



History of the club

Back in the 1920's most winter visitors to the Alps were British. A skier's scope was limited by his ability to walk uphill, rather than how well he came down. Wengen, however, was unique in having a cog railway from Lauterbrunnen to Kleine Scheidegg. Consequently a breed of skier developed who enjoyed the downhill run, without climbing the mountains first.



Across the valley in Murren, British skiers had just formed the Kandahar Ski Club, and within twelve months they challenged the visitors in Wengen to a series of races. On race day the Kandahar's resplendent "K" badges were countered in the lunch interval by some hastily contrived paper badges bearing the letters DHO, thus preserving for posterity the Wengen skiers preference for ascending the mountains by rail and skiing "downhill only".

The Club played an important part in the development of skiing and many DHO names are to be found on the results lists of pre-war international skiing competitions.

The DHO today

The club continues the tradition of training youngsters interested in racing to the very highest standards and many members of the Club have skied in British teams.

For the majority of members the DHO's main function is that of organising club runs, glacier tours, and informal races for all standards and all ages. The club publishes an annual journal which reports on recent activities and keeps members informed of coming events. Add a vibrant social side and you will see why the DHO continues to be one of the most successful alpine ski clubs.



Skiing with the DHO...

The club covers almost the entire spectrum of skiing standards, but to enjoy membership to the full, you should be at least an intermediate skier. You can join club runs, accompanied by the resident DHO representative. This is a good way of introducing you to the area and to other skiers. Both the runs and the skiers vary in standard from one day to the next. On or off piste, Gold, Silver or Bronze SCGB standard, glacier touring, are all accommodated.

Races are organised, mostly light-hearted, where the aim is to have fun, however good or bad you are. While some competitors aspire to coming first, others simply try not to come last!

...and socialising!

Weekly drinks parties to welcome new members, fondue evenings with moonlight skiing or toboggan runs home, informal



evening rendezvous, the fun of meeting old friends and making new ones are just some of the events on offer from the DHO. Back in the United Kingdom there is a cocktail party and a buffet supper in Autumn to coincide with the Annual General Meeting.

Race training

DHO Racing and Training, started in 1952, has over the years supplied the British and Olympic Teams with many young skiers, and continues to be at the forefront of alpine ski-



racing. Naturally, not all trainees achieve international standard, but all have the opportunity to enjoy competitive skiing and to reach a very high level of competence. Six training camps are held every year, Christmas, New Year, Easter, summer and October half term. Christmas and Easter training includes participation in National and other major championships.

Children and Juniors aged between 7 and 19 are welcome. Trainees must be DHO members. We use top international trainers.

For further information contact the Racing and Training Manager:
Ingrid Christophersen, Bentley, Halland, Lewis, Sussex, BN8 SAF
ingrid@connectfree.co.uk

6-12 year olds

The Coggins programme is aimed at young skiers who want fast, fun skiing in the company of children their own age. A BASI or correspondingly qualified leader ensures that the highest standards of safety are followed while the group works on its technique at a pace that would deter most parents.

The Coggins leader will look after the group for the whole day, but arrangements can usually be made to meet up with parents at lunch time. Fun races are organised, including a round the pistes treasure hunt against other teams at the New Year. Coggins meet up in the DHO hut after skiing and the Christmas holiday fancy dress party is a great favourite.

Children between six and twelve years of age are welcome so long as they are able



DOWNHILL ONLY CLUB



alpine ski club

▶ to ski to bronze standard, and one parent must be a DHO member. A young skier will usually be ready to join Coggins after his or her second or third skiing holiday. The Coggins programme operates over Christmas and New Year, half-term break in February, and at Easter.

Coggins is not necessarily a passport to being a future trainee, but a number of successful DHO racers who went on to represent their country, made their first steps with Coggins.

For further information on the Coggins programme contact the DHO Wengen representative or the Club Secretary:
Mrs S Davies, Cornwall Road, Dorchester, Dorset.
sue@ryedor.fsnet.co.uk



Touring

Although touring often conjures up the image of ski-mountaineering in incredibly difficult terrain, a large part of the club's touring

activity requires a much lower level of competence. Simple "off-piste" days or half days, perhaps a trip through the woods, where the piste is never far away for those who get tired, are all features when conditions are appropriate. Weather and snow permitting, glacier skiing usually occurs in the latter half of the skiing season. No great skill is required, merely that you are of Silver standard, and can cope with varied snow conditions. In the late spring, the touring section organise a high mountain tour of one week duration. This will often involve several nights stay in mountain huts.

Membership details

Although the majority of our members are British, we are very pleased to have members from all over the world with a

large number from Switzerland.

Membership stands at 1,500 and family membership is available. The age range of members is from 5 to 95!

There is no need to fill in a form immediately, why not meet us first in the Wengen DHO office, come to one of our cocktail parties or take part in a race as a visitor? While helping Britain's most talented young skiers, you will also be letting yourself in for a lot of fun and a lot of great skiing. Those wishing to join the club while away from Wengen are invited to write to the Membership Secretary:

Elaine Walduck, Old Rectory, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2AQ
elainemacleod@aol.com



DHO office

Open every night from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm local time. (5.30 pm to 6.30 pm later in the season)

Telephone No:

(from Wengen) 0338 55 13 75

(from outside Switzerland) +41 338 55 13 75

If phoning from Britain remember there is a time difference for most of the season.

THE DOWNHILL ONLY CLUB Office,
CH 3823 Wengen, Switzerland.
(Skiing season only)

