

# Gault storms back from big crash in free practice to take sixth place in series opener

By Andrew Weston

**TEENAGE** bike racer Alex Gault endured an eventful opener in the inaugural Henderson Harley-Davidson XR1200 Trophy Championship, picking up 10 points after a creditable sixth-place finish.

The Carluke youngster, on board the Stratstone Racing Harley Davidson XR1200, overcame a bad crash in free practice to stun the field in qualifying to claim second place on the grid at Oulton Park in Cheshire.

A gritty performance saw him finish in the top six, with experienced campaigner Jeremy McWilliams landing the trophy.

The championship has attract a varied mix of Clubmen, Superbike and Superstock contenders as well as younger stars like Gault, who are looking to develop their racing skills.

With experienced racers like former Moto GP man McWilliams, Shaun Emmett, Mike Edwards and teammate Dave Wood among the contenders, Gault, who wasn't even born when some of them were winning titles, was not expected to compete at the front.

However, his showing has delighted Stratstone Racing Team manager Martin McIlwaine, who has high hopes for the 18-year-old.

He said: "Alex showed a lot of courage coming back as strongly after that crash and his performance this week-



**TOP AWARD:** Gault's efforts at Oulton Park saw him collect the Harley Davidson UK man of the meeting award.

end has shown he will be a front runner in this championship."

Stratstone Racing, who are the largest Harley Davidson dealership in the UK, had turned out a stunning-looking bike for Gault.

But in free practice disaster was to strike on the fifth lap.

Whilst sitting in fourth place Gault was thrown from the machine at The Avenue – a fast

downhill section of the circuit.

Gault walked away unscathed but the bike was beyond repair.

Stratstone stablemate Dave Wood, who was out injured, allowed Gault to use his bike for the rest of the meeting.

Gault then amazed everyone in

qualifying by putting the new bike second on the grid just a fraction behind McWilliams, despite missing five laps with a clutch problem.

However, the race didn't work out quite as planned Gault, who raced with the Astro racing team in last season's Super Stock 1000 Championships.

On the first lap, he was knocked on to the grass by another rider and rejoined the race in 14th position.

He ended up on the grass for a second time as he tried to claim fourth spot but his determination finally saw him finish sixth.

For his efforts, Gault was named Harley Davidson UK man of the meeting, which will give him great con-

fidence as he looks forward to the double header at Mallory Park on June 25-27.

Subsequent events in this championship will be staged at Brands Hatch, Cadwell Park and Knockhill in Fife.

The championship is officially supported by Harley-Davidson UK and Ireland and runs as a support series to the British Superbike Championship.

Alex would like to thank all his supporters, sponsors and family for making his adventure possible.

He is still on the look-out for other sponsors to help with his campaign this year.

For more information get in touch through [www.alexgaultracing.com](http://www.alexgaultracing.com).