

# **BSN** *INSIDE LINE...*

## **BIG BLOW FOR GAULT**

**S**IXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Alex Gault's exceptional opportunity to contest this year's Suzuki GSX-R750 European Cup has been dealt a severe blow because the ACU's minimum licence criteria for the National licence that is needed to ride unlimited capacity machines is 17-years.

The ACU's National licence for 16-year-olds entitles the rider to use 250GP machines, 600cc four-cylinder, four-stroke production-based machines and 675cc three-cylinder, four-stroke production-based machines.

Ironically, the Suzuki European Cup regulations permits riders of Gault's age (he was born on 14th

December 1990) to compete in the series.

With the support of Suzuki GB and of John Reynolds, the Gault family were planning on the ACU Road Race Committee's dispensation of the minimum age rule in this circumstance, but the ACU's age limit regulations relating to the types of machine applicable to the riders' youth and grade of licence, were brought in after long consultation.

Despite many similar applications, the ACU's tightening stance has been to reject all such 'special cases'.

Gault, who dominated last year's Honda CB500 Cup, took part in a test with a GSX-R750 at Guadix in Spain on March 2nd and did enough to secure the European Cup ride with Suzuki

GB despite sliding off when getting out of the way of Shane Byrne's Superbike!

The series supports six of the World Superbike rounds, starting at Valencia in Spain, and it is expected Gault will try to seek an alternative European federation to secure a licence.

Meanwhile, Suzuki have confirmed that Leon Camier's 18-year-old brother, Alex, will be representing Suzuki GB in the Cup.

Alex, who won the British 60cc Grasstrack championship at the age of eight, competed in the Aprilia RS125 SuperTeen series and Yamaha R6 Cup before taking part in last year's All-Japan Superbike Championship, in which he achieved top ten finishes before the end of the season.