



**From: James Sunley
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8th October 2018

President's Letter

Dear Member

Whilst some of us have gasped our way to the end of a dry September, and all of us eagerly await Annual Report Number 98, my thoughts have wandered past the upcoming Fireworks across the world - in Hong Kong, Sydney and New York - to look forward to another Season in our favourite valley. Thanks to Olaf Kroeger you can download and save the Fixture Card for 2018/19 [here](#) into your Outlook calendar and start planning your season

Viva Italia

But not before I hope to see many of you after the Committee meetings on Thursday 8th November 2018, at the London Party [here](#) at Bunga Bunga in Covent Garden, organized by Tom de Boinville. This could be our last European themed event on British soil though, if you miss it, I'm sure the Coppa d'Italia on Valentine's Day 2019 will be a spectacularly memorable morning, lunch and night.

Shuttlecock Dinner

As undoubtedly will "A Mad Rider's Tea Party" for the Shuttlecock Club being presided over by Rollo Hoare at the Steffani on Sunday 10th February. For those of you who can't look through the glass, or step back in time, this is not a caviar sort of tea party ... think Wonderland, Mad Hatters, Playing Cards, Caterpillars, Hearts, Tweedledum and Tweedledee (but no Frogs or Hedgehogs!)

Palace Ball

From crazy Cresta antics to the height of St Moritz Tobogganing Club style and grace in seven days, next Season's most glamorous event undoubtedly will be the Gala Ball being held at the Palace Hotel at the end of the AGM/ Grand National/ Johannes Badrutt weekend on Sunday 17th February. If Fritz and Jennifer Burkard know how to party, they know even better how to organize one - this really will be the hottest ticket of the Season; we wait with trepidation how to learn how to secure a pair of tickets ... and at what price!

Tobogganing Club

You might be forgiven for thinking we are a social club; far from it, we are a Sporting Club first and foremost. Rule 2 has always been clear about this. From the week before Christmas when the University teams do battle (British teams are especially welcome and in these pre-Brexit days will benefit from some very special deals and discounts), to Terminato after the Nigel Moores on March 3rd (remember there are prizes for Best Dressed during the last weekend), this Season, with over 40 races, will be even more action packed than usual because Lady riders will be welcome on certain dates.

Ladies Riding

These are contained in the Club Notice which has been prepared by the Secretary after July's EGM, when Members overwhelmingly voted in favour of allowing ladies to ride the Run (after an absence of ninety years) in accordance with the Club's Rules. After two Seasons ladies' participation will be reviewed; in the meantime, I urge all Members to embrace lady riders with the Cresta spirit and to support the Secretary, who will be vigilantly controlling all the practical issues.

The Committee and Club Rules

Those who were unable to attend the EGM in July can read Lady Brabazon's detailed Minutes in the Annual Report (due to be sent out shortly) together with a jolly account of a weekend of fun in the Engadine. You will see that, quite rightly, a great deal of faith is placed in the Committee who freely give of their time to the Club. If Members have ideas of anyone who could be a valuable addition to the Committee, please let me know and also consider proposing that person for election in accordance with our Rules.

Many have become much more familiar with these in recent months; indeed, understandably some have inquired about the basis of our constitution. Quite simply, we are a group of Members, of various persuasions, categories, and nationalities who over the last 121 years have created and evolved our own Rules, with a firm British influence, to help us toboggan, behave and misbehave. The reason I write 121 years is that whilst the Cresta Run was conceived in 1885, and the St Moritz Tobogganing Club was born in November 1888, it was not in fact baptized with a constitution until Saturday January 9th 1897. You can see a copy of the original Rules [here](#) as published by the Alpine Post; you will note that the Club was responsible for **all** tobogganing and bobsleighting in the valley.

We are presently reviewing our Club Rules and operating structure to ensure we comply with all relevant legislation and that the Members, Officers and employees are adequately protected from any financial misadventure.

Monobob Events

In recent years Fritz Burkard, Marc Fischer and Tony Wallington have reignited our spiritual links with bobsleigh in the form of the Monobob which is governed by the IMBC. There will be an exclusive Monobob school for SMTC Members between January 1st -3rd, followed by the Presidents Race at 1700 on Thursday January 3rd and the Sachs-Getty Challenge at 1600 on Friday January 4th. The cost is CHF800 and those interested should contact damian.gianola@olympia-bobrun.ch who runs the show across the road. On 7th February the International British Monobob Race is open to all qualified drivers; the following day is the Cresta-Monobob Double Top/ Combined. There's always a friendly atmosphere in the Bob Clubhouse at the Bob Start and the daily pasta is highly recommended.

On and Off the Run

As to our glorious Cresta Run, Clifton Wrottesley has taken on the mantle of Chairman of the Run and Safety Committee. He hasn't told me if he has any changes planned. We owe Patrick Diethelm a huge vote of thanks for all he has done chairing this Committee since the 2006/7 season; he has spent countless hours with Natalino (who is soon to appoint his successor), assessing every angle, corner and bend, always with our safety and enjoyment uppermost in their minds.

Off the Run, however, through the generosity of the Alireza family and the Aborigines, Top Hut is having her first face lift in 35 years; she's certainly kept her looks rather better than most Members who so enjoy her hospitality.

Unfortunately, both the top and bottom of our Clubhouse are in a very poor state; both dull and expensive projects that are already being investigated. We hope that the Community will agree to contribute towards these major costs. These will be our last requests of the indefatigable Martin Berthod, who is retiring as Sports Director of the Kurverein. Martin has watched over and supported us for 35 years - he more than deserves every bullshot you buy him this Season.

More welcome news, this Season we should have a new Sachs/Eckelmann designed Finish Container - whilst it's a very secret project, I know it will be dracularly unique

Season Badge 2018-19

Finish is also being celebrated on this Season's Members' badge, with our youngest ever President, Hon Harry Gibson (1870-1905), flying the length of a cricket pitch through the air after a successful Run. You can read our Hon. Archivist's fascinating story about 'HG' [here](#) - this Irish peer initiated the Ashbourne Cup on the Village Run (ultimately to become the Curzon), designed the Colours Cap (scarlet and gold), organized the purchase of the Club's first silverware, the Grand National Challenge Bowl, (which he won twice), and in 1894 he famously wrote "Tobogganing on Crooked Runs," the first instructive book about our sport.



Privacy and Photography

Before I close with a link to the latest heart-stopping Larraman production, I have a privacy request; also one for our photographers to be able to do their job without Members unhelpful, and at times intrusive, interference. We are a private club and we have our own controlled social media publicity. Other clubs in St Moritz restrict all photography, and so please will you be respectful of Members' privacy before trying to accumulate your own Instagram likes. If you want great pictures I suggest you ask the Larramans to make you a personal or family Season photograph album- they are fabulous!

I'm off to start my pre-Season training with a large drink and a toast to "The Greatest Show" ...

<https://vimeo.com/275728466>

As Ever.



P.S. Stop Press... huge congratulations to newly-weds, Mr & Mrs Mauro Scotti, and to Harry and Philly Sheppard who have asked that their new arrival, Davina, be put on the Tower Girl list for 2037!

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