

LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN  
NOVEMBER, 1961

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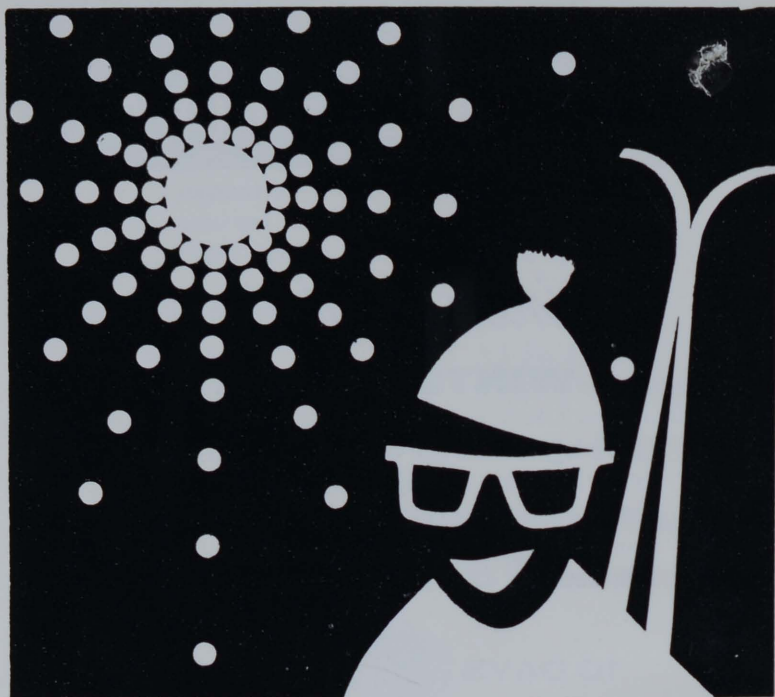
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# THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

No. 31

Vol. II. Pt. 23 NOVEMBER, 1961

## EDITORIAL

WE would like to congratulate Wendy Farrington and Tania Heald on doing so well with their racing this year. Wendy was 19th in Grindelwald, a wonderful effort, and Tania became British Champion at the very successful British Championships in Villars. Anna Asheshov and Cynthia Petre, each having sustained injuries, had to miss a few weeks' ski-ing, and never really returned to their best form again; very unfortunate. We will be watching out for them next year, we hope with more luck on their side. These are only four of the many girls who train so hard each year. So much time, hard work and money is given to help our racers by so many people, and it is really gratifying to see how much they are improving each year. All ski-ing eyes will be focused on the World Championships next year in Chamonix, and we have great hopes of all these young racers, but the real climax will be the 1964 Olympic Games in Innsbruck. We are quite sure we will have one racer filling one of the first ten places, even though we are a Lowland country.

We would like to congratulate Jeannette and Jimmy Riddell on their book, *Ski Holidays in the Alps*, a Penguin Handbook (5s.). Publication, October 26th, 1961.

Our best wishes go to:—

Sir Arnold Lunn, who married Miss Holt-Needham on April 18th.

Mrs. Palmer-Tomkinson, who is now Mrs. W. Grazebrook.

Miss P. L. S. Elliott, who married Captain P. N. Trustram Eve on April 29th.

Mrs. Simpson, who married Mr. G. W. Gleeson on May 26th.

Many congratulations to Lady Stafford, who had a daughter on April 28th; to Lady Garthwaite, who also had a daughter in August, 1960; and to Mrs. Bolton Carter, who had a son on November 20th, 1960.

Welcome to the following, who have been elected new members:—

Miss C. Ashton, Miss T. Follett, Miss G. Hathorn, Mrs. Moncrieff, Miss S. Proctor, Miss M. Spence, Miss R. Whitehead, Miss P. Walker.

We would like to thank the following Clubs for their journals and magazines: *The Royal Navy Ski and Mountaineering Club Magazine*, *The Ladies' Alpine Club Magazine*, and *The Australian Ski Year Book*.

The **Ladies' Racing Week** will be held on January 30th-February 3rd in Chateau d'Oex, and will be organised by the L.S.C. We hope that many members and friends will be able to come over from their neighbouring villages and help. The L.S.C. Cocktail Party will be held for the racers, and we hope members will be able to come.

The Non-International L.S.C. Trophy was won by Patricia Murphy.

The **L.S.C. Annual General Meeting** will take place on Thursday, November 16th, at the Ski Club of Great Britain. This will be followed by a Cocktail Party. There will be another Jumble Sale this year at the Ski Club of Great Britain on November 1st.

The Editor would like to thank all the members who responded so gallantly to pleas for articles and photographs. Any who are willing to help by finding new advertisements, please contact the Advertising Secretary. All members should realise that the advertisements are the life-blood of the BULLETIN. Please remember to quote the BULLETIN when making enquiries of advertisers.

**Subscriptions.**—Our subscription is still only five shillings and, unlike most clubs, has not been raised. Members may, if they wish, give a voluntary donation to the racing fund, of an additional five shillings yearly. Anyone wishing to do so should write to their bank instructing them to increase their yearly subscription to ten shillings, and send a postcard to the Hon. Treasurer, notifying her of their intention.

**Badges.**—L.S.C. badges can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. J. Riddell, 17, Hyde Park Gardens Mews, W.2. Prices: metal 8s. 6d.; cloth, large 7s. 6d., small 5s. Please could members enclose cash with their orders.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November, 1960

My three years as President of the L.S.C. is up now and I should like to say how honoured I feel at having been asked to fill the position. It has all been made easy for me with the knowledge that the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer are such old hands. I think there have been three Hon. Editors during my term of office and each successive one produces one of the most palatable of the numerous autumn ski magazines. The poor things do not really get all the help they should get and one Hon. Editor learned—just in time—that

corrections to paged proofs are rather costly, even a comma costs. So if you see either the English or the punctuation a bit odd, it's all in the interests of economy—anyway, that's our story.

One is often asked what the L.S.C. does. It is possible that the secret of its success is that it does not do too much. Directly one embarks on great activity one always gets criticism, so perhaps we are wise to leave big stuff to the S.C.G.B. and the other affiliated Clubs.

The past season, from the point of view of racing, went well. The old hands did reasonably well and our young racers gained much experience and had some creditable successes in Citizens' races. Karl Lammer, their trainer, is optimistic about the future; he looks upon 1961 as a key year. A number of the stars retired following the Olympics and he says, with luck on their side and some success this year, anything could happen in 1963.

Our L.S.C. Trophy and Party at Davos went well and both fit very nicely into the Ladies' Week. I should like to thank you very much for your generous support of last year's raffle and if you will be so kind again there are lovely prizes presented by the Committee to be raffled shortly.

Most of you already know that an old friend of the Club, Bill Bracken, died last month. Many of us have happy memories of ski-ing with Bill, whose style was the forerunner of to-day's New Technique. The L.S.C. sent a wreath as we thought it would be your wish that we should do so.

Once again I should like to thank our Hon. Auditors, Mr. Lewns and Mr. Smith, for their work on our behalf. I should like to thank Miss Fulton for all she has done in connection with advertising, also Mrs. Spence for continuing her work in connection with our new sweater.

I will close by saying how delighted I am at being able to hand over to Lady Blane, and I am sure that you will agree with me that the Club has chosen a most distinguished President.

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## OBITUARY

KENNETH SMITH

KENNETH's sudden death in St. Moritz last January came as a great shock to his vast number of friends in the ski-ing world and elsewhere.

As a Club we owe Ken a great many thanks, for since 1953, when I took over the job of Hon. Treasurer, he has been one of our Honorary Auditors. Before he could audit, he had to teach me how to keep Club accounts, and his patience with my first fumbings was such, that he taught me how to balance a Balance Sheet without ever making me feel "small." It was a joy to work with Ken and the annual audit became a pleasant evening to which I looked forward every year.

I first met Ken, in 1929 I think, when my brother took me on my first glacier tour. I remember very little about it except that for two days we seemed to spend hours and hours climbing up and that on the first day the main name was the Sarsoura Glacier, and the next, Piz Kesch. As usual, however, in every party with Ken, it was a gay enthusiastic affair that included superb ski-ing in deep powder snow and a wonderful evening in the charming village of Zuoz. Even in those early days Kenneth was largely instrumental in imparting to our little party his innate love of the mountains. Since then, many another has learned to be grateful to him.

I am sure that all our members will wish to join me in recording our thanks and in sending our deep sympathy to his widow, Nancye.

JEANNETTE RIDDELL.

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## WOMEN'S RACING SEASON, 1960-61

By HELEN TOMKINSON

THE season 1960/61 was one of our most successful seasons for the British Women's Team, and holds great hope for the future. We have a very good "A" Team consisting of four young girls, Tania Heald, Wendy Farrington, Cynthia Petre and Anna Asheshov, with a fair number of young racers barking at their heels.

The policy of selecting the best Juniors from the Affiliated Clubs for technique training is proving very successful. We have a great deal for which to thank the Affiliated Clubs, especially the D.H.O., for having worked so hard.

For the first time the "A" Team was able to have a trainer for 2½ months. We have now had the same trainer, Karl Lammer, for three seasons and continuity is being maintained.

Our first race of the season was the S.D.S., which gave us a very encouraging result in Wendy Farrington coming 17th in the Slalom and 19th in the Combined, out of 60 competitors. The Slalom was hard and needed a lot of concentration. Tania did a very good second run but unfortunately had fallen in the first run. Anna lost a ski in the Slalom and Cynthia had hurt herself the day before and could not race. Tania did a good Downhill time, and they all showed up well against the young continental racers.

At Sestrieres for the Citizens' Derby the team made a great impression and Tania won the Downhill and Giant Slalom, a truly good performance. Unfortunately Anna put her shoulder out and was off ski for six weeks, a great pity. The Italians were greatly impressed by the general good style and technique of the whole team.

The team now moved to Bad Gastein, where a big, new, women's race was being run for the first time. Here unfortunately we had another casualty as Cynthia broke a small bone in her foot after the finish of the Downhill, and she was off ski for five weeks. Both Tania and Wendy skied well, with Wendy getting a fine result in the

Downhill and Combined. We had compliments paid us on the good style and general improvement of the team.

At San Martina, Castrazza and Chamonix, Wendy and Tania were the only two of the team still racing. They were very consistent in their results, always coming well within the first half of the competitors to finish.

The A-K at Murren was run down a fast course and both girls skied it in fine technique and easily qualified for the Slalom. Anna and Cynthia joined them here, but were not up to their best form again.

Other successes throughout the season were achieved by Wendy, who had an excellent write-up in one of the French papers after the series of Giant Slaloms in the Savoie. Her final triumph was winning the combined Slalom, Swimming, and Water-Ski-ing competition at Auron in the South of France in June. With this very cheering summer result we look forward to next winter, and thank everyone who helped our team last winter.

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## LADIES' WEEK 1961

January 17th — 22nd

By E. M. LEVERSON

LADIES' WEEK at Villars, eleven years since the British Ladies' Ski Championship was held here. What a change! Over twice as many entries, most of them under 21, and also the Commonwealth represented by Australia and New Zealand.

Villars itself has also changed. No longer is the only way to Bretaye by the train; now one goes up by the "Bucket" to the Roc d'Orsay in less than half the time, and there are also several new ski-lifts, including an anchor, up the Chamossaire instead of the old Funi-Ski.

The week started with very fine weather and very hard snow. The question was, Where could the downhill be run? Helen Tomkinson and Jean-Louis Chable, the head of the Ecole Suisse de Ski, had many anxious moments in planning the course, but at last it was fixed, from the shoulder above the Roc d'Orsay to Cat's Finish, on the way to the Villars Télé-Ski Station.

Much stamping was needed and Villars turned up trumps. Not only did the "Pistards" do their stuff, but all the Instructors of the Ski School came after their classes and worked hard; they were aided by the boys from Aiglon College, who turned out in force, and many visitors and officials.

On Monday the competitors began to arrive and my job was to meet them and see them to their hotels—not so easy as it sounds. I completely lost one of the Spaniards, but found her safe and sound in the evening. I hadn't realised that time means nothing in Spain. A hectic time was had trying to locate the Italians and the whole village



was searching for them, without any luck; as a matter of fact, they never turned up.

The Downhill Race was held on Thursday and was run under very good conditions. Tania Heald ran extremely well, just like a bomb. All the competitors except one finished; she had the bad luck to lose a ski. There was only one fall in the race.

The results were as follows:—

1, Tania Heald, 1' 40.6"; 2, Sonia McCaskie, 1' 42.4"; 3, Wendy Farrington, 1' 42.8".

A special Cup was run for the foreign entries, the Amazon Cup, one of the Villars Visitors' Ski Club Cups; this was won by Patricia du Roy Blique of Belgium.

On Saturday the Slalom was held on the Chaux Ronde. There were two courses, one for each run.

We had a slight mishap before the race. When the competitors arrived at the Télé-Cabine they found it wasn't working; for the first and only time since it opened it was out of order! It was only a temporary stoppage, but it meant rushing to the Villars-Bretaye Station and all crowding into the train. All was well and everyone got there in time.

The Slalom was not only for the British Ladies' Championship, but also for the Lady Mabel Lunn open Ladies' Cup and the Ladies' Ski Club Championships.

The results were as follows:—

BRITISH LADIES' AND LADIES' SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1, Tania Heald, 117"; 2, Anna Asheshov, 119.1"; 3, Wendy Farrington, 120.5".

THE LADY MABEL LUNN CUP: 1, Patricia du Roy Blique (Belgium), 115.8"; 2, Tania Heald (Great Britain), 117"; 3, Marian Navaro (Spain), 117.7".

Tania did a very fine first run, but unfortunately fell on the second run.

That evening the L.S.C. Cocktail Party was held at the Parc Hotel, and the owner, Mr. Marcel Chevrier, gave us a very good time. All the notables of Villars came as well as the competitors, officials and their relations. On Sunday the Giant Slalom was held on the Chamosaire; this had to be early before the hordes from the valley came up. It was a very interesting race as it was for the Duchess of Kent Cup and the Lowlanders Ladies' Championship as well as being the first British Ladies' Giant Slalom Championship.

The British winner was Wendy Farrington, who became the British Ladies' Slalom Champion. The Duchess of Kent Cup was won by Patricia du Roy Blique, and the Lowlanders Championship by Belgium.

The results were as follows:—

LOWLANDERS CHAMPIONSHIP: 1, Belgium (Patricia du Roy Blique, Annette Couquelet), 0; 2, Great Britain (Tania Heald, Anna Asheshov), 2.19; 3, Holland (Babara Burgehout, Mlle. van Romondt), 48.89.

DUCHESS OF KENT CUP: 1, Patricia du Roy Blique (Belgium), 1' 43"; 2, Marian Navaro (Spain), 1' 45.3"; 3, Wendy Farrington (Great Britain), 1' 45.9".

BRITISH LADIES' GIANT SLALOM: 1, Wendy Farrington, 1' 45.9"; 2, Anna Asheshov, 1' 48.7"; 3, Tania Heald, 1' 50".

BRITISH LADIES' SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS COMBINED DOWNHILL AND SLALOM: 1, Tania Heald, 3.93; 2, Wendy Farrington, 5.50; 3, Anna Asheshov, 5.94.

LADIES' SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS COMBINED SLALOM AND GIANT SLALOM: 1, Wendy Farrington, 4.08; 2, Tania Heald, 5.64; 3, Anna Asheshov, 5.66.

The gatekeepers were ably organised by Lord Lothian and Major Peter Forbes, in the various races.

The timekeeping was organised by Longines and our most valiant calculating staff, consisting of Kit Holmes-Walker, Mlle. Yette Brunner and Madame Fomkaumaz-Huguet. They not only worked very hard, but with the most excellent results, and we cannot be too grateful to them. Dr. Anthony Holmes-Walker, President of the Villars Visitors Ski Club, was a most useful member of the Jury. Unfortunately he hurt his ankle on the run down after the Downhill Race, so his activities on ski were curtailed.

The Officials were really wonderful. Helen Tomkinson never stopped working; I suppose she must have had some sleep, but she was out on the various courses at dawn each day and at meetings until midnight. I think the results must have made her think it was worth while.

Amy Blane, although she was still recovering from the arm she broke in the autumn and could not ski, worked unceasingly and did much to keep the wheels oiled.

Soss Roe, as usual, did a valiant job, as did Stephen Heald.

Belinda Coryton was the "back-room girl" with the typewriter. Now for Villars itself. Mr. Jakob, the Director of the Société de Développement, worked day and night for us and his speed in getting the results printed was a triumph. Mr. Chable and the Ecole de Ski were the greatest help and nothing was too much trouble for them.

We were very pleased to have Sir Arnold Lunn with us; it would not have been a Ladies' Championship without him.

Ross Hepworth came over to mother her D.H.O. family; unfortunately she had raging toothache, but after a visit to the dentist at Aigle she recovered and was in great form.

The Prize-giving was held at the Villars Palace on Sunday, by kind permission of Mr. D. Campell, the director. Everyone got a prize, thanks to the great kindness of the Villars Société de Développement and many other kind friends.

The prizes were presented by the Marchioness of Lothian. Anthony Holmes-Walker introduced her in a very apt speech. Lady Lothian said she really felt that her only claim to fame in the skiing world was that she was the mother of the girl who came in last (poor Mary, she had raced with a temperature and had been in bed ever since the Downhill). She gave a most charming speech and it was much appreciated.

Of the competitors, I can only say that they were splendid and that they left a very good feeling behind them. As an example, one of the Villars Ski Instructors said to me, "I see our girls have done very well in the AK." I was rather surprised, as I thought the Swiss girls hadn't done too well, so I asked who he meant, and he answered, "Wendy and Tania."

I know the Villars Visitors Ski Club enjoyed having Ladies' Week and only hope that those who came have taken away happy memories of Villars.

### ST. ANTON TRAINING

It was a wonderful opportunity for the Ladies "A" and "B" teams to go to St. Anton for ten days in November, before all the crowds got there. It may seem very early in the year but what we needed was hard work and expert advice, and there was plenty of both.

Admittedly it was the last day of November, when we stepped off the Arlberg Express at St. Anton to be warmly greeted by Pam Grant, our manager, and those who had arrived before us from such places as Majorca and Paris.

Our *pension* for our short stay was the St. Anton Sauna, our trainer Robert Falch's own home. We soon came to appreciate this wonderful form of Turkish bath, which was to many of us a new experience.

After being shown our small cosy rooms we searched in the hall through the pile of long brown-papered parcels to find our own ski. We were, however, soon able to exchange our old pairs for three new ones. The old ski were just the thing to start off the season with, as not being too long or stiff, they made us appreciate the new ski so much more, when finally the safety bindings were fixed and properly adjusted.

The first day, of course, was extremely hard work. We started off by stamping down a *piste* to use as a Slalom slope; there is no better exercise for getting one's legs and ankles strong again for the work ahead. We also had half-an-hour's tramp from the snow-line every evening back to St. Anton. The snow at this time of the year only reached as far as St. Christoph. On the first day most people seemed to suffer from chafing boots (several of us had new pairs, or feet which seemed to have grown since the last season!) Hardly any of us suffered from aching legs, which showed that some sort of exercise had been taken before we left England.

As we were unable to ski right down to St. Anton we made St. Christoph our base for the day, having an excellent midday meal there. We were very kindly taken there and back by generous road users.

We certainly had the best of the ski-lifts as there were no queues so early in the season, but often we had to use our legs as well! There were abundant ski-ing slopes to use as one pleased with hardly another person on them.

The actual training was mainly Slalom and technique, as the downhill courses were closed and not yet *pisted*. This sort of ski-ing might easily have become very monotonous but for the good humour and continual encouragement from our trainer, Robert Falch, who with his excellent tuition greatly improved everyone's technique.

We would like to thank Mrs. Tomkinson for the continual help and energy that she gives to British racers throughout the season.

### LADIES' SKI CLUB SALVER IN WENGEN

December 28th, 1960

By ROSAMUND HEPWORTH

FORTY-EIGHT hours earlier, conditions had been difficult and even dangerous for this race, which was the first downhill of the season. The course had been partly re-routed, and broadened down the Bumps, stamped and marked each side with flags, but still it didn't please anyone much in practice, and there were some spectacular tosses. Then, as so often happens, it began to snow at tea time the day before the race, and by morning the only worry was waxing. The seven girls, all under nineteen, competing for the Salver had trained for two or three weeks and they put up a very good performance. Patricia Murphy, who became British Junior Champion the following week, just managed to beat Divina Galica by 0.6". Frances Strong was third. Elizabeth Salm ran very steadily to beat the Scottish Junior Champion, Helen Jamieson, who had a fall. In the general result, John Rigby's time of 2' 59.4" over the same course was the best of the day. There were fifty-eight starters, with the girls going first.

*Results:* 1, P. Murphy, 3' 25.3"; 2, D. Galica, 3' 25.9"; 3, F. Strong, 3' 34.9"; 4, E. Salm, 3' 55.9"; 5, H. Jamieson, 3' 57.9"; 6, A. Collins, 4' 11.5"; 7, J. O'Halloran, 4' 33.6".

*Course:* Plum Pudding—Slip Cartilage Corner—Telegraph Field.

*Conditions:* Good *piste*, rather narrow. Foggy.

Next season the Downhill Only Club is organising a racing week between January 2nd-6th, which will include the Ladies' Ski Club Salver as a Giant Slalom. There will also be Downhill, Slalom and Team races, and a Jumping Competition (Grades 1 and 2). Racers' terms (frs. 17 inclusive) will be given at the Oberland Hotel, Lauterbrunnen (proprietor, Herr Staeger). Entries to the D.H.O. Office, Wengen. (Telephone No. Wengen 3.46.17.)

### THE L.S.C. JUNIOR RACE AND GENEVA CUP

THE L.S.C. Junior Race was run in conjunction with the Geneva Cup (Giant Slalom) at Gstaad on January 10th. The holder, Gina Hathorn, won with an excellent time of 1' 48.4", Divina Galica was 2nd in 1' 56.4" and Frances Strong 3rd in 1' 57.2". These girls had all been competing against each other the previous week in the Junior Championships at Wengen. Patricia Murphy, the Junior Champion, had to admit that it was not her day—nothing went right. Emily Worrall (7th) was one of the few who had not been competing at Wengen; she was in fact racing away from home (Zermatt) for the first time. There were 14 entries.

## RESULTS

Vertical height descended: 1,400 feet.

Gates: 21.

Piste conditions: Good.

Visibility: Good.

Starters: 50.

## LADIES

Name	Centre	Time
1. Miss M. Scott ... ..	Wengen ... ..	2' 8.2"
2. Miss G. Clarke ... ..	Wengen ... ..	2' 20.2"
3. Miss M. Van den Bergh ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	3' 56.4"
4. Miss J. O'Halloran ... ..	Wengen ... ..	5' 45"

## GIRLS

1. Miss G. Hathorn ... ..	St. Moritz ... ..	1' 48.4"
2. Miss D. Galica ... ..	Wengen ... ..	1' 56.4"
3. Miss F. Strong ... ..	Wengen ... ..	1' 57.2"
4. Miss I. Christophersen ... ..	St. Moritz ... ..	1' 58.2"
5. Miss D. Tomkinson ... ..	Villars ... ..	2' 2.2"
6. Miss A. De Westenholz ... ..	Mürren ... ..	2' 4.8"
7. Miss E. Worrall ... ..	Zermatt ... ..	2' 12.2"
8. Miss P. Murphy ... ..	Wengen ... ..	2' 16.8"
9. Miss P. Walker ... ..	Klosters ... ..	2' 22.2"
10. Miss J. Williams ... ..	Mürren ... ..	2' 28"
11. Miss C. Burgerhout ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	2' 36.4"
12. Miss P. Hodgson ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	2' 36.6"
13. Miss K. Garrow ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	3' 10.4"

## MEN

1. S. Hodgson ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	1' 55.2"
2. M. Gwynne ... ..	Villars ... ..	2' 11.4"
3. T. Bird ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 28.8"
4. M. Van den Bergh ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	2' 29.6"
5. M. Seligman ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 43.6"

## BOYS

1. J. Mason ... ..	Wengen ... ..	1' 48.4"
2. S. Williams ... ..	Wengen ... ..	1' 57.4"
3. D. Fisman ... ..	Villars ... ..	1' 57.6"
4. J. Nicholl ... ..	Klosters ... ..	1' 58"
5. L. O'Reilly ... ..	Mürren ... ..	2' 0"
6. N. Ventris ... ..	Mürren ... ..	2' 2.6"
7. M. Illingworth ... ..	St. Moritz ... ..	2' 9.8"
7. A. Murdock ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	2' 9.8"
9. N. Wilson ... ..	Mürren ... ..	2' 13.2"
10. D. Van Berckel ... ..	Wengen ... ..	2' 15.6"
11. J. Garrow ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 16.2"
12. S. Garrow ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 19.8"
13. M. Walker ... ..	Wengen ... ..	2' 20.6"
14. D. Tomkinson ... ..	Villars ... ..	2' 27"
15. T. Miller ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 28"
16. A. Phillips ... ..	Villars ... ..	2' 28.6"
17. T. Tulloch ... ..	Mürren ... ..	2' 31.6"
18. R. Martin ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	2' 36.2"
19. Prince A. Von Preussen ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	2' 37.2"
20. R. Maclaurin ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 44.2"
21. D. Russell ... ..	Villars ... ..	2' 49"
22. R. Inglis ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	2' 50.6"
23. N. Olson ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	3' 20.8"
24. Prince N. Von Preussen ... ..	Gstaad ... ..	3' 43.2"
25. N. Fawkes ... ..	Zweisimmen ... ..	3' 49.2"

Retired: Miss B. Newall, J. Robertson, C. Davis.

## THE 26th ARLBERG-KANDAHAR

BY TANIA HEALD

It was happy and appropriate that the A.K. should be held at Mürren in the year of its Golden Jubilee. The weather during the whole week was glorious, with continuous hot sunshine.

It was nice for us and for Karl Lammer to have all the team together again, for Wendy Farrington and I, for some weeks, had to carry on racing on our own, while Anna Asheshov was recovering from the shoulder she was unlucky to dislocate at Sestriere and Cynthia Petre from the foot she injured at Bad Gastein. We all arrived, therefore, from Chamonix with Karl in good spirits and ready to take up the challenge again and to try to improve on our placings at the S.D.S. and Bad Gastein against the same top level opposition. (I had my own personal competition with Patricia du Roy de Blicquy of Belgium.)

The Downhill, with an entry of 63, was held down the new Sun Glade course (1,700 ft. from Schiltgrat to Wintertal). It was won by Traudl Hecher (Austria) in 1' 48.5", with Heidi Biebl (W. Germany) only 0.5" behind. Wendy and I managed to clock 1' 56.1" and 1' 55.8", ending up 28th and 25th respectively, and thus to our great excitement getting through to the Slalom, for which only the first 32 finishers qualify. Anna and Cynthia unfortunately had not struck form again after their long absence from the snows, which was as disappointing for them as for us.

The Slalom held the next day down a steep course on the slopes of the Schiltgrat was a brute! It was won by Marianne Jahn (Austria) with two wonderful runs of 48.5" and 47.6". Wendy did very well, with two good runs of 59.1" and 58", to end up 17th (as she did in the S.D.S. Slalom). This made her 23rd in the Combined Result. Encouraged by Karl, I decided to have a go regardless. My first run of 55.2" was not too bad. The second started quite well but half-way down I fell and had to climb back, costing many agonising seconds! So I ended 25th in the Slalom and in the Combined Result. (There was a consolation prize in winning on this occasion my personal competition with Patricia!)

We all enjoyed the A.K. enormously—who wouldn't? It has a special atmosphere all of its own, owing so much to the personality of its creator Sir Arnold Lunn, who was in tremendous form and very sweet to us. We were very grateful to the Kandahar Ski Club, whose guests we were, and to all those who made the week so enjoyable for us. It was particularly nice to have Mrs. Tomkinson with us again, to whose enthusiasm and constant efforts on our behalf we all owe so much.

## SKI NATATION

South of France, 1961

By ANNA ASHESHOV

THIS year two members of the Ladies' Ski Club, Wendy Farrington and myself, entered for the Ski Natation in the South of France. The weather was almost perfect except for a very few minutes of snow near the end of the Slalom at Auron. Although the two courses were covered in snow cement—very necessary in June—they were not sheet ice, which made them much more pleasant! Wendy did two steady runs to finish 14th, and I fell in the first run but improved slightly in the second, finishing 17th.

Many different countries were represented and it was most amusing to see very proficient skiers dog-paddling across Nice harbour. However, this was not entirely true about the girls' swimming, which was of a much higher standard this year. Wendy won it once again, beating an Argentinian girl, Marie Christine Schweizer, by 11 seconds.

The water ski-ing, which started very early on Monday morning, was won by Arlette Grosso, with Wendy third, thus giving Wendy the triple combined title, which was a terrific thrill. Traudl Hecher won the snow-swimming combined.

Evening entertainment included a cocktail party in Nice on Sunday and the prize-giving at Maxim's Night Club, Juan les Pins, on Monday.

## SKI-JUMPING AT WEMBLEY

ON May 31st and June 1st, 1961, a most remarkable event took place. Forty skiers from eight European nations were gathered together by the S.C.G.B. to demonstrate ski-jumping in midsummer.

The entire jump was artificial, as there are no convenient hills around Wembley. It was constructed of tubular steel and built to a height of 150 feet, at one end of the arena, and finished at ground level the other end. The surface was also artificial, as although the temperature was practically freezing, no snow actually fell, and the in-run was covered in wonderful plastic mats that looked like spaghetti. The out-run was covered with tons of crushed ice spread and stamped on straw matting. The straw was continued to the finish to help reduce speed after landing, as there was no space for the usual final stop-christie.

Although there had been a jumping competition at Hampstead Heath many years ago, and more recently at Manchester, this was the first occasion on which thousands of people had ever seen ski-jumping, apart from television, and though the audience could not be compared with Cup Final crowds, they were most enthusiastic in their applause.

The S.C.G.B., with the co-operation of the Norway Ski Association, arranged a three-part competition, and it was most interesting to note the different styles and techniques adopted by the various competitors.

The weather was clear but bitterly cold on the first evening, and it was a wonderful and unforgettable spectacle, as each jumper sped down, took off and sailed into space. There were three International Judges to mark the competitors, from France, West Germany and Sweden, and their marks were announced by loudspeaker, which greatly added to the enjoyment of the non-ski-ing public.

There was some beautiful jumping by Helmut Wegscheider of Germany, Willi Koestinger of Austria, Herbert Schmid of Switzerland, Veikko Kankkonen of Finland, Torgeir Brantzaeg of Norway, Dino de Zordo of Italy, Claude Jean Prost of France, Bergquist and Sjoeborg of Sweden, and many others. Our own team, consisting of Tim Ashburner, Alex Sykes and Tony Kennaway, had a great reception from the crowd, and as they had not jumped since January, acquitted themselves well.

The Band of the Welsh Guards, and the 3rd Air Force U.S. Band, played rousing marches and tunes, and the Swiss Family Heini Rist of Lucerne, dressed in National costume, gave a splendid display of flag-throwing and Alphorn-blowing to enhance the evening's entertainment.

We are all indebted to Messrs. Cow & Gate Ltd. for having so generously sponsored this competition.

## STOWE

By ANNETTE FORD

STOWE lies in the north-east corner of Vermont State. It is a small village but, owing to its popularity as ski capital of the East, it has over sixty ski lodges, motels, inns, dorms, and chalets covering a few miles between Stowe itself and its two main ski areas, Mount Mansfield (4,400 ft.) and Spruce Peak (approximately 3,500 ft.). The country is heavily wooded, so it is all trail ski-ing, but if one is inclined to become too fond of trees, it will not matter as they are all padded!

Mount Mansfield area has two T-bars towing you to wide and easy trails and a single chair-lift which takes one up the North face to the summit and a choice of six or more steeper, narrower and bumpier tracks. If it is a cold day one is likely to arrive at the top frozen, in spite of the quilted coats supplied by the lift company, as very little sun finds its way to this side of the valley. Spruce Peak is on the sunny side of the valley and has some excellent nursery slopes served by a T-bar. Further up the road is a double chair-lift to Spruce Peak itself, where a series of prepared runs fan down from the top in varying standards, the longest up to two and a half miles in length.

Heavy snow-falls provide no difficulty to the *piste* makers. An army of snow-cats have everything under control in a very short time and the result is a wide, smooth-packed powder *piste* from top to bottom. It is fascinating to watch these caterpillar machines towing wide rollers, climbing up seemingly impossible slopes in a slow determined manner like overgrown snails, and one is quite likely to meet

one around a corner on a narrow trail, and unless quick action is taken one may find oneself part of the snow pattern on the trail itself.

After a heavy snow-storm on Saturday, Sunday and Monday gave way to sun and perfect conditions, and from early morning many cars, delayed by the storm, were winding their way toward the slopes in an unending procession. George Washington's birthday was celebrated by a long week-end, so queues and waits were long except early in the morning or late in the day.

The weather and temperature can change over night and after a day of warm sun it can be so cold that it hurts to breathe and the skin on one's face and legs feels like frozen leather. It is an experience that one is glad enough to have had. Fortunately it doesn't happen very often.

Stowe is over three hundred miles from New York, but with the excellent modern "thruways," freeways and turnpikes the distance seems far less and well worth the sixteen hours' drive there and back.

This was last season. Now I am told that I would not recognise Stowe. New trails have been made through seemingly impenetrable forest, double chairs are running side by side and new chalets are dotting the hitherto empty and somewhat desolate countryside. The only thing missing this year was snow!

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## CHILDREN'S SKI-ING PARTY, ZWEISIMMEN, 1961

E.B.M.M.

THE party, organised by Liz Fulton for children from all over the country between the ages of 9 and 15, eventually departed, after many alarms and excursions over accommodation and dates, from Victoria Station as twenty-eight strong—fifteen boys and ten girls, with three grown-ups. For us all, it was rather a step in the dark—many of the children knew no one and may well have wondered what they were in for, and they were certainly not alone in this! The all-in cost of the 14-day trip (12 days' ski-ing) included rail travel with couchette, hotel with tea and daily bath (not I'm afraid taken advantage of by the younger members!), hire of ski and boots, ski school instruction, ski-lifts on the Rinderberg and full insurance cover.

We found the journey somewhat hair-raising—it's not easy to keep tabs on a crowd of strange children, especially changing on and off the Channel steamer, but we lost nobody (in fact we nearly gathered up an extra child at Calais) and everyone reached Zweisimmen in high spirits and gasping to get on to the snow.

Nine children had done a fair amount of ski-ing before and they were handed over to Sos Roe, who was in charge of Junior Training and kept them hard at it. Several of them entered for races in Gstaad, getting a lot of experience and fun.

The remainder soon sorted themselves out and learnt to cope with their boots and bindings, although we suffered countless broken

nails and worn gloves during the first few days—safety bindings can be a mixed blessing with beginners. As the Ski School could not deal with as many as we had hoped, we found ourselves doing a lot of instruction. This may or may not have been according to the book but the children were blessedly uncritical and seemed to thrive on it—not even pouring rain put them off.

Little did we think that first day, with the nursery slopes littered with bodies and more ski off than on, that by the end of the holiday everyone would be the proud possessor of at least one badge, British bronze, Swiss bronze or Ski School stars. We were amazed at the progress made and latterly I was only able to keep in front by dint of ordering compulsory turns. We are sure that high standard reached was due very largely to their equipment. The Lillywhite ski, each pair marked with the child's initials which saved endless trouble, really fitted the very good boots supplied by Benjamin Edgington's. All had safety bindings and the very fact that we had not one broken leg speaks highly for their efficiency. We did find that the larger children were rather heavy for the Bohn rubber blocks; they got very worn and it became hard to keep the welt of the boot underneath.

Apart from ski-ing on the Rinderberg we made two trips by private bus. At Gstaad we watched a Slalom on the Wasserngrat and the better skiers then skied down while the others enjoyed the chair-lift. We invaded the Palace Hotel for the Prize-giving and Cocktail Party, where the price of a coke rather shattered the younger members! We also spent a day on the Hornberg at Saanenmöser.

Sos Roe and Simon Hodgson very kindly organised a Gymkhana for all the British children in Zweisimmen—ski-ing ability not being essential when it came to scrambling under ropes and untying knotted string. The ski-jumping planned had to be abandoned when, due to excess enthusiasm and lack of skill, we looked like having twenty-five casualties.

We had two birthday parties—one with riotous party games, the other an evening *fondue* party in the Rinderberg restaurant, after which some of the better skiers skied down by torchlight, the others following by gondelbahn.

Only one child had a severe enough pain to put a complete stop to his ski-ing, the rest were only minor twists which soon cleared up—thanks to our nurse, who looked after everyone very successfully and chivied the smaller ones into baths.

Judging from the letters received from both parents and children afterwards, the holiday appeared to have been a great success. This made all the work and planning, down to the last drop of anti-freeze oil, well worth while and, encouraged by the number of children who want to go again with the "Family Fulton," we are arranging another party on a larger scale for the coming January, trusting that our own experiences, gained often the hard way, will make next year's jaunt somewhat less nerve-racking!

## A VISIT TO BRITAIN'S WINTER SPORTS PLAYGROUND

I now know what a grossly inaccurate reply I have up to now given to the question, "Where do you ski in Britain?" I've always said, "We don't." Well, it's just not true. It is however quite true to say that in late March this year it was difficult to get accommodation in the Cairngorms, as "this winter sports playground," to quote a *Times* report, was humming with activity. Hotels covering an area of 15 miles were crowded. There was seldom a speck of snow to be seen from the villages but sharp at 10 o'clock each day buses loaded with pupils, instructors, ski, sandwiches and thermos flasks set out up the new road to the hills.

The *Court Circular* of March 23rd, reporting a Royal visit to the Cairngorms, said: "The Duke of Edinburgh later visited the ski slopes." It was a bad winter for snow in Scotland and it was probably hard for His Royal Highness to enthuse about the ski-ing or the proposed new chair-lift. A cause for enthusiasm, however, must have been to observe the tremendous activity and enthusiasm on what snow there was. This was rather hard grey stuff usually about 12 feet wide; it ran in long tongues down some corries. Narrow corries are good for *wedeln* and a few able exponents of the art were showing off. They tied lesser fry into knots, cutting off ponderous stem-bogens and played Slalom round the bodies.

Dundee Ski Club's area in Glenshee was what might be described as very snowless. The A.A. man at the top of the pass pointed out the ski-ing, which otherwise would have been missed. He was insistent that the ski-ing should be inspected and disappointed when ski were left on the car roof. An advantage in this area was that there were no *wedeln* merchants about and learners were able to pursue their unsteady courses in peace.

Numerous ski schools are run by Scottish, Austrian, Norwegian and Swiss instructors. Frith Finlayson, the chief instructor at Glen Coe, is Scottish and has done most of his ski-ing locally. The standard in his top class is high, the teaching is good and again its wild enthusiasm is so impressive. Glen Coe has already got a chair-lift and ski-lift and even in this bad winter they were enjoying 1,300 feet of continuous downhill running. Conditions were good and the snow was hard and *piste*-like all-over. It was explained that God put down the *piste*, rather wet and at the rate of 60 m.p.h., thus producing a solid surface requiring, and certainly getting, no upkeep.

A word of advice to those thinking of having a go next winter. Any old thing will not now do in Scotland. You will need your very best ski and boots. Also, it's no good slipping in a mackintosh just in case. Your proud Scottish friends will make it quite clear that you've come for ski-ing, so please dress like a skier.



Left to right: WENDY FARRINGTON, CYNTHIA PETRE, ANNA ASHESHOV, TANIA HEALD



LADIES TRAINING TEAMS, 1961

Back row (left to right): Misses M. Scott, P. Murphy, T. Dredge, S. McCaskie, D. Tomkinson, P. Walker, M. A. Cannell. Front row: Misses B. Burgerhout (Holland), T. Heald, A. Asheshov, Robert Falch (Trainer), W. Farrington, C. Petre, P. R. Grant (Manager).



STOWE-VERMONT  
Some of the trails on Mt. Mansfield.