



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PUZEY CONQUERS MINI ROOF IN LESOTHO

'PUZEY Motorcycles SA' is breaking new ground with the latest XTR-4 sport off road bikes conquering the **MINI ROOF in Lesotho** this weekend. The XTR-300, co-sponsored by 'Puzey SA' and 'Sandstorm Racing' one of the Puzey dealers on the gas was Bruce Viljoen a skilled rider. This in the teams 3<sup>rd</sup> National Offroad Enduro race in 2010 and they seem to be unstoppable.

With the MINI ROOF being regarded as the most technical event on the calendar, Viljoen and the XTR make a great team. Bruce is a fast smooth rider, has entered 3 Nationals and finished all 3 Nationals. Best finish to date was in Lesotho where Bruce finished 31<sup>st</sup> overall and 11<sup>th</sup> in his class (OR2) again just over 8 hours total time which is an achievement considering the cold temperatures and extremely technical terrain.

SA designed Puzey Bikes have raced Enduros before but only at Regional level in 2009 coming 9<sup>th</sup> in the 250cc senior class on the XTR-2LC (only a 2 valve 4 stroke machine).

This is the first year that XTR's have entered the National Offroad Series and we're hoping to move swiftly up on the log tables during the year.' Proving that a good South African design and the use of internationally prepared parts is a winning combination... "It's a good, reliable and affordable machine with an excellent parts back up", says Puzey.

The new XTR-4-300cc using a 4 valve electric start sport engine also completed the SA National Enduro at the 'Kalahari 400 in the OR2 class held in Vryberg recently during March over the grueling 400+ kilometers, Viljoen and the machine managed to finish "13<sup>th</sup> in National and 8<sup>th</sup> in Regional. Bruce then entered the next race on the 300 in the 'Mafikeng 400' in May and finished just over 8 hours (2 hours ahead of the time bar) finishing 11<sup>th</sup> place in National and 9<sup>th</sup> place in Regionals.

The Puzey XTR-4 is currently racing the 2010 National Enduro Series in SA and are a completely new design with some new innovations and features based on the last 3 years of the earlier XTR machines.

The XTR 300cc is competing well in the 250cc two stroke and 400cc four stroke class. This 300 is defiantly proving to be a tough and reliable machine that will handle just

about any event. Bruce has his eye set on competing one of the world's toughest races 'The Roof of Africa' and is hoping to take the XTR-4 300 with him later this year.

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(Extra reading from the riders perspective on the Mini Roof)

## **THE MINI ROOF FROM THE EYE OF THE RIDER**

The 4<sup>th</sup> round of Offroad National Enduro was in the heart of Lesotho's Mountain Kingdom also known to some as the 'Mini Roof of Africa.' This event is not your average 400km National, it's half the distance, twice as technical and the toughest event in the series.

With a cold front sweeping over the southern part of Africa pushing Lesotho's temp to a low of - 4 and a high of 13, making it 'two inches' colder.

Friday's time trial is a 60km loop in the dry dusty low lands which is fast and slightly technical. In some sections I found myself in top gear, hard on the cable and in others low gear working my ways through rocky riverbeds and tight goat paths.

Saturday morning, the moment you've been waiting for. Most riders' thermalled up to the ear with ridding jackets zipped up tight hoping to keep the cold out. Your number is called '442 Bruce Viljoen'; you line up and know there is no turning back now with the inflatable starting line head on.

The organisers did a great job in making our lifes difficult and to make things even more interesting, they routed us through two serious climbs with unimaginable terrain of loose rocks.

At the 48km mark I hit the first fuel stop where my invaluable sponsors 'Sand Storm Racing & Puzey' refueled me quicker than a Formula 1 racing team or so I thought while trying to get few moments of rest.

In true 'Roof' Style, the battle continued through the endless rocks and seriously tough terrain until I got myself stuck on one of the climbs with slippery rocks. Out of nowhere 10 local kids appeared offering me assistance but before I could even answer, the one kid stuck out his hand, looked me in the eyes and said "sweets or money?" I was speechless... here I am... in the middle of nowhere and the only bartering chips I have are a dirty pair of gogs and two litres of water in my hydropack! Relentless little buggers - thanks but no thanks. I quickly got back on my footing and was on my way.

Beside the little negotiators, parts of the route take you through remote villages and there you have hundreds of locals cheering you on. You could be the worst rider in the world and these guys will make you feel like a rock star!

After the second fuel stop which was 35km further, I faced the last leg of the loop, extremely steep declines bordering cliff faces heading deep into the valley though a well known part of the Roof called 'Music Box', where this name comes from I don't know. This section has breath taking views and the odd local wildlife consisting of cattle, donkeys, goats, donkeys and the odd sheep.

The main pits have never looked so welcoming. A 15 minute compulsory decontrol stop and I'm only half way ... and now im going to do this all over again... a good percentage of guys have thrown in the towel at this point and I'm honestly very tempted to do the same... but no.

100km into the second loop and my body has reached totally exhaustion and I'm now on auto pilot. I have new found respect for my bike which is as tough as the terrain and an invaluable pit crew which pulled me through to a totally satisfying checked flag finish.

Is this fun? The answer is yes, it was an awesome experience! There is something magical about the Maloti Mountains which keeps riders coming back for more. I guess it's the same thing that drives and challenges runners to run the Comrades, cyclists to ride the Cape Epic and swimmer to swim across the Arctic. Regardless of how successful or treacherous a riders racing experience is, they seem to be back for more. 'Roof of Africa 2010', here I come!

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