

LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN SEPTEMBER, 1970

SWITZERLAND

GSTAAD

BERNESE OBERLANI

Situation:

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Viper Trophy	For British Girls at	Saturday, Feb. 20th
Atalanta Cup Lillywhites Cup (under 15 years old)	For British Girls at school in Switzerland	Tuesday, Feb. 23rd
	Hotel Rernerhof - Tuesda	av. Feb. 23rd

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During the whole winter season there are many gala-evenings, fancy-dress balls, concerts and cabaret attractions in the different Hotels and Bars

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Information:

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- 2. SKI FOR FREE—Suggestions for Organisers of Private or Group Parties
- 3. SUNSHINE AND SKI-ING IN SPAIN
- NEW SKI HORIZONS FOR VENTURESOME SKIERS (Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Corsica, Lebanon, Turkey and USA)

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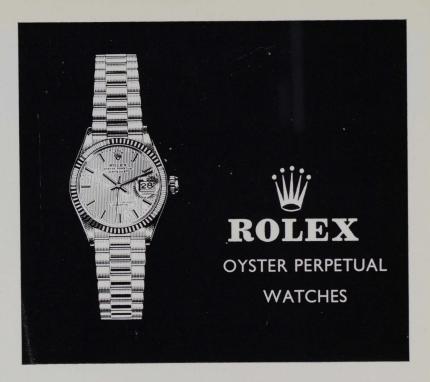
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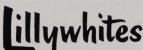


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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1970

CLUB NOTICES

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 118 Eaton Square, S.W.1, on Tuesday, 20th October, 1970, at 5.15 p.m. A cocktail party will follow at 6.30 at which members' guests will be very welcome. The usual raffle will be held, with the proceeds going to the Women's Alpine Racing Fund. Mrs. Raynsford has asked that, in view of the amount of business to be discussed (see Editor's Notes), members will make an extra effort to attend the A.G.M. this year and to bring guests to the cocktail party and make it really successful.

The new METAL BADGES are now available at a cost of 15/-(75p).

L.S.C. SWEATERS are still £5. Both will be on sale at the A.G.M.

LUNCHEON PARTY. Arrangements have been made for Lord Wakefield of Kendal to entertain members of the Ladies' Ski Club to a Buffet Luncheon in the Cholmondeley Room in the House of Lords on Thursday, 13th May, 1971, at 12.45 p.m. for 1 p.m., to meet the British Women's Ski Team.

Attendance will be by ticket only. Applications and further particulars from the Hon. Treasurer.

THE SKI KIT MARKET will be held at 118 Eaton Square, S.W.1, on Tuesday, 3rd November, 1970, at 6 p.m. (See Editor's Notes for details.)

EDITOR'S NOTES

LIZ FULTON, last year, referred to herself as a "Stop-gap" Editor but there is no doubt that she produced a superb *Bulletin* and we are all most grateful to her for so nobly stepping into the breach.

As most members will know by now, the Club suffered a very sad loss in January with the death of Lady Blane and our most sincere sympathy goes to Helen, Ethel and the rest of her family. Amy was an Honorary Member, a Past President and the Secretary of the Club to the day she died. We shall all miss her very much, and those of us who were privileged to know her personally will never forget her.

* * *

Many people thought that with Lady Blane's death the L.S.C. might fold up. The Officers of the Club held an urgent meeting and decided that it must be kept going at all costs as a memorial to Lady Blane who worked so hard for it. They decided that the Club needed a "New Look" and that everything should be done to make it better and more worthwhile than ever before. The next full Committee Meeting were in complete agreement and various proposals have been made and will be discussed and explained at the A.G.M.

THE LADY BLANE AWARD. This would be given for "outstanding feats in ski-ing", not necessarily racing, and would probably take the form of an engraved ashtray. They would be awarded at the discretion of the Committee and the numbers would be

very limited, not a set number each year but strictly on merit. They would be presented at a suitable gathering of the Club; in

1971 this would be the luncheon at the House of Lords.

LUNCHEON PARTY. Lord Wakefield has very kindly offered to entertain members at the House of Lords in May (see Club Notices). If this party is a success, the Committee will consider holding an annual Club Luncheon as it is felt that members, especially those living in the country, would find it more convenient to attend a daytime function. It would also be something a little different to the parties organised by the other clubs to which so many of us belong. It would not be instead of the cocktail party, but would be held in the spring while ski-ing is still fresh in our minds.

* *

NEW RULES. The Committee feel that as the rules at present in use were drawn up in 1923 they are rather outdated. For example, the standard required for membership is Q2, a test of which most of our younger members have never even heard. The proposed amendments are circulated with the Agenda for the A.G.M.

TEAM MANAGER. In order that the Club should be kept in close touch with the Ladies' National Team, the Committee propose that the Team Manager should automatically be a member of the Committee. This in turn would mean that the Committee would have a better knowledge of the team's needs and the ways in which our support can best be directed.

* * *

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. We would be very grateful if members who change their address, marry or cancel their subscription would please let us know. Each year some members "disappear" and a great deal of time and effort is spent trying to trace them through friends, banks, etc. Please help us by remembering to send us a postcard.

* * *

SKI KIT MARKET. This is organised, unknown to a lot of people. by the L.S.C. and this year it is being run by your Editor. This is, therefore, a personal appeal to all members to support it as much as possible. I feel that a lot of people do not realise what really good things can be bought at the Market. Some of the children's clothes and boots are almost new and some shops send us slightly soiled clothes which we sell at about half-price. There is also a section for skis and sticks which is run on a commission basis: the organisation take 10% of the selling price. This means that the skis are not a lot of old planks dug up out of the attic but some very good pairs, including some which are discarded by racers but still an excellent buy for the normal skier. If you have anything which you would like to donate or sell on commission (the latter must be over the value of £10) please contact Miss Elizabeth White at the N.S.F.G.B., 118 Eaton Square, S.W.1 (Tel. 01-235 8228), before noon on the day of the sale. For commission sales, don't forget to give your name, address and the price you want for the goods. Please come — 6 p.m., Tuesday, 3rd November, 1970. Last year we raised enough money to buy all the Women's Team anoraks and overtrousers - this year we want to do even better, and the girls need our support more than ever.

* * *

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1971. This will be the fiftieth anniversary of the British Championships and also of the first ever Downhill competition which was run on the Lauberhorn in 1921. They will take place in Davos between January 3rd and January 9th, and will include the National Championships and the Federation Championships. The Federation Championship awards, including the two L.S.C. Challenge Cups for Slalom and Giant Slalom, will be awarded to the first non-National team racer in each event. The Championships are being sponsored for the

first time this year by Inghams, and as all the National teams and many ex-racers will be there it should be a really good meeting and well worth watching or competing, whichever you prefer.

I would like to thank everyone who has so kindly contributed to the *Bulletin* this year, and also our excellent printers, Titus Wilson, who have been so helpful to your very inexperienced Editor. If any members have any criticisms or new ideas for the *Bulletin* I should be very pleased to hear from them, and, of course, articles or letters are always very welcome. I am sure there are many members who do fascinating things that we never hear about. Please do let us know.

We very much appreciate receiving the Journals of the other Clubs and our grateful thanks go to those who have kindly sent them.

MEMBERS' NEWS

THREE NEW MEMBERS have joined the Club this year and we would like to welcome Virginia Sturge, Janet Lawson and Winifred Thacker, and also Rachel Hartley, with apologies for leaving her out last year.

Our best wishes go to the five members who have married this year:

DI TOMKINSON to David Lewthwaite, BELINDA CORYTON to Christopher Burne, MOLLY INGRAM to Graham Harvey-Evers, MARION SPENCE to Freddie Cummings, MARY KERR to Charles de Westenholtz,

and also to Karin Winkler who is to marry Luciano Chiussi in September.

We have heard of seven babies born to members this year. Congratulations to:

SALLY ZWERGER (née Ireland), GINNIE EVANS (née Tomkinson), TESSA BROUSSE (née Chance),

who have had daughters, and

SUE MONCRIEFF (née Martin), MOLLY HARVEY-EVERS (née Ingram), Jo Tomkinson, Tessa Berry (née Dredge),

who have had sons.

HELEN TOMKINSON has stepped into her mother's shoes to run the Y.M.C.A. Fair this year. I am sure members will give her all the support they can.

JOAN STURGES, who injured her achilles tendon last season, is going to spend most of the winter with her husband touring around South Africa but she hopes to be fit enough to ski in Les Diableret on her return.

JOAN RAYNSFORD put a lot of us to shame by racing in the "Inferno" last season. For the uninitiated, this is a race from the top above Mürren all the way down to Lauterbrunnen and the course goes over every sort of terrain: to finish at all is no mean achievement. Congratulations, Joan.

ENID FERNANDES, who is always game for something out of the ordinary, has been climbing mountains in Africa.

VISCOUNTESS EMLYN is now Countess Cawder, and Sonia Cochran-Patrick is now Madam Hunter of Hunterton.

Ros Hepworth has been awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. Many congratulations Ros.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WE ARE ALL GOING to feel the immense loss of Amy Blane, our President from 1960-63, and our Hon. Secretary over the years, and I would like to pay my warm tribute to her. To me, Amy was the Ladies' Ski Club, and she is irreplaceable in the steadfast work she put into the Club during the many years she held Office.

Amy's lively personality, her kindness and intense interest in everything concerned with ski-ing set the pattern for the activities of our Club and provided the friendly atmosphere in which we operated. We shall miss the warm welcome to the Committee Meetings when we gathered to discuss our Club's affairs and those of the ski-ing world at Amy's flat in Cranmer Court, and her generous hospitality to us. Her money-raising efforts for ski-racing were legendary and ski-ing will be the poorer in every sense of the word.

It has been a great privilege to have known Amy and to have worked with her. I believe the best way in which we can perpetuate her memory is to carry on and increase the Ladies' Ski Club activities to promote ski-ing and good fellowship among British women skiers and to help the British Ladies' racing teams, whose interest she had so much at heart.

It is difficult to refer to a Report which was given to a meeting

which took place on the 21st October last year because events move on with some speed. It should, however, be done because

tradition demands this and also for the record.

I had to report to the Annual General Meeting, 1969, that during the past summer there had been concern over the financial affairs of the National Ski Federation of Great Britain, because member clubs, of which we were one, had a financial liability for the National Ski Federation. I was glad to be in a position to report that that situation had been retrieved and there was no longer need for anxiety.

There was a general realisation that the present Constitution of the National Ski Federation was out of date and, accordingly, a Working Party had been set up to examine the future of British ski-ing. An Interim Report on the proposed future constitution had been circulated for member clubs to consider, and our own Committee had considered this. We supported the view that there should be no individual membership of the Federation, apart from Life Membership which already existed, and that there should be more representation of the Racing Clubs on the Federation Council.

I gave an explanation about the general position of the National Ski Federation and its relationships with its member ski clubs and drew attention to various resolutions which were proposed at the National Ski Federation's Annual General Meeting which was held in the previous week. I have always held a strong belief that in the rapidly changing and developing ski-ing world with the immense financial demands of international racing, there is absolute necessity for a strongly supported National Ski Federation looking after the needs of its member clubs. There is also a real necessity for a strong Ski Club of Great Britain and strength in all the clubs so that they can play their full part in the exciting future of the sport of ski-ing.

As I write this report, the draft proposed new Constitution of the National Ski Federation of Great Britain has been circulated and I hope that we shall have a full discussion of it at our Annual

General Meeting on the 20th October next.

The season's racing was fully reported in various excellent articles in the *Bulletin* and I would not wish to take up precious space in repetition. I would, however, like to congratulate the 'A' Team on their proud achievements, which have had an immensely stimulating influence on British ski-racing. I would also like to congratulate the 'B' Team on their successes.

With the 1972 Olympics looming, money for racing is always a problem and I would like to conclude my report by asking if you would be kind enough to send any donation you can manage to

The Women's Racing Fund, c/o The National Ski Federation of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, S.W.1.

It will be spent to good purpose on our Ladies' Racing Fund.

WE HAVE AGAIN had a very successful year financially. Despite the inevitable increase in certain costs we have, all but a few pounds, broken even and at the end of the year (July 31st) there was enough credit balance in the current account to allow transferring £50 to deposit, making a total of £100 in the deposit account.

The *Bulletin* cost more to produce than the previous year, but as Liz Fulton so nobly stepped into the breach and produced such an excellent number we felt the increase was well justified. The other costly item this year was the outlay on new metal badges

but this should not recur for some time now.

On the credit side, the raffle at the A.G.M. was a great success and accounted for £18. 11s. od., and we also received £8. 5s. od. in donations. As a result we were able to give £25. 17s. 6d. to the Federation which was used to buy gloves for the girls in the Olympic Training Team.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously last year; and also our thanks to Eric Lewns for auditing the

accounts.

AMY BLANE

It is now over eight months since Amy died, but to us all the sense of loss is still acute and ever present. She held such a large and important place in the hearts of all who knew her. So vitally interested in everything and everybody, always ready to listen and to help—she lived and enjoyed every moment of life. And her life was one of great devotion. After the loss of her husband, Commander Sir Charles Blane, at Jutland, she worked in France with the Y.M.C.A. and continued to do so in the Second World War as Hon. Secretary and later President of the London Women's Auxiliary Y.M.C.A., at the same time undertaking the duties of Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Helena-Victoria and eventually to Princess Marie-Louise. She worked unceasingly and with complete devotion. To us all she was a tower of strength and help. At the evacuation of Dunkirk I had the honour of being with her at Dover, running a canteen in the station, she was superb in her courage and efficiency.

Between the wars and after, Amy became devoted to ski-ing. This was natural as her daughter Helen was a great skier, captain of the British Team in 1939 and now British delegate to the F.I.S. Amy ran the S.C.G.B. in Villars for many, many years and made everyone happy with her friendliness and charm. Those were the days, and how we all miss them! Even when she retired from active ski-ing she still interested herself in it and worked as Hon.

Secretary to the L.S.C., a club of which she was particularly fond, and also for the Villars Visitors Club. All of us who knew her will miss her for ever, and quite surely we will never again know anyone like her, with her charm, her kindliness and her great capacity for friendship.

K.G.H.-W.

ZE PROFESSEUR DU SKI

By Virginia Cox

WE DROVE OUT TO WENGEN in "Lily", Winkhole's rattletrap car. She, or "it", belched black smoke and flames most of the way to Dover, and just out of London started to exhude a smell of decaying corpse ... "'Ere, you'll never get acrawss Europe with that," said the petrol pump attendant. Was he referring to "Lily" or Mrs. Winkler, I asked myself? We had wedged Mrs. Winkler, shaking in fear, firmly in the back of "Lily", where she busily shrouded herself in the cloying smoke of many ciggies and surveyed the huge breakers and gathering storm with the look of one doomed to yet another fate worse than death.

Like rats and a sinking ship, "Lily" and occupants fled the clammy British winter. Plodding on, we left the battlefields of the Normandy Plain, St. Dizier, etc., until finally, Geneva rose out of the lake with Real Alps (so different from the Cairngorms), reflected in its depths ... We pressed on to Interlaken, up the road over-shadowed by the sombre heights of the Lauterbrunnen Valley, the road, Ros and the D.H.O. must know by heart, until we saw Wengen in brilliant sunshine (one of the few sunny days of the season). The air itself was better than eight doses of Bio-Strath; within a week the acne-covered skin that accompanies pallor and hurriedly guzzled fry-ups, and all other traces of a summer in London, had disappeared.

Wink and I both worked for the Wengen ski-school and were under the command of Oscar and Mark. Oscar the "chef", whitehaired, omnipotent and Swiss-German, was faced with the traumas of a jealous band of multi-racial instructors. Against his own will and inclination, he was the personnel manager/public relations officer, but, alas, no amount of tact could have smoothed over such a cosmopolitan and hardened band as we. At the slightest difference of opinion, tears, fist hammering and loud shouting matches occurred while Oscar raised his hands to the sky in

despair.

In the mornings we generally taught the children, this would have been very rewarding if they hadn't been sodden and wailing before they had even been dragged to the nursery slopes. All day, every day for two months it snowed, rained or blew. Instead of happy smiles lined up to greet you in the Wengen sunshine, one would see rows and rows of faces contorted in various stages of misery. As icicles formed on little noses or chins, their wails and shrieks at least equalled the mass slaughters of Auchwitz or Treblinka.

These morning lessons always reminded me of a zoo. The children were inside a ring surrounded by parents and I was the lion tamer. I would tell a child one thing, a parent trying to help would tell him another. Unable to keep up with the others a child, with a glance around to see his parents were there for moral support (children are very sly), would start shrieking and wailing until he turned purple in the face. Discipline brought murderous glances from the sidelines, explanations of any length brought cries of "I wanna go toilet" (in four languages).

Afternoons were always better, we were given private lessons by Oscar, which meant we used the ski-lifts and trains. "Zis parallel turn," says an enormous Frenchman, "I will nevaire learn ... ça m'est égale — but after ze lecon, you come and 'ave a leetle aperitif wiz me . . . , Non?" "But Virginia, WHY do my skis turn?" says a nice but earnest American as the light fades and the moon shines over the piste. "Mummy! Why did Virginia say I mustn't ski like you?"

As Easter approached, it all became de Trop, I fled, this time the clammy Swiss winter. Three exhaust pipes, one missed ferry and a night spent in a suspect "maison" in Le Havre later, I arrived in Scotland. The sun was shining, a new fall of snow covered the hillside, and everyone spoke ENGLISH (Parliamo Glasgow, Fife and Blairgowrie).

THE BRITISH JUNIOR GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 9th and 10th

By Helen Tomkinson

THE JUNIOR GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS were this year in Aviemore, Scotland, having previously been held here in 1967. This year was the first time the Championships had been restricted to girls under 16 as opposed to under 18, and we were all pleased with the good entry of 45.

The days preceding the Championships the weather had been appalling, but in Scotland there is always hope that the weather might change overnight. This would be a great help to all as the snow conditions were perfect, with more snow in the Cairngorms than for the last 30 years, and not a stone in sight.

The Bairns & Lassies raced on the Wednesday in moderate conditions, but they produced a good race. Their course was just a Slalom, and two lassies, Lucinda Iliffe (Kandahar) and J. Carter (D.H.O.) came second and third respectively. This bodes well for

the future Ladies' Team!

The first day of the Girls' Championships proper was appalling weatherwise, with visibility down to a few yards, and driving snow. Luckily the Slalom had been scheduled for that day, as a Giant Slalom would have been impossible to run. I would like to congratulate the competitors on their performances in this race, as it was not at all pleasant out on the hill.

Valentina lliffe (Kandahar) who is just 14 years old and had previously competed in the World Championships was the winner in both runs and showed herself to be in a class of her own. Patsy Field of the S.S.C./K. learnt to ski on the plastic slope at Hillend, Edinburgh, and has had very little ski-ing on real snow. This was an excellent performance by Patsy and it was most interesting to see what a good basic training on a large plastic slope could do. All our congratulations, Patsy.

The Giant Slalom next day was held in good conditions, with the weather at last improving. It was a nice flowing course and really satisfying to see so many really young girls taking part.

This event was again won by Valentina Iliffe, with Helen Carmichael, G.S.C./D.H.O., second and Patsy Field third, which

was the same order they finished in the Combined.

I would very much like to congratulate the Scottish organisers on the excellent organisation of the Championships, and for their extremely efficient way of getting results out with the aid of a computer, which really showed how quickly it was possible to get these results out.

I would also like to congratulate them on the atmosphere they produced for the Championships, which was most happy and

pleasant.

Results

SLALOM. 1. Valentina Iliffe 35.2, 34.1, 69.3; 2. Patsy Field 36.0, 37.2, 73.2; 3. Helen Carmichael 37.4, 37.3, 74.7.

GIANT SLALOM. 1. Valentina lliffe 50.4; 2. Helen Carmichael 53.3; 3. Patsy Field 55.8.

COMBINED. 1. Valentina Iliffe; 2. Helen Carmichael; 3. Patsy Field.

UNDER 14. This prize was won in all three events by Valentina Iliffe.

By Pauline Sitwell-Stebbing

A CHARMING LETTER that came to me twenty years ago and is one of the joys of Switzerland.

I went to the store and got your skis, both pears. And I kan tell yuo that your friend brought the laquer, they are finished and you may run sunday everthing is in order.

At present timing we have verry few peopel but sking still

good.

Plis excuis mistakes.

We are sincere

... Bless them so they are.

I only hope my own spelling mistakes in three languages give as much charm and pleasure, after all in Elizabeth I's day everyone invented their own.

THE LOWLANDERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1970

By Joan Raynsford

THE TWENTY-THIRD Lowlander Championships took place from the 5th-11th January, 1970, and nowhere does Alpine ski-racing get so much encouragement as in Val d'Isère. We all, therefore, felt the deepest sympathy with our friends there at the time of the terrible avalanche disaster which overtook the village in February.

In the Giant Slalom in which there were 28 competitors, Danielle Pacco of Belgium won a splendid victory, with Karin van Elderen of Holland nearly four seconds behind and Isobel Mabey

third only half a second behind her.

The non-stop was completed on the Friday without incident. The next day, however, there was a very severe drop in temperature, following a thaw which left the course in a very icy condition, and the authorities pronounced it too dangerous for racing. A quick switch allowed us to hold the Slalom instead and this took place some three hours later, with 22 competitors.

In this race the fate of the British girls was virtually sealed when two out of our team of three fell in the first run. Two good runs by Isobel Mabey, however, brought her into second place for the Individual Championship. No-one could begin to match the performance of Danielle Pacco of Belgium who was to go on to win all the Ladies' Races which was a great personal triumph and a very remarkable achievement.

On Sunday we again all assembled at La Daille for a second attempt to run the Downhill. Conditions were very much the same as on the previous day, but opinions were divided about whether the course was or was not safe. The final decision had to be made by the president of the Jury who decided against holding the race, no doubt on the advice of the Chef d'Epreuves who was responsible for the preparation of the course and was adamant that it was too difficult for the less experienced racers, who made up more than half the total. The British teams were, naturally, disappointed with the decision.

It was agreed to hold another Giant Slalom instead, to count in place of the Downhill. Once again Danielle Pacco was seconds ahead of any others in a field of 22 racers, but the British girls, determined to make up for their Slalom results, took 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. Unfortunately, this was not enough to give them

more than 3rd place in the Combined results.

Again, very consistent ski-ing by Isobel Mabey put her second in the Individual Combined and gave her a result with which she

had every reason to be well satisfied.

As usual, the Val d'Isère race organisation excelled and shouldered most of the burden of running the Lowlanders Championship. We were all very glad to welcome Mr. Harold Fish of the *Daily Telegraph* who came to present the very coveted Daily Telegraph silver salvers which go to each member of the winning teams.

TREK TO EVEREST

By Elizabeth Greenacre

EVER SINCE THE 1953 Everest Expedition I have had a passionate longing to go to the Himalayas, never really dreaming that one day I would be lucky enough to actually get to Base Camp. However, the start of this dream came true two years ago at a cocktail party given by Maria Goldberger. There I met Roddie Warren Pearl and Kenneth King who announced that they were off on a Cooks organised Trek to Everest the following October and was I coming. I needed no more urging, and despite the fact I was five months pregnant I rang Cooks the next morning and "booked-in".

Hence on the 26th October last year, after months of planning both by Cooks and by the three of us (and I hastily add having successfully had the baby), we all assembled at London Airport prior to departure for Kathmandu. "All", in fact, consisted of the fifty people mad enough to attempt this; Eric Shipton and Bill Murray the two leaders (we divided into two groups of 25 for

the trek), Mr. Grant of Cooks who did such sterling work in organising it all, and, lastly, various long-suffering relatives who came to see us off. The luggage consisted of a mountain of kitbags and rucksacks.

We had one day at leisure in Kathmandu and the following morning were awakened at 5 a.m. for departure by jeep to Dologat, the starting point, 35 miles east of Kathmandu. The drive was most spectacular in places and I prayed the brakes would hold. Having dropped down to 2,000 ft. we were faced with a long climb of 4,500 ft. straight up from the river, under a burning hot sun, to our first camp-site. We were extremely glad of light kletterschuhe instead of heavy boots, and shorts and a sun-hat,

three "musts" for anyone contemplating this trek.

The pattern of the following days never varied. We would be up at dawn and after breakfast of porridge and Nescafé we started the first part of the day's march. Lunch was taken around 10 a.m., usually by a river, and this break provided a very pleasant time for bathing and writing up one's diary or resting. The afternoon was always very, very hot and we usually had three hours or so to walk until we got to camp, generally by about 3 o'clock. It got dark very early so the sherpas had to have supper cooked by 5.30 p.m. after which we stretched the evening out for as long as possible before facing the long Himalayan night — this meant until about 7 o'clock if you were lucky! The seven sherpas and two sherpani were in charge of tents and cooking, and the loads were carried by porters, some sixty of them at the start. We walked each day through an interesting variety of landscape and vegetation, sometimes through valleys flanked by beautifully terraced rice fields, then up through steamy, jungly forest with unusual flowers and foliage, and on the higher hills through miles of rhododendrons. We were all the time crossing the subsiduary ridges and rivers, so we would often climb 2,500 ft.-3,000 ft. in the morning only to lose all the height again in the afternoon. The views from the tops of these ridges and passes were always very beautiful. In front the great snow giants were getting ever nearer, whilst behind us we could often see as much as the previous two days' march. At first, the river crossings were somewhat terrifying, but by the end we got positively blasé about single or double planks and the shaky chain suspension bridges.

On the tenth day out we were rewarded by our first glimpse of Everest, still many miles away, a wonderful and inspiring moment. From here on for the next four days we followed the big Dud Khosi river gradually turning due north until we left the valley floor to climb steeply to Namche Bazaar (11,300 ft.). I think we were all a little disappointed on seeing the village about which one had heard so much, but the lack of beauty was more than made up for by the welcome from the locals, and in particular by the hospitality shown to us by Ila Tsering, our Sirdar (head Sherpa). He invited us all into his house to meet many of his relations who plied us with chang and rakshi. As it is

very impolite to refuse, the group's morale, which by this time was already very high, got rapidly higher! That night we camped on a shelf just above the village, it was very cold and a sudden snowstorm in the small hours collapsed three of the tents. From here on we found our duvets and over-trousers invaluable to wear in the early mornings and evenings, and higher up we even slept in them inside the sleeping-bag. Here, too, we changed from our kletterschuhe into a heavier walking or climbing boot.

The next day we walked on to Thyangboche, unfortunately in thick cloud, but we were lucky it did not last and during our rest day at this beautiful place we much enjoyed viewing the famous monastery and meeting the Head Llama, and catching up on a few domestic chores. The big, grassy plateau is surrounded on three sides by mountains of about 20,000-21,000 ft., but to the front was the great Nuptse Lhotse Wall, at no point lower from 25,000 ft. with the triangular summit of Everest visible behind. Over to the right front rose the magnificent spire of Ama Dablam (22,494 ft.).

At 12,700 ft. Thyangboche is something of a "Great Divide" both physically and psychologically, but we were all surviving the height pretty well and by the time we arrived at Gorak Shep the highest camp at 17,060 ft., three days later, only one man had dropped out. (He returned to Namche and waited for us there.) The camp site here is by a small lake on the north side of the Khumbu Glacier. Way up ahead four impressive peaks formed a horse-shoe at the head of this glacier, Pumori, Lingtren, Khumbutse and Changtse, whilst opposite, Nuptse, with its fantastic face of ice and snow, rose 8,000 ft. above us rarely off the vertical.

We had to wait until afternoon for what we had all walked so far and for eighteen days to see. We scrambled up a steep slope behind the camp called Kala Pattar, and at the top, at a height of about 18,500 ft., turned round and there was Everest in all its magnificent glory. What an unbelievable picture across the glacier! There was the Ice-Fall, the South Col with Lhotse just visible beyond (the western cum hidden by the left-hand ridge of Nuptse) the north-west ridge, so famous from the earlier expeditions, and the whole west face with the Yellow Bands clearly visible running across at a height of about 27,000 ft. Eric, who had fascinated us all along with his stories and reminiscences of Everest now came into his own, pointing out these historic land-marks and giving us the most interesting geography lesson in the world.

The walk over the glacier to Base Camp the following day was no less interesting or exciting and nearly all the party reached this point, marked by a cairn at the base of the Ice-Fall.

We returned to Namche via a Sherpa village called Kunde where Sir Edmund Hillary has built one of his hospitals, meeting



the charming New Zealand doctor and his wife who are currently staffing it. Two days later, the twenty-fourth day, we arrived at Lukla a terrifying air-strip up in the hills on which yak graze happily, and from here we were flown out in a variety of small aircraft back to Kathmandu.

As the *Sunday Times* so kindly said in an article last April, "... now middle-aged ladies venture forth from Kathmandu to Everest..." I suppose I could well describe myself as one of these, but all I can say is that it is the most worthwhile and rewarding "venture" one could possibly choose to do.

GSTAAD SCHOOLGIRLS' RACES, 1970

(Organized by the Kandahar)

By LIZ FULTON

PRACTICALLY ALL February skiers had a raw deal this year and without any doubt the Atalanta Cup day had the worst conditions we have had to contend with during the twelve years' existence of these races. The day of the Novices and the Second-Year Skiers Cup was not too bad; at all events the starter and the finisher could see each other most of the time. But not so for the Atalanta and Lillywhites Cups (which fortunately were held on the same course for the first time), and even Soss had misgivings when she and half the gates were blown over. However, I p.m. was the appointed hour and sure enough the tempest abated round about midday, the lifts started, and up came all the various schools and gatekeepers. Ros Hepworth, true to her usual form, turned up somehow from somewhere, and others like Kay Murray, Nancy Smith and Elspeth MacRobert started earlier and walked most of the way up the mountain in case the lifts had failed to start.

During the race, thick cloud came down at intervals and gusts of wind blew frequently. But the racers negotiated the difficult conditions remarkably well, and the general standard of ski-ing was infinitely higher than it was a few years ago. Quite a number of girls joined the S.C.G.B., and in many cases their times in the race qualified them for the Slalom section of their second-class test.

Hubert Sturges took on the worst job of the lot, picking up the poles after the race and getting them down the mountain. Joan, who was recovering from an achilles tendon disaster, very kindly came and gave away the prizes: we were delighted to see them both.

ATALANTA CUP. 1. Maria Abercromby (Montesano); 2. Ann Kerigan (Clos des Abeilles); 3. Cassandra Philpot (St. Georges).

LILLYWHITES CUP. 1. Roseanne Hall (Chatelard); 2. Theresa Wallis (Chatelard); 3. Jane Allison (Tah Dorf).

NOVICES' CUP. 1. Caroline Turner (Videmanette); 2. Lynette Dobbin (Vieux Chalet); 3. Angela Kornover (Montesano).

A SHORT BUT INTERESTING AFTERNOON'S SKI-ING

By MADELEINE MARX

FROM THE TRAIN, the way from Wengen to Lauterbrunnen looks like a series of sheer rock precipices, but there is a recognized route for skiers and I had always wanted to do this run. Normally there is too little snow so low down, but this season was exceptional in many ways, and on the day in question the only lift running was the chair from Inner Wengen to the top of the slalom slope at Allmend.

Having spent the morning on this slope and having René, the D.H.O. trainer, for the afternoon, one of us suggested ski-ing to Lauterbrunnen.

"It is rather a hairy run," said René, looking at his mainly middle-aged pupils, but no-one was deterrred. The first few fields were not too steep although the snow was somewhat heavy, and René again asked if anyone preferred to walk back up the path. He was obviously worried about the elderly Colonel with a great deal more courage than technique, but he opted to continue.

Our next encounter was with a very smelly refuse tip, so we turned back, climbed over a fence and continued safely, if erratically until we reached the zig-zag path, which had unfortunately been used as a luge run, causing a switch-back effect. At one point one of the party, failing to take a sharp bend, floated gracefully into the woods shouting "good-bye everyone". He was safely retrieved, but by this time the Colonel, encouraged by René, decided to walk down the rest of the path — a prudent decision, as we all eventually arrived at the same time.

The last bit of path before the lower fields was the trickiest, and I disgraced myself by running into René's wife on a particularly bumpy patch with unnegotiable ruts. Fortunately neither of us were hurt, and I think René was relieved to have all of us safely at the bottom.

The highest honours should go to Lady Arthur, who had arrived from England that morning and came down under considerably more control than most of us.

Our reward was to find ourselves on the first train to go up as far as Wengernalp after the previous day's storms.

THE WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NORDIC EVENTS, 1970

at Vysoke Tatry, Czechoslovakia

By Francis Lutkin

It is difficult, now that all is over, to sit down and write about all that happened; there is so much to say, and it was all so

impressive.

To take the place first, the High Tatras. The town of the Championships, Strbske Pleso, was really only a village. The whole place consisted of seven hotels, a post-office, one shop, a railway station, a sanatorium and no other permanent buildings. It is amazing to think that on the days of the biggest events, such as the jumping, there were 135,000 spectators in such a small place. It was always so crowded in the daytime that I took 45 minutes to walk from my hotel to the stadium to train, 500 yards away! But, luckily, I soon found this out and started to use my car. We, my trainer, Ingrid Wigernes and I, had a car, a driver and a guide all to ourselves. Ingrid was the Norwegian Women's trainer for the Grenoble Games, and has herself a Silver Medal from the World Championships in Oslo, 1966. We lived in the same hotel as the Norwegians and they were very helpful to us.

The people were very kind to the British Delegation. Everywhere we went, with the British flag on our arms, we heard people shouting "Britannie" "Britannie" and smiling at us. One could, at once, see who was a competitor, when we were in the streets, because of the clothes. All delegations had lovely clothes, while the Czechoslovakian people were dressed in old, dark clothes, poor people. I never saw anyone in a colourful outfit. Everyone seemed

to wear old, long coats from the last world war.

Our clothes were much admired. Many people told us that our Parade uniforms, pale blue ski-pants, slightly bell-bottomed, over white fur boots, air-force blue greatcoats and white fur hats, were

the most elegant there.

The day of the Opening Ceremony, I think, was the event I will remember longest, it really made an impression on me. It was such a thrill and a great honour to walk into the stadium, carrying the Union Jack, where over 100,000 people watched, knowing I was the only representative for 60 million people. I never thought people would notice our small troup, but, in the newspapers there, they wrote that "The British Delegation got the biggest applause". As soon as we walked into the stadium the crowds started shouting "Britannie" "Britannie". We were so surprised, and can't understand it ourselves. The opening ceremony was held on the outrun of the two jumping hills, with the sharp peaks of the High Tatras in the background, and was therefore very impressive and colourful with the flags and uniforms of the competing nations and the national costumes of the Czechoslovakian folk-dancers.



FRANCIS LUTKIN in training.

My races, Women's 5 km. and 10 km. events, took place on Monday, 16th February, and Wednesday, 18th February. When I came to the High Tatras and first trained there, I liked the tracks and managed the thin air well so everything was perfect, but four days before my first race I ran in a training race against the Norwegians and hurt my ankle. I could hardly walk and had to have a painkilling injection in my leg before both races to enable me to compete at all. I was not too nervous before my start the first day. I knew I had help throughout the track, with all the five Norwegian trainers and Ingrid to help me with timing. I started as hard as possible, but my leg stiffened after 500 yards, as the doctor had warned me it would, so I have the feeling I did not do my best that day. I just could not go any faster, but was not too tired when I finished. Before the race, I had said, "I hope I beat the Danish competitor", but — oh, no! — I was beaten by 30 secs. We have raced against each other three other times and I have won all three times. Because of this, I wanted revenge on the 10 km., but in the end Kirsten Caulsen, the Danish woman, did not start. I have never raced such a hard race in my life. It was snowing hard and 14° F. I remember nothing from 6 km. to the end, and when I came in I was sick the whole afternoon and night. They say the course was the hardest ever in any World Championship or Olympics. All the younger competitors did not start, except me, so I was far younger than anyone else. I was number 48 in the 5 km. and 44 in the 10 km.

Nearly everything was won by the Russians in these Championships. Of course, this was not very popular, after the recent events in Czechoslovakia. People did not hide their disappointment. When the Russians won the relay, no-one cheered them in, only the loudspeaker, and when Napalkov jumped and won, the crowd boo-ed, and also at all the prize-givings. This was a great pity for the competitors themselves as they were good sportsmen and were the best, but it was not meant personally, so I went and congratulated them. The Championships consisted of 10 events, and, of these, Russia won 7 Gold Medals, Sweden 1, Finland 1 and Czechoslovakia 1. Norway, who won nearly everything in 1966 and 1968, did not win one Gold Medal, but one Silver and two

Bronze

But the "British Team" were still very popular. Before the races there was a five-minute programme of Ingrid and myself on the Czechoslovakian television. We were also interviewed by the radio and lots of newspapers. Everyone seemed pleased that Great Britain was represented in Cross-Country events.

At the farewell party I was awarded the title of "Miss Competitor, World Championships, 1970" and given a medal by the Press. So I did not leave the Championships empty-handed! I had a medal, and I had vivid and inspiring memories of good sportsmen and women, and many friends, from Czechoslovakia, Japan, Scandinavia, Italy, and all over the world ... and a strong determination to do better at our next meeting at Holmenkollen!

By PHILIPPA HUSSEY

MURREN, IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND, was celebrating its 60th ski-ing season last winter, and the Kandahar Ski Club, who have their Alpine headquarters in the village, decided to celebrate, too, by holding a special meeting for its members there in January.

It turned out to be a great gathering of old friends who followed indefatigably a tremendous programme of events. The time-table for each day reads like a cross between *Jennifer's Diary* and a White City Athletics Meeting: Club Run in the morning; meet for drinks at a different bar each midday; lunch in the various hotels; race in the afternoon; tea at the Fontana followed, perhaps by Raclette; more drinks at another bar; dinner, then Bridge, bowling or a lecture. No wonder that the meeting finally broke up with the Inferno.

There were many highlights. An Over 60's race drew many competitors from days before shamateurism became an issue. The conditions — sheet-ice and nil visibility — showed that their training over unseen and unprepared race-tracks stood them in good stead and Jimmy Riddell fought his way to a splendid win. The wedding of Chloe Varley to Beat Hodler, in the village with the reception above the clouds in the Schilthorn Restaurant, left an unforgettable picture in many minds.

As Founder, Sir Arnold managed, with Lady Lunn, to attend practically every event. Kay Johnstone and Toni Chamier, who were the Reps. at that time succeeded in organising events, planning ahead, running races and still presiding over tea at Chalet

Fontana every day.

THE FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1970

By Joan Raynsford

I was delighted to be present at these Championships which were held, for the second consecutive year, in Val d'Isere, France, during the first week in January. We were fortunate in having enough snow, although violent fluctuations in temperature and high winds left the piste in poor condition for racing.

There were six starters in the Downhill set on the O.K. course, designed by the former World Champion — Jean-Claude Killy; it was a similar course to the men's except for a lower start. An abnormally mild day made the going soft and slow. Although the visability was good, a complete absence of sunshine made it almost impossible to read some tricky bumps because there were no shadows to show up the contours. It was won by Virginia Sturge in splendid form in a time of 1.06.84, closely followed by Isobel Mabey in 1.07.05; Stella Shields more than eight seconds behind was third.

Both Slalom courses were held on well prepared runs on the lower slopes of the Solaise with a drop of 394 feet. The first run, with forty-five gates, was tight and demanded quick thinking and great skill in turning. It certainly provided a stern test for the less experienced. The second run had only thirty-nine gates and was faster, firmer and more open. Out of a field of twelve, Isobel Mabey won in a combined time of 79.22 secs., followed by Sarah Campbell-Preston in 80.95 with Carol Blackwood third in 82-31. Isobel displayed a smooth flowing rhythm in her stylish descent. Virginia Sturge who was still feeling the effects of a strained achilles tendon finished fifth. Ingrid Christopherson, assistant manager to the team, was one of the forerunners.

Twelve competitors took part in the Giant Slalom which was run in conjunction with the Lowlanders competition. The British girls having start numbers 15-22. This was not a very satisfactory way to do things, but it was better than no Lowlanders Giant Slalom at all. The race was run on a soft but slightly rutty international course at La Daille and was won by Isobel Mabey in 1.23.21. Sarah Campbell-Preston was second in 1.25.63 and Antoinette Betts was third.

Isobel Mabey showed much consistency and versatility in her racing and thoroughly deserved to win the Combined. Virginia Sturge was second and Stella Shields was third. The prizes were presented in Val d'Isere by Lady Macleod. General Sir Roderick Macleod, Chairman of the Council of the Federation, donated the beautiful cup for the winner of the Combined event. The L.S.C. Challenge Cups for the Slalom and Giant Slalom events were also

Results

won by Isobel Mabey.

Sealom (Ladies' Ski Club Challenge Cup). 1. Isobel Mabey 40.10, 39.12, 79.22; 2. Sarah Campbell-Preston 42.33, 38.62, 80.95; 3. Carol Blackwood 43.10, 39.21, 82.31.

GIANT SLALOM (Ladies' Ski Club Challenge Cup). 1. Isobel Mabey 1.23.21; 2. Sarah Campbell-Preston 1.25.63; 3. Antoinette Betts 1.26.63.

DOWNHILL (Bunny Field Trophy). 1. Virginia Sturge 1.06.84; 2. Isobel Mabey 1.07.05; 3. Stella Shields 1.15.30.

COMBINED (Macleod Trophy). 1. Isobel Mabey; 2. Virginia Sturge; 3. Stella Shields.

at Pra Loup, March 1970

By MARY MACKENZIE

THE HON. EDITOR wrote to me that being a team manager is not all fun and games but that there is usually a funny side, she also added that one had to be a literary genius as one of the duties of being a manager is to write an article about it afterwards. Being no literary genius I find the latter the more difficult, as with an enthusiastic team of 10 Espoir Girls, in the ideal setting of Pra Loup, management of the course was both rewarding and enjoyable.

Pra Loup is situated in the Bassess Aples, a good hour's drive from Gap, where the train set us down very early in the morning. The village of Pra Loup was created and is being developed by



(Left to Right) Jean Louis Allard (Trainer), Rolline Williamson (DHO), Julie Molyneux (K), Lucinda Iliffe (K), Maria Abercromby (K), Jane Allison (DHO), Valentina Iliffe (K), Clare Hall Hall (K), Sue Berner (DHO), Mary-Ann Scott (DHO), Tina Mabey (DHO), Mary Mackenzie (Manager).

Monsieur Honore Bonnet former Manager of the French National Team, one of his main objectives being to have an ideal centre for training and racing. We were accommodated in the pension La Fourchette, where the food was excellent, and the diet well

suited to the needs of hungry trainees.

We were 10 minutes' walk from the telecabine and set off each morning at about 8.15, with the trainer Jean-Louis Allard, for a hard morning's training. Training started again at 1400, and as a lot of the time the weather was bad we did not have the usual disadvantage of spring ski-ing, namely melting, wet afternoon snow. Training concentrated on slalom and giant slalom with timed runs nearly every day. Once or twice, after a heavy snowfall, Jean-Louis took us all ski-ing off the piste for runs in the deep powder snow. These excursions were much enjoyed, though it must be admitted that even the best were apt to flounder and fall.

Early bed was the rule, but in the few hours of relaxation everyone pursued their own interests, especially as several trainees had to work for their forthcoming 'O' levels. We greatly enjoyed one birthday party when our generous host stood us all champagne!

Mishaps fortunately were few. The luggage of those coming from England arrived 48 hours late; there was a sprained ankle, some coughs and blisters, all necessitating a small loss of training hours, but all the trainees worked hard and their times showed great improvement by the end of the training. We all travelled back to England together and went straight to King's Cross where I put all the trainees on the train for Aviemore en route for the British Junior Championships.

TO BE A CHALET GIRL

By DIANA LEWTHWAITE

To be a Chalet Girl is to be on the other side of the fence and I was terrified when I was asked to look after a chalet for a week. All the regular Supertravel girls have a most impressive list of qualifications, Cordon Bleu Diplomas, years of cooking directors' lunches, seasons of cooking in shooting lodges in Scotland, and all were able to whip up a soufflé in a couple of seconds.

David seemed to think my cooking was good enough, as luckily up to then we had had no disasters at our dinner parties, but it is so much easier in England with the electric mixer at one's elbow, the delicatessen round the corner should a disaster occur and no-one to check one's extravagances on the double cream.

The guests arrived and I shook, thinking of the dinner in the oven, and they looking so American that I was convinced they

would only like hamburgers and tomato ketchup followed by ice-cream, but surprise, surprise — they seemed to like their dinner and the girls even asked for the recipe of the egg mousse. I relaxed a little, but was worried about tea — as we give people cakes for tea — home-made — and my efforts at cakes had turned out rather like rocks or pebbles in the past. Luck was in however, my co-chalet bird, cooking for those down the road, made a deal with me — she cooked the cakes and I did the shopping, being under the mistaken illusion that my French was perfect.

Never before had I understood those little notices in hotels which said "Please take off your ski-boots", but when I had been in the chalet a day, I realised why — that little bit of snow from a boot would spread and then someone else would step in it — and lo and behold that shining, spotless floor would in a second or so, it seemed, look like the local pack of hounds had found and

gone through the chalet at full cry.

It was fun being a Chalet Girl — one got to know one's guests well and also the locals who seemed to regard one as almost part of the village as one was a worker too and could be seen at 8 a.m. getting the fresh croissants, while the guests slept, dreaming hopefully of their next delicious Supertravel dinner!

WELL, WHAT ABOUT SCOTLAND?

By MARY CURRIE

No, Scotland cannot rival the Alps; not in weather, nor in length or variety of run, and no responsible person would suggest that it did. But neither is it undeveloped nor inconsiderable. There are three main areas with uplift, and a wealth of other mountains

full of touring possibilities in a good season.

Club ski-ing in Scotland, as most of you will doubtless know, runs on lines parallel to those of S.C.G.B. and the Federation, that is with the Scottish Ski Club, the national club, together with the many other smaller Clubs, supporting the Scottish National Ski Council, who work and liaiase with the Federation. One of the assets of the Scottish Ski Club is that it maintains huts in the three developed areas, and on Ben Lawers for touring. There is catering provided or facilities to do your own in them all and they make excellent meeting places.

The main snag is the weather. Without fail snow falls every winter, but where and how much are big variables. Basically what we look for are blizzards, followed by rain and thaw, followed by frost and that pattern repeated time and again throughout the winter, so that by spring there is a tremendous depth of frozen snow in the many deep gullies and nothing on the shoulders and

open slopes. This gives us marvellous spring snow ski-ing for a long time with the width of the gullies shrinking little by little, and it is perfectly justifiable to claim that we can ski from November to May. We go out in October, if the snow falls near enough a week-end — the early falls usually vanish very quickly. At the other end it is work in the garden or golf or sailing which takes us from the hills in May. It is not at all unknown for skiers to appear in force on Cairngorm on Midsummer or perhaps on the Glorious Twelfth, just for fun; there is usually quite a reasonable run left on Ciste Mhearad over the back with sometimes a rope-tow available. Summer training is being held there this year. It is also being held at Hillend, where an excellent quarter-mile, chairlift-served, plastic slope with first-class instruction available,

is a big asset to Edinburgh and Scotland.

Glenshee, on the south-eastern fringe of the Cairngorm mountains, and near Perth and Dundee, is a very busy place. Reached from the south by a narrow twisty road, it has its snags, but it has one or two excellent runs served by a chair-lift and four tows. Glencoe, near Glasgow and Stirling, is more compact. It has an access chair-lift to a plateau across which one must walk (under 20 minutes) before reaching a nursery lift and two further tows. The tows tend to bottleneck a little, but it is much less crowded there than at the other resorts, perhaps owing to a certain lack of amenities. However, the runs of over 1,200 ft. opened by these lifts offer great sport and variety to the enterprising skier. Their names suggest the fun and history which have taken place there: the Massacre Race Course, the Haggis Trap, Island Rock, the Waterfall Run, Rannoch Glades, Happy Valley and Etive Glades; Spring Run which used to be known as the Flypaper, until the true Flypaper was rediscovered further round the mountain! The Flypaper can indeed only be skied in perfect spring snow, so steep is it, and then not every year as there is a cliff below, which sometimes has a snow stop — when it does not a fall would be a very serious business!

Cairngorm is by far the most polished developed area, with a network of roads, lifts, restaurants and toilets, which, in a year like this one, when one could ski anywhere with phenomenal general snow cover for weeks on end, really did seem alpine. It looks different when the grass and mud reappear, but the facilities are there to make the best use of whatever snow is available and they cover a vertical height of 1,400 ft., opening runs of two to three thousand feet if there is snow. The top chair takes one to a high shoulder of Cairngorm and the summit is a further short climb which is worth doing for the splendid views and the variety of off-piste runs which can be done. There is the Head Wall, Ciste Mhearad and Coire Raibert; there is access to the wonderful long schuss from the top of the Fiacaill to the car park, and there is Coire na Ciste which can be done from the summit or from the White Lady Tow and is one of the finest runs in the area, and which now has a road to the foot of it.

Here in Scotland we find our conditions allow us to have a lot of fun. Our bad weather is not to be trifled with, but when it is good we reckon it takes some beating. We are pleased to see many regular visitors from England, even (by bus) from London; but if it is only for the ski-ing you come then you would get longer runs and a better chance of sunshine on the Continent. If, however, you come to see us — to visit friends or to satisfy your curiosity, then, come ski with us — take your chance on "Shanks' best vitreous" and wet mist or sun and powder or spring snow (3 to 1 the former!), but come and have some fun, and see how our youngsters are progressing. Ski-ing is on the syllabus of the Speyside schools and promoted by the Edinburgh schools within reach of Hillend. The results are startling.

NOTES ON THE TEAMS

THE 'A' TEAM consisted of Gina Hathorn, Divina Galica and Bunny Field who were sponsored until the World Championships by the *Daily Telegraph*. They competed in all the major European races before Val Gardena and afterwards Gina and Divina went to the American races and Bunny went to Scandinavia.

THE OLYMPIC TRAINING TEAM or 'B' TEAM consisted of nine girls and one reserve. They were partly supported by the government and raced in 'B' races, and those who were eligible also competed in some of the Junior events. Valentina showed such outstanding talent that she was allowed to join the 'A' Team for the World Championships in order to gain experience in these big races. (N.B. Under the W.C. rules only four girls from each country may compete in each event.) The other nine girls were: Isobel Mabey, Virginia Sturge, Helen Carmichael, Kate Mackenzie, Sarah Campbell-Preston, Antoinette Betts, Carol Blackwood, Jane Fowler and Stella Shields.

THE ESPOIR TEAM report appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

NATIONAL COLOURS were awarded this year to Gina, Divina, Bunny and Valentina.

S.C.G.B. LIONS. Valentina Iliffe was awarded a Gold Lion and Carol Blackwood a Silver Lion.

VAL GARDENA, 1970

By SUSAN BERRY

THE TWO THAT GOT AWAY

PAGES HAVE ALREADY been written on the World Championships in the world press and I have no doubt that pages more will appear in all the club publications. Naturally all the articles are written from a different point of view according to one's own particular loyalties. However, there is one point on which everyone in Val Gardena was agreed, and that was that Divina Galica was by far the unluckiest racer in the Championships. This, of course, is what racing is all about. When there are so many girls all at the same standard, as is shown by the closeness of their times, the winner is the one for whom all goes right on the day. I am not suggesting that no skill or technique is necessary, on the contrary it is absolutely vital; but when split seconds can make the difference between a gold medal and fourth place and the slightest mishap put one into oblivion as an "also ran", luck must play a part.

There was great speculation as to where Divina would have finished if it hadn't been for these mishaps. It is undisputed that she had the second fastest time at the half-way stage of the Downhill, faster than any of the medalists, and if she hadn't fallen ... but no-one will ever know. The Giant Slalom was more difficult to assess. She came to the second to last gate in an excellent time and then turned badly; she nearly fell and, although she managed to recover, she was well off the line and almost hit the ice-wall of the finish in her effort to get past the post. It is almost impossible to work out exactly how much time she lost even after we had watched the video recordings over and over again with a stop-watch because she never actually stopped moving. She finished in tenth place but was only 1.46 secs. behind the winner. There were many optimists who said she would have had the Gold, but it seems certain that she would have had a medal of some sort.

At the time of going to press with this article, Divina is trying to make the very difficult decision of whether to retire now or to continue until the next Olympic Games in Japan in 1972. If she does decide to continue, I am sure we would all like to wish her the best of luck in finally winning the medal she so much deserves.

THE YOUNGEST COMPETITOR

VALENTINA ILIFFE was given a special award for being the youngest competitor ever to race in a World Championships. The races ended three days before her fourteenth birthday. The organizers also gave one to Karl Schranz (31) for being the oldest.



THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

(Left to Right) Gina Hathorn, Divina Galica, Bunny Field and Valentina Iliffe showing their maroon team uniform. The anoraks and overtrousers are by 'Protector' and the racing clothes are made by Harris Mayer and are available at Pindisports.

Photos by Richard Berry.



Valentina by no means disgraced herself or Britain. Out of the fifty-five girls racing, she always had start numbers between forty and fifty and consistently finished at least twelve places better. Her Combined result of nineteenth was a very creditable achievement, and when one considers the number of years racing she has ahead of her and how comparatively little experience she has had to date she is indeed a bright hope for the future.

PHYSICAL TRAINING — CRYSTAL PALACE

Maria Goldberger makes a point of discouraging people from going to watch the National team doing their physical training for several very good reasons, but she very kindly invited the Committee of the L.S.C. to pay them a short visit during their July session. This proved to be a great eye-opener as many people have no idea just how hard the girls are expected to work in order to become international racers. Each year they spend an increasing amount of time training on and off the snow, and for financial reasons they are still not doing as much as Maria would wish, or indeed as much as many other countries are able to do.

This year there are nineteen girls in training, although they are not all able to attend every training session. The ones we saw at Crystal Palace were there for two weeks and were following a pretty energetic programme with their Austrian coach. They start at ten o'clock each day and the mornings are spent in warming-up exercises, circuit training, trampoline, running, etc. They have about an hour and a half for lunch and in the afternoons they play games, which are chosen to keep them moving all the time and to quicken reflex actions. We watched a series of tests which were designed in such a way that the exercises could be done at home. When they have their next physical training in September, the tests will be repeated and in this way the coach can tell how much they have improved and whether they have been keeping up the exercises.

At lunch-time Maria joined us and explained the system. She said that one of the most important things lacking was a masseur, as the girls really needed this means of relaxing their muscles after a hard day's exercise. Unfortunately, the cost is extremely high and at the moment the funds are not ample to cover such luxuries. Any qualified member of the L.S.C. who would like to volunteer would receive a very warm welcome. She also told us that the team were going to have a week's rest after Crystal Palace and then they were going to Tigne where they would ski in the mornings and exercise in the afternoons. Some would then join their respective clubs for summer training and others would continue with a second course in France. On their return they would again be at Crystal Palace, after which they would have a short rest before beginning full snow training and the start of the racing season.

By BRIDGET NEWALL

IF YOU ARE LOOKING for an excuse to visit a few continents outside Europe you might try disguising yourself as a ski-instructor and taking a trip to Australia, preferably during their winter. Its possible to stop over at eleven other cities and, provided you are lucky enough to have friends in such places as Moscow and Pago Pago, it won't cost you a penny more.

One day last May, when our summer should have been on its way in, I flew out, with my handbag leaden with ski bindings, suitcase full of woollen hats and my furry après-ski boots slung over one shoulder. I did feel a tiny bit unusual in Hong Kong but soon ceased to worry as I battled with my first blasts of humidity. Hong Kong taught me two things which I am sure I will find useful all my life ... one being how to avoid stinging jellyfish, which appeared when ever I was just about to fall off my water-skis, and the other terror to be avoided were the variety of Chinese who

found great delight in spitting from trams, down into open sports

Having dumped my heavier items in Sydney I took a quick jaunt round New Zealand, where their prize mountain erupted and left the pistes resembling Scotland before the start of the season. After spending a few days snowed up in Queenstown I returned to Sydney where, to kill time, I played the "groovy pommie dolly" bit in a rather turned-off boutique. The pay was good but soon it was time to start the serious work and head off in the direction of the smell of snow. From Sydney this means due south-west and you are bound to hit the few hundred miles long range of hills. If you are lucky, these are partially covered with snow for a few months of the year. I never was very lucky.

In July I arrived in Threadbo International Village where it was raining and continued to do so for a week. I did manage to get one morning of ski-ing, on a minimum amount of snow, with Michel Rudigoz,* but he scrubbed it in the afternoon and went on

a kangaroo shoot instead.

As my contract date was fast approaching I drove the 300 miles "just over the hill" to Mount Buller in Victoria, and was relieved to see that they had just had a new fall of snow — their first for three weeks. The next morning I started work with the Austrian Ski School and I have to admit that this grated a little when I found out that there was also a French Ski School in the same area. All my life I have been decidedly pro French, and Walter, my Austrian boss, was not too cheerful when he saw me teaching on Dynamics and Trappeurs. I also discovered that there were two different lift companies which employed the ski-schools and there were evil minds abroad trying to create strife, but the ski-instructors remained calm and aloof and got back to the serious

^{*} Michel Rudigoz is the British Men's Team trainer.—ED.

job of promoting public relations between themselves and the local lovelies.

The wind roared through the frozen gum leaves and the mists sank lower as we grew pot-bellied on gaseous Aussie beer, sang drinking-songs, played snooker and sometimes skied. Mainly, though, we grumbled as is the custom of skiers when it is winter and everyone is walking around in gumboots. Some more snow came and I got the opportunity to try a few other runs, which tended to be short and steep, but once again rivers began to pour down the nursery slopes. My dreams at night were a curious mixture of picking children's muddy skis, boots and faces out of the dirt, mingled with visions of waving palms, deserted beaches and a duty-free car radio.

We began to make plans for the homeward trek, arguing for hours as to whether the weather would be better and the sun stronger in Mexico, Fiji or Honolulu. Sun; we had to find the sun before returning to the start of another winter, when we would again hopefully think that the skies would be blue and each tomorrow sunny, but they never are, because it is still winter.

SECOND EUROPEAN JUNIOR CUP

at Thyon, 9th to 11th January, 1970

By Ingrid Christophersen

THYON IS NOT FOUND on any map, and it is only when you get close to the place that even the locals can tell you where it is situated.

From Sion in the Valais one branches right up the Val d'Heremence. At first the road is broad and well sanded, eventually it gets so narrow and windy you think you must have overshot your turning. Thyon can hardly be called a village. It consists of a small square with a few hotels, a post-office and a Kurverein, and scattered wooden chalets. The ski-ing is superb. One run will eventually go all the way down to Sion. Sion was one of the candidates for the 1976 Winter Olympics, the ones which have now gone to Denver in Colorado, and Thyon was to be the venue of the Alpine events. The fact that Thyon will now not have the Olympics might mean that the developing of lifts and runs will slow down. The present ski-ing is however very good, even without the proposed new uplift system.

Thyon had never organised a race before. The second European Junior Cup will go down in history as the Social Race. Both officials and racers were dined and wined in such a fashion they will not easily forget it. I especially remember the managers' meetings. Every evening we would be presented with a gift, a case of wine, a wood-hewn troll or a piece of locally woven

material. In front of each country's representative was a bottle of wine, and even before the meetings had started, most of the managers were red in the face; and not only from sun and wind. We were invited to press cocktail parties, officials parties and farewell parties. The racers went to "meet the other racers" parties.

In spite of the slightly intoxicated-inspired meetings, the races couldn't have been run better. In Norway we have a saying for this: "Det gikk som smurt flesk", which translated means "It went like waxed fat", in other words it went very well.

The British Juniors taking part were: Carol Blackwood, Antoinette Betts, Helen Carmichael and Valentina Iliffe, Fraser Clyde, Stuart MacDonald and Royston Varley.

The giant slalom was won by France's Odile Chalvin, the new Marielle Goitschel, in 1.12.91. Valentina was half-way down the list, an excellent performance, considering that this race has Europe's very best juniors in it. She came down in 1.19.35. Carol had 1.20.81., Helen 1.24.47, and Antoinette 1.24.97.

There was to have been a downhill, cancelled due to lack of snow, and so the boys' giant slalom was run in two laps. It was won by Greissman from Austria; our best boy, Royston, was 11 secs. back in a $3\frac{1}{2}$ min. race. Again Chalvin won the girls' slalom and Valentina was the best British. Eric Fleutry of Switzerland was the best boy. This time Royston was only 9 secs. back.

The prize-giving was like Christmas Eve. (Again I am thinking in Norwegian. There we celebrate Christmas Eve.) Valentina won a beautiful Bundner Fleisch which she gave to me. I sent it to some friends in England. Apparently it walked through the door with the postman!

I have only superlatives to say about Thyon and the kindness of the organisers and the locals. At times like that one wishes that Britain was a snow country and that we could invite everyone to a smashing race over here.

THE SKI CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

COURSES

DECEMBER 8TH - 20TH

DAVOS — SKI REPS. COURSE (19 years and over). For 1st and 2nd class skiers wishing to qualify as Ski Reps. or to lead Club Parties.

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VILLARS — YOUNG MEMBERS (14-16).

This repeats the very successful party last year at Aiglon College.

MARCH 27TH - APRIL IOTH

SAAS FEE — YOUNG MEMBERS (12-15).

Again this repeats the successful party at the Hotel Astoria, with a narrower age-group.

APRIL IOTH - 24TH

SAAS FEE — YOUNG MEMBERS (16-18).

For those who are too old for the earlier Saas Fee Party but not eligible for St. Moritz.

These parties include everything except après-ski expenses, that is: insurance, ski-lifts, instruction, ski hire and experienced leaders. At Saas Fee one leader will be medically qualified.

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Competent Ski Club Members are entitled to subsidised guides' fees on all these tours:

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MARCH 7TH - 20TH

IGLS, first week off-piste ski-ing; second week touring from FRANZ SENN or DRESDNER HUT.

MARCH 21ST - APRIL 3RD

SILVRETTA, introduction to ski touring.

APRIL 4TH - 17TH

GOTTHARD, for those with some experience.

APRIL 4TH - 17TH

BERNESE OBERLAND, for experienced tourers.

APRIL 18TH - MAY IST

HIGH GLACIER TOUR, for experienced tourers.

APRIL IST - MAY 16TH

HIGH GLACIER TOUR, for ski mountaineers.

Competent Club Members may also apply for subsidised guides' fees for properly organised day tours.

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Applications for membership should be made without delay: the list is already heavily subscribed.

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For further information please write to:

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