



**From: James Sunley
President**

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May 1st 2016

Dear Member,

STOP PRESS, STOP PRESS.....next Season's Calendar is live on our website and a printable version is available in the Members' Area.

Do book early, for there's so much to look forward in the Engadine next winter including the Skiing World Championships (February 6-19), last hosted by St Moritz in 2003, during which we will run our second International Match - please apply to the Secretary if you wish to be considered for selection. AGM week will be even more hectic than usual as it's the British schools' half term and the Shuttlecock dinner is being held on Wednesday February 15th and will be presided over by Houston Morris trying to emulate the wonderful style of Peter Achenbach's "Let's Misbehave"; consequently, the Coppa d'Italia and after-party will take place a week later.

The University Event, which continues to be so generously supported by Marc Fischer and other fathers, will again dominate the opening week before Christmas, after which there will only be a few days practice before the Fairchilds MacCarthy Cup. Otherwise, you will find the Calendar follows its usual pace and pattern even if the power in Tower will be less than familiar and Harriet's desk will become Martin's desk.

At 79 days, last Season was one of our longest ever; and for many, a bruising experience too, as evidenced by the record 1,041 falls in 12,850 courses, a ratio of 1:12.3. Indeed, only 19 seconds after he opened the Cresta Run on December 18th Urs Schwarzenbach found the Shuttlecock straw, winning a bottle of Krug for his bravery. Being one of those who enjoyed the hospitality of Room 401 in Samedan, I only had myself to blame trying to go too fast chasing the Bott Cup. We can all control our speed and with Thoma as hungry as Shuttlecock, last Season was a sharp reminder of the respect with which all riders need to treat The Cresta Run.

Whilst Clifton rode supremely as ever, winning three classic races, three open races, and two handicap races as scratchman, his season fastest time 50.97 was the only 50 of the Season and over a second slower than his Darth Vader powered record a year earlier. Clifton's dramatic entry to the Thoma Club (there were 9 others) opened the door for Rollo Hoare to triumph in the classic Brabazon Trophy, only once previously won by a British rider in 1973 when Johnny Woodall had his glorious year. Maggi Eger took the Junction fastest time prize (41.31) when winning the Claude Cartier Challenge (to add to a Heaton Gold Cup and the season ending Nigel Moores). He was chased home in that exciting race by Nico Juelich who won the coveted Payne Cup from Top the following day to add to his Night Riding and Calisch Grischun victories. If we add to these names the four new Colours: Giovanni Perani (winner of the Johannes Badrutt and Ronnie Ramsay Rae trophies), Mauro

Scotti, Sam Seccombe and Paul Chishick (who led the Army to victory) we clearly have a great crop of young riders and are assured of many exciting races in the coming seasons.

And so now it's Cresta riders' off-season, the money saving and money making time of the year when we reflect upon all the fear and fun and "if onlys" of 2015-16 and hope somehow the pound will miraculously strengthen so we can return to our Cresta friends and family in seven and a half months. Also that our beloveds will sympathetically understand a new toboggan really is more important than a new dishwasher.

To keep your sporting eye in, there's spring golf and cricket in Berkshire (May 20-21), and summer golf and cricket in the Engadine (July 8-10), coupled with classic cars and Dracula jazz. We've filled five tables so far at Windsor evening races on Monday June 27th to celebrate Bill Shand Kydd and raise money for Spinal Research. We've a cocktail party at Brook's Club on the evening of the Committee meeting on Thursday May 19th and a Toby Clowes pre-season party to look forward to on Thursday November 3rd. And for the adventurous, in early October Simon Ford has some even crazier ideas than usual for his Cresta Coroborree Down Under whilst SCARS dinner on Monday October 17th is a great excuse to visit New York.

Reflecting upon my second Season as your President it is extraordinary how much Members of the St Moritz Tobogganing Club give to their Club in so many and varied ways. However, we could not enjoy ourselves as much as we do without our remarkable arbiters, our sunny Sunny Bar crew, the irrepressible Matteo, our patient Gurus, glamorous camera team (www.crestaphotos.com) cheerful Tower Boys and smiling Shop Girls, but above all the five members of the Tower team. My thanks to them all, and especially Harriet and David in their retiring season. Happily, David will continue as an Hon Vice-President on the Committee, and Harriet will beaver away as Membership Secretary from London. They have ensured the Club could not be in happier shape as we welcome Gary Lowe as our new Secretary and Chief Executive (gary.lowe@cresta-run.com), together with the unflappable Martin Greenland (martin@greenland.ch / martin.greenland@cresta-run.com) as Assistant Secretary.

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks time.

As Ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James B Sunley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James B Sunley

PS Thursday May 11th 2017: Spring golf at Swinley Forest
Friday May 12th 2017: Committee meetings