



EMTEK KAWASAKI TEST REPORT

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Test Report – Aldo Scribante 23/02/2009

WELCOME BACK

After a three month hiatus waiting for new bikes (especially the new Kawasaki ZX600cc), Port Elizabeth was our first official outing and test sessions as the full team.

NEW NEWS

EmTek Racing has secured the services of the highly rated rider **Robert Portman**. Bobby Idol as he is affectionately known, comes to us from the Suzuki stable and has taken to the Kawasaki like the proverbial duck to water.

We welcome Robbie and wish him all the best in his endeavours to win races.

SPONSORS NEWS

The 2009 racing year ahead is one that is going to be very challenging and fraught with complications. One of the primary reasons being the world economic meltdown. Sponsorships at all levels involving all sports is diminishing at an alarming rate and this can be ascribed to the extremely high cost of competing at National level.

So it is always fortuitous that when a sponsor does wish to be associated with the team as a result of our professionalism and results bodes well for the team.

At the time of writing EmTek Racing has secured the following companies and sponsorships:



- Kawasaki SA - supply of motorcycles and technical support
- Full Throttle – supply of tyres and other riders requirements
- ccGallery – assistance with underwriting the operational costs of the team
- iAdapt – management assistance and cash
- 2M Sporttrailers - Cash
- Renthal, Regina, DNA – product support
- Acropovic – supply of exhaust pipes for all riders
- Trojan Panelbeaters – Paintwork and support
- Bellray – Oils and lubricants
- RST Leathers – Protective clothing
- Powerbronze - Screens

At the time of writing a primary sponsor was in the process of being negotiated and EmTek hopes to make an announcement of the company as soon as the contracts have been signed.

TEST SESSION 1 - SUNDAY

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 Sunday morning to set up the pits the day started out sunny and clear, but 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 cool. 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

New to the team for 2009 is Gilbert and Andy Parsons who are ZX10 Cup refugees (however they will still be competing in this class for 2009 as well).

It is fairly daunting to take to the track with the top riders of this country and to mix it with the likes of Shez, Robbie, Clinton and Shaun Whyte as they are the leading riders in the country.

Our attention and focus soon turned to the issue of setting up the bikes in preparation for the practise session on Sunday. 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. Then team was able to hit the ground running by using all the data from the 2008 rounds held at PE.

Unfortunately in this session Robbie was held back by the fact that his bike still had to be run in as it was finished being prepared only hours before the trip down. He started with ZERO km's on the clock and by the end of the day had racked up over 140 laps of the circuit (at a painfully slow time).

This Sunday session was shared with a number of other National teams and riders so it was a good measure to see how far the other riders had advanced during the off season.

By the end of the day the following were the quickest riders:

1. Shez - 1:1,8
2. Chris jnr - 1:1,9
3. Clinton - 1:2,00
4. Shaun - 1:2,20
5. Robbie - 1;2,23
6. Brad - 1:2,47
7. Gilbert - 1:8,7
8. Andy - 1,9,3

TEST SESSION 2 - MONDAY

One of the sponsors of the team, software company iAdapt, had booked out the circuit for the Monday for a private session, to give the riders a bit more setup time. This included the two geriatrics Gilbert and Andy.

As the circuit was for our sole use the pit lane was open for the duration of the day allowing riders free time to go in and out the whole day. The session was used to determine the setup of the bike and ensure that the correct tyre compound and pressures was in place.

All in all a total of more than 200 laps was completed by the two leading riders and their times were totally consistent ensuring that they are able to run at race pace for 15 laps consecutively.

Gilbert and Andy managed to complete at least 5 sessions each running 10 laps so there is still some more work ahead of them if they want to be competitive in Nationals.

Shez currently holds the lap record for PE and is now a 1:00,960 – the sub minute is oh so close and yet so far.

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, Bradley, Kyle and the pit boss Ryan Dean.

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.



It seems as if the Kawasaki fans start at a young age.....



Robbie on his new ZX10 wondering what the hell the reverse gear is for!!!!

At the end of the Monday the team had achieved what it set out to do and that was to ease Robbie into his role as a contender for the top spot on his new Kawasaki and to get Shez familiar with the new 09 model ZX10 as well as getting to grips with the new 2009 ZX6 bike.

The opening round of the Nationals will be held on the 7th March 2009 at the Aldo Scribante Circuit in Port Elizabeth and no-one can wait to get on the grid – or not!!!

See you all there.

Issued by:

PR Dept EmTek Racing

Gilbert Parsons

info@emtekracing.co.za