

**From: James B Sunley**

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*Dear Member*

Whilst grazing cows have taken over our beloved Run during the summer, queuing up outside the Clubhouse like dutiful SLs, SMTC members have been busy indulging in all manner of sporting pursuits.

We have played cricket at Arundel Castle and the Olympic Stadion St Moritz; we've golfed at New Zealand, the Engadine GC and Royal Sydney; classic cars have been raced in the Alps and at Goodwood; Cresta talent abounds on the polo and shooting fields. Thank goodness there is only one Cresta Run, our curvaceous winter mistress, who year after year lures us back to the majestic beauty of the Engadine.

Of course, every Cresta gathering is an excuse for a great party. Having recently attended the *Cresta Corroborree Down Under* in Sydney, the *SCARS Dinner* in New York and the *Firework Dinner* in London, be assured the Cresta spirit is aflame in all corners of the globe. Caps, helmets and hats off to Bartley, Goddard, Kiebert, Kuhn, Sachs, Maerky, Ford, Digiacomio and his fellow Americans, and Townley for arranging such fabulous opportunities for us to enjoy ourselves.

Thanks to Joe's video competition the **Cresta Firework** has gone viral; you really must not miss the genius and explosive wizardry of the Larraman Brothers (or the enthusiasm of Members) – download the video at [www.onepagerapp.com/rm50](http://www.onepagerapp.com/rm50).

It's undoubtedly going to be a scintillating Season as St Moritz have organised a host of spectacular events to showcase the **150th Anniversary of Swiss Winter Tourism**, the brainchild of Kulm hotelier Johannes Badrutt.

The Secretary and I attended the Press launch in London and we anticipate a great deal of media interest in St Moritz and the Cresta Run this winter. Have a look at the planned excitements at [www.engadin.stmoritz.ch](http://www.engadin.stmoritz.ch) and download the Anniversary video and magazine. The festivities kick off with the St Moritz City Race, a Bogner showcase and the Badrutt's Palace Christmas Tree Lighting on December 5/6th. St Moritz has even launched its own bespoke scent- Inviern.

As our contribution to these celebrations, the SMTC is organising an **International Match** on Friday **6th February 2015** between Great Britain, Switzerland and Rest of the World. The handicap event will be run from Top and Junction, and limited to 24 riders per team. The two courses will include riders on Americas, Traditional, Cutaway and Flat Tops, and by special invitation 3 lady participants. Scored in a similar way to the Ryder Cup, the winner of each match will gain 3 points for his team, second will score 2 points, third will receive one point (fallers and scratches will receive no points.)

Given that the International Match will take place the morning after Philip Goddard's **"Rumble in the Jungle" Shuttlecock Dinner** we need some idea who wishes to compete. Please will you email Rupert Wieloch ([r.wieloch20@btinternet.com](mailto:r.wieloch20@btinternet.com)) and let him know

- a) your preferred start point and
- b) type of toboggan.

We hope to have lots of guests from the community and a public Prizegiving. It should be enormous fun but will require a lot of planning so please book early (and also for the Shuttlecock Dinner.)

And when booking think first of **flying Swiss**. Not only will they transport sports equipment for free but Cresta riders are being afforded £20 discount vouchers- Harriet will email details as soon as they are available.

Our future relies on an influx of young new, and interesting, blood. Christopher Bledisloe was instrumental in fostering the **University Event** and his successors, Julian Board and Brian Williamson, were equally enthusiastic, as am I. This year Marc Fischer has persuaded several Members to sponsor the first event in our racing calendar and the consequent reduction in participants' fees finds us with an unprecedented 18 teams entered from Switzerland, the Netherlands, USA, Italy, Germany and Great Britain. The 30 Beginners, 16 SLs and 13 young Members will arrive soon after the Run opens- the Way of Life beckons for these fortunate young men.

As the snow has arrived in our favourite valley, and Opening Day is only four weeks away, the Season is nearly upon us. Natalino and Christian have been busy in the summer making minor repairs and marking out the course of the Run. Rolf Sachs, with help from the Larramans, has replaced a number of the Sunny Bar photos which had faded. Stephen Bartley is looking to update the Clubhouse photo collections and will also be displaying the remarkable 19th Century photographs of **Captain Frederick Bligh** in the corridor between the Sunny Bar and the Terrace (a set of four prints can be ordered for CHF 500). He has also designed our annual 2014-2015 Members' badge which honours Emil Thoma- Badrutt, the only Swiss to have a corner named in their memory and who did so much for the Cresta and St Moritz winter tourism in the 1920s. Do please wear your badges as we will be much more vigilant this Season dealing with unwanted or non paying guests in the Clubhouse.

The Tower team, headed by our new Secretary, Colonel Rupert Wieloch, are all fired up for an early December arrival in St Moritz and are looking forward to seeing whether the fine Cresta pedigree of Tower Boys, Dominic Rice, Angus Robinson and Gianluca Mueller, bears fruit. Rupert has also secured better riders' insurance rates so please ensure you are covered. Mo Robinson has been buying a large array of new Shop temptations and has even lined up an extra Shop Girl this winter.

So, cold weather permitting, by Opening Day on Thursday 18th December all should be ready to greet the start of a new Cresta Season. That evening I'm hosting a **Welcome Back Drinks party at 6.30pm** in the **Baeren**. Lisa and I are very much looking forward to seeing a multitude of Cresta riders, friends and family there.

Meanwhile save up your Swiss francs and relive last Season by enjoying the outstanding Annual Report 94. It's all downhill from here...

As Ever.

