

**TGR****Team Green Racing**[www.sportbike.com.au](http://www.sportbike.com.au)

## Race Report for Eastern Creek 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> March 2008

We started the year planning to have the 2008 Kawasaki ZX10R primed and ready in the stable for the first round of the ASC season. Alas, that was not to be. Even though we were assured by Kawasaki that they'd be available, even 4 days prior to race day, they didn't show. Both Mark and Matty were without bikes.

Our previous 2004/05 model bike had been sold in November, thinking we would be getting the 2008 bikes in January. Without the expected 2008 bike, Mark was in limbo and without a race bike to practice on for 5 months and no time on a bike until the race weekend. A 2007 ZX-10R was purchased and it arrived a week before the race, and we had to then get it ready with new suspension etc. Our many thanks go out to Terry at Racetech who found the time to help us out with that.

We also had some last minute major new sponsoring ( *A huge thank you to Video Australasia and Sir Walter Turf* ) which meant stickers and signage etc needed to be organised and prepared. The boys worked on the bike getting everything ready till 2:00am on the Friday morning of race practice. A new bike Mark hadn't ridden yet, no steering damper available for the bike till the Sunday and the standard rearsets were in a bad position and couldn't to be changed over as we only had the ones for the 2008 bikes we thought we'd be getting at the time.

Our rider from last year, Dave Thomas, lent Matty his ZX-10 to ride for the race weekend. During practice he went out to scrub the tyres in and while going a little less than the normal entry speed into turn one, got hit from behind by another directly from behind. He apparently was watching his pitboard instead of where he was going and the result was both his bikes were both smashed and ran off the track. Matty suffered a damaged elbow and needed stiches and other bruising. He remembers changing down to 5<sup>th</sup> for the corner and waiting for the backfire Dave had warned him about on changedown when WHAM!!!... he was slammed from behind. All this at about 200km. Matty did a backflip off the bike and it continued on to hit the tyre wall. Dave's bike was a write off as the photos show and was not going to make it into the tack again this weekend.

As expected, Mark did not qualify near the front of the grid. The field this year is very good and some quick times were posted which put Mark, who was struggling all week with the bike setup a long way back in the field. Starting that far back usually puts you amongst the desperates and new riders. In most of the races Mark was hit at some point. One rider hit him on the starting grid and came over his bike, another hit the left underseat muffler and bounced off his shoulder. I it difficult to get a race pace going and keep a good rhythm when carnage and mayhem is happening not only all around you, but at you.

Mark concentrated on finishing the races and keeping the only TGR bike left at this time intact. Considering the setup problems and the events of the day, Mark didn't do too badly.