

# RACE REPORT

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## Race Report – Killarney 05<sup>th</sup> April 2008

### DEJA VU

*noun*

*the experience of thinking that a new situation had occurred before*

hhmmmm – this sounds all too familiar

Bear this comment in mind whilst reading this report.

### TESTING, TESTING, TESTING

This is a cliché that has become synonymous with EmTek Kawasaki Racing. The Team tested in Cape Town on 4-5<sup>th</sup> February and although it was an arduous and stressful trip, it was by all accounts extremely beneficial. The team went to the track to test tyre combinations, suspension settings and gearing – all on the previous generation ZX10's. This data however became invaluable to the team. The testing has proven itself time and again and this race proves it was all WORTH IT. Prior to the team heading off to Cape Town a slight detour was made via Port Elizabeth. This was a low key testing session for the new bikes and it again became invaluable as major strides were made in the gearing department. It also bore fruit for the riders as the gearing is similar to Cape Town which set them up for a great weekend's racing.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the South African Superbike Championship was held at Killarney in Cape Town on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Shez, Chris and the rest of the Emtek Kawasaki Racing Team were excited and on top form for the weekend. The team arrived at Killarney race circuit on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to

set-up the “**MEAN GREEN**” pits!!!!!!!!!!!!!! With both riders having worked very hard between the 1<sup>st</sup> race and Killarney, Chris had put on a few kg's as he felt he needed a bit more strength to man handle his Kawasaki ZX-10 R and Shez had lost a few kg's after eating Rabbit chow for 3 weeks and running and cycling twice a day.

Psychologically both riders were feeling extremely confident having managed to both test at below the lap record even with the final chicane being narrowed and changed consistently.

This is where the comment of Déjà vu comes in.

## FRIDAY

Friday morning everyone arrived at the track at 6 am sharp. The mechanics went through the bikes for one last time before official practice started.

The Team was all smiles after the 1<sup>st</sup> session with both riders posting a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> position for the team.

By the end of Friday Shez had again led every session and set the fastest time of the day at a 1:15:50. Young Christopher was also consistently running in the top 3 throughout the day and was keen for qualifying.

## RACE DAY SATURDAY

### Qualifying

Race day kicked off with qualifying. The session started off with some settling in laps and getting the tyres up to optimum temperature. After the 5<sup>th</sup> flying lap Shez took pole position with an unbelievable time of 1:14:80 and some 7tenths ahead of Yamaha's Clinton Seller. Christopher did an outstanding job by qualifying his 1000cc Kawasaki 4<sup>th</sup> on the grid....so that made it **both Emtex Kawasaki's** on the front row. The intrepid rock star Robbie Portman qualified his Suzuki in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

### Heat 1

Off the line it was Shez that took the holeshot with Seller and Portman fighting it out for 2<sup>nd</sup> position. Chris dropped down to 5<sup>th</sup> and was ready to fight his way up. Up front Shez lead from start to finish and won by a massive 4.5 seconds ahead of Clinton Seller. Chris finished 3<sup>rd</sup> ahead of former SA champ Shaun Whyte and was closing down on Seller the last 6 laps.

This was the dream start to a fantastic race for the Team with its #1 rider proving his mettle and its #2 rider proving that he is coming to grips with the all powerful might of the ZX10R. This is Chris's first podium ever in the senior class (and it is only the second race of the year).

### Heat 2

Again Shez got an amazing start along with the holeshot. Chris was a little more nervous this time around and lost 1 or 2 positions at the start and by lap

5 he went straight from 6<sup>th</sup> position into 3<sup>rd</sup> as he blew away Portman, Moodley and Gildenhuis. The second race was extremely exciting as Seller chased Shez all the way and throughout the whole of race 2. Seller actually past Shez with 3 laps to go, but it never lasted long, as Shez decided to hook up his gears and past him on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last lap and opened up 0.6 of a second to the line.

## Wrap Up

Kawasaki must be wondering what has hit them as a manufacturer.

Two race meetings so far and this is what has been achieved:

- Two Double Wins
- Break lap record at Kyalami twice in last two laps
- Two podiums for its premier class Rookie rider
- Both riders smash the lap record in both heats at Killarney (missed out by 2 1000<sup>th</sup> of a second to Clinton Sellar – Well Done mate)
- Number 1 rider sets best pole position time at Killarney – ever
- Number 2 rider wins Driver/Rider trophy for his efforts
- Both riders fill the front row for both heats at Killarney

What a weekend with another double win for Shez and two 3<sup>rd</sup>'s for Chris on only his 2<sup>nd</sup> race on the 1000 cc Superbike. Chris also received the Rider/Driver of the day for this achievement.

Well done to the whole Team for the hard work and passion to win.

**Green** is now officially the new **Pink** in Cape Town and we are striving to do the same in P.E. at the end of April.

Team Kawasaki Racing wishes to thank all the people involved making the weekend special and eventful including all the sponsors.

## What's next

Well the satellite team for the ZX10 Masters Cup competed by Gilbert and Andy Parsons have some pretty big shoes to fill on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

This is when the next race will be held at Kyalami race track.

The Team wishes them well for the day.

The factory race team will now be resting their weary bones in preparation for the next race which is to be held at the quaint seaside resort (meant circuit) of Port Elizabeth.

This is to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and we all hope to see you there.

Don't miss it as we have a feeling in our nether-regions that lap records and wins may be on the cards.

*Adelène Kritzinger*

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