

TASMANIAN SECTION

EDITORIAL NOTES

The history of 1938 is one of good and evil. Snow conditions on Mount Wellington were excellent, and various new factors enabled them to be fully exploited. For one thing the number of skiers in Hobart has probably doubled over the last year. For another, the new road gives both speedy access and (sometimes) a reasonable run home, while the activities of an enthusiastic series of working bees gave us a new cleared run and hut. On the other hand, both Ben Lomond and National Park carried a very moderate amount of snow, while other resorts such as Cradle Mountain and Mount Rufus were very unkind to visiting parties in the way of weather.

To racing enthusiasts the development of Mount Rufus will be of great interest. Last year Ben Lomond showed that even with very scanty snow a race meeting can be carried through. This is not true, however, of National Park, where even a slalom hill of reasonable dimensions is difficult to find, except in exceptional snow. So far as can be ascertained, Rufus can be relied upon for a 400 ft. Slalom, while in good conditions a Downhill course of the open type could easily be found.

After two years, during which not more than one event could be held, four championship races were run on Ben Lomond. In view of the paucity of snow, it is pleasing to be able to record that the programme was adhered to and that every race was a good test.

Another pleasant feature was the formation of a new club—the Wellington Ski Club—now a large and thriving body, whose membership threatens to top the century mark. With this pleasing figure, it is evident that the days when skiers walking through the streets were popularly received as if they were wearing horns and a tail are now gone for ever.

It is with great pleasure that we record the marriage of Mr. G. T. F. Chapman, the ex-Editor of this section, who, when this volume is published, will be constructing merely one-half of a pair of tramline tracks through European snows. His bride will also be known, though not—unfortunately—in the flesh, to readers of the *Year Book* outside Tasmania, the fruits of her pen having adorned its pages on the last two occasions, as well as those of prominent contemporary journals.

Popular ski-ing in Southern Tasmania has recently suffered a great loss in the departure for the north-west coast of Mr. G. V. Rush. Whether he is founding a ski club, instructing a class in the dignities of the stem turn, or tweaking the tail of Mr. Caulfeild, G. V. Rush is an enlivening force in the ski-ing community. The Victorians had him for a long time; he only stayed with us a year or so; we hope it will be our turn again soon.



W. F. Mitchell in the Downhill.

F. Smith

TASMANIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

By R. G. Hall

IN 1938 Tasmania had its first triangular ski competitions. In addition to the Ski Club of Tasmania and the Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club, the Hobart Walking Club sent a team to the meeting. The showing of this team was very creditable indeed, as the team consisted of only two members (the same in every event), who were opposed to different teams of three fielded by the other clubs.

The meeting was very successful in every way. Snow conditions and weather were satisfactory, and all events were completed. The standard of skiing was much higher than in any previous Tasmanian meeting. As in the past, the inter-club match was held concurrently with the individual championships. In addition to these races a Women's Championship event was held. An extra event was the race for novice men.

The meeting was held on Ben Lomond and accommodation was provided by the N.T.A.C. as its Chalet and Summit Hut. Mr. Ewert, of the S.C.V. (this time accompanied by Mrs. Ewert), played his usual part in assuring the success of the meeting. The races were, for the most part, closely contested, and the outcome of the inter-club match was in doubt until the final event. The Women's Championship was won easily by Miss S. Sale (S.C.T.) from Miss M. Walsh (N.T.A.C.), and Miss Cotton (H.W.C.).

The results of the open championships and the club match were:—

Downhill.—

H. L. von See (N.T.A.C.) (48 secs.), 1; W. H. Mitchell (N.T.A.C.) (48.4), 2; D. L. Anderson (S.C.T.) (76.0), 3; A. Dumaresq (N.T.A.C.) (82.8), 4; C. Martin (S.C.T.) (83.4), 5. 10 starters.

Slalom.—

P. Canning (S.C.T.) (98.2 secs.), 1; D. L. Anderson (S.C.T.) (102.0), 2; W. F. Mitchell (N.T.A.C.) (104.0), 3; H. L. von See (N.T.A.C.) (111.2), 4; A. Dumaresq (N.T.A.C.) (112.0), 5. 10 starters.

Langlauf.—

E. D. Mills (N.T.A.C.) (1.05.23), 1; D. L. Anderson (S.C.T.) (1.13.32), 2; A. Dumaresq (N.T.A.C.) (1.19.23), 3; D. Wilson (H.W.C.) (1.20.03), 4; C. Wessing (S.C.T.) (1.20.53), 5. 9 starters.



Summit Hut, Ben Lomond, before the Slalom.

F. Smithies.

Inter-Club Match.—

Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club.—Downhill (von See, Mitchell), 100%; Slalom (Mitchell, von See), 93.03%; Langlauf (Mills, Brauagan), 99.34%—total, 292.37, 1st.

Ski Club of Tasmania.—Downhill (Anderson, Martin), 60.5%; Slalom (Canning, Anderson), 100%; Langlauf (Anderson, Wessing), 100%—total, 260.50, 2nd.

Hobart Walking Club.—Downhill (Luckman, Wilson), 50.85%; Slalom (Luckman, Wilson), 79.01%; Langlauf (Wilson, Luckman), 94.19%—total, 224.05, 3rd.

CLUB REPORTS

Ski Club of Tasmania

FROM our point of view the 1938 season was one of small disappointments. Snow in National Park was not good and club trips were mainly limited to week-ends. Early in August our secretary was injured, and this weakening of our administrative strength, combined with poor snow, resulted in the club being forced to default in its obligation to hold the State Championships, for which it was our turn. The Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club kindly stepped into the breach and a decimated club party made the journey to Ben Lomond. Our record in the State meeting, however, was brighter than we expected, largely because P. Canning, running in his first championship race, won the Slalom.

It did not, therefore, need Miss Sale's victory in the Women's Championship to save our faces. In the Langlauf Championship several members will long retain a vision of E. D. Mills, of the N.T.A.C., disappearing over the horizon, while in the Downhill both von See and Mitchell were streets ahead of our runners.

Developments in National Park include a much-needed wooden floor for our small hut and a new spring for the gramophone—sad evidence of the pre-occupation of certain members with ice skating.

—D. L. Anderson, Honorary Treasurer.

Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club

THE season of 1938 was, perhaps, our most successful. Snow conditions were quite satisfactory and the club was able to complete, for the first time, a full racing programme. The Tasmanian Championships, combined with the inter-club match, were also held on Ben Lomond. The Tasmanian meeting provided the highest standard of racing that has been seen in Tasmania. The smooth running of the meeting was again due in no small part to the efforts of Mr. F. Ewert, of the Ski Club of Victoria. The Inter-Club Contest was won by this club. The results will be found elsewhere.

The club races were spread over several week-ends. The Downhill was won by W. F. Mitchell from eleven starters, with H. L. von See a close second, and A. Dumaresq third. In the Slalom the same three runners gained the first three places, but H. L. von See defeated W. F. Mitchell. The Langlauf was an easy win for E. D. Mills, followed by H. L. von See, and A. Dumaresq. In the Jump, the first held by this club, W. F. Mitchell was successful, with H. L. von See second and E. D. Mills third. The results of the club handicap events were as follow:— Downhill: R. Smith, R. Tilley, G. Stackhouse. Slalom: A. Dumaresq, H. L. von See, R. Tilley. Langlauf: H. L. von See, L. Branagan, A. Dumaresq. In the Club Women's Combined Downhill and Slalom Championships, Miss M. Walch won from Miss M. Davis. The junior Downhill and Slalom event was won by G. Stackhouse from R. Tilley.

The Summit Hut has proved extremely useful and has shown the desirability of having accommodation close to the ski-ing fields. In the same vicinity, a stone hut is at present being built privately by several members of the club, who hope to have the building completed for the coming season. The club is undertaking alterations and improvements to the main Chalet. At the same time, a sum of money is being expended by the Government on the track to the Chalet. Before last season, the Government built a pack track over the rough scree-strewn slopes between the Chalet and the top of the mountain. If the money which has been made available for the lower portion of the track is as well spent, the mountain and the club accommodation will be infinitely more accessible than in the past.

This year will mark the tenth anniversary of the formation of the club and will show an even larger number of members.

Reginald G. Hall, Honorary Secretary.

Tasmania University Ski Club

AFTER a bad snow year in 1937, 1938 turned out to be a boom season. Most of the club's activities were confined to Mount Wellington. Conditions there have been much improved by the noble efforts of the Walking Club in building a stone hut and clearing one of the slopes. This year the club could not accept the invitation of the Ski Club of Tasmania to use their Lake Newdegate Hut in the August vacation. Two of the club members, K. W. Ward and A. Brettingham-Moore, attended the inter-Varsity meeting at Kosciusko; fortunately they were too few to constitute an official team, for their racing achievements are best left

unrecorded. This, however, did not prevent their having a remarkably good time.

Several club members made a trip to Mount Rufus, which is more or less *terra incognita* from a ski-ing point of view. Snow conditions there seem to be better than anywhere else in Southern Tasmania, and we dream of the day when the long hoped-for inter-Varsity Contest held in Tasmania may become possible.

A. Brettingham-Moore, Honorary Secretary.

Mt. Wellington Hut.

D. Martin.



Hobart Walking Club

THE past year has been an eventful one. Without exception, the active members of the club have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the work of constructing a hut and ski-run on Mount Wellington. Up to date approximately 25 week-ends have been spent thus. Quite a number of week-ends were spent ski-ing in the National Park. Several week-end trips were also made to Mount Rufus in the Lake St. Clair Reserve. This mountain seems to hold such possibilities that we intend to construct a hut to exploit them.

—L. E. Luckman, Honorary Secretary.

Wellington Ski Club

THE club was founded early in 1938, and absorbed the Hobart Ski Club. The formation of the club was based on similar lines to that of the Ski Club of Victoria. The membership list is at 83. This was, no doubt, influenced by heavy falls of snow last season on Mount Wellington within fifty minutes' drive from the city. Two trips were made to Mount Mawson and one to Mount Rufus by members when the snow on Mount Wellington started to dwindle.

Although members had not the experience to enter in the races at Ben Lomond this year, the club organised some very successful slalom races. In the future we hope to place the Wellington Ski Club well to the fore in the inter-club contests. The club is very much indebted to Mr. Gerald Rush, of the S.C.V., who was president and instructor, and it is with much regret that we will be without his services this year, as he has accepted a position on the north-west coast. On his departure, a presentation was made. Office-bearers for 1938 were: President, Mr. G. Rush; Treasurer, Mr. R. Little, Transport Officer, Mr. J. Loughton; Secretary, Mr. E. Forbes; Social Committee, Misses N. Josephs, R. Cecil, and T. Sturges; Messrs. R. Woodward, J. Loughton, L. Saunders, and E. Forbes.

E. Forbes, Honorary Secretary.