



# Centenary Celebrations for Ladies' Ski Club

The Swiss resort of Mürren, Sir Arnold Lunn's spiritual winter home, has played a pivotal role in the history of Alpine skiing, hosting the first organised slalom race in 1921, the notorious Inferno downhill race since 1928 and the first FIS Alpine Championships in 1931. This year, the picturesque resort is laying on a series of spectacular celebrations to mark 100 years of hosting the trailblazing Ladies' Ski Club

**L**ed by Mabel Lunn, the Ladies' Ski Club (LSC) was founded in 1923 by a small group of influential women at the top of the snowsports game. The LSC was a revolution on all fronts: its members pioneered fashion trends (see our feature *Way Back When* in *Ski+board* September 2022), challenged for the best races in the world and laid the foundations for a formidable history of competitive success.

The long list of female FIS World Champions starts with LSC member Esmé MacKinnon. Aged just 17, Esmé took gold in the slalom and downhill at the 1931 World Championships in Mürren. She also won a third, unofficial race at the Championships, descending from Grütschalp to Lauterbrunnen, despite pausing to allow a funeral procession to pass!

The LSC shares much of its long history with the Ski Club. Mabel was married to Sir Arnold Lunn, the prominent Ski Club Member and Alpine skiing trailblazer under whose persuasion the LSC was established. Previous Presidents of the LSC have done much to support the Ski Club of Great Britain over the years, including Lady Greta Raeburn, who helped the Club survive the Second World War, and the Hon. Joan Raynsford, who served as President of the LSC from 1968-72 and the Ski Club in the 1980s.

To this day, the LSC continues to support competitive female snowsports, hosting the British Schoolgirls Championships in Flaine every winter, alongside the corresponding indoor event in the UK. Through its fundraising efforts, the LSC has awarded some £17,000 to 15 competitive snowsports, four of whom represented Great Britain at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Turning 100 on 23 January 2023, the LSC has several commemorative events and celebrations planned in Mürren and the UK. On the anniversary date itself, there will be a 1920s costumed slalom race in Mürren, open to all ladies, followed by a celebratory reception hosted by the LSC at Mürren Tourist Office and attended by members, supporters and special guests who have played an important role in the Club's history. A commemorative dinner at The Eiger Hotel and a brunch at the Piz Gloria restaurant are amongst other member events taking place in Mürren that week.

In addition to the celebratory events, there will be commemorative activities linked to the regular annual events run by the Ladies' Ski Club: a special Championship Race at the British Schoolgirls' Races, taking place from 29-31 January 2023 in Flaine, alongside some special highlights at the British Schoolgirls' Indoor Races at Snozone, Milton Keynes, in September 2023.

In addition to the Schoolgirls races mentioned above, the Ladies' Ski Club arranges ski race training events for adults, with top race coaches including four-time Olympian, Chemmy Alcott – long-time member of the LSC and the Ski Club's Honorary President.

*The Ladies' Ski Club warmly welcomes new members; please contact [secretary@ladiesskiclub.org](mailto:secretary@ladiesskiclub.org) for more information. The LSC runs the British Schoolgirls' Races, taking place in Flaine on 29-31 January 2023, and the British Schoolgirls' Indoor Races normally hosted in September of each year at Snowzone, Milton Keynes. Visit [ladiesskiclub.org](http://ladiesskiclub.org) for more information.*

► The original ladies of the LSC were pioneers on many levels and the organisation is still flourishing today

