



## The 1982/83 Ski Session

by *Sigge Bergman*

The 59th competition season under the auspices of the FIS since the Federation came into being during the Olympic Winter Week at Chamonix in 1924, is under way. Again, this year, a gigantic programme, more comprehensive than ever before, has been drawn up in a few months.

The newly-published "International Ski Calendar 82/83" consists of no less than 200 printed pages, including rules and regulations of different kinds, around 600 international ski meetings with almost 2,000 competitions in 25 countries and on 4 continents.

More than ever, the calendar shows how popular the sport of skiing is. Proof of this is to be found in the very popular long distance cross-country races, including 125 competitions, covering distances up to 160 km for men, women and juniors in 14 countries. Here we find as a prototype the classic 89 km Wasa Race in Sweden; which in 1983 will be organised for the 60th time. These "épreuves de fonds en masse" or "Massenlangläufe" are constantly growing in size and number. In Switzerland alone, 237 "Volkslangläufe" at 115 different locations are open to the general skiing public from 5th December 1982 to 27th March 1983. No wonder skiing is considered as the health source "par préférence" of the winter season.

The 1982/83 calendar also includes junior world ski championship in cross-country and jumping in Kuopio (FIN), as well as in alpine disciplines in Sestriere (ITA). Furthermore, the World Championships in Ski-Flying will take place in Harrachov (TCH).

Competitive skiing is flourishing more than ever in all categories of the sport. More than 550 competitions will take place at the following thirteen major events: Men's Alpine World Cup (33 events), Women's Alpine World

Cup (27 events), Cross-Country World Cup Men's and Women's (10 events each), World Cup in Ski Jumping (28), Alpine European Cup -Men (28), Women (19), Alpine Nor-Am (North American) Ski Trophy series - Men (18), Women (14), long distance cross-country races men and women (about 125), freestyle (15), individual competitions (41), team races (8), university alpine races (54), university Nordic races (14), veteran alpine races (49), veteran Nordic races (2), children's flat races (about 50).

Although there are no Olympics and no senior world championships, the season does not lack its highlights. First of all, the world cup events will certainly grip the public's imagination. The 17th edition of the Alpine World Championships is in a class by itself compared with the considerably younger cup events in the Nordic disciplines. The men's cup programme comprises 33 competitions on 22 sites in 10 countries and on 3 continents. For the first time, a cup event will be held north of the Arctic Circle (Gällivare, SWE). For the first time also, the new discipline "Super-G", a cross between downhill and giant slalom, will take place. The final will be held in Furano (JPN) from 18th to 21st March. The first 15 in each competition will receive points on a scale of 25-1. The five best results in each discipline (downhill, slalom, giant slalom/Super-G) and the 3 best in the combined competitions count towards the all-round cup. For the individual cups, the five best results of each racer are calculated.

The ladies' programme comprises 27 competitions on 17 sites in 11 countries with the final in Furano together with the men's final.

The Cross-Country World Cup consists of 10 competitions, each of which will be held in a different country, with the final in Labrador City (CAN), from 26th to 27th March. In principle,



*Dans l'Engadine (Suisse) : 10 000 skieurs au départ.*

the ladies' programme is the same, but the distances are somewhat shorter. The top 20 of each event will receive points on a scale of 26-1. The cup-winner will be the racer with the highest total of points.

The World Cup in Jumping has 26 competitions scheduled to take place on 19 sites in 12 countries with the final in Palnica (YUG) on 27th March. The first 15 competitors will receive points in each event on a scale from 25 to 1, only the 15 best competitors being taken into consideration (7 during the first period, 6 during the second period). The first period closes 1st January, the second 27th March.

No pre-Olympic competitions appear on the FIS calendar. However, competitions will be organised this winter in Sarajevo to a limited extent, a general rehearsal of sorts for the organisers and a possibility for the Olympic officials and competitors of the next Games to become familiar with the 1984 Olympic environment (The programme of these events appeared in the November 1962 issue of the "Olympic Review".)

The international competition programme includes many classic events which have deep-rooted traditions and a steady popularity. Amongst the Nordic events are the Salpausselkä Games in Lahti (FIN) from 3rd to 6th March 1983, and the Holmenkollen Ski Festival in Oslo (NOR) from 9th to 13th March. Alpine events include the Lauberhorn Race in Wengen (SUI) from 15th to 16th January, and the Hahnenkamm Race in Kitzbuhel (AUT) from 22nd to 23rd January.

- have not touched on the various national competitions within clubs and districts, school competitions, junior events and many, many others. Not all these events are to be found in the international calendar - but they play an important part in the work of the FIS for the further development of the sport of skiing.

- In the official bulletin of the FIS for November 1982, Mr. Gengt-Hermann Nilson gives an account of the proposals put forward by the *Cross-Country, Committee's* work group, which will be discussed at the next FIS Congress in 1983.

First of all, the skating-step made possible by the very well prepared courses and modern equipment is more and more widely used in cross-country skiing : unfortunately it "ruins the tracks" and should therefore be prohibited, as should the changing of damaged skis during the course of a race, even if failure to do so should result in the skier having to abandon. Finally, anti-doping tests should be more frequent for long-distance races in the world series. Altitude and the number of events were also on the agenda. With regard to the first point, the work group voted in favour of keeping the present regulations, that is to say 1650 m for the Olympic Games and World Championships, with however a restriction for one event in the World Championships, which could have its highest point at nearly 1700 m. Regarding the number of events, several suggestions were put forward including changing the women's 5 km into 7.5 km and the women's 3 x 5 km relay into a 3 x 5 km relay because, for well-trained athletes, the original distances seem too short.