

# Alex makes great start to the new motorbike season

...but cash worries may force him out of Scottish series

By Judith Tonner

**ALEX Gault and his team were “flabbergasted” by his spectacular start to the season, in which the 14-year-old won two races and set a lap record as he rode his new bike for only the second time.**

The Carluke motorcyclist, who has moved onto four-stroke machines to compete in the CB500 Cup and Scottish series this season, won both of his events in the first 2006 meeting of the latter competition, even though he had battled injury simply in order to reach the starting line at Knockhill.

However, his continued participation is in jeopardy — because although the youngster has sponsorship from MAG Sport to compete in the CB500 events, he

and his team may be forced to withdraw from racing in the Scottish series as they have “no funding whatsoever”.

Those fears could hardly have been further from Alex’s mind, however, as he gave a performance which defied the fact that he had previously climbed aboard the RV400 bike just once, on a practice day at East Fortune several weeks earlier.

He was fastest in the warm-up session on the morning of race day, and then repeated that feat in the official qualifying session, when he beat 17 experienced riders on what was only his second outing on the Fife circuit, taking pole position by almost half a second in a time of 56.791 seconds.

However, no sooner had the teenage competitor and his team finished celebrating that “unbelievable result”, than realisation dawned that they were in uncharted territory as Alex had never practised a race start on his new bike, let

alone started a race from pole.

His assessment was “I started as if I was on a scooter” as his rivals roared past him and his grid advantage evaporated as he fell back to 10th place.

By the second circuit of an exciting 10-lap race, though, the Carluke rider had moved up to fifth place and progressed to second as the riders entered the last lap.

He gave an excellent performance, overtaking the leader on the hairpin and screaming across the finish line after setting a new lap record for the class of 56.091 seconds.

The second race of the day was truncated to eight laps due to the threat of impending snow, and Alex again defied his own team’s expectations by fighting forward from fourth place to take the lead on lap five and win a sprint to the line by winning the inside line heading into the final corner.

His father, Alex senior, said: “He did a

fantastic job and all in all, it was a fantastic experience for young Alex and the team.

“There is still a strong possibility that we might have to pull out of the Scottish series, though, because we still have no sponsors — and taking lessons from last year, we can’t race competitively without a budget.

“We are desperate for a title sponsor and a tyre sponsor to at least make continuing a possibility after his fantastic start to the season.”

For further information on Alex, including sponsorship opportunities, log on to his official website, [www.minimotoracer.com](http://www.minimotoracer.com).

His next scheduled race is his CB500 Cup debut at Snetterton in Norfolk on May 6-7.

Subject to being able to continue racing in the Scottish series, he will return to the scene of his Knockhill triumph on May 28.