

LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN 1972

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CONTENTS

	Page
President's Report Joan Raynsford	I
Club Notices and News	4
Dinner and Ceremony of the Keys at The Tower of London Pat Farquharson	7
Hon. Treasurer's Report Elizabeth Greenacre	10
Golden Jubilee Season Phyllis Lunn	10
The Olympic Games Divina Galica	II
Do You Think Das Wetter Will Get Better?	
Elizabeth Greenacre	13
Jeannette — Some Personal Memories F.G.	15
Di Lindsay G.R.	18
LSC Junior Training — Spring 1972 Di Lewthwaite	19
The Alps from End to End Alan Blackshaw	20
Schoolgirls' Races at Gstaad Elisabeth Hussey	22
Ski-ing with Anno Domini and Liz Fulton Enid Fernandes	23
The Lowlanders' Championships Joan Raynsford	24
Twenty-Five Years On! Rachel Hartley	25
The Modern Rep. Janey Reid	26
The Ladies' Ski Club Salver, 1972 Ros Hepworth	26
"Chat" Ted Chamier	27
Season's Racing, 1971/72 Joan Raynsford	28
National Ski Federation Alpine Racing Conference, 13th-14th	72
May, 1972 Joan Raynsford	32
List of Officers	35
List of Members	35
Membership Proposal Form	43

ILLUSTRATIONS

The Start	of the first	British Ski	Championship	Race	facing p.	I
Jeannette	Riddell					16



THE START OF THE FIRST BRITISH SKI CHAMPIONSHIP RACE held at Scheidegg on 7th January, 1921.

Major Wingfield.
 Miss Major.
 T. Shirley.
 Commander Downes.
 L. Dobbs.
 P. Dobbs.
 Lt-Col. Pile.

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

1972

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As WE GATHERED TOGETHER for our Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party at the Ski Club of Great Britain on 26th October last year, we collected facts and thoughts about the past and discussed the coming season. The LSC Meeting and Party has become, almost traditionally, the beginning of the pre-Ski Season and our thoughts were turning towards the mountains and the promise and importance of the coming ski-ing, with the climax of the Winter Olympic Games at Sapporo, Japan, in February.

We have followed with close interest the achievements of Divina Galica (captain), Gina Hathorn, Valentina Iliffe and Carol Blackwood, the British Olympic Ladies' Team, and congratulate them on their record. Considering that Divina broke a leg in October, it is a remarkable achievement that she was fit to race in the Olympics at all. However, she was determined to be fit in time and she was, but then had the bad luck to arrive in Sapporo with 'flu. In spite of all this, to come seventh in the Giant Slalom and tenth in the Combined World Championships were splended results. Fogs and storms upset the Slalom but Gina came eleventh, and it is interesting to recall that not one of the Swiss girls finished the Slalom, although they did so well in the Downhill and Giant Slalom. Gina's excellent Combined result was sixth in the World Championships. In the Downhill Valentina Iliffe did very well to come twenty-third.

I feel sure that we all want to congratulate Divina and Gina on their dedicated and oustanding contribution to British ski-racing over many years. Now that they have retired, we wish them good luck and much happiness in the future. We are delighted to welcome them as members of our LSC Committee.

We would also wish to congratulate Maria Goldberger on her outstanding contribution towards the successes achieved by the Women's Teams during the past six years while she has been their manager and Chairman of the Women's Sub-Committee of the Alpine Racing Committee.

We are very proud that Helen Tomkinson emerged triumphant from the heavy burdens of Chairman of the Alpine Racing Committee and congratulate her on the great success of all her hard work this past Olympic winter. The first Open British Championships, held in Scotland in April, were particularly successful and very much to her credit. It was a fitting reward for all her efforts that Helen was awarded the Pery Medal, the highest award of

the SCGB, for her outstanding contribution to International Skiracing. She is the second woman to receive this important award and thus achieves great distinction. We shall all miss her now that she has given up the Chairmanship of the Alpine Racing Committee, but we know that she will continue to help and

support British ski-racing.

The LSC was well represented by Divina Galica and Gina Hathorn at the National Ski Federation Racing Conference held in London last May, and a summary of this successful conference appears later in the *Bulletin*. A brief summary of the season's racing appears, also, later in the *Bulletin*. Congratulations to all our racers and to our members who have made important contributions to British ski-ing by helping with the organisation of International and National races and trainings all over the Alps and in Scotland during the past season as they have done over the years.

I would particularly like to thank Di Lewthwaite for organising and supervising, single-handed, a most successful LSC Junior Race Training in St. Anton and Zermatt last April. She put a tremendous amount of personal effort into this and we thank her warmly.

I have attended the several meetings of the Racing Clubs Electoral College during the past year, and there has been much discussion with regard to the place of the Racing Clubs in a future new Constitution of the National Ski Federation. For the record their views remain as follows: "We should like to continue the present electoral college arrangements with direct representation on the Federation Council as at present, and also on the Alpine Racing Committee. With regard to the proposed National Councils, the Alpine Racing Clubs would wish to maintain the fullest co-operation and understanding concerning the development of British ski-racing at all levels. Representatives of the Racing Clubs Electoral College would wish to be at the disposal of all National Ski Councils when racing matters are under consideration, and expect to be informed when racing matters are to be discussed."

The discussion continues concerning a new Constitution for the Federation, and it has been stated categorically that member clubs will be fully consulted and invited to express their views at the appropriate time and before final decisions are taken. The Federation is consolidating its position all the time and its finances are very much improved because of the strict financial control

now exercised over its spending committees.

Our warmest thanks to Addy and Digby Raeburn for the social highlight of our year and for all that they did to make it possible for us to enjoy a unique and splendid evening at the Tower and to

watch the Ceremony of the Keys.

We missed, sadly, Jeannette Riddell who died suddenly a few weeks earlier. She made an outstanding contribution over the years to our Club as President and Treasurer, and I should like to pay tribute to her for all that she achieved.

We were also sad to learn of the death of Di Lindsay (née

Crewdson), who joined the Club in 1927 and was President from

1945-48.

Our Club was founded in Mürren on the 22nd January, 1923, and our fiftieth birthday will be next year, 1973. You will read elsewhere that we are planning to celebrate this very important anniversary in Mürren next year with races and a dinner. We thank Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn for the interest that they are taking in this celebration and we hope very much to welcome many members on this unique occasion.

Members may be interested to see the photograph of the "First British Ski Championship Race" (reproduced opposite page 1), and to know that Miss Olga Major, who is a founder member of the LSC and attended the first committee meeting held at Mürren in

1923, was amongst the competitors in this race.

This is my last Report as President, and I feel quite nostalgic about it. I have enjoyed, immensely, being your President and thank the officers and committee for their help during the past four years and for the enthusiasm which they have brought to all the activities which we have planned and carried out together. I would also like to thank our members for the support they have given us.

I particularly thank Elizabeth Greenacre for five years' hard work as Hon. Treasurer and for all her help, and welcome Jill Coke

who has taken over from her.

The Ski Kit Mart which takes place each year in November is a considerable undertaking, and I want to thank Sue Berry for organising this and for all those who have generously assisted.

Sue Berry was inundated with work in support of our Olympic Teams this past Olympic year and did not have the time to carry on as Hon. Editor. We are extremely grateful to her for her hard work in the past and appreciate all that she has done to help the Club.

I am most grateful to Elizabeth Fulton, Elisabeth Hussey and Julie Molyneux (Advertisements), who have prepared, collected and edited this *Bulletin*. Without their initiative and their efforts, at short notice, there would have been no *Bulletin* and we all thank them.

We are tremendously indebted to our advertisers — without their aid the *Bulletin* could not be paid for, and members are particularly asked to use and recommend the firms and hotels that advertise with us.

In last year's *Bulletin* we asked members to make a special effort to attend the Annual General Meeting and to bring guests to the cocktail party and make it really successful. We are most grateful for your response and support, and we look forward to welcoming you again on Tuesday, 24th October, this year.

I feel sure that the LSC will have a most happy and successful future and hope that my successor will enjoy her Presidency as much as I have done. Of one thing I am convinced — Our Club has a distinguished role to play in the support and development of

British ski-ing.

CLUB NOTICES and NEWS

As THE LSC has quite a programme in hand for next winter, perhaps we should start with the diary of events:

24th October, 1972, at 5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting at the Ski Club, 118 Eaton Square, SW1 W9AF.

at 6.30 p.m. Cocktail Party.

7th November at 5.30 p.m. Ski Kit Mart at the Ski Club.
29th December Ladies' Ski Club Salver at Wengen.
20th-22nd January, 1973 Golden Jubilee Meeting at Mürren.
22nd February Ladies' Ski Club Junior Cup (with Schoolgirls' races) at Gstaad.
Easter Holidays Ladies' Ski Club Junior Training.

We hope that the usual tremendous support will be given to the SKI KIT MART. Last year £210 was raised for the Ladies' Racing Team. Each year more clothes and equipment are donated and the quality is steadily rising, so that it is becoming known as the place to kit oneself and one's children out at very little cost. Items over £10 in value can be sold on commission. Ten per cent is kept towards the Ski Kit Mart's fund.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE MEETING at Mürren promises to be an entertaining mixture of parties and races, and there is an article about it by Lady Lunn later in the *Bulletin*. Members should make their own travel and hotel arrangements, but they may find hoteliers willing to give special rates during this period. Anyone wishing for advice on travel and special rates can contact Mrs D. Lewthwaite, 7 Dove Mews, Old Brompton Road, London SW5. Tel. 01-373 8258. It would be a great help if those who expect to to attend the meeting would let Mrs Lewthwaite know by the time of the AGM.

We expect to run a JUNIOR TRAINING during the Easter holidays. As we go to press the details have not been fixed, but those who would like more information should contact Mrs Lewthwaite.

As the programme shows, the activities of the Club are well spread through Switzerland and there are many places where the Ladies' Ski Club can be sure of a welcome. Several members have already stayed at Neil Hogg's Seeburg Hotel in Lucerne and enjoyed the great variety of ski-ing areas which can be visited from it.

Ethel Leverson will again be taking her flat in Chalet Rondinella, Villars, and will be very glad to have members to stay. The cost is about 30Sfr a day, including breakfast, packed lunch and dinner. The Villars Visitors' Ski Club run races every Wednesday through the season at Bretaye (13.30 for 14.00). They have electric timing

and well prepared courses and welcome members of the LSC who would like to try their speed.

Joan and Hubert Sturges, who have their own chalet there, say that Les Diablerets really do welcome visitors from Britain, and the ski-ing, particularly up on the glacier later in the season, is tremendous. Incidentally, the new road between Villars and Les Diablerets is to be kept open next winter.

Gstaad, where the LADIES' SKI CLUB JUNIOR CUP is raced for during the schoolgirls' races, is well known to many members. Last year the Bernerhof Hotel, which is very comfortable and central, had a new manager, Herr Schwab, who proved extremely kind and helpful.

Another race, on quite different lines, which is held in this area is the Luttman-Johnson Tour des Auberges in which pairs of competitors follow a complicated schedule of eating, drinking, calculating lift timetables and ski-ing. Fritz Balsiger of the Hotel Simmental, Zweisimmen has generously offered free accommodation from 10th-17th February to anyone winning one of the major prizes in this competition.

Members who have not yet tried French ski-ing are certain to find Meribel in the Haute Savoie of interest. There has been tremendous development here during recent years and, situated as it is in the middle of three valleys, the place really is worth a visit.

We congratulate the following members who have had babies recently:

Mrs C. P. Burne (née Belinda Coryton). Mrs Harvey-Evers (née Molly Ingram). Mrs Mallinson (née Rachel Hoare). Mrs J. Moncrieff (née Susan Martin). Mrs Robert Tomkinson (née Joanna Hastings). Mrs J. C. d'E. Coke.

Our good wishes go to Bridget Newall who married Fraser Clyde at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, on May 20th; also to Hilary Laing on her marriage to Basil de Ferranti, and to:

JUDITH O'HALLORAN (Mrs Shanks). ELIZABETH SALM (Mrs Packenham-Walsh). CHARLOTTE HARROCKS (Mrs Waters).

At the moment of going to press we hear that Tessa Whittome, a member of the Committee, announces her engagement to David Brooksbank. Our congratulations and good wishes go to Tessa and David.

We very much regret to record the death of the following members:

Mrs Butler. Mrs Parr. Mrs Lindsay. Mrs Riddell.

The following new members we warmly welcome to the Club: Jane Blackshaw, Joan Butchart, Heather Donald, Jean Gladstone, Susannah Hensman, Alison Jackson, Belinda Luxmoor, Julie Molyneux, Pat Pettifer, Gina Travers and Jean Younger.

THE LSC BADGE—pale blue in the shape of an upright rectangle with the letters LSC in gold — is available from the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs J. C. d'E. Coke, Brookhill Cottage, Fritham, Lyndhurst, Hants. The price is 75p. THE LSC SWEATER, which is V-necked and royal blue, is also obtainable from Mrs Coke, price £5.

Douglas Cox, Tyrie are offering members of the LSC insurance at the same rates as they offer to members of the SCGB. The Ladies' Ski Club benefits when members use this insurance, so please do use the enclosed application form. Douglas Cox, Tyrie are well known for their straightforwardness in settling claims. Members can be sure that there are no extras hidden away in the small print of their policies.

Members found the Proposal form printed at the end of last year's *Bulletin* very convenient so we have repeated the idea again, hoping everyone will do their best to enrol new members.

Amongst the many things our President has done for the LSC during her term of office is the part she has played in the production of this edition of the *Bulletin*. Without her we would have been minus much of the essential material which is of interest to have at a time when it is so difficult to keep up with ski-ing and its development. We are extremely indebted to Joan for all her interest, advice and encouragement in this sphere, as indeed we are to other members, who have contributed either willingly or perhaps not so willingly with their articles.

DINNER and CEREMONY OF THE KEYS

at

THE TOWER OF LONDON

By PAT FARQUHARSON

An extremely successful Club party was attended by about 70 members.

In addition to the basic arrangements, one can only be thankful for the assistance given by Providence, in that Wednesday, 3rd May, 1972, proved to be one of the only fine, warm evenings in the surrounding six months. Those of us who had been wondering how to combine gumboots, oilskins, umbrellas and plastic hoods with our long dresses were able to breathe again. Moreover, easy parking outside the restaurant was a new and fascinating experience for Londoners.

The guests included the Governor of the Tower, Major-General Digby Raeburn, through whom we were able to see this superb ceremony; his wife Addy and mother Greta, both Past Presidents; our Sinister Father Sir Arnold Lunn and Phyllis; Eric Lewns, our indefatigable Auditor; Mr and Mrs Max from the SCGB; Divina Galica and Gina Hathorn.

After an excellent dinner there were four speeches, well worth recording here — but in order to avoid repetition elsewhere, these have been very much abbreviated.

Joan Raynsford welcomed the guests, saying:

"In the light of the hundreds of years covered by the history of the Tower, it perhaps seems absurd that we should be proud that the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the LSC should be coming up next January, but in the ski-ing world, this is a pretty long time.

We are delighted to see here tonight no less than five Past Presidents, Greta Raeburn, Helen Tomkinson, Soss Roe, Addy Raeburn and Enid Fernandes.

Our Sinister Father, Arnold, and Phyllis only returned from Switzerland yesterday, and we are thrilled that they have come here tonight.

Among our other guests are Mr and Mrs Max, who have been such a help on past Ski Marts in aid of the Racing Fund.

We welcome Divina and Gina, and can't sufficiently congratulate them. We are also pleased to see Julie Molyneux of the 'B' Team, and to commiserate with her on her crutches. We congratulate Helen on all her work as Chairman of the Alpine Committee, and Maria Goldberger on her successful years as Team Manager and Chairman of the Women's Alpine Racing Sub-Committee."

Digby Raeburn said:

"As the son and husband of Past Presidents, I am very pleased to be here. The LSC was instrumental in the creation of the SDS

in Mürren; when that was started Christian Eggar is alleged to have said, 'Here they go, gibber, gibber, gibber!' Well, I must ask you all to listen to the Yeoman Warder who will explain to you about the Ceremony of the Keys, which will happen tonight for around the two hundred and twenty-five thousandth time—nightly for 700 years or so—and thereafter to control the Gibber, Gibber. We will ask you also to put out your weeds, and to watch the Ceremony with the respect which is its due."

Helen Tomkinson said:

"It is a very great pleasure to be here, and to thank Joan Raynsford for all the work she has put in during her four-year Presidency, which has left the Club very much on the up-and-up. Thank you, Joan, again."

Arnie said:

"The LSC has always had an enormous influence on Anglo-Swiss relations. The SDS was founded as a direct result of the LSC example, and while I can't actually say that it was wholly through the LSC that Swiss women have now got the vote....!

It is wonderful to see Gina and Divina here and to congratulate them on their splendid results, particularly in the current professional world of ski-ing — because it is a professional world. Indeed, Karl Schranz was barred not because of what he had done but because he was unable to keep his mouth shut; not because he was a professional skier but because he proved to be an amateur professional.

The Swiss, the Austrians, the French and indeed all the Alpine nations find the possession of champion skiers an inestimable boost to their tourist industry, and it is no good assuming that they will abandon this advantage. We shall, in the future, always be confronting their professionals with our amateurs.

We have just returned from a very happy time in Mürren. A child of eight was introduced to me and reported on having met the nice man who founded Mürren. Yes, she said, she liked him. She didn't care at all for old men of 40, but men of 80 were All Right."

Yeoman Warder Cairns who was on duty that night, then gave us a most entertaining introduction to the Ceremony. Greeting us as Distinguished Guests, he explained that, in the context of the Tower, he was more accustomed to Extinguished Guests. Gibbering (in direct disobedience to Digby's instructions) we remembered the many people who died in the Tower, feeling anxiously for the whereabouts of our own heads.

Next moment we were brought properly to heel as he explained that the restaurant was on the site of the Lion Tower where, in the reign of James I, animals fought for the amusement of the Court, and which later became the nucleus of the London Zoo.

Brilliantly knitting the Club's 50 years of life into the 900-year

history of the Tower, he produced the First Ski Slope in 1547 when, at the Coronation procession of Edward VI, a sailor slid down a cable slung from the dome of St Paul's as an entertainment for the 10-year-old King (CCPR please repeat?)

We were then reminded that for over 700 years, with only minor variations, the Ceremony of the Keys has been carried out every night. During the many hundred years when the Tower was both palace for royalty and gaol for important political prisoners, the twilight hour when gates were locked was the time to try and "hi-jack" them; so the Yeoman Warder locking the gates was given an escort, complete with bugler to alert help. The lantern carried tonight and every night is still the Tudor one which accompanied these rounds.

During the last war the Ceremony still continued nightly, though steel helmets replaced the Tudor hats. One night during the blitz in 1941 the entire guard was blown flat on their faces; the Yeoman Warder in command got them briskly up again, and the Ceremony continued.

Mr Cairns then outlined the route we should take, explaining that at the end the officer commanding the Tower of London guard would salute not the Warder carrying the Keys but the Keys themselves—"Queen Elizabeth's Keys".

For the first part of the Ceremony we stood by Traitor's Gate watching the Chief Warder, four Guardsmen and Watchman, carrying the Keys and lantern, come from the Byward Tower to be met and challenged by the Sentry; later moving through the archway into the lee of the White Tower (built in 1078) to watch the Tower guard salute and receive the Keys, and to hear the moving sound of the Last Post.

It was indeed a privilege to see this fascinating moment of continuing history with a group of friends, instead of among an anonymous gaggle of tourists, and to be able to end the evening with those friends, discussing the highlights over hot rum punch, instead of trailing away to the dismal wastes of London Transport.

Members and Guests who attended the Dinner at The Tower of London:

Sir Raynor and Lady Arthur, Mrs D. M. Berent, Mrs R. Berry, Mrs A. Blackshaw, Mr and Mrs J. F. Bolton-Carter, Miss E. Carlill, Colonel and Mrs J. C. Coke, Mrs S. Copeland, Miss P. Farquharson, Miss E. Fernandes, Miss J. Francis, Miss B. Fripp, Miss E. Fulton, Miss D. Galica, Miss J. Gladstone, Dr and Mrs E. Goldberger, Lord and Lady Hankey, Mrs T. Hartley, Miss G. Hathorn, Miss J. Heaver, Brigadier and The Hon. Mrs Hensman, Miss E. Hussey, Miss P. Hussey, Miss M. Illingworth, Sir Anthony and Lady King, Miss E. Leverson, Miss F. E. Lewis, Mrs J. Lewis, Mr E. Lewns, Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn, Colonel E. MacFie, Miss F. MacRobert, Major and Mrs McSwiney, Mrs M. Marx, Mrs Matthias, Mr and Mrs R. Max, Mr M. W. B. May, Miss J. Molyneux, Mr E. Morgan, Mr and Mrs G. Noel, Mrs M. O'Reilly, Mrs C. O'Rorke, Mrs M. Park, Captain and The Hon. Mrs Raynsford, Major-General and Mrs Raeburn, Miss I. Roe, Miss B. Scott, Mrs P. Sitwell-Stebbing, Mrs N. Smith, Major and Mrs Spence, Miss S. Stopps, Mr and Mrs H. Sturges, Mr D. Tomkinson, Mrs W. R. Tomkinson, Mr J. Usborne, Mrs Waller.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

This YEAR our Aim was to give as much money as possible towards the Olympic Appeal, especially to the girls, and also to give support

to Di Lewthwaite's excellent Junior Training Scheme.

The proceeds of the Ski Kit Mart, £210, were kept and distributed by the LSC. As a result, we were able to help both substantially. We gave Di £105 towards the training (£5 was donated by Ros Hepworth last year and held over to this). With the remainder, we paid for the anoraks worn in training by the Women's Olympic Training Team.

We sent £20 raised by the raffle at last year's cocktail party to the Olympic Appeal, and also gave the Kandahar £10 towards

the Schoolgirls' Races at Gstaad.

Our thanks once more to all those who have helped so much by giving donations, and in particular I should like to mention that Jimmy Riddell has very kindly "written off" our debt which we had owed to Jeannette for sweaters and so added to the already generous legacy left to the LSC by Jeannette. We are indeed grateful for such a gesture.

Finally, I would like to thank Eric Lewns for again so kindly

auditing the accounts.

GOLDEN JUBILEE SEASON

By PHYLLIS LUNN

So MANY SKI-ING INNOVATIONS had their origin in the Mürren of the nineteen-twenties that a period of Golden Jubilees has begun. On 21st January, 1972, the Kandahar organised a slalom to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first slalom race. When presenting a miniature golden ski to its creator, Lord Selkirk pointed out that from this acorn, the slalom held in 1922, has

grown all Alpine racing as we know it today.

Some members of the LSC may remember the Silver Jubilee celebrations held at Mürren in conjunction with the Kandahar, the SAS (Swiss University Ski Club) and the SDS (Swiss Ladies' Ski Club), but as the oldest of these Clubs, the LSC is continuing the Golden Jubilee season with its own celebration in Mürren in January 1973. Various myths have grown up round its foundation, but the minutes of the first meeting exist, and confirm that the Club was founded on 22nd January, 1923.

The Golden Jubilee Dinner will be held in Mürren on Monday, 22nd January, 1973, and there will be parties and races during the preceding week, including the Inferno from the Schilthorn to Lauterbrunnen on 22nd January (entry inquires to the Kurverein, Mürren, at least ten days before). The Sinister Father of the Club is naturally thinking up a new type of race for the occasion, rather

ungallantly described as an Unseen Slalom, but he has made it clear that it is the slalom rather than the competitors which he intends to shroud in mystery.

There will almost certainly be a Bracken No-Fall race, and probably an Arlom, as both these events have become increasingly popular again as a result of the Kandahar's determination to

provide racing for fun as well as for FIS points.

Members who have not skied at Mürren lately will find at least two new major forms of ascent—the Schilthorn cable railway, scene of the James Bond film, "On Her Majesty's Secret Service", where it is hoped that one of the parties may be held in the revolving restaurant with its incomparable view, and the Maulerhubel chairlift from Half Way House (Winteregg) which makes available to never-climb-a-foot skiers the runs so popular in the early days of the LSC, the names of which are now being collected by Graham Burke for his historic map.

Many of the early ladies' races are now held at other centres, but most of the cups are still in the hall of the Palace Hotel. "Room 4" is still there too, though only just, and its former chief inhabitant is now to be found at Jungfrau Lodge. For those trying to use No. 4 as the Kandahar and SCGB office, it must be like working in a very ancient, very sacred and very overcrowded

reliquary

The earliest of the Kandahar scrapbooks, also at Jungfrau Lodge, contains photographs of most of the original members of the LSC, and the latest of many of today's women racers. They will all, of course, be available to members of the LSC to come and examine.

The Kandahar Junior Training at Mürren next season will be over, and the February Faithfuls may not have arrived, but those of us who will be in Mürren in the middle of January 1973 look forward to welcoming as many members of the Ladies' Ski Club as can possibly get there.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES — FEBRUARY 1972

By DIVINA GALICA

THE OLYMPIC GAMES held in Sapporo was an unforgettable experience and will always remain in my memory as the Olympics of Rainbow and Snow. This was the title of a sweet and moving melody which became the official Winter Olympic hymn at the first Winter Games to be held in Asia. This happy tune symbolized the mood of the Games which was only darkened by the unfortunate disqualification of Karl Schranz at the eleventh hour.

This cloud soon passed and when the 1,128 athletes from 35 countries gathered on the glistening oval of the Makomanai Ice Stadium to watch the breathtakingly beautiful Opening Ceremony, everyone reflected the happiness of the hundreds of Japanese

children who skated unsteadily round the arena and released their colourful balloons after the Olympic Flame had been lit and the

Games declared open by the Emperor Hirohito.

After three years of hard training to prepare for the Olympics it had not occurred to me that I might enjoy the Games as much as I did. This was my third Olympics so I was well aware how much rests on so little; just one tiny error could cost one a medal and another four-year wait before being able to have another try for one.

The atmosphere at the various venues when the races were taking place was electric, but at the Olympic Village, which lodged all the athletes and officials in twenty apartment blocks on the outskirts of Sapporo, the general feeling was much more relaxed. We were delighted with our living accommodation which allotted single rooms to each girl, in flats for three or four people. These apartments which would eventually house Japanese also had a minute bathroom and a small sittingroom-come-kitchen with gas ring, which I found invaluable to brew hot drinks when confined to my bed with 'flu for a few days. The apartment blocks housing the women athletes had a high barbed-wire fence around them and a guard at the gate to prevent any men slipping into them. This greatly frustrated many of the Teams' doctors and masseurs as the guards were adamant that no male should pass their gate, and on occasions even the females had to show their passes to prove their sex and get into their living quarters!

There was a second fence around the entire village to prevent the masses of Japanese fans from badgering athletes for photographs and autographs, which they did when one left the compound to go to the post office just outside the fence. "Smile, please" and "Sign here" were their standard phrases, accompanied by a dig in the ribs to attract your attention, so any exit from the village was almost a case of taking one's life in one's hands. Inside the village was a large shopping area; this had a bank, several camera and radio shops, a sports shop and several souvenir stalls; it also had a wonderful hairdresser where we found we could get a marvellous facial and head massage for the equivalent of only 25 new pence. In another corner of the village was a round building containing the Japanese answer to the sauna, an Ion bath. This is a pit of hot sawdust in which you are buried, having changed your clothes for paper pants, shirt and bathcap, so that only your head shows; then, whilst you sweat, the enzymes in the sawdust supposedly pass into your skin so that half an hour later, having showered off the sawdust, you feel completely invigorated.

In the centre of the village were three dining-halls, one serving Oriental food and two for Western-type meals. These were selfservice dining-rooms and one could sit where one liked, so it was easy to meet and get to know competitors from the other sports

taking part, which was extremely interesting.

We were ferried in small buses from the village to the mountains where we raced and trained; the Japanese drivers of these buses must have been specially chosen for their careful driving, and the thirty-mile drive to Mount Eniwa sometimes took two hours, which made an extremely tiring day. Luckily the Giant Slalom and Slalom were held on Mount Teine which was a lot nearer Sapporo; the view from the top of both mountains is spectacular, Mount Eniwa looks out over a huge lake and is in the centre of a National Park, and Mount Teine has the sea on one side and Sapporo spreading out beneath it on the other.

The weather was incredible whilst the Games were taking place. The temperature was always well below zero and one minute there would be blue skies and sun and the next a storm would blow in from the sea and three feet of snow would fall in a few hours, then as quickly as it had arrived it would clear up. The Alpine skiers never complained even though a few people, notably Françoise Macchi, were hurt training the downhill in deep snow, but we had suffered having too little snow in Europe the whole season and it was a joy to see fresh snow nearly every day whilst we were in Sapporo. The Japanese Defence Corps (Army) did a fantastic job clearing the snow off the pistes as fast as it fell, so all the races had good pistes even though they didn't always have good visibility to go with it.

Of course, we were not quite satisfied with our results, but who is ever satisfied but the winner? We hope, however, that the Ladies' Ski Club feel it was worth our taking part even if we didn't get those elusive medals, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for all their help through the years

leading up to Sapporo.

DO YOU THINK DAS WETTER WILL GET BETTER?

By Elizabeth Greenacre

SO ASKED AN UNKNOWN German woman of Aubrey Lincoln in the Sol y nieve Hotel, Sierra Nevada, on an evening early in May this year. Our trip to Spain had started five days previously, when Aubrey, John and Pat Pettifer, Roddie Warren Pearl, Kenneth King, Alan Bevis and I arrived at Malaga looking forward to a week of spring ski-ing and hot sun in this resort which Jimmy Riddell described so well in last year's Kandahar Review.

We arrived at the hotel at 2 a.m. after a hilarious drive up from the coast, all of us, our luggage, seven pairs of boots and five pairs of skis packed into or on top of a Volkswagen and a Mini. Having stopped twice on the way, once for dinner and once at midnight to celebrate John and Pat's wedding anniversary, we were in very good form, much to the manager's consternation, when we finally checked in.

Saturday was a lovely hot day and we had some very enjoyable ski-ing. The ominous clouds which had blown up by late afternoon did not seem very significant. However, Sunday morning proved to be a gloomy sight, the whole area enveloped in thick cloud and it was quite obvious we would see nothing. Ski-ing was duly abandoned for the day, and the only alternative being drink, most of it was passed in a haze of alcohol.

Monday was not much better but there were a few breaks in the cloud, so we skied as much as we could, joined by Monime and Eric Archer. That evening it started to snow but the locals still insisted that this weather could not last. After our usual quota of green chartreuse and a great game of liar dice we almost believed

It was snowing very hard on Tuesday, so we decided to do our sightseeing that day and duly ordered two taxis to go to Granada. This took a great deal of organising, and by the time we set off it was already nearly two o'clock and snowing even harder. In the leading taxi, knowing the exposure of the road in places, we had just begun to wonder about the wisdom of this expedition. Our wonderings were cut short abruptly by the taxi skidding, hitting a rock at the side of the road and ending up at right-angles across it. We piled out slightly shattered, consulted with those in the taxi behind and made a unanimous decision to pay off the taxis and return the 6 kilometres on foot. In howling wind and driving snow, very unsuitably clothed and shod, we battled up the road for an hour, by which time, plastered with snow we looked like Scott of the Antarctic. To restore morale we repaired to the snack bar for a very late lunch and, much to our amusement, discovered a new liqueur — a vivid blue concoction called Parfait Amour!

Wednesday, still not improved, and so four of us decided to spend the last two days in Granada and this time had a happier descent in the hotel Land-Rover. We spent the rest of the day with Eric and Monime, enjoying the warmth of a roaring log fire in their very attractive house in the old part of the town. Later that evening we joined in the Fiesta celebrations with them and their two children.

During the remainder of our time in Granada we managed to see a lot of the town, including the Alhambra with its beautiful Summer Palace and gardens, the Cathedral and Chapel Royal.

We all met again on Friday to return to Malaga airport together. After all the snow and grey skies of Granada, it was very refreshing to drive through villages already bright with geraniums and bougainvillaea. We stopped in a restaurant by the sea for lunch, which was preceded by the excellent local sherry, with which we had the best jumbo prawns I have ever tasted.

Despite the weather we had had a great week and it is only fair to say that for the time of year the snow was most exceptional, and unlikely to be repeated for anyone thinking of ski-ing in Sunny Spain.

I DO NOT REMEMBER meeting Jeannette for the first time, which is odd, because no one who met her could fail to be affected by her personality. To me, Jeannette, is synonymous with fun. Whatever one did with her, it was always fun.

Most of my ski memories of Jeannette are centred on Zermatt in the late 40's and early 50's. She used to take anyone who wanted to join her and we all followed our leader (as best we could) down a variety of regular and irregular runs. One year Jeannette's assistant rep. fell out; she enlisted me but first I had to pass the varied snow of the first-class test. Jeannette failed me twice! I was a budding racer and thought I was pretty good, so I was not a little put out by this! When I queried her reasons her face wrinkled up in that impish grin and she replied, "You may be alright on the piste, but first-class skiers have to be able to ski in everything." From anyone else it could have been a rebuff but from Jeannette it was an invitation to greater effort, and so I became a trainee "rep." under her. She taught me all I know and also a great deal about racing in the next few years.

Incidents stand out like milestones. One day in March, going up in the Gornergrat Bahn, Otto Furrer leant over and said, "Channette, today we ski the Hohtälligrat." None of us had ever walked right along the ridge. Otto led about six of us, all carrying our skis. It was terrifying. Arrived at the end, all of us in a state of jitters, Otto deposited his skis unceremoniously on the knife edge and was ready for off before any of us had started. He turned and said, "Come on Channette, we go down here" and disappeared over a cornice! Jeannette followed and we waited for them to reappear — the "Great Bear" and the slight, graceful figure of Jeannette. Otto, ploughing through the untracked snow, and Jeannette skimming over it, her bumbag bobbing up and down, throwing up a plume of spray, so light, so graceful, so effortless. It was a pity we had to lumber down, leaving so many potholes in our wake!

"Birds nesting" was one of Jeannette's favourite pastimes, particularly off the Tuftern run. Somehow she never seemed to embrace the trees the way we did. "El Alamein" with Otto and Jeannette was an experience which, I am sure, none of us will ever forget.

In 1949 there was very little snow in Zermatt so at the end of March the Bill Bracken *ménage* and two friends who had a car, Jeannette and I set off for Kitzbühel. They all went by car. Jeannette and I went by train with thirty-odd pieces of baggage, four of which belonged to us. After an eventful journey we arrived in "Kitz" very late. Jeannette was making her first visit to Kitzbühel since before the war, I had never been there. We staggered up the street humping our bags to find our hotel proprietor waiting. As we entered the hall his face lit up, "Channette Kessler! Wie geht's?" Then the party started. Wherever we went someone always knew Jeannette. The next morning we had passes on all



IEANNETTE RIDDELL President of LSC 1948-51 and Hon. Treasurer from 1951-1967

JEANNETTE RIDDELL'S RACING RECORD

1931 World Championships: 3rd in Slalom, 4th in Downhill.

1933 World Championships: 5th in Downhill, 4th in Slalom. Arlberg-Kandahar: 1st in Downhill and Combined.

World Championships: 5th in Downhill, 9th in Slalom.

1936 Winter Olympics: Captain of Ladies' Team. 6th in Slalom, 8th in Combined.

Incidentally, Jeannette passed her First Class SCGB Test in 1933, the same year in which she came 4th in the World Championships Slalom.

transport and a table every evening at Praxmair's. Off we went to discover what the Marshall Plan had done for Kitzbühel. The snow was perfect, an inch or so of fresh powder on top of hard base. There were very few skiers in the village and we had a wonderful morning and eventually walked along a ridge to reach an untracked slope. At the end was a fairly big cornice overhanging the slope by several feet. I took one look and said, "How on earth are we going to get round this one?" "Like this" came the reply as Jeannette, with a waggle of her hips and a shout of joy, disappeared out of sight! Later we met some pre-war racing friends of Jeannette's and we had a week of the most marvellous ski-ing I have ever had.

At last we had to go home. Jeannette insisted on taking some rather strong cheeses with her. She stowed them in her rucksack and we boarded the train late one night bound for Lausanne. To our great relief we found an empty compartment, spread out all our baggage and lay down for a good night's sleep. Some time later we were rather rudely awakened by a party of Chasseurs Alpins (who were occupying that part of Austria at that time). We moved up very sleepily and they all piled in. After some time one left, saying he wanted some fresh air — then another then another, and another, until eventually there were only two or three left, and we heard "Extraordinary, they look quite clean" —— "Haven't got their boots off" —— I can't stand it any longer." In less than half an hour we were alone. We did not try to understand it, we just slept again. Several times during the night the door was opened and quite quickly shut again. Next day Jeannette went off to Brig to collect some baggage she had left there, boarded the night train and I met her in Lausanne. Empty compartment, how marvellous, I opened the door and suddenly realised the meaning of the previous night's conversation. Jeannette had been with the cheeses all the time and hadn't noticed. We had a good laugh with our Chianti and ham sandwiches and settled down for a night's sleep. Those cheeses kept us a compartment to ourselves all the way to Calais! We ate them that night, they were delicious!

One summer we drove a Land-Rover laden with holiday necessities from London to Gairloch, where Mrs Kessler had taken a house. Even on a drive like this Jeannette's "birds nesting" trend came out! As soon as we got to Stirling we started avoiding the main "pistes". We wiggled in and out and round about and took half a day longer than we should have done, having fun. I stayed a few days and remember one rather typical West Coast day, we went to fish a nearby loch, Jeannette and her cousin and I. The mist came down, the midges came out, the rain started, gentle light rain, then steady rain, then a downpour, there were we sitting in a boat in the middle of this loch, the rain trickling down our necks and running up our sleeves as we cast our flies over very dour trout. Suddenly from under a large sou-wester, her face wrinkled in that impish grin and more than a hint of laughter in her voice, Jeannette said "Is anyone really enjoying this?" When

we got home, soaked to the skin, one of Jeannette's uncles said "Why on earth did you stay out so long?" "It was such fun" came the reply. Yes! it was all such fun. Even standing on top of a mountain in a howling gale, freezing cold, nerves at full stretch, waiting one's turn to hurl oneself down (rather faster than one wanted to go), Jeannette would appear with sugar lumps and brandy and a word to ease the tension. She knew how we felt. I got my own back in 1953 in St Anton. I was "repping" and she came over to join in the AK Jubilee celebrations and race in the Senioren Classe. At the start were Rudi Matt and a whole crowd of "old hands" laughing and joking, with me as the St Bernard this time, all having fun.

This is how I remember Jeannette — her eyes screwed up, laughing, gay, helping everyone, encouraging all, and above everything else, having fun.

DI LINDSAY

By G.R.

DI LINDSAY BECAME A MEMBER of the LSC and 'K' Clubs in 1927. She was a faithful Mürrenite until the War and was President of the LSC from 1945-48. She was a good skier and racer and was awarded an Alpha 'K' for Downhill and, although none of us could ever rival Doreen and Wendy, Di was always among the first few in Combined results.

Those were the days when ski-ing and racing (apart from butterflies) were fun and we raced on natural snow, and the first down was the winner. We explored new runs and found our way through woods and danced at night in full evening dress at the Palace Hotel, and Di was the most untiring of us all.

Di had great courage during several slight but painful injuries and then a horrible one on the Schiltgrat when she broke her neck and had to undergo skilful but very painful treatment in Mürren. She never let anyone know when she was in pain and was always cheerful.

During the War Di drove a YMCA canteen based on London in spite of the fact that her neck always troubled her. She died at her home in Ulster after a long illness.

By DI LEWTHWAITE

FOR THE LSC to be recognised as a racing club, it was necessary to run a training for juniors and so we decided to hold a technique training in the Spring.

The training was held in St Anton and Zermatt and we had seven trainees, four girls and three boys aged 10-14. The trainer was Franz Klimmer who trains the St Anton juniors and also the juniors in Sun Valley. Franz was absolutely excellent with these juniors. When I first saw them all ski, they looked as though they had never, and would never race; their technique was quite appalling. By the end of the fortnight they had all improved out of all knowledge and one was really proud to be seen ski-ing with them

We skied really hard for about four hours a day, half the day being devoted to exercises and the other half into putting these exercises into practice. Emphasis was always on absolute perfection in every exercise however long it took them to grasp the movement. In St Anton the snow was limited and downhill ski-ing was restricted. In the afternoons, therefore, we spent about an hour jogging up the mountains and then after tea about half an hour doing suppling and strengthening exercises. The second week was spent in Zermatt where again we were excellently looked after by the Supertravel girls. The snow here was fantastic and one day we had powder to our waists. The trainees surprised both Franz and myself with their ability to cope with this deep snow, and though there were lots of falls this really testing ski-ing extended the children to the utmost, and when they returned to piste ski-ing the improvement was amazing.

It will be very interesting to see how these trainees fare in the next Junior Championships and Club Championships. They should now be sufficiently capable of going down a giant-slalom and slalom course at least knowing how it should be tackled and how to ski whatever the weather and conditions.

I feel that there is a lack of these pure technique courses, but demands on the young of today are great and, except for the very talented, ski-racing cannot encroach too much on their lives. The British attitude has traditionally been, and fortunately still is, that children should "have a go" at everything possible. This may or may not have some bearing on the fact that as a nation we do not produce the numbers of dedicated top-class sportsmen and women that other nations seem to manufacture. Be that as it may — if the LSC could run technique training courses in the Easter and Summer holidays, allowing trainees to choose whether they would attend one or both courses, the Club would be providing a badly needed service which could only benefit young skiers and might even benefit British ski-racing eventually.

THE ALPS FROM END TO END

By Alan Blackshaw

IN THE SEVEN WEEKS 9th March-26th April, our team of eight (The British Alpine Ski Traverse, 1972) went from Kaprun in Austria to Gap in France "over the tops". Subsequently, on 29th April we climbed Mont Blanc, bringing the total number of peaks climbed to nine; and, of course, there were countless high cols as well.

This long Haute Route (it is in fact about ten times as long as the Zermatt-Chamonix one) had been done before by Continental parties, notably by those led by Walter Bonatti in 1955, Denis Bertholet in 1965 and Robert Kittl in 1971, but never before so far as we know by one from a non-Alpine country, nor by one which did not include professional guides. Our traverse was also unusual in that our party was large (eight as against five for the previous largest one), all of us finished, we had no nights out in the snow, nor crevasse or avalanche accidents, though we must have been pretty close to these various potential misfortunes from time to time!

What made us do it? First, the attraction of a long and continuous route linking all parts of the High Alps is enormous for the Alpinist or ski-mountaineer; there are many places thrown up by such a journey which one would never normally see — notably in our case the Gross Venediger area in Austria, the Rheinwaldhorn in East Switzerland, the Monastery Grand St Bernard in West Switzerland, and a host of charming villages between Chamonix and Gap.

Secondly, the technical interest of ski-mountaineering on a grand scale, ranging from the problems on the mountain of route-selection and navigation (bad weather, crevasses, avalanches) to the logistical problems of getting to the right place at the right time, and with the right equipment and food; not to mention, of course, the technical interest of the ski-ing itself, though often the conditions were poor

Thirdly, the comradeships built up within the party and with our base party, and also with the BBC TV group who intermittently accompanied us. All these aspects combined to make it a very interesting proposition, and perhaps it was not surprising that we had 35 applications for it.

Among the applicants were several feminine ones, from well qualified ski-tourers. They came out high on the list and at one time I expected that they would be included in the eventual team; but in fact it proved possible for all the first eight men selected actually to go, so that in practice we did not have the opportunity of including them.

We had much interesting equipment which was given a pretty thorough testing. Our skis were either CPM 70 or Rossignol Haute Route, though we also had with us Fischer Europa 77 which were good on firm snow (we sank in on soft snow); for bindings we used the Marker M4 and Rotomat TR heel-release combination,

which proved excellent. We also had good equipment against an emergency, including SKADI avalanche receiver/transmitters, skisticks which could be converted into sounding rods (Kohla system); "deadman" belaying plates which could be converted into shovels, and a lightweight stretcher and medical kit. Additionally, of course, there was all the normal ski-mountaineering equipment — ice-axes, crampons, ropes, altimeters (invaluable for navigation), etc. Usually our packs weighed 25-35 lbs, depending on the amount of food we carried.

The Party

Alan Blackshaw (leader), Michael de Pret Roose (deputy leader and route Klosters-Zermatt), Peter Cliff (route Zermatt-Chamonix), Flight Lieutenant Dan Drew, RAF (food), Peter Judson (equipment), Dr Hamish Nicol (medical), Lt-Col. John Peacock, REME (articles in *The Guardian* and route Chamonix-Gap), and Richard Sykes (finance). Our base party comprised Brigadier Gerry Finch RE (Ret'd.) and Major David Gore, RA, with the indispensable Range Rover.

There is to be a fuller description of our journey in the first two issues of the SCGB's *Ski Survey*. But if this short article has whetted your appetite for ski-touring, why not ask the Ski Club of Great Britain or the Eagle Ski Club about next season's programmes? Both Clubs arrange a number of tours in delightful areas like the Oetztal, the Stubai or the Silvretta which give an excellent introduction to this form of off-piste sport.

For SCGB Touring Programme, please apply to:

The Secretary, SCGB,

118 Eaton Square,

London SW1.

For Eagle Ski Club Tours, application to:

Mrs C. P. Burne,

The White House, Mid Lambrook,

he White House, Mid Lambrook South Petherton 360, Somerset.

SCHOOLGIRLS' RACES AT GSTAAD

By Elisabeth Hussey

I WENT TO GSTAAD in the third week of February with some trepidation. What sort of a race was the Atalanta? What was I expected to do? Thoughts of result duplicators, Ski Club badges. timing, schoolgirls' ages, all ran in circles round my mind.

When I got there I found I need not have worried. Soss Roe, with Liz Fulton, has now run the races for several years and I did not really have to do anything but fit into the organisation. They had all the essentials down to a fine art. Preparation of courses, collection of entries, distribution of numbers, and timing were all routine.

There was, of course, tremendous support given by lots of people. Jimmy and Jeannette Riddell came specially to Gstaad for the races, although, sadly, Jeannette was too ill to emerge from her hotel room. Edward Hampton drove over from his home in Fribourg; The Ladies' Ski Club was represented by Nancy Smith, Pat Farquharson, the MacRobert sisters and Joyce Francis. Both Janey Reid and Kay Watts kindly put up race organisers and housed equipment. The Sturges family, five-strong, came over from Diablerets. Phyllis Scott at the Grand Chalet, Rossiniere, stored poles, flags and endless parcels, patiently letting us chop up tree-loppings for use as slalom poles.

The whole meeting was complicated and highlighted (sometimes with rather hot studio lights) by the presence of a BBC Television camera team, directed by Christopher Ralling. He was making a film, to be shown on BBC next Autumn, on winter in the Alps and thought, rightly that all the pretty girls competing at Gstaad would make a light-hearted contrast to the rigours of the British Alpine Ski Traverse.

The girls responded with enthusiasm. Vieux Chalet were kind enough to send several of their pupils with their trainer to be filmed on the day before the race, as they slalomed decorously down the slopes.

Although snow was short in the Alps this winter the rolling cow-alps round Gstaad make ski-ing possible on the thinnest of coverings, and in any case we were lucky enough to have a good fall in the week before the races. The Wasserngrat piste machine had made sure that the course was in excellent condition.

The Novices' and Second-Year Cups, held on 18th February, were both won by Vieux Chalet, Eleanore Vallance and Deborah Fulford showing how much they had learnt in a short time. The next day the Viper Trophy, which is open to every schoolgirl, was won by a Norwegian, Randi Namtruedt, also of Vieux Chalet. The Atalanta, set from a chalet near the middle Wasserngrat station, was won very steadily by Lorna Williams of Scotland, who is at school at Clos des Abeilles. Second — and winner of the Ladies' Ski Club Cup, was Stephanie Hall of Chatelard. Helen Hole of Clos des Abeilles came third and Caroline Berner of Bon Sejour,

Versoix, won the Lillywhites Cup. So, many of the schools were represented at the prizegiving which, with cameras whirring, took place at the comfortable and central Bernerhof Hotel.

The girls take the races seriously, anxious to do credit to their schools, but all the same there was a great atmosphere of festivity, especially about the day of the Atalanta. Perhaps it was because this is a great meeting place of friends—Ros Hepworth had brought her team from Wengen; Ethel Leverson had driven from Villars; Tom Greenwood had come with a party from Mürren. Perhaps it was because of all the youthful enthusiasm of the racers, smart in their many-coloured uniforms. Perhaps it was the presence of the camera and sound men, moving slowly among competitors, organisers and spectators with their heavy packs of equipment and making us all feel like prima donnas. Whatever the cause, this proved to be the best kind of race—one that everyone enjoys.

SKI-ING WITH ANNO DOMINI AND LIZ FULTON

By ENID FERNANDES

HAVING, DURING THE LAST two and a half years, fulfilled life-long desires to stand on a summit of the Drakensberg mountains and look into Lesotho, to camp in the Kalahari, to walk up Kilimanjaro, to have a close-up of Mount Kenya's twin peaks from Point Lenana, to cross Uganda to the Ruwenzoris (climbing hopes washed out by torrential rains from the Congo), to climb over glacier smoothed rocks leading to the summit of Borneo's Kinabalu and to look down from the great height on to the mountains and glaciers of the Arctic, I was left with a feeling of emptiness and loneliness and a "Now, what?"

What indeed! I joined one of Liz Fulton's "Cradle to the Grave" ski-ing parties. (She runs separate parties for infants, adults and ancients.) If scrambling through numerous woods in various degrees of hazardry with skis on, skis off, and lovely free runs of untracked powder snow do not seem to match up with bigger adventures, they nevertheless produce that sense of freedom and companionship that only mountains can give.

The permanent questions for this member of the party were whether ancient legs would stay in charge of the skis or the skis take charge of ancient legs. Both took place. But what matter? Liz and Soss Roe were around to unravel. It was all splendid fun.

In July, insha'llah, I am off on Hovercraft Trials up the Amazon and into Peru, but shall be keeping a distant eye on Liz and Soss and next year's ski-ing party. Anacondas, piranhas and the tupis permitting, I shall be there.

THE LOWLANDERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Val d'Isère, 8th-10th January, 1972

By Joan Raynsford

BELGIUM WAS THE organising country for the 25th Lowlanders' for men and the 25rd for women, and this year it was also the 25th Anniversary of the Belgian National Championships. M. du Roy de Blicquy, President of the Belgian National Ski Federation, was congratulated on the successful organisation of a very full week's racing. The Belgian contingent in Val d'Isère was over two hundred strong. The Mayor made a special presentation to the Belgian President for all that he had done, and he was also made an Honorary Citizen of Val d'Isère.

Fortunately, the British Teams arrived in good time this year, the weather was excellent, and they had adequate training. Again, this year, however, all the Lowlander countries held their National Championships in the days immediately preceding the Lowlanders' races and therefore had a good deal of extra practice on the Downhill course. The Downhill was run on the "Course Bleu" which is the normal women's International Downhill Course.

Once again, the Australian Women's Team were warmly welcomed and it was interesting to note their much improved standard of ski-ing since the previous year. The Lowlander Committee agreed that they should be allowed to race and they were fitted in *hors concours*.

In the Downhill, the British Team of Julie Molyneux, Antoinette Betts, Helen Carmichael and Maria Abercromby were triumphant and finished in the above order. Emma Schmith, one of the Australian guest competitors came fifth and was the last of those timed inside I min. 40 secs. In the International Team contest, for which the two fastest from each country count, Julie and Antoinette registered a remarkable aggregate more than six seconds better than the Dutch title defenders. The race was run on a fast course in spring-like conditions.

After all this excitement and with their impressive lead, it was most disappointing that the British Team were defeated by the narrowest of margins and the Dutch Team retained the title after a brilliant fight-back in the Slalom. In continuing mild weather, the superbly prepared Solaise Slalom Course stood up well to the twenty-three women and thirty-one men competitors. Linda Esser, first in the Slalom and Karin Van Elderen, third, gained a thirdyear successive Dutch Team victory. Maria Abercromby celebrated her seventeenth birthday with the two second fastest runs and was second in the Combined Result. Julie Molyneux who won the Downhill was fifth in the Slalom and fourth in the Combined. Thus Holland won the Daily Telegraph Team Prize, Great Britain was second. Belgium third and Denmark fourth. Ingrid Christopherson was again the Team Manager. She is a most popular personality at the Lowlanders and looked after her Team in her cheerful and capable way.

It is generally agreed that nowhere else are the piste preparation, the safety of racers, calculations, abonnements and accommodation dealt with so efficiently and at so little cost to visiting countries as at Val d'Isère, and we are extremely grateful to the Mayor for making all this possible.

Mr Dennis Miller, the Publicity Director of the *Daily Telegraph*, again this year, made a special journey to Val d'Isère to present the handsome silver salvers which the *Daily Telegraph* most generously give to the winning teams, now for the fifth year in succession, and we are most grateful to them. Mr Miller also made a special presentation of silver goblets to the Mayor of Val Isère to commemorate the Silver Anniversary of the Lowlanders.

The *Daily Telegraph* gave a most successful party after the Prizegiving which was much appreciated by all the nations and provided a most happy ending to these rather special Silver Anniversary Championships.

We are delighted that Elisabeth Hussey, a member of our LSC Committee, has been appointed by the Lowlander Committee to be the Permanent Secretary to the Committee, and we are most grateful to her for accepting this assignment.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ON!

By RACHEL HARTLEY

For Many Years now I have enjoyed ski-ing enormously but have never aspired to racing, serious touring or even any resemblance of good style. The highest compliment ever paid to me was "But, you arrive!" and the only service I feel I have given to ski-ing is to have acted on many occasions as a "Morale Booster". What then am I doing writing for the LSC Journal? It is perhaps to point out another way to enjoy ski-ing, even if it is vicariously.

My husband and I arrived in Zermatt at midday on 3rd June; finding it bathed in sunshine we spent the afternoon walking on the Riffel Alp, acclimatising to the height and drinking in the superb scenery, the scent of the pines and daphne bushes, the colours of the wild flowers and pausing to watch the bride and her groom leave the tiny little church at the bottom in her flower bedecked horse-drawn carriage.

On Sunday we were joined by Ruedi Kaufmann from Grindelwald and walked, again in perfect sunshine up to the Schönbiel Hut, going first through the woods, then across the dusty works above the dam, then up the moraine of the receded glacier, and finally up the grassy bank to the hut.

Terry and Ruedi were to climb over to the Aosta Hut the next day in preparation for attempting a ski ascent of the Dent d'Herens and I to walk back to Zermatt. As one who is not a great skier I was able to enjoy the delights of the mountains, the splendour of the Matterhorn and the breathtaking views from the hut without hindering anyone . . . an extravagant week-end perhaps, but a very good way to celebrate a Silver Wedding anniversary.

THE MODERN REP.

By JANEY REID

WE THOUGHT, AT FIRST, that a Boeing 707 would be needed to transport all the people who applied to do the Wildhorn by air because the demand was so great. But in the end we managed to

fit into a smaller plane.

The young rep. who organised this tour arrived in Gstaad, last February, without any preconceived ideas about what should and what should not be included in his weekly programme. His creed was simple: on a ski-holiday you do as much *good* ski-ing as possible by the best means available. Therefore, not unnaturally, both aeroplane and helicopter trips featured in his programme. It just never occurred to him that certain skiers might disapprove of air trips, or find them expensive! And, indeed, he was right; his enthusiasm was so genuine that even the stick-in-the-mud tendencies of the skin-devotees evaporated, and they were at the forefront for air bookings!

One morning early, a group of us, including Liz Fulton and some of her SCGB touring party, drove briskly to the heliport intending to do the Gestellihorn by helicopter. But due to strong winds, at high altitude, we were forced to land on the Walighürli instead — the mountain we intended climbing on skins the following day.... This could have been a tricky moment for our rep.

but his joie de vivre carried it off!

The following morning we *did* repeat the tour because the snow was so good, and our rep. was with us, climbing on skins for the first time in his life! He took to climbing. From than on, tours on skins also featured on his weekly programme, and he joined Liz's party (crossing by stages from Diablerets to Lenk), as often

as he could manage.

Most people are less versatile! However, the modern rep. ought to develop this attribute and be game for all the types of ski-ing available today. Therefore he must realise himself that ski-ing has many dimensions: uphill, downhill, cross-country — all equally exciting — and be able to convey his enthusiasm to the holiday skier who may know of no other ski-ing beyond piste-bashing.

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB SALVER, 1972

By Ros Hepworth

LAST WINTER THE RACE was run on 28th December in Wengen. There were twenty-two entries, the ages ranged from ten to fifteen years and nearly half were girls of twelve, including the winner, Lucy Holmes. Lucy's home is in Geneva. She and four of the other

girls are at the Ecole Internationale, a day school in Geneva where they get much encouragement with their ski-ing and week-end racing, as do the Scottish girls of whom there were four in this race. Outstanding among those who get no term-time ski-ing is Fiona Easdale, who is at Benenden. The second and third in the race were Scottish, Catherine Legget being at St Leonard's and Anne Ross at Grantown Grammar School. Fourth was Theresa Wallis from Chatelard School, Les Avants.

The course on Eigergletscher was set by the DHO head trainer, René Seiler. The weather and snow were good that day and the girls started first, followed by 24 boys. Fiona Easdale starting number 1, clocked a time which was nearly two seconds faster than any other girl's time that day, and which was only beaten by four of the boys. This set the tone for the whole race, and the second run which was over the same course, also produced some excellent times. The four boys who headed the race results were Arthur Allison from Edinburgh, Allan Lobozzo, Robin King and Simon Berner from Geneva. Their trophy was called the Wengen Junior Championship, which was competed for at the same time as the Ladies' Ski Club Salver.

Next winter the race will be in Wengen on 29th December. It is open to girls born in 1957 or later, who are training with the

Downhill Only Club Christmas Training Scheme.

"CHAT"

By TED CHAMIER

A SUDDEN REQUEST that I should write some "chatty stuff" for the Bulletin caught me with my hair in curlers. As the Kandahar Cocktail Party was my first and only ski-gathering for eighteen months there is not much "chat" I can indulge in. The only thing that has happened to me was 15 days in a Botel down the Rhine, Having parked my "ball-and-chain" in an RAF Convalescent Home, I started for Heathrow with an old friend of Klosters days to interpret the Tannoy for me, and arrived "in the rain" at Amsterdam, unmet, unhonoured and unsung and not according to the prospectus. Our weather, I may say, was of the British Variety — but two-days-later kind, only four fine days in fifteen. However, it is a lovely river when it's not too foggy to see the banks and very nice side-trips by motor coach to lots of interesting places. My ideas of Heidelberg have been radically changed we arrived there by coach with 2,000 other people on a Bank Holiday, and singing students with beer steins were, alas, lacking. What a nice city Basle is! I had only seen it by night over the years and never outside the Railway Station!

The staff of the Botel, barring the Captain and two Dog's Bodies, were all girl students, and very attractive and helpful they were; at the end of the trip they *all* changed over one night to a new

set even more active and beautiful than the first — quite confusing! Dusseldorf, Bonn, Braubach, Rudesheim, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Strassburg (divine clock in Cathedral), Mainz, Cologne, Nijmegen; we saw them all and enjoyed it, and if I had only brought the RIGHT CLOTHES I should have been quite happy. I had mistakenly thought it would be spring (May?) and what I really needed was more wool and a heavy mackintosh!

Take your own party with you, if you ever go.

SEASON'S RACING, 1971/72

By Joan Raynsford

THE BRITISH WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TEAM, Divina Galica (captain). Gina Hathorn, Valentine Iliffe and Carol Blackwood, accompanied by their Manager, Maria Goldberger, took part in World Cup Races throughout the season. Unfortunately, Divina was unable to race until relatively late in the season because of her broken leg in October. Divina has written an account of the Olympic Games at Sapporo elsewhere in the *Bulletin*. The Olympic Team were awarded their National Colours and we congratulate them

on the success they achieved.

The 'B' Team, consisting of Julie Molyneux, Antoinette Betts, Helen Carmichael, Jane Allison, Patsy Field and Mary-Ann Scott, took part in FIS 'B' Races, the Lowlanders', and Citadin Races. Congratulations to Mary-Ann Scott who won three of the five Citadin Races which she entered. This is an outstanding result from a Geneva schoolgirl racing at week-ends and during holidays at her own expense and without manager or trainer. The FIS 'B' Circuit was difficult because of lack of snow, as indeed it was the preceding year, but the racing was considered to be as satisfactory as could be expected in the circumstances. Julie Molyneux had bad luck when she broke her leg at Abetone at the end of January, which was disappointing in view of the promising start she had made. We hope that she will be fully recovered for next season and wish her well. Ingrid Christopherson was the Manager of the 'B' Team and took good care of them with her usual enthusiasm.

Helen Carmichael, Jane Allison and Patsy Field were invited to the United States to take part in races on the North American and Can-Am Circuits. They stayed with families who had young racers of the same age and gained much useful experience and very much enjoyed themselves.

Silver Lions were awarded to Jane Allison, Lucinda Iliffe and

Mary-Ann Scott.

Seven young girls, the best from the Racing Clubs, completed a successful Espoir Training held in the Easter holidays at Schladming. Elspeth Crossley-Cooke was their Manager and Karl Kahr was their Trainer.

OLYMPICS AND WORLD CUP RACES, 1972

Some Noteworthy Results

Olympics

GS. Divina Galica 7/35 who finished. S. Gina Hathorn 11/19.

D. Valentina lliffe 23/41 who finished and one of the youngest taking part.

Arlberg Kandahar — D. Valentina Iliffe 32/45.

SDS, Grindelwald

D. Gina Hathorn 12/48. S. Gina Hathorn 21/40.

Obertaufen

S. Gina Hathorn 21/35. GS. Gina Hathorn 37/60.

Bad Gastein - D. Divina Galica 19/74

Banff, Canada — S. Gina Hathorn 7/13.

Heavenly Valley, California

S. Gina Hathorn 7/13. GS. Divina Galica 21/43.

FIS 'B' Races

Les Contamines, France

S. Gina Hathorn 6/35. GS. Divina Galica 19/82.

Abetone, Italy. European Cup, Coppa Foemina GS. Julie Molyneux 16/32 (59 started).

Citadin Races

Val d'Isère, France. Criterium

S. Gina Hathorn 10/44. CR. Gina Hathorn 16/35.

Pra Loup, France

D. Mary Ann Scott 8/31. S. Mary Ann 3/25. GS. Mary Ann 8/29.

Les Arcs, France
GS. Mary Ann Scott 1/18.

Please note abbreviations: alom. GS. Giant Slalom. CR. Con

D. Downhill. S. Slalom. GS. Giant Slalom. CR. Combined Result. 7/35 means 7/35 who finished.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The British Junior Championships, organised by the Kandahar this year, were held at Les Collon/Thyon in the Valais and this was a most fortunate choice because it was about the only possible place in the Valais suitable for racing at that time, due to the overall shortage of snow. Lucinda Iliffe (14) became the new British Junior Champion, Fiona Easdale (12) most promising, came second, and Paula Boyagis (15) was third.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

These Championships were held at Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy, on 13th-16th January. The best Juniors from the following countries took part: Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Norway, West Germany, Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. This gives an indication of the competition our teams had to face. Forty-six competitors took part in the Slalom and forty-seven in the Downhill and Giant Slalom.

In the Downhill, Lucinda Iliffe came 23rd and Patsy Field came 30th. In the Slalom, Lucinda was 24th and in the Giant Slalom Lucinda was 20th, Helen Carmichael 22nd and Patsy Field 24th. This was, surely, a very creditable performance, and congratulations to them.

BRITISH ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

and

SCOTTISH SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1972

The first British Open Championships were held at Cairngorm on 15th-18th April, a FIS International Race with skiers from Switzerland, Austria, France, Norway, West Germany and Lichtenstein. It was most exciting to be present and to see so much international ski-ing talent competing on Scottish, indeed British snow.

The White Lady was the racecourse used for the Giant Slaloms because the new Cairngorm racecourse did not have enough snow. The snow was firm on the upper part of the course but soft near the finish. There was a strong wind and visibility was varied.

Odile Chalvin from France won the Giant Slalom with Divina Galica and Gina Hathorn second and third. Valentina Iliffe came ninth. In the Slalom, Gina's first run was in thick mist, and Florence Steurer from France took the Slalom from Odile Chalvin in a most exciting second run. The best British slalom placings were Divina Galica fourth, Gina Hathorn sixth, and Patsy Field tenth. Odile Chalvin skied superbly to win the Ladies' Combined.

In the British National Championships, Divina became the British National Champion in the Combined, the Giant Slalom and the Slalom, and Gina Hathorn was second in all three; Carol Blackwood was third in the Combined, Valentina Iliffe was third in the

Giant Slalom, and Patsy Field was third in the Slalom. Carol Blackwood was the native Scottish Champion, Helen Carmichael was second and Patsy Field was third.

In the British Federation Championships, open to racers of British nationality not members of the 'A' Team, Lucinda Iliffe won the Combined and she also won the Giant Slalom to win the Ladies' Ski Club Cup. Maria Abercromby won the Slalom and the LSC Cup for that event.

The Tomkinson Trophy for British racers under eighteen was won by Helen Carmichael who won the Combined, and Jane Allison and Mary-Ann Scott shared the Ingham Trophy for the most promising girls under eighteen.

These Open British Championships were the last races for Divina and Gina, indeed the end of an era in British Women's Racing, and we applauded all that they have done when they were presented with special mementos on their retirement from International racing. A similar presentation was made to Florence Steurer who has also retired from International racing.

It was Helen Tomkinson's farewell Race Meeting as Chairman of the Alpine Racing Committee. She worked immensely hard for the success of the Championships and tribute was paid to her for the great success of all her endeavours.

Looking to the future, we understand that Carol Blackwood has also retired and we pin our hopes on Valentina Iliffe, the sole survivor of our Olympic Team. We wish her good luck and look forward to her success in the future.

We shall all remember these most successful Championships, superbly organised by Hugh Hunter-Gordon and his team. They welcomed us and looked after us most generously and did all they could to make this unique occasion most enjoyable for us all.

NATIONAL SKI FEDERATION ALPINE RACING CONFERENCE, 13-14th May, 1972

By JOAN RAYNSFORD

THIS CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN LONDON to discuss the future of British Alpine Ski-racing under the chairmanship of Major-General Digby Raeburn. It was attended by delegates from clubs and organisations concerned with British Racing, and lively discussions took place.

The LSC was ably represented by Divina Galica and Gina Hathorn and we are grateful to them for attending on our behalf and for their contribution. The following notes on the Chairman's summing-up have been circulated by the National Ski Federation and give an indication of the matters discussed at the Conference and of the ideas expressed.

Helen Tomkinson spoke about British Racing and led a discussion on the status of the British Senior Championships and the part that Great Britain should play in supporting Lowlander and Citadin events.

Maria Goldberger gave us a most excellent address, thought out in great detail and depth, on "Where goes International Ski-racing?" Congratulations to them both on the most interesting and constructive contributions which they made to the Conference.

Hugh Hunter-Gordon is the new Chairman of the Alpine Racing Committee and I am sure that we all wish him the best of luck and success in this very important assignment.

NOTES ON THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP

1. The Conference agreed that the present FIS rules concerning eligibility were dishonest because unenforceable. A statement in the following terms is being sent to the Federation:

"The meeting believes that the Olympic Games should be open to the best competitors. It realises, however, that this ideal is unlikely to be reached for some time. It therefore recommends that, in the interim, FIS should be invited to amend its rules so that its races are open. At the same time the meeting believes that there should be two categories of racer defined by levels of opportunity."

2. Our aim remains to participate in the highest class of racing with both men and women, provided that suitably qualified racers are available. We should retain the whole range of choice from Lowlander/Citizen through the European Cup and FIS B races to the World Cup, FIS A races, the World Championships and the Olympic Games. It may prove desirable to send teams or individuals on part-season circuits, thus reducing expense and physical and mental strain and interfering as little as possible with general education.

This will be easier to effect if a limitation is imposed by FIS on the number of races a person below the topmost class may enter.

3. Training and management methods must be flexible and adaptable to current resources of racers and money. Often it will be appropriate to have a team under training. At other times it may be better to arrange for individuals to train with other national groups. If this is done it will probably be necessary for them to come under a British manager at actual race meetings. The possibility of saving expense by combining with, say, Commonwealth, Lowland, or perhaps Scandinavian countries to share training and management facilities should be explored. It was the general opinion of the conference that managers should be paid when funds are available for the purpose.

4. The present pattern of Junior/Espoir training is satisfactory. When the base of ski-racing is broadened by the introduction of inter-club and inter-school racing at home and perhaps abroad, this should provide a breeding ground for young racers.

It will be very necessary to give this sort of racing the maximum

publicity, especially in the local press.

The training needs of British children whose parents live permanently abroad must not be forgotten.

5. It is the general view that a Federation Newsletter is essential.

6. It was generally agreed that the British Championships, Senior and Junior, should take place periodically in Scotland. In other years they will take place in the Alps. The Downhill races in the Senior Championships should be held wherever possible.

It is essential that, wherever possible, the best British racers take part in the Senior Championships. When this is impossible, as in Olympic years, the Federation must consider substituting a National Meeting for the Men's or Women's Championships as necessary.

7. It remains essential to raise more money to support racing over and above Government grants. It is noted that the President-designate of the Federation is paying particular attention to this.

It is equally important that the money available should be wisely spent and properly controlled. Every effort must be made to produce sensible estimates and to keep spending within the resulting budget despite the difficulties caused by accidents, whether to racers or transport, the vagaries of the weather and the present somewhat haphazard organisation of international racing. If money runs out activities must stop.

8. The Conference welcomed a suggestion that there should be regional centres of Sports Medicine in which all testing facilities would be available. The Federation is invited to pursue this with the appropriate authorities.

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