

EMTEK KAWASAKI RACE REPORT

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Race Report – Port Elizabeth 04/10/2008

WELCOME BACK SHEZ

Port Elizabeth was the first round that Shez was to contest in, after his somewhat difficult weekend at a very soggy (really) Donington Park. In fact that round of the World Superbikes produced no less than 75 crashes – on the Friday alone.

So PE was always going to be interesting with some of the other competitors coming off a high.

However the PE track is one that is fairly technical but enormously spectacular with some very fast corners and a daunting straight – in fact this scribe has ridden a ZX10 here during testing and I literally feared Turn 1.

There is however one small drawback to this picturesque race track and that is the traditional Eastern Cape **WIND**. When the team arrived on the Thursday to set up the pits the wind started howling at 3pm and by 7pm was blustering at 45km/h (which is faster than some of the scooters that rip through the city), and it was icy cold. The teams pits were immaculately setup (again) and reflects the level of professionalism that exists within the team – nothing was left to half measures.



EmTek Racing pit setup

For the PE weekend the new Kawasaki entrant Benjamin Du Plessis was invited to join the EmTek pits, as they too have a high level of professionalism in their whole approach to National racing and this is their first year in National Superbike racing. The team is managed by the Moto Uno team and Milè Radovanovich and is sponsored by Prime Press in Namibia.



The Prime Press sponsored team pits

Young Benjamin started off the weekend working out which way the track went as it was his first foray to this blindingly fast track and over the next two days really got his head down and managed to finish just outside of the top 10 – at a National event. His times were exceptionally good with a best lap of 1:04,706.

Well down young Benji.

Our attention and focus soon turned to the issue of setting up the bikes in preparation for the free practise session on Friday. The team was fortunate enough to have had a base setup from the race held there in May and then tweak the setup for the conditions. There was a lot of speculation (including BBC weather and SABC weather) that rain was forecast for the weekend but fortunately the gods did take pity on us and said the wind was bad enough so we will hold off the rain.

The team was also hoping to have a much better weekend for young Christopher who had lost a lot of ground during the Phakisa weekend and he was chomping at the bits to make up positions.

Friday Free Practice

The Friday session saw a game of seesaw between P2 to P10. Shez immediately stamped his authority on the weekend by slicing into the 1:02 laps consistently at the top of the leader board. The session was used to determine the setup of the bike and ensure that the correct tyre compound was in place.

Current champion Arushan was second and Chris Jnr was 5th (only 6/10th off of Shez's time). However CJ's bike was not behaving as it should and some changes were made to the rear shock.

Session 2 and 3 saw Shez still leading the timing sheets but CJ had climbed up to a credible 3rd for the day. Things were looking good for the team.

The most dramatic improvement of the day came from Greg Geldenhuys who came in 2nd for session two and three.

Qualifying

Qualifying on Saturday morning had the team pretty happy with an all front row for the two riders, with Shez easily under the lap record with a final time of 1:00,736. Christopher qualified 4th and was also under lap record and was 9 tenths off Shez.

Race 1

Race 1 saw Shaun Whyte grab the holeshot at least until turn 1 of lap 2. The reason being that Shez wanted to get his eye in as he was setting himself up not just for the win but he was determined to try and get under the magical 1 minute mark in a race (can you imagine the race craft to focus on one thing whilst still hammering in the laps to lead the race). Cazz had a bit of a difficult start and found himself in 7th or 8th (he truly likes to give himself hard work

and challenges with his starts). When the field came around to complete lap 2 of 12 Shez blew past the immaculate Yamaha of Shaun and went on to lead the rest of the race and take the win by some margin (ie 3 seconds). However second position went to none other than Clinton Sellar.

Chris had a slightly more exciting race on his hands after getting a poor start and pulled a (now mandatory) great pass at the end of the pit straight on not 1 but 2 of the top national riders at the same time. He then set out to stalk the #34 Honda of Greg Geldenhuys for 3rd place, but unfortunately he ran out of laps and he managed to close Greg down but ran out of time to snatch 4th from him.

So a hard fought 5th for Chris was banked for Heat 1 and a fantastic **win** for Shez.

Race 2

Race 2 saw the all the whole front row fly off the start line like scolded cats and this time Shez took the holeshot with Shaun 2nd and Cazz 4th.

The rest of the race was basically run (literally) separately. Shez was in the lead by some margin (however he did have a HUGE scary moment when in lap 1 he nearly planted himself into the bushes as a result of the program changes and he had cold tyres). His focus was again to try and break the sub minute mark and tried for 3 laps in a row and yet he managed to break the lap record and win by 3 seconds (he did however manage to cook his tyres good and solid trying this feat).

Shez took the lap record for PE and is now a 1:00,960 – oh so close and yet so far. So it is lap records for 3 out of the 6 race circuits for Shez.

Young Cazz had a much better start to race 2 and consistently put in fast laps (ie also under the lap record) to finally take a well earned 3rd place. Cazz managed to bank some very valuable (27) points and came in 4th overall for the day. He is currently lying in 4th place in Championship with only a 15 point deficit to Arushan Moodley (and this is his first year in the premier class – which somebody forgot to tell him).

The results reflected a lot of commitment from the team which was a fantastic end to the weekend.

The EmTek riders wish to thank the efforts of the members of the Team including Ricky Morais, Ryan and Leon as well as all those who made the journey to support the riders.

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

Candid Gallery

The roving EmTek Racing press team were in attendance and managed to capture some “interesting” pictures of the weekend.



Sheridan explaining that a sub minute lap is actually NOT possible on a windy day – Ryan the Lion agrees



*Our Team technician Tricky Ricky caught blatantly with the opposition energy drink – which he needed after suicide Tequila's the night before.
X-ergy rocks*

The ultra tricky Kyalami round sees Shez with a healthy 53 point lead over Clinton Sellar but at no point can he let down his guard. Cazz is only 15 points shy of third. The team look forward to giving 100% again for (a hopefully) 1 and 2!

One of the undocumented feats of the weekend was that there were very few minor offtrack excursions and one minor crash for the whole weekend. Well done guys.

PE is still keen on running a night race ala Motogp and we do think that it would be spectacular, however the riders safety must be the primary

consideration as well as some full on testing in night time conditions. This will prepare the riders for what to expect and hopefully this can be achieved next year.

A brief look at the standings is highlighted below:

EmTek Racing

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2008

NAT SUPERBIKE

Place	Name	No	TOTAL	Behind	
				Leader	Next
1	Sheridan Morais	32	340	0	0
2	Clinton Sellar	61	287	53	53
3	Arushen Moodley	1	220	120	67
4	Christopher Leeson	99	205	135	15
5	Gregory Gildenhuis	34	176	164	29
6	Shaun Whyte	2	176	164	0
7	Robert Portman	86	143	197	33
8	Trevor Crookes	3	128	212	15
9	Tertius de Lange	69	121	219	7
10	Bradley Stark	15	119	221	2
11	Julian Odendaal	35	86	254	33
12	Benjamin Du Plessis	12	46	294	40
13	Heinrich Rheeder	28	40	300	6
14	Blayne Wilkner	14	39	301	1
15	Wayne Waterson	46	30	310	9
16	Nicolas Grobler	22	27	313	3
17	Duane Scully	74	13	327	14
18	Charles Bezuidenhout	25	8	332	5
19	Marius Nel	36	8	332	0
20	John Krieger	13	5	335	3
21	Rob Cragg	16	5	335	0
22	Lance Isaacs	3	0	340	5
No of Entries in Race			122		

See you all there on the 25th October 2008.

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