



LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN
OCTOBER, 1964

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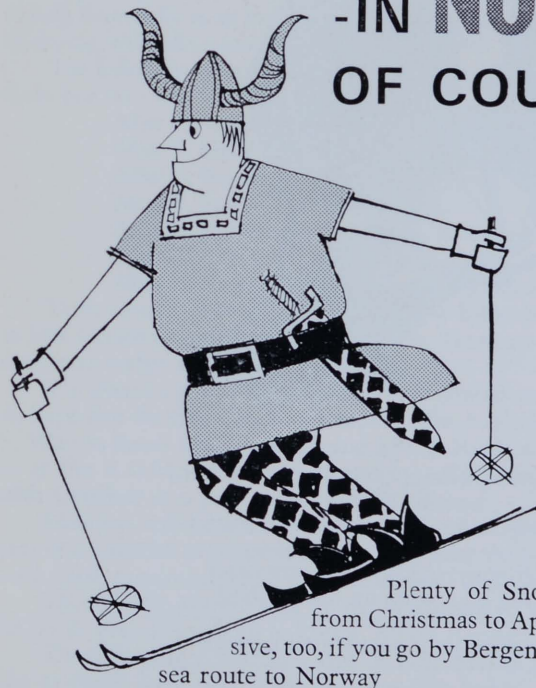
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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

No. 34

Vol. II, Pt. 26

OCTOBER, 1964

EDITORIAL

THE event of the year must surely be the formation of the National Ski Federation of Great Britain. This organisation in its early stages sets out to promote ski-ing generally and in particular, to help British racing which is the side of ski-ing that interests so many of our own Members. As a Club we are supporting the Federation but there is room for anyone who would like to help financially as an individual, to do so. Indeed it is hoped that all friends of ski-ing will rally round to help set this worth while cause on to its feet.

The following Members have been married during the year and we send them our very best wishes:

Miss R. Head to Mr. G. J. Hamlyn Noel.

Miss T. Heald to Mr. G. Dereham.

Miss D. Naylor to Mr. Leeson-Jones.

Miss A. Sainter to Mr. N. Lewis.

Miss V. Tomkinson to Mr. W. A. Evans.

Miss D. Jowitt to Mr. Hill-Trevor.

Miss Rosemary Whitehead to Mr. Johnson-Ferguson.

There seem to have been remarkably few babies born, but congratulations to Mrs. Crossley-Cooke and The Hon. Mrs. Trustram-Eve on the birth of their daughters earlier this year.

It is always a great pleasure to welcome new Members to the Club and we do hope that the five who have joined:—Miss A. Archer, Miss S. Smith, Miss S. Warren Pearl, Mrs. B. Smith and Mrs. J. Reid, will come along and join us at the A.G.M. which is followed by a Cocktail Party on **Wednesday, 28th October** at 5-30 p.m. at the S.C.G.B.

Members will be interested to know that Mrs. Jane Reid who, until last year was a novice to mountaineering, has, since the Spring climbed six peaks over 4,000, metres including the Matterhorn. Well done indeed.

The Ski Kit Market will be on **Wednesday, 4th November** at the S.C.G.B. Proceeds will go to Ladies' Alpine Racing.

The following Clubs have sent us their Annual Journals and we would like to thank them very much indeed:—The Ladies' Alpine Club, Mardens, The White Hare, the D.H.O., The Royal Naval Ski & Mountaineering Club, the Ski Club of Australia and the Club Mediterranee.

Subscriptions.—Despite the capitation fee of 1/- per Member to the Federation, the L.S.C. subscription still stands at 5/- which the Committee hopes not to increase. Some Members, however, already contribute an extra 5/- per annum to the Racing Fund and if others would like to donate this

amount annually, the gesture would be very greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to do this should instruct their bank to alter their Banker's Order to 10/- per year, also to 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 8/6; cloth, large 7/6, small 5/-. Please could Members remember to enclose cash with their orders.

The L.S.C. Sweater.—Belinda Coryton writes of this versatile garment: "One did distinguished service on the Haute Route, went up Monte Rosa and was probably the highest Club sweater in Europe on Whit Sunday (Rosemary Sanderson's), while another has been much admired behind the bar of one of the smartest hotels on the Dorset coast (Pat Spring-Smyth's). What a bargain at £4 17s. 6d!"

We are very much indebted to Mrs. Spence who has taken so much trouble over the sweaters in the past, and after much difficulty she hopes to continue ordering sweaters for Club Members. — *Hon. Editor.*

Advertisements.—Without these our *Bulletin* could not be published at all and Members are earnestly requested to let the Hon. Advertisement Secretary know of any firms that might like to take advertising space, and to use those firms that do advertise with us, quoting the L.S.C. when making an order or reservation.

Members' Articles.—It is with great feeling that the Hon. Editor would like to thank all those who have contributed so uncomplainingly to this number, and to add the annual reminder that next year also articles and photographs will again be urgently required. Even the timid who don't think they can write, please have a try—without being asked! Ideally, articles should be typed with double spacing and two copies, and the photographs should be glossy prints. Needless to say, articles written legibly by hand are also very acceptable, and should be sent in May or early June at the latest please.

The Ladies' Ski Club Junior Championship will be held with the Junior Kandahar at Mürren on Friday, 8th January.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1962-63 SEASON

LAST season was a wonderful one for snow, both at home and abroad. I do hope 1963/64 is also going to have good snow conditions.

Last winter I went to the "Ladies' Week" at Andermatt, which I thought was an excellent week; everyone at Andermatt could not do too much for us and went out of their way to help everyone, and were so very kind. The organising of the races was in the hands of the "White Hare Club" and the "L.S.C." who made a very good job of it. Anna Asheshov became British Champion and also won the L.S.C. Championship. I do congratulate her. Tania Heald won the Giant Slalom, so was Giant Slalom Champion, also she won the Duchess of Kent Cup—again congratulations. I would like to mention one of our younger racers, Gina Hathorn, who ran very well and has come on a lot; she gets the Non-International L.S.C. Cup. Gina was 4th in this race

and the first non-International competing; she was 3rd in the Giant Slalom and 4th in the Duchess of Kent, and she won the Girls' Junior Championship at Lenk.

As well as the names I have mentioned, several of the new young racers, some of whom will be in training this season, ran very well and showed great promise. There were also others who will never be Olympic skiers but who raced well and they all showed what our girls are capable of doing and how they have improved.

The Junior L.S.C. was run at Zweisimmen and was won by Emily Worrall by the narrow margin of .1" from Sandra Heber-Percy.

Before going to Andermatt I went to Grindelwald for the S.D.S. 25th Racing Jubilee. As you know, we gave them a trophy for one of the races and they were very pleased indeed, and many nice things were said about the British at the Prize Giving on the last evening. I had the great thrill on the last day of seeing Tania Heald come in 10th in the Downhill—a very fine performance in a race with some of the best skiers of the day.

Divina Galica won the Sestriere Citizens' Derby for the second year, and Patricia Murphy won the Giant Slalom there. At Bad-Gastein, Felicity Field won the Downhill. One of the most encouraging results though was at Innsbruck in February, when there was a pre-Olympic race with 80 starters, all of the top class of different nations, and three of our girls were in the first 20—Tania, Wendy and Patricia. Congratulations to them all. I do feel that all the time, thought, work and worry that has been, and is being given to train and help our girls in the racing world, really is beginning to show good results. Before leaving racing, I would like to say, as this is the Olympic Season, that we from the Club are donating £20 to the Ladies, to be given to the Manager for her to use in any way she thinks fit for their benefit.

To turn to the tourers, it was very nice when I was at Villars, to meet the Eagle Club on their arrival from Adelboden. They had skied over to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the S.C.G.B. and many of our own Members were in the party.

This coming season has been a difficult one to fit in the different events and the Ladies' Week is not until April when it will be at Davos with Mardens and the L.S.C. running it. I do hope as many of you as possible will go—it would be a nice little spring trip for you!

As you all know the money has to be raised privately at the moment for all our training etc. Helen Tomkinson is determined to raise £1,000 and she has £754 in the bank now so she is well on the way. We do hope that with the raffle, ski market and fashion show she will get it. Please let us have any old ski-ing clothes you do not want. (In fact, Mrs. Tomkinson exceeded her target and although there are better places to write this and better people to say it, there couldn't be a single person who wouldn't want to say most sincerely to Helen, "Many congratulations and thank you for all your efforts towards British Racing." — *Hon. Ed.*)

The President then welcomed all the new Members who had joined the Club and went on to thank the Members of the Committee and the Honorary Auditors who had helped the Club during the past year, and she finished by saying, "I am very sad today as my term as President is over; it has seemed so short and of course I lost one season as I broke a leg and could not see our members on the snow. I have loved it though and it was the most

wonderful surprise to me when I was asked to be your President, but I know I am asking someone to be President who will be an excellent one. Thank you so much for all your help and kindness to me."

PEGGY NUGENT

By P. M. RAEBURN

IN a drawer of my bureau there is a photograph of two little girls skating on the Mürren ice-rink. One is small and dark, is dressed as a masked Harlequin, and is waving a wand in a truculent manner. The other is fair and gangly, is dressed as a butterfly, and is obviously shivering violently. Myself and Peggy aged 9 and 11 years respectively, and why the Press dressed us up like that is anybody's guess.

The gangling butterfly, reversing Nature and her chrysalis, grew up to be an elegant and madly attractive young woman with more personal charm and appeal that was strictly fair. One of the sights of Mürren, (this was before Peggy married), was to see her bid farewell to endless streams of young men at the Station, all of whom were convinced that their hearts were broken for ever, and a few minutes later see her arm-in-arm with at least two of the newest arrivals. She was always gay and always fun to be with, and she was possessed of a virtue which is so rare as to be almost unknown. In all the years I knew Peggy I never heard her say one single unkind word about anybody.

The L.S.C. Annual Party will be less gay without her and so will all her many, many friends. Perhaps I may offer to George and Bun all our deepest and sincerest sympathy, and tell them that two such special people as Carlow and Peggy will not be forgotten by those lucky enough to have known them.

THE BRITISH JUNIOR SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

By MARION SPENCE

THE British Junior Ski Championships were held this year at Wangs Pizol in Switzerland. Wangs is a small low-lying village on the road from Sargans to Landquart. The actual ski runs are on the Pizol, 5,000 ft. above this village and are reached by a somewhat antiquated and dilapidated Gondelbahn.

Mardens was this year's organising club, helped by the Ski Club secretary and Miss Cynthia Petre, who took time off from managing the girls "B" team.

There was a splendid turn out of 66 competitors from nearly all the racing clubs.

In spite of adverse conditions, a Giant Slalom was run on the first day, set by Herr Wachter and a team from the Wangs Ski Club—it was certainly a fair test of the game.

Helen Jamieson did extremely well until—crash—just in front of the finishing post. However, she was soon back to her normal bouncing self in spite of this set-back! It was won in good style by Felicity Field (D.H.O.) in 2' 4.0"; followed closely by Emily Worrall (K) 2' 5.5"; Susan Smith (K) 2' 6.5"; and Bridget Newall (D.H.O.) 2' 6.7". The weather was glorious and the course was lined with spectators.

The boys also put up a splendid show 4½" separating the first five competitors. Luke O'Reilly (K) won in the fast time of 2' 1.9"; Ian Murray (K) and Asher Hodgson (D.H.O.) were third and fourth. There is some good talent among the very young, particularly in Julian Vasey (D.H.O.) and Aiden Ballantyne (D.H.O.) who finished sixth and eighth respectively in this strong field.

The next day we looked out on deep, deep snow simply pouring down. What a day for a Slalom! Two unusual courses had been set the day before by Herr Baumgarten of the Swiss Army. After "summit talks" it was decided to hold the race. Everyone turned out to stamp and as the visibility became a little better, so our spirits rose. Again the girls went off first.

Felicity Field really deserves praise for her splendid effort. In the first run she had a 2" lead over Helen Jamieson (D.H.O.) and although her rival beat her in the second run, she managed to win with the overall time of 91.6"; Helen was a good second with 93.1"; Bridget Newall 95.6".

I must mention in particular Sue Smith who looked to be making the fastest time until suddenly she missed the gate before the Ziel. Our sympathies were all with her. However, this being her first championship, she put up a very good performance.

The Boys' Slalom was most exciting! Luke O'Reilly led Asher Hodgson and Ian Murray in the first run. It was anyone's guess for the final result. Luke started off in his usual style, but just at the end of the course he tripped, lost a ski, floundered and was up again—on one ski—to finish gallantly in 50". Asher Hodgson and Ian Murray took advantage of his mistake finishing with times of 45.4" and 45.6".

Felicity Field carried off a large number of trophies including the Combined. Helen and Bridget were second and third. Three Cheers for the L.S.C.!

It is interesting to note that the Milo system of points was used and so we were able to have "instant" results! Surely a great improvement on the old complicated system of F.I.S. tables particularly from the organisers' point of view.

Our thanks go first to the organisers, and then to the Wangs Ski Club officials for all they did to make the meeting a success.

YUGOSLAVIA

By EMILY WORRAL

THE Ski Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina invited the British Junior Girls' Team to take part in the Jahorina Junior Cup in Yugoslavia, at Jaharina on 14th and 15th March, the cup consisted of a Slalom and Downhill race.

Helen Jamieson, Bunny Field, Bridget Newall and myself left Spittal with Mrs. Hepworth, by train on Sunday, 8th March. We were very excited and not a little apprehensive to be going to a new and strange country to race.

At the Yugoslavian Border we were met by an official, who gave us first class tickets to Sarajevo and generous pocket money. We had a long wait and a good meal at Zagreb and then rather an exhausting night in the train, arriving at Sarajevo at 7-30 next morning. Here we were met by the President of the Jaharina Ski Club and other officials. We were taken by taxi to an Hotel and it was decided that we should stay there the night before going up to Jaharina.

The Yugoslavs were most hospitable to us, providing us with a guide to take us round the town, where we visited the largest Mosque in Europe, the Museum and a Greek Orthodox Church and saw many other interesting things in this ancient and historical town.

The next day we went by bus up to Jaharina, and were settled into our hotel by lunch time. We spent the afternoon finding our feet again on skis. It was nice to ski in good snow conditions after the shortage of snow in Austria, but by 5 o'clock, when we started slalom practice, we were all pretty tired. Wednesday was mostly spent in downhill practice. On Thursday the other teams arrived and we all studied the course, which was rather firm going. Friday we had non-stop practice, in slightly softer snow-conditions. Saturday was the great day of the Downhill race, and we started early, waxing skis and generally preparing for the day. We all made the start on time, and it was an enjoyable and exciting race in excellent conditions, the Austrians had the best times.

On Sunday we woke to wind and driving snow and no one was enthusiastic at the thought of a slalom race. We walked up the course, struggling against the weather, and huddled together at the start. We all made the first run with a large number of disqualifications, only a few of the boys competing. Then we were told that the timing system was not working properly. The Committee decided to cancel the second run, much to the combined relief of the Competitors.

The Prize giving was held that evening, before an excellent buffet supper, and then to bed, pretty exhausted.

On Monday all the teams returned by bus to Sarajevo, where we did some more sight seeing and shopping, the leather goods were really wonderful and amazingly cheap. Then the Austrian Team and ourselves were given a friendly send-off from the station, and set off back to Austria. A most enjoyable week with many new experiences, and I hope that I get the chance to ski in Yugoslavia again.

IX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, INNSBRUCK, 1964

BY ELSPETH CROSSLEY-COOKE

THE Men's Downhill was the first alpine ski event of the Innsbruck Olympics and it above all demonstrated how well the organisers ran ski races on snowless mountains. The steep twisting course ran through woods almost devoid of snow, but it remained in perfect condition for 84 competitors, testing their technical skill more than their nerve. The large crowd, who turned out to watch this, the only race held above Innsbruck on the Patcherkofel, were jubilant when Egon Zimmerman, the favourite for the Giant Slalom, scored a home victory in 2' 18.16" from Leo Lacroix (France) 2' 18.90" and Wolfgang Bartels (Germany) 2' 19.48". John Rigby (Great Britain) took the course well coming 44th in 2' 34.32" and Charles de Westenholz was 50th and Charles Palmer Tomkinson 56th. The Aga Khan ski-ing for Persia this year was 59th. Jonathan Taylor had a fall.

The rest of the races took place on the Lizum. Some way away from Innsbruck this high "snow bowl" involved spectators, competitors and officials alike in a tedious journey to and from the competitions.

An exciting battle took place for the Ladies' Slalom title for which 46

raced down two extremely steep courses. Marielle Goitschel, the reigning world champion, recorded the fastest time in the first run with 43.09"; her sister Christine came second with 43.85". Jane Gissing skied well to do the good time of 49.70" to place her 16th and Tania Heald with 52.03" came 22nd. Gina Hathorn who had had a very fast time was disqualified as was Divina Galica. In the second run with the numbers reversed, Christine Goitschel came down at tremendous speed to record 46.01"—could Marielle keep her place? With a fighting run Jean Saubert (U.S.A.) took second place with 46.58" and Marielle with 47.68" had the third fastest time. So Christine Goitschel won with 89.86" from Marielle 90.77" and Jean Saubert 91.36". Jane Gissing with a slower second run came 17th and Tania Heald was 21st.

In the Men's Giant Slalom on a long tiring course requiring much stamina, the great technician François Bonlieu made it another triumph for France in 1' 46.71", beating Karl Schranz (Austria) with 1' 47.09" and Josef Stiegler (Austria) with 1' 48.05". John Rigby again skied steadily to come 42nd 2' 7.92" and Piers de Westenholz was 59th out of 96 starters and 80 who finished.

There was a further battle in the Ladies' Giant Slalom between the Goitschels and Jean Saubert. Christine Goitschel's time of 1' 53.11" being equalled by Jean Saubert who attacked every inch of the course but was not as supple as Marielle Goitschel who starting 14th flew down the course in 1' 52.24". Divina Galica and Jane Gissing skied fluently to come in 22nd and 24th with 2' 0.79" and 2' 1.66" respectively and Gina Hathorn came 27th with 2' 2.61". Wendy Farrington fell and was disqualified.

Austria came to the fore again in the Ladies' Downhill with the very strong skier and favourite for this event, Christl Haas winning in 1' 55.39" from Edith Zimmerman 1' 56.42" and Traudl Hecher 1' 56.66". In training it had been interesting to note the winner taking a completely different line on a bumpy section. Gina Hathorn skied extremely well to come 16th with 2' 2.2" beating the entire Swiss and Norwegian teams and all but one Italian. The course had been dusted with snow making it slower than the competitors would have liked with no really difficult passages. All the times were very close, Divina Galica coming 30th with 2' 4.1", Tania Heald 35th with 2' 4.82", and Anna Asheshov 38th with 2' 5.41". 43 started and finished, most unusual in a Downhill.

There was a qualifying race for the Men's Slalom and unfortunately none of the British Team came through to the final. The first course for the final caught out many of the top hopes. Josef Stiegler (Austria) had the fastest time of 69.03", Karl Schranz (Austria) the second, and James Heuga (U.S.A.) came third. The second course was more rhythmic and Guy Perillat (France) who had made a mess of the first run had the fastest time by nearly a second although this made him no more than 12th. Stiegler with only the 8th fastest time just kept his lead from William Kidd (U.S.A.) who did the 2nd fastest time in the 2nd run and Heuga who came 3rd in both runs. Two unexpected medals for the U.S.A. who had been despondant over their earlier results.

The progress of all ski racers was demonstrated in this Olympics with the timing in hundredths of seconds and even then ties being possible. Technically it is impossible to tell the difference between our racers and those of the top Alpine teams and the results must give one real hope that it cannot be long before we break through to the really top level.

OLYMPIC SKI RESULTS

LADIES' DOWNHILL:

1 (13), Christl Haas (A.) 1' 55.39"; 2 (11), Edith Zimmerman (A.) 1' 56.42"; 3 (4), Traudl Hecher (A.) 1' 56.66"; 4 (2), Heidi Biebl (G.) 1' 57.87"; 5 (7), Barbi Henneberger (G.) 1' 58.03"; 6 (1), Madeleine Bochatay (F.) 1' 59.11"; 7 (5), Nancy Greene (C.) 1' 59.23"; 8 (9), Christine Terrailon (F.) 1' 59.66"; 9 (10), Annie Famose (F.) 1' 59.86"; 10 (14), Marielle Goitschel (F.) 2' 0.77"; 16 (45), Gina Hathorn (G.B.) 2' 2.2"; 30 (44), Divina Galica (G.B.) 2' 4.1"; 35 (30), Tania Heald (G.B.) 2' 4.82"; 38 (39), Anna Asheshov 2' 5.41". (43 started, 43 finished.)

LADIES' GIANT SLALOM:

1 (14), Marielle Goitschel (F.) 1' 52.24"; 2 (3), Christine Goitschel (F.) 1' 53.11"; 2 (6), Jean Saubert (U.S.A.) 1' 53.11"; 4 (12), Christl Haas (A.) 1' 53.86"; 5 (9), Annie Famose (F.) 1' 53.89"; 6 (7), Edith Zimmerman (A.) 1' 54.21"; 7 (5), Barbi Henneberger (G.) 1' 54.26"; 8 (1), Traudl Hecher (A.) 1' 54.55"; 9 (15), Pia Riva (I.) 1' 54.59"; 9 (27), Fernande Bochatay (S.) 1' 54.59"; 23 (35), Divina Galica (G.B.) 2' 0.79"; 24 (18), Jane Gissing (G.B.) 2' 1.66"; 27 (38), Gina Hathorn (G.B.) 2' 2.61". (45 started, 42 finished.)

LADIES' SLALOM:

	1st run	Place	2nd run	Place	
1 (14), Christine Goitschel (F.)	43.85"	(2)	46.01"	(1)	= 89.86"
2 (1), Marielle Goitschel (F.)	43.09"	(1)	47.68"	(3)	= 90.77"
3 (8), Jean Saubert (U.S.A.)	44.78"	(4)	46.58"	(2)	= 91.36"
4 (3), Heidi Biebl (G.)	44.61"	(3)	49.43"	(7)	= 94.04"
5 (13), Edith Zimmerman (A.)	46.24"	(6)	48.03"	(4)	= 94.27"
6 (15), Christl Haas (A.)	46.43"	(7)	48.68"	(5)	= 95.11"
7 (30), Jagge Liv (N.)	47.67"	(14)	48.71"	(6)	= 96.38"
8 (6), Patrice du Roy de Blicquy (B.)	47.15"	(10)	49.86"	(8)	= 97.01"
9 (16), Pia Riva (I.)	46.65"	(8)	50.55"	(11)	= 97.20"
10 (9), Barbi Henneberger (G.)	47.41"	(13)	50.14"	(9)	= 97.55"
17 (31), Jane Gissing (G.B.)	49.70"	(16)	54.48"	(20)	= 104.18"
21 (42), Tania Heald (G.B.)	52.03"	(22)	56.40"	(23)	= 108.43"

(46 started, 28 finished.)

MEN'S DOWNHILL:

1 (7), Egon Zimmermann (A.) 2' 18.16"; 2 (4), Leo Lacroix (F.) 2' 18.90"; 3 (11), Wolfgang Bartels (G.) 2' 19.48"; 4 (10), Joos Minsch (S.) 2' 19.54"; 5 (3), Ludwig Leitner (G.) 2' 19.67"; 6 (6), Guy Perillat (F.) 2' 19.79"; 7 (15), Gerhard Nenning (A.) 2' 19.98"; 8 (24), Willi Favre (S.) 2' 20.23"; 9 (14), Willy Bogner (G.) 2' 20.72"; 10 (12), Heini Messner (A.) 2' 20.74"; 44 (39), John Rigby (G.B.) 2' 34.32"; 50 (54), Charles de Westenholz (G.B.) 2' 36.12"; 56 (77), Charles Palmer-Tomkinson (G.B.) 2' 39.97". (84 started, 77 finished.)

MEN'S GIANT SLALOM:

1 (2), François Bonlieu (F.) 1' 46.71"; 2 (15), Karl Schranz (A.) 1' 47.09"; 3 (1), Josef Stiegler (A.) 1' 48.05"; 4 (9), Willi Favre (S.) 1' 48.69"; 5 (5), Jean-Claude Killy (F.) 1' 48.92"; 6 (4), Gerhard Nenning (A.) 1' 49.68"; 7 (8), William Kidd (U.S.A.) 1' 49.97"; 9 (7), Joos Minsch (S.) 1' 50.61"; 10 (14), Guy Perillat (F.) 1' 50.75"; 42 (56), John Rigby 2' 7.92"; 59 (73), Piers de Westenholz (G.B.) 2' 17.1". (96 started, 80 finished.)

MEN'S SLALOM:

	1st run	Place	2nd run	Place	
1 (8), Josef Stiegler (A.)	69.03"	(1)	62.10"	(8)	= 131.13"
2 (10), William Kidd (U.S.A.)	70.96"	(6)	60.31"	(2)	= 131.27"
3 (24), James Heuga (U.S.A.)	70.16"	(3)	61.36"	(3)	= 131.52"
4 (13), Michel Arpin (F.)	71.16"	(7)	61.75"	(4)	= 132.91"
5 (1), Ludwig Leitner (G.)	71.19"	(8)	61.78"	(4)	= 132.94"
6 (6), Adolf Mathis (S.)	70.77"	(5)	62.22"	(10)	= 132.99"
7 (5), Gerhard Nenning (A.)	70.29"	(4)	69.91"	(13)	= 133.20"
8 (12), Wallace Werner (U.S.A.)	71.64"	(9)	61.82"	(6)	= 133.46"
9 (1), Wolfgang Bartels (G.)	73.83"	(14)	62.09"	(7)	= 135.92"
10 (33), Stefan Kaelin (S.)	73.92"	(15)	62.12"	(9)	= 136.04"

(45 started, 39 finished.)

Key to above results I have given:

1, place; 2, start number; 3, name of competitor; 4, nationality; 5, time.

THE OLYMPICS

BY HELEN TOMKINSON

IN spite of the lack of snow the Olympic courses were superb. This was due to the foresight of Friedl Wolfgang who took the decision on 6th January to employ the Mercedes trucks to bring the snow in, instead of clearing the roads which they had been contracted to do. The army then built and packed the courses with the snow which had been brought in from a radius of ten miles. The attendance at the Games was phenomenal, the biggest crowds ever were there, and in spite of the crowds the transport to and from the Litzum, Alpine area, was good. In the opening ceremony Great Britain was a magnificent splash of colour in red jackets, white hats and blue trousers. Many compliments were given to our girls' outfits of red guards officers' cloth with fur collars. They really did look smart. Each Nation was assigned Volkswagon buses to take their teams to the ski-ing areas or to the bob area. The Alpine events started with the Men's Downhill, and this was the only Alpine course which was not in the valley of the Litzum but on the Pacherkofell, which was a very testing course. It was extremely hard with ice patches, and very fast. I was very pleased to see all the boys come down. The day of the Ladies' Slalom was, unfortunately, on the same day as Great Britain's win of the two-man bob, which was disappointing as one could not see them battle this event. The winning of this medal elated the British team in the Olympics. Jane Gissing did two steady and good runs in the Slalom and came in 17th. I think that one or two of the other girls were very nervous and did not reach their best. The Men's Giant Slalom was long and tiring and our boys, with many others, found the course too exhausting for them to produce good results. The Girls' Giant Slalom was also tiring but a fluent one with a couple of very difficult areas. It was a lovely course for viewing. Our best girl here was Davina Galica. The Ladies' Downhill on the day of the actual race was not so fast as it had been in the actual training. The course had to be shortened owing to the lack of snow. Gina Hathorn did an excellent time, beating all the Swiss girls and coming in 16th. We were very pleased here as Great Britain was invited to produce a forerunner for the Downhill which really proves that our Ladies' Team is well thought of by the other teams. The Men's Olympic Slalom comprised two Slaloms, a qualifying one and a final Slalom of 50. The first 25 of each run in the qualifying. Unfortunately, our best boy just missed qualifying by two places. The final Slalom was one of the best set Slaloms and exacting tests of ski-ing I have ever seen. It was most interesting to see some top skiers falling at the last gates out of sheer exhaustion. The winner of the Slalom was a true Gold Medalist.

The last event, the special jumping on the big hill, was held in lovely sunshine and, as always, was a great finish to the Games. It was a fine spectacle to see these top skiers; they really did seem to fly through the air.

As we left Innsbruck on the Monday morning it was snowing hard. It was a miracle that it had not snowed during the Games for it would have upset all the careful preparations for the courses. I would like to thank the Austrians for planning such a fine Olympics and am delighted that such a number of people viewed them at Innsbruck itself and on the television.

DAME KATHERINE FURSE, TIM KAGAMI AND ONE OTHER

BY ENID FERNANDES

It was at Pontresina in 1927 that Tim Kagami (a Japanese who skied for Cambridge) and I nearly killed a Ladies' Ski Club President.

Anxious to take our wood-running test we approached Dame Katherine Furse, the S.C.G.B. Rep. She was in bed with influenza but, as Tim had only a few days left and the Dame had a kindly heart, she got up much too soon.

The day was warm and muggy. It was quite a walk to the wood. We had a dreadful climb of 500 feet in the deepest and heaviest of wet snow. Tim and I shared the track cutting and the Dame coughed her way up behind us.

On the descent Dame Katherine skied as beautifully as she always skied. Tim and I, well behind, ploughed uneasily through the sog. We failed.

Next day the Dame had pneumonia and was very ill. We felt guilty and horribly worried. We made daily pilgrimages with flowers to her hotel hoping desperately that they would never have to be wreaths. She recovered.

1927 to 1964 is a bit of a distance but while at Solda/Sulden in the Ortler for a few days last March I got up the Cevedale, 12,500 feet, and returned via the Langen Firner (glacier), Borromeo and the Martell valley. I had looked towards Pontresina and back to the days of my youth.

It was Dame Katherine Furse and Betty Spring-Rice who invited me to join the L.S.C. and I would like to take this opportunity of saying how much I am enjoying being a member and to thank you all for making me one of your Vice-Presidents.

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JUNIOR KANDAHAR (girls) and LADIES' SKI CLUB JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

BY ISOBEL ROE

THE race was run as a Slalom at the summit of the Rinderberg. The course was in good condition but very short and it was therefore decided to have three runs.

On each run Luke O'Reilly had a fractional lead over Ian Murray and thus had revenge for his defeat by Ian in the Junior Championship which was held earlier in the week.

Barbara King had an easy win over Chloe Varley in The Ladies' Ski Club race and came 3rd to Ian Murray and Luke O'Reilly in the Junior Kandahar.

RESULTS OF JUNIOR KANDAHAR AND LADIES' SKI CLUB JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

GIRLS:					
1	Barbara King (D.H.O.)	18·6"	16·0'	15·4"	50·0"
2	Chloe Varley (K.)	20·6'	17·0"	15·8"	53·4"
3	Sarah Fielding (D.H.O.)	21·8"	18·8"	17·2"	57·8"
4	Diana Reid (S.C.G.B.)	25·0"	22·0"	20·4"	67·4"
5	Sally Ireland (D.H.O.)	32·0"	19·4"	17·0"	68·4"
6	Elizabeth Salm (D.H.O.)	18·0"	17·0"	36·0"	71·0"
7	Julie Molyneux (S.C.G.B.)	23·4"	30·0"	21·8"	75·2"
8	Christina Reid (S.C.G.B.)	25·0"	26·2"	26·2"	77·4"
	Mary Mackenzie (K.)	20·2"	19·4"	17·2"	D
BOYS:					
1	Luke O'Reilly (K.)	16·6"	15·0"	15·0"	46·6"
2	Ian Murray (K.)	16·4"	16·0"	15·6"	48·0"
3	Nigel Wilson (D.H.O.)	17·0"	16·6"	17·0"	50·6"
4	John Cooper (D.H.O.)	17·2"	17·4"	17·0"	51·6"
5	David Crossley (K.)	17·2"	17·0"	18·0"	52·2"
6	Michael Grewham (K.)	18·2"	17·4"	17·6"	53·2"
7 =	Christopher Berry (K.)	18·6"	17·6"	17·6"	53·8"
	Oliver Hart (D.H.O.)	18·4"	18·0"	17·4"	53·8"
9	Martin Fielding (D.H.O.)	19·0"	18·2"	18·6"	55·8"
10	David MacDonald (K.)	19·6"	18·2"	18·2"	56·0"
11	Alec Mapelli (K.)	22·0"	19·0"	18·4"	59·4"
12	Antony Hirschfield (K.)	20·0"	23·0"	18·2"	61·2"
13	Jack Maclean (K.)	24·0"	18·2"	21·0"	63·2"
14	Richard Hackett (D.H.O.)	25·0"	19·2"	20·0"	64·2"
15	P. Etherington Smith	29·0"	21·0"	20·4"	70·4"
16	Martin Ball (S.C.G.B.)	34·0"	27·0"	20·0"	81·0"
17	Tom Baker (S.C.G.B.)	30·6"	36·4"	33·0"	94·0"
Disqualified	Charles Rush (K.)	18·0"	25·6"	—	D
	Justin Wills (D.H.O.)	18·6"	17·2"	21·0"	D
	Rob Ireland (S.C.G.B.)	31·0"	—	26·0"	D
	Charles Linsell (S.C.G.B.)	81·0"	—	—	D
				RETIRED	

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB SALVER

By ROY HEPWORTH

QUALIFICATION: Kent girls under 19.

GIANT SLALOM on "Punch Bowl," course set by Werner Staeger.

WEATHER AND SNOW: windy, breakable crust, snow very thin, bad light.

1, Elizabeth Salm	1' 22.0";	2, Helen Jamieson	1' 25.2";
3, Felicity Field	1' 26.1";	4, Virginia Cox	1' 26.8";
5, Barbara King	1' 31.0";	6, Bridget Newall	1' 35.1";
7, Sarah Fielding	1' 38.2";	8, Valerie Child	1' 42.4";
9, Isobel Mabey	1' 48.1";	10, Karen Winkler	1' 48.2";
11, Antoinette Ashburner	1' 52.4";	12, Diana Jackson	1' 59.0";
13, Susan Bloom	2' 4.4";	14, Linden Carr	2' 8.5";
15, Bridget Mabey	2' 9.8";		

THE picture shows Elizabeth Salm getting her prize from Mrs. Stanley Walduck, wife of the new D.H.O. President, at the Palace Hotel in Wengen. Elizabeth was the only one of the top racing juniors to stand up on the course, which was on a nasty chancy bit of snow, the only bit in fact in the whole district. Later it was used for both the S.D.S. International Races and the Lauberhorn Race, but only after untold hours of preparation. The winning time was very good, and would have placed Elizabeth 4th in the general result (45 started). I have never seen her ski so well, and she told me that it was the result of following her brother Richard in Zermatt, over Christmas. Another very good time was Isobel Mabey's. It would help that she is very light and also she has the drive. Now 13, she should do well in future races. As we pulled out the controls an army of piste stampers took over, and the organisers felt very relieved that no one had hurt themselves on the broken-up course. The following day we all packed up and left for Wangs Pizol, where the D.H.O. girls training unit formed a bigger group than that of all the other clubs put together.

NOTE: Next year's race is expected to be on 30th December. Entries to D.H.O. Office, Wengen, by 28th December.

ATALANTA CUP & LILLYWHITES' CUP

By ISOBEL ROE

A GOOD course was found near the top of the Hornberg for the Atalanta Cup. There were 43 entries. 1st and 2nd places were taken by Canadians, both pupils at Clos des Abeilles. Barbara King and Chloe Varley came next.

The Lillywhites Cup was run on a different course. Sally Ireland (Chatelard) was an easy winner with Chatelard pupils taking 2nd and 3rd places in all. Entry of 16.

NOVICES' CUP & SECOND YEAR SKIERS' CUP

THE Novices' and 2nd Year Skiers' Cups were held on the previous Saturday and had a total entry of 35. Pauline Simpson was the best novice and Georgina Brown best 2nd Year Skier; both came from Videmanette at Rougemont.



Elizabeth Salm receiving the Ladies' Ski Club Salver from Mrs. Stanley Walduck, January 1964.

Behind: Arthur Bruneau, D.H.O. training manager.



GINNY TOMKINSON MARRIED MR. ANDREW EVANS ON 8TH AUGUST, 1964.

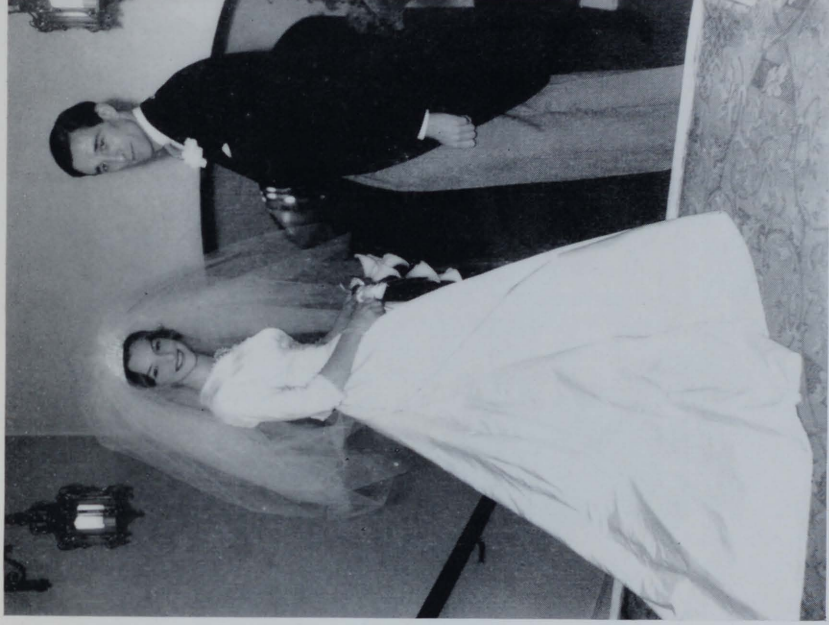
L.S.C. Members present in the photograph are:—

Lady Blane, The Bride, Mrs. Tomkinson, Di Tomkinson and Roney Tulloch.



A MEMORABLE DAY — 23RD APRIL, 1963.
Shakespeare's 400th anniversary and the 21st birthday of Miss Diana Tomkinson, who was going to Scotland the next day to race, and Miss Virginia Tomkinson, who was married to Mr. W. A. Evans on 8th August.

Taken in their grandmother's (Lady Blane's) bedroom in London.



MISS TANIA HEALD MARRIED MR. GILES DEREHAM, APRIL 1964.



LADIES' RACE WEEK, DAVOS, APRIL 1964.
The avalanche that came down during the Slalom, above the start.

LEARNER REP'S. COURSE

BY ROSALIND LOVELL

MONDAY, 9th December and Victoria Station was a bevy of females with only a spattering of the male sex. The destination—St. Anton. The reason—a Learner Representative Course for the Ski Club of Great Britain.

On arrival at St. Anton we were all anxious to start ski-ing but to our dismay we were greeted with a green countryside. However, undaunted, we donned skis and went off in search of snow. The lack of snow lasted all the time that we were there but we always succeeded in finding enough to ski on.

There were over 90 of us including fewer than a dozen men and we were scattered all over St. Anton on a "bed and breakfast" basis; lunch and dinner were provided centrally by the Rosanna Stuberl.

For ski-ing we were divided into four groups according to our ability; the top group were British 2nd class trying for 1st class and the bottom group were 3rd class but had not started their 2nd class. On most days we went by coach up to St. Christoph where we skied in our groups and were given instruction and practical experience in the duties of reps. when taking ski-ing parties on runs. This instruction was given by experienced reps. Whenever possible our ski-ing was done off-the-piste and on some occasions we found some good powder snow, where we were made to take our own line as practice for leading a group. In addition to these runs, we did practice 3rd class tests in order to learn the form, and were also told about the standard required for the 2nd and 1st class tests. Some of the party were able to take and pass tests themselves.

We made a few visits to Zürs where we had 2nd class "dash and crash" races and also a Slalom. The snow did not permit a 1st class race. We were given practice in organizing these races—taking times, acting as gate-keepers and seeing how a Slalom is set, for this instruction we must thank Soss Roe.

In addition to ski-ing we were given excellent indoor instruction. This included ski-ing films on Professor S. Kruckenhauser's new Austrian technique, and a number of very good lectures were given by Mark Heller on First Aid and Avalanches.

Malcolm Milne told us about the responsibilities and duties of a rep. and we were initiated into the mysteries of the "reps. case" which is a small brown attaché case; there is one for each resort containing account sheets, test books and forms, etc. The first rep. at a resort takes the case out and the last one brings it back to the Ski Club.

I think all of us on the course were glad of the opportunity to meet representatives from Messrs. Ingham, Ski Plan and World Sport and Travel, whom some of us met again in various centres in the Alps. We were grateful for their help and co-operation.

The course ended on Friday, 20th December and without this course I do not think any of us would have been capable of fulfilling all the duties required of a rep. For this we owe a vote of thanks to Malcolm Milne, Mark Heller and Soss Roe and also we were fortunate in having Peter Barshall, Chairman of Council, with us for part of the time and who gave us some helpful advice. We must also thank the reps. who gave us instruction and a great deal of practical information, and thanks for all the typing that had to be done. We hope many new recruits will come next year to this very worthwhile and enjoyable course.

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Cardiff: EVAN ROBERTS

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CLIP BOOTS

BY BELINDA CORYTON

HAVING heard wildly conflicting views on "clippers," I felt the only way to sort things out was to buy a pair. Now, after a month's ordinary ski-ing and ten days' mixed climbing, scrambling, walking and ski-ing in them, I can say that I find them perfectly satisfactory.

Two criticisms I have heard are:

They let snow in under the flaps: They may at first when the leather is very stiff and hard to bend, but after a few days' wear one can close the clips more tightly so that this can't happen.

The clips can snap undone when ski-ing through crust, or when touching the next door person's boots on a T-bar: Yes, they do, but only one at a time, and it doesn't seem to affect the fit very much.

Clip boots do save about twenty minutes of lacing and unlacing per ski-ing day, and a good deal of mental strain as well. All those nagging worries before a run, "Have I got my boots tight enough/too tight/right tighter than left/toes tighter than heels? Is there time to do them again?" are things of the past. Small, accurate adjustments can be made in split seconds. The minutes saved were particularly noticeable on the Haute Route—I am usually the last person to be on parade in the morning with skins fitted, climbing irons in place, rucksack logically packed, suncream on, glasses handy, and the right hat. This time I managed not to be, more than once.

"Clippers" are probably most practical for people who motor to their ski-ing, and for small children who ski much. But to *any* skier who doesn't like bending, sore fingers or rushing through breakfast, who likes to wiggle her toes at lunchtime or is just plain lazy, I would say Try 'em.

COURMAYEUR

BY JO DALY

My husband and I crossed the Channel by the midnight ferry to Dunkirk, arriving at about 7 o'clock. We drove straight to Martigny getting there the same evening. We planned to cross the Alps by one of the passes, which we thought might be open due to the lack of snow, the next morning. Unfortunately, they were all still closed, so we decided to go to Chamonix and up in the cable car and down in the Italian one, when we would have been about 2 miles from Courmayeur. As it happened the Italian cable car was under repair for a month. There was nothing for it but to drive all the way round the Alps, the shortest way being 275 miles, via Turin. Next year it will be very easy to reach Courmayeur as the new St. Bernard tunnel will be open, and in two years the Mont Blanc tunnel from Chamonix will come out within two miles of Courmayeur.

We found we were staying at the very best hotel in Courmayeur, The Royal Hotel. It was a luxury class or 5 star. It was comfortable with marvellous service. Our room was very nice, with a balcony and private bathroom. There were only a few people staying as it was the last week in January, the "off season" for Italy.

Courmayeur (altitude 1,224 m.) is really in the most lovely setting, at the end of the Aosta Valley and overshadowed by Mont Blanc, all the mountains round about are very high and jagged looking.

Like everywhere else in the Alps last winter there was very little snow. The village had no snow, so the nursery slopes and lifts were all out of action. We had to go up one cable car to Plan Checrouit (1,697 m.) before we found snow. Here, there were two restaurants. Normally one could ski down to the village, by several different routes. From Plan Checrouit there was one long ski lift, and a bubble lift up to Lac De Checrouit (2,165 m.). Up here there was another restaurant in the cable car station, and another tiny hut restaurant, called Chez Lulu, run by two young sisters, who lived up there winter and summer. Chez Lulu was always full. From here there were another two cable cars to Mont Arp (2,747 m.), the ski-ing was very good and the snow was perfect for any piste basher. The views from Mont Arp were really fabulous. There were also, apart from the cable cars, another three or four lifts.

We had a private instructor for the whole week. He was quite brilliant; in fact, the whole of the ski school was of a very high standard.

In Courmayeur village there is very little night life, but lots of beer shops and ski shops. There is one luxury class hotel, ten second class category and 15 third class.

Everyone was most kind and helpful and keen that our holiday should be one that we would always remember.

JUNE ON THE SKI SLOPES

BY E. MACR.

It was evident from the moment we boarded the aircraft en route for Geneva that the British tourist in June was a very different specimen from that which crowds the ski resorts in February. Most of them would never see fifty again and they seemed to fall into two categories, which struck me as curiously similar to the winter sports travellers. On the one hand the sophisticated set in petal hats with cigar-toting husbands bound for the expensive pleasures of the Lakeside matched the Palace and piste addicts with the accent on après ski. In contrast, hairy tweeded women in stout shoes all set for the peaks and the elusive edelweiss resembled the hut tourers and Haute Route enthusiasts. (We of course represented the happy medium, in search of the maximum of sun and flowers with the minimum of effort.) I am bound to admit that these extremes were speedily whisked off by Swiss Railways and on the whole remained invisible until the return flight.

The familiar blue M.O.B. train snaked its way up from the Lake, windows flung wide to the mutual satisfaction of all the passengers for a change. On all sides haymaking was in full swing and we had our first glimpse of the meadow flowers, many of which would be treasured in our gardens at home. When we reached our hotel, we found these same flowers in every room—a foretaste of what we hoped to pick for ourselves. The night was full of the tinkling of cow-bells, their wearers now freed from their winter incarceration under the chalets. Not quite so romantic was the morning sound of young magpies screeching in the tree outside our windows!

We soon found at least one constant factor in the countryside—the Swiss Army on manoeuvres, surely a more comfortable occupation in summer. Soldiers and guns crowded the roads with mechanised transport instead of pack animals and popped up everywhere, even from behind a bush in the hotel garden.

The out of season traffic was sparse on the roads apart from the Army, but the pace was hotted up, tyres squealing round hairpin bends which are treated with extreme caution in the snow and ice. It was comforting to know that the way home would not be blocked by a sudden snow-fall or made hazardous by icy ruts. Although we did run into a thunderstorm which almost brought us to a standstill.

Gstaad in its summer clothes was full of colour, brilliant geraniums and begonias everywhere. The now quiet pavements were lined with umbrellas and awnings and the shops stacked with deckchairs and inflatable rubber ducks. The only visible hangover from winter was a deserted ski-rack and in a shop window three pairs of ski amongst the tennis rackets, looking as incongruous as the ski-stick hiding in the hotel stand behind the walking-sticks. Even up top the change-over was complete—children's swings and see-saws outside the Egli restaurant.

It was the first time I had walked over familiar ski slopes—before, in strange districts, I had always thought the country looked either too flat or too steep for good ski-ing. Here I had the same impression. It was ridiculously difficult to pin-point routes I had followed many times on ski. Rather like driving home in a dense fog, crawling at a comparative snail's pace can be very deceptive. After the freedom of the mountains in winter, walking could be rather frustrating—farmers had re-erected their fences and barbed wire to protect their hay and too often we were restricted to stony roads. The Rinderberg at Zweisimmen was an exception, providing attractive paths for walkers, but even there the practise slopes were criss-crossed by wire, the bottom field being dotted with hay stacks.

I couldn't help feeling thankful that I had ski-ed on the Videmanette at Rougemont and Pic Chaussy at Les Mosses before seeing them stripped of their protective covering of snow. However forbidding they may look to the skier, the bare bones are much more formidable. The Black run on the Videmanette was nothing but a cliff and the top traverse round the basin a mass of shaley flints, ready to slip any minute. A rickety set of steps had been put up to encourage the faint hearted at the start of the Pic Chaussy, but it still looked pretty sheer and peppered with giant boulders below the occasional remnant of tired snow. But the grey severity of the rocks was tempered by the vivid blue of Lac Liosin not far below. I had not realised that his lovely little lake even existed—an unusual sight in a strangely lakeless district. I did see a couple of large puddles in the Videmanette basin but I don't remember another sizeable lake among these mountains.

The real joy of the June mountains and meadows was of course the abundance of flowers. The contrast of the snow (or barren brown grass 1964 style) with the summer profusion of flowers was tremendous and there was the thrill of finding new varieties every day. Our vases soon became so stuffed that we had to force ourselves to be more selective. Our feet had to find their own way down the hillside, our eyes were much too busy searching for something fresh to add to our count, which eventually exceeded a hundred.

The unknown species were brought carefully home for identification and general inspection, often becoming the after dinner equivalent of that untracked gulley of perfect powder snow.

All too soon we were picking tight buds of alpenrose to bring home as a last link with the mountains, then trundling back down to Geneva, spotting our very last new flower from the train window.

I wonder what Switzerland is like in the Autumn?

LEARNER REPPING—WITH SOME OF IT'S COMPLICATIONS AND LAUGHS

BY JANE STERN

As I was unable to do the Learner Reps' Course at St. Anton, it was suggested that I could go and learn at Zweisimmen where an annual party of children were taken by Liz Fulton. Soss Roe very kindly offered me a lift out by Mini Pick-up.

The children arrived en masse (50 of them) the day after us—ages 9-16 and both sexes. I thought on first sight how sweet they all looked; needless to say I found out more about this later.

The first few days passed quite quickly and although there was a lack of snow, we did learn slalom setting, timekeeping and the ins and outs of Repping. (I say "we" as there were two of us, myself and another young man.) We practised the timekeeping on the children and they progressed so quickly that we were able to hold a successful 3rd class test a few days after their arrival.

The children had been divided into various groups to ski depending on their standard. One day I was told by Soss to take the B's on a run. It was quite an easy descent, but I had done it only once before and I got lost! I led my small and rather bewildered B's into the scrub. One boy fell from top to bottom. I saw him move and heaved a large and audible sigh when he got up. A wretched little girl behind me said in a very loud voice, "Ooh he might have broken his leg mightn't he?" I glared at her and feebly disagreed. We continued very slowly down and arrived at the bottom in time for lunch, all intact.

By degrees we got to know the children by their names but it was a bit tricky as they looked completely different when clad in hats and goggles etc. There was one little horror (untamed, we called her). She had long, blonde hair. She kept asking me to carry her skis. "I can't," she said, "My hair gets caught in the bindings!"

We had one or two excellent excursions with Soss as our guide. We divided into groups. Luckily in my group on this occasion, I had only four. If they succeeded in getting down the mountain without falling there was a prize to be won. My group brought up the rear. One female dropped her ski stick over a precipice; I gallantly did a "mountain goat" act and retrieved it for her. We all fell—me too—no prize!

We spent an hour each evening, sitting in session, as I called it, enrolling all the children into the Ski Club and enticing them with lovely badges and telling them that there were more to adorn themselves with if they passed their third class test! We got a lot of Members and sold a lot of badges.

There was one sweet little girl, but being the youngest and able to ski better than the eldest, she was rather unpopular and Liz seemed to spend a lot of her time rescuing the poor child from being locked in cupboards and being shut out on the balcony. I don't seem to have mentioned the boys at all—some of them were very nice. One befriended me and kept offering to carry my skis and even do up my bindings. Fabulous!

The Junior Kandahar was held at Zweisimmen, also the Legard Jumping Cup. I officiated in the Slalom by putting New Blue Daz round the Slalom poles to mark them and I also kept a gate. I went in for the jumping myself which I thought was very, very brave. I fell.

My fortnight at Zweisimmen really went much too fast and I was very sorry to leave. My thanks go to Soss for all she taught me. I hope to be out again next year.

HOME THOUGHTS FROM THE WINTER OLYMPICS

BY ROSEMARY SANDERSON

You should know by now, due to the extensive propaganda put out by the Austrian State Tourist Department and by me, that Igls is not only a pretty little resort above Innsbruck but was also the venue for the Men's Downhill and the Bob and Toboggan of the Winter Olympics 1964.

I was there repping and vaguely imagined it would be a huge clamour of well-known Personages, cheering Multitudes, Bronzed Idols, Austrian wine freezing-in-the-fountains and all that. When people told me it must have been so exciting I automatically agreed but now I look back on it I wonder why it was not more so. I had a short and stormy correspondence with a sports journalist on one of the responsible Sunday papers (not Peter Forbes) who had made a lot of wild accusations but among them one which I would now incline to uphold: that the atmosphere (the Austrian word "Stimmung" would be better) was only sometimes there. I do not think this was the fault of the Austrians who tried very hard. (Their police were possibly over-zealous but if our "Bobbists" will tie their "Bobbies" together and otherwise torment them they must expect retaliation.)

There were high-lights: The Opening Ceremony at the Berg Isel Ski Jump, the Gold for the British Two Man Bob, the ice-hockey, the figure skating. Sadly, the ski-ing was often an anti-climax. I have a shaming feeling that this may be because the British were outclassed and, of course one should be saying "the Game's the thing." But that cannot be the whole answer because the ice-hockey was thrilling and there was no British team entered. Perhaps it was because too many racers were outclassed, or because one saw so little of them, or even because the spectators were necessarily strung along the course and unlike those in the packed stadium, could only too easily forbear to cheer.

It could be just that to most of us, "Winter Olympics" means ski-ing and ski-ing cannot be boxed in, its wings cannot be clipped and so we cannot follow those flying silhouettes any more than a skimming swift from a London window. The ingredients were there; a lot of time and work went into making the result and if that result seemed too small perhaps I just asked for too big a helping.

Whimsical nonsense? Well then you tell me.

(Please note that I did not say the ski-ing was always an anti-climax and I am not decrying the effort of the British Ladies.)

VISITING NEW ZEALAND

BY ADDY RAEBURN

WHILE in the North Island of New Zealand in March, Digby and I hired a car and drove round this remarkable country. I had read about Rotarua with its geysers and boiling mud, but Wairakei at the head of the Geyser Valley was, to me, far more spectacular. Here they have harnessed the power of the geysers and there is a continual roar, and great billowing clouds of steam escaping from the safety valves in the pipe lines. Here too, the boiling mud is not only like antiphlogistine, but is in the most vivid colours of reds, oranges, yellows and almost white. There is a "new area" right up on top of the hill where great cauldrons of flame-coloured mud boiled away, breaking out in new places amongst the heather. Little jets of steam hissing up in the middle of the track and the plop! plop! of the mud boiling all around, made one wonder why James Bond had not made use of such a splendid natural setting for death and disposal.

We were recommended to stay at the Wairakki hotel because the swimming pool there was filled by naturally heated water. It was about 7 p.m. before we could tear ourselves away from the "sights" and think of a swim before dinner, by which time it was quite cool and swimming had little appeal but was the thing to do. Digby got in first without a sound, so I asked if it was warm. Yes. So in I dived to find the water rather hotter than I would have my bath. The water was of a very high mineral content so swimming was very hard work. We did not realise how enervating it was until back in the hotel where dinner became a very silent meal and we were barely able to stay awake for coffee.

Next day we motored up beside the Waikato river to Lake Taupo, and there at the far end towered the snow capped peak of the North Island's ski-ing centre, Mount Ruapatu. It looked so magnificent we decided we must go right up and have a close look. The road took us most of the way beside Lake Taupo which is some 25 miles long by 20 miles wide, and on through National Park land of rough, sweeping grassland. On our left two mountains rose steeply; one Ngaurhoe, snow capped despite being an active volcano with a permanent plume of smoke rising from its summit. The other, Mount Tongariro, slightly lower and with no snow. Both these mountains are skiable but I think I am right in saying there are no lifts.

Turning a bend in the road the Chateau came into view. This hotel has a superb view of the two aforesaid mountains and Lake Taupo in the distance,

while behind it rises Ruapelu. Above the Chateau the road degenerates into a rough stone track winding upwards amongst the most appalling, desolate volcanic rock imaginable, and one wonders how it is ever possible to ski. We had been told that practically every ski club in the North Island had a residential hut at Ruapelu and were just wondering where they could be and how you could build on such awful terrain when we turned a corner and there they all were—a dozen or more brightly painted two storied huts, perched with no apparent rhyme or reason, among the boulders.

We did not take the chair-lift to the summit for lack of time and clothing, but after seeing Ruapelu in the raw I will never accuse a New Zealander of exaggerating the amount of snow they have there, they need every flake! These three mountains are the only ones, so they catch all the dirty weather. I was sad not to get to the top to see for myself the great hot green water-filled crater where one can swim literally off one's skies. We had been shown a photograph of a friend's child diving in off the snow.

There is one other snow-clad mountain in the North Island, that is Mount Egmont on the North-West quite near the coast. This we saw only from a distance looking rather like Kilimanjaro, being a perfect cone for the last 800 feet to the summit. Under certain weather conditions this becomes a cone of perfectly smooth ice, and two quite well-known climbers were killed there when they slipped and slid for 800 feet or so, gathering burns and momentum as they went, and, unable to do anything to save themselves.

We eventually left New Zealand from Wellington, our original starting point, and very sad we were to say goodbye to such a hospitable and interesting country.

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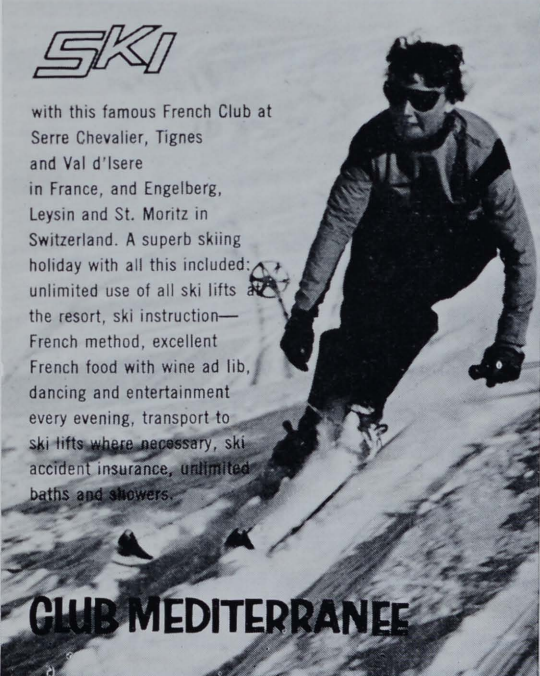
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