

**Zeitschrift:** SBB Revue = Revue CFF = Swiss federal railways  
**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Bundesbahnen  
**Band:** 5 (1931)  
**Heft:** 2

**Artikel:** The first international downhill racing meeting and the Arlberg-Kandahar Cup races at Mürren  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-780616>

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# THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL DOWNHILL RACING MEETING AND THE ARLBERG-KANDAHAR CUP RACES AT MÜRREN

1921 witnessed the opening stages of the campaign for the recognition of downhill straight and slalom racing on equal footing with langlauf and jumping. In that year the British Ski Championship was for the first time decided on downhill racing alone. In 1926 the Ski Club of Great Britain opened an international campaign by issuing to all continental ski associations a memorandum asking for the recognition of downhill races. In 1930 after the International Congress of St. Moritz in 1928 had accorded the British Ski Racing Rules for downhill straight and slalom racing a two year trial, the campaign which had been so strenuously conducted by the Ski Club of Great Britain and which has been ably supported by the SAS, the Austrian Ski Association and the admirable gesture of the Polish Ski Association in including a downhill race in their Championship in 1928, was brought to a successful conclusion at Oslo. In February 1930 downhill and slalom races were unanimously recognised by the Congress of the FIS and the Ski Club of Great Britain was entrusted with the task of organizing the First International Downhill Racing Meeting at Mürren in February of this year.

This Meeting opens on February 19<sup>th</sup> with the ladies' slalom race. On 20<sup>th</sup> the Downhill

Straight Race (open and ladies) will be held; on 21<sup>st</sup> the Open Slalom and on 22<sup>nd</sup> a special race over the Inferno Course. This course is the longest and most difficult downhill racing course in the world, involving as it does an aggregate descent of 7000 feet.

An accordance with the International Rules, each country competing at Mürren can be represented by a team of six men and a team of six ladies, but as it is also an individual competition, any country can send from one to six entries without necessarily entering a complete team.

It is unfortunately improbable, that Norway will be represented but the President of the FIS, Colonel Holmquist, the President of the Norwegian Ski Association Captain Oestgaard, and the Secretary of the FIS Count Hamilton, are all coming to Mürren for the Meeting, and their presence there will be much appreciated.

Mürren will also witness later in the season another gathering of the stars of the skiing firmament. The Arlberg - Kandahar Cup Races, which have been competed for three times in the Arlberg, will this year be held at Mürren on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and it is expected that, as hitherto, this meeting will attract an absolutely first-class entry.

*The Inferno course*



*Phot. Gyger*