



EMTEK KAWASAKI RACE REPORT

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Race Report – Phakisa 09/08/2008

There is a saying from Confucius that says “you can’t win them ALL”. Quite prophetic but also true – unfortunately.

Team Kawasaki EmTek Racing had tried to achieve this near impossible feat but alas to no avail. The Phakisa round was a weekend to forget in our otherwise fairytale pursuit of the championship.

Friday Practice

The Friday practice session was particularly difficult for both our riders as we encountered some technical difficulties. Shez started the day out on fresh rubber but after 3 laps discovered that the front tyre was “out-of-round”. This is when the tyre is not 100% round and has a slight deformity in the circumference which also alters the way the front end feels (and Phakisa is a very flowing front end track). To compound the issue for Shez, the rules forbade him to change to another new tyre and he had to resort to using a second-hand tyre from fellow a competitor.

To make matters even worse still young Christopher landed up with technical difficulties with the oil pressure pipe blowing off and spewing oil into the air box which eventually made its way onto the back tyre. As anyone that races can tell you oil in a rear tyre does not bode well for fast riding.

Fortunately young Chris had the sense to notice the oil on his boots and then he pulled in to the pits. Ricky repaired this faulty pipe but more on this later.

So at the end of the day Shez was second for the day and Chris was 5th.



Saturday Race Day

After the tyre ordeal the team race technician managed to swop out our older tyres for new fresh rubber and Shez was feeling a lot more comfortable.

Qualifying did not go quite according to plan but at least he qualified 2nd for both heats. As for young Christopher his qualifying was a disaster. The previous days' gremlin crept back into the bike only to have him do 1 lap and come in with oil all over his boot again. Unfortunately the problem was not able to be rectified before the end of qualifying and he landed up stone last at the back of the grid.

Race 1

Chris woes continued as even before the lights had turned off he was penalized for a jump start (it is generally unusual that the judges of fact, Clerk of the Course and technical consultant all watch the very last rider on the grid as opposed to the front two rows where problems typically occur). At the time when the CoC announced that Chris had a jump start we thought it was a joke as he did not even move his tyre until the front row had pulled off. It turned out NOT to be a joke.

During the race Sheridan got into the lead with Clinton Sellar very close in tow and he had to fight hard for the race 1 win. On the other hand Christopher had to put the hammer down and came from 15th and made his way to finish 5th on the track. However he was bumped down to 9th position as a result of the alleged "jump start". It was very disheartening for him as he rode his heart out only to be penalized for nothing.

Race 2

Again this race did not go according to plan. Shez and Clinton broke away from the rest of the field from the 2nd lap and basically had their own race with 3rd onwards attending another race meeting. Both Shez and Clinton are in a league of their own and put on a fantastic show.

On the very last lap they overtook each other no less than 5 times at different corners and it was at the second last corner they got themselves tangled up a bit with Shez landing up in the (loads) of oil that was spilt by the Wesbank V8's. Shez had no traction whatsoever and the rear tyre basically just spun up with each blip of the throttle. This gave Clint the opportunity to get drive out of the corner and he went through the oil upright and he managed to pass Shez going into the last corner and thereby winning the heat. It was an absolutely awesome display of brilliant riding by both riders and each one deserved the won on the day.

As for young Chris, the second heat went a lot better, as the officials had decided he had learnt his "lesson" and would not jump start again. They then focused on the front rows as they were supposed to.

Having started from 15th again Chris rode the wheels of his Kawasaki and managed to set his own personal best lap at Phakisa being a 1:37,977 lap time. In fact there were only **3 riders** that managed to ride in the 37's and they were Clint, Shez and Christopher. So at the end of the day he managed to come in 6th for Heat 2.

Shez ended the day as overall winner, Clinton second and Arushan Moodley. Chris ended up 6th overall for the day.

Clinton Sellar also managed to secure the fastest ever lap time recorded at Phakisa in a National series with a 1:36,907. Very well done and congratulations from the members of Team EmTek Kawasaki Racing.

With this disastrous weekend behind us the team has regrouped to see what went wrong and put behind us the problems encountered. The team now looks forward to the next round which is going to be a bit of a downer as Sheridan may be competing at Donington Park on the same day as this race.

See you at Zwartkops (and Donington Park) on the 6th and 7th September 2008

We wish Shez all the luck in the world that he is able to step up to the number 1 plate.

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