

RACE REPORT

When the first announcement for the 2017 North vs South - Interprovincial challenge was drafted several months ago, we were confident that we would surpass the **220 entry mark**.

But we had no idea however that we would attract **270 riders to this year's event!** What an amazing response from riders across South Africa and further afield. This competition is in its **fifth year** and not only has it grown to become the largest Motocross event on the calendar year on year, but it has attracted so much interest both locally and from a number of overseas countries.

There were riders from **Zambia, Zimbabwe and even Madagascar!** Some SA riders who have been riding abroad joined us, ensuring that the standard of riding was at an exceptional level.

This has truly become the annual MX event each year!

The race administration was superb and with skills of Karen Sangster, supported by the extremely efficient BORC ladies (Ansie Friedrichs & Elize Van Niekerk) and Fiona Jones from WOMZA, as well as a lot of hard work from the various regional reps and team managers, we were not surprised that things went off smoothly, setting the stage for a great day's racing on Sunday.

After a brief message and prayer from the CMC on Sunday, practice got underway.

As expected, the track was prepped beautifully and despite the heat and wind and extremely large number of riders on the track, the organisers managed to keep the dust to a minimum! Thank you to those hard working people who spent weeks out in the elements getting the track into the great shape it was.

Racing was intense and of an extremely high standard with many internal battles taking place within the classes. The ladies class has also grown and we were able to let our brave girl's race on their own this year.

For all the individual results, please go to: <http://www.womza2wheels.com>

The beauty of this event is that riders of varying abilities are able to race against each other – keeping the competitive element, but also bringing in the enjoyment of simply participating and being part of a team! Another exciting feature of the event was the hole shot money that was awarded for both heats in every class. A massive thanks to **Mark Carty Senior and Carty Racing** for sponsoring this.

Thank you too to all the sponsors in the different provinces – because of their generous contributions, the teams were once again able to have stunning team race jerseys made, and we were able to give a little event memento to each rider.

This year we will present almost a **full hour of TV coverage**, thanks to the awesome sponsorship of **Gibson Tyres and Sparks & Ellis Uniforms** – not forgetting **Ryan Shapiro of Sunoco** racing who also contributed towards this. Sunoco also donated goodies for lucky draw prizes at prize giving. Screening will be at the beginning of **November on Ignition 189** (details of flight times will be sent out in due course).

Prize giving was a raucous yet festive affair, with the BORC clubhouse packed to capacity!

Besides stunning trophies as well as gift vouchers to some of the junior classes, Gibson Tyres presented the top 3 in each class with rear tyres, as well as 2 lucky draw prizes. We are extremely grateful for their generosity and involvement in the event, and look forward to a long, successful

relationship with Gibson Tyres going forward. Please support them – they stock a large range of rims, tyre and wheel accessories: <http://www.sgsmotosportandrim.co.za>

The interprovincial challenge was the closest it's ever been, with Gauteng and the Free State swapping top positions a number of times during the day. The Eastern Cape wasn't far behind, having once again brought a huge team of riders!

A new award was presented this year – the Gibson Tyres Team spirit award – and this HAD to go to the Eastern Cape who branded their vehicles with stickers, brought horns and banners and loudly cheered their team riders on during the heats.

The winning region, once again, was Gauteng, and the South walked away with the North vs South Trophy for the 3rd year in a row!

Gauteng 2474 Free State 2378 Eastern Cape 2368 Western Cape 2080 KZN 379

SOUTH 843 NORTH 376

And so.... onwards to an even more exciting event in 2018. Next year's event will take place over the same long weekend: so please diarise the 23rd September 2018 well in advance!

Thanks again to all involved and congratulations to each and every rider who participated.

You are ALL winners!

Regards,

Mark Sangster

WOMZA National MX Chairman