

# Levi #57 Day RACING

The Barry Sheene Festival of Speed is a classic road race meeting held at Sydney's Eastern Creek International Raceway. With riders coming from all over Australia and New Zealand it is arguably one of Australia's premier classic motorcycle meetings.

I was introduced to the classic side of road racing at a young age as my Dad Robert raced a Yamaha TA125 and Honda CB72 350 all through my childhood and is how my obsession with motorbikes began! I started riding classics last year for Jerry Kooistra. He is the mastermind behind the Honda CB72 350 and 500 rocket ships that I ride. Jerry and I travelled over together and on Friday afternoon rolled into sunny Sydney. The weather was nice on the Friday and remained much the same for the whole weekend. The first practice session out on the 350 a rocker arm broke and sadly put the bike out of action for the entire weekend. The 500 was going really strong though and on Friday we worked through practice as I would as usual. Going out getting comfortable on the bike again and getting familiar with the track. Then getting into a race rhythm and work on braking markers and so on.

On Saturday we had qualifying first up. The class I was in was the Classic Unlimited class. So with me being on the 500 against 750/1000's etc. I put the 500 on pole at a 1:49.2. I was stoked with that as I had not ridden Eastern Creek since the Barry Sheene meeting the previous year. I won both unlimited races comfortably. The bike was feeling really strong and I was really enjoying the track. To me Eastern Creek is one of the most technical tracks I've ever ridden, Difficult to learn but really good fun when you start getting a good flow around there! Our final race for the day was the 500 Classic Premier. I won this 6 lap race by a comfortable 22 seconds! I felt really good out on track and got a best lap time of a 1:46.8 which is a new lap record for the class. I was the lap record holder from last year, so it was nice to improve on that time. It was a great end to the day and left Jerry and I feeling great for Sundays races.

Our first race on Sunday was the Paul Dobbs Memorial 750 race. This combined 1972 model Ducati 750's and Norton 750's and so on. I had been keeping an eye on the times some of these guys had been doing and there were two riders faster than me. I thought this would be a good opportunity to have someone faster to follow and hopefully pick up some more time. I started out of 3<sup>rd</sup> position, but the race ended very quickly. We don't use tire warmers on the classics and they held us at the line for a very long time, so the little heat I had got into the tires on the warm up lap was now gone. I got a good start and was right up behind Robert Young, until I high-sided out of turn 3. I was unable to get out of the way as I'd fallen onto my right hand side and hurt my leg. The race was red flagged and I was taken back to the medical centre to be checked out. Fortunately, thanks to my KBC helmet, RST leathers and Alpinstar boots and gloves, nothing broken but very sore! Unfortunately the bike was in a bad way. We were unable to repair it to compete for the test of the day. Overall we had a really successful weekend. With 3 race wins and a new lap record.



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