

## FIS Information

by *Sigge Bergman*,  
former Secretary General.

When these lines are being written (January 28th), we have reached the peak of the ski competition season. The main interest is focused on the Alpine World Cup, as is always the case when the winter does not comprise Olympic Winter Games or world championships. Right now, about half of the 71 competitions, for men and women, giving world cup points have been carried out. The remaining competitions will take place in Scandinavia, USA, Japan and Bulgaria, whereupon the final will be staged from 26th to 28th March in the Yugoslav ski resort Kranjska Gora.

The publicity for the world cup has been enormous. The mass media have devoted much space and time to the events. The importance of the world cup as propaganda for Alpine skiing stands in a class by itself.

Two matters have dominated the debate: who will win the all-round cup, the Swede Ingemar Stenmark, a super talent in slalom and giant slalom, or somebody else, perhaps the American Phil Mahre or the Swiss Peter Müller. Right now, Stenmark has taken the lead, in spite of the fact that he does not compete in downhill. This fact has caused new-debates as to the fairness of the cup-rules.

The other important question is the downhill itself. Far too many accidents have taken place. People seem to be of the opinion that the speed is too high-average speed registered at more than 100 km per hour in one competition after another. Many of the world's foremost specialists in downhill have had severe accidents. The technical racers, meaning the specialists in slalom and giant slalom, do not wish to risk their precious legs and therefore refrain from starting in downhill. The sport naturally suffers from this fact. Moreover, the fact that some courses have not always been well enough prepared has contributed to the number of accidents.

Team leaders, coaches and the competitors themselves have in different ways expressed their concern. The competitors-ladies included- and the highest authorities of the FIS have met for discussions. In January, the coaches formed a union and now demand rights to be consulted in their sphere of interest and capacity. Everybody proba-

bly desires to keep the downhill on the programme, but it must be more adapted to the human frame and its limitations.

FIS experts are now pondering this problem. It will finally be up to the Congress (10th to 17th May 1981) to take the most suitable decisions for the promotion and future development of the sport, the World Cup included.

The winter up to now has shown that the world cup in cross-country and jumping wins more and more terrain. It will also be a matter for the coming Congress to decide if these cup events will be permanently included in the competition programme.

The FIS Council met in Amsterdam, mainly to prepare for the coming Congress. Here follow a few decisions which may be of interest to the readers of the "Olympic Review".

The Council unanimously decided to inform the IOC that the FIS is opposed to the inclusion of any sport in the programme of the Olympic Winter Games, which is not directly related to snow and/or ice.

It is the opinion of the President that there would be a fair chance that the IOC accept the Alpine combination for the 1988 Games. This in consideration of experiences gained at the new discipline which was included in the 1982 World Championships in Schladming (AUT).

The Congress will discuss the possibility of introducing a special status of-membership for national associations with less than three associated clubs and less than 500 registered individuals. While waiting for the Congress decision, the Council has approved, subject to ratification by the Congress, the application of the Senegal Ski Association and the Ski Association of Monaco as temporary members of the FIS.

An agreement has been formed between the FIS and the International Grass Skiing Federation regarding collaboration. The IGSV prefers to remain an independent member of the GAISF, but the FIS would represent the IGSV within the frame of the Olympic movement.

The next meeting with the Council will take place in connection with the Congress in Tenerife on 11 th May.