

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1979)
Heft: 1751

Artikel: Langlauf remains ever popular
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689118>

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LANGLAUF REMAINS EVER POPULAR

The popularity of langlauf, or cross-country-ski-ing continues unabated in Switzerland. In 250 winter sports resorts there is a total of about 1,550 miles of country trails and in some 130 places about 930 miles of ski-hiking trails.

This winter new trails have been opened at Flühli (two and a half miles), Langenbruck (ten miles), Emmenthal (six miles from Bum-bach to Kemmeriboden), Melchtal (six miles), St. Niklaus (three miles) and a two and a half mile ski-hiking trail has been provided in the Flumserbergen. Night-time cross-country ski-ing can be enjoyed on 56 trails and Swiss Ski Federation ski-hiking schools are open in 83 places.

Especially attractive are the Urschner trail from Andermatt to Hospental, the Schwedentritt in Einsiedeln, the Gantrisch areas, the Obergoms, the hilly Appenzell region with the Gais, Gonten, Schön-

engrund and Urnäsch centres, the Upper Engadine, Klosters with the 18-mile trail along the early reaches of the River Landquart and Davos with its 31-mile network of trails into the various side valleys.

Specially recommended are the two panorama trails Sparenmoos above Zweisimmen and Selamatt above Alt St. Johann, as well as the Vue-des-Alpes and Tête-de-Ran areas above Neuchâtel and, of course, the Franches-Montagnes district of the Jura.

This season about 100 resorts are offering cross-country ski-ing weeks while in the Franches-Montagnes, ski-hiking weeks covering the length and breadth of the district are being arranged. Further details are contained in the booklet "All-inclusive arrangements for cross-country skiers and ski-hikers", issued by the Swiss National Tourist Office.

PRODA-BERGÜN SLEDGE RUN FUN

The three-mile sledge run from Preda to Bergün in the Albula Valley is open from Tuesday to Sunday every week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7.45 p.m. to 11.45 p.m. (illuminated at night). The two stations of Bergün and Preda are connected ten times daily by Rhaetian Railway services. In the evening the popular "sledge run fun" extra trains run from different places.

SULZER BROS (UK) LTD RECEIVE ORDER FOR TURBO COMPRESSOR GROUP FOR UKF FERTILISERS LIMITED

In the face of stiff international competition, Sulzer Bros (UK) Ltd. are pleased to announce that they have received the order for the turbo compressor group from Sim Chem Ltd. for UKF Fertilisers Ltd's new nitric acid plant at Ince.

The group consists of a Sulzer air compressor with intercooling and booster stage, driven by a Sulzer tail gas expander.

INDEX OF PRICES IN SWITZERLAND AT THE END OF AUGUST 1978

	Wholesale price 1963 = 100	Difference in relation to	Retail price Sept. 1977 = 100 (Sept. 1966 = 100)	Difference in relation to
End of August 1978	141.9		101.1 (170.4)	
End of July 1978	143.0	-0.8%	101.0 (170.4)	0 %
End of August 1977	147.1	-3.5%	(168.5)	1.1%

Evolution of the prices of	... raw materials, semi- manufactured products and consumer goods.	... main consumer goods and services included in the family budgets of wage-earners.
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THE SWISS FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST 1978

Period	Switzerland's Balance of Trade			Value of exports as a % of value of imports
	Imports	Exports (in million Sw.Fr.)	Balance	
1977 August	3,492.3	2,906.0	- 586.3	83.2
1978 July	3,301.1	3,339.7	38.6	101.2
1978 August	3,186.7	3,029.2	- 157.5	95.1
1977 Jan.-Aug.	28,291.5	26,825.2	-1,466.3	94.8
1978 Jan.-Aug.	28,172.7	27,226.5	- 946.2	96.8

SNOW MODELLING CONTEST ON THE HOCH-YBRIG

At the Hoch-Ybrig ski-ing centre which was ten years old in 1978, the fourth snow modelling contest under the patronage of the Swiss National Tourist Office was held from 15th to 18th February. Amateurs and professionals, individuals and groups are all eligible to take part in this contest, the subject of which is "Carnival". First prizes were again flights to Canada to take part in an international snow modelling competition. There was something for everyone.

SAMNAUN LINKS UP WITH THE TYROL

The duty-free district of Samnaun located in an Engadine side valley has taken the first step to becoming a winter sports centre, through linking the hitherto little developed Alp Trida with the ski-ing complex of neighbouring Ischgl in Austria.

With the starting up of the Ravaisch-Alp Trida-Sattel aerial cableway and three skilifts in the Alp Trida area north of Samnaun, it is now possible to cross over to the Austrian skifields. This means that a total of four aerial cableways and 22 skilifts is now available to skiers.

The recent opening of the nine-mile Arlberg road tunnel has also made Samnaun more easily accessible from the Swiss Midland region; from Zürich it can now be reached in about three hours without using the pass route.

A joint ski-ing pass is also on sale for all facilities on both the Swiss and Austrian sides of the border, including use of the linkup ski-bus services.

HASLIBERG HOST TO SWISS SKI-ING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The four localities of Hohfluh, Wasserwendi, Goldern and Reuti above Meiringen have recently joined together to form a resort called Hasliberg. The ski-ing complex on the Hasliberg now offers one large-cabin cableway, three other cableways, three chairlifts and four skilifts.

From 16th to 18th February the Hasliberg hosted the men's alpine Swiss ski championships. The giant slalom event was held on Planplatten-Hindertschuggi, the downhill race on the original world cup piste, with start on Planplatten and finish in the Bidmi. The slalom was staged on the finish slope of the downhill route. Except for the giant slalom, which can be reached only by chairlift and skis, all other sites are also accessible by foot.