



Race Report – National 23rd February (Kyalami)

The First National of 2013 was held this past weekend at Kyalami race track in Johannesburg. It was an eventful couple of days with some highs and unfortunately a number of lows. However, it was fantastic to see Yamaha's back on the grid again after an absence of 3 years. Although the team knew it was going to be a challenging weekend they were all keen on putting on a great show and to make sure the rest of the paddock knows that the Yamaha's are back in business and ably supported by a professional team in the form of Emtek Racing under the guidance of Ricky Morais and his team.

Friday Practice: This was the 2nd time the riders had the opportunity of riding on their new bikes which still had a lot of race prep still in progress, but the riders showed a lot of commitment and professionalism and were up to the task. All went well until the last session in the Superbike class where one of the riders (Rob Portman – Bobby Idol) had a huge crash in one of the fastest corners on the circuit and had to be taken to hospital after sustaining serious injuries. He is currently in High Care Unit at Sunninghill Hospital where he is recovering. He sustained a number of broken ribs and has to have a drain inserted to remove the fluid in & around his lungs. The team and all his supporters wish him all the best with his recovery and hope to see him soon again.

The rest of the team made a number of adjustments during the practice session to fine tune their bikes and the technical team worked until late that night to get the best set up out of the bikes for race day.

Race Day: Finally race day had arrived and expectations were high. Qualifying in the 1000cc had Dylan White qualify in a fantastic position of 4th on the grid. Unfortunately in Race 1 he encountered a technical problem and had to enter the pits and could not complete the race. He was very disappointed but accepted it and looked forward to Race 2. Race 2 was very difficult for Dylan as he had to use the spare bike which still was very standard, but finished in a commendable place of 8th.

The Supersport class was a class which the team wanted to show their mettle and after qualifying Dean qualified in 6th position and Janine in 14th. Race 1 was met with mixed feelings as Dean had a fantastic race finishing 4th, only 9 seconds off the leaders, but unfortunately Janine had a crash at the start of the race and was unable to complete Race 1. Race 2 was another good result for Dean who finished 4th again whilst Janine managed to compete in Race 2 after her crash in Race 1, finished in a creditable 12th position.

Overall a topsy turvey day for the team, but are still very positive for the balance of the season. A lot was learnt over this past weekend which will be exceptionally beneficial going forward.

Our thanks to all our fantastic supporters and sponsors, as without them this would not be possible.

Ricky Morais – Technical Director:

From a technical standpoint, the weekend was a great success in terms of measuring up against the opposition. Having said that, I have identified key areas for improvements and will be targeting these over the coming weeks till the next race at Killarney.

The Cross Plane R1's in particular really impressed with their overall pace and ease of set up and congrats must go to the whole team for an outstanding job.

Best wishes to Rob for a speedy recovery.

Dylan White – R1:

Leading up to the 1st race of the year, the nerves and excitement were starting to kick in with the bike looking awesome and the team all kitted out like a true Factory Team, I struggled a bit on the Friday just trying to get into a good rhythm with it only being my 2nd time on the bike so I was really looking forward to Saturday's race. I had an awesome qualifying with the boys giving me a good setup and managed a 4th but unfortunately I didn't have a great start and a bizarre case of brake fade 3laps into the race luckily I could bring the bike back in one piece which meant that was the end of my race 1.

Race 2 we went with the spare bike which was completely standard but still managing to get a cool and calmly 8th and the first points for the Yamaha R1 and myself. Looking really forward to the Cape Town National with some testing coming up we will definitely make sure that we are up in the front pack where I know we can be. Thanks to the boys at Emtex for all the hard work over the past few weeks and Yamaha for giving me an awesome bike to work with and a shout out to all our sponsors. Special thanks to my Dad and everyone that helped get ready for the 1st race of the year!



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

Dean Vos – R6:

I honestly had mixed emotions going into my first race weekend. I was confident in the bike and how it was prepped, however I hadn't ridden at Kyalami since last year and I was really not used to riding the bike. The technical team and I spent most of Friday trying to get the bike setup and with each adjustment in setup was a small improvement on my lap times.

The game plan for qualifying was basically to get two fast laps; I normally do not qualify well because I'm always out on my own, which makes it difficult to ride on race pace.

I managed to qualify 6th for Heat 1 and Heat 2. I was about a second and a half off the fastest qualifying time. I had a good start in race one, I managed to maintain my qualifying position and by the 2nd lap I was up to 5th place. During the 3rd lap I rode into a bit of bad luck and was forced to run wide to avoid being taken out by the rider in 6th place who unfortunately crashed, by this time I had lost the ground I made up and the front group managed to break away. I spent the next few laps

playing catch up and managed to make a move in sunset and got up to 4th place. Although I pulled quite a big gap there wasn't enough time left to catch the front group and I finished 4th. Race two started off and I managed to maintain my position for the first few laps, unfortunately the same rider crashed again but this time the incident occurred in front of me and I was not affected by it. Over the next few laps I was stuck in 5th place. I managed to see a gap where I decided to try make a move but that rider came straight back at me, I was not going to back down and decided to fight for 4th position. The front group managed to get away during this time. I tried my best to catch up to them and close the gap as much as I could, even though I pulled a gap on the rider In 5th place I still couldn't catch up to the front group and again I finished in 4th position. This gave me 4th overall for the day.

The competition for the season is very fierce. The Team and I are still busy developing the race bike and I would really like to thank them all for their hard work and support.



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

Janine Mitchell – R6:

The first race of the season: The race that builds the most excitement and the most amount of nerves amongst everyone!!! First race, well let's just say it wasn't my greatest start to a national season, watching the bike climb higher than what I would have liked as I went off for my start and landing on my bum wasn't the plan, but I guess that's just all part of the learning process again.

The 2nd race was a thousand times better making a much better start. I managed to continue improving on my lap times and finished off on a high note! I started on the grid on 14th position and finished in 12th. I am so proud to be a part of the Yamaha World & Team Emtek!!!! Thanks so much to my Fiancé, my family and my Team!! They always keep me going!!! 😊

Looking forward to the next race in Cape Town, see you all there.

Little Miss #79



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

Thanks to all the wonderful companies & people that make it possible for us to partake in the sport we love:

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