

# Cricket on ice in St Moritz: Matches played on frozen Swiss lake

[Matilda Davies](#)

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<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cricket-on-ice-in-st-moritz-matches-played-on-frozen-swiss-lake-tzptp6jp9>



*Figure 1 The pitch on the lake in St Moritz, Switzerland, where the Cricket on Ice tournament took place*

A village cricket player crossed an experience off his bucket list when he played a game on a frozen lake in Switzerland.

Toby Marriott, 28, joined Chris Southwell and John Royle, two British expats, on their team Roggenhorn Cricket Club at an international tournament held in the Alps in St Moritz, Switzerland, every year since 1988.

In the Cricket on Ice tournament, teams from around the world battle it out on a pitch on the lake wearing trail shoes, woolly hats and snowboarding gloves. The organisers drill into the ice in the morning to ensure it is safe for playing, but Marriott said it still feels disconcerting at times: “As the temperature increased, so did the sound of the ice cracking beneath you. Just slightly unsettling!”

The tournament was Roggenhorn’s first match as a club. Southwell and Royle built a cricket pitch in Southwell’s back garden in Klosters, Switzerland, during lockdown, which included a net, bowling machine and scoreboard. It inspired them to start their own team.



Figure 2 Chris Southwell & John Royle have brought their love of cricket with them to Switzerland. SWNS

Marriott said: “It wasn’t actually that slippery because there’s probably six feet of snow compacted onto the ice, so that actually made it relatively comfortable. Granted, there were a few dropped catches where people blamed the slippery ice, but I think that was just technique.”

Marriott heard of the tournament five years ago, but never imagined he would have the opportunity to take part. “The first game kicked off at 9am and the lake was still in the shadows of the mountains,” he said. “It was pretty nippy. But it’s been amazing.”

A passionate village cricketer, he runs a YouTube channel called Cricket District from his home in Sussex. After he featured Southwell and Royle for the series *Six and Out*, they invited him to join the tournament.

Four British teams, including the Guards Cricket Club, a team for officers and soldiers of the Guards and Household cavalry, which was crowned the winner with nine points, competed in the tournament hosted by St

Moritz Cricket Club last month.

The other UK teams included Stokers Cricket Club from Northamptonshire, Old Cholmeleians XI and Gussets Cricket Club, both from London. The Swiss team Lyceum Alpinum XI, from Zuoz, and a team from Munich also competed.

In his YouTube video following the match, Marriott told his fans it was “the most ridiculous place” he’s ever played cricket.

He started his YouTube channel to celebrate the global community of cricket fans. His aim is to enable more people to become involved in “a fantastic, social sport and a creative sport”. The channel has more than a million followers on social media.

Roggenhorn scored 145 runs from 20 overs with the help of Marriott. Every team member then took wickets to deliver victory in their first game.

At home in Sussex, Marriott plays for his village club, Selmeston and Alciston. His father is in the team, his friends in London travel down to play and his mother occasionally makes the teas. He hopes that next year, Selmeston and Alciston might be able to play in St Moritz.

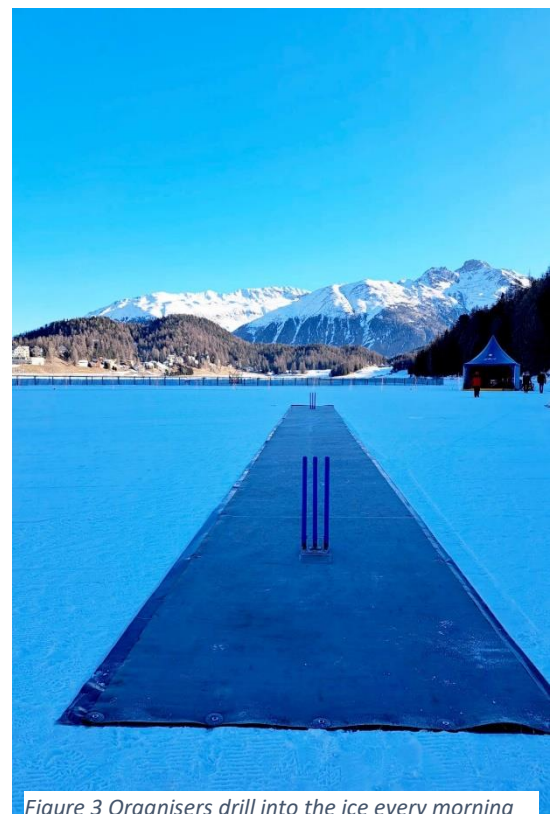


Figure 3 Organisers drill into the ice every morning to ensure the pitch is safe. SWNS