at the European Championships this year in Poland.

Why an arm-band which, though in the Club colours, is distinctly reminiscent of that of a policeman? And anyhow why not the Union Jack on a small portion of the spacious arm-band? Surely an international event merits the display of one's country's colours? It is not merely a Club event. The two small overlapping circles in the red, white and blue which the British Davis Cup players wear on the left hand side is eminently suitable.

Your obedient servant,  
PATRIOT.

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### A LAMENT.

*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—There are films for the deaf and there are no-fall races for the delicate. But even as the silent films are being replaced by the *talkies*, so are the no-fall races changing from a dignified amble to record-breaking achievements. Gone are the pleasant little interchanges of talk, the lighthearted garden party atmosphere. Instead we have palpitating hearts and grim faces. No leisure to produce the vanity case and take necessary action therewith. Who would not deplore the change? Heavy is the price we pay for progress.

Yours faithfully,  
DOREEN ELLIOTT.

## THE ARLBERG CROUCH.

*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—What impressed me most this year in Switzerland at Christmas and at Easter was the practically universal adoption of the exaggerated crouching position in ski-running. The mountains were covered with squatting figures, looking like some strange insects. While there may be nothing against it from the ski-ing point of view (in fact the standard of ski-ing is said to be improving) have any of the members of the Ladies' Ski Club realised the possible effect on their figures? If the fashions change, well and good, but if they continue as they are at present, demanding a more or less straight line, I must seriously call the attention of the members to the result of the Arlberg crouch.

Before we go into anatomical details we will call the portion of the human body upon which we sit X.

X is composed of very powerful muscles whose main function is to raise the body from a sitting position to an upright one. Ski-running in a crouching position uses these muscles to their fullest extent. Over every bump or change of surface, they are brought into play to maintain the crouch and to stop the body from actually sitting down.

This does not happen in upright running. The body is erect and all the muscles take part in keeping the balance.

I am not saying that a fortnight or three weeks ski-ing will cause a lasting disfigurement, but those women skiers who are out for two or three months every year, in my opinion, will run the risk of a permanently enlarged X.

Does it matter what one looks like if one's ski-ing improves? That is the question.

Yours truly,  
VIOLET RENDALL.

*[Dr. Violet Rendall writes with authority.—Ed.]*

## ON SLALOMS, HARD AND SOFT.

*To the Editor of THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN.*

MADAM,—Of course we are a conservative nation and customs die hard, but how is it that we still consider the soft snow slalom so seriously as to have it in our Championship Meeting? There are many first class slaloms in which the competitors run twice down the hard snow course only. How is it, then, that the most important event in British ski-ing still uses the nearly obsolete soft snow slalom?

When two courses are run down on the hard snow, the competitor who does not do himself justice on his first effort has another chance of re-establishing himself. But in the other case the most successful racer in the hard snow has choice of place in the soft snow slalom. And as two or three people, running in the deep snow through pairs of flags, ruin the going for anyone who follows it is obviously not a fair test of ski-ing.

What justifies the continuation of such a system?

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

I. S. C.





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