

The Way Things Were, Long Ago

Report to AGM 1975 by John Pettersen.

Cross Country Chairman

This winter has been one of the best winters weather wise that we have ever had in British Columbia. The weather has been mild with temperatures of around 0 and -10 most of the season so our skiers have been able to get in a lot of training.

We set up races on our race schedule for both Vernon and Rossland this year, however, both were cancelled because we did not get any response from the clubs around these two towns. The only way we can get things rolling in the south is if we can find someone who is interested in cross country racing and who lives near these towns and who would like to take on a job like this.

The club from Merritt is working very well and have been to three of our tournaments. Another club, Yellowhead Ski Club, McBride, B.C. has also been a member of the Western Division. Looking back at the season gone, one must say we had another good year in cross country skiing in the West. Some of the old skiers did not compete so much this year but we have several young ones who are already better than the old skiers. One, Doug Gudwer of Hickory Wing Ski Club in his last year as a junior competed in the European Championships and in the relay he was 7th. In the Senior Championships in Canada he took the bronze in the 30 km. He took 4th place in the 14 km and was one of the three from the Western Division Relay team who got gold. The Senior girls got a silver in the relay. Doug is ranked #3 among all cross country skiers right now. We collected 16 different medals in the Canadian Junior and Senior Championships. Another young skier, Marvin Strimbold from Burns Lake is now

among the top junior skiers here in Canada. In the Canadian Junior Championships he collected two Silver medals.

Despite all this good news about our young skiers I can clearly see now that we will have to have a coach for the Western Division for next season. I think that the Western Division office has to help us to get extra money. One thing I believe we have to change is our method of splitting up the money we are getting from the Provincial Government. We can clearly see now how the trend in

skiing is changing from Alpine and Jumping competition towards cross country touring and racing. We cannot depend on donation work all winter from our club coaches.

I was in Sudbury for the Cross Country Program meeting March 11-13th and they told me that the Western Division would be the first to get a coach if we could come up with the \$7,000. Part of this extra money should come from the Provincial Government because the coaches have to go into the schools and give lessons in skiing both to teachers and the pupils.

This report will be the last one I bring to the Western Division and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people I have worked with for their great cooperation.

Editors Note: The minutes of the AGM for 1975 showed that the budget was some \$8,000 - which is

amazingly small compared to the results that were achieved.

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As a warm spring sun soars over Grey Mountain, soon the countdown begins. Tourers line up and racers jockey for strategic positions at the front. Latecomers straggle into place. Suddenly an explosive "crack" cuts through the babble of jokes and laughter. Skiers surge forward. Poles flash, colors stream by. Within minutes, a long

photo Mary Anderson



Chris Paulson at the 1977 B.C. Championships