

Edition 40 - BULLSHEET - October 2013

Wie nie kan lees nie moet maar prentjies kyk!

Marshal Smuts Shellhole - since 1946 - 105 Drama Street - Somerset West

Bert Johnson Answers the Sunset Call

It is with great sadness that Marshal Smuts Shellhole has to inform; **008053 Moth Bert Johnson** answered the Sunset Call on Monday 19 August 2013 and has gone to meet the Higher Command.

Born on the 7th of March 1920 in Lancaster, Moth Johnson served as a 1st Class Air Artificer with the Fleet Air Arm onboard the HMS Birmingham during the Second World War. On completion of the War, he settled in South Africa where he joined SA Airways and retired during March 1980 as Head Technician at Cape Town Airport. He joined the MOTH at Marshal Smuts Shellhole in October 1993.



Bert Johnson

**07 March 1920
to 19 August
2013**

**WE WILL
REMEMBER HIM**



"What a shock to receive the news of our friend Bert Johnson; we were so blessed to have comrades like Bert and Frank Joubert and have so many pleasant memories. They used to tell all and sundry that they are both in the departure lounge waiting for the aircraft to arrive. Guys like them are what MOTH is all about. Thank you for all your efforts to keep us updated with the Shellhole activities; it is really appreciated. Please pass on condolences to the Johnson family from Gill and I, we will remember him at the going down of the sun. Best regards to you and all at the Shellhole who know us." Duncan & Gill MacKenzie Edinburgh

Bruce Sherwood Answers the Sunset Call

It is with great sadness that Marshal Smuts Shellhole has to inform; **026075 Moth Bruce Sherwood** answered the Sunset Call on Wednesday the 18th of September after a short battle with cancer. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Moth Sherwood will be missed by all who knew him.

Bruce Sherwood 17 November 1957 to 18 September 2013

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

From the MOTH Website: Moth Chappie Flemington of Outeniqua Shellhole, George, has peacefully answered the Sunset Call on Saturday 21 September 2013, at the ripe-full age of 101 years and 9 months. **WE WILL REMEMBER HIM!**

New Old Bill and Exco Inducted at 68th AGM



OLD BILL: Moth Rob Harding (left) was recently inducted as Old Bill of Marshall Smuts Shellhole of the Memorable Order of the Tin Hats (MOTH) in Somerset West. His goals are to grow the Shellhole's membership by attracting more members who will embrace the three Ideals of Mothdom, which are true comradeship, mutual help and sound memory. On Remembrance Sunday the

MOTH commemorates the fallen in all our wars, as well as members of the SAPS who gave their lives in the line of duty. The income generated by various facilities on offer at the Shellhole in Drama Street is used to provide financial aid to all veterans in need and to assist registered public benefit organisations within the local community. Here Rob Harding Old Bill, Johan Fourie Deputy Old Bill and Peter Erasmus Adjutant, give the Moth salute during induction.

Article reproduced from District Mail: 15 August 2013

CITY GETS FEATHERED AID TO GUARD STADIUM PITCH

The City has appointed a pigeon specialist called Scarlet, a Peregrine Falcon, to protect the pitch of the Cape Town Stadium in an environmentally friendly, non-lethal way.

For the next six months, the pitch of the Cape Town Stadium will be defended by the fastest animal on the planet. This is the first time birds of prey have been used to manage the pitch of a sports stadium in the Western Cape. Sports stadia, including the Wimbledon Tennis Stadium in London and the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth have had great success with this method.

Approximately 120 kg of perennial rye seed, an all-year grass cultivar, is planted monthly on the stadium pitch to repair the damage caused by sporting events and concerts. Pigeons cause the most destruction during the 10 days before the seeds start to germinate. They consume up to 70% of the planted seed. Consequently, the rye grass does not grow. The pigeon activity makes it difficult to keep the grass on the pitch dense – a requirement for top quality sporting events.

Scarlet, a natural enemy of pigeons is expected to have a great impact on pitch management practices. Stadium management, in accordance with the principles of efficiency that the City adheres to, decided to investigate an environmentally and financially sustainable method to deal with the pigeons. Direct losses as a result of the pigeon activity amounts to about R80 000 per annum on losses of seed. In addition to this, the money wasted on labour, water, fertiliser and fungicides is substantial. The quality of the pitch when utilised by professional teams is an important factor and guides the strict maintenance and utilisation protocol. "The Cape Town Stadium's pitch has received

the highest compliments from local, national and international teams who have played here,” said the Director of the Cape Town Stadium, Lesley de Reuck.

This is a non-lethal programme. The aim is not to kill but to deter and to change the behaviour of the target species – in this case the presence of the falcon causes pigeons to adopt a new pattern of behaviour – away from the stadium. Unlike other bird-deterrent devices, the target species never becomes habituated to the presence of a live bird of prey. A large portion of a wild Peregrine Falcons’ diet consists of pigeon meat. Pigeons are therefore particularly afraid of these falcons. The Cape Peninsula has the highest concentration of Peregrine Falcons in the world.

HOW IT WORKS:

- The Peregrine Falcon flies to a lure (a piece of leather with some wings and a bit of food attached to it) which is swung by the falconer who is positioned in the middle of the pitch.
- The falconer swings the lure to imitate a bird in flight.
- It is the falconer’s job not to let the falcon catch the lure and to keep it flying around the stadium.
- The typical style of hunting adopted by Peregrine Falcons is to fly to a great height and wait for an unsuspecting pigeon to pass below. In a stoop (its characteristic high-speed dive used during hunting), Peregrine Falcons have been clocked at speeds in excess of 320 km/h. These speeds are not achieved in the stadium as a result of space constraints. The mere presence of the pigeon’s greatest enemy encourages them to seek safer feeding grounds.

SCARLET:

Scarlet belongs to Hank Chalmers, owner of Eagle Encounters – the largest raptor rehabilitation centre in Southern Africa. She was brought to the centre four years ago with a broken wing and foot after having been hit by a car. Her prospects were dire but after eight months of intense rehabilitation she was able to fly again. She will, however, never fly well enough again to hunt and survive in the wild. Scarlet will be flown weekly at the stadium over the next six months to reinforce the presence of the predator. Thereafter, the frequency of the visits will be reduced to the level required to manage the pitch. *Councillor Benedicta van Minnen.*

BULLSHEET in SHORT

EVENTS

Friday 18 October: 675th General Meeting at 18h10

Sunday 20 October: 71st El Alamein Memorial Parade at Castle of Good Hope, 10h30

BIRTHDAYS

Moth Gordon Waring: 13 October 1948

Moth George Gardiner: 20 October 1937

Moth Stuart Smal: 24 October 1968

Moth Philip McLachlan: 27 October 1965



MOTH CENOTAPH: USAKOS NAMIBIA (courtesy Moth Peter Erasmus)



VIEW OF GORDON'S BAY 100 YEARS AGO