



**INSTANT IMPACT:** Alex Gault crashed out of his return to 125GP racing at Knockhill, but the Carlisle motorcyclist enjoyed his return to the discipline and would be delighted to compete more regularly in his old event.

# Gault happy with return to 125GP despite crashing

By Judith Tonner

**TEENAGE** motorcyclist Alex Gault crashed on the 11th lap of his much-anticipated return to 125GP racing, but the Carlisle rider still declared the one-off event a huge success.

The runaway leader in the CB500 Cup is now dreaming of a return to the discipline after being re-inspired by a competitive race weekend at Knockhill, during which he recorded his fastest-ever lap of the Fife circuit.

It was his first 125cc race in nine

months since moving to compete on four-stroke machines in the Scottish series and CB500 Cup and his verdict on returning to the smaller bike was that "it felt like a minimoto".

However, he soon familiarised himself once again with the bike, and dad Alex senior said: "Far from ending his thoughts on 125 racing, it has made him realise what he's missing and only the cost stops him making a return.

"Alex has already said 'I want to be back there. The 125 is a proper race bike!' so if he can raise more funds he could be back out at Oulton this month or Silverstone in September."

The youngster had been given a wild card to compete at the British superbike

championship event to fill the vacant place left by Dan Linfoot's move to moto-GP and frantically raised funds from sponsors, supporters and family to be able to take part.

After realising his season-long ambition of making a brief return to the championship, he quickly returned to form and was in 15th place after the first two free practice sessions with a best lap of 55.57 seconds, just 1.4 seconds behind the rider on pole.

He improved further to post a time of 54.878sec in timed qualifying the following morning, which was his fastest-ever circuit of the Fife track and gave him 13th position on the grid for the Sunday afternoon race.

Alex steadily progressed up the field once the race got underway, and by lap 10 had moved into eighth position and was targeting rival Tom Hayward.

He moved up a further place on the next lap, only to be forced wide by Hayward on the next corner, leading to the local rider losing control of the front end of his bike and sliding into the gravel trap.

Alex senior said: "It was a very disappointing end but Alex had a fantastic weekend and for him even to have made it up to seventh position in his only 125 race this year was a remarkable achievement."

"Looking at how fast the top bikes were, I would have said that it would have been good to finish in the top 15."