

Cube Racing - Race report for round one and two



Early this year Sam Lambert was offered the opportunity to join a new super bike team, “Cube Racing”, lead by Ben Henry, who also rides in the Super bike category. Sam now rides a new Suzuki GSXR 600 Super Stock bike (#17) bought for him by one of his sponsors from Qld - PIVIT p/l. We had to wait until early February 2011 to be old enough to race it. His first ever race on the 600 was the support event for the World Super Bike round at Philip Island 2 weeks ago. This was in front of 60,000 spectators. It was also the first time Sam would see his new bike, meet his mechanics, suspension technicians, and team Sponsors. A very exciting time for the ‘just turned 16’ year old.

As the Australian categories were only support events for the world riders; track time was very limited, so some realistic goals were set to match Sam’s good 125 GP lap times at the flowing circuit. Sam beat his best time by almost 1.5 seconds doing regular low 1 m 46s laps and finished 18th out 43 riders in the first race and 21st overall for the round (after running off track in the second race). All in all the team were very pleased with Sam’s results, and everyone was excited about the possibilities when Sam actually gets used to the big machine.



The team then packed up the transporter ready for round 2 the following weekend in Tasmania at Symmons plains raceway just out of Launceston. Sam was slowly working out how to ride the 600cc, and how aggressive and physical you have to ride to get the best out of them, very unlike the silky accuracy of the 125 GP bikes he was used to riding.

Sam's times were dropping all weekend again exceeding the team's expectations, but not all went to plan. A faulty valve core on the rear rim deflated the tyre to 10psi during his final qualifying session putting him 18th on the grid, (and more importantly tearing up his mandatory one marked tyre for the weekend), this meant he had to race all three races on a tyre that looked three races old already. Despite this Sam rode very well to achieve 13th in the first race 14th in the second race and 13th in the third race, dropping into the 59 second lap times on badly worn tyres only 2.5 seconds off the lap record. The racing was tough with Sam's bike coming in with broken fairings from the hard passing manoeuvres common to super stock racing. Another fantastic weekend though.

Sam now looks forward to racing at his home track for round three of the ASBK series April 14th to 17th where he hopes home track advantage plus some extra track time on his new bike will place him closer to the pointy end come the Hidden valley round.

This opportunity would not have been possible without the kind support of the following people and companies. Sam would like to thank Motorsports NT inc. for their support over the years, his sponsors, Suzuki Australia, Pivit, A.M.E. electronics, Australian Outdoor Living, TERRA for all the track time over the years and particularly Mick Kelly, for his advice, and for introducing Sam to the right people in the national scene. Thanks to all and we hope to see a big crowd for the Darwin round of the Superbikes April 14th to 17th

