

Biking personality

Mike Puzey makes good things happen

By Greg Baxter

MIKE is a truly outstanding South African, and one of those guys for whom the word 'can't' does not exist. He makes things happen.

Approachable and friendly, Mike has a smile for everyone, and can be seen patiently teaching youngsters to ride on training days such as those organised by Women in Motorsport.

An aeronautical engineer, he owns and runs Puzey Motor Corporation, where he designs bikes, then has them manufactured in China. Or he assesses existing engine designs and improves on them. In these ways he cuts costs, and can therefore market tough machines at highly competitive prices, but he won't compromise on quality or safety.

Mike comes from a motorsport family: dad Clive raced in formula one with the likes of John Love and Graham Hill.

He was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia

Dad Clive in his Formula One car.

(now Harare and Zimbabwe), on November 13, 1966.

Besides his dad and his mom Anne, the family includes his brother Paul and half brothers Roydon and Rodney.

Mike completed his 'O' levels at Saint George's College in Salisbury. He and his wife Kerry (she is Mike's partner at Puzey) have been married



Mike on his RMX 125 Suzuki in the days when he won the Zimbabwe Junior MX title twice.

for 10 years, and they have two children, Tyla and Gabby.

Bike racing

Mike started riding a monkey bike at the age of seven, and progressed to a full-size bike at the age of 12. This was a water-cooled Suzuki RMX 125 with the full-floater rear suspension. He also started racing at that time.

Mike won the Zimbabwe Junior Motocross Championships in the 125 class in 1981 and '82. He mentions in passing that it

was at this time that the double jump was introduced. He rode on one wheel most of the time, and loved big air time.

Mike raced for four years, then came to South Africa to work as an aircraft engineer.

He owned a Cessna 150 and built his own plane, flying for five years.

Mike started an engineering company called Engineering Café in 1994, then Puzey Motor Corporation in 2005.

Footnote: Besides a range of popular thumpers (two of which finished the murderous Roof of Africa), Puzey products include Big Boy folding scooters, EVO skateboard scooters, Verimark exercise machines and Pump-a-Bikes.

Mike always on the lookout for more products to introduce to the market.

Elbows out – Mike reminisces about his MX racing days in Rhodesia .

