



Race Report – National 6th April (Port Elizabeth)

This past weekend hosted the Super Series at the Windy City of Port Elizabeth. Not sure we had arrived in the right city as the weather was incredible, not a breath of wind to speak about. It fortunately stayed like this for the whole race weekend.

The team was looking forward to racing on the Aldo Scribante circuit after the last race in Cape Town. Unfortunately, one of the riders, Dean Vos was not able to make the trip due to an injury. His place would be taken by Sheridan Morais for the race before his season on the WSBK stage. Rob Portman also made a return after his injury at the first race at Kyalami.

It was a mixed weekend for the team with some unbelievable highlights, with Sheridan winning both his heats and winning 1st Overall for the day in the Supersport class. It was Yamaha's first win in 3 years and proving just how good the Yamaha is. Dylan White rode like a champ despite a few challenges and ended 5th Overall in the Superbike class. Rob Portman unfortunately had a crash in qualifying and despite his bravery was advised not to race even though he so desperately wanted to. Janine Mitchell on her R6 is improving with every race on the bike and managed to improve on her previous race at the circuit and recorded her best time.

Ricky Morais – Technical Director:

After Cape Town we installed the YEC kit harnesses & ECU's on the R6's and with a lot of help & invaluable info from Phil Seton of Seton Tuning in the UK, we got the bikes up to pace very quickly.

The weekend's results show the hard work that everyone has put into making this project successful and coupled with Shez's great feedback we are finding our way. It was awesome to have Rob back but we all missed Dean and hope he will be back soon.

Rob's unfortunate qualifying crash put paid to his chance which was a real pity as he looked really good on Friday's practice. Dylan as always showed his fighting spirit by not giving up in any way and once he is more familiar with the big R1 he is still going surprise everyone.

Janine is finally finding her "MOJO" and is displaying the pace that could make her the fastest lady rider in SA.

Shez has highlighted a few areas that we need to work on for the next round and congrats must go to him for a perfect job this past weekend.

We can't wait for the next round to showcase our awesome Yamaha's and what they are capable of.

Ricky

Dylan White – R1:

Weeks leading up to the PE National I was feeling confident that we were in for a strong result with lots of training and MX done it was just up to how quickly I would adapt to throwing a big 1000cc Superbike around Aldo Scribante for the first time.

We started off pretty good on Friday but as the day went on we started to struggle with the front end but managed to get a comfortable setting in the last session of the day.

Saturday arrived and the weather was turning out to be top notch, qualifying was good as I was in 3rd for most of the session but at the end I ended 5th on the starting grid.

The day was highlighted with the Superbikes having a grid walk before our race and gave us a chance to interact with the fans.

Race1

I had a good start going into 3rd but my run in the top 3 didn't last too long as the more powerful bikes get past me and left me to battle it out for 5th with one of the Kawasaki's and unfortunately I didn't manage to beat him and had to settle for 6th.

Race2

I had another great start but didn't make much headway and found myself once again battling it out for 5th but this time with a BMW. This time I managed to get a 5th position on my Torque Sure Emtex Racing Yamaha.

The team & I know we have some work to do for the next round but we are up for the task!!
Massive thanks to my Dad and the whole team for all the hard work.



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

Rob Portman – R1:

"So my first race back after my big Kyalami crash did not exactly go according to plan. The Friday practise went well considering and I was up to 5th place in the last session. Ricky and the team worked hard finding me a setup that worked and we finally nailed in right at the end of the day. I was really confident heading into Saturday knowing that I could maybe even sneak on the front row. But, my bad luck would continue. I crashed going into turn one on the 2nd lap of qualifying landing on my left side where I was carrying all my rib injuries. Complete rider error, I was just trying too hard and broke a bit too late and ran off the track.

The crash was not that hard and had I not had the injuries I had I would have walked away fine but landing on my already injured ribs just made it worse. I tried to compete in the first race but as I got to the grid I felt like passing out so the team made the decision not to let me ride.

I am so unhappy with my luck so far this season and really hope that in changes soon.

Big thanks to the team for believing in me and for all the support. Hopefully I can be 100% fit for Zwartkops so I can finally put my EmTek Racing Torque Sure Full Throttle Yamaha R1 up where it belongs!"



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

Sheridan Morais – R6:

Well if I can start by saying that this race weekend has been the most fun that I have had in years.

My Team Emtek Yamaha was awesome and from the first session on Friday morning we were quickest and headed in the "fast" direction. The weeks prior to the event were filled with technical improvements after the team had received their factory race ECU's and harnesses for the R6's, after some testing the bikes had made good improvements and this was showing in the lap times that we were putting together.

Qualifying is always exciting but also difficult to get clear laps when everybody is looking for that tow to secure a good grid position. I managed to get in 1 fast lap with less traffic and we got pole position which was really good.

Heat 1 was slipstream city after sitting behind Isaacs for the first 10 laps of the 12 lap race. My plan was to pass him and work on building a good lead whilst setting some fast laps but this was disrupted by yellow flags at turn 1 and turn 6 for the first 10 laps of the race. The moment that the yellow flags dropped I made the pass at turn 1 and managed to reward the Team and Yamaha with their first win for the 2013 season.

Heat 2 was not quite as simple after getting a bad start and having to battle through the field. Isaacs and Peterson had built a good gap and it was crunch time for me to close it up. I got into slipstream with 2 laps to go when Isaacs crashed out and i moved into 2nd spot with 1 less rider to try and pass. I took my gap down the main straightaway and passed Peterson for first, and then I fought to keep him behind me for the last lap and took heat number 2.

A huge thank you to Yamaha & the team for giving me this great opportunity to race and well done to all of my team mates and competitors for their results.

Shez



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

Janine Mitchell – R6:

Our 3rd round of the National Supersport series had arrived and we made the trip to PE. The weather was incredible for this weekend's racing.

Friday's practice was great even though I didn't improve on my previous lap time at PE, my time was only a second off my race time, so I was relatively happy. I managed to get into the 6's and as per usual after 54 laps on the track I managed my fastest time of the day !!!

Saturday morning I got all my ducks in a row and managed to finally break the 6s., but as I went quicker so did everyone else. I managed to qualify 18th on a 1:05:8.

After my qualifying I really put my head down and focused on being with the group. I trusted in my ability and faith and it worked. I finished 14th managing to do my best time of 1:04:9 and was just behind the group catching them every lap. Sadly my 2nd race was not as successful. I made a mistake in lap 2 putting me out for the race.

My Team had a fantastic weekend. Shez, you are amazing. Rob unfortunately not having luck on his side and had to retire for the day due to his injuries. Big thanks to everyone in the Team for always making sure everything is ready for the weekends and most importantly my Fiancé Dan for getting me focused.

Till next time.....

Little Miss79



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

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