



Factory teams shape up for season opener

By, Trevor Hedge
MCNEWS.COM.AU

All four factory backed Australian Superbike Championship teams had their first outing together for 2007 during a test session at Eastern Creek last month but the real acid test will come this weekend as they do battle in the opening round of the 2007 YMF Loan Australian Superbike Championship.

The new look Honda squad has been busy in the off season with adapting their Fireblade Superbikes to new Pirelli tyres. The choice of rubber is not the only thing new for the Honda camp this year. A new naming rights sponsor has joined the 2004 and 2005 champions with Teknic replacing the previous Joe Rocket moniker. Complicating things further on the machinery side of the equation is that Team Manager Paul Free is the only mechanic to continue with the team this year. Two of the most experienced spanner twirlers from Honda HQ have headed to Europe to support Josh Brookes' assault on the 2007 World Superbike Championship. Free has been on a recruiting drive to secure new staff and ex Crescent Suzuki British Superbike mechanic Shaun Olsen is currently being courted for a senior position in the team.

One thing for the new season that was sorted long ago was the identity of the riders that will pilot for Honda. Western Australian teenager Bryan Staring has stepped up to a full Superbike ride for 2007 and in doing so becomes WA's first factory backed Superbike rider since Bunbury's Michael Dowson was part of the Marlboro Yamaha Dealers Team with Kevin Magee and Michael Doohan more than two decades ago.

Staring was joined at the Eastern Creek test session by Shogo Moriwaki, the son of legendary tuner Mamoru Moriwaki and grandson of the equally famous 'Pops' Yoshimura. The Japanese rider brought to the session a vast wealth of experience from the ranks of Japanese Superbike and Suzuka 8 Hour competition onboard CBR1000RR Fireblades. Moriwaki was invited to the test session by Honda Australia and will be a starter at the season opener this weekend.

Staring's team mate this season is 2006 Championship runner-up Russell Holland. The Sydneysider did not ride at the Eastern Creek test session. He has been busy rehabilitating himself from a shoulder reconstruction. Holland was the only factory Superbike rider not present at the test as Yamaha (Dunlop), Kawasaki (Michelin) and Suzuki (Dunlop) teams all shook down their organisations in preparation for the season ahead.

Craig Coxhell has returned from Europe to rejoin with the same Suzuki squad that helped him to victory in the 2003 Australian Superbike Championship. The Shepparton youngster will carry the same #11 on the front of his GSX-R1000 that he wore in 2003. Giles will also wear a number that has brought him luck before as he ditches the #3 plate that he smashed into the wall at Wanneroo early in 2006, putting paid to his 2006 championship chances. Giles will again sport #19 on his Suzuki, a number that adorned the cowling of the 916 Ducati he rode to wins in the famous and much missed 2+4 series in 1995. Shawn also wore #19 when he took his first Australian Superbike Championship in 2000 onboard the FIM specification GSX-R750. Superstitious lot these bike racers...

Team Suzuki boss Phil Tainton has been under the pump to get his package together for the season opener. His PTR business has been preparing all the GSX-R600 and GSX-R750 machines for the Australian Superbike School while his recent weeks have been 100 per cent full with the running of the GSX-R1000 World Launch at Phillip Island. In fact the team will be traveling directly from the World Launch straight up to Eastern Creek for the round.

New Kawasaki Team Manager Dave 'Radar' Cullen oversees Shannon Johnson and Wayne Maxwell in Team Green. Kawasaki will be the only factory Superbike team to run Michelin rubber in 2007. While most race fans see Radar as synonymous with Yamaha the diminutive



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Queenslander has experienced much success under the Kawasaki banner on both the Australian and World Championship scenes with riders like Robbie Phillis and Aaron Slight.

Adam Fergusson left the factory Honda team to form a new team of his own dubbed DVS Honda and after initial plans had the two-time Australian Superbike Champion running on Michelin rubber, a late fly in the ointment forced a late last minute switch to Dunlop.

Glenn Allerton will also be onboard a satellite Fireblade team headed by Geoff Winzer and after a troubling 2006 the young Sydneysider also returns to Dunlop rubber in 2007.

Another top rider with satellite support and capable of upsetting the high profile factory teams is Robbie Bugden. The Queenslander will have at his disposal a fully prepped GSX-R1000 and has been busy winning plenty of races in the New Zealand Superbike Championship in the Australian off season. There is no question he will be quick out of the blocks at Eastern Creek.

Anthony Gobert is back in Australian Superbike this year with a Kawasaki ZX-10R at his disposal. The Go Show has not yet thrown a leg over the machine but has had some help from Muzzy Exhausts, Kawasaki Australia and Dunlop Tyres to get back on the grid through Melbourne dealer Pro Kawasaki. With no pre-season preparation apart from a recent trackday at Broadford on a 600 Anthony will have his work cut out for him. Anthony will almost certainly be doing a rain dance come Sunday morning.

Scott Charlton is aboard a privateer Yamaha once again and will be hoping to enjoy better luck this season after mechanical gremlins often kept him out of the running last season.

2006 dominators, Team Yamaha, are showing no signs of slowing with reigning champion Jamie Stauffer by far the quickest rider at the test on both Superbike and Supersport machinery. On current form the other teams will only be battling for second place come this weekend. Jamie was the form rider of 2006 while his brother Dan struggled to achieve a set-up he could work with on the R1-SP. Hopefully Dan has got on friendlier terms with the machine for 2007 and can challenge his brother much in the same way we saw the pair do battle against each other when they were team-mates in the Bio-Magnetic Sport Yamaha team managed by the Trinder brothers.

On paper though it certainly looks as though Jamie will have a much harder task this season. Although from the outside looking in it would appear that Yamaha have had the least distractions to contend with in their early season preparations and that could certainly be a telling factor in the opening rounds.

A dozen riders in the field have won Australian Superbike races or at least gone damn close to doing so. That is something that no other domestic Superbike field can claim that I know of. Certainly not the British or American Superbike fields that's for sure. We might not have the massive profiles enjoyed by British Superbike or the mega dollar team budgets of American Superbike but we generally do get to enjoy some damn fine racing. Hopefully this weekend at Eastern Creek will produce a cracker and really kick off the new 2007 season with a bang.

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2007 YMF Loan ASC Rd.1 Eastern Creek 16-18th February 2007

Friday Schedule –

GYTR Australian Superstock Cup	Practice 1
Motul NakedBike/FZ6/Pro-Twins	Practice 1
YMF Loan Australian Supersport Championship	Practice 1
AMCN Australian 125GP Championship	Practice 1
Aircom Systems Australian Sidecar Championship	Practice 1
Flexirider Insurance Formula Xtreme Cup	Practice 1
YMF Loan Australian Superbikes Championship	Practice 1

Lunch Break

GYTR Australian Superstock Cup	Qualifying 1
Motul NakedBike/FZ6/Pro-Twins	Qualifying 1
YMF Loan Australian Supersport Championship	Practice 2
AMCN Australian 125GP Championship	Qualifying 1
YMF Loan Australian Superbikes Championship	Practice 2
Aircom Systems Australian Sidecar Championship	Qualifying 1
Flexirider Insurance Formula Xtreme Cup	Qualifying 1

Saturday Schedule

Qualifying and Racing:

GYTR Australian Superstock Cup	20 Min	Qualifying 2
Motul NakedBike/FZ6/Pro-Twins	20 Min	Qualifying 2
YMF Loan Australian Supersport Championship	30 Min	Qualifying 1
AMCN Australian 125GP Championship	20 Min	Qualifying 2
Aircom Systems Australian Sidecar Championship	20 Min	Qualifying 2
Flexirider Insurance Formula Xtreme Cup	20 Min	Qualifying 2
YMF Loan Australian Superbikes Championship	30 Min	Qualifying 1

Lunch Break

GYTR Australian Superstock Cup	7 Laps	Race 1
Motul NakedBike/FZ6/Pro-Twins	6 Laps	Race 1
YMF Loan Australian Supersport Championship	30 Min	Qualifying 2
AMCN Australian 125GP Championship	7 Laps	Race 1
YMF Loan Australian Superbikes Championship	30 Min	Qualifying 2
Aircom Systems Australian Sidecar Championship	7 Laps	Race 1
Flexirider Insurance Formula Xtreme Cup	7 Laps	Race 1

Sunday Schedule

Warm Up all classes

GYTR Australian Superstock Cup	7 Laps	Race 2
Motul NakedBike/FZ6/Pro-Twins	6 Laps	Race 2
YMF Loan Australian Supersport Championship	13 Laps	Race 1
AMCN Australian 125GP Championship	7 Laps	Race 2
Aircom Systems Australian Sidecar Championship	7 Laps	Race 2
Flexirider Insurance Formula Xtreme Cup	7 Laps	Race 2
YMF Loan Australian Superbikes Championship	13 Laps	Race 1

Lunch Break, Ride of Your Life, Pit Walk

GYTR Australian Superstock Cup	7 Laps	Race 3
Motul NakedBike/FZ6/Pro-Twins	6 Laps	Race 3
YMF Loan Australian Supersport Championship	13 Laps	Race 2
AMCN Australian 125GP Championship	7 Laps	Race 3
YMF Loan Australian Superbikes Championship	13 Laps	Race 2
Aircom Systems Australian Sidecar Championship	7 Laps	Race 3
Flexirider Insurance Formula Xtreme Cup	7 Laps	Race 3



Superbike

1	Stauffer	Jamie	Yamaha Racing Team	Yamaha	A NSW	Yamaha R1
2	Holland	Russell	Teknic Honda		A NSW	Honda CBR1000RR
3	Bugden	Robert	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	A QLD	Suzuki GSXR1000
10	Etheridge	Shannon	Circuit Breakers Race Schools	Weldalloy Pty Ltd, Legendary Floors, Mi-Cut Aust.	A NSW	Yamaha R1
11	Coxhell	Craig	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	A VIC	Suzuki GSXR1000
16	Charlett	Denis	Japanese M/Cycles & Dismantlers	Japanese Motorcycle Dismantlers	A SA	Kawasaki ZX10R
17	Gobert	Anthony	#17 Muzzy's Lae S/Bike Team		A VIC	Kawasaki ZX10R
19	Giles	Shawn	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	A NSW	Suzuki GSXR1000
22	Roe	Paul	Spy Thunder Racing	Spy Thunder Racing	A QLD	Aprilia RSVR1000
26	Stauffer	Daniel	Yamaha Racing Team	Yamaha	A NSW	Yamaha R1
28	Higgins	Mark		Lotus Bar	B VIC	Honda CBR1000
30	Roe	Ashley	Ararat Motor Group	Roe Motorcycles	A VIC	Honda CBR1000RR
32	Odendaal	Cole			A QLD	Suzuki GSXR1000
34	Manning	Steve		Roe M/C/ G. Moto/Alpine Dyno Centre	B NSW	Honda CBR1000
36	Allerton	Glenn	Allect Racing	Allect Racing	A NSW	Honda CBR1000RR
38	Charlton	Scott	Tarmac Civil Constructions	Vern Graham Yamaha, Tarmac Civil Constructions	A VIC	Yamaha R1
39	Sidwell	Brent			B QLD	Honda CBR1000
42	Johnson	Shannon	Kawasaki Racing Team		A VIC	Kawasaki ZX10R
47	Maxwell	Wayne	Kawasaki Racing Team		A VIC	Kawasaki ZX10R
67	Staring	Bryan	Teknic Honda		A WA	Honda CBR1000RR
74	Fergusson	Adam	DVS Honda	Oleon Oils	A VIC	Honda CBR1000RR
75	Battista	Matt		BHS Engineering	A WA	Yamaha R1
77	Fraser	Michael	Fraser Bros Racing	Suzuki Aust, Chris Watson M/C, California Superbike	B NSW	Suzuki GSXR1000
79	Spence	James	Circuit Breakers Race Schools	East Coast Road Race Series	B NSW	Yamaha R1
80	Taylor	Glenn			B VIC	Suzuki GSXR1000
82	Gurowski	Brenden	Carbon Sport/ Brisbane Motorcycles	Cutgrafix/Hitec Racing/ Shoie/ Dunlop	A QLD	Honda CBR1000RR
83	Moriwaki	Shogo	Teknic Honda		A VIC	Honda CBR1000



Supersport

1	Stauffer	Jamie	Yamaha Racing Team	Yamaha	A NSW	Yamaha R6
3	O'Halloran	Jason	Yamaha Racing Team	Yamaha	A NSW	Yamaha R6
4	Crowe	Jeremy	Yamaha Racing Team	Yamaha	A NSW	Yamaha R6
8	Staring	Bryan	Teknic Honda		A WA	Honda CBR600RR
10	Greedy	Judd	Sun State Racing		A QLD	Honda CBR600RR
11	Ingram	Shane	Professional Motorcycle Tuning	Professional M/C Tuning, Raceglass	B VIC	Yamaha R6
12	Partoosh	Riko	Fleet Kleen		A VIC	Suzuki GSXR600
14	Cullen	Jason			B NSW	Yamaha R6
15	Henderson	Nick	Taylor Racing	Beard Bros M/Cycles	A VIC	Yamaha R6
16	Casella	Christan	Reece Bancell Scholarship	Brimarco,B&D Technologies,Reece Bancel Scholarship	A VIC	Yamaha R6
19	Simmonds	Brett	Tassie Windscreens		A TAS	Suzuki GSXR600
21	Waters	Joshua	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	Team Yoshimura Suzuki	A VIC	Suzuki GSXR600
22	Cullen	Glenn			A NSW	Yamaha R6
33	Liddicoat	Stephen	Race Bike Services	Kessner Suzuki	B SA	Suzuki GSXR600
35	Carr	Mitchell	Joe Rocket Privateer Development Team	Joe Rocket	A NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
42	Johnson	Shannon	Kawasaki Racing Team		A VIC	Kawasaki ZX6R
47	Maxwell	Wayne	Kawasaki Racing Team		A VIC	Kawasaki ZX6R
51	Goldsmith	Dustin	Rutherford Trailers	Fraser Motorcycles Homebush	A NSW	Yamaha R6
52	Stronach	Cameron		BHS Engineering	B WA	Yamaha R6
57	Tomassetti	Alex	Teknik Racing	David Fraser M/C, Riderz, SERCO	A NSW	Yamaha R6
61	Davies	Zac			A NSW	Yamaha R6
63	Hay	Grant	Shock Treatment	Shock Treatment	A NSW	Yamaha R6
66	Munn	Guy	Weldalloy Pty Ltd	Weldalloy Racing	A QLD	Yamaha FZ6
74	Andrews	Ian	Kirk McCarthy Memorial Award		A SA	Suzuki GSXR600
83	Holland	Russell	Teknic Honda		A NSW	Honda CBR600RR
84	Kelly	Mick		Aark Racing	A WA	Yamaha R6
87	Jones	Gareth	Electroregenesi Health Technology	Ausflo Water Industries	A QLD	Yamaha R6
98	Trounson	Chris	Sun State Racing		A VIC	Honda CBR600RR



Formula Xtreme

5	Whiteley	Shayne			C VIC	Honda CBR1000
10	Cowie	Tim	Gecko Dyno		C NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
12	McMillan	Michael			D QLD	Suzuki GSXR1000
13	Hovey	Dale		Lae Racing	D QLD	Suzuki GSXR1000
14	Nicholson	Craig	BV Rigging	G. William Motorcycle engineering, LOCTITE	C VIC	Suzuki GSXR600
17	Ireland	William	Bowral Motorcycles	T.V.M., Bowral Motorcycles	D NSW	Honda CBR1000
18	Henry	Ben		Witch Cycles Suzuki	C WA	Suzuki GSXR600
21	Reviglio	Gino	The Motorcycle Accessories Shop	Aitken Welding Supplies	C QLD	Honda CBR1000RR
23	Robinson	Shane		Power House Dyno / Telecomz	C QLD	Suzuki GSXR1000
26	Thole	Karl	Greg Fairthorne	ASR Suspension	C VIC	Suzuki GSXR1000
27	Sutton	Damian			C NSW	Aprilia RSVR1000
28	Thomas	David	Southern Highlands M/Cycles		D NSW	Kawasaki ZX10R
29	Hatch	Mark		Southern Highlands M/C Centre, Sir Walter Turf	D NSW	Kawasaki ZX10R
31	Allars	Scott		Allars Constructions	D QLD	Yamaha R1
36	Epis	Gregory	Dragon Tyre Warmers	Response Real Estate	D NSW	Suzuki GSXR1000
37	Bryan	Nigel	Bryan Sports & Training P/L	Western Motorcycles	C NSW	Honda CBR1000
39	Maher	Michael		Bikecare - Newcastle	D NSW	Suzuki GSXR1000
41	Riddle	Michael	Gecko Dyno	B&E Automotive/A to Z Home Improvements	C ACT	Suzuki GSXR600
46	Williams	Chris		Woodstock Bourbon, Procon	C VIC	Yamaha R1
48	Gaston	Paul		Universal Welding Services, Shower Power	D QLD	Yamaha R1
53	Middleton	Bill	TJ's & Anchor Race Team	TJ's Racing, Benelli	C QLD	Benelli TNT
62	Blunden	Michael		Coast Yamaha	C SA	Yamaha R1
70	Houwen	Josh	Weldalloy Pty Ltd	Weldalloy	C QLD	Yamaha FZ6
71	Kamleh	Raymond		Dr Desmo Comp Conversions	D SA	Yamaha R6
73	Wilbow	Darren			D NSW	Suzuki GSXR1000
76	Manuel	Ashley		Coast Yamaha, DC Sighns, M.C Doyle Crash Repairs	C SA	Yamaha R6
88	Dibb	Michael		Vic Wreckers	C VIC	Suzuki GSXR1000
89	Trigwell	Josh		Aark Electrics, Geographe Civil, Wayne Haynes	C WA	Yamaha R6
91	Sciberras	Darren	sdracing.com.au	Megacycle Exsust	C VIC	Yamaha R6



Superstock

10	Cowie	Tim	Gecko Dyno		C NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
14	Nicholson	Craig	BV Rigging	G. William Motorcycle engineering, LOCTITE	C VIC	Honda CBR600
17	Ready	Joshua		Racetech	C NSW	Yamaha R6
18	Henry	Ben		Witch Cycles Suzuki	C WA	Suzuki GSXR600
19	Madigan	Jerry			C NSW	Honda CBR600
20	Reid	Alistair	Weldsure	Weldsure	D QLD	Suzuki GSXR600
22	Allen	Richard			D NSW	Yamaha R6
24	Hern	Charles	Stafford Yamaha	Hern Engineering	D VIC	Yamaha R6
25	Taylor	Ryan		Pakenham Yamaha	C VIC	Yamaha R6
26	Roche	Tom		Joe Rocket Development Team	C NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
34	Carr	Brayden	Joe Rocket Privateer Development Team		C NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
40	Darby	Des			C QLD	Yamaha R6
41	Riddle	Michael	Gecko Dyno	B&E Automotive/A to Z Home Improvements	C ACT	Suzuki GSXR600
44	Beck	Chris	Evermil Racing	Evermil P/L	D NSW	Yamaha R6
53	Keevers	Cameron		Rick Gill M/C, Keevers Rural Service, Stephen Pesch	C WA	Honda CBR600
54	Durie	Timothy	Sun State Racing		C NSW	Honda CBR600
55	Middleton	Duncan			C NSW	Honda CBR600RR
56	Chapman	Robert		Rankin Diesel	C VIC	Yamaha R6
58	Harding	Warren			D NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
61	Griffin	Matthew	Mi-Cut Australia	Mi-Cut Australia	C VIC	Yamaha R6
71	Kamleh	Raymond		Dr Desmo Comp Conversions	D SA	Yamaha R6
72	Robinson	Dean		Speeds Truck & Ag Dubbo	D NSW	Suzuki GSXR600
76	Manuel	Ashley		Coast Yamaha, DC Sighns, M.C Doyle Crash Repairs	C SA	Yamaha R6
77	Cale	Mitchell			C NSW	Honda CBR600
86	Shaw	Stuart	Team Kaos Racing		C VIC	Yamaha R6
89	Trigwell	Josh		Aark Electrics, Geographe Civil, Wayne Haynes	C WA	Yamaha R6
91	Sciberras	Darren	sdracing.com.au	Megacycle Exsust	C VIC	Yamaha R6
94	Anset	Ray		Container Cargo Specialist, Lloyd Chapman M/Cycles	C WA	Suzuki GSXR600
96	Aitken	Jamie	Aitkens Motorcycle World	Aitken's Motorcycle World	B NSW	Kawasaki ZX6R

125GP

4	Moller	Rhys		A VIC	Honda RS125
5	Rigoli	Brent	Ugly Fish Eyewear, G&D Autobody Shop, Macartun M/C	B NSW	Honda RS125
11	Galvin	Peter	Metzeler Tyres	A NSW	Honda RS125
13	Metcher	Jed	Race Rider Training	C VIC	Yamaha TZ125
22	Wilkinson	Mark	Plaza Auto Sales	C VIC	Honda RS125
36	Gross	Brad	Team GMC	C QLD	Yamaha TZ125
44	Leigh-Smith	Jackson	Leigh-Smith Racing	D QLD	Honda RS125
55	Thompson	Cath	Dadybird, AGU, Portland Group	A NSW	Honda RS125
62	Burke	Ben	Taylor Racing	B NSW	Honda RS125
65	Leigh-Smith	Blake	Leigh-Smith Racing	A QLD	Honda RS125
69	Dunn	Jason	Fraser Motorcycles	B NSW	Honda RS125
71	Beales	Mandy	Race Bike Services	B SA	Honda RS125
72	McMahon	Stacey	Team GMC	C VIC	Yamaha TZ125
88	Scott	Glenn		D NSW	Honda RS125
91	Sutherland	Lincoln	Marble Trend	D VIC	Yamaha TZ125





FX Pro Twins/NakedBike

1	Cartwright	Jon	TJ's & Anchor Race Team	TJ's Racing, Benelli	A QLD	Benelli TNT
1T	McMartin	Craig			A NSW	Ducati 749
2	Roe	Paul	Spy Thunder Racing	Spy Thunder Racing	A QLD	Aprilia RSVR1000
15	Pierpoint	Adrian	Ultimate Motorcycles	Ultimate Motorcycles	A QLD	Benelli TNT
20	Kruck	Roland	Big Kahuna Racing	Jonesxl	A NSW	Yamaha FZ1
22	Linden	Clint	Linden Concepts Racing	Linden Concepts Racing	D NSW	Yamaha FZ1
24	Johnston	Mick	Hogs Breath Café/North Coast V Twins	Hogs Breath Café/ North Coast V Twins	A NSW	Ducati 999S
27	Sutton	Damian			C NSW	Aprilia RSVR1000
28	O'Brien	Ben	Dragon Tyre Warmers	Haan Wheels, Rapid Bikes Magazine	B NSW	Ducati 888SP
53	Middleton	Bill	TJ's & Anchor Race Team	TJ's Performance M/C, Stoney Creek Power Sports	C QLD	Benelli TNT

FZ6 Cup

18	Ward	Peter	Bowral Motorcycles		B NSW	Yamaha FZ6
34	Starkey	Mark	Lismore Motorcycles	East Coast Mechanical Services	C NSW	Yamaha FZ6
47	Mckenzie	Beau		L & B Products	D QLD	Yamaha FZ6
66	Munn	Guy	Weldalloy Pty Ltd	Weldalloy Racing	A QLD	Yamaha FZ6
70	Houwen	Josh	Weldalloy Pty Ltd	Weldalloy	C QLD	Yamaha FZ6
81	Mills	Byron	Big Kahuna Racing	Jonesxl	D NSW	Yamaha FZ6

Forgotten Era

16	Wootton	Ken	Australian Motorcycle News		B VIC	Honda CB750
76	Webster	Scott			B VIC	Kawasaki 1200