



**From: James Sunley
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Dear Member

Exciting news! Natalino has started to craft the most famous white ice ribbon in the Alps. The Engadine nights are freezing hard and all is set fair for our **2015-16 Season Opening on Friday 18th December**. Will Jan Jacob reclaim this year's Bartley Bear?

That evening all Members are invited to the **Baeren at 6pm** for the **President's Welcome Back Drinks** before our future Cresta riders invade the Run for a few days with their University event, so generously supported by many friends and fathers.

Much has happened out of Season: our Kulm office has been relocated, our dressing room re-carpeted (see below), our Run cabling repaired (damaged by cows) and our billing system has been rewritten. Happily the Sunny Bar menu remains unchanged, as does of course our beloved Run. Most races start at 9am: UNPUNCTUALITY WILL DISQUALIFY.

As is typical, throughout the Spring, Summer and Autumn, Members have gathered in every corner of the world using cricket, golf, motor racing, or even wine as their excuse to discuss what matters most to them: their tobogganing handicap, and their hopes and ambitions for a new Season! The **Cresta Corroborree Down-Under** and the **SCARS Dinner** in New York, both in October, were thoroughly enjoyed by those lucky enough to enjoy the impeccable organisation of Simon and Julie Ford (Sydney) and Mike DiGiacomo, Bryan Colwell and John Beinecke (New York). The **November London House Party** was very nearly derailed by an unfortunate last minute loss of venue. Happily, Mark Child galloped to the rescue with a **Plan C** party enabling 90 odd Members and friends to enjoy a superb black tie dinner at Brook's Club in St James's. Daniele Parenti and Charlotte Cherry worked tirelessly to ensure the evening's success, which demonstrated the Cresta Spirit at its best. A number of entertaining unique Cresta lots were auctioned by the irrepressible Richie Robbins. And the baton of responsibility for next November's gathering is now in the very capable hands of Toby Clowes whose father has forgotten more good parties than most of us can remember.

You will be aware that Colonel Rupert Wieloch has stepped down and David Payne is valiantly returning as **Secretary and Chief Executive** until a successor is found. I have already had a number of approaches for the position and would ask anyone else who might be interested to email me by the end of the year. All applicants will receive a job description and should expect to visit the Club in late January/ early February for a working interview and a trial.

Changes are afoot in the rest of the Tower Team with both Richie Robbins and Harriet Brabazon heading towards the twilight of their illustrious St Moritz careers. Please welcome **Martin Greenland** who has already been appointed to support Bells Kettler and Andrew Mills and the Secretary. This Season's **Tower Boys** will be Leonidas Ziros (son of Aris), Harry Thorp (son of Jeremy) and Edward Berridge (step- grandson of Robin Hitchcock).

Our **Shop Girls**, Ziah Bonham and Flora Beckett, have an array of exciting new goods to tempt Members and SLs including rugby and tee shirts, cufflinks, cashmere scarves and even Shuttlecock swimming trunks! Also, at the beginning of the Season, you will find many bargains from last year's stock.

One item making a welcome vinous return with its classic Tesdorpf inspired label is **Pavillon Top**. Befitting an international Club, this Season's offering is a very classy Malbec emanating from the Niedermann stable in Argentina. It will be found in Berry Bros in London, the Grand Cru Club in St Moritz (22.50 CHF per bottle) and the Sunny Bar. For more details please email gregor.joos@mayfour.com.

As I mentioned earlier, during the summer the **Dressing Room** was re-carpeted. Whilst we were also able to increase the number of lockers there is still a growing waiting list. To address this we have purchased 200 heavy duty storage boxes which will enable infrequent visitors to have their equipment safely stored in the basement. For this cunning plan we have Peter Maerky and Aris Ziros to thank. I am very keen that the dressing room should become a great deal tidier.

I am also keen that the **Membership Application** process is sharpened up, to which end please note:

- In future applications (with ALL accompanying paperwork) should be received by the Secretary before the last riding day of the Season. Andrew Mills coordinates all applications; please ensure he validates your proposal.
- The Proposer and Secunder have sole responsibility for managing their candidates' application, including introductions to Committee members and encouraging letters of support.
- Early Season applications are encouraged to allow an applicant to have "AM" written after their name on riding lists. At the end of the Season Proposers and Seconders are welcome to write an additional letter to the Secretary highlighting their applicant's riding and membership networking skills.
- Members are reminded that they should restrict their support as a Proposer or Secunder to two applicants for Active Full membership per Season.

The SMTC is a traditional sort of Club but we ignore the modern social ways of communication at our peril. We are fortunate that thanks to Daniela Maerky and Tin Tin Thun, we now have an official, public, **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/SMTC-The-Cresta-Run/378381362326675>. We will aim for daily snippets of news and information when the Run is active.

There is also a **Group** page, which only Members can apply to join. Here we will post news, photos and details of social events etc which are of internal, Club/Member interest only, rather than information about the Club for the public at large. This is the link where you can apply to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/767397779974872/>

As you dust down your toboggans and think how best to polish (heating and hardening are very much against our spirit) your runners, all that remains is for me to wish all Members a safe, and above all, happy Season. I can't wait to see you pacing around Junction and Top Huts.

As Ever.

