



LADIES' SKI CLUB BULLETIN

1979



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THE LADIES' SKI CLUB 1978-79

President

Miss Elizabeth Hussey

Vice-Presidents

Lady Lunn Mrs. E. Goldberger

Past Presidents

1924-26 The Lady Denman, C.B.E.
1926-29 Dame Katherine Furse, G.B.E.
1929-31 The Lady Mabel Lunn
1931-33 Miss Olga Major
1933-35 Dr. Violet Rendall
1935-38 Miss Doreen Elliott
1938-45 Lady Raeburn
1945-48 Mrs. Lindsay
1948-51 Mrs. J. Riddell
1951-54 Mrs. W. R. Tomkinson
1954-57 Lady Chamier
1957-60 Miss Isobel Roe
1960-63 Lady Blane, O.B.E.
1963-66 Mrs. Raeburn
1966-68 Miss Fernandes, M.B.E., P.I.S.
1968-72 The Hon. Mrs. Raynsford
1972-75 Mrs. D. Lewthwaite
1975-78 Lady Elizabeth Greenacre

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Mrs. M. Park
12 Charles Court
Hampton Road,
Teddington,
Middx. TW11 0JT

Hon. Treasurer

Miss S. Stops
Tripps End
Twyford
Winchester
Hants.

Hon. Auditor

Colonel J. C. d'E. Coke

Acting Hon. Editor

Lady Elizabeth Greenacre

Committee (including date of election)

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| Mrs. G. Adam | 1977 | Mrs. M. Marx | 1978 |
| Miss P. Boyagis | 1978 | Mrs. D. K. O'Neill Gamble | 1978 |
| Mrs. T. Hartley | 1977 | Miss C. O'Rorke | 1978 |
| Mrs. M. Hayward | 1977 | Mrs. J. Pettifer | 1976 |
| | | Mrs. R. Sperling | 1978 |

THE LADIES' SKI CLUB

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The list of past Presidents opposite is quite awe-inspiring. Lady Denman, who was one of the founders, has a well known name today for she also gave the cup awarded to the winner of the Lowlander Ladies Downhill - the women's equivalent of the Roberts of Kandahar.

I am glad that I was able to meet Lady Mabel Lunn, wife of Sir Arnold, before her death in 1959. She was also a founder of the LSC and the first lady to win the SCGB Gold.

Katherine Furse was a technique expert of the 20's and came third (against the men) in the first modern slalom, the Alpine Ski, in 1921. Olga Major was the first British Ladies Champion.

I was lucky enough to ski with Doreen Elliot, who took me down an unforgettable glade near Murren which she called "Screaming Monkeys" (because that was the noise made by previous skiers). She became quite famous in 1929 when, with Audrey Sale-Barker, she entered a World Championship Downhill (the organisers had omitted to mention that only men were expected to compete) and came 13th.

Lady Raeburn captained the LSC team which won the first match against the Swiss Ladies in 1928.

The 1951-4 President brings us right up to date, for Helen Tomkinson is still organising the Kandahar Martini and chairing the Citadin Committee of the FIS. She started a family saga, for her mother, Lady Blane, and her daughter, Di Lewthwaite, both became President in due course. LSC committee members over the years have found that the family will always respond when asked for help.

Many distinguished Presidents followed: Lady Chamier, Soss Roe (British Ladies Champion from 1938-1949 except 1947) Addy Raeburn, Enid Fernandes, Joan Raynsford - what a great contribution to ski racing they have made over the years, each in their own sphere.

I have particular reason to be grateful to my immediate predecessor, Elizabeth Greenacre. Among the other things she did was to persuade Marion Park and Sylvia Stops to take over those difficult jobs; Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. Also Libby was kind enough to continue to look after the Bulletin for us, a very time-consuming job.

Constitutions are very much in peoples minds just now, so perhaps we could see how the LSC is fulfilling its aim, when founded 55 years ago: "to promote skiing and good fellowship among British women ski-runners".

We promote skiing by subscribing to the Federation as much money as we can raise during each year. This meant £100 last November and £200 last April, mostly raised at the Ski Kit Mart, which takes quite a bit of organising. We also raised our subscription per head to 20p from 5p this year. Promoting good fellowship is easy - we enjoyed the drinks party after the AGM and then had a select but very good meeting at the Pettifer's house in Kent last June.

To justify our place in the Alpine Racing Club's Electoral College we organise the Schoolgirl races in Villars. Fenella Lees (with her husband David) did this very efficiently last February.

So we fulfil our original aims and fit into the NSF structure. Next season we shall take a step forward by having a meet in Murren at the end of January (see Page 4).

All this is, however, only done by the hard work of the members, especially the Committee, and more especially the Officers, to whom all our thanks are due, and our continuing thanks to Joyce Stannard for all the hard work she puts in to produce this Bulletin.

CLUB NOTICES

Dates to Note

- Thurs. 11th Oct, 1979. AGM and Cocktail Party with Raffle: 118 Eaton Square.
- Tues. 6th Nov. 1979. Ski Kit Mart at the Ski Club 12 noon - 7 p.m.
- Sat. 10th Nov. - Daily Mail Ski Show at Earls Court
Sun. 18th Nov. 1979.
- Fri. 25th Jan - LSC week in Murren. Please
Thur. 31st Jan. 1980. see following notice for details.
- Thur. 7th Feb. - British Schoolgirls Races -
Sun. 10th Feb. 1980 Villars.
- Sun. 15th June 1980. Picnic Lunch at Mark Ash, Abinger Common, Dorking, by the very kind invitation of Eleanor McInnes (please see notice on lunch for details and directions)

SKI KIT MART

Could you please note the following:-

1. Goods to be brought to the Club on the day only. It is not possible for the Club to receive skis or boots before that.
2. Goods worth £5 or more will be sold on commission (25% to the Club). Please come with a tie-on label giving price required for sale, name, address and tel. No. and a stamped-addressed envelope.

We must make a rigid rule about skis and boots:

Adult Boots - Clip boots only.

Children's Boots - any - in reasonable condition.

Skis - not over 200 cms. It is a waste of time to bring and then have to collect them as they simply do not sell!

3. Unsold articles, boots and skis worth over £5 will be kept for ten days at the Ski Club c/o Elizabeth Hussey (235.4711)

Any other articles taken in on a non-commission basis, and not sold, will be disposed of.

LSC WEEK IN MURREN - last week of January.

Your Committee have been hard at work trying to think of ways and means of providing more activity in the Alps for members. Now that it is impossible to run the LSC races as such (the cups are now incorporated into such meetings as the British Schoolgirls and Lowlanders), we feel that an informal gathering to ski together, would be a good alternative.

As Murren is our natural home and as there will probably be several members there anyway at the end of January, we would like to try this idea this coming season. We would ask you to make your own travel and accommodation arrangements, and (depending on numbers), we will organise fun races, a day with a Guide (the Club could certainly provide all or part of his fee), and generally ski together.

If you know you are coming could you please drop a line to Elizabeth Hussey.

LSC LUNCH - SUNDAY, 15th JUNE, 1980

Eleanor McInnes has very kindly invited the Club to have the summer gathering in her garden next year. Eleanor has many friends amongst the LSC members and is Sue Scott's Mother. There will be tennis and swimming and usual arrangements over lunch, i.e. bring your own! Abinger Common is just off the Guildford-Dorking A.25 road. Please telephone me (Hon. Editor 940.8012) for directions to the house.

LSC BADGE

LSC Badge, Price £1.25, obtainable from The Hon. Treasurer, Tripps End, Twyford, Hants.

NEW! NEW! NEW!!

The stock of LSC sweaters is now exhausted and it has been decided instead to have a LSC Hat. The Hat is pale blue with the LSC Badge motif knitted into the hat in dark blue. It sells at £3.00 to include postage, or £2.75 if you collect yourself - in both cases from Elizabeth Hussey at the Ski Club. (235.4711).

The Hat was shown at the AGM last year and met with general approval. (Drawing faithfully reproduced by Cecilia O'Rorke)



MEMBERS' NEWS

Best wishes on marriage to

Sheila Murphy now Mrs. Tucker
and living in Seattle

Maud Illingworth now Mrs. Instone

Congratulations to Mrs. Heather MacKenzie
(nēe Donald) on the birth of twin daughters
25th May 1977, Fiona Jane and Kirsty Campbell

We welcome as new members

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Anne Dixon | Miss Loveday Shewell |
| Miss Diana Mathias | Mrs. Shirley Stone |

Sadly Gina Travers and Rosemary Sanderson died last year. They had both resigned from the Club the year previously because of ill-health. They will be greatly missed as both have done so much work in the skiing world.

Elizabeth Hussey writes of Rosemary -

"Rosemary Sanderson died just before Christmas after suffering months of illness with cancer, which she bore very bravely.

Rosemary was brave. She was also lively, determined, competent and very unselfish. She used to refer to herself as the Ski Club's Senior Rep and she had the Rep's essential quality of interest in the well-being of others.

Many skiers will be grateful to her for introducing them to off-piste skiing and ski touring, for she was an experienced tour leader. She was able to jolly people

into the powder snow, stilling their fears until they found they were enjoying it.

We shall miss her lively and constructive criticism, her good humour and especially her ready help."

E.H.

Karin de Pret Roose 1931 - 1979

(Karin de Pret Roose had been a member since 1971)

"The tragic and untimely death of Karin on 1st January in an avalanche on the Pazzola-stock, has been a great shock to all who knew her. Besides being a very accomplished lady, Karin was greatly respected and loved by all her friends. Whenever one visited the chalet in Andermatt, or the lovely house in Brittany, the welcome was always warm and generous. Karin had many interests in life, just to mention a few, she was a first class yachtswoman and excellent skier. Her first great love was to wander into the mountains around the village - sometimes further afield - to search for crystals, or in summer look for rare stones on the beach. Her cooking ability, inherited from her Danish upbringing, was always a treat to be remembered. She would disappear into the kitchen and very soon there would be a sumptuous meal waiting on the table with no apparant fuss or bother.

Karin also showed great courage. Some years ago she broke her neck in a car accident in France; one summer there was an accident with the lawn mower when she lost part of her fingers, and laterly she suffered a nasty fall one spring while our ski touring. From all these unpleasant happenings Karin showed great courage in fighting back to overcome disaster. Sadly this last disaster proved too much for

her. I think Karin will be remembered for her kindness and enjoyment of life, and helping all her friends to share in her enjoyment. Our sympathy goes to her parents and relatives in Denmark, also her two daughters Kristina and Jay in their sad loss."

Pat Spring Smyth. May, 1979

Mrs. Jean Martin, a member since 1960, has also died.

The A.G.M. and Cocktail Party was held on Tuesday, 24th October last year. About thirty members came to the Meeting and were joined by more for the party. We were delighted to have several guests from the S.C.G.B. and from the N.S.F.G.B. with us.

Elizabeth Hussey was presented with the Lady Blane award at the end of the A.G.M. Ethel Levenson presented it on behalf of Helen Tomkinson who was unable to be there. Our congratulations to Elizabeth for this - a very deserved recipient of this Award.

LADY BLANE AWARD WINNERS

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 1971 | Divina Galicia |
| 1973 | Joan Raynsford |
| 1976 | Maria Goldberger |
| 1978 | Elizabeth Hussey |

Pauline Sitwell went to India in January and had a very interesting time there. She will be "At Home" in the Alpine Gallery (Alpine Club) on Monday, 22nd October, where, with a few friends, under the name of Opal Group, she is showing works of Art and launching her book of poems and wood/engravings called Green Song.

This is a limited edition and the book is dedicated to Phyllis Lunn and to Arnold, as it was in Murren with them that Pauline conceived the idea of writing it. Pauline would like any members interested to drop by from 6 p.m. onwards.

Belinda Burne sent in the two delightful "snippets" on Cairngorm and on the Quote from a senior skier on her holiday, she also said in her letter

"We had an amazing week at Aviemore in March for the RN Championships - nearly every day it was "gusting ninety-nine" as they said proudly at the chairlift! But the snow was superb, lots of it and mostly powdery where it wasn't blown right off!

Just back from a lucky week in Verbier (April); nearly all sunny and plenty of snow, and spring snow. We both shrank our skis by 30 cms. and found hobbling round the mogels much more comfortable as a result"



Overheard on Cairngorm - the ultimate relegation !

Scene: top of the White Lady: full gale; surface alternately icy bumps and drift-filled dips:

Very small skier descending with father in firm stem, eventually collapsing into a split -

Father: "Come on, you must do better than that, or you'll have to ski with Grandfather!"



Quote from a senior skier on her holiday -

"My skis were not always willing to go in the directions I hoped, but for all that it was good fun and I was in the mountains - what more could an octogenarian wish for?"

Madeleine Marx says that her skiing went better than ever as the result of attending dry ski exercises organised and run by Mrs. Nicole Glyn.

Unfortunately, for 1979, re-booking of the hall near Hyde Park has not proved possible, but a notice of the 1979/80 venue will appear in Ski Survey and on the board at the Ski Club. Commencing date is usually about 12th November.

LSC LUNCH - SUNDAY, 24th JUNE

What with the excess of rain and scarcity of petrol in June, members might well have felt a bit dubious about setting off down the M2 to the Pettifer family, but for those of us who disregarded the first and found enough of the second, we were rewarded by a very enjoyable afternoon.

We really had a marvellous time. Pat looked after us admirably, with lots of assistance from John, their two sons Michael and Anthony, and Pat's Artist Mother, Stella Marks, all unanimously voted temporary members for the day. Admittedly, it did rain off and on, quite a lot of on and not much off, but it didn't matter at all. Lunch was half indoors, half outdoors. Various games got started, finishing them was a bit more difficult. One brave member swam, and in between showers we could wander around their beautiful garden and visit the little Norman Church in the grounds. All in all it could be said that rain most definitely did not stop play !

We ended with a hilarious game of progressive ping-pong, after which Pat produced a delicious tea. Thank you, all Pettifers, for a superb day and all your hospitality.

Lunchers were: Elizabeth & Philippa Hussey; Cecilior O'Rorke; Pauline Sitwell, Faith McKenzie, Marion Park, Sheila Hayward, Libby Greenacre.

BRITISH SCHOOLGIRLS RACES

3rd Feb. 1979

Again a very successful race with a small increase in entries at just under 60 competitors from 8 schools/clubs.

Michel Datwyler again did a superb job in getting the courses prepared and set and everyone was extremely willing to help, despite the fact two days earlier they had run a World Cup Downhill.

The Parallel Slalom (16 teams), a very popular event and seldom run for the schools, ran off smoothly and quickly - could have started slalom an hour earlier.

Two 3l gate courses set from top of stade with electronic timing. Allowed everyone to do two runs. Pleased to see British girls taking the first 5 places.

As usual, Villars' weather was not kind the day before, virtually raining at Bretaye, but this did in fact help the stade to pack down - stade stood up to 60 competitors down each course extremely well with very minor rutting. Unfortunately, the weather did not help the training for the girls out from England and prevented us setting the parallel slalom on the Friday evening.

We were pleased to welcome Cobham Hall who came out especially from England for the week-end: we hope in the future to see more schools coming out from Britain now the word is spreading, and also we would particularly like to see the racing Clubs entering teams now that this event has considerably grown with a high standard of competition.

Prize Giving - again the Parc Hotel kindly made the downstairs bar available and all the prizes and replicas provided by the sponsors were much appreciated, particularly the very generous prizes presented by Lillywhites.

1980 - It is anticipated that the races will be run at approximately the same date with a similar programme.

Fenella Lees
David Lees

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to report that the Club finances are very healthy, as you can see from the Balance Sheet.

The running expenses have been kept low, particularly since the format of the Bulletin was changed, and, of course, our Social functions are self-financing, except for entertaining a few guests at our Cocktail Party.

The affiliation fee to the Federation has been 5p a member since 1964, so this has now been raised to 20p. Other donations of our own choice have been made, and we are in a position to be a little more generous in Olympic year.

My thanks to Johnny Coke for again kindly auditing the accounts.

Sylvia Stops

SISTERS AND JUBILEES

by Philippa Hussey

The Ladies' Ski Club was gently but firmly brought into existence in Murren in 1923 by Arnold Lunn who foresaw what an important contribution women would make to ski-ing. Even though there were not even separate races for men and women at that time, he knew it wasn't going to be only a man's sport.

As a result, in 1929, Elsa Roth and some friends founded the Schweizerische Damen SkiKlub, also in Murren. The S.D.S. is a Club which must have made an unparalleled contribution to ski-ing which not even the most anti-feminist Swiss could deny.

Helen Tomkinson was invited by Elsa Roth to attend the 50th Jubilee Celebrations of the S.D.S. in Grindelwald at the same time as the Ladies World Cup Races. Unluckily, Helen could not be in Switzerland at that time, and in addition, the snow conditions were so bad that the races were transferred to Meiringen. Fortunately, however, I was in Murren and able to represent the LSC at the Jubilee Dinner which was held in the Hotel de Sauvage, Meiringen.

I came downstairs apprehensively, expecting to recognise a few faces, but I was over-whelmed by the warmth of so many greetings. It was just like one of the best family parties where all your favourite relations appear. So many familiar faces, Elsa Roth who must have achieved more for ski-ing than perhaps anyone but Arnold; Kini Maillart back from China; Odette Perret for once not organising a race but a dinner party; Rosli Streiff, who at 76 still skis faster than most of us; Helen Zing, Gretli Schaad, Ly Keller..... but it's no good starting to give you the names because this would be a litany of ski-ing personalities, and if you have friends in the S.D.S. they were there asking after you and sending you their greetings.

This wasn't only a Ladies night; I was placed at the top table next to Marc Hodler, President of the F.I.S. who made some very complimentary remarks in his speech about the influence of the British and the L.S.C. on the early days of Swiss ski racing; old friend Ernst Gertsch sat on my right; Ernst Feuz, Heinz von Bidder and the present President of the Swiss Ski Federation and others who have helped or are helping the S.D.S. joined the celebration.

Frau Ruth Frey, the President of the S.D.S. welcomed me on your behalf and all the other guests; she spoke in both French and German, the fate of Swiss officials, but was able to make the first speech just after the soup which is surely preferable to having to hold off drinking and being unable to eat until you have spoken at the end of the meal.

I conveyed the President of the L.S.C's congratulations and greetings to the S.D.S. and presented their President with an L.S.C. hat which she wore the next day at the World Cup Slalom.

Elsa Roth referred to the L.S.C. as "Our Sister Club" and spoke with gratitude for our help over the years as she outlined the history of the S.D.S. We enjoyed a delicious dinner interspersed with fascinating speeches and entertained by some lovely singing by the Meiringen Ladies Choir. Then the gossiping began and a marvellous tombola took place (I won some bathroom scales!). It really was a memorable evening and I hope that S.D.S. and L.S.C. members will continue as sisters for a long time within the family of skiers.

-oOo-

Hon. Editor adds:-

I would particularly like to thank Philippa for writing this very interesting account of the S.D.S. Dinner, and by pure coincidence, the day she sent it to me I came across a Ski Notes and Queries

May 1928 in the Library at The Ski Club. Needless to say, it made fascinating reading and I found two gems of great relevance to Philippa's article -

- 1) (This under 1927-28 Season, which included News from Everywhere)

"Ladies Ski Club - An interesting innovation was the race between the Ladies' Ski Club and a team representing the Swiss Ladies. The Ladies' Ski Club, captained by Lady Raeburn, won easily, securing the first four places in the Slalom and the first two places in the downhill race".

a couple of pages later came

- 2) "To the Ladies Ski Club" (on its victory over the Swiss Ladies)

The Club Poet has been duly inspired as follows:

"Congratulations most sincere
We send to all both 'Dame' and 'Miss'
A doubtful point is now made clear
Our girls are faster than the Swiss !"

A.R.P.

-oOo-

(Now for the million dollar question - who was the Club Poet who wrote so eloquently of our ladies? Anyone who knows, please come to the AGM and tell us, and I will give them a bottle of wine as a prize !)

-oOo-

I wish there was space to reproduce more of this Ski Notes and Queries, but I can only tell you that 1927 must have been a lethal winter as there was an article on Skiing on the North Downs, another on Ski Running in Great Britain, two splendid photographs; one the "Outing of the Wimbledon Ski Club" and the other "Two well-known Mountaineers on Leith Hill" taken by G.Seligman and F.S.Smythe respectively.

(Loads of snow in each photograph).

Finally, there was a suggestion from a Mr.L.A.Day that "an attempt be made to get members living in likely districts to telegraph to the S.C.G.B. reports of severe falls, should these take place"

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** Postscript to last year's article **
** on **
** "Debutantes on Tour" **
** (pages 37-40) **
** by Sonia Hunter of Hunterston **
**
** "Guess What - we were so green **
** that we took up our nighties !! **
**

A RETURN TO ZERMATT

by Petronilla Trustram Eve

"Matterhorn thoughts are eternal thoughts"

Father Paul de Chastonay

"Write something" commanded our Editoress. "Write something about Zermatt -

Write about Zermatt; what can one say that has not been said a thousand times before, and in better chosen words than I would ever find? Cecily Williams, Arnold Lunn and Jimmy Riddell, to name but a few.

We went to Zermatt this year, a mixed party of young and old. (One has to admit to the label of "old!"). The aged among us have been regular visitors now for twenty-five years, only missing the odd year to get married or produce our children!

We have seen Zermatt change in that time, one cannot deny this. It has more than doubled in size; the crocus fields below the station have disappeared under new chalets, and hotels and flats have mushroomed up the slopes on either side of the village. Improvements have come too. The queues, except the one for the Trockener Steg, seem to have disappeared. The development of 22 cable cars and drag lifts cover three main ski areas, making this one of the best and most varied ski areas in the world.

They have not yet finished a new cable car, which, when constructed, will take skiers to an unbelievable eyrie just below the summit of the Kleine Matterhorn, giving access to the highest runs in Europe.

We arrived by train, to step off once more into the exhilarating atmosphere which is Zermatt. The

village dominated by the extraordinary peak of the Matterhorn, in a way that even innumerable hackneyed postcards cannot prepare one for. The walk up the village street still seems not quite real, full of atmosphere and old friends. How comforting to be remembered, missed and welcomed!

Being a large, mixed party, we had decided to take advantage of one of the many chalet party package tours. This proved a great success, but very dependent on the qualities of your particular chalet girl! I would recommend this type of holiday to any family. It is cheap and gives everyone complete freedom.

We "oldies" in the party had planned a helicopter trip up Monte Rosa, but when we saw the descent was so tracked that it was almost a piste, we changed our ideas to the Alphubel. Owing to the weather, this trip was not to be! However, we did manage a superb run down the Theodul Glacier.

This trip too, nearly eluded us. The day on which we had planned to do it with Andreas Biner broke warm and cloudy. It was not until after lunch that the visibility on the Theodul Pass began to improve and we made the decision to go.

We branched off the piste and headed through the untracked snow. Our children were with us, all good skiers, but this was their first time off the piste in the high mountains. How would they judge it - a dead bore because the snow was heavy and conditions difficult? Or would they, like we had done before them, find in doing this a sense of liberation and with space the true happiness of the mountains?

We descended the glacier stopping occasionally to gaze at the backcloth of great summits and veiled valleys around us; to examine more closely the

grandeur of the ice-falls, and to take the inevitable photograph.

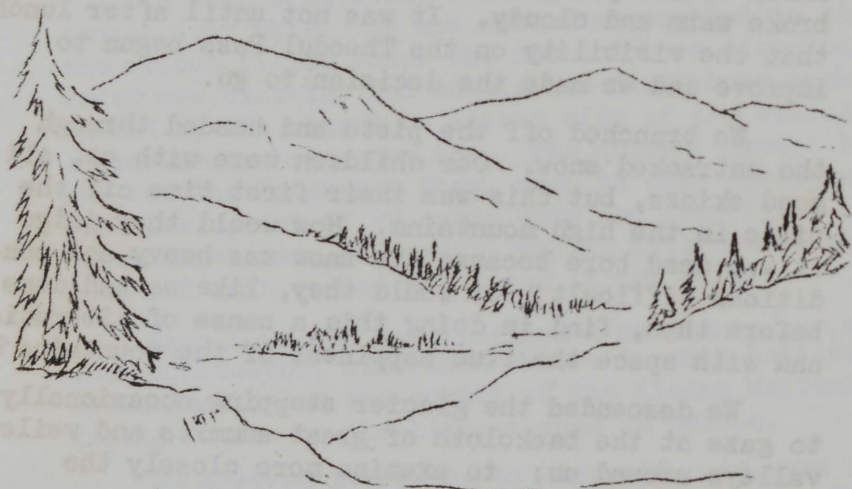
We finished our day with deep satisfaction and safe in the knowledge that the young, too, had understood the splendour and lure of the mountains around them.

All good things must come to an end and it was time to return home. Waiting at the station for our train and giving the Matterhorn a farewell glance, promising it and ourselves a quick return, I tried to recall Cecily Williams' ending to her book:-

"And in the midst there stands the mountain of the mountains; great, sublime and holy; sometimes angry, perhaps repellent, withdrawing itself. The summit points up like an immense and infinite finger -

"Seek ye Me ! "

-----oOo-----



L A K E P L A C I D

by

Ellie Nishkian (our San Francisco Member).

At the FIS Conference in Nice, Elizabeth Hussey asked if I would be interested in writing an article on our February trip to Lake Placid (in New York State). As a native Californian, living in San Francisco, I was flattered.

The distance between San Francisco and New York State is almost as far as that between London and Moscow, so that the Lake Placid area is as foreign to me as it probably is to you. It takes many hours to reach Lake Placid - you must fly to Chicago, then Saramic Lake, and, finally, drive for another 30 minutes.

My husband, Byron and I were asked to attend the Pre-Olympic trial Nordic events. We attended as guests of the Lake Placid organising Committee, and officially, liased between the FIS and organising Committee.

The town of Lake Placid is situated on the shore of a lake - which is completely frozen over in winter. The Award Ceremony for the 1932 Winter Olympics was held on this lake. Lake Placid was developed by Mr. Dewey who is also responsible for the Dewey Decimal System, an internationally known method of indexing and coding Library books. The town itself has many interesting shops where pottery, clothes and gourmet items are sold.

We stayed at the Lake Placid Club, which will be used as the headquarters for the Olympic Committee. This large, rambling Hotel is filled with pictures of the developer's of US Winter sports, and it is the only Hotel that I have visited with an extensive

library. The accommodation at the Lake Placid Club is limited and the residents of the town are concerned about the lack of rooms. The only other major Hotel (the Holiday Inn), for example, has been taken over by Press photographers and Reporters. Understandably, top priority is given to those in the most responsible positions.

The Olympic village is approximately 7 miles north of the centre of town. The nordic, BOB sled and jumping areas, are 3 miles south of the town, and the alpine centre is 23 miles to the east.

We visited the Olympic village and found it most interesting. It is attractively sited amongst the trees. Security is easy, primarily because it was built to be a minimum security prison after the games. However, what Olympic village today can be built without a future purpose?

The free standing circular buildings of the village accommodate about 200 athletes. The rooms have long, narrow windows, which give a view, and, apart from the bedrooms, other areas are furnished for lounging, letter writing, studying, etc. The main building provides dining facilities, disco, therapy rooms and an auditorium for entertainments.

The people of Lake Placid are very charming and sincere. They are concerned that the Olympics will be a successful and pleasant experience. We met and visited many of Lake Placid's families. Some are working as volunteers during the day - serving snacks in the warming huts, assisting on the snow shovels or foot-packing in the snowhills; then, in the evenings, they will open their houses for receptions

The games will be magnificent. The courses are perfectly groomed and the efforts of those technically involved are sure to make this the best Winter Olympics ever.

At the pre-Olympic games, one of the comments of

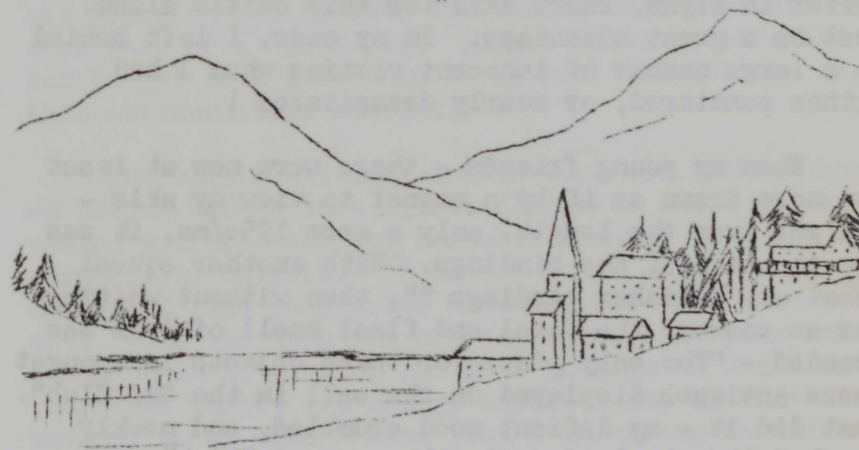
the ski technicians was that the ski runs, jump hills and nordic trails will need little improvement. The pre-Olympic skating events were also successful, and both skaters and officials were pleased with the conditions. The huge Bob sled runs were completely refrigerated and, as far as I was concerned, they were frightening to watch.

The only complaint that I had was the severe cold weather. It was so cold that the last nordic event in the women's was cancelled. The temperature at this time was 25 or 26 degrees F below zero.

We left Lake Placid feeling that all is well planned and organised so far as the Olympic Games are concerned but that watching television may be the sensible solution for those who are concerned about accommodation and not actively involved in the games themselves.

It is a lovely area to visit - and a must for one who is a visitor to New York State. The people are charming; the area quaint and surrounded by lakes and forests. Do visit, but not during the Olympics!

**
*



"WHAT ARE KANDAHAR BINDINGS ?"

"What are you going to do with those 'things' ?" enquired my young friend who had kindly offered to help carry my ski-ing 'gear' up to the chalet. "Those 'things'", I replied, rather coldly "are my skis", and as I saw her mouth beginning to shape the word 'Langlauf', added quickly and defiantly, "Down-hill, and very good they are too".

I must explain to our readers that all this came about when I told our Acting Hon. Editor I was going ski-ing after a gap of five years. Having satisfied herself that I was well-insured, she then asked me whether I would let her have my impressions of the present day 'ski-ing scene' generally.

Back to my 'equipment', I must admit that on my way up from Geneva, I had noticed that apparently very few people used long skis anymore. Incidentally, if you have ever had to carve your way through airports, railway and bus stations, without a trolley or porter in sight, short skis for this battle alone, must be a great advantage. In my case, I left behind me a large number of innocent victims whom I had either punctured, or nearly decapitated !

When my young friends - there were now at least two more drawn as if by a magnet to view my skis - had got over the length, only a mere 195c/ms, it was now the turn of the bindings. With another squeal "What are Kandahar bindings ?", then without waiting for an answer, the fatal and final knell of doom was sounded - "The only place for these objects is amongst those antiques displayed on the wall in the Ski Club". That did it - my defiant mood crumbled, and meekly I asked them to lead me to the nearest Ski hire shop where I was introduced not only to the short ski, but

also to these new-fangled bindings. At first, the sheer weight and fierceness of the latter, terrified me. I could not imagine how these massive metal 'traps' would ever release me, but of course, they did (and had to on numerous occasions, thank goodness).

Now the question of skis and bindings were settled, they turned their attention to my sticks - sorry poles - "Why must you have them up to your armpits?" they asked; I gave up explaining and let them have their heads and took these much shorter poles. My 'friends' (if that is what they were - I was beginning to wonder whether they had a commercial interest in this ski Emporium), now started to mutter about my boots - "No", I said, gathering the last vestige of courage "I like my leather boots and they do have clips; what is so old-fashioned about them? I draw the line at having to wear footgear that looks as if made to walk in 'outer space' and, as they nearly came up to your knees when not attached to skis; made you walk like one of our very early 'ancestors'" I won the day and was 'allowed' to retain my old comfy boots. Later on, in my holiday, I was fascinated when one of these young 'bombs' announced she could not shed her boots on coming into the chalet unless we carried some sort of a 'puff-puff' gadget which would enable her to get back into them ! My host was able to supply this extraordinary necessity !

The modern ski-ing clothes were not such a shock, as having worked in a Sports Shop over these intervening years, I had got somewhat immuned to these psychedelic colours. I do not think they are pretty, in fact I find them quite hideous, but they have their uses, such as, when you are trying to find your friends reminded me of picking out your jockeys in Horse racing. "Can that purple and orange bundle I see in that snowy ravine, be my chum? Mind you, I am no one to talk: my "crushed strawberry" anorak can be 'picked out' miles away, a mixed blessing I find, depending in which

position I am 'sighted' !

I agree that in cold weather, these padded outfits are very practical, but why, on a good day, do people still go around looking like baby "Michelins"? Could they not occasionally stop emulating mini 'duvets' on the move, and wear clothes that (a) gave them a nice 'line, and (b) allowed one to see whether 'it' was a 'he' or a 'she'.

Up to now my impressions seem to have erred somewhat on the negative side, but bear with me, I belong to the generation, now called the 'Oldies' who skied after the war when the Sport was less mechanised and elegance in our apparel of paramount importance - even if they were 'hell' to sit down in:-

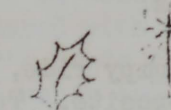
In conclusion, I have to admit that I am completely won over by the shorter ski and although my left shoulder is still rather tender from carrying all this 'ironmongery', these new (to me) bindings make me feel a lot safer:

I must not finish before mentioning how very impressed I was with the high standard of skiing found amongst the young Brits, and thanks to them (and their patience) for allowing me to accompany them on some fantastic descents 'off the piste'.

My old long skis were not left to rot in Switzerland - I brought them home ('another battle!!) and here, in the U.K. they will remain, and no doubt, next winter, they will, once again, "grace" the slopes of Box Hill.

R.G.S.

CHRISTMAS



AT



FLAINE

by Daphne Buxton

-oOo-

For the second year running we, and our cousins from Scotland, decided to spend Christmas at Flaine. We took two self-catering flats in La Residence de la Foret. We had the flat without the balcony because it is cheaper - last year they had a good potatoe harvest (we all farm) - so they had the balcony. Mary and I take it in turns to cook dinner for the whole eight of us; each family has two boys, their Tom and Michael are grown up, my Edward and Terence 15 and 13 respectively. Last year Terence was a Junior in the admirable Ski School International, known to all as the Green school - we prefer them as they have small classes and largely English speaking guides. Juniors are taught by pretty young women; our husbands thought this rather wasted on Terence !

This year it was my turn to cook the Christmas dinner. As we were to arrive on Christmas Eve, I dare n't risk buying a turkey on arrival. All of us demand a traditional meal, the commercial present and card business being reduced to a minimum.

Mary wrote to an English cousin living in Geneva, and obtained a promise that she would meet us at Geneva Airport with a Turkey. Gallantly she volunteered to have it ready stuffed.

Then the trouble began. Fog at Gatwick on the previous night caused massive delays. We retreated into the Sussex hinterland and devoured sausage and mash with startled, but hospitable, relatives.

Finally we were off, to a very bumpy ride, with the usual sticky 3 year old seated opposite. Tom, next to me, reached discreetly for the customary paper bag, luckily not required. Geneva heaved into sight and we touched down only seven hours late.

Suddenly the thought occurred, would Mabel and the Turkey have waited? The usual formalities were rushed through; skis and cases rattled down the chute, and, thank heaven, a familiar face appeared outside the glass airport wall. With hurriedly exchanged cries of welcome, wads of currency and birds (there were two), we ran for the bus.



On board, the birds went under my feet, the people without seats were stowed somehow and we roared away for the frontier and another ski-ing Christmas. Afterwards I discovered we had crossed a common market frontier with uncooked meat - this a fearful sin -

We reached La Residence at 11 p.m. fixed up the flat at maximum speed and fled en masse to the 'White Grouse' the English pub and main gathering point of Flaine. Nobly they fed us, and even the younger members of the party admitted it was bed time.

The great majority of runs in Flaine return to the Village. This is a great help, as everyone can take their

own choice of ski-ing and return for lunch. I do a short morning and produce early lunch to avoid queuing which is worse over Christmas, though still reasonable compared with other places. Mark and I abandoned our 1960's Heads this year - Mark's measured 210 - and were happy and comfortable on hired Blizzards of reasonable length. We had four perfect days. Then the weather turned evil, high wind and rain, changing to squashy snow and back. Wet boys and wet clothes festooned the flat, S.C.G.B's varied snow test became a varied rock test, and had to be abandoned. The remaining snow turned to a mixture of glue and porridge. We all persevered thanking heaven for modern bindings.

On New Year's Eve we all went to the 'White Grouse'. Last year the English students sang carols at Christmas. This year there was a piper and the Bearsden Ski Club in kilts and funny masks. The Moroccan Hotel staffs looked a bit puzzled - the French all eat serious gourmet menus at home. We toasted 1979 and stumbled back to La Residence through increasing drifts the beginnings of a tremendous fall of snow.

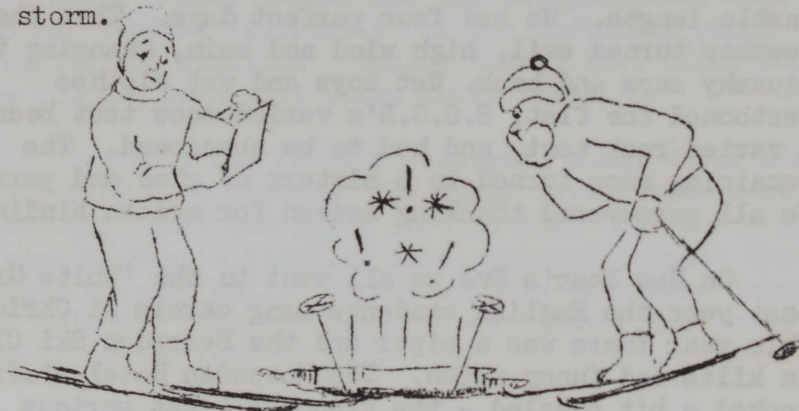
The temperature gradually fell, ultimately reaching the spectacular low of minus 26°C at the top of the cable car. The whole Flaine basin became a mass of magnificent powder snow. Run after run re-opened, the snow cats roaring around the mountain, not without occasional disaster.

Flaine is not really recommended for off piste ski-ing. The terrain being dotted with formidable pot-holes (said to be of volcanic origin). However, the conditions were too tempting for even the most dedicated Piste Basher. The whole area became crossed and re-crossed with tracks, interrupted by harrassed figures digging in feet of snow for lost skis.

I issued long Johns, extra gloves and dog leads and hoped for the best. As the visibility improved the French Army was seen in what I have always thought of

as Anglo Saxon attitudes !

A pothole claimed Tom. He reported an American couple peering over the edge and exclaiming "Say, there's a guy lying in that hole" - they sought amongst their garments for a phrase book, and enquired "Ca va ?" Tom replied "Very thank you", and they departed into the storm.



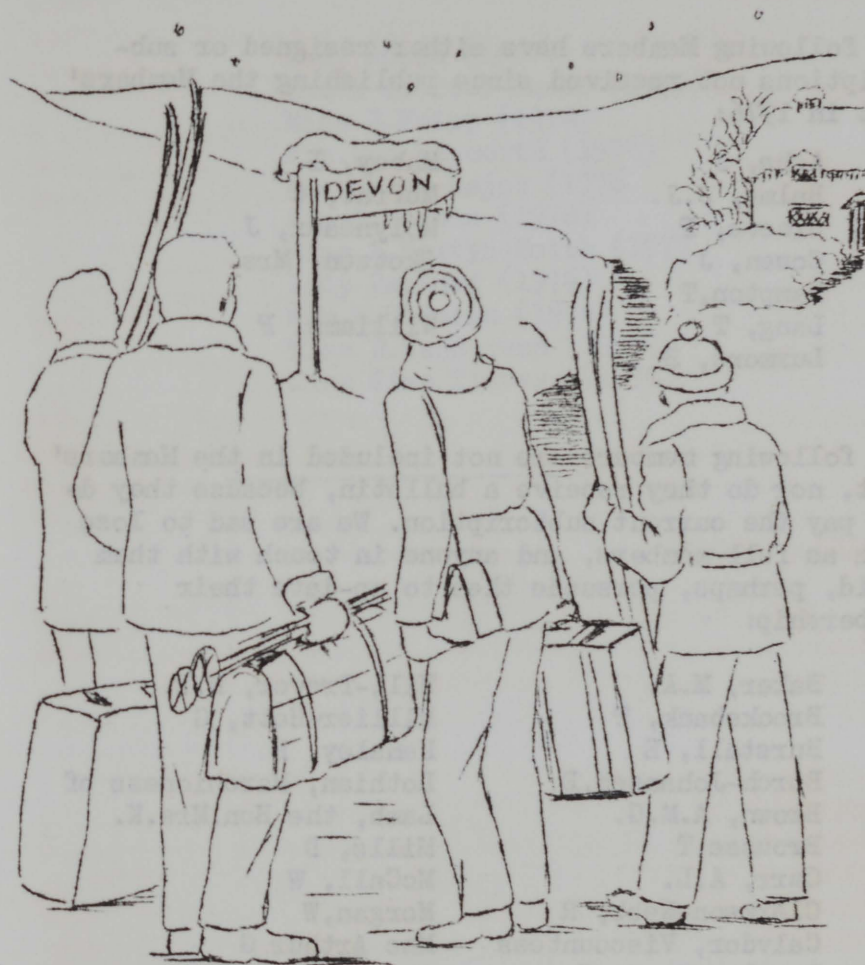
More snow fell. Even guides were seen to tumble. Tales of frostbitten fingers and even horrifyingly, a frozen nose, were heard. The younger boys passed their silver powder tests. Queues became negligible as the French Holiday ended.

All too soon it was the last day. Michael and Edward announced they would take Terence down "Diable Noir", a fearsome black run under the cable car. I let them go with some doubt.

We reassembled at tea time for hot chocolate, Terence soaked as if he had swum the Atlantic. "I didn't fall on Diable Noir" he said. "We went off the piste" said Edward. "He went over a cliff" said Michael, "There were bits of Terence all over the place". I asked why he went over a cliff - it being a clear day. "Well" said Terence, "it looked a bit difficult, so I just shut my eyes and went".

Too soon we were back at the Airport, and only

an hour's delay this time. The Geneva cousins met us and filled the time pleasureably with hot sausage rolls and a magnum of Champagne. We can come again, the boys announced. Then a smooth journey home, and back to Devon deep in snow and ice !



LADIES' SKI CLUB

LIST OF MEMBERS as at JULY, 1979

enclosed with this Bulletin.

The following Members have either resigned or subscriptions not received since publishing the Members' List in 1976:

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Ashe, J | Mabey, I |
| Balme, J.J. | Moffat, C |
| Cleeve, F | Molyneaux, J |
| Cowen, J | Skotzen, Mrs. |
| Hampton, T | |
| Lang, T | Williams, F |
| Luxmore, B | |

The following members are not included in the Members' List, nor do they receive a bulletin, because they do not pay the current subscription. We are sad to lose them as full members, and anyone in touch with them could, perhaps, persuade them to up-date their membership:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Baker, M.A. | Hill-Trevor, N.E. |
| Brooksbank, T | Hillier-Hott, G |
| Burstall, E | Kemsley, P |
| Borch-Johansen, E | Lothian, Marchioness of |
| Brown, A.M.G. | Lamb, the Hon.Mrs.K. |
| Brousse, T | Mills, D |
| Carr, A.L. | McCall, W |
| Clarkson-Webb, R | Morgan, W |
| Calvdor, Viscountess | Mac Arthur G |
| Douglas-Jones, G | Mackintosh, P |
| Hilleary, S | Paxton, P |
| Heaver, H.J. | Rodger, J |
| Holroyd, Smith, S | Robertson, S |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Staeger, T | Southall, P |
| Shaw-Stewart, V | Turtill, P |
| Shillingford, D | Whalley, S |

The following members have died since 1976:

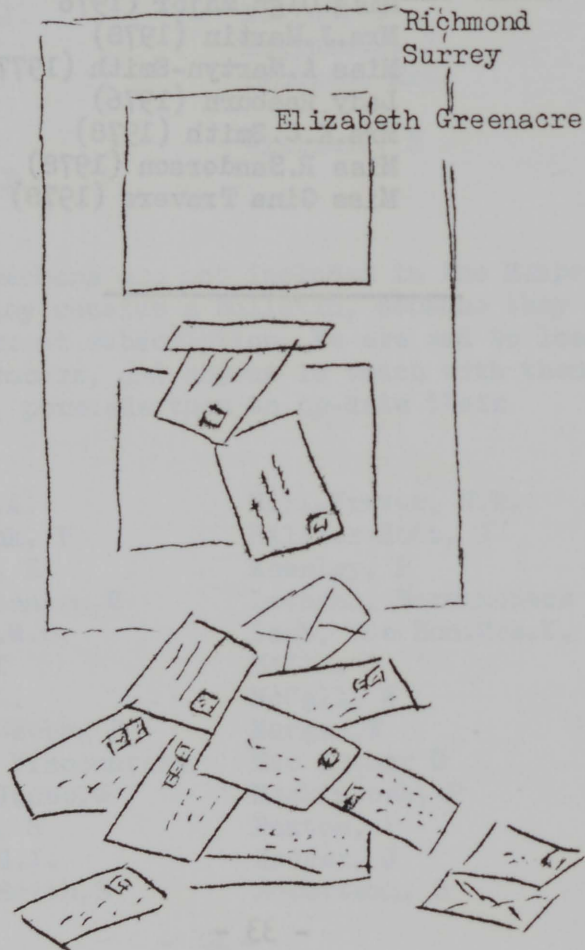
Lady Anson (1977)
Karen de Pret Roose (1979)
Miss B.Fripp (1976)
Mrs.Ros Hepworth (1976)
Miss Olga Major (1976)
Mrs.J.Martin (1978)
Miss A.Martyn-Smith (1977)
Lady Raeburn (1976)
Mrs.K.C.Smith (1978)
Miss R.Sanderson (1978)
Miss Gina Travers (1978)

"My thanks to everyone who came up
'trumps' with articles for this
Bulletin - and

PLEASE if you can produce anything
for next year, I shall be very
grateful. Send it to me at Selby House

Ham Common
Richmond
Surrey

Elizabeth Greenacre



*
* STOP PRESS *
*

Just before going to print, the following
was received from Sonia Hunter of Hunterston -

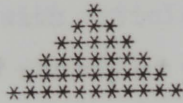
A Tribute to Karen de Pret Roose

"You brought so much into a troubled
world. Unfailing kindness, wonderful
Danish hospitality and cooking! and
above all, a devotion to Michael and
his climbing school which none of us
will forget.

Your own climbing achievements are
not recorded; let us hope that some-
one will now do this, in memory of a
Very Special Person".

(A Tribute by Pat Spring Smythe is on
Page 7)

Stop Press (contd)



CONGRATULATIONS to Gina Sopwith
(nee Hathorn), on the birth of
her daughter.



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