



**From: James Sunley
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Dear Member

I'm so sorry my habitual Spring Newsletter is only being delivered only just before the Summer Solstice, but it's been a sad period for Great Britain and also our Club as we've said goodbye to some extraordinary Members.

Ralph Hubbard's memorial service in a Hampshire field, with the breath-taking fly past of Tiger Moths, was unforgettable, as was the perfect blue sky mountainous backdrop for Peter Maerky's beautiful service in the French church in St Moritz last weekend. The music was truly divine, and Peter's spirit filled not only a packed church and a very lively Steffani, but the whole Engadine valley.

SMTC Members are rightfully proud to support the families of Cresta riders who have made their final Run, and in recent months I am sure we have all had our moments, reflecting upon "Fluffy" Birdwood, "Kings Club" Robi Kuederli, Chris Meyerhofer, "Big Bad John" Wilson, the naval force of "Blue Eyes" Andrew Oakes, and dear Teymour Alireza, whose family are so generously supporting a refurbishment of Top Hut.

I know all these legends would want us "to laugh and drive on." I'm sorry to tell you this is finally what young Richard Robbins intends to do at the end of next season. He promises in future to make a cameo return each season- so long as we pay! If you know anyone potentially interested in filling these very large boots and joining the Tower Team, please contact the Secretary (gary.lowe@cresta-run.com) for further details and the short application form. Gary is struggling to write a job description for this indispensable role.

Last season provided another spectacular array of racing with Maggi Eger's record breaking 40.94s from Junction possibly the highlight, just as Clifton's 49er was from Top in 2013. Members should not expect such a benign Shuttlecock next Season, although during the summer we are trying to make the falling area more welcoming (i.e. level) and to tackle Finish with a wider arc. It's much more evident in summer but the land at Finish is very constrained; I urge riders to consider going back earlier and controlling their toboggans before Finish (as I do), especially on practice days. It will not only help your personal safety, but possibly your handicap.

At Finish, we have secured planning permission to build a storage room for arbiters' needs and equipment, on the top of which, in the fullness of time, and subject to Rolf Sachs' persuasiveness and Members' generosity, a fitting younger brother to Top Hut will be built.

Other summer work in progress is to Top Hut; to putting plaques on the "Bingham" statue in Celerina; and, through the generosity of Alex Hoefer and special friends, to the provision of 30 brand new traditional toboggans made by Willi Schneider. I'm hopeful these might spawn a retro sliding seat movement.

We probably have the most supportive and generous Membership of any sporting Club in the world. We also have superb prizes. Occasionally we need new supporters for these and for the champagne, especially since a certain Lord has cleaned us out of our Krug reserves. Do please let [Gary](#) know if you or your family would like to become a race donor. Similarly, we are always grateful for new advertisers in the Annual Report.

Although last Season's riding revenue was down circa 10%, it is wonderful our Club thrives despite the might of the Swiss Franc and that Membership is so popular. Harriet has posted a list of this year's successful applicants to the Members' Area of the website. I feel Proposers and Seconders could still do more to ensure their candidates are well known to the Committee; it is entirely appropriate to send personal reminders of introductions, but it is not appropriate to mass canvas by email. Henceforth, the Committee have decided the Non-Active Life Member's fee for male applicants will be CHF8,000, the same as for Active Life Membership.

On the subject of Membership, whilst we are very welcome at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly, in future our booking of bedrooms will be restricted; not because of our misbehaviour, but because they are needed by C&G members.

Harriet has written to us about the myriad off-season Cresta activities and social gatherings taking place in various corners of the world - New York and Sydney in October are as special as St Moritz is in July. The Calendar for the 2017/18 Season is live on the website so start saving now for your next winter's investment in the Engadine. The calendar can be downloaded by clicking on these links: [Outlook](#) version or [PDF](#) version.

When making plans I draw your attention to the following dates:

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| - Tues 19 Dec | Run opens, President's "Welcome Back" drinks |
| - Tues 21-Thurs 23 Dec | The University Event- details from Harriet |
| - Sat 30 Dec | Fairchild's MacCarthy Handicap Auction Race |
| - Sun 31 Dec | Fathers & Sons and Brothers Races |
| - Tues 2 Jan | Children's Races (11am), informal Lady Members' race |
| - Mon 15 Jan | Top opens |
| - Thurs 8 Feb | International Match- please apply to Secretary to enter |
| - Tues 13 Feb | Seniors Day |
| - Fri 16 Feb | AGM, Club Dinner |
| - Sunday 18 Feb | Johannes Badrutt Handicap Auction Race |
| - Sat 3 March | Shuttlecock Dinner |

There's so much to look forward to; I wish every Member a very, very happy summer whilst you rebuild your bodies and your bank balances, and have time to think about absent friends.

Yours Ever

As Ever.



James Sunley