



EmTek Management Services



NEWS RELEASE

RACE REPORT – BRANDS

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"An alluring and very technical track, especially when filled to capacity and supporting a local hero" - quote from Troy Bayliss himself.

Well after Brno I was as ready as ever to kick butt at Brands. We had a week and a half off between the two races and I needed this time to rest my hand, and recover from the Brno crash. In that time I ran 10km a day and went for lazer therapy on my hand, then we set off for Blighty Land aka England.

The *morning* before we had left Italy for Brands, Donato (chief race technician) ran my bike on the dyno and it was more than 13 horsepower down on the original engine that blew up at Brno. Unfortunately there was not enough time to find the problem as we needed to leave with the trucks.

Interesting fact: The large transporters for the hospitality and pits are not allowed to travel through Austria at night (this requires a costly permit) which adds a day onto the travel time.

I was not too worried about it as Brands is my favourite track and I would just ride around the problem...at least that was what I thought.

I arrived at the track on Wednesday for setup day, being all alone and tired from the journey when I got a call from one of the Parsons clan saying that they had made it and are in town. I had some great support from SA at Brands including and the Parsons's surprised me by flying my long suffering girlfriend Adeline out to be with me as well. A huge thanx to you guys as it was great having you and Adz around. I got to meet a number of other Souf Africans that had made the pilgrimage to Brands including **Richard Knowles** of Dick and Dave fame, **Hudson Kennaugh** and **Andy Jamieson** (who was spanninger for John Boy Lee in the GR Mototrpsport/Nvidia team), and finally **Brent Gladwin** (who is the team manager for the ex Nvidia Team that I rode the Yamaha R1 in the BSB round at Croft). For the record I beat John Boy by some margin at his "home" track.

A big thanks to all of you for the support on the day.



Friday Practise

I went out for the first session feeling a bit nervous and had butterflies in my tummy which I guess was just anxiety after my Brno experience. The bike immediately felt "tired" and was not at all at the power levels I was used to. I also used the free practise sessions to help Greg find his lines and way around the track (which he did with tremendous skill and determination).

Saturday Practise

After all of the sessions up until the final qualifying session I was in position 14 and riding the wheels off of my bike. Before the final Saturday afternoon qualifying we had a debriefing and I told the guys that I was going to crash if I pushed it any harder, so we made a few gearing and suspension changes which seemed to work. I eventually qualified 10th on the grid, and the handling was awesome as always, but down the straights and uphill I was being punished (ask Richard Knowles and Dave Petersen about the climb up from Paddcok Hill bend to Druids and then into the forest section). In the speed traps I was 2nd last and almost 20km off the fastest speed set by Canepa also on a 1098's. This was very frustrating to me as I saw Brands as a victory/podium at least for me.

Sunday Race Day

Brands Hatch is an institution on its own and it is quite an amazing feeling to ride around in front of 126,000 Superbike mad crowds. As far as the eye could see there were spectators each with their heroes flags (and there were plenty of JT flags around). I even had my own fan club with the South African flags (albeit they were upside down) on the Surtees corner. The weather even played its part and on race day we had perfect sunshine and hot weather for the day.

In the race I got a very good start and was in 6th off the line, and then I slowly worked my way backwards until I finished 12th. I would get passed down a straight and held up in the turns until I eventually got a small highside and hurt my hand. I really just couldn't hold on for the last 8 laps...

I really feel disappointed for the many fans out there that were rooting for me, especially after my good start, but the pain was unbearable and to be honest the bike took as much strain as what I did. Sorry guys.

However I must take heart and look at the positives that came out of the weekend and to put it into perspective: I finished the weekend without a crash, the bike actually lasted, my confidence is gaining again, and I bagged some hard earned points - not too bad after the poor luck I have had previously.

Well im back in SA now and am just doing some cardio training and getting my hand fit. Got three weeks off so just going to get myself 100% fit and the team are going to find some horsepower for me...

See you all at the next race being Eurospeedway, Lausitzring on the 9th September.

I am sure you will see a better performance from me.



Remember watch the web pages for more updates www.emtekracing.co.za

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