

The British have always had an aspect to their character that can be described as eccentric. This came to the fore 25 years ago when some luminaries of the cricket world thought about imitating other novel sports such as chess-playing at the bottom of the sea and golf in the desert. Why not cricket on a lake that freezes over?

There are many reasons why not: for one thing, the players, stumps and bats might fall through the ice and never be seen again. Still, the idea took off. In the early years there were some setbacks: many of us recall former England captain David Gower driving his car into the lake, having miscalculated the depth of the ice!

In the years that followed there have been changes to the equipment: compound balls (instead of leather) as well as more appropriate and comfortable clothing. The tournament has drawn players from all over the world, every one of whom has marvelled at being able to play cricket with the backdrop of the

Cricket on Ice marks silver jubilee

ST. MORITZ “Cricket on Ice 2012” takes place on Lake St Moritz in mid-February. This is the 25th year of the quirky international sporting event.



Cricket players enjoy the unique setting of St. Moritz as much as the spectators do.

glittering town surrounded by the snow-peaked mountains, often in glorious sunshine.

Sponsors and players

The main organizer for the event has been Swiss cricket fan Daniel Haering. The St Moritz and more recently the Engadine Tourist Board have given their support, as also the Lyceum School in Zuoz. In recent

years the Old Cholmeleians Cricket Club from London and the former Swiss cricket champions CC Winterthur have played in the competition.

John Zani

cricket-on-ice.com

Sponsors of the event include the Hotel Schweizerhof and Hotel Stefani as well as the St Moritz Tourist Board. It is to be hoped that this year will be the best ever. There are plans for a Scottish bagpiper to play during the event. Again tourists and locals

can see the best game in the world being played “on top of the world”!

Tournament dates: 16th to 18th February 2012. As part of the 25th year celebrations there will be a gala dinner on Saturday evening (18th) at the Hotel Stefani in St Moritz Dorf: all welcome but numbers are limited. Ticket prices are 130 CHF per person. Bookings: 079 703 61 65 or Daniel.haering@cricket-on-ice.com.