

# GEARING UP: Competition!

Written by John Briscoe

It would appear that whatever we do involves some form of competition – hell man it even started before we were born with all those sperm competing for the ovum in the womb! Yip and very few won that race! Definitely a case of winner takes all!

But what has competition to do with motorcycle riding? Well I guess it's everything! Just think about it! We turn our attention immediately to our own steeds let alone Motor GP, Super stock, Trials you name it, we have serious competition. Competition can be in any form - comfort, finish, looks, technical difficulty and of course speed! So what? Competition is good so say the guru's! Well is it?

Is it good that we take a brand new biker and set him up in a breakfast run so that he is 'looked after' but meanwhile the guy or chick is way out of their depth? But because of the competitive juices in us there is no way we back off! The outcome is usually lots of talking and shaking (out of fear) on the other side but occasionally we lose some of our friends not necessarily permanently but on many occasions just because they didn't enjoy the experience. They end up just not coming back.

In much the same way the Moto cross fraternity push their mates too soon and too quickly with results that take far longer to achieve.

And speaking of being crazy the Enduro guys really couldn't bother too much how many times you fall while trying a particularly steep slope with ruts, rocks and 3ft high step ups – after all you're 'young, rugged and strong' so you can handle these things!

Well even on the rides we offer at Gear Up, I occasionally see the look of fear in people's eyes as they debate with themselves as to whether they should face the leg pulling of their mates or the embarrassment of not attempting a particular section or obstacle!

Where does all this end? Well competition is here to stay! Whether we like it or not, it's just part of our lives. How do we handle this? In a group very few leaders will eliminate the competitive element as it can be extremely useful in getting things done – so hey if you're in a group understand the rules and make your choices accordingly!

As an individual, I believe you have one huge tool to improve your competitive edge no matter the level you're at and that is TRAINING – appropriate training! How many riders blindly believe their skills are up to standard and yet we still lose our colleagues to crazy mistakes! Just by going through a 2 hour briefing may well make the difference between having a bruised ego and not being around at all! Here in KZN, Hein, through his Bike Talk Academy offers some superb on road training courses whilst myself and

the Country Trax team honestly believe we can make a huge difference to the dirt bike rider with Roger Scheffer as their instructor and for the dual purpose guys to hook up with Rynardt Crous and / or myself.

We urge you to look at the respective websites and in honing your skills be able to compete safely and in a most enjoyable manner!

As a last thought perhaps take this Christmas break to restore those spent batteries, work out a really great plan of attack (Well done Sam!) and then get ready to improve your skills and enjoy having the success you should. Ultimately this bit by bit process will lead you to become the great person you could be and an even better biker!

Merry Christmas and make 2012 a year to be proud of!



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