



**14th May 2022**

**Dear Member**

**Louis Piana**  
**1965 - 2022**

It is with great regret that I write to let you know that Louis Piana died yesterday from a heart attack. He joined the Club in 1992, and rode practically every season. He was an excellent rider, with best-ever times of 52.18 from Top, and 42.84 from Junction, deservedly winning his Colours in the Grand National in 2007, and more or less guaranteed the accolade of 'fastest French rider from Top' since 2015 in the Georges Prade Cup.

He had the gift of friendship, combining easy Gallic charm with Italian *brio* – a potent combination evidenced by the outpouring of shock, disbelief and grief that spread across social media as news of his death mushroomed on the Cresta Whatsapp and Facebook groups, culminating in a virtual Firework in his memory, with participants across the globe.

Louis had such a wide range of interests and contacts he was very good at bringing people with ideas together with people with the necessary skills to achieve results. He was passionate about desert motorsport, centred mainly on sponsoring a team in Paris-Dakar, Rallye des Sables and Desert Challenge. From a Cresta perspective, he was a major sponsor for Royal Air Force Cresta; in addition, through a colleague, Hervé, he provided high-tech toboggans for many riders in recent years. In conjunction with Sebastian Priller, and brewed at the latter's brewery in Bavaria, he produced his marvellous beer Makeli, (hugely appreciated by thirsty Cresta riders), provided in the Kulm, the Clubhouse and donated for the Inter-Services competitions.

He was only 56, dying a month and a day before his 57th birthday. Generous, kind, thoughtful, fun – and now, very sadly, much-missed.

Yours  
Harriet

---

**Lady Brabazon**

Membership Secretary, SMTC Ltd  
3 Swains Villas, Swains Road  
Bembridge, Isle of Wight PO35 5XT  
[harriet.brabazon@cresta-run.com](mailto:harriet.brabazon@cresta-run.com)  
M: +44 (0)7866 49 47 46  
T: +44 (0)1983 87 22 58



St Moritz Tobogganing Club Ltd ("SMTC Ltd") is a private company limited by guarantee registered in England at 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1AG. Company Number 12519149.



---

*Copyright © 2022 St. Moritz Tobogganing Club Ltd., All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

