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22nd October 2024

Dear Member

**General Sir Mike Jackson, GCB CBE DSO DL.
21st March 1944 - 15th October 2024**

Following last week's devastating news, many Members will have read of the passing of another great knight, one of the United Kingdom's most charismatic soldiers, General Sir Mike Jackson.

Like Sir Brian Williamson, Mike came late to the Cresta when he was 50, encouraged by his son Mark and daughter Amanda, who in 1991-92 were Tower boy and Shop girl respectively in Christopher Bledisloe's first Season as President, (and, incidentally, Richie Robbins' first season too).

It's fair to say Mike's Cresta career was not as illustrious as his military one, but he approached the Cresta with his usual gusto in over 35 rides and many appearances at the Inter-Services, until a nasty fall at Shuttlecock in 2004 closed his riding account, after he posted his fastest 53.40 earlier in the morning.

[Here is a link](#) to the extensive Times obituary about Mike's remarkable life. Described as the "highest profile Chief of the General Staff since Monty and the last of the big beasts", one unreported story found the Hamlet-puffing General on the roof of Junction Hut in 1999, organising the Kosovo operation. At the end of this (no doubt) incredibly important call, the General received the mother of all dressing downs from Rifleman Robbins on the loudspeaker in Tower, who took great exception to "a man on a mobile telephone on top of Junction Hut Roof".

In these dark days, our thoughts are with Mike's wife Sarah, children Amanda, Mark, and Tom, and grandchildren Casper, Jemima, Phoebe, Charlie and Heath.

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