



Michael Andrew Graigh Oliver 25th November 1931 – 14 May 2018

Michael was born 25th November 1931, was first introduced to the Cresta by his uncle Jack Britten who was a keen rider prior to WWII and spoke fondly of the pre-war riding years.

As the Korean War broke in the 1950s Michael was called to action as part of the United Nations support to South Korea. It was in April 1952 his regiment the Gloucestershire Regiment achieved fame when the 1st Battalion held out for three nights against overwhelming odds during the Battle of the Imjin River. The stand, described by the commander of the United Nations forces in Korea at the time as "the most outstanding example of unit bravery in modern war", prevented the encirclement of other United Nations forces, for which the regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and earned the nickname The Glorious Glosters. Out of the 800 soldiers in his Battalion, Michael was one of only 44 soldiers to escape death or capture and make it out of Imjin Hill.

Upon completing his military service, he returned to Asia, firstly India and then Malaysia where he lived and worked for 40 years on plantations. In 1960 during his first leave from Malaysia he finally got the opportunity to ride the run and became a member that year. He spoke fondly of the club during the 60s and 70s where he also tried his hand on the Bob Run. Like many riders during this time, when the Cresta Run closed he would hop across the road and throw himself down the bob run and one occasion representing GB's second string team. One could describe Michael as an enthusiastic if unspectacular rider who last rode in the 1990s after it was suggested that if he could not remember to turn left at Shuttlecock he was best advised to hang up his rakes. However, the Cresta remained very close to his heart and his families. Both his sons Nick and Jeremy became Members followed by three grandsons Charles, George and Xander. After Nick died in 2002, Michael relocated to Uganda where enjoyed the last 16 years of his life. He was a remarkable man and lived a remarkable life right up until the end.