

Alex recovers from crash to move up in standings

ALEX Gault recovered from a crash in qualifying at Snetterton to move up to 11th place in the championship standings for his category.

He finished 15th overall in the eighth round of the British superbike championship, taking his tally in the ACU Academy Cup to 38 points.

The 14-year-old Malaguti rider has also helped the team into third place in the constructors' championship, just one point behind rivals Aprilia and eight ahead of Yamaha.

Each successive lap saw him improve his time around the Norfolk circuit, which is home to the fastest straight in the country, where 125gp bikes can reach a speed of 135mph.

However, he crashed during the second qualifying session after a mishap at the chicane on his third lap, when a set of new brake pads failed after only 18 corners.

The Carlisle teenager bumped his head, although he was again saved by his Vemar crash helmet; and after an overnight rest, he was given the all-clear to race the following day.

His time from Saturday's first qualifying session stood for the fifth time in this season's championship so he had to start from 30th place on the 40-strong grid the following day.

After setting the 15th fastest lap of the session, he continued his good form in the race, making a blistering start from

row eight and moving up to 25th after the first circuit.

The racers quickly formed into groups on Snetterton's two very fast straights, pulling themselves along, using the slipstreams created.

Alex made his way up to the back of the third-placed pack of six riders and moved up the field as far as 12th place before the end but slipped back after timing his manoeuvres wrongly on the last three laps.

He eventually finished in 15th place, a better result than he and his team had initially hoped for in light of his starting position, and one which places him 25th overall in the main British championship standings.