

LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN
OCTOBER, 1953



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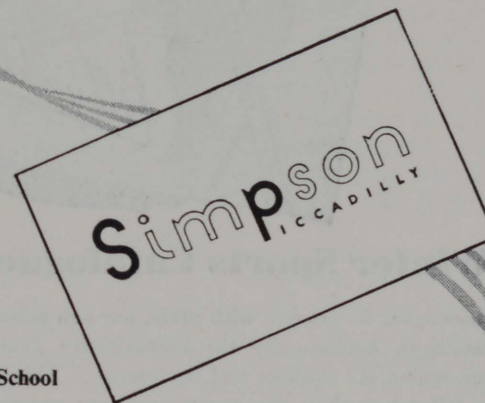
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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

No. 23

Vol. II. Pt. 15.

OCTOBER, 1953

EDITORIAL

THIS year our President, Helen Tomkinson, has been elected to serve on the FIS Ladies' Committee, and we offer her our most sincere congratulations on this achievement. It is some little time since there has been a British member of this committee, and it is good to think that the L.S.C. is once more represented on the FIS Council.

We record with great regret the death, which took place in November of last year, of Dame Katherine Furse, G.B.E., an Honorary Member of the L.S.C. and one of its earliest members. She was the second President of the Club, having held this office from 1926 to 1929. Dame Katherine was a pioneer of many activities for women, notably the Girl Guides and the W.R.N.S., and not least of women's ski-ing. In fact she was *the* pioneer; she used the first pair of ski ever brought to Davos by Colonel Napier in 1888, which he subsequently gave to her on his departure. Later she was the first woman to win the gold medal of the S.C.G.B. An appreciation appears on another page.

Congratulations to Gillian Rickards on winning the L.S.C. Championship and also the Open Cup, being first in the Downhill and the Combined; and to Vora Mackintosh on being first in the Slalom. We also congratulate Hilary Laing on winning the British Ladies' Championship, being first in the Downhill and the Combined, with Vora Mackintosh second; and we especially congratulate Soss Roe on beating all the young hopefuls in the Slalom. Vora Mackintosh won the Quatre Pistes at Villars, with Hilary Laing third.

Of the races for the L.S.C. Junior Spoons (see the President's Report at the last A.G.M.) we have only received two results. At Andermatt Jane Reichwald won the spoon with Sally Fleming second; and at Villars Angela Carr was first with Diana Tomkinson, one of our President's daughters, second.

The L.S.C. Cup in Cyprus was won by Daphne de Glanville.

Congratulations to all concerned. Accounts of these races will be found on other pages.

We appreciate the interest taken in ski-ing by some of our best-known daily newspapers, and especially the fact that one of them considered the results of the L.S.C. Championship to have "news-value," but we do wish all the same that they would get the thing right. To head a paragraph "Ski Club Championship" and to refer

to the event as the "British women's Ski Club championship" does rather suggest that the race was for the British Ladies' Championship, instead of the Ladies' Ski Club Championship, a totally different thing. Some of our leading newspapers do not seem to uphold their high reputation for accuracy in other fields in their reporting of skiing news.

We congratulate the following members on their marriage:—

Miss N. England to Mr. R. L. M. Muirhead, September 18th, 1952.

Miss D. Law to Mr. R. O. Lewin, autumn, 1952.

Miss Alicia Foster to Mr. Patrick Rankin, May, 1953.

Miss Claudia de Reya to Mr. John Boyagis, September 12th, 1953.

The following new arrivals have occurred during the past year:—

To Mrs. Neilson (*née* Nancy Watson), a daughter, 1952.

To Mrs. Newall (*née* Redmayne-Jones), a son, November 1st, 1952.

To Mrs. Tyser (*née* Elizabeth Gunn), a son, December 6th, 1952.

To Mrs. Kennedy-Cochran-Patrick (*née* Sonia Furlong), a daughter, March 6th, 1953.

To Lady Stafford (*née* Morag Campbell), a daughter, March 29th, 1953.

To Mrs. Hilleary (*née* Sheena Mackintosh), a daughter, May 9th, 1953.

To Mrs. Dalglish (*née* Xanthe Ryder), a second son, Coronation Day, June 2nd, 1953.

We are happy to welcome ten new members into the Club:—

Miss P. E. Carey-Wood, Miss A. H. Carr, Miss H. Freston, Miss J. T. Hobhouse, Miss G. R. Holt, Miss A. R. Morris, Mrs. Rodger, The Hon. Mrs. A. B. Russell, Miss L. S. A. Thomson, Miss D. Russell Wood.

The following members have resigned:—Mrs. Enid Loyd, Mrs. Anderson Pelham (formerly Long), Miss M. R. Pugh.

Lady Blane and Miss Phyllis Holt-Needham have been made Honorary Members of the L.S.C.

It was decided at the last Annual General Meeting not to raise the subscription from its present very modest level of five shillings, but to charge an entrance fee of five shillings as well, to help cover the unavoidable rise in the cost of everything. But of course should any member feel inspired to send *more* than their five shillings, the L.S.C. would be extremely grateful.

The "For Sale and Wanted" column in this BULLETIN continues to remain open, though it does not seem to have attracted any entries this year. We would like to remind our members that *anything* may be advertised in this column, not necessarily to do with skiing. The price is 1d. a word; names and addresses must be included, and payment should be sent with order. Advertisements should reach the Editor by July 1st, but *may* be accepted later.

The Editor is always glad to consider articles for publication in the BULLETIN, especially descriptions of skiing in unusual

countries or circumstances, and accounts of important races. No one need hesitate on the grounds that perhaps the Editor has enough articles; editors of skiing periodicals *never* have enough articles. Nor need they hesitate on the grounds that perhaps they themselves have not enough grammar; editors, after all, can always put in the grammar. Good photographs particularly are always welcome; these should preferably be glossy prints, but other types of print, or even negatives, can be used. Contributions should be sent in if possible by the end of JUNE.

The L.S.C. Meeting will be held at Grindelwald on January 11th, 1954.

Members are reminded that it is essential that the BULLETIN should be mentioned when making enquiries of advertisers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November, 1952

THE Annual General Meeting was held at 115, Cranmer Court, on Thursday, November 20th, 1952, and was followed by a cocktail party at which over sixty members and their friends were present.

The chair was taken by Mrs. W. R. Tomkinson, who in her report said:—

"I am very pleased to see so many members at this meeting. I always feel that with the arrival of the L.S.C. Party the winter is only just round the corner, and we can really get down to our skiing plans. Unfortunately this year they may be somewhat curtailed by the lack of currency.

"The great excitement of last winter was the Olympics which we all followed with the greatest of interest. I should like to take this opportunity to say how pleased we were with our girls' performance under rather trying circumstances, and especially want to congratulate Hilary Laing and Sheena Hilleary. I should also like to condole with poor Sheila Daniell on breaking her leg two days before going to Oslo. I think it was rotten luck and I do hope that she is really recovered now.

"I know everyone would like to congratulate Sheena on her marriage in the summer and hope that we may go on seeing her on the slopes.

"Another excitement of the summer was the knighthood conferred on Arnie, who, as one of the founders of the L.S.C., is always looked upon as an honorary member, and we therefore do as a Club want to offer him our best congratulations.

"We have great pleasure in welcoming 16 new members to the Club, and are honoured to have among them the well-known mountaineer Angela Stormonth-Darling. We also welcome our two new

members of the Committee and thank the two retiring members for all their good work. We thank Doreen Elliott for all her work as Treasurer, and welcome Jeannette Oddie as the new Treasurer. I wish to give a special vote of thanks to Pip Harrison for all her hard work on the BULLETIN. Our Hon. Secretary I should like to thank for all the work she has done for the Club, and it gives me particular pleasure to say that the Committee with your approval has decided to make her an Honorary Member in appreciation of it.

"I have now two new projects which I would like to put before the Meeting. I feel that as we are the premier Ladies' Ski Club we should try to help and encourage our own young girls, and the Committee has sanctioned that an L.S.C. Spoon should be given out to all Reps. at affiliated Clubs, to be competed for by English girls up to the age of 18 years. The race for it may be run concurrently with any other race but there must be at least four entries for the Spoon. The race can be either a Straight Race or a Slalom.

"My other project is a bigger one. I suggest that the Club should award annually an L.S.C. Scholarship on the results of a season's racing to a member who in the opinion of the Committee would be most likely to benefit from further racing in the following season. This Scholarship would take the form of a grant to help the girl to go to the A-K the following year. She would naturally have had to have raced in our previous L.S.C. Meeting, also must wear our sweater at the A-K.

"I think it would be a very good thing for the Club if as many of us as possible would wear the L.S.C. badge, so that it may be known that there is such a Club. We are having difficulty in getting the metal badges but can take orders for them, and there are plenty of sew-on ones, which the Treasurer will be glad to sell to you here and now. The sweaters are also on view.

"It is now my great pleasure to present our annual Cups. The races were held at Mürren, and Adeline Pryor was the winner in all three, and I am very pleased to present her with the Cups.

"We have now one more Cup, a junior cup presented by Isobel Roe, whom we thank very much for it. It is a race for the best junior girl at the training, and I have great pleasure in presenting it to Daphne Martin, whom we are very pleased to welcome as a member of the Club."

It was decided not to raise the subscription, but to have an entrance fee of five shillings.

Lady Blane and Miss Phyllis Holt-Needham were elected Honorary Members of the L.S.C.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

Advertisements should reach the Hon. Editor by July 1st. The price is 1d. a word. Names and addresses must be included, and payment should be sent with order.

DAME KATHERINE FURSE, G.B.E.

BY DOREEN ELLIOTT

I FIRST met Dame Katherine at Mürren in 1923 when, as a raw tyro, I found myself among the élite of British ski-ing. It was awe-inspiring to meet a woman who could ski on equal terms with men and I particularly remember her jump turns which were masterly.

She was a strong, rather than a polished skier, and devoted regular hours to perfecting her turns. In fact, she showed such determination in her practice that, on looking back, it puts one in mind of the present-day racer, for in those days there was generally a much more light-hearted approach to ski-ing with its policy of *schuss* and *bumm*.

Dame Katherine was always helpful to the promising beginner, though intolerant of any form of incompetence or slackness, for she was not one to suffer fools gladly. There was a quiet dignity about her and all her friends rewarded her with great respect and devotion.

A woman of parts, she had many interests and showed a great capacity for organisation. It was she who became the first Director of the W.R.N.S. which she founded from scratch in the 1914-1918 war; and a good foundation it was too, as was proved in the last war when the Service was rebuilt on the principles she had laid down.

To the end Dame Katherine retained her interest in the W.R.N.S. and in the ski-ing world. First she reigned as President of the L.S.C. and, when her term of office ended, the Club marked its appreciation of her services by electing her an Honorary Member. She was a great figure and one who inspired loyalty and admiration. She worked hard herself and exacted the same standards from those who served her.

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB MEETING

CHAMPERY, JANUARY 29TH, 1953.

BY ADELINE PRYOR

WE have to thank Mrs. Tomkinson for the admirable organisation of the L.S.C. Meeting, and for persuading three of the local Swiss girls to enter for it. This was very encouraging for the English who get rather bored with racing against each other.

The usual procedure was reversed, the Slalom being held before the Downhill. To a spectator it looked open and well placed and deceptively easy. As always there were tricky places. We were very sorry when Angela Carr, a newcomer to racing, fell at one of these, hurting her knee, so that she was unable to compete in the Downhill that afternoon. Gillian Rickards did two very nice runs; evidently the time spent ski-ing "under control" with Vora Mackintosh in Austria earlier in the season was not wasted.

The Downhill was held under bad snow conditions owing to the very fierce sun. The top was slow, while lower down in the trees

it was "spring slush." Helen Tomkinson, after going down the course just before the start, would have liked to cancel the race, but was unable to do so, there being no telephone to the top. As it happened, all the competitors arrived at the bottom undamaged, although there was a moment of anxiety when one of the Swiss girls fell on her stick and made up her mind she was going to die!

The determination to win had been inadvertently fostered in the English by the local guide who, while showing everyone the "line" at a tricky place, said "here the English will have to brake!" thereby ensuring that at least one of the English would go faster than intended, and with a bit of luck "hold it" and win.

As you will see from the race results, both the Downhill and Slalom were won by Gillian Rickards, an admirable sequel to her success in the Quatre Pistes at Villars.

RESULTS

Downhill (600 m. descent. 2 km. in length) : 1, Gillian Rickards, L.S.C., 1' 52 $\frac{3}{8}$ " ; 2, Claudine Langel, Villars, 1' 54 $\frac{1}{8}$ " ; 3, Vora Mackintosh, L.S.C., 1' 55" ; 4, Marg. Zimmermann, Champéry, 1' 55 $\frac{3}{8}$ " ; 5, Michèle Cantova, Villars, 2' 26 $\frac{3}{8}$ " ; 6, Diana Russell Wood, L.S.C., 5' 13".

Slalom : 1, Vora Mackintosh, L.S.C., 2' 15 $\frac{2}{8}$ " ; 2, Michèle Cantova, Villars, 2' 17 $\frac{3}{8}$ " ; 3, Gillian Rickards, L.S.C., 2' 20" ; 4, Claudine Langel, Villars, 2' 23 $\frac{3}{8}$ " ; 5, Diana Russell Wood, L.S.C., 2' 27 $\frac{1}{8}$ " ; 6, Marg. Zimmermann, Champéry, 2' 31 $\frac{4}{8}$ ".

Combined : 1, Gillian Rickards, L.S.C., 3.05 ; 2, Vora Mackintosh, L.S.C., 3.60 ; 3, Claudine Langel, Villars, 8.13 ; 4, Marg. Zimmermann, Champéry, 15.23 ; 5, Michèle Cantova, Villars, 46.06 ; 6, Diana Russell Wood, L.S.C.

L.S.C. Championship : Gillian Rickards.

Open Challenge Cup : Gillian Rickards.

RACES FOR L.S.C. JUNIOR SPOONS

ANDERMATT

BY H. TAYLOR

THE race for the L.S.C. Spoon was held in Andermatt on January 9th.

We had a good race over the same course as the White Hare Junagadh Trophy (for boys and girls of under 17). The Junagadh had been won by my son John, on 7th January, in 1' 52". The race for the L.S.C. Spoon was won by Jane Reichwald in 2' 25". The full list of competitors and times was as follows :—

1, Jane Reichwald, 2' 25" ; 2, Sally Fleming, 3' 45" ; 3, Jean Fleming, 4' 32" ; 4, Rosemary Broom, 4' 57" ; 5, Priscilla Hickson, 5' 12" ; 6, Judith Taylor, 6' 00" ; 7, Elizabeth Taylor, 7' 16".

My two daughters at the end are only 10 and 7 years of age, but they were tremendously keen to take part! Jane Reichwald has her 2nd British and the next four all have their Third.

We told all competitors about the conditions of membership of the L.S.C.

VILLARS

BY LADY BLANE

THE race was run on January 26th, the conditions were good, and there were 7 entries. The course was from a point known as Railway Gully to Red Sea, which means coming through the racing gap, a steep descent and then on some distance until the Red Sea is reached. Miss Angela Carr won the race in 4' 17" ; she is one of our new members, a young strong runner who showed great promise. Second was Diana Tomkinson, 4' 46.2", one of our President's daughters. Third was Miss G. Holt, 5' 04.8", also one of our new young members.

BRITISH LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

ADELBODEN, 1952

BY HILARY LAING

I THINK everyone who was at Adelboden for the British Ladies' Championship, 1952, will remember it as one of the most enjoyable race weeks—I know I certainly will.

We arrived plus the usual enormous entourage of suitcases and ski which always heralds our approach. None of us had ever visited Adelboden before, so everything was looked forward to with more than the usual interest, but the biggest excitement of course was our Championship at the end of the week.

Our first morning dawned with bright sunshine, and resisting the temptation to lie in the sun we set off to see our course, escorted by the most efficient S.C.G.B. Representatives. We found the controls already set out by Adelboden's also more-than-efficient Kurverein, and after several trips up and down we decided it was an extremely nice course, and that it could be very fast if taken without a check of any kind between the controls. The ski-lift went up beside the course, which enabled us to put in plenty of practice ; it wasn't difficult to learn and it was soon evident that how you took the controls and what wax you used was going to play an enormous part in the results.

On our way back to the hotel at lunch time we met Arnie, who had arrived to help Adelboden celebrate its half-century of skiing. He invited us to a lecture he was to give that evening, which proved

to be extremely interesting, and we learnt a lot about the beginnings of ski-ing that we in our age of funiculars and ski-lifts knew nothing about.

The following day Arnie roped us all in to take part in his newly-founded Arlom race, which is not exactly a race but a test judged by four or more judges of ski-ing in varied types of snow off the *piste*. I am afraid we were all rather loath to take part in this as we felt we should be practising our course, but with a little gentle persuasion, we all set off for what proved to be a day I wouldn't have missed for anything. The weather was perfect, and after a short climb (on skins, which was a change for us) we had a lovely run down. I feel I must add that there were a few grumbles from us about the climb, but all the Adelboden fans think nothing of climbing every day for about three or four hours!

The next day was the Championship—a fine day was more than we could hope for after all the lovely weather we had been having, but once again it was heavenly. The course was in perfect condition, hard and fast; being almost on a northern slope, it had not been harmed by the hot sun. The race began quite early, before it got too hot, and everyone skied terrifically well. I hope the general impression we gave the local people of how the English Ladies can ski was a good one. Everyone finished in grand style and our times seemed to compare favourably with the record times for the course put up by the girls of the Swiss Team when they had their Championships there some years before. The Slalom took place in the afternoon, a very nice, kind, open one with every combination but nothing too tricky. Soss Roe put up a wonderful show, putting us all to shame by beating everyone in the team!

However, it couldn't have been more fun and an enjoyable day was rounded off by the prize-giving and then a most interesting film about Adelboden in Summer.

Everyone agreed that it was the most successful meeting ever run, in spite of the small entry, which was a disappointment both to the Adelboden Kurverein and ourselves. All the success was due to the wonderful organisation of the Kurverein, to the hospitality of everyone in Adelboden who were so sweet to us, and especially to Herr Hess. When the time to leave arrived we were all extremely sad, and we departed feeling we must one day return and visit the people who had given us such a lovely time.

RESULTS

Downhill: 1, H. Laing; 2, V. Mackintosh; 3, G. Rickards.

Slalom: 1, I. Roe; 2, V. Mackintosh; 3, H. Laing.

Combined: 1, H. Laing; 2, V. Mackintosh; 3, L. Thomson.

TROPHEE DES QUATRE PISTES

BY LADY BLANE

THE "Quatre Pistes" is a three-days' race consisting of four different courses, and was run at Villars on January 16th-18th. This year there were no British men entered, as there had been in former years, but there was a strong women's entry as five of our women who were in training came over to take part in the race, and were joined by Helen Tomkinson, who was already at Villars, so we had an entry of six British women.

On the Thursday before the serious races began we had the Comic Race, which is always held to start the ball rolling and get everyone together. There is a Slalom, and then a straight and varied course to the Village, with stops at set places to eat and drink. No prizes are given for the event, but the times are taken; Addy Pryor was 1st of the ladies, and Helen Tomkinson 2nd.

On the Friday the races proper started. All the courses were in good condition as Villars had excellent snow conditions all last season. The race on the Friday was a Giant Slalom down the "Standard," and was won by Hilary Laing, with Claudine Langel (Switzerland), 2nd, and Vora Mackintosh 3rd.

On Saturday there were two races. In the morning the course was the "Derby," which starts down a steep descent through a wood, then into the open, and down what is known as Racing Gap. This was won by Addy Pryor; Michèle Cantova (Switzerland) was 2nd, and Claudine Langel (Switzerland), 3rd. In the afternoon there was a Giant Slalom down the "Inferno," which starts with a steep slope and then continues with a good and interesting descent, with a steep dip at the finish. This was won by Michèle Cantova (Switzerland); Hilary Laing was 2nd, and Anita Kern (Switzerland), 3rd. Unfortunately Addy Pryor hurt herself in this race, and was unable to finish, or to race the next day.

On the Sunday, the last race of the four took place in the afternoon, down the "Boquetin," which is a very good course, the men starting at the top of the Chamossaire and the women lower down. Gillian Rickards won, Hilary Laing was 2nd, and Vora Mackintosh 3rd.

Helen Tomkinson had had a bad fall when walking to the station to go up for the race, and had hit her head badly and was slightly concussed. But she very pluckily insisted on racing and managed to finish. She said afterwards that the only thing she knew was that she must not fall, as if she did, she could never get up again! At the end of the race she was put to bed and the doctor was sent for, but luckily it was not too serious.

The final result of the "Combiné" of the four races was 1, Vora Mackintosh with 15.67; 2, Michèle Cantova with 16.37, and 3, Hilary Laing with 16.76.

The winner of the men's races was André Simmond (France); Fernand Grosjean (Switzerland) was 2nd, and Gérard Pasquier (France), 3rd.

At the prize-giving in the evening there was a very unexpected and pleasant surprise, as all those who completed the four Courses were presented with a watch. Amongst these were five of our women: Vora Mackintosh, Hilary Laing, Gillian Rickards, Helen Tomkinson and Diana Russell Wood. The watches were presented at the prize-giving, as well as the trophies for the four races, and the Cup for the "Combiné."

So ended a very happy meeting, and one at which our women had done really well. The Swiss and other competitors, and the onlookers, were much struck with their performance.

THE S.D.S. MEETING

BY GILLIAN RICKARDS

THE S.D.S. Meeting was held in January, 1953, at Grindelwald, and was well attended by most of the International teams ; including one from Spain.

The Downhill was held under perfect conditions, from First down to Bort, the Italians taking 1st and 2nd places ; perhaps this was partly due to their coach, Roberto, who was much admired by the British.

Conditions were bad for the Slalom, which was held on the lower slopes of the Tschuggen, and there were many falls. Vora Mackintosh did very well to come in 13th, and it was good to see Sheila Daniell competing again in this event. The winner was Trude Klecker, of Austria, with Lucienne Schmidt 2nd.

The Combined was won by that charming Italian, Giuliana Minuzzo, with Madeleine Berthod (Switzerland), 2nd.

All the officials made us very welcome, and we stayed at the Hotel Adler, where we were made most comfortable. We were even given champagne and chocolates by some loyal English supporters, after the Slalom !

The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by us all—and we hope to return again next year to this very charming resort.

LETTER FROM CYPRUS

ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND,
NICOSIA, CYPRUS.

DEAR LADY BLANE,

26/6/53.

I feel very guilty for not having written to you before to tell you the result of the L.S.C. Cup race in Cyprus. It was won this year by Mrs. de Glanville.

Since Betty Arthur left most of the good women skiers seem to have left Cyprus, too, and as there were very few capable of running our Race Course this year I decided to award the Cup on the results

L.S.C. MEETING
CHAMPERY, JANUARY, 1953



Photo by]

[NLG.

HELEN TOMKINSON
President of the L.S.C.

L.S.C. MEETING
CHAMPERY, JANUARY, 1953



Photo by

GILLIAN RICKARDS AND VORA MACKINTOSH
WITH MICHELE CANTOVA AND CLAUDINE LANGEL (SWITZERLAND) AND THE STARTER

[NLG,

QUATRE PISTES
VILLARS, JANUARY, 1953



HELLEN TOMKINSON, ADDY PRYOR, GILLIAN RICKARDS, HILARY LAING,
VORA MACKINTOSH, DIANA RUSSELL WOOD

ADELBODEN
JANUARY, 1953



Photo by]

FANCY-DRESS SLALOM.

VORA MACKINTOSH, HILARY LAING, GILLIAN RICKARDS AND A SWISS GIRL

[Gyger & Klopfenstein

of a long Slalom (it could not be described as Giant—but that was what gave me the idea).

Not only did Daphne de Glanville win this easily, but she was the only woman to run with the men in the Downhill, in which she did extremely well, finishing 3rd out of a field of seven, and running beautifully. So she richly deserved the Cup which was presented at our annual Ski Club dinner, on May 29th.

We had a good season this year and the weather was mostly kind to us. The races were run in good conditions and there was ski-ing well into April.

The Club took over part of a Summer Hotel as headquarters, and we ran it every week-end rather on the lines of a Mountain Hut. This was a great help to us as going up to Tröodos just for the day each Sunday, with a 50-mile drive each way, is rather hard work!

Yours sincerely,

MARJORIE GREENLAND.

THE COMBINED SERVICES WINTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY SCHEMES, 1953/54

THE Combined Services Winter Sports Association has once again been able to arrange its usual 16-day holidays in St. Moritz at the same hotels from £35 5s. od. (with further reductions for children), comprising travel, first class accommodation (including reduced charges in the bar, afternoon tea, baths, service, etc.), ski school and unlimited use of the funiculars and Piz Nair ski-lift. The Association has also special terms for clothing and equipment hired or purchased, for the use of the Bob-run, the Cresta Toboggan-run, Ice Rink, etc., which help to save francs.

S.C.G.B. and Association Representatives are always available for advice and to conduct tours, etc., and regular S.C.G.B. tests are held.

Last season over 800 members took advantage of these terms in fortnightly periods, which this year start on December 21st, 1953, January 4th, 18th, February 1st, 15th, March 1st, ending March 15th, 1954.

This year the Association is again extending the season with similar facilities at Scheidegg (6,800 ft.) from early December to May.

These terms are available to all serving and ex-service members of the three Services, their families and friends, who join one of the three Service Ski Associations, membership from 2s. 6d. Other schemes are being run at Kitzbühel, Bad Gastein, Obergurgl, Hochsölden and Hechemoos in Austria, Sestrière in Italy, and St. Cergue in Switzerland. All particulars from Hon. Secretary, The Combined Services Winter Sports Association, 43 York Terrace, Regents Park, London, N.W.1 (tel.: WELbeck 0063, ext. 6).

SKI-ING FOR THE VERY YOUNG

BY EINAR BERGLAND

TOM MURSTAD, whose ski schools in Norway have made a speciality of teaching the very young, tells me that he spends a good deal of time chasing away fathers and mothers who are over-anxious that young Pete isn't doing well enough.

Mother and Father should of course help Junior on his first ski-ing venture, and there is no reason why this great event should not take place at the age of two. That never-to-be-recaptured moment when a woolly bundle of humanity suddenly tastes the thrill of speed (it may be all of 4 m.p.h.)—a speed of his own creation with only gravity to assist should be a family affair. Once this mile-stone has been passed the golden rule should be: don't be impatient. For instance, even if your young hopeful sees other children using sticks, don't let him have a pair of his own until he is competent on the flat, downhill and uphill *without* sticks.

Above all, see that the young skier regards ski-ing as fun, as something to be enjoyed with others. Don't worry if he or she doesn't show signs of developing into a champion, and don't force him to take lessons, or ski-ing will become just another form of compulsory exercise. Birger Ruud—twice Olympic ski-jumping champion and winner of the first Olympic downhill—never had a lesson in his life. It was watching the "big shots" and sedulously copying their style that enabled him to develop his own.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

BY PATRICIA RAEBURN

THERE are too many among us who still labour under the delusion that modern ski-racing is dangerous for only one reason—the racer may have a fall at speed and injure himself or herself. As neither UNESCO, *The Readers' Digest* nor the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics seem willing or eager to educate the race spectator, I feel the time has come to write down a few important guides for those who pay Francs Swiss, Francs French, Schillings Austrian, Dollars American and Marks German for the privilege of witnessing a race. After all one should know what one is paying to see.

The following list of additional hazards which have to be faced, or outfaced, by the indomitable men and women who make up the present-day entry, have been culled from all nations, and as most of them have had to be translated already, I do not propose to give them in more than one language.

To the prosaic question "Why did you not do better in the race?" the following replies may now be given free, gratis and for nothing, and they indicate the tremendous strain imposed upon the modern racer:—

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. I had a fever last night. | 8. My goggles fogged up. |
| 2. The milk was poisoned. | 9. My train arrived too late for me to practise the course. |
| 3. A dog got in my way. | 10. The controls were moved. |
| 4. A spectator got in my way. | 11. I was racing on borrowed ski. |
| 5. A photographer got in my way. | 12. I did not get to bed early enough. |
| 6. My binding was loose. | 13. I had bad luck in the draw. |
| 7. I had the wrong wax. | 14. (And this is a honey.) It is no good saying rumba-ing makes one go smoother over the bumps. |

You do realise now, I hope, that any man or woman who manages to win a race is not only a *superb skier* but a *super being*.

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For the L.S.C. Meeting at Grindelwald on January 11th, 1954, the Kurverein is offering very special terms for a certain number of racers. Early application should be made to Lady Blane, Villars Palace, Villars, Switzerland (from December 16th), before January 1st. We are anxious to get a big entry for this race, and post entries will be accepted, but of course the special terms may not apply to late entries.

As we go to press, Phyllis Scott sends the following further note from Rossinière, on races for our Junior Spoons: "I put one into the 'Championnats Inter-Pensionnat de Jeunes Filles de la Suisse Romande,' as a number of English girls were competing. The race took place on February 24th with a big entry, and the best English girl under eighteen was Susan Wyner, to whom the spoon was presented.

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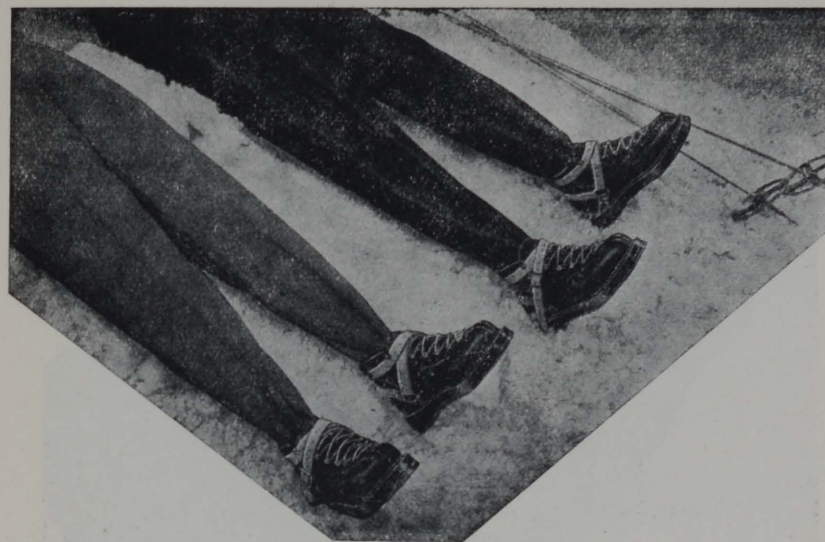
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