

## MATT BERNARD - RACE REPORT

### AMX ROUND 4 PICTON - 15.7.07

Picton is one round where we don't need to make it a road trip and weekend away. I decided to drive out to the track Saturday afternoon after a practice ride at Shock Treatment with Shannon ( thanks Jan & Terry ) to bunt off some space for our pit shades as well as a spot for the Dirt Action / Trailrider magazine promo gals. An early start was still needed to get a good spot in the pits near our pitshades so while the sun struggled to peak over the hillside and the frost crunched under our feet we got set up for the days racing.

The track wasn't the best for spectators as it wound up and down the hillside behind trees and covered a large area which made viewing hard. The combination of steep uphill climbs, off camber turns and break testing down hills meant for a challenging and tiring days racing.

A stacked practice made it difficult to get a good look at the different lines, I slowed down and let the guys racing for the win in practice go for it, avoiding getting taken out in the process. With a clear track in front of me I put Shane Booth's valuable advice to work, finding some lines and looking for options when the track became rough, which payed off throughout the days racing.

#### Race one

A good start put me into the top 5 holding the position until I hit a big bump on a rough downhill leaving me wrestling the YZ with one hand off the side of the track. With a few riders getting passed I settled back into the race managing to make my way back to 6th by the end which I was pretty pumped with.

#### Race two

Another good jump brought me into a similar position at the start. I held onto that position for a few laps before I began moving up on the riders in front making a move on what I thought was to cross for the last lap board I ended crossing for the chequers side by side with the rider in 5th, finishing 6th. A bit disappointed with the lack of last lap board as I was keen to make it into the top 5 for moto 3.

#### Race Three

A good jump gave me a confident start to the final race. Making my way into 6th again I was pushing my hardest to get a top 5 finish, the roost from the bike in front left me gritting my teeth and ducking for cover. With the last lap board out I planned where I would make my move. With that plan out the window after missing the passing opportunity I held it on in an effort to make a pass managing to get by just before the finish grabbing 5th place and my best, most consistent Amcross round this year.

It was great to have some family and friends come out to watch our local Amx round and thanks again to all the companies involved with the Dirt Action yz250f.

*Matt Bernard 963*

