



**From: James Sunley  
President**

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March 2015

*Dear Member*

What an explosive Season!

Our November party President, Joe Townley, lit the fuse in London on Fireworks Night, and after a slushy but soon to be record breaking Run opened on Saturday December 20th in time for a buzzing University event win by St Gallen, the next ten weeks until Terminato on Sunday 28th February were an extraordinary roller coaster of Cresta thrills and spills - all captured by Jason's and Sandra's cameras ([www.crestaphotos.com](http://www.crestaphotos.com)).

Conditions for the first month were not kind. We were unable to hold a full weekend of racing until after Top opened in January as we had to cancel the Heaton and the Silver Chip. However, Natalino and his fabulous team worked tirelessly to produce a fantastic Run for February and the weather made little difference to the wonderful Sunny Bar Terrace lunches where the prizes, thanks to our ever generous donors, were magnificent.

Rarely has the Clubhouse seemed busier or happier as the record Bar (and a very happy Heinz Hunkeler) and Shop (so well done, Mo) takings testify; the locker room too, where Aris Ziros is now helping Matteo cull old or unused kit to give active riders more space when we return to a new carpet next Season.

We had a record number of rides per day (180.7) and rides from Top (3,974) out of a Season total 12,847; Clifton deservedly captured the prize he has been stalking for 16 years with his new Top record of 49.92 in the Morgan Cup; Charlie Bott finally won his family race; Toni Rossi and the Italians fired up the Coppa d'Italia; three young gladiators, Niko Juelich, Magnus Eger and Rollo Hoare joined the Five-0 Club, and after Oscar Hattink followed Alessandro Fischer as the second Member to be awarded his Colours, the Morgan Cup was filled, uniquely, twice in a Season. Clifton's Grand Slam was thwarted when Niko captured a much coveted Brabazon toboggan, later adding the Cartier and ze Buttons to his portfolio of gold. There is a tremendous string of young up and coming riders and the poor *Boulangier* Sachs was forced to part with a set of Buttons to one of them by day (Giovanni Perani) and another at night (Alex Kefalas).

The Club's showcase for 150 years of Swiss Winter Tourism was an International Match in which the Rest of the World, led by Maggi Eger, secured victory over the British Lions and Team Switzerland on the very last of 144 courses. A particularly jolly Prizegiving on the Chesa Al Parc left St Moritz in no doubt that the St Moritz Tobogganing Club is as vibrant as it was when foreign visitors, with their peculiar sporting habits, first put the Engadine on the map.

We were delighted when HRH Sophie Countess of Wessex, our new Honorary Life Member, presented the Johannes Badrutt prizes the lunchtime after our new Honorary Member, Richard Robbins, (Chief Pyromaniac) concluded the auction after Harry Dalmeny's voice failed him. I'm also delighted to

welcome two new co-opted members onto the Committee, Rollo Hoare and Tintin Thun, to bring us some youthful experience.

On the subject of Members: do write in to the Secretary with your support or otherwise. As I said at the AGM we are at full capacity on the Run; we are too popular and worthy as all the new applicants are, the Selection Committee may find they have to limit this year's new Members, especially when we continue to have eighty year olds riding from Top!

And whilst you are writing don't forget to sign up for the Spring cocktails to find out first who are the new Members, and book your place at the New Zealand golf or cricket at Culham Court where you and your family are welcome simply for lunch if ball games are not your thing. The July weekend in the Engadine will also be a sporting extravaganza combined with a Classic Car weekend and the start of the Dracula Summer Jazz Festival.

So there's much to look forward to while you nurse your toboggans (and your bank balance) back to perfect health during the off Season.

In fact, you only have to wait a couple of weeks before next year's eleven week Season is on-line. Note the famous Swiss Championship makes a re-appearance and the new Shuttlecock President, Peter Achenbach, will be trying to outjungle Philip Goddard's Tiger Balm celebration on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Last season, 'The' Nigel Broadhead coaxed down 283 of the 352 Beginners, but was frequently irritated by 'no shows' – otherwise his tally would have been even higher. To concentrate minds we will, in due course, be asking those who book on-line to do so with a CHF 100 non-refundable deposit which will be booked against the cost of their first 5 rides.

I could not have enjoyed my first Season as your President more. My role was made easy because I had the most extraordinary support from my family and all the Members whilst Rupert led our indefatigable Tower Team with such style and aplomb; not to mention I inherited the Club in such fine fettle thanks to the stewardship of Brian Williamson and David Payne.

My thanks to one and all; have a great Easter (I shall be spreading the Cresta message in Cape Town), and see you in May!

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Sunley'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'J' and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

James Sunley