

TASMANIAN SECTION

Editorial Notes

The Tasmanian 1936 season was good, snow being plentiful and the weather not particularly annoying, apart from its malicious change on the very eve of the State meeting at Mt. Field. In the north quantities of excellent snow lay on Ben Lomond from July to October and later. In the south, Mt. Field also had heavy falls in mid-August, which, with accumulating storms, gave splendid ski-ing well into October. As may be supposed, the good snow brought out



R. G. Hall, Honorary Secretary
of the A.N.S.F.

numbers of beginners, particularly on Mt. Wellington, where the newly-made Pinnacle Road allowed skiers to drive their cars above the snow-line after heavy falls, road ski-ing being quite good practice for even the more experienced after a thaw and freeze. An even more important road development is the now finished Lake Fenton Road (3,500 feet). This new motor road brings one on to the good season winter snow-line in the Mt. Field National Park. It is only 56 miles from Hobart.

In keeping with Government activity on mountain roads, both the major clubs have now completed much needed high-level accommodation huts, specially situated for late spring ski-ing, the latest one, the N.T.A.C. Hut, at the 5,000-ft. line on Ben Lomond, being the highest habitation in Tasmania.

As this was written we had a visit from Colin Wyatt, of S.C.G.B. and international fame. He dropped in on Tasmania, both to entertain us with his many talents and also to admire our mountains and "Cascades". As he *would* come in April we had



The Newdegate Hut.

G. T. F. Chapman.



G. T. F. Chapman.

Twisted Tarn, on the way to Newdegate Slopes and the new Hut.

no recourse but to trot out the threadbare, "You should have been here last August". After a somewhat humid visit to Mt. Field he went to Cradle Mountain humming his new Tasmanian *and* New Zealand version of "Polly Wolly Doodle" to the refrain of "Oh I should have brought my oilie up to-day".



**Lakes Belton and Belcher on the slopes of Tyenna Peak,
Mt. Field West National Park, Tasmania.**

E. Mills.

In company with other but less articulate beings, we wish to extend our best wishes to the Canberra Alpine Club for pioneering new country on Mt. Franklin and Ginini. We feel the club will be a great success and a welcome haven for exiled Tasmanians at Canberra who may be glad to renew past mountain memories.

In reading of the forecast demise of the "Wanderers' Club" we can solace ourselves somewhat in that they die in a good cause. The curtailment of Club Reports we think "a good thing". Possibly the good shear-work may be continued further were club race results all tabulated into one State schedule; the consequent saving of paper if not verbiage might prevent the cost-department's axe reducing the excellent photographs that must have well-nigh mortgaged the last edition of the *Year Book*.

All who have the pleasure of W. F. Mitchell's acquaintance will join in our congratulations upon his marriage. We fervently hope Mrs. Mitchell will not take an unreasonable attitude about wet snow, bogged cars, klistered clothes and the other trifling incidentals so inseparable from "the higher life".

THE SKI COUNCIL OF TASMANIA.

1936 Championship Meeting.

The work of the Council during 1936 was mostly confined to arranging the State meeting; in accordance with the idea of alternating the venue of the Championships each year, between Northern and Southern snowfields, the meeting was arranged at Lake Newdegate in Mt. Field National Park in the first three days of September. After the large falls of snow in mid-August, good conditions were assured, and the Ski Club of Tasmania arranged accommodation and catering; despite considerable difficulty caused by snow making the pack tracks impassable to horses, arrangements were carried out and competitors enjoyed snug if not sumptuous quarters. Upon the arrival of the N.T.A.C. members from Launceston, a joint Race Committee was formed and took charge of the



Competitors in the Tasmanian Langlauf.

E. Mills.



MILLS WINS 7 MILE SKI RACE

A "KLISTER" DAY

National Park,
September 3rd.
ERNEST MILLS (N.T.A.C.)
to-day won the seven mile
Long Distance Race from
G.T.F. Chapman followed by
R.G. Hall, D.L. Anderson
and other well known
Tasmanian ski runners.

Despite difficult snow
and weather conditions
Mills, mounted on well
Klistered Langlauf ski
made the excellent time
of 1 Hr. 12 min. 50 sec.



G. T. F. Chapman.

Mt. Field West and Lake Hayes Valley, Tasmania.

competitions. As previous decisions bound the racing to three days, and as several competitors could not extend their stay, it was resolved to cancel all events not held by the evening of September 3. A bad spell of weather then ensued, and it was not until the afternoon of September 3 that a start could be made. The Long Distance Race was then keenly contested on the Tarn Shelf-Mt. Mawson route, specially abbreviated to some six and a half to seven miles. This course provided a good variation of country and the winner, E. Mills, made a particularly fine run. Weather conditions were misty and unsettled, and snow slow and mostly wet. The course was set by M. L. Urquhart and H. R. Hutchison, while the race was started by Dr. W. D. Counsell and controlled by P. A. Canning, Miss S. Sale and Miss H. Bethune acting as timekeepers. On account of weather and snow conditions a five minute interval was used in starting. E. Mills (1.12.50), 1; G. T. F. Chapman (1.18.20), 2; R. G. Hall (1.20.40), 3; D. L. Anderson (1.21.0), 4; E. Giblin (1.25.30), 5; C. Wessing (1.25.50), 6; S. V. Tilley, 7; G. C. McKinlay, 8; R. F. Hutchison, 9.

In thanking all the many willing helpers the Council wishes especially to include the Honorary Physician to the meeting, Dr. W. D. Counsell, who at considerable inconvenience to himself made it his business to be present all through the meeting.

Club Reports

THE SKI CLUB OF TASMANIA.

1936 closes the first decade of the Ski Club of Tasmania's history, a record full of many strange trips and adventures and about which much may be written some day, but not now. On the doings of 1936 itself, too, we could dwell at some length, the trips to the club huts in Mt. Field National Park, the State meeting and the obtuse weather it encountered, the foraging expeditions to the Lake Fenton Dump with members returning home by moonlight carrying half sheep, boxes of eggs and other encumbrances. These must be left now, for space and the editorial scissors insist. There is one memory, however, that we



Newdegate Slopes—the lake and hut. G. T. F. Chapman.

must record: the kindly understanding and appreciation of the N.T.A.C. members who came to the State meeting. After sweating like mules under enormous packs of gear, equipment, racing ski and the like, they got but one race and a lot of primeval privations, but even smiled when their rum issue curdled as it came from the famous Chapman wine gourd.

In the rendering of homage we have also to laud Anderson, the honorary secretary, for his energy in building the Newdegate Hut and proving its value. Finally, we shake hands with ourselves upon the matter of the newly completed Lake Fenton Road, a work that the club has consistently advocated. So, with a new hut and two more mountain snow roads "in the bag" we indulge in a fanfare of self-trumpeting before less creditable achievements in the matter of racing are bruited abroad.

NORTHERN TASMANIAN ALPINE CLUB.

This was the sixth year of the club's existence. Ben Lomond carried more snow last winter than has been seen on the mountain since it became the headquarters of the club in 1932. The membership greatly increased and some of the new members, particularly the younger ones, showed considerable promise. A full and successful racing programme did much to encourage interest in im-



E. Mills.

Packing in building material to the Summit Hut, Ben Lomond, Tasmania,

proved technique. Perhaps the most satisfactory event for the year was the building of the Summit Hut, close to Legge Tor, as this undertaking should contribute greatly to the future development of the club.



E. Mills.

Summit Hut under construction, Ben Lomond, Tasmania.

A most interesting feature of the snowfalls of 1936 was that many of them resulted from easterly weather, an extremely unusual occurrence. Another noticeable fact (probably a consequence) was that practically all the falls occurred at high levels and very little snow, in the northern part of the island at least, fell below 4,000 feet. Owing to its height, Ben Lomond accumulated a great depth of snow, while other northern mountains missed many of the snowfalls and rapidly lost what they had got. It was repeatedly no-



E. Mills.

**Packing up Ben Lomond to Summit
Hut, Tasmania.**



**In the Northern Tasmanian Alpine
Club Chalet.**

ticed that when the top of Ben Lomond provided some ten square miles of good snow, averaging five to ten feet in depth, Mt. Barrow, only fifteen miles to the north and 4,644 feet high, seemed to have only a dusting. Not only was the snow plentiful, but it was also for the most part good and was suitable for skiing from early June until the warm Christmas rains broke up the final drifts.

At the end of August a team from this club visited National Park for the Tasmanian championships and inter-club contest. Unfortunately, owing to bad



E. Mills.

H. L. von See in the N.T.A.C. Downhill, Tasmania.

weather and its effect on the snow conditions, it was found possible to hold only one race, the Langlauf. This club provided the winner, E. Mills, whose extremely good time over a difficult and tiring course was a splendid performance for a man entering his first ski race. Although the lack of racing was disappointing, the Northern visitors greatly enjoyed the trip and very much appreciated the hospitality of the Ski Club of Tasmania. Much interest was shown in the new hut which the S.C.T. has built on the shore of Lake Newdegate, and it was this that ultimately led to the N.T.A.C.'s decision to build the Summit Hut.

After the Tasmanian Championships, the club conducted several club races, the results of which were as follow:—

Downhill.—20th September, 1936. Strickland Traverse, 700 ft. Club Championship: H. L. von See (40.4 secs.), 1; W. F. Mitchell (43.4), 2; S. V. Tilley (47), 3; E. Mills, 4; J. Richards, 5; F. McQueen, 6. Handicap: Tilley, 1; Von See, 2; Mitchell, 3.

Langlauf.—5th October, 1936. Borrowdale-Piesse Course, 10 miles. Club Championship: H. L. von See (1.42.2), 1; S. V. Tilley (1.44.30), 2; R. G. Hall (1.51.0), 3; F. McQueen, 4; E. Mills, 5; C. K. Stackhouse and D. McGrath, retired. Owing to a misunderstanding concerning the starting place, Hall and Mills were late for the start.

Slalom.—11th October, 1936. "Thirty Second" Slope, 350 ft. Club Championship: H. L. von See (68 and 75 secs.), 1; W. F. Mitchell (65 and 94.8), 2; E. Mills (101.4 and 97.6, 4 secs, penalty), 3; S. V. Tilley, 4; G. C. McKinlay, 5; J. Richards, 6. Handicap: von See, 1; Mills, 2; McKinlay, 3.

Junior Race.—Combined Slalom-Downhill: 11th October, 1936. Big Ben. G. Stackhouse, 1; P. Searl, 2; R. Tilley, 3; Miss B. Mitchell, 4.

Women's Race.—Combined-Slalom-Downhill: 18th October, 1936. "Thirty Second" Slope. Club Championship: M. Walsh, 1; B. Mitchell, 2; M. Tyson, 3.

During the Christmas holidays, club members began work on the much discussed Summit Hut. The site was chosen on what is known as the Summit Pass at an elevation of about 5,000 ft. and close to Legge Tor (5,160 ft.). The club now has 80 members, and it is very pleasing that every year since its inception has seen a steady increase. Its half-dozen foundation members, who six years ago thought that they might find greater scope for ski-ing if a club were formed, have every reason to be more than satisfied with the outcome of their efforts.

R. G. Hall, Honorary Secretary.

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY SKI CLUB.

Last winter saw the T.U.S.C. suffering from a not unusual complaint, lack of members. The few members we have, however, found plenty of opportunity for ski-ing as the Weather Bureau was rather generous with "Low" Depressions. During the May vacation some of the club spent a week at National Park, working on the new S.C.T. Hut; in August a number of members accepted an invitation of the Ski Club of Tasmania to spend the vacation at their huts. Several of our runners had been looking forward to the State championship meeting, and it was with considerable disappointment that we saw the bad weather prevent all events except the Long Distance Race. Despite the lack of langlauf ski some of our members entered in the Long Distance and, considering it was their first attempt, made very creditable performances.

P. A. Canning, Honorary Secretary.