



screens showed Currie cup Rugby, and the all round relaxed and jovial atmosphere, complete with music and two full time bars, boerie-roll vendor and more, ensured that everyone chilled out and enjoyed themselves. BMW and its navigation partners put on a great display of new product as well as a good display of BMW gear and accessories. Metzler, thorough its distributor AMP led by general manager Mark Roach and Metzeler product manager Wayne Doran provided a very welcome tyre service, helping many riders who would have had their weekend spoiled by tyre problems. Although luxury and comfort was provided at "BMWville", the emphasis was actually on riding. The hard working team scouted out and marked several off-road loops though the surrounding Drakensberg mountains and foothills. These ranged from a relatively easy "Green" and "Orange", through "Red One", "Red Two", "Blue" and finally the "Black" route. Each of them covered anything from 80 to 240 km, and most riders were expected to

take about 6 hours completing each route. In addition there were two all tar routes through the Eastern Free State Highlands and the nearby Natal Midlands. These two routes covered some interesting historical sites like the Spioenkop Battlefield and many comfortable and quaint restaurants and coffee shops...and more. So the scene was set for some epic adventures and lots of experiences which of course would provide the content of many animated "Bench racing" stories back in the comfort of the resort. There were many of these, and stories were told of riders fixing burst tyres with plastic packets, holding front tyres onto the rim with zip ties when all other efforts to fix them failed. Riders pulled into the resort with screens missing, mud covering every centimeter of both the rider and bike. To BMW's credit, mechanical problems were just not an issue...there wasn't even a workshop to repair anything. It just wasn't necessary. And despite some really desperate sounding situations everyone was smiling.

