



**From: James Sunley
President**

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Dear Member

“For things not to change, things have to change” G.T. de Lampedusa: *The Leopard*

Further to my communications of 1st March and 15th May (which are available to view on the Members’ area of the Club’s website) I am writing with details of the upcoming EGM to be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Kulm Hotel, St Moritz, on Thursday 5th July 2018.

The matter to be voted upon will be whether or not to change the Rules of the SMTC to allow ladies to use the Cresta Run on a limited basis, by invitation, at the discretion of the Committee, subject to Rule 15 (which gives the Secretary or his nominee overall control of those riding the Run).

During this year’s AGM (an extract of the relevant sections of the Minutes are available on the Members’ area of the Club’s website), I carefully explained the historical background and context of ladies riding. Following a lively debate, it was agreed a sub-Committee comprising Peter Achenbach, Fritz Burkard, Patrick Diethelm, Rollo Hoare and Clifton Wrottesley be tasked with collating Members’ responses in order to gauge the feeling towards ladies riding; and to advise the main Committee in the best interests for the future of the Club. The composition of the sub-Committee was carefully chosen to reflect all sides of opinion on the subject.

After due and lengthy consideration, and taking into account Members’ wide-ranging views, their unanimous recommendation for a limited increase in the opportunities for ladies to ride the Cresta Run was accepted by the main Committee at its meeting on 11th May. It was also agreed that the same sub-Committee will review the situation and Members’ sentiments after the 2019/20 riding Season.

The sub-Committee’s detailed analysis of over 200 responses can be found on the Members’ area of the website. You will note their recommendation that all ladies will participate on the Run as SLs, and rank *pari passu* with gentlemen SLs when riding; those elected as Non-Active Life Members (NALMs) will have more riding opportunities than female Beginners and SLs who are not NALMs.

Please see over

If the resolutions are passed, the practical details will be governed by a Club Notice. For next Season, ladies may ride the Cresta Run at the following times, always subject to the Secretary's discretion:

University Event (Dec 21-23): teams will be permitted to include lady participants. During this time, NALMs may ride.

Family Event (Jan 1-3): by invitation to female NALMS and SLs. No Beginners on New Year's Day!

British Armed Forces (Jan 21-30): female Armed Forces personnel (subject to agreement between the Armed Services Captain and the Secretary). During this time, NALMs will be permitted to ride.

International Race: when held (no event in 2019).

Mixed week (Feb 25-Mar 2): the last week of the season, historically a very quiet period, will be a mixed week open to female SLs and NALMs. The week will end with the traditional Ladies Event, open to female NALMs and SLs by invitation.

At the EGM, Members will also be asked to allow electronic ballots to be used in future. On this occasion, a postal ballot for those unable to attend in person is being organised by Electoral Reform Services to ensure the postal ballot is conducted by an independent third party.

All those who were Members on the date of the AGM, 16th February 2018, are entitled to vote. **Note all postal votes must be returned by 2nd July 2018.**

This issue has evoked a firework of responses from Members and has demonstrated, yet again, the passion of the Cresta family and the enormous support of Members for their Club. I thank everyone for their enthusiastic emails and especially the sub-Committee of five who painstakingly evaluated them.

I appreciate these proposals cannot satisfy all Members of the Club: some would never allow ladies to ride, others would welcome them every day, very few are indifferent. However, following the sub-Committee's hard work, I firmly believe they represent a pragmatic way forward; and one which your Committee is recommending all Members support, so that ladies may once more be included to ride the Cresta Run as they originally did when our Club was founded in 1887.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at our July gathering.

Yours Ever



James B Sunley