



12th April 2021

President's Letter

Dear Member

On my way to golf with our Secretary last Friday, we heard the very sad news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, two months short of his hundredth birthday. You will have read over the weekend many wonderful tributes to this remarkable man, who was married to The Queen for 73 years.

Prince Philip pursued a great many adventurous sports and it is surprising he never travelled to St Moritz to try the Cresta Run or the bobsleigh, particularly as Prince Michael of Kent was a keen bob enthusiast.

Be that as it may, he had no hesitation in 1957 in allowing his name to be used on the Inter-Services Challenge Trophy, which was first raced from Junction in 1954, before transferring to Top in 1962. There have been 66 races with the Army in the lead on 24 victories, followed by the RAF with 22, and the Senior Service in third place with 20.

You will find here the generous foreword the Prince wrote in Michael Seth-Smith's 1976 *History of The Cresta Run*. He also sent us congratulations for our 1985 Centenary and the hope our Club would flourish for many years to come.

I am writing on your behalf to his youngest son, HRH Prince Edward, who has ridden the Run and his terrific wife HRH Sophie, Countess of Wessex, who is so supportive of our eccentric amateur sport.

All good wishes
James