

René Theler
29th September 1935 – 11th July 2022

With great sadness I write to let you know that René Theler died last week. Although he had some relatively mild illnesses over the last two years he was laughing and joking at lunch with Carl Tesdorpf and friends only six days before his unexpected sudden death last week.

René and his family were part of St Moritz life for the past 66+ years. He was recruited to the Club by Fairchilds MacCarthy (Mac) who would trawl the bars of St Moritz to find likely riders, and together with his brother Cha-Cha, the Küderlis and his friends, Gunter Sachs and Peanuts Erdmann, helped to broaden the Membership of the Club in the difficult post-war years, bringing with them a dash, élan and flamboyance back to the Club. He was part of the Cresta Run's powerful Swiss/German influence as the kind voice, solid humour and sage thinking for the benefit of many Members and friends, generously helping those fallen on harder times.

He joined the Club as a full Active Member in 1956 and became a Life Member two years later. He rode from Top without a fall, and his Junction riding was amazingly consistent, with a best-ever time of 45.60 in 1958 and 49.53 on his last ride at the age of seventy in 2005. This followed no less than fifty-two finished entries in the main Club Racing Events, including later the Seniors Cup and many of the family races.

René will be very much missed by his family and circle of friends both within the Club and elsewhere and in particular by his wife Marion. Everyone has been shaken by his sudden and unexpected demise.

In his younger years he was dedicated to running the family business, while his brother Cha-Cha was the high profile light of the clan in the valley. Over time René became the more visible persona in the Club and in latter years especially in the Sunny Bar, always embracing the Club's spirit with a good drop of good claret in hand. We can all drink to that, and raise a glass to the memory of a much loved friend.