



## President's Letter

27th October 2021

**Dear Member**

Wow - the recent Engadine images have been breath-taking! Our favourite valley may be basking in autumn sunlight, but the weather forecast is predicting colder conditions, and all being well, in just under two months the Bartley Bear will have been run on Opening Day.

### PRE-SEASON

Before then you will have feasted on last Season's slimline Annual Report, and hopefully I will see many of you at the **London Cocktails at the Turf Club on Tuesday 9th November**, ahead of our Committee meetings. Harriet tells me that we are nearing maximum numbers for the drinks party – unsurprisingly there is pent up demand after the disappointment of so many cancellations. Thinking of the Turf, Felix Francis's new horseracing novel, *Iced*, is a good read and takes place in St Moritz with White Turf and the Cresta Run Grand National central to the exciting plot.

### Garry Daintry Thanksgiving Service

On a more sombre note, Members are invited to attend Garry Daintry's Thanksgiving Service at the Guards Chapel in London at 11am on Tuesday 16th November. Numbers are limited, and availability will be on a first come, first served basis, but if you would like to attend, please apply direct to Garry's daughter, Natasha, ([natasha.daintry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:natasha.daintry@yahoo.co.uk))

Legacies and donations are always welcome. We recently received a super gift from **Penny Williamson's** estate; no one could sell raffle tickets the way Penny used to.....

### David Wynne Maquette for auction

Another upcoming London happening, I notice, is an auction by Bonhams on 24th November, of the sole Artist's Proof maquette of David Wynne's *Cresta Rider* statue, which the Club gave to St Moritz in 1985 to celebrate our Centenary. The maquette was a personal gift from the artist to our dear friend, Bill Shand Kydd, the only rider to have participated in both Grand Nationals (St Moritz and Aintree). Three of the numbered maquettes were originally auctioned by the Club in the mid-1980s, each

achieving circa £25,000. The last one publicly auctioned sold for over £100,000. The guide price of £15-20,000 on this maquette seems modest.

Maybe someone might buy it, to donate to Fritz Burkard's wonderful winter sports museum (such an exciting project). He tells me it should open on December 21st 2022, to coincide with the 125th Anniversary of the club we nurtured, the St Moritz Bobsleigh Club. Unfortunately our own London archive has recently had to be put into storage, as the Fulham accommodation Stephen Bartley leased came to an end. Much of the archive will end up in St Moritz, but should anyone have a spare barn, please let Stephen know.

## THE SEASON

### Swiss Covid Pass

All visitors to Switzerland now require a **Swiss Covid Certificate** which the Club will have to monitor for all those entering the Clubhouse. The Secretariat will be sending out more details to the Membership, SLs & Beginners, but you may want to start the process sooner rather than later. Here is the [link](#) to apply (click on the appropriate column and vaccine to reach the application page).

### Welcome Back

For those who cannot be in London for the Cocktail Party, I am planning a **President's Welcome Back Drinks** in St Moritz on the evening of the Marques de Portago Challenge, Thursday 30th December. In addition to the our usual wonderful Tower Team we will be welcoming Tom Pumphrey, Henry Shipton and Freddie Strange as Tower Boys, with Skye Ayling and Phoebe Sunley as Shop Girls.

### Events

We have two new races this Season, the **Marques de Portago** from Stream on Thursday 30th December, and the **Glattfelder Trophy** on Wednesday 23rd February. We also have a new **Inter-Club Event** in early February being organised by Tom de Boinville and Brad De Hond. I should also mention the **Shuttlecock Dinner** on Sunday 20th February, whose President, Harry Sheppard, has had two years to plan an unforgettable evening. Moreover, it just as well we decided to have **two University Events** this season – both are fully subscribed. More evidence, if any was needed, of pent-up demand.

Returning to Bobsleigh, those who fancy trying the Monobob should contact [Tony Wallington](#) to join one of his Beginners' schools. From this Season the Bobrun is being managed by former Skeleton world champion, Gregor Staehli, a good friend to many of us. And if any Brits fancy clubbing together to support our Bobsleigh team's efforts for Winter Olympics Beijing 2022, please [email me](#) - I thought it might be fun to see our logo hurtling down the new Xiaohaituo track.

## Valete Gary & Harriet

Covid permitting, I anticipate a thrilling and very busy Season, especially as you will all want to come and thank our two senior Secretaries, **Harriet Brabazon** and **Gary Lowe**, for whom Farewell celebrations are planned, with a dinner after the AGM and during the last weekend.

Harriet is retiring after thirty-seven years of incredible service as our Membership Secretary; the post has not been pensionable and if you would like to participate in a thank you collection for Harriet, would you email [Martin Greenland](#) and he will arrange for your donation to be added to your bill. To honour the Brabazon family, this Season's badge will depict the remarkable and redoubtable 1st Lord Brabazon of Tara GBE MC PC who excelled in so many walks of life, most notably as our President just after the War.

Gary has also served us with unswerving dedication: as a successful Shopkeeper, Hon Treasurer (2014-2016) and as Secretary and Chief Executive since then. More details will follow on how we will be thanking him, but suffice to say, all Members should be forever grateful for both Harriet and Gary's hard work for and loyalty to our Club and its Members.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Halloween wherever you are in the world. I hope and pray we can all meet again in St Moritz this winter Season.

With my very best wishes always

As Ever.



**James Sunley**

President, SMTC Ltd

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