

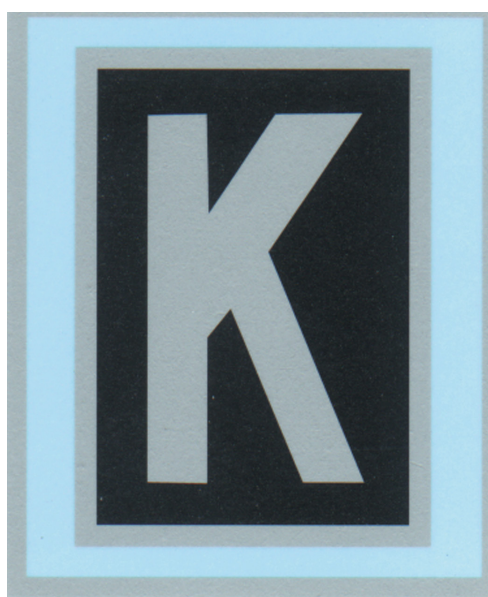
The birth of Alpine Ski Racing

It was here in the Jungfrau region that Alpine skiing and racing was invented. And it was here that the first 3 Alpine ski racing clubs were formed. The Downhill Only Club (DHO) was in fact the third of these, formed on the 7th February 1925, after the Kandahar Ski Club in Mürren had challenged a group of British Wengen skiers to a competition, which Kandahar won convincingly. The third of the triumvirate was the SAS (Schweizerischen Akademischen Ski Club).



SAS

26th November 1924



Kandahar

30th January 1924



DHO

7th February 1925

In the 90 years since the DHO was born in Wengen, the sport of skiing has been transformed. The pioneers of the DHO were the impetus behind opening up the Wengernalpbahn in winter — it was a novel idea that skiers should want to be transported up by train rather than earn their run down by an energetic climb up. The design of boots and skis has changed and changed again over the years. However, what has changed most is that a sport for a select few has now become something for everyone.

After the end of World War II and the period of austerity which followed it, more and more British skiers appeared in Wengen, attracted by the unsurpassed mountain scenery, the welcome the Swiss in Wengen had always afforded them and the presence of the Downhill Only Club.



DHO Race Trainee Tara Bell



DHO Coggin Emma Hinde

With so many more skiers arriving in Wengen, the DHO also changed to develop as a focal skiing and social club, not only for British visitors, but also for people from many other European countries, North America, the Far East and even Australia and New Zealand. Soon after the second World War, the Club started training young British skiers to participate in National and International races; many of the British skiers in Olympic events have been products of the DHO Race Training programme. Other children who just want to ski, but not to undertake the rigours of Race Training, join the DHO Coggins and Eagles for fun skiing in which they learn to improve with fast and safe skiing.

DOWNHILL ONLY SKI CLUB



www.downhillonly.com/