

Wheelers Winter Tournament of 1969

by Robert Burrows

The 1969 Wheelers Winter Tournament, held at Rickmansworth on Sunday, 16th March, was given an international flavour for the first time by the entry of Switzerland's Jean-Jacques Zbinden, European tricks and slalom champion in 1967. He finished, though, well down the field. The competition was run as usual on a handicap basis, and this proved mighty hard on the top skiers in the tournament.

However the lesser lights, favoured by the handicapping system, snapped up their opportunities eagerly - and none more so than the two Rickmansworth club members, Tony Jacobs and Terry Burton. Jacobs won the slalom and overall, and Burton the jumping.

The best actual performance came from Ian Walker, who made three buoys at 36 mph in slalom and jumped very nearly 120 feet despite the daunting, cold conditions. Ever since Walker finished second in the jumping at the 1967 European Championships, he has been striving to fulfil the promise he showed on that occasion - but mostly without success. 1969, however, could well be very different for Ian Walker.



JACK FULTON, Kyle, Ruislip, G.B. Britain's first European Junior Champion. Now a regular British international



ROGER BALL, 14 yrs., Rickmansworth. Travels every weekend from Mansfield

TERRY BURTON, Ruislip. Exploited his handicap to win jumping title



TONY JACOBS, Rickmansworth. His tenacity was rewarded with the overall title



IAN WALKER, Dudley and Ruislip, G.B. European Jumping Silver Medallist 1967

