

50TH



ANNIVERSARY

Ladies' Ski Club Bulletin

1973

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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

1973

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TO HAVE TO WRITE my first President's Report is something of a terrifying occasion, especially following Joan Raynsford whose marvellous reports were matched by her superb organisation of the Club over the last four years; I feel that we all owe her a large debt of gratitude for all she has done. I would also like to thank her for organising the Jubilee so efficiently in Mürren; you will find an account of this elsewhere in the *Bulletin*. The Jubilee was a great success and many of our Honorary Members sent their congratulations on this special day.

The big event for the Ladies' Ski Club this autumn will, I hope, be the Ski Kit Mart. This has been run by the LSC for the last twelve years and has raised a great deal of money for the benefit of racing. Many of us feel that there is a great deal of potential for this event to be enlarged to provide a real service not only to our members but also to all members of the SCGB. We are going to sell equipment and clothing on commission providing it is worth over £5.00; special emphasis is to be placed on children's clothes. So many parents going ski-ing find their offspring have outgrown the new garments bought the previous year; it is hoped now that they will be able to practically swap their children's clothes.

British Racing this year received a great recognition in the form of Divina Galica's M.B.E. No-one could deserve it more than Divina, who was the Captain of the Team for six years and was right at the top for all this time, and so nearly won two gold medals in the World Championships in 1970. This last season has been a difficult one for the British girls, but Valentina Iliffe did well in the European Championships. British Racing is going to miss Gina and Divina tremendously and it will be quite some time before we have two racers of such calibre again. Let us hope that one day there will be two Scottish girls to take over where these two have left off.

It is hoped that in future the LSC will take over the Easter Training of the Espoir girls. This year our training had to be cancelled as it clashed with Espoir training, but as it seems a natural event for us to organise, I think the racing clubs will agree to send their girls along to this training. A training at Easter is always valuable as there is no pressure of races and they really have a chance to improve and consolidate their technique.

Much emphasis is placed on racing but that does not mean the



SIR ARNOLD LUNN
with some of the racers at the 50-year celebrations.

other side of ski-ing, touring, is neglected, and I would like to congratulate Mary Mackenzie for being awarded the Eagle Ski Club Scholarship which enabled her to go touring this spring.

I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the Club who make it run: the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Advertisements Secretary, and the Hon. Editor; all these positions mean a lot of work and time, but everything is always produced punctually and efficiently—Thank you!

CLUB NOTICES and NEWS

THE DIARY OF EVENTS for next year is as follows:

17th October, 1973,	at 5.30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting at the Ski Club, 118 Eaton Square, SW1 9AF.
	at 6.30 p.m.	Cocktail Party.
7th November	at 5.00 p.m.	Ski Kit Mart at the Ski Club.
29th December		Ladies' Ski Club Salver at Wengen.
21st February, 1974		Ladies' Ski Club Junior Cup (with Schoolgirls' races) at Gstaad.
Easter Holidays		Ladies' Ski Club Training in the Loetschental.
7th May		Luncheon in the House of Lords.

SKI KIT MART. Last year £236 was raised. This year we hope to lay special emphasis on the sale of children's clothing; all children's clothes will be sold on commission if they are worth £5 or more; 10% will go towards the Ski Kit Mart Fund. People who have clothes they wish to leave for the Mart can contact Mrs Di Lewthwaite who has very kindly agreed to store the clothes prior to the Mart. Please make sure that they are labelled clearly if they are to be sold on commission.

LADIES' SKI CLUB JUNIOR CUP AND SCHOOLGIRLS' RACES. Next year these races are to be sponsored by the Ladies' Ski Club, the Ski Club of Great Britain, Lillywhites and the Kandahar Ski Club. The Ladies' Ski Club Cup will again be run in conjunction with the Atalanta and Lillywhites' Cup but will be for *moyen plus* standard; this means that former winners of Atalanta, Lillywhites, Viper and similar races will not be eligible, nor will pupils of 15 and over who have joined holiday race training courses. It is hoped that this more restricted category will encourage more youngsters to enter.

It is hoped to run a LADIES' SKI CLUB TRAINING during the Easter holidays in the Loetschental. At the time of going to press no details are available, but for further information please get in touch with Mrs Di Lewthwaite.

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 Tuesday, 7th May, 1974, at 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. Attendance will be by ticket only; application forms enclosed.

Joan and Hubert Sturges are hoping to organise a party to go ski-ing in Aspen next Spring. There is an article by Joan in the *Bulletin* and anyone wanting further details should get in touch with Joan.

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges with grateful thanks the 100 S.frs. anonymous donation given to the Ladies' Ski Club in January, by a member, during the 50-year celebrations.

Would any member who knows Mrs M. A. Baker's address please send it to the Hon. Treasurer so that we can send her a copy of the *Bulletin*.

We would particularly like to congratulate and send our good wishes to JIMMY and ALI RIDDELL who were married in July this year.

Our good wishes also to:

HELEN HAYES (The Hon. Mrs Helen Younger).
PENNY HOBBS (Mrs P. Trutil).
Miss S. MINIPRIO (Mrs S. Ingram).

We congratulate the following members who have had babies recently:

Mrs DI LEWTHWAITE.
LADY MARY VON WESTENHOLTZ.

We warmly welcome the following new members to the Club: Fenella Balme, Anne Baring, Tess Brocklebank, Fiona Campbell, Sarah Clayton, Pauline Cochran-Patrick, Anne Drummond, Fiona Easdale, Diana Groves, Sonia Hankin, Lucy Holmes, Sheila Kayll, Theresa Wallis, Caroline Sainte Croix Williams.

THE LSC BADGE. Unfortunately the price of the new LSC Badge has had to be increased, but at the time of going to press it is not known by how much. When they are available the badges can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs J. C. d'E. COKE, Brookhill Cottage, Fritham, Lyndhurst, Hants.

OPEN BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1972. The producers of the 1972 *Bulletin* very much regret the references to these Championships as being the first Open Championships to be held. They were, of course, the first to be held in Scotland and our apologies go to those of our members who raced in pre-war Open Championships and did so well in them.

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.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT, 1972-1973

THE HEALTHY POSITION of our accounts this year is mainly due to the hard work of the Ski Kit Mart Committee who, last time, made over £236 and we are very grateful to them.

This year we have been able to place a further £250 on deposit. We gave £30 towards the Atalanta Races last winter and, next year, the Committee has promised £100, plus the proceeds from the AGM Raffle. We had also hoped to give financial support to a Junior Training run by the LSC but this, unfortunately, had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Despite all this, however, it is hoped members will understand the necessity to propose at the AGM an increase in subscriptions, as money raised by the Ski Kit Mart, donations from members, plus the money made at the AGM Raffle (last time this was £31.50), is not intended for running the Club, but for helping towards race training in one form or another. When I explain that, last year, each *Bulletin* cost 66p to produce and, of the 281 members, 226 pay 25p each and 55 pay 50p each, you will appreciate that we cannot go on at the old rates if we want to stay in business. Out of each subscription, 5p has to go to the NSFGB as a contribution towards the British Racing Fund and we also have the day-to-day running expenses of the Club.

I cannot end this report without saying how much we will miss Eric Lewns who has audited our accounts for many years so painstakingly. We are most grateful to Jeannie Tapp's husband, Russ, for agreeing to take on the task.

JILL COKE

ERIC LEWNS

N.M.S.

ERIC WAS REALLY AN integral part of the Ski Club of Great Britain, both at Eaton Square and previously at Hobart Place. Over the years he sat on various committees, and I would imagine he held the record for attendances; he never missed doing anything he thought should be done.

He was a perfectionist. He only started ski-ing when he was twenty-nine, by chance, when a friend suggested he went to Grindelwald for a winter holiday. He was so intrigued with it as a sport that he was determined to perfect it, which is just what he did.

In his middle thirties he decided to take up racing so he went to Mürren. During the 1920's he raced in the A-K with very creditable results. Taking the Punchbowl straight at Scheidegg and breaking both legs did not deter him, and he was racing again the following year.

He did a lot of ski mountaineering both before and after the Second World War and with his knowledge of snowcraft was a very proficient guide. Every aspect of ski-ing interested him.

Eric had many friends and certainly no enemies, and a great many skiers have lost a very good friend who will never be forgotten. The Ladies' Ski Club will miss him as their Honorary Auditor, and so will several other affiliated clubs. It is nice to know that his memory will be perpetuated by the cases of badges in the Council Room which he made with such skill, and in which he was so interested.

LSC GOLDEN JUBILEE MEETING

at Mürren, 19th-23rd January, 1973

E.G.

WHEN THE IDEA GERMINATED last summer of a Fiftieth Birthday Party in Mürren we all thought it a very good one, but none of us quite knew how this idea would work out. It was, therefore, with some trepidation and curiosity that those members who could get to Mürren congregated there at the beginning of the week-end.

I arrived at lunch-time on Friday to find Mürren enveloped in thick cloud and the village seemingly deserted. However, at about four o'clock everything sprang to life — friends began to reappear

from skiing, tea was "on" at Ali Jackson's chalet and things started to hum. 'K' badges were exchanged for LSC ones and the week-end got well and truly under way. Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn, with Tess Brocklebank, greeted us all at a cocktail party in the Palace Hotel that evening. Several members and friends had already been in Mürren for a few days, namely John and Sue Moncrieff, Nancy Clough and her brother, Frances McDermott, her sister Margaret Crawford with a group of Australians, and, of course, the Chalet Monchblick contingent, including Ali, Elisabeth Hussey, Anne Drummond and Peter Clarke.

Tess had a Bracken No-Fall Race organised for Saturday afternoon on the Schiltgrat. We all met at the top, now joined by Joan, Johnnie and Jill Coke, Sonia Hunter of Hunterston and her daughter Pauline Cochran Patrick, and Sheila Hayward. It was a hilarious race with a Geschemozzle Start (agony for those with complicated bindings) and for at least half the participants it was the first time they had put on skis this season. At least that number had very little idea where the finish was or how to get there, but eventually everyone arrived safely at the Staeger Stubli. The winner, who had had to remove her skis, order and drink a drink was Ali. Peter Clarke, although not exactly among the winners had done great backing-up work all day and was voted, and now holds the title, Hon. Birdführer to the LSC. Ali gave a splendid Glühwein Party that evening and received her prize for winning the race.

Sunday dawned bright and clear for the Inferno Race which we watched from the top of the Allmendhubel. The course was from the Schilthorn to Grutschalp. The three LSC members who raced did extremely well; Tess and Ali were both awarded Bronze Devils. Anne Drummond just missed getting one but did an excellent time considering she had only just come out from England.

On Sunday afternoon the rest of us decided that we should take advantage of a fine day and go up the Schilthorn, so Joan, Sonia, Pauline, Jill, Sheila and myself set off. Having had a look around the famous revolving restaurant at the top we started down. Suddenly we realised that it was already rather late, the clouds were coming up and everyone else had, by this time (very wisely), disappeared. We had an interesting descent on sheet ice in visibility which worsened every moment, and we were all very relieved to complete this episode, now known as the Schilthorn Safari, safely. Morale was restored by tea with Sonia in her very nice flat.

The LSC Fiftieth Anniversary Slalom, set by Hitti von Allmen, was held on Monday morning on the practice slopes. Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn were able to watch the race from the terrace of Sunny Bar, Jungfrau Hotel. This again was a race in which everyone enjoyed taking part, and the result, after two runs each, was that Ali was the winner. At the end we joined the Lunnns for a drink and to be photographed with our Sinister Father.

In the afternoon Tess and Ali found us some lovely powder snow and we spent a very enjoyable time on Winteregg. At one



OUR SINISTER FATHER
with some of his illegitimate offspring at the Jubilee Dinner.

moment our ex-President was observed doing a spectacular somersault in nil visibility over a particularly nasty rock. This Pooh-trap has now been officially christened "Joan's Leap"!

On Monday evening we held the Dinner in the Palace Hotel, with our Sinister Father well surrounded by his LSC off-spring. Unfortunately, Elisabeth Hussey and Peter Clarke had to leave earlier in the day, Nancy Clough was smitten with a bad cold and Frances McDermott and Margaret Crawford also had to depart earlier. However, we were delighted that we had now been joined by Pauline Sitwell-Stebbing; we therefore dined seventeen strong. Our guests, Dr Frau Moska, who did a marvellous job as photographer to the week-end, Miss Price, a 'K' member, and, of course, Johnnie Coke and John Moncrieff, whose support we all much appreciated. It was a wonderful evening and Herr Ritter, the Manager of the Palace Hotel, had gone to great lengths to produce an excellent dinner.

Joan welcomed everyone and read the many telegrams and letters from friends and members unable to be present. Amongst them was a telegram from Jimmy Riddell, one from four Honorary members, Lady Selkirk, Mrs Jack Chance (née Evie Pinching), Mlle Kini Maillart and one from Fraulein Elsa Roth, saying "Sorry not to be with you, I send congratulations and best wishes personally and on behalf of the Swiss Ski Federation and the SDS to the

British Ladies' Club. I remember old times and shall never forget the friendship we found among your members since the start of ladies' ski-racing in Switzerland."

Peter Seligman sent a box of chocolates and a bottle of wine from the Kandahar.

Following this our Sinister Father made an appropriate and most amusing speech. We were all very sad that our President, Di Lewthwaite, was not able to be with us, especially when, at the end of the speeches, Joan was presented with the Lady Blane Award for her services to ski-ing.

The evening ended with Lady Lunn presenting the prizes for the Slalom to the winner Ali, Sheila Hayward who won the Alte Klasse, and to Anne Drummond, Sue Moncrieff and Pauline Cochran Patrick as the newest LSC member.

We were very sad to say good-bye to Joan, Johnnie and Jill on Tuesday morning. Those of us who remained had a marvellous day with Tess and Ali on the Schiltgrat, finding every sort of snow from powder to breakable crust. An extremely pleasant day ended with tea with Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn, looking at all the old Kandahar scrapbooks.

Our thanks for this very successful week-end go firstly to Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn who contributed so much to making our stay in Mürren so enjoyable; also to Herr Ernst Feuz of the Schilthornbahn, and to Dr Hirni of the Bernese Oberlandbahn for so very kindly providing Freikartes. Lastly to Tess who organised the ski-ing so well and to Ali for her endless hospitality in Chalet Monchblick.

Those who attended the Dinner were:

Miss Tess Brocklebank, Miss Pauline Cochran Patrick, Colonel and Mrs J. d'E. Coke, Miss Anne Drummond, Lady Elizabeth Greenacre, Mrs M. Hayward, Madam Hunter of Hunterston, Miss Ali Jackson, Sir Arnold and Lady Lunn, Colonel and Mrs J. Moncrieff, Dr Frau Moska, Miss Joan Price, The Hon. Mrs Raynsford, Mrs P. Sitwell Stebbing.

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB

SIR ARNOLD LUNN

IN JANUARY 1923 I decided that the time had come for ladies to have their own ski club. At that time no such clubs were in existence and, as far as I knew, no races had been organised for ladies.

I invited my wife Mabel, Doreen Elliott, Mrs Jocelyn Evans and Miss Dora Fox to attend a foundation meeting in Room 4 at the Palace Hotel on 22nd January, 1923. After we had settled down

Mabel said: "Arnold wants to found a club for ladies. He knows all about founding clubs." The ladies chatted happily together while I, who was not officially present, asked those present to propose and second the necessary rules to found the Club and to invite Lady Denman to be the first President.

At the second committee meeting I invited the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Jocelyn Evans, to read the minutes of the first meeting and secured the necessary proposers and seconders for some new rules. That was the last Committee Meeting which I attended. My name will not be found in the Ladies' Ski Club minute book, in which these first committee meetings were recorded, and which was brought to Mürren for the Golden Jubilee Meeting this year. The Ladies' Ski Club being an illegitimate offspring of AL, I am known as the "Sinister Father" of the Club and I have been presented with a Club Badge adorned with a bar sinister to signify my illegitimate association with my distinguished progeny.

The foundation of the LSC inspired Elsa Roth to found the Schweizerische Damen Ski Club (SDS). The LSC, under the captaincy of Lady Raeburn, raced against the SDS three times and won all three matches.

In 1928 the FIS invited the different national ski associations to try out the British rules for Downhill and Slalom racing, which were only officially adopted in 1930. In 1929 the Poles included a Downhill race in the World Championship programme. No race for ladies was announced so I overcame the protests of the Poles and entered Audrey Sale-Barker, now the Countess of Selkirk and Doreen Elliott for the *Men's* race in which Bill Bracken narrowly missed victory. The sensation of the meeting was the magnificent performance of Doreen who finished 13th and Audrey 14th, ahead of 45 men. The Poles were thrilled when both girls took straight a villainous icy glade, strewn with tree stumps. When they entered a restaurant in Poland, all those present stood up and cheered.

Audrey Sale-Barker was the most sensational racer in the Golden Age of Downhill racing. She won the Arlberg-Kandahar twice, and in 1931 won both races. She is the only British racer to have won the coveted Diamond A-K badge. In the 1931 Ladies' A-K Downhill race she raced from Dogger Rock, 1,300 vertical feet, to what is now called Wintereg in 1 minute and 54 seconds, and this *not on a piste* but on the comparatively untracked soft snow. She won this Downhill race against the best lady racers of the day by *more than a minute*.

Doreen Elliott won the Swiss Ladies' Championship when it was an open event and was second in the A-K, winning the A-K Ladies' Slalom race.

The Ladies' A-K has been won five times by our ladies, twice by Audrey Sale-Barker and once each by Jeanette Kessler (the late Mrs W. J. Riddell), Miss E. M. Mackinnon (Mrs L. M. Murphy) and by Marion Steedman. In 1936 Miss Evie Pinching (now Mrs Jack Chance) won the Ladies' World Championship in the Alpine races at Innsbruck.

Our triumphs did not end with the Golden Age. In the 1968 Olympics Gina Hathorne missed an Olympic medal, finishing only three-hundredths of a second behind the 3rd in the Slalom. In the same year Divina Galica, racing for the DHO, won an A-K badge by finishing 3rd in the Ladies' A-K Slalom.

LADIES' SKI CLUB 50th ANNIVERSARY

J.C.

I FIND MOST LADIES' CLUBS or institutions formidable, and I think most men find them slightly daunting, to say the least. A 50th anniversary of a ladies' ski club calls to mind a picture of a number of very frightening ladies dressed in long tweed skirts propelling themselves down the mountain with the help of a single pole, sweeping all before them.

So it was with some trepidation that I arrived at Mürren to assist in a very humble way on this great occasion. My fears were quite groundless as I found assembled as good a company as one could expect anywhere, with ages from young to getting on a bit, all dressed most immaculately and all comporting themselves with skill and grace on the snow as one might expect from such English ladies abroad with a sense of occasion—and of each other.

We males were thin on the ground (although Sir Arnold can hardly be said to be in that category!). As a result we had perhaps a disproportionate part to play in the festivities and had a most pleasant time in the après-ski activities. As I was unable to ski I could only judge the ski-ing from afar, but the rest I was able to assess at close quarters.

No one ever seemed to fall in any way. The climax of the week-end was the dinner at the Palace, which was excellent with short and witty speeches. (What else would you expect from Joan Raynsford and Sir Arnold?) The organisation was first class and I am only sorry that more ladies did not make the journey as I very much doubt that many of the present members of the Club, whether present or not, will make the Centenary.

SKI-ING IN CANADA

SUSAN MACINNES

HAVING ENDED MY BRIEF CAREER somersaulting through slalom poles I decided to find out all about those famous feet of fabulous North American powder. That was why, four years ago, I made my ungainly descent from the Canadian Pacific express into four feet of, sure enough, Canadian powder at Lake Louise station with my excessive amount of paraphernalia scattered four feet below in the snow somewhere along the line.

I was hoping to put some of the experience I had been lucky enough to gain in Europe to the aid and advantage of other enthusiastic skiers who had maybe been less fortunate. So, with a head full of grand and glamorous ideas of being an instructor, flashing about in a striking anorak splashed with a mass of badges, no wonder I was mildly surprised to find myself, three days later, dressed in doily and apron, dishing out endless soggy hamburgers and hot-dogs, coffee and coke; certainly it was aiding the already well-filled Canadian stomachs, but it was a far cry from my original good intentions!

However, in a place as scenically stunning as Lake Louise with its totally natural Western way of life and lovable, unsophisticated inhabitants, a place where it matters not a cent where you come from, what language you speak, accent you have, who you are or where you have been, any disappointment is so short-lived as to be virtually non-existent. With the splendid grandeur of the Rocky Mountains hanging from the clouds it is a paradise not only for geologists but also for any nature-loving person. Though these mountains have the same charm as the Alps somehow each one is entirely individual and, with their ever varying rugged grey-blue sculptured peaks, incredibly picturesque.

Lake Louise lies forty miles west of Banff, where the National Park covers an area of over two and a half thousand square miles. National Parks are a perfect way of preserving not only nature and wild life but also of providing a haven for hikers and cross-country skiers. However, having been used to, and appreciating, considerable uphill transport it came as a surprise to find that there appears to be a majority amongst Government officials back in Ottawa who favour mechanical prevention rather than muscle preservation! Although there is a first-class complex of lifts, Lake Louise does not really compare with one of the top Alpine resorts, despite the fact that it has, in the past, been put forward as a candidate for the Winter Olympics. The potential for expansion is tremendous and, if permission could be obtained, a vast area would be opened up for a superb ski development, well hidden amongst the dense forests.

Having gained a good deal of somewhat useless experience as a receptionist, a waitress, a secretary and ski-instructor: the latter shattering my cocktail party conversation for years when I dis-

covered that not only had I no ability to teach but I also lacked the patience to watch my snowplough disappear beneath all that lovely powder: I later found myself number nine in a team consisting of eight men and myself, being the professional ski-patrol in Lake Louise. Without a doubt it was the most enjoyable and rewarding season I have ever spent. Imagine driving to work through the forest, past herds of elk, sheep and moose, first up the lift following a fresh storm, albeit at 7.30 a.m., pitch dark and -35°F . We had a record season with perfect conditions throughout the entire winter.

During the five months we treated over 600 accidents. It was fortunate that we had a resident ski-ing doctor available all the time who proved invaluable with any serious accident. It could easily take up to one and a half hours to get from the site of the accident to the nearest hospital in Banff; due to the extreme temperatures, often falling in January and February to between -25°F and -45°F , having a doctor to administer a shot of Demerol made the casualty's journey considerably more comfortable. As in many Alpine resorts, we were linked by a series of small portable radios, so if on duty in one of the superbly equipped SOS huts or out demolishing the powder, we could be called to an accident and arrive, complete with blood wagon, in five or ten minutes.

Being a female in something of a man's world proved useful at many of the accidents, but naturally there were disadvantages. If a hefty cowboy whom I had previously, so laboriously, filled with hamburgers unfortunately capsized, a good deal of strength was required when loading him on and off the blood wagon. Also, for reasons best known to those skilful technicians, our radios would not operate below -35°F so they had to be worn inside our jackets which I found, due to the female anatomy, exceedingly uncomfortable!

One particular day during a freak pea-soup type fog we treated fifteen fractures in thirty-five minutes. Apart from the common break we experienced every conceivable disaster from stitching up both ski-pants and wounds to avalanche rescue, endless cases of frost-bite, blisters and hangovers, and once, owing to a power failure, we evacuated 350 skiers from a chair-lift. Our weeks of training the previous autumn were certainly put to the test.

Do not be deterred by these unfortunate incidents which are a part of every ski-resort. I cannot recommend the Rockies warmly enough, for not only is the snow sensational, the atmosphere enchanting, but also, almost unknown in Europe, queues are all but non-existent. Maybe the liquor laws are diabolical but where else do you drive forty miles to quench your thirst to find yourself surrounded in the bar by Stoney and Cree Indians from the nearby reserves; listen riveted to tales from the snow-bound cowboys waiting for the spring thaw to don their stetsons and chaps and take off into the bush to return with the first snow in the Fall and enough elk and moose meat to fondue until Easter. At the end of

the day go down the Bow River and catch your supper to the fascination of the industrious little beavers; or watch the local hockey game between the Banff Eagles and the Old Timers, who can set fire to your imagination with their pioneering tales of only fifty years ago.

When in April the alarm-bell rings for spring, it is not only the touring equipment, ropes and crampons that suddenly appear but also the bears, both black and grizzly, scavenging amongst the dustbins in the village, together with the gophers, chipmunks, marmots, martens and wolves. Where in Europe can you slide under your duvet aglow with both the sun and the rum and be serenaded to sleep by the calling of the coyotes in the moonlight?

GRASS SKI-ING

JANE MONRO

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS the sight of people ski-ing down grassy hillsides on summer days has provoked varied comments from the ribald to the reverent. Some observers instantly dismiss the idea as a mild and harmless activity for the lunatic fringe, but others recognise its potential as a really enjoyable sport in its own right and are enthusiastic to try it.

The equipment is minimal: a pair of ski-boots, a couple of broomsticks and a pair of grass skis being the only necessities and all these can be hired at the meetings which are held every Sunday throughout the summer. Even a ski-lift is set up so there's no fear of being exhausted before one starts. Still a new sport, grass-ski-ing hasn't yet adopted to itself a particular uniform although old Levis and T-shirts do seem almost *de rigueur* since grass and mud distinguish clothes in a way dye could never hope to do. Hotter days reveal stranger sights and the combination of shorts and ski-boots is a not uncomical one; only those likely to maintain their poise are advised to bare themselves, though, because earth is undoubtedly harder to fall on than snow. Yet it's gentler on the limbs for no legs have been broken, and this is due in part to the length of the skis. There are two basic types: the Rollka is similar to a roller skate but is about two feet long with a caterpillar track instead of wheels and it was devised by a German sewing-machine manufacturer; then last year an English company, Grilson, patented a ski composed of five rollers. These are certainly the more stable and allow the skier to slide a little, thus achieving a sensation closer to that of snow ski-ing! They seem to be favoured by novices while racers find that Rollkas stand them in better stead. Indeed of the seventy skiers who came over from four

different countries to the European Championships in Hampshire last August, the majority were on Rollka "maxis" or "jumbos". The Americans have also been working on the idea but their "turf" ski is longer and heavier than its European counterparts and rather more difficult to manoeuvre. Experimenting is still going on but the present versions afford quite as much entertainment for the participants as for the spectators.

To initiate the fourth season of grass ski-ing in Britain an ambitious venture was arranged — a Trans-Pennine Trek. This took place the first week-end in May and proved a great success, if a somewhat wet one, receiving television and front-page coverage. The second half of the route, undertaken on the Sunday, led from the Lord's Seat above Edale east to Hallam Moors; the short sheep-munched grass was perfect terrain and skating along the ridges was easy. But the hills are steep so climbing, carrying all skis, rucksacks, etc., was fairly testing — and well worthwhile because of the excellent long downhill runs at the end. There are plenty of hills where grass-ski trekking could be enjoyed, and it may well become a popular branch of the sport.

For those who don't yet want to go "off-piste" or negotiate the slalom poles, there is free instruction at all meetings and if there is sufficient enthusiasm competitions are run at the end of the afternoon; ordinary meetings are held regularly at Petersfield, Brighton, Turville (west of High Wycombe) and Beddlestead Farm (south of Croydon). Windermere — the cradle of the sport — offers plenty of scope, and a visit to Llandudno took skiers up the Great Orme, but unless there is plenty of local support these journeys are hardly merited. Each site seems to have its devotees and many people now consider it an excellent way of spending a day — families turn out *en masse*, encumbered by picnic baskets, dogs, *et al.*, and for those who like their post-prandial siesta on a Sunday afternoon there is entertainment — free. Each week people trying grass ski-ing for the first time remark that they wished they'd discovered it before, so those who consider ski-ing as a mania to be indulged for but two brief weeks of the year should come and try it. The sport is run by the Ski Club of Great Britain, and all details can be obtained from 118 Eaton Square. The most spectacular event will undoubtedly be the International Championships at Butser Hill, Petersfield, over the August Bank Holiday week-end, and this should give aspiring grass skiers a goal to aim for! Better still, come to the meetings beforehand and enter for the race. We need more female racers! But whatever the attraction of grass ski-ing, everyone is welcome and we hope that many more people will very soon discover the delights of the sport.

THE EAGLE SKI CLUB HIGH ALPINE TRAINING COURSE

THE AIM OF THE COURSE is to prepare skiers for major touring with guides and straightforward touring guideless. It lasts for two weeks, the first being mainly concerned with instruction in the basic mountaineering techniques required by ski-tourers, the second with the application of these techniques on glacier tours. The emphasis throughout is on practical mountaineering, and the greater part of the instruction is given in the course of tours; in addition, papers and talks are provided on First Aid, snowcraft and avalanches, weather, glaciers and leadership.

The course covers the use of the rope up and downhill, on foot and on skis, the negotiation of steep snow and ice on foot, together with step-cutting; how to climb on skis and how to choose a good line up and downhill; route-finding by map, compass and altimeter; rescue techniques for crevasse and avalanche hazards, together with assembly and handling of rescue sledges, bivouac building (when conditions permit) and survival techniques. Particular attention is paid to snowcraft, especially to avalanche dangers; it is usually possible to find examples of the main types of avalanche to illustrate the theoretical instruction.

During the fortnight the performance of the participants is carefully observed and criticised; advice is given and there are ample opportunities for the discussion of difficult points. At the end of the course participants may, if they wish, take a formal test consisting of a written paper and a practical examination in ropework. Those who pass these successfully and who have also shown a practical mastery of the skills taught during the course will be granted the Eagle Mountaineering Certificate.

* * *

In January this year I was lucky enough to be awarded the Eagle Ski Club Scholarship which enabled me to go on the High Alpine Meet.

Despite the bad weather, which meant that during the second week instead of touring around the Konkordia Area and from the Hollandia Hut we were snowbound at Scheidegg, I thoroughly enjoyed my two weeks. Never have I been told so many times to get knotted and unknotted; nor did I ever think I could possibly enjoy rising at the crack of dawn to go climbing to have the most perfect run down of the whole two weeks. I know that whenever I go touring again the words that will ring in my ears will be: "Too high, too low, too fast, too slow!"; but they will also always remind me of one of the most enjoyable and interesting ski-ing/touring holidays I have had.

HON EDITOR

SKI-ING IN THE WEST

JOAN STURGES

WITH JUMBO JETS and cheaper TransAtlantic fares, the ski-slopes of Western America are not so far off as they may seem. In the East it can be as icy as in Europe, but out West the dry desert air produces wonderful snow; you may sometimes find it very hardpacked, but almost never icy.

My husband and I were fortunate enough last February to be able to ski in Squaw Valley and most of the surrounding Lake Tahoe region, Sun Valley and Aspen.

Squaw was most similar to Alpine ski-ing, having some runs above the tree-line, mostly fairly short, but a good variety and all leaving from the immediate vicinity of the original Olympic Village, and a choice to suit every class of skier.

The Americans tend to refer to all types of off-piste snow as "Powder" regardless of its consistency. We found it was anything but powder that week owing to an unusual amount of heavy snowfalls, for which everyone apologized! The most popular runs at the top of the Cable-car, or Tramway, were most carefully "groomed", but all the steeper runs were left for the skiers to make tracks as they pleased.

Most other ski areas in the Lake Tahoe region have no village attached, and the majority of people return to the nearest town after ski-ing, including Heavenly Valley, where you return to the lakeside town on the Inter-State line between California and Nevada and spend the nights gambling. Everywhere costs about the same: 9 dollars a day for ski-lifts and 4 or 5 dollars for a half-day. Nowhere can you pay for an individual lift, and not all places issue weekly, or week-end tickets. Having paid up, you receive a wire clip which you must fasten to trouser zip or button and then affix a sticky label on top, and for the rest of the day you seldom have to produce it for inspection. Almost all uphill transport is by chair-lift, usually operated by friendly students, though there was one older man who, when we said "thank you" used to reply "You bet".

The mountain restaurants are also operated mainly by students. All crockery and cutlery are throw-away plastic and the debris is all scooped into enormous plastic bags — I wondered where it all went. The Liquor laws vary from State to State so you often couldn't wash the inevitable hamburger down with anything other than light beer, or soft drinks, so the wise men carried wine-skins. We once followed the tracks of a skier who was evidently bleeding to death, till we discovered that his wine-skin had sprung a leak.

In Sun Valley you need to be fit for the gigantic Moguls down the steep wide trails cut through the forests on Mount Baldy. I found them very tiring at first, and there was something odd about the chair-lifts, which kept depositing me in a ruffled heap in the deep snow beyond the take-off point! They had chair-lifts for

3 people here too, and whilst travelling up you could watch the antics of the "Hot Dog" skiers, who take the direct fall-line down those great Moguls, a form of sheer acrobatics, and strictly for the young.

Unfortunately, they had been short of snow and so the famous powder-snow bowls on Baldy's far side were all cut up and we were unable to enjoy them.

The village is very gay and discourages cars in the centre, so they run frequent free buses to Mount Baldy and to the wide open gentle hill for beginners and lazy skiers.

Our final week was spent at Aspen, an old mining town, reached by a little aeroplane skimming the mountain-tops from Denver. A fascinating town full of lovely shops and lots of restaurants. We hadn't made reservations so were lucky to get in since it was a holiday week (Washington's Birthday). Even so, we never had to wait more than 20 minutes in a lift queue, though Americans thought it was a very long wait!

Aspen mountain, or "Ajax", is accessible from the town itself and free buses run to Buttermilk, the beginners' mountain, and to Aspen Highlands, and further off, costing a dollar bus fare, is Snowmass. All these mountains have trails cut through the firs and aspens, sometimes very confusing and you could end up miles from where you meant to be, as the ski maps were as confusing as the trails themselves; but such a diversity of places to go that there was always room to enjoy yourself and choose a different run each time.

We mostly skied Snowmass, as here we had tremendous pleasure ski-ing with a young man who is totally blind and who was brave enough to let us lead him. This enabled his wife to ski with the other of us. In fact he was such a good skier and we had such fun together that we were seldom far apart.

We felt that Aspen gave the best value as a holiday resort for the British, and we are trying to organize a party to go there next Spring. Maximum cost is likely to be £350 per head for 2 weeks and we think it's worth every penny. Final details are not tied up yet, but we hope this will include air fares, hotel and ski-lifts.

Do come and join us — let me know if any of you are interested.

NEW RESORTS IN FRANCE

D.L.

THE TEN NEW RESORTS in France call themselves the "Snow" resorts and reckon they are the third generation of ski-resorts. The first generation being an old mountain village which has been adapted for ski-ing, such as Chamonix. The second generation resort is one which has grown since the war, such as Val d'Isère; a snow resort is one which has been built in the last ten years with all the needs and wants of a skier in mind.

Can you imagine going up on a escalator to a padded seated cable-car without having gone outside the hotel? — go to La Plagne where you can also ride the telemetro from 7.30 in the morning till 1.30 the following morning, connecting the three parts which make up La Plagne. Do you have children that you want to leave in a nurse's care while you go out ski-ing? — she will look after them in the nursery or take them out, weather permitting; all the "Snow" resorts have playrooms and similar facilities. For landscaped buildings that fit into the pattern of the surrounding mountains, go and see Val Claret, take the lifts up and look down on to the turrets. Do you want to see the modern idea of a wooden chalet? — go to Avoriaz with its high wooden buildings looking nothing like the traditional chalet as one fondly imagines it.

The French go in for a lot of "self-catering" *appartements*; one finds a room with perhaps two single beds and a bunk bed, and leading out of it a kitchenette and bathroom. There are, of course, hotels in the "Snow" resorts; in practically all of them you find a tiny bathroom with each bedroom, realising the luxury of having a really hot bath after returning from the slopes.

What about the ski-ing? This is made easy. No long walks from the hotel to the lift — usually the lift is situated just outside the living complex and there are enough to cope with "peak" period demand. When you arrive at the top of that lift there are always plenty of others to which one can ski, so they mushroom out over the mountain — they are usually all Pommel lifts — all this enables one to cover a great deal of territory in one day.

I like the new resorts — the ski-ing is usually good with enough north-facing slopes for the powder addicts and enough nursery slopes for the beginners together with special areas for children. They are all well spaced out and all the skier's needs are catered for.

KANDAHAR-MARTINI — OBERSTAUFEN

13th and 14th January, 1973

ELISABETH HUSSEY

OBERSTAUFEN HAS A split personality. In summer it is known for the Schrothkur, a fearsome sounding health treatment that seems to consist of tying patients up in blankets and alternatively depriving them of all liquid, then administering measured quantities of white wine, tea and mineral water to them. No doubt it has many beneficial effects but we felt we were lucky to visit Oberstaufen in connection with its other claim to fame, ski-racing.

Over the last eight years the Kandahar has built up a race organisation team to run the Kandahar-Martini. So far as the race office is concerned, it helps if you can type accurately at racing speed on typewriters which have all their letters in the wrong places; if you can talk several languages in quick succession as the racers come in with enquiries; and particularly if you don't get cross when you discover that all the people on the disqualification list have been reinstated after protests and the whole thing has to be typed again.

Until this year the race had followed in the wake of the Arlberg-Kandahar and taken place in Mürren, Sestriere, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, St Anton and Chamonix. This year, however, Garmisch, whose turn it was, was very preoccupied with a World Cup race and could not take on the Kandahar-Martini as well. So Helen Tomkinson, who knew she could rely on Oberstaufen for experience and co-operation, arranged for the race to take place in this village which lies in the south-west corner of Germany, just east of Lake Constance.

There were several members of the Ladies' Ski Club in the organisation. Helen, of course, and Kay Murray, Tessa Brocklebank and myself. Faith Mackenzie was unfortunately unable to come because she had had a bad bout of 'flu.

A big race office in the Kurhaus, with a separate press office equipped with telephones and telex, and that useful adjunct, a bar overhead, helped to make the organisation go smoothly. The people of Oberstaufen gave a tremendous amount of help, even dealing with most of the accommodation. This can be quite a problem for a Citadin race, when racers leave their offices on Friday evening and drive over the mountains, often arriving in the village at 2 or 3 in the morning looking for beds. The town also provided a radio link during the races between the course and the race office, and a driver was always on hand in case of emergencies.

Because the Kandahar-Martini is about the most popular and generally reckoned to be among the best organised of the Citadin races, it was chosen this year to set a standard for awarding FIS points in the future. If racers had points it would make the draw much simpler and avoid all the managers competing to get their

racers into the highest groups. To establish a standard, some non-Citadin racers were invited to race *hors concours*. This did mean, however, that this year we had to type three times as many results lists as usual: the results of the Kandahar Citadin races; the *hors concours* results; and the results of both competing racers and *hors concours* put together. Quite a strain on the typists.

When we all arrived at Oberstaufen we found the surrounding mountains looked more suitable for grass skiing than snow skiing, but Oberstaufen had preserved an excellent course on the north-facing Hundle, beaten hard on a grassy slope with no rocks. The only problem was that the snow cover was very thin and the ground beneath it rock-hard, so even with pile-drivers it was difficult to replace poles after they had been knocked out. This was the only hitch to an otherwise smooth-running race.

There were eleven different nations competing at Oberstaufen, the majority from Alpine countries. However, Great Britain, with five men and seven girls, had a better representation than for many years, including Stuart Fitzsimmons who had recently won at Flaine to become British Champion. The team, together with the

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THIS SEASON'S NEWS

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Dutch and Belgians, arrived from Val d'Isère where they had all been competing in the Lowlander Championships the week before.

One man, Pierre Poncet of Switzerland, won the Duke of Kent (Giant Slalom), the Alpine Ski Trophy (Slalom) and therefore the Martini International Club Trophy (Combined). Similarly, Cornelia Geissler of Austria won the Duchess of Kent Cup, the Lady Mabel Lunn and the Martini International Club Trophy for Ladies. The best British results were Mary Ann Scott's 4th in the Duchess of Kent; Patsy Field's 6th in the Lady Mabel Lunn; Stuart Fitzsimmons's 31st in the Duke of Kent, and Duncan Riley's 29th in the Alpine Ski.

The meeting ended with a tremendous party given by Martini who sponsor the race. They help enormously to make it a success and to encourage the friendly atmosphere which brings so many racers back year after year.

BRITISH SCHOOLGIRLS' RACES AT GSTAAD, 1973

ISOBEL ROE

Officials: E. F. Hampton (Referee).
Marjorie Coombes, Divina Galica, Elizabeth Fulton, Jane Reid, Isobel Roe.

Assisted by: Elspeth MacRobert, Nancy Smith, Georgina Coombes, Tessa Brocklebank, Fenella Balme, James Osborne and, AS ALWAYS, ROS HEPWORTH.

Kay Watts had a broken foot but kindly lent her Chalet for office work.

Phyllis Scott and Tony Devenish are always ready to help and the Grand Chalet is often used either as a warehouse or office.

Herr Schwab from the Hotel Bernerhof most kindly helped with liaison — telephone messages and post, etc., etc.

Herr Valentin and his staff at the Verkehersverein helped the rather overworked "organising committee" of two in every way. THANK YOU!

Comments of the "organising committee": We often wonder why we do it and if we will continue — but it's only because of the wonderful support which we get and also because Janey Reid puts up the "organising committee", and puts up with them. *Note:* She also sees that they are on duty daily by 8.15 a.m., having had a pre-breakfast swim if poss.

THE RACES WENT WELL and gave the pupils an opportunity to get to know Club members and to learn what the clubs are all about. 37 pupils became new SSGB members and many are already members of K-DHO and SCGB.

Marjorie Coombes kindly presented the cups and prizes, and Divina Galica presented the Lillywhites' Cup and prizes.

Following the prizegiving Divina kindly agreed to answer questions. These covered — What did the Queen say to you? The changes in equipment since she started racing. A suggestion that these races should qualify for PMG points.

Results

Atalanta Cup	Theresa Wallis (Chatelard)
	Rose Anne Hall (Chatelard)
Lillywhites' Cup	Rose Anne Hall (Chatelard)
LSC Cup	Catherine Clause (Chatelard)
Viper Cup	Catherine Clause (Chatelard)
	Stephanie Hall (Chatelard)
Second-Year Cup	Annabel Leslie Melville (Le Vieux Chalet)
Novices' Cup	Lydia Lang (Le Vieux Chalet)

Future races will probably be run so as to give more encouragement to the "Moyen and Moyen Plus" class. E.g., former cup winners will not be eligible and the type of competition will remain as "20-gate Silver Slalom". This type of slalom is suitable for the inexperienced racer whom we wish to encourage.

THE LOWLANDERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Val d'Isère, 7th-11th January, 1973

JOAN RAYNSFORD

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE British Women's Team (Helen Carmichael, Marie Abercromby, Mary-Ann Scott) for winning the 24th Lowlanders' Championships for Women and the *Daily Telegraph* Silver Salvers for the Women's Team Event. The best two from each trio count, and Helen and Maria achieved an exciting and resounding victory for which we have had to wait since 1968.


The racing took place in perfect weather and a new slalom course had been prepared high up above La Daille with the same courses for men and women. In the first run Holland's Linda Esser achieved the fastest time which beat all the other 20 women and 56 men who took part. She won the race but Maria Abercromby who was runner up in 1972 on her 17th birthday, and Helen Carmichael filled the next two places.


In the Downhill, Helen, who had just become our National Champion, skied in splendid style down the steep course above La Daille to win the Lady Denman Cup. This year, Maria celebrated her 18th birthday by finishing second and Linda Esser was third. These three finished in exactly the same order in 1972 when third, fourth and fifth behind Julie Molyneux and Antoinette Betts. The

Dutch had won the Women's Team prize for the past three years and, although Linda Esser was winner of the Combined, it was the Belgians who finished runners up.

Fortunately, the races were remarkably free of incidents and final placings were largely due to taking the best possible line on the course. Our thanks are due to the Mayor of Val d'Isère, who personally welcomed us once more, and to the President and Officials of the Club de Sports who made, as usual, great efforts to ensure the success of the Lowlanders' races. Once again, Mr. Dennis Miller, Publicity and Promotions Manager of the *Daily Telegraph* presented the handsome Silver Salvers which the *Daily Telegraph* most generously have given for the past six years to the winning teams. Holland was the organising country and our thanks go to the Dutch Race Officials for their kind hospitality and for all their hard work in organising a most successful and enjoyable Lowlanders.

We are delighted that Elizabeth Hussey, Permanent Secretary to the Lowlander Committee, has been elected to the Citadin Sub-Committee of the FIS. Congratulations to her.




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SWEET REPOSE AND QUIET NIGHTS

A.R.

WHAT WITH TEA PARTIES, glühwein parties, buffet suppers in the "girls' dorm." — not to mention keeping up with the bed plans and bagging one's place in the bath queue — there wasn't much time left for ski-ing last season in Mürren. However, three members of the Ladies went in for the Inferno and there were slaloms and no falls, and hilarious birds-nesting expeditions in the deep snow during the Ladies' Week.

Chalet Mönchblick was fuller than usual, and although this meant it was safer financially it was hazardous at times: when the village policeman was invited unexpectedly to tea during an overcrowded week and when the landlady had to spend several nights sleeping in a split camp bed. There are quite a few problems involved in chalet running, especially when there are only 8 beds and 4 people to stay one week and 12 the next. Bed plans as well as table plans have to be flexible. It is sometimes a puzzle, too, to know how to keep cigarettes and non-helpers out of the kitchen — and whisky and helpers in! Also how to keep pans of stew and cans of milk safely on the kitchen window-ledge when the Föhn blows up in the night. . . .

One of the best parties of the season was when 23 people stayed on after a glühwein party for a buffet supper in the "girls' dorm.". Guests were in the 20-70 age group and the older members of the party made a considerable amount of noise. Amongst others were an ex-Chairman of the Kandahar, an ex-Bishop of Guildford, an ex-World Champion skier and a redundant galloping major; the Villars SCGB rep. drove over especially for the occasion and helped in the organisation of consequences and charades (the result of which are perhaps best illustrated by the attached photographs at the editor's discretion!). She remarked that it had all been worthwhile as she collapsed into her bed at around 4 in the morning after a final sledge down the Palace Hill, a round of drinks at the Eiger and a Marmite sandwich party in the chalet kitchen to end the evening. . . . The "girls' dorm." was once again transformed into its usual ordered existence with only two camp beds on the floor, only a few flying feathers, and only a hint of cigarette smoke in the air and a trace of chocolate mousse on the floor.

Not only the party, but the whole season in Mürren (and others before) had really been worthwhile — the memory of which in retrospect is a patchwork of colours and people, ridiculous fun and flying snow, lit by sunrise behind the Jungfrau or moonshine over the Breithorn and, most of all, by "laughter and the love of friends".

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 Wood, Mrs. A. G. (née Appleyard), '39.
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Address

Date.....

Signature of Proposer (from personal knowledge)

Signature of Seconder (from personal knowledge)

SCGB Tests.....

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Atalanta Cup		
Ladies' Ski Club Cup		
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