



## **Race Report – National 29<sup>th</sup> June (East London)**

Since our last race report sent out we have been very fortunate to welcome two new partners to the team. They are Brother SA – leaders in quality innovative print, imaging and labelling and Hi Tech Mag Repairs – Specialists in mag repairs, refurbishing and polishing. We welcome them both on board and look forward to mutually successful association.

After a fairly lengthy layoff since the previous National held at Zwartkops in May, it was time for the team to take undertake the drive to the coast again. This time we headed off to East London circuit - the oldest track circuit in the country. We had tasted success at Zwartkops and were hoping to replicate that feat again. Well, we went even one better and this time secured a race win in the Supersport class. A fantastic ride from Dean, and in fact a great race from start to finish. The team were ecstatic and bodes well for the future. We also had our share of mishaps, but overall a very successful weekend for the team.

All the riders were fairly apprehensive as the last time they had been down to East London was in 2011. There was a lot of uncertainty whether or not the race would actually take place due to the condition of the track, but we as a team must congratulate everyone on the organising committee in particular the Border Motorsport Club for their excellent efforts in providing all the teams with a fantastic facility on race weekend. The weather we had the whole weekend was superb, despite the prediction of rain which thankfully stayed away.

East London circuit is the fastest circuit in the whole country and very scary and daunting for any rider. Speeds recorded at the circuit on Saturday were in excess of 250km/h for the 600cc class and 290km/h for the 1000cc, so the Yamaha's were being tested to their ultimate.

Our thanks go to all our partners and supporters for their on-going support. The next race takes place in Phakisa – Welkom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

### **Ricky Morais – Technical Director:**

East London race weekend has come and gone, a weekend with highs and lows, starting with Rob blowing a head gasket in the first practice resulting in him racing the spare "standard 600", Janine lobbing the drive chain in the 2nd session due to me experimenting with a light weight chain not recommended for bikes above 500cc and Dean high siding his R6 in the final practice.

Race day resulted in fantastic results for the team with Dean scoring his first win in Nationals after an epic 4 way dice for honours and Dylan beating the factory BMW of Ottens, showing the pace of the awesome R1 is improving with every outing.

We are looking forward to the next round as we have done a 2 day test at Phakisa and gathered some valuable data for this round.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and welcome to Brother SA, Hi Tech Mag Repairs for joining us in this exciting venture.

Cheers Ricky M

### **Rob Portman – R1:**

I experienced a very frustrating weekend in East London. Unfortunately, due to a technical problem experienced on Friday when my R1 blew a head gasket, the team tried to repair the bike, but no luck as we could not find a gasket in time. So, the solution was then to race the Spare Yamaha R6.

Racing the 600 was fun and in both races I had good battles. Really enjoyed the 600!!!

Really disappointed that my R1 broke again but have to try staying positive and getting myself ready for Phakisa. Hopefully lady luck will be on our side.

Bobby Idol - 86



**Pic – Courtesy Motorpics**

### **Dylan White – R1:**

Leading up to East London myself and the team were a little nervous about heading to the fastest track in the country as we knew that the top speed of our Yamaha R1 is not the strongest point of the bike but nonetheless we were very excited to be back racing after the mid-season break and ready to take it to the rest of the competitors!

I was looking forward to Friday practice as I have never been to the East London track on a big 1000cc, and man what a thrill. I had quickly learnt that Ricky Morais and the guys from Emtek Racing have really put in the hours on the bike and worked on getting our top speed close to the other manufacturers which was positive. From the get go we just had to work on getting me up to speed, with the extra horse power and the Yamaha R1's brutal torque I had to change my riding style for this fast track and learn how to ride with the back brake to keep the front wheel down, we managed achieve a good time in at the end of the day which put us 4th in the last session!

Qualifying we tried a different shock as I was still not comfortable with the setup after Friday but went out early morning Saturday and I felt better with settings straight away I was lying 4th most of the session but got pipped at the end leaving me 5th on the grid!

## Race1

I got an awesome start halfway through the lap, not fully experienced with the East London track on how hard you can push on the first lap I lost the tow of the front runners but had 4th place in sight and was pushing to catch up and ended up having to fight off a BMW coming from behind ruining my chances of catching 4th place but the race got red flagged halfway through so I had another chance to catch 4th!

Restart was another good start and I went for 4th but ended up making a mistake and having to fight off another BMW leaving us in 5th place.

## Race 2

I was ready and itching to get going, my start was not so good this time around struggling to keep the front wheel down I lost some time, I was in a battle with Ryan Ottens on his BMW for 5th but made a mistake and had to put my head to catch him again and close down a gap of around 1 second. I managed to close the gap and pass him. In doing this I saw that 4th place was about half a second away so the last lap I pushed as hard as I could but just falling short and had to settle for 5th!

Overall it was a positive weekend for me and the team we have come a long way with the Yamaha R1 and we are starting to make some good progress forward which I am very happy about!

A big shout out has to go to my Dad, our new team sponsor Brother SA, Hi Tech Mag Repairs and Torquesure as well as the boys from Emtek Racing, Yamaha and everybody in the team and my family and friends without any of you this wouldn't be possible Thank you and watch out the podiums are coming!!!!#23



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

## Dean Vos – R6:

Friday practice left me with mixed emotions about the race weekend. I didn't want to push too much in the first session because of the condition of the rubber I was on. I started putting my head down in the second session and managed to get my R6 on top of the timesheet. The third session didn't go as well as the second session did, in fact it saw me giving my team some unwanted extra work after I high-sided on my fastest lap.

As usual the team – jumped to work and made sure that my bike was in tip top shape and ready for qualifying the next morning... – thanks guys.

I struggled a bit during qualifying and only managed to qualify 4<sup>th</sup> – which I was very disappointed about.

### Race 1

The race started off well – I was 2<sup>nd</sup> into the first corner and feeling good. I tried pushing but I felt that my setup wasn't good enough to keep the position. I also found myself making a lot of unnecessary mistakes which allowed Cam and Brent to pull a .5 of a second gap on me; I wasn't able to close in on time and finished the race in 4<sup>th</sup>.

Before the second heat, Ricky Morais – (the BEST setup Guru) made a few adjustments to my bike. After the adjustments – It felt like I was riding a bike built just for me. I felt so comfortable and confident on my R6. I could out drive my competitors out of the slower turns with almost no wheel spin it was awesome!

### Race 2

We lined up on the starting line, I was ready. The lights went out and I hole shotted into the first corner. I lead out the first few laps until Cam got passed me. Lance and Brent also passed me but I wasn't about to give up. I fought hard and managed to get back at all three of them. We continued swapping positions throughout the race. On the final lap, Lance made a move on Cam and ran slightly wide which allowed Cam to stay alongside him on the back straight. I decided to go for maximum drive and I was able to pass both of them into the infield – where I held them off. I expected them to make a move on me into the final turn, so I decided to run a very wide line – this enabled me to get the bike upright and on the gas as hard as I could. I managed to out drag both Cam and Lance to the finish line - winning by the smallest of margins.

This race was the most exciting race for me and was definitely the highlight of my racing career. I am sure that the crowd enjoys the closeness of the racing as much as we as riders do.

I would really just like to thank my team, Emtek Yamaha for everything – you guys are all without a doubt the best team a rider could ever ask for. My personal sponsor Naton Holdings – thank you for all the faith you have in me. To my family – thank you for always supporting me and helping me chase my dream. To all my friends and spectators - I hope you guys enjoyed the race and found it as exciting as I did.

Till the next one – VOS49



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

### **Janine Mitchell – R6:**

It has been 3 years since I have been back to race at East London. We now finally got the opportunity to go race in East London, the fastest track in South Africa. What an incredible track.

Friday's practice didn't go as I hoped, considering we hadn't been there for such a long time, I was really hoping to put some decent laps in on Friday, unfortunately for me my Little Yammy decided she didn't want to do the same. After having to deal with a few mechanical issues we ended Friday off on a positive note, but still not being able to put in the laps.

Saturday - Race day was incredible; I managed to do my best time ever beating my previous best time of 1.3 seconds, which in Race terms is huge. On checking my GPX Pro, I clocked a top speed of 255km/h, just shows you how good the Yamaha R6 is.

After having a great battle I managed to finish 11<sup>th</sup> overall for the weekend. Thank you to my Team who had a Fantastic race weekend, congrats to my Team mate Dean for putting the Yamaha upfront in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race and to all our sponsors who make every Race possible.

I have truly been blessed to be able to do what I love to do... and lastly, I would just like to say thank you to my fiancé who is always there for me as well as my family!

Till next time. Little Miss#79



Pic – Courtesy Motorpics

**A Huge thanks to all the support from our generous partners that make it possible for us to partake in the sport we love:**





**RACE!**

