

2 September 2009

Motor cycling New Zealand
P O Box 253
Huntly

Attention: Paul Pavletich and Jim Tuckerman

Re: Event report Jake Whitaker Australian Championships

Dear Paul and Jim,

Hi guys well I'm back home now after a long and tiring week over in Aussie. This trial has definitely been one of the most physical and biggest events I have ever ridden in, as far as section difficulty goes. Unfortunately I wasn't able to bring home the trophy I have been working so hard for this year, finishing second for the second year in a row.

Me, my Dad and Nick Ball [my minder for the weekend] landed in Sydney last Monday and by Tuesday we had the bike set up perfect; spending most of the day on a property littered with massive rocks just up the road from the Australian Honda Montesa importers shop.

We spent till Wednesday afternoon up there then headed down to Pacific Park where the trial was held. I had all of Thursday off the bike so I felt nice and fresh for the practice day on the Friday. I felt really confident after training with all the other riders as it gave us a really good gauge on who has been putting in the hard work and there was only a hand full of riders that would attempt my practice sections. That afternoon we were able to go around the course and have a look at the sections set for the Saturday. Talk about world championship level sections. I was glad the trial was set very difficult as this allows you to be able to make a mistake and come back from it rather than having an easy trial and every one getting clean rounds and one small mistake costs you a championship.

Saturday morning the nerves were definitely pretty intense. We started off well getting a couple of real big steps on the first two sections. Unfortunately we had a problem half way through the first lap and lost the clutch all together in one of the sections and that forced us back to the pits; this put a lot more pressure on me to complete the day within the time limit.

Finished day one in 3rd position.

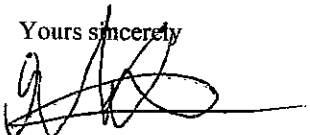
Day 2, I was feeling good but frustrated at the result the day before so I was pushing really hard to catch up to the top two riders. I was riding really well and aggressive on the bigger sections getting through most of them apart from a couple that just proved to be impossible for every one. We also had a big problem with the back wheel collapsing on one of the big undercut steps half way round the first lap. This took a bit of time to get sorted and put more pressure on time wise towards the end on the last few sections, as we had to rush them a little to finish within the 6 hour time limit.

I was able to move up into 2nd and had enough points up on the rider behind me to take 2nd overall. I'm happy with my efforts. I was going for the win and I'm getting closer and closer every year but I know I put 110% into the weekend so I cant ask for anything more. I know the areas I need to work on and I can confidently say I will be back over there next year bigger and better to have another crack at that title.

A really big thanks to you guys for your support and donation, it has been a big help and its great to have MNZ behind me to help me reach the goals we have set.

Thanks again guys.

Yours sincerely



Jake Whitaker

P.S. Will forward receipt/invoice for bike etc once we receive from Montesa factory in Oz.