

# PRESS RELEASE

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## First Test Report from EmTek Kawasaki Racing Team

Well 2008 has dawned upon us with a vengeance and after the extended and wet Christmas break it was back to work.

**EmTek Racing** and **Kawasaki** have officially sealed their partnership by agreeing to enter in the South African National Championship series as the Kawasaki works team. As a result of this partnership EmTek Racing has committed to bringing the trophy and the championship back to Kawasaki after a period in the wilderness.

As with all forms of motorsport the hard work started immediately after the signing ceremony.

Unfortunately one small setback to the start of the season is the advent of the launch of a brand new version of the ZX10R. The official launch however is only scheduled for mid to end of February when the new bikes arrive in SA. So there will be very little time or development effort spent on these bikes for the opening round of the season. So for the time being Sheridan Morais and Christopher Leeson will be testing the older models getting to know the Kawasaki until the arrival of the new 2008 models.

## First Official Test ZX10R

Part of the initial shakedown session at Midvaal race track it immediately became evident that even the "older" 2007 ZX10 had the potential to be a winner. The primary objective of the session was to get to "feel" how the Kawasaki handled and delivered its power. There was precious little reason for the two top riders in South Africa sitting around waiting for the arrival of the new models. Part of the shake down highlighted the fact that Sheridan was within 0,3 seconds off his best practice times as set with the Suzuki K6

and Ducati 1098S. His time was 1:07 flat. Christopher managed to get within his times of the 600cc and was comfortable in the 1:08 lap times.

Kyalami was then chosen as the next track with which to spend some saddle time aboard the Kawasaki.

Both riders had something to get use to, Sheridan had to get use to the power delivery of the 4 cylinder Japanese bikes after campaigning a full year on the new Ducati 1098S for 2007. Kyalami is the one track in South Africa that highlights the need for good setup data especially as it is a technical track.

Young Christopher, who became National Supersport champion in 2007 on board a 600cc Suzuki had to get use to the power and handling of the awesomely powerful 1000cc Kawasaki also at the Kyalami race circuit. It is a massive jump in horsepower when a rider moves into the premier class and now has to handle 180hp versus 115hp. So the characteristics and riding style has to change along with better throttle control.

The first couple of sessions were missed due to rain and each rider still managed to get four solid and positive sessions in.

There were quite a few other national riders at the track day and both riders were consistently up there in the top 5 positions. Unfortunately there were also a lot of "mobile chicanes": whose talent was outshone by their bikes. Each session was extremely full with 51 riders in Class A. This proved to be a bit of a hindrance for full-on testing.

### Tyres

EmTek Racing have decided to use the Pirelli tyre as the tyre of choice for the year. As is often the case it is tyres that can win or lose a championship. Team Crew Chief Ricky decided that both riders should start off on new rubber to set some bench marks and yet their best lap times were set in the last session of the day, after some 40 laps on SC2 front and rear tyres which is not ideal for a "hot" lap time.

At the end of the day Sheridan managed to do a 1:47:40 and Christopher managed a 1:49:20 and these times are not that much off their best race times (considering the green nature of the wet track and unknown bikes). Part of the test session was to work with different gearing (which therefore also affects the geometry which in turn affects the handling which in turn affects the suspension) - hence the need for testing.

The whole team came back positive from the test with most of the primary objectives been met.

Both the riders are absolutely loving the ZX10R Kawasaki and each time they climb on the bike they manage to go faster.

### Next Test Session

EmTek Racing is scheduled to attend a test session to be held at Phakisa on Saturday 19th January and we will issue an updated test report for that day. Another test planned is for Killarney in the Western Cape scheduled for 3/4th February 2008.

See you there.

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