



JEANNETTE STEWART-WOOD DOMINATES WINTER COMPETITION

The first event of the year, the fourth British Winter competition which was held at Rickmansworth on February 26, commanded a great deal of attention and even a thunderstorm in the early afternoon failed to dampen the enthusiasm. There was also enthusiastic support from Gulf Oil, who supplied the petrol and are taking an ever-increasing interest in water skiing. The competition was run on a handicap basis. In the slalom the boat-starting speeds for women, juniors and second-class skiers, were slower than for the top men, and in the jumping the women and juniors, etc., had their marks raised by certain percentages.

And in the end all three titles contested—slalom, jumping and overall—went to the 21-year-old Lon-University student, Jeannette Stewart-Wood, who showed few signs of being rusty despite a long lay-off from skiing. Indeed in the slalom Jeannette gave a world-class performance, ultimately making three buoys at 34 mph with 20ft out of the rope.

The British men's champion, Robin Beckett, was unable to compete because he was still suffering from the effects of the serious burns he sustained last October—when a boat he was driving in Beirut exploded.

Still many of the aspiring contenders for Beckett's No. 1 ranking showed encouraging form. Jack Fulton, the European junior champion, jumped 117ft 7½in; the tricks champion, Paul Adlington, made 23 buoys in slalom; Ian Walker, 16-year-old from Dudley, leapt 111ft 6½in in this his first competition; and of the even younger element none impressed more than 12-year-old James Carne, who found the handicapping so much to his liking that he finished third in the slalom and third overall.

The leading results were:—

OVERALL.—Miss J. Stewart-Wood (Ruislip) 2,000pts, 1; J. Fulton (Kyle) 1,259, 2; J. Carne (Ruislip) 1,236, 3; S. Gilmore (Kyle) 1,200, 4; K. Phelan (Ruislip) 1,154, 5; W. Johnston (Slamanan) 1,114, 6.



David and Elaine Nations welcome Lord and Lady Wakefield for the winter competition.

Picture Raymond Thatcher