



President's Letter: Curzon weekend 2021
18th January 2021

Dear Member

Over the weekend I watched the bobsleigh events on the Olympia Bob Run, green with envy and desperately hoping for a glimpse of our beautiful Run. The Cresta, of course, was the mother of our famous neighbour, (the longest and fastest track on the planet, and hand sculpted every year, just like the Cresta Run).

The weekend should have seen the running of the 98th Curzon Cup, the blue riband classic Colours race from Junction. First run in 1910, it replaced the famous Ashbourne Cup, won on the Village Run in the inaugural 1895 year, by future President Harry Gibson. In 1898 it transferred to the 956 yard Cresta Run and was won outright by Emile Thoma-Badrutt in 1909.

Enter the debonair (and cantankerous) future President, the Honourable Francis Curzon, to present the trophy for the race which he subsequently tried to promote as more important than the Grand National. In its first year only riders who had ridden under 54 seconds could participate. It was also the first occasion when a new clock, which could register time to one tenth of a second, was used; presented by another future President, the American Leland Littlefield, it was made by the world famous Messrs Golay Fils & Stahl of Geneva.

Apart from the World War Years (and, bizarrely, the 1948 Winter Olympics year), the Curzon Cup has never before been cancelled. What a sad day it is when a global pandemic stops our amateur sport racing when the "professionals" can race nearby on the bobsleigh...but it did include very own Jean Jacques Buff (2019 Curzon Cup winner) who came 16th in the Men's Skeleton. Well done J-J!
Enough history. It was clearly a very happy day for everyone lucky enough to be in St Moritz with such bountiful snow... great riding by Pascal Oswald (42.01) and what fun for the Club to host a group of brilliant Burgundian winemakers who, I think, yesterday broke the record for the number of French riders on the Run in one morning. The Albers and many Cresta families have run the show to date, the Abos are now in town, our Club is alive, and Top should have been opening today.

Many Cresta riders will have slept better last night than in years gone by....it's only 12 months and Top will be good again!

Missing you all, ride well in your dreams.
Yours ever
James