

## **Multi-talented Past Old Bill of the Order, Moth Mike Soutter**

I first met Mike in 1990 when he became manager of Executive Communications, which was, at that time, the big paging company in Port Elizabeth. Although opposition, we were on a friendly basis.

In 2001, Mike mentioned the MOTH to me and encouraged me to join mentioning Outspan Shellhole as that was the closest Shellhole to where I lived at the time. With some more prodding from a brother-in-law, I joined Outspan in 2002. In 2004 I was installed as Old Bill of Outspan and as there was no District at the time, had direct communications with the Provincial Adjutant, Mike.

In those years, Cape Eastern was in turmoil with our main HQ at Bird Street being in a financial mess and unsavoury characters running the building to the MOTHS detriment. In dealing with the many pitfalls and obstacles in our path in selling the building, there was one person that stood by the Moth values and was unflappable, Mike. In the sale of Bird Street and the subsequent purchase of the Eastern Cape HQ you now sit in, Mike showed his leadership capabilities. When the then Provincial Old Bill resigned after only having served a few months, Mike took over the reins and did a fantastic job.

When I was Provincial Old Bill, Mike's calm nature saved my ass on more than one occasion.

Over the years we have been on many MOTH outings and meetings together. I soon found out that Moth Mike has the ability to consume beer at an alarming rate and unfortunately then starts to believe that he is Liberace and attacks a poor piano with gusto and after 15 minutes of abusing the keys, not one decent note has been achieved.

Mike, congratulations on your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a Moth

Spencer Beckley