



# EMTEK KAWASAKI RACE REPORT

[For immediate release 17/03/2009](#)

## Race Report – Aldo Scribante 07/03/2009

### DIFFICULT START TO 2009

Team EmTek Racing started its preparations for the Championship extremely late this year and in the end it is all down to the current economic meltdown that has occurred worldwide.

As the current Championship contending team with the # 1 rider on board it has become almost impossible to obtain the lucrative sponsorship needed to run the team efficiently. The team has managed to secure many product sponsors but none that are able to commit cash for the operational expenses such as salaries and wages, travel and accommodation.

EmTek Racing managed to secure an initial sponsor and we wish to welcome **Kings Transport** on board as a primary sponsor. However due to the current business pressures they have had to reduce their commitment to us, which means that the team will find it a lot more difficult to achieve the desired results.

But not withstanding these obstacles the Team arrived in PE ready to start the process of setting up and getting ready for the weekend. Unfortunately there was a bit of confusion when EmTek requested a “full” lock up pit and the # 1 & 2 riders for the team were forced to pit with some of our ex-riders – creating a bit of unnecessary tension.

Fortunately EmTek was able to secure a second lock up pit leaving the geriatric riders Gilbert and Andy to take pit #7. This was not a problem as it all turned out for the best at the end of the weekend.



Finally, before we head off into the main report, a quick word about the travelling to PE. This is an arduous journey to say the least and the road is being constantly worked on – meaning that there were a number of major accidents (trucks having head on collisions, jack knifing etc and bakkies rolling off the side of the road). This journey has become extremely dangerous and hazardous and one that I do not wish to undertake in a rush again.

Unfortunately some bad luck befell one of our competitors (Yamaha Factory Team), and their imported trailer was badly damaged when a driver of a dilapidated bakkie decided to fall asleep at 11:00pm just before some roadworks outside Colesberg (with 5 children sitting on the back), he managed to swerve and roll his bakkie crashing **into** the trailer causing serious damage. The driver, Leon Van Gent was fortunately unhurt, but some of the children were hurt by the accident. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope that the next away trip is uneventful.

We were blessed however with good weather for a change except for the traditional wind that is notorious in PE.



*EmTek Racing pit setup –Shez's bike in the shabby pit # 2*

## 1000CC SUPERBIKES

### FRIDAY FREE PRACTISE 1000CC SUPERBIKES

The Friday session saw a game of seesaw between P1 to P10. Shez unusually could not stamp his authority on the weekend due to a front end problem with the bike. Surprisingly it was Clinton and Shaun who proved their determination by

topping the timing sheet, with Shez in second place. Robbie got off to a good start in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

### **PRACTICE SESSION 1**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:01.248	5	141.066			9
Yamaha R1, 21227								
2	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:01.689	5	140.057	0.441	0.441	9
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
3	5	Yamaha S.Whyte	1:02.026	6	139.296	0.778	0.337	6
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
4	34	Honda G.Guildenhius	1:02.036	7	139.274	0.788	0.010	7
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda, Per								
5	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	1:02.209	6	138.887	0.961	0.173	9
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								

The session was used to determine the setup of the bike and ensure that the correct tyre compound was in place. At the time the team was extremely happy with the events of the session including Shez. Robbie managed to move up to 4<sup>th</sup> place ahead of the young Yamaha Factory rider Chris Leeson (who was debuting the new Big Bang Yamaha R1).

### **PRACTICE SESSION 2**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:02.108	3	139.113			9
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:02.224	5	138.853	0.116	0.116	8
Yamaha R1, 21227								
3	34	Honda G.Guildenhius	1:02.369	3	138.530	0.261	0.145	8
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda, Per								
4	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	1:02.498	4	138.244	0.390	0.129	8
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
5	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	1:02.558	9	138.112	0.450	0.060	9
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								

The third and fourth free practice saw the situation resume back to Shez 1<sup>st</sup> and Chris Jnr 2<sup>nd</sup> and Shaun in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Robbie was a disappointing 7<sup>th</sup> in this sessions. This is exactly what the team had been working on for the riders to ensure that they were all ready and prepared for their qualifying sessions.

### **FREE PRACTISE SESSION 3 & 4**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:02.185	5	138.940			14
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	1:02.344	6	138.586	0.159	0.159	13
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								
3	5	Yamaha S.Whyte	1:02.383	10	138.499	0.198	0.039	10
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								

### **QUALIFYING**

All competitors woke up to a beautiful and crystal clear morning for qualifying. This bode well for the team and all our focus and attention was to ensure that our riders got on the front row. And that is exactly what the team managed for both Heats 1 & 2. Both riders qualified close to the lap record.

### **QUALIFYING SESSION**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:00.993	4	141.656			5
Yamaha R1, 21227								
2	5	Yamaha S.Whyte	1:01.241	6	141.082	0.248	0.248	6
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
3	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	1:01.283	3	140.985	0.290	0.042	6
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
4	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:01.309	3	140.925	0.316	0.026	6
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								

The team was elated with the front row but as is the usual with motorcycle racers, this was just not good enough. Shez wanted pole position.

### **RACES**

#### **PE RACE 1**

Shez had a dismal start and managed to ensure that his 2<sup>nd</sup> qualifying position was not for nought. By contrast Robbie had a blinding start and managed to pop himself into the leading bunch coming out of turn 2. This caught many of the riders by surprise and each competitor had to pull out all the stops to try and catch Robbie. Unfortunately the lead was held by Sellar for the first couple of laps and closely followed by Shez when he missed a brake marker and started pushing the bike wide at a number of turns (jumping from the 600cc to the 1000cc did not help matters either). It seemed as if the front end of the bike was not working correctly

as per the original setups. This slipped him all the way down to at least a second behind Sellar which is the way the race ended. Unfortunately having ridden at 110% he just could not hold onto Sellars coat tails.

So Race 1 for the opening round saw a new rider take the chequered flag other than Shez. Robbie in the mean time had managed to maintain his position and finish a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> position ahead of Greg Gildenhuys and Chris Leeson.



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*Shez trying in vain to keep the front end down on the powerful ZX10R*

### RACE 1 FINAL RESULTS

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
1	61	Yamaha C. Seller	12	12:25.126		1:01.170	3	141.246
Yamaha R1, 21227								
2	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	12	12:26.528	1.402	1:01.418	3	140.675
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
3	5	Yamaha S.Whyte	12	12:26.778	1.652	1:01.271	3	141.013
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
4	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	12	12:33.084	7.958	1:01.755	4	139.908
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
5	34	Honda G.Guildenhius	12	12:33.520	8.394	1:02.102	2	139.126

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda, Per								
6	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	12	12:33.638	8.512	1:01.937	11	139.497
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								

## **PE RACE 2**

This was supposed to be Shez's comeback for his team, supporters and sponsors but it was not to be. Everybody was looking forward to this race in anticipation as this is the one Shez wanted to win to secure his title of Mr Consistency – in style.

Unfortunately Shez had a dreadful start and again found himself down in around 4<sup>th</sup> place when he was pushing hard to get back onto the tailpiece of Clinton Sellar.

As each lap went by Shez was closing in on the powerful new Yamaha which had tremendous torque out of the corners but lacked a bit in the top speed department. Shez was lining Clint up with two laps to go when a backmarker (ie neither Gilbert nor Andy got in the way), managed to wedge himself in between the two riders thus baulking Shez's chance to get the extra drive out of the final corner onto the main straightaway.

This gave Clinton the second win for the day and the double.


This is a well deserved win and one that has been coming for some time.

Robbie managed to bring his bike home in 7<sup>th</sup> place but was having a titanic battle with the bike especially into the right hander turns. It turns out that the exhaust hanger was too long and the actual exhaust pipe was scraping through the turns on the ground thereby upsetting the handling and not allowing Robbie to apex properly.

Robbie is however feeling very confident on the bike and is raring to get to Kyalami to show that he is a force to be reckoned with on his new Kawasaki.

## **RACE 2 FINAL RESULTS**

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
1	61	Yamaha C. Sellar	12	12:31.379		1:01.871	5	139.645
Yamaha R1, 21227								
2	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	12	12:31.509	0.130	1:01.822	6	139.756
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
3	5	Yamaha S.Whyte	12	12:35.771	4.392	1:01.845	5	139.704
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
4	77	Kawasaki D.Hellyer	12	12:36.874	5.495	1:02.228	5	138.844
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 32638, ARATA KAWASAKI								

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
5	34	Honda G.Guildenhius	12	12:37.053	5.674	1:02.364	3	138.541
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda, Per								
6	38	 Honda L.Isaacs	12	12:38.396	7.017	1:02.463	4	138.322
Honda, 4177, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
7	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	12	12:38.685	7.306	1:02.226	4	138.849
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
8	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	12	12:38.811	7.432	1:02.468	7	138.311
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								

This brought to an end a fairy tale period whereby Shez had managed to win almost all the races that he started. This by no means shows that he will take this lying down. The team will hold a strategy session to determine what went wrong and we will simply have to regroup and ensure that we make right at Kyalami.

The team does believe that the fraught nature of not having had a sponsor on board literally up until a week before the race had a major impact on our physical and psychological preparedness for this opening round couple to the fact that the long and challenging drive to PE did not make it any easier on the two riders.

Both the EmTek riders wish to thank the efforts of the members of the Team including Ricky Morais, Ryan as well as all those who made the effort to support the riders and make their race day as comfortable and pleasing as possible.

They also wish to send a **HUGE THANK YOU** to the Teams **sponsors** without whom none of this would have been possible.

Our primary and major sponsors at the time of writing are:

- **Kawasaki SA**
- **Kings Transport**
- **Full Throttle**
- **ccGallery**
- Interac
- iAdapt

## SUPERSPORT 600CC PE RACE

This weekend saw Shez take to the track on the newly launched Kawasaki ZX6R which is reputed to be the new “king” of the brat pack brigade.

For 2009 Shez will be campaigning the in the Supersport Championship at the same time as the premier class Superbike Championship and this was round #1.

Even though we only got the bike literally a couple of weeks before the first race (ie the previous week we tested the bike at PE in road trim as there were no race fairings available), Shez dominated the class from the outset.

## FREE PRACTISE 1, 2, & 3 COMBINED

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	32	Kawasaki S. Morais	1:03.502	11	136.059			13
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	23	Yamaha D.White	1:03.587	7	135.877	0.085	0.085	19
Yamaha, 21659, J.W Alliminium								
3	30	E.Alberts	1:03.610	6	135.828	0.108	0.023	12
4	81	Honda J.Egan	1:04.475	6	134.005	0.973	0.865	17
Honda CBR 600 RR, 7862, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA, Per								

From the table above it should be noted that the times are not exactly close to the lap record time set last year and this is due to the fact that the 600cc Supersport class was restricted to using Pirelli tyres as a result of a desperate shortage of Dunlops. The Dunlops were therefore restricted to the Superbike class for the first race.

On the issue of tyres there is a massive shortage of tyres from all the current importers which is causing some undesirable unsportsmanship like behaviour from some of the teams and competitors – including a team that simply ordered 32 sets of tyres thereby compromising the other competitors in receiving some stock for the race. What this has done is upset the Technical committee at MSA and a revised strategy surrounding tyres will be put into place by Kyalami thereby ensuring that ALL competitors get an equal opportunity to get tyres.

What these teams tend to forget is that the minute “**a set of tyres**” is not FREELY AVAILABLE TO ALL COMPETITORS, then those tyres are illegal. This is an extract from the MSA bible called the White Book or GCR Rules.

So for those teams sitting with 32 sets of tyres it may be best to off load some of them to other teams so that the tyres are deemed to be freely available.

## QUALIFYING

Qualifying saw Shez put his Kawasaki on pole for his first and second heat of the day. He was a bit sad that he could get to the lap record but this was all done to the tyre combination of the day.

### QUALIFYING 600CC

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	32	Kawasaki S. Morais	1:03.191	4	136.728			4
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	89	Honda J.Peskens	1:03.323	4	136.443	0.132	0.132	5
Honda CBR 600 RR, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
3	23	Yamaha D.White	1:03.451	4	136.168	0.260	0.128	4
Yamaha, 21659, J.W Alliminium								
4	30	Honda E.Alberts	1:03.629	3	135.787	0.438	0.178	3
Honda CBR 600 RR								

As may be noted by the number of laps tyre preservation was the order of the day.

## RACES

### PE RACE 1 SUPERSPORT

The race got underway with Dylan White getting off the line like a scolded cat. By turn 1 Shez was lying 3<sup>rd</sup> and making his way back up through the pack. By lap 3 it was the front two runners that were leading by some margin. Dylan managed to creep ahead of Shez on a couple of occasions and he managed to push Shez very hard right up until the finish line.

There was a fraction of a second difference between the two but Shez managed to hold onto his first place and get the win. His experience and race craft saw him through to the line.

### FINAL RESULTS RACE 1

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
1	32	Kawasaki S. Morais	12	12:52.405		1:03.326	3	136.437
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	23	Yamaha D.White	12	12:52.560	0.155	1:03.298	6	136.497
Yamaha, 21659, J.W Alliminium								
3	30	Honda E.Alberts	12	12:57.026	4.621	1:03.830	3	135.360
Honda CBR 600 RR								
4	89	Honda J.Peskens	12	12:57.191	4.786	1:03.888	4	135.237
Honda CBR 600 RR, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								



*Team EmTek Kawasaki Sheridan Morais on #32 ZX6 chased by Dylan White*

### **PE RACE 2 SUPERSPORT**

The second heat saw the situation resume back to normal for Shez and he managed to get into the lead by turn 1.

After that there was no turning back. Shez won from pole position and secured a double for Kawasaki and his team. Again his experience in being able to run on well worn Pirelli tyres helped him through the race.

This was a fantastic effort (albeit very tough jumping from one class bike straight onto another without some much as a break), means that he is in for a tough year.

### **FINAL RESULTS RACE 2**

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
1	32	Kawasaki S. Morais	12	12:57.556		1:04.092	11	134.806
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	23	Yamaha D.White	12	12:59.711	2.155	1:04.152	7	134.680
Yamaha, 21659, J.W Alliminium								
3	30	Honda E.Alberts	12	13:02.243	4.687	1:04.089	5	134.813
Honda CBR 600 RR								
4	44	Suzuki S.Odendaal	12	13:02.815	5.259	1:04.484	4	133.987

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
Suzuki GSXR 600, 10116								



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*Shez showing what a 600cc Kawasaki can do if you know how!!!*

Part of the excitement for the day also saw a great effort by the riders to put on a professional show for the sponsors.

## GERIATRICS RACE

Part of the excitement for the weekend also saw two of the new team members participate in the Veterans Class on Kawasaki ZX10's. Andy is on a brand new bike for 2009 and Gilbert is on the spare bike from the Team from last year.

## QUALIFYING AND RACE 1 & 2

After some difficulty in practise (we used only second hand tyres to practise the whole of Friday on), we both had our first new set of Dunlops to race with.

To put all of this into perspective the following can be mentioned:

- This was both our very first race at National level (nerves were playing havoc with our digestive systems)
- This was our very first time at the Aldo Scribante Race track in PE
- Our very first encounter riding on Dunlop tyres (being ZX10 Masters Cup refugees)
- We had endured an arduous trip down with our trailer door flinging open at 120 km/h.

Not an easy task at all at one of the most technical and shortest tracks on the calendar.

We did however persevere and did not do ourselves and injustice. Both our primary concern was that if (actually more along the lines of when) we get lapped we did not want to be the proverbial fly in the ointment and get into the leaders way going for wins.

So we survived the ordeal and even though we both finished in the last few positions our times had improved dramatically since the first session on the Friday morning and that was one of our goals – to better ourselves.

Gilbert finished with a solitary point (his first in Nationals and one that he will bank), and Andy finished just outside the points. Gilbert did not finish the second race due to some technical problems but we are sure that the bike will be ready for the next race at Kyalami.

All in all it was a great weekend and one that I will miss in the future.

**A personal thank you to Mr. Chris Speight for giving Andy the opportunity of riding a really great bike.**

A BIG thanks to Chris Snr and Leon with their help with our generator.

## **CANDID PHOTOS**

The weekend started off on a somewhat sour note for one of the Race Nations Honda riders when Brad Stark in the very first Friday session after 4 laps was unceremoniously hit from behind by Dane Hellyer on his brand new Kawasaki ZX10. Both bikes caught alight and were reduced to rubble within the space of 5 minutes.

This put an end to Brads weekend straight away as he does not have a spare bike and he also sustained serious concussion along with other bits that were injured.



***Brads brand new Race Nation Honda looking sorry for itself***

We do however think if it came down to a competition as to whose bike was the most damaged then Dane wins it by a country mile.

There was not a component that was salvageable at all on this bike and it was a complete write off.

You be the judge of the following pictures:



***One slightly used ZX10 used by old lady to church on Sundays only***



*A spare tyre and fried tank for anyone??*

The Teams bikes were of the most professionally prepared bikes on the grid and all the riders can feel proud to swing a leg over onto the ultra clean bikes and this is where Ryan August and his appies are praised – not once did a bike ever go onto the track looking tatty, dirty or un-presentable (in fact some of the world superbike teams could learn a lesson or two from EmTek).

Team EmTek Racing wished to thank Ricky for all the hard work, effort and skill that has been given to the team and riders in order for them to achieve what they have. This effort and passion is – **PRICELESS**.

Also a huge thanks to the other members of the team who have put in untold numbers of hours in preparing and ensuring that the bikes were always in top condition.

They are:

- Ricky Morais – team leader and race technician
- Ryan August – team mechanic
- Appies – Bradley, Kyle and Justin
- Andy Parsons – team treasurer
- Michelle Morais – team admin and travel expert (and visa specialist as well as manageress of being able to have flights and tickets changed 20 times)
- EmTek Racing – all the other members of the bike shop that helped after hours

Issued by:

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*Gilbert Parsons*

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**Photos courtesy of Keino Davie at [k@snaps.co.za](mailto:k@snaps.co.za)**

**Please diarise Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March Kyalami for the next round of the National Series with Team EmTek Kawasaki Racing.**