



**From: James Sunley
President**

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Dear Member

Hurrah, the Cresta dry Season is nearly at an end! Following our recent Committee meeting and social gatherings in London there have been big snowfalls in The Engadine; some members are already pounding down the Diavolezza ski slopes; Natalino is preparing his troops and their shovels; and the bars and hoteliers of St Moritz and Celerina are looking forward to welcoming back their favourite winter customers.

We are enormously grateful that the Celerina Gemeinde will be adding to the financial support we already receive each Season from the St Moritz community. And in case you were not aware, our spiritual home, The Sunny Bar, now resides in the vault of the 2018 Gault Millau Hotel of the Year - Heinz Hunkeler has pushed service and quality at The Kulm to new heights.

Through various forms of social and other media you will have followed Cresta riders training off Season in all corners of the globe: golf, bicycling, boating, eating and wine tasting seemingly the favourite activities. One former tower boy has genuinely been taking his sport seriously - congratulations and good luck to Jerry Rice for heading the GB Olympic skeleton selection for Pyongyang - he finished 15th in his first World Cup race in Lake Placid last week.

The Secretary, now a lycra shadow of his former self, has worked tirelessly during the summer on many matters, not least assembling five Tower boys for the first time (Aristide Ziros, Oliver Hayward-Cole, Xavier Albers Schoenberg, Alistair Gimlette and Henry Zimmermann), and collating the applications for another Assistant Secretary. Well done Jamie Summers for leading that field: we look forward to seeing you learn the ropes and doing some shadow work during Richard Robbins' last Season.

One thing Gary has asked me to emphasise is members' personal responsibility that their equipment is fit for purpose and complies with Club Rules as set out on page 48 of the Annual Report; anyone bringing or trying a new toboggan is asked to alert the Secretary. And may I re-emphasise what I said at the AGM about riding within your ability, in particular taking enough care to slow down so as to negotiate the Run between Finish contacts and the mats safely, and to report anyone riding in a reckless manner to the Secretary or Chairman of the Run and Safety Committee.

As usual, the Secretary will conduct a thorough check of all Club equipment pre Season which this year will include 30 brand new traditional toboggans that have been very kindly organised and purchased by Alex Hoefer and a few extremely generous friends. Please alert the Secretary if you would be interesting in buying one of the old toboggans as an objet d'art, available for collection in both Switzerland and England.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to do any summer earth works at Finish, nor have we been able to spruce up Top Hut as the adjacent development works are ongoing. Both are on the priority agenda for summer 2018, as is the clubhouse which has a serious damp problem and the terrace needs to be reroofed. We will be approaching the St Moritz Kurverein for a grant to assist these costly works, and are hopeful too they will provide a contribution to the cameras project which was well received last Season, particularly in Tower from a safety perspective.

As we prepare for this Season, will riders please apply to the Secretary (gary.lowe@cresta-run.com) AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE to participate in the third International Match on Thursday February 8th (now to be supported by IWC.) And so we can gauge demand, the same applies to the lady members, who have ridden before, who want to ride in the new event before the Children's Races on Tuesday January 2nd. The fifth and sixth generations of the Bott family will be out in force reminding us that the first Bott was a lady and it is her son, triple Grand National winner, John Arden Bott, we will be honouring on this Season's Members' badge, 100 years after he lost his life in the First World War. Members should also be aware that the Committee have agreed to a request from the Services to trial the participation of two lady riders in each team during the Services Event; this trial will be reviewed by the Committee at their meeting in May 2018.

Other events to look out for are Raymond McKenzie's Shuttlecock Dinner on Saturday 3rd March during the last weekend, and the Cresta Monobob Event on Friday February 16th, the day of our AGM and Club Dinner (Fritz Burkhard and Tony Wallington can advise on monobob schools.) And of course, plan your teams early for the auction races - the Fairchilds MacCarthy Cup is on Saturday 30th December, the Johannes Badrutt Trophy on Sunday 18th February.

With this promising early snowfall a very good time to ride, and bring SLs, could be the week before Christmas. The University event is not heavily subscribed (younger members struggling with the Swiss franc don't forget you can apply for a bursary). You can enjoy free drinks at the President's Welcome Back cocktails at 1830 on Tuesday 19th December at the Baeren and then a quiet week of gentle riding learning our new Run before the hectic New Year period.

Keep your fingers crossed the weather stays cold for the next few weeks in the Engadine and at lunchtime on Sunday 19th November raise a glass to the four founding Committee members of our Club who exactly 130 years ago agreed to take on the responsibility from the Kulm Outdoor Amusements Committee for building the Cresta Run.

Hoping your pre Christmas celebrations are as plentiful, healthy and safe as our Season surely will be too!

James B Sunley

As Ever.



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