



**From: James Sunley  
President**

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*Dear Member*

It's coming....it's coming....only 16 days until we hear that mesmerising 'ding', but hopefully not 'ding ding', for the Season's first rider in the Bartley Bear followed by my Welcome Back Drinks at the Baeren Hotel at 6.30pm later that opening day.

We may have been Brexited, we may have been Trumped but, unlike last year, the Engadine valley already sports a glorious white coat, which has allowed Natalino and his crew to start working their magic, carving the most beautiful ice sculpture in the world.

Our new Secretary and Chief Executive is champing at the bit, having put away his golf clubs, his cricket bat and beloved Pinarello, as he assembles the new Season Tower team in St Moritz. They include: veteran Richard Robbins for his second grand finale, the indispensable Bells Kettler, the irrepressible Andrew Mills, and the unflappable Martin Greenland. Gabriela Steiger is shadowing members of the Tower Team during the course of the season, whilst Matteo continues to guard the Bibbia franchise. Jason Larraman and his new team will be thrilling us with their daily videos and photographs. The snow-shovelling Tower boys - young Sunley, Bott and Mueller (Casper, Ollie, and Matteo) - will no doubt be seeking the affections of Kirsten Ford and Lulu Botley, the shop girls, and others....

You will have seen the Facebook post of our gleaming camion, kindly rejuvenated by an a(AKV)nonymous donor. I'm sure a photo of our new Club car, generously provided by Jeep, will follow soon. Less obvious changes are the sun-proof glass and ergonomic chairs in Tower and some extra lockers in the Dressing Room (which will be allocated on the basis of the waiting list). Junction Hut looks much lighter, thanks to a coat of paint. The most exciting development, however, is a new display screen on Junction Hut (supported by IWC watches) which will transmit images from 16 new cameras down the Run. (N.B. Would anyone who does not wish to be filmed please let the Secretary know before your first ride.)

During the summer, Members have been pursuing a variety of memorable gatherings from the social (SCARS in New York, a corroborree in Sydney, a very peculiar Halloween in Chicago, champagne (kindly provided by Piers Methuen) at the Turf Club, to the sporting. After another loss to the President's X1 at Culham in May, the Secretary's cricket team finally prevailed on Olympic turf in the Engadine in July. That same weekend we thanked Olaf Kiebert and Reto Kuhn for 20 years of brilliant golfing organisation. The most energetic event was trying out the bobsleigh/ skeleton start track in Bath. Young Rory Weston was the proud winner of the cup in memory of Jonnie Woodall. The most nostalgic event was a rousing dinner for old - and not so old - Tower Boys, superbly organised by Tom de Boinville.

So what lies in store for Season 2016/17, apart from a penal Swiss franc, which hopefully won't dampen our Sunny Bar celebrations, now to be fuelled by Champagne Ruinart? Actually there's an exciting new menu in the Sunny Bar and Aperol Spritz is to be served in the Clubhouse, in honour of our Dutch members and in memory of Comte Jules de Bylandt who features on this Season's badge, 110 years after his fatal crash. And for those of you in London, do visit the Goring Hotel where there's a pop up Cresta Bar - with all your favourite drinks – for the next three months. This would be an excellent means of getting in the mood for the joyous Shuttlecock and Seniors Dinners being busily crafted by Houston Morris and George Bingham for our delight.

St Moritz is gearing up for the World Skiing Championships (February 6-19) with the new Pavilion on the Kulm Ice rink nearing completion. Happily this has included the renovation of the old Pavilion which has been sensitively restored to pristine glory and looks wonderful next to its new, modern neighbour for the Championship Prizegivings. We hope our International Match Prizegiving will take place here. Be prepared to walk to the Clubhouse, however, as vehicular access in town during the Championships will be strictly controlled and only those with passes will be able to drive to the Run.

With new faces in the Tower team, a new Club Car, a new Display Board, and a new Run much has changed. But what hasn't changed – and I hope it never will – is the ethos of the Club and so let's look forward to what unites us: Fun, Fear, Friends and Family as we anticipate the new season.

See you in the Engadine,

As Ever.

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