



# EMTEK KAWASAKI RACE REPORT

[For immediate release 02/04/2009](#)

## Race Report – Kyalami 28/03/2009

### SHERIDAN SEES THE LIGHT

The haloed circuit of Kyalami had just seen the completion of the A1GP, which by all accounts was a resounding success. This can only bode well for the coming World Superbike Championship round to be held here in May 2009.

The South African Superbike racing fraternity has been waiting a long time for this fantastic form of racing to come back to South Africa.

The only sadness to this whole event is that South Africa will again miss the opportunity to put some young and **competitive** talent onto the grid as the financial support is not forthcoming. So the Gauteng Provincial government has committed untold millions of tax payers Rands to underwrite the event and then they fail to assist our riders get onto the grid – and there were plenty of opportunities available from teams overseas.

This is not the end of this story as this team will definitely be looking to seek assistance from within the government to please explain this situation.

### TYRES

The 2009 Championship has started off on a very bumpy path and each week a new challenge is put in front of the competitors who are the actual people that have to go out there week after week and put on a good show. However it seems that the moment they get their act together then there is another “issue” that lets the team down. This time it is the tyre debacle.



At the time of writing it seems that a particular team went out and bought a consignment of 32 sets of tyres (we are not sure if it was Dunlops!), but this action has highlighted the major problem of tyre supply.

So in the interest of fairness (and after consulting the White Book Bible), the MSA Motorcycle Racing Commission has decided to **un-homologate** the much favoured Dunlop tyres. This means that they are ineligible to be used for the rest of the year. Which in turn means that the lap records will stand for this year.

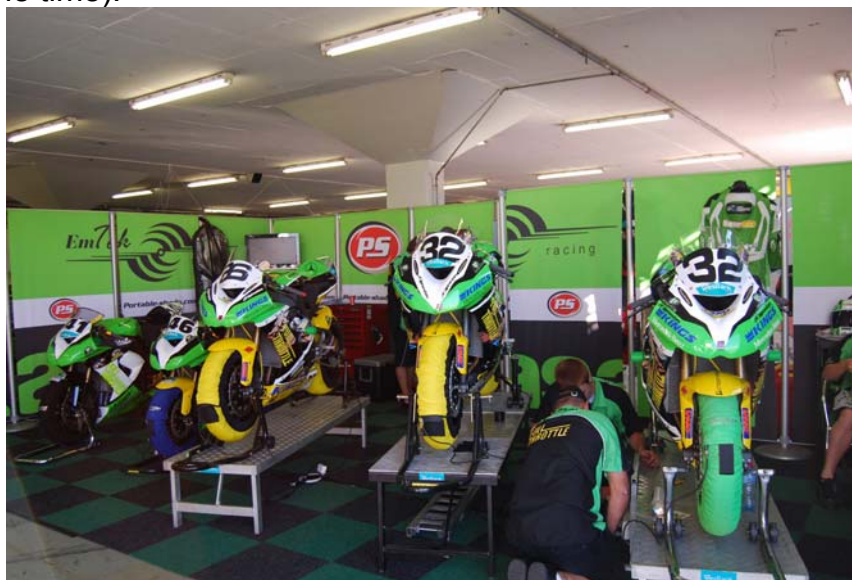
So each rider now has a choice between Pirelli, Metzeler, Bridgestone or Michelin. More about this issue later.

## KYALAMI RACE TRACK

For this round of the Wesbank Super Series and in preparation for the upcoming World Superbikes, the dreaded chicane in turn 11 was altered drastically. The turn now has a tight right hander which opens up and carries on straight to the last corner before the pit straight.

Unfortunately, the tarring of this section was only completed the previous evening, which meant that Friday morning practise was delayed for a while. Shez undertook a track inspection and after a couple of hours it was deemed safe.

The cars however were not allowed to use this new tarred section as they would have caused damage to the still drying tar. The interesting challenge however was to see by how much the lap times would have dropped given this change in the chicane making it a whole lot faster (our initial estimates were 2 seconds a lap but that was overly optimistic at the time).



*EmTek Racing pit setup –finally all the bikes together as a Super Team*

## 1000CC SUPERBIKES

### FRIDAY FREE PRACTICE 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 Robbie Portman who proved their determination by


topping the timing sheet, with Shez in third place. Young Chris Leeson was 4<sup>th</sup> but some 9/10<sup>th</sup> off the leaders.

### PRACTICE SESSION 1

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:44.048	5	147.394			5
			Yamaha R1, 21227					
2	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	1:44.710	5	146.462	0.662	0.662	5
			Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki					
3	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:44.823	7	146.304	0.775	0.113	7
			Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki					
4	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	1:44.971	5	146.097	0.923	0.148	5
			Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha					
5	34	Honda G.Guildenhius	1:45.258	5	145.699	1.210	0.287	5
			Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda					

The session was used to determine the setup of the bike and ensure that the correct tyre compound was in place. Shez put his Kawasaki on the top of the timing sheets with a surprise 2<sup>nd</sup> place going to Lance Isaacs. Robbie had some mechanical maladies with the clutch pack not being what it should be and he was struggling with the gear changes.


### PRACTISE SESSION 2

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:44.438	11	146.843			11
			Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki					
2	38	Honda L.Isaacs	1:44.736	6	146.425	0.298	0.298	10
			Honda, 4177, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA					
3	34	Honda G.Gildenhuys	1:44.780	9	146.364	0.342	0.044	11
			Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda					
4	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:44.792	5	146.347	0.354	0.012	6
			Yamaha R1, 21227					
5	5	 Yamaha S.Whyte	1:45.150	5	145.849	0.712	0.358	7
			Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha					
6	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	1:45.592	3	145.238	1.154	0.442	4
			Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki					

The third free practise saw the situation continue with Lance Isaacs on top and Shez a close 2<sup>nd</sup> with Shaun in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Robbie was a disappointing 8<sup>th</sup> in this session, but unfortunately landed up crashing literally in the dying minutes of the session. This was

not what the team had wanted at this stage. The spare bike was therefore prepared for Robbie to use in qualifying.


### **FREE PRACTISE SESSION 3**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	38	Honda L.Isaacs	1:44.253	3	147.104			8
Honda, 4177, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
2	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:44.514	5	146.736	0.261	0.261	8
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
3	5	 Yamaha S.Whyte	1:44.605	6	146.609	0.352	0.091	6
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
4	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:44.888	5	146.213	0.635	0.283	6
Yamaha R1, 21227								

### **QUALIFYING**

All competitors woke up to a beautiful and crystal clear Saturday morning for qualifying. This boded well for the team and all our focus and attention was to ensure that our riders got on the front row. However for some reason Kyalami has this knack of throwing curve balls and with qualifying being so early in the day the track is literally “green”. This means that the track does not offer up much grip and is a little slippery. Sheridan managed to break the lap record by posting an awesome **1:42,740**, which is a nearly a second better than before – albeit with the change in the track.

### **QUALIFYING SESSION**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	1:42.740	4	149.270			4
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	61	Yamaha C. Seller	1:42.898	2	149.041	0.158	0.158	7
Yamaha R1, 21227								
3	34	Honda G.Gildenhuys	1:43.156	4	148.668	0.416	0.258	5
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda								
4	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	1:43.558	5	148.091	0.818	0.402	5
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								
5	38	Honda L.Isaacs	1:43.611	6	148.015	0.871	0.053	6
Honda, 4177, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
6	5	 Yamaha S.Whyte	1:43.917	4	147.579	1.177	0.306	6
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								

The team was elated with the front row but as is the usual with motorcycle racers, this was just not good enough. Robbie unfortunately had some serious problems with the

spare bike, which turned out to be gearbox related again. So now the spare bike was relegated to the team truck.

## RACES

### KYALAMI RACE 1

Shez had a good start and managed to ensure that his pole position was not for nought. By contrast Robbie had to start from the back of the grid in last place (due to him switching bikes). Robbie had a great start and managed to claw his way up through the field until he caught the faster riders and by then he was feeling a bit exhausted. Fortunately the lead was held by Shez for the first couple of laps and the last couple of laps closely followed by Clinton. It seemed as if the front end of the bike was not working correctly as per the original setups. Robbie managed to hang onto the tailcoats of Chris Leeson and managed to bring his steed home in a creditable 7<sup>th</sup> place.



*Shez in turn 2 at Kyalami on the powerful ZX10R*





IMG\_8801

*Shez coming out of the new Turn 11 at Kyalami*



IMG\_8817

*Robbie with bum out of the seat at the new Turn 11 at Kyalami.*



*Robbie entering Turn 2 in Heat 1.*

### RACE 1 FINAL RESULTS

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
1	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	10	17:22.852		1:43.564	10	148.082
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	61	Yamaha C. Seller	10	17:23.671	0.819	1:43.490	8	148.188
Yamaha R1, 21227								
3	34	Honda G.Gildenhuys	10	17:26.002	3.150	1:43.549	7	148.104
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda								
4	38	Honda L.Isaacs	10	17:26.120	3.268	1:43.805	5	147.739
Honda, 4177, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
5	5	 Yamaha S.Whyte	10	17:30.969	8.117	1:43.822	4	147.714
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
6	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	10	17:31.321	8.469	1:44.038	4	147.408
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								
7	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	10	17:41.315	18.463	1:44.970	9	146.099
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								

Shez made amends by winning the first Heat by nearly a full second and his hope was to repeat this for Heat 2.

## **KYALAMI 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 put his Championship aspirations back on track and – in style.

Again Shez had a good start and again found himself down leading the race and he pushed hard to create a gap to Clinton Sellar. As each lap went by Clinton was closing in on the powerful new Yamaha and he passed Shez with two laps to go. On the last lap Shez was lining Clint up to try to get the extra drive out of the final corner onto the main straightaway. But alas it was not to be. Clint won by a margin of 1,9 hundredths of a second ahead of Shez.

You will notice however that their times were way slower than Heat 1 as well as qualifying (we are not sure but we suspect that it had something to do with the new Pirelli tyres that everybody had to use and the fact that there was no changing of the rear tyre as had happened in the past). The rule change for tyres is that only two sets are allowed for the whole race weekend hence no changing of rear tyres is allowed.

This gave Clinton the win for the heat. Shez still managed to win overall and kept Clinton honest on the points table.

Robbie managed to bring his bike home in 6<sup>th</sup> place but was having a titanic battle with Chris Leeson as well as the bike especially into the right hander turns. It must be remembered that Robbie actually used our Geriatrics team bike of Andy who kindly lent him his bike after Robbie encountered more problems with the spare bike.

Robbie is however feeling very confident on the new bike and is raring to get to Killarney 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. Seller	10	17:38.712		1:44.912	8	146.180
Yamaha R1, 21227								
2	1	Kawasaki S.Morais	10	17:38.731	0.019	1:44.814	8	146.316
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
3	5	 Yamaha S.Whyte	10	17:39.292	0.580	1:44.780	8	146.364
Yamaha, 5121, Team Yamaha								
4	34	Honda G.Gildenhuys	10	17:39.590	0.878	1:44.876	4	146.230
Honda, 21281, Race Nation Honda								
5	99	Yamaha C.Leeson	10	17:39.829	1.117	1:44.868	8	146.241
Yamaha R1, 12693, Team Yamaha								
6	86	Kawasaki R.Portman	10	17:40.941	2.229	1:44.889	8	146.212
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 264, Team Emtek Kawasaki								



Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
7	38	Honda L.Isaacs	10	17:45.839	7.127	1:45.171	3	145.820
Honda, 4177, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								

Both the EmTek riders wish to thank the efforts of the members of the Team including Ricky Morais, Ryan and Kyle as well as all those who made the effort to support the riders and make their race day as comfortable and pleasing as possible. TG Developments is one of the team sponsors for its fuelling and mapping devices called the TFI also seconded one of his top race technicians and Marthiens was a major benefit to the team and his assistance was invaluable.

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

<b>PRIMARY SPONSORS</b>	<b>SECONDARY SPONSORS</b>
• <b>Kawasaki SA</b>	• iAdapt
• <b>Kings Transport</b>	• 2M Trailers
• <b>Full Throttle</b>	• Trojan Panelbeaters
• <b>ccGallery</b>	• Superbike Magazine
•	• Mercedes Benz
•	• Renthal/Regina/DNA
•	• Portable Shade
•	• Bellray
•	• Arai/SBS
•	• Acropovic
•	• Powerbronze
•	• Alpine Star
•	• RST
•	• RBH
•	• TFI

## 600CC SUPERSPORT

This weekend saw Shez take to Kyalami on the newly launched Kawasaki ZX6R to see if he could repeat his double at PE.

This combination of riding the Supersport and then the Superbike immediately after each other is proving to be a bit more difficult than originally thought, and this is primarily due to the intense heat that we have been experiencing of late and the fact that there is no chance of a proper break in between classes – ie a car race in between races to assist in the cooling down process.

But even so Shez started out on the Friday way down in 5<sup>th</sup> position and managed to claw his way back up to the front.

## FRIDAY FREE PRACTICE 1,2 & 3 COMBINED 600CC SUPERSPORT

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	32	Kawasaki S. Morais	1:47.291	7	142.938			7
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	34	 Yamaha R.Quarmby	1:47.725	5	142.362	0.434	0.434	7
Yamaha R6								
3	30	Honda E.Alberts	1:47.975	4	142.033	0.684	0.250	7
Honda CBR 600 RR								
4	89	Honda J.Peskens	1:48.034	6	141.955	0.743	0.059	8
Honda CBR 600 RR, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								

A new entrant to the top of the timing sheets is Ronan Quarmby, who seems to have found some good pace since his Dad's business has become the Title Sponsor for the Motorcycle Racing in Nationals – Interfile.

## QUALIFYING

Qualifying was a real oddball affair, which saw Shez put his Kawasaki in 7<sup>th</sup> position for his first and second heat of the day. What was of concern was that Shez had a ½ a second over his number two in Friday's final practise session. This was weird.

**QUALIFYING 600CC**

Pos	No.	Name	Best time	In lap	Best speed	Diff	Gap	Laps
1	89	Honda J.Peskens	1:46.055	4	144.604			4
Honda CBR 600 RR, 31599, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
2	30	Honda E.Alberts	1:46.088	3	144.559	0.033	0.033	3
Honda CBR 600 RR								
3	2	Kawasaki G.Van Breda	1:46.381	4	144.161	0.326	0.293	4
Kawasaki ZX10 R, 265, Jimmy Scrap Metals								
4	27	Yamaha B.Estment	1:46.592	4	143.876	0.537	0.211	4
Yamaha, 27753, Nashua Mobile: Ym Personal Trainer								
5	34	 Yamaha R.Quarmby	1:46.635	4	143.818	0.580	0.043	4
Yamaha R6								
6	81	Honda J.Egan	1:46.683	2	143.753	0.628	0.048	5
Honda CBR 600 RR, 7862, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
7	32	Kawasaki S. Morais	1:46.722	4	143.700	0.667	0.039	4
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								

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

**RACES****KYALAMI RACE 1 SUPERSPORT**

The race got underway with Dylan White getting off the line like a scolded cat. By turn 1 Shez was lying 5<sup>th</sup> and making his way back up through the pack. By lap 6 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. Shez also set a blistering pace of 1:46,454 which is now the official lap record for Supersports.

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	10	19:15.686		1:46.454	4	144.062
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	23	Yamaha D.White	10	19:15.923	0.237	1:46.483	9	144.023
Yamaha, 21659, J.W Alliminium								
3	44	Suzuki S.Odendaal	10	19:18.458	2.772	1:47.133	4	143.149

Pos	No.	Name	Laps	Total time	Diff	Best time	In lap	Best speed
Suzuki GSXR 600, 10116								
4	89	Honda J.Peskens	10	19:19.419	3.733	1:46.947	4	143.398
Honda CBR 600 RR, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
5	81	Honda J.Egan	10	19:20.072	4.386	1:47.408	4	142.783
Honda CBR 600 RR, 7862, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								



*Team EmTek Kawasaki rider Sheridan Morais on #32 ZX6 lying in 5<sup>th</sup> place on lap 2.*

### **KYALAMI 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	10	18:01.449		1:46.948	7	143.397
Kawasaki ZX6R, 9998, Team Emtek Kawasaki								
2	89	Honda J.Peskens	10	18:01.792	0.343	1:46.508	8	143.989
Honda CBR 600 RR, 31599, PORTABLE SHADE ps HONDA								
3	34	 Yamaha R.Quarmby	10	18:02.243	0.794	1:47.187	8	143.077
Yamaha R6								
4	23	Yamaha D.White	10	18:05.719	4.270	1:47.388	4	142.809
Yamaha, 21659, J.W Alliminium								
5	44	Suzuki S.Odendaal	10	18:11.354	9.905	1:48.316	5	141.586
Suzuki GSXR 600, 10116								

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. Both riders were looking forward to Kyalami to assess whether they have actually learnt anything by participating in Nationals and whether or not they are any quicker.

## QUALIFYING AND RACE 1 & 2

For Kyalami both riders had to switch to the Pirelli tyres for the first time since 2006 (ex BOTTs days). Neither rider was avid fans of these tyres but as this was the same for all riders on the grid we had no choice but to get to "grips" with them.



*The well prepared iAdapt EmTek Racing bikes of Gilbert and Andy Parsons*

This was also only our second outing in Nationals and even more daunting was the Kyalami circuit, which is not exactly top of either riders' favourite circuits. Then the final curve ball thrown our way was the change in the circuit which meant having to learn all new lines for turn 11. As inexperienced riders it was a bit difficult in the beginning to judge the entry speed into turn 11 as there were no markers that could assist you and the exit speed was now much more than before.

We did however persevere and did not do ourselves and injustice.

This scribe qualified on a 1:51,934 in 20<sup>th</sup> position and Andy qualified on a 1:54,512. These times were so far removed from our field of vision and never did we expect to get to those respectable times.



*Gilbert at Turn 2 on his iAdapt Kawasaki ZX10*

Unfortunately Andy did not compete in Heat 1. Being the team player that he is he “gave up” his bike for our #2 rider Robbie Portman whose bike was just not playing the game (gearbox selector problems on the spare bike and a rather sad looking crashed #1 bike).

Gilbert ran well in Heat 1 after his obligatory brilliant start off the line. At one point Gilbert was running as high as 14<sup>th</sup> but his fitness levels (or serious lack thereof) came into play. By the 8<sup>th</sup> lap he had dropped down to 19<sup>th</sup> where he stayed. He did go on to record his best time ever at Kyalami being a **1:51,050** – so close and yet so far from cracking the 50’s.

Andy managed to get onto the grid for Heat 2 (having to start at the very back due to him now using Robbie’s spare bike). Team EmTek Kawasaki was playing bike-a-round with all these bikes. The most fortunate thing for the team is that each and every bike is setup exactly the same just in case this type of thing happens.

For the second Heat Andy did extremely well and had a battle royale with Simon Bezuidenhout and both recorded their best ever times at Kyalami. Andy managed to get into the 1:52,558.

Again as has happened in PE, Gilbert’s bike starting cutting out and spluttering after the 3<sup>rd</sup> lap and in fact became dangerous to ride. In the 5<sup>th</sup> lap Gilbert pulled in and had to watch the proceedings from Parce Ferme. Not a very happy camper at the time.

All in all it was a great weekend and one that I will cherish because of the times we managed to achieve.

## CANDID PHOTO’S

The weekend ended off on a somewhat sour note as unfortunately as there just happened to be a scuffle that broke near Superbike SA boma. This was most unfortunate and hopefully will not happen again.

On a more positive note a HUGE shout out must go to Amy from Superbike SA boma for her fantastic spread she put on for the guests and riders.

It was a fantastic day and everybody complimented her on the professional and well catered for event.



*Some of fantastic fare put on by Amy of Superbike SA*

You be the judge of the following pictures:



*Rob listening to tapes made by his team mate Shez as to how to get through the new Turn 11.....*





*Good team mates make for a good humble team??*

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
- Marthinus – TG Developments team mechanic (on loan)
- Appies – Kyle and Justin
- Gilbert Parsons – team marketing
- 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

**Please diarise Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Killarney for the next round of the National Series with Team EmTek Kawasaki Racing.**

**Come and watch Gilbert and Andy participate in a second series called the Pro-Tour ZX10 Masters Cup at Zwartkops 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009.**

Issued by:

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*Some Photos courtesy of Gilbert, Andy, Kerry the Photographer and IMG*