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COMMITTEE

## Story Script and Shot log

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**STORY HEADLINE:** Olympic spirit returns to the most famous sliding sports venue in the world as St Moritz prepares to take centre stage at the Winter Youth Games

**LOCATION:** Olympia Bobrun, St Moritz, Switzerland

**DATE:** January 15, 2020

**++INCLUDES LIBRARY FOOTAGE OF 1948 OLYMPICS++**

**LANGUAGE:** English, Swiss-German

**Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom:** <http://iocnewsroom.com>

### STORY SCRIPT:

St Moritz has long been synonymous with sliding sports, not least the skeleton which was invented here in the late 19th century.

Johannes Badrutt, former owner of the Kum hotel, provided and financed the first Cresta Run in 1884, and the original committee members included Major William Henry Bulpett, George Robertson, Charles Digby Jones (Robertson and Digby Jones planned the proposed course).

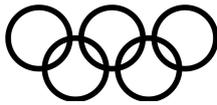
To this day, the run remains a partnership between the St Moritz Tobogganing Club (SMTC) founded in 1887, and the people of St. Moritz.

The head-first style - which distinguishes it from the luge - evolved naturally due to the invention of steerable sleds.

And a desire to complete the run as fast as possible.

The current record is 49.92 seconds to complete the 1214 metre course, which boasts an altitude difference of 157 metres and a maximum gradient of 35%.

It was set by Lord Clifton Wrottesley of Ireland in 2015, an Olympian who finished fourth in the skeleton in the Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake City 2002.



But while the Cresta Run might be the birthplace of the sport, mere metres away is another famous track.

The St Moritz Olympia Bob run opened in 1904 and hosted sliding sports at both the 1924 and 1948 Winter Games.

Come Friday, it will be an Olympic venue once more when the luge races at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020 get underway, to be followed by the bobsleigh and the skeleton in what promises to be a memorable weekend.

Swiss skeleton competitors Jill Gander and Emma-Sunshine Burkard are thrilled to be racing in a 'home' Games on what is their favourite track.

Burkard hails from an impressive line of sliding athletes - her Grandfather Monty Gordon co-founded the first ever Canadian bobsleigh team and later introduced his Granddaughter to the sport.

Her mother has competed for Switzerland in the skeleton, while her father is a keen bobsledder himself and Vice-President of the St Moritz Bobsleigh Club.

For Burkard herself - who is one of only a few women to have raced down the Cresta Run - there is no place to slide like St Moritz.

With six of the nine training heats now complete, Burkard's teammate Jill Gander seems likely to be in the mix for a medal come race day.

The 15-year-old has consistently enjoyed one of the top-three fastest times down the track, indicating that she is adapting well to the ever-changing conditions and should be in a good position to bring Switzerland some medal success on the most famous of tracks.

### **SHOTLIST: Olympia Bobrun, St Moritz, Switzerland**

00:05 FILE: Athletes on the Olympia Bobrun in 1948 (Mute)

00:18 Mid shot of the Cresta Run club in 2020

00:25 Close up of Cresta Run club house

00:31 Sign pointing the Cresta Run in one direction and the St Moritz Olympia Bob in the other

00:35 Aerial of the start of the skeleton practice runs on the Olympia Bob track

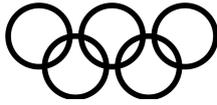
00:41 Wide shot of competitor starting their run

00:44 Mid shot of Emma-Sunshine Burkard in the start gate

### **00:51 SOUNDBITE: Emma-Sunshine Burkard, Team Switzerland skeleton (English Language).**

*"I think that it's really incredible. I love that it's here. It is the right place to have it because it is the birthplace (of skeleton). It was invented right across the street over here."*

01:04 Competitors on the track



01:13 Burkard starting her practice run

**01:21 SOUNDBITE: Emma-Sunshine Burkard, Team Switzerland skeleton (English Language).**

*"My Grandpa actually. He was Canadian and he co-founded the first Canadian bobsleigh team and he brought my mum over here and this is where my parents met. And my Dad does monobob for fun and my mum used to compete for Switzerland. And so it's quite a family sport. I tried the Cresta Run on the other side for the first time and I absolutely loved it. I won four years in a row. And then I started over here."*

01:52 Hunter Burke of New Zealand in the start gate for the luge

02:05 Jill Gander starting her skeleton run

**02:19 SOUNDBITE: Jill Gander, Team Switzerland skeleton (Swiss German Language)**

*"It is good that the games are taking place in Switzerland, it is a lot of fun that they are here. It's a huge learning opportunity."*

02:28 Caitlin Nash and Natalie Carless in the start gate for the doubles Luge

02:40 Burkard starting her final training run for the skeleton

**02:48 SOUNDBITE: Emma-Sunshine Burkard, Team Switzerland skeleton (English Language).**

*"I love this track so much just because it never gets boring. because it is constantly being shaped by every single run and so your steers from the start of the season are completely different to the end and there's this sense of stillness as you're going down and it's amazing. It's like nothing else. I mean you're going through the forest and it's just you with the track and the sled and that's it. You hear nothing else. And it's an amazing feeling that I would say that you only get here."*

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