

# Gault has to settle for second place in new season opener

By Andy Weston

**RACING** ace Alex Gault had to settle for second place in the first round of the 2011 Harley Davidson XR1200 Championships last week after a dramatic conclusion to the race.

The Carluke youngster had quickly worked his way to the front in the rain-affected nine-lap race at the Thruxton circuit in Hampshire and was ahead of Blade Group's James Webb going into the final corner.

However, having led by just four-tenths of a second in the final lap, Webb was right on his heels and took his chance to overtake the Stratstone rider to claim victory on the final straight.

Nevertheless, this was a highly impressive start for Gault, who endured mixed fortunes last season.

He said: "I am disappointed not to get the win but with the visibility problems on the last few laps I was pretty lucky to stay on the bike."

"We haven't tested in the wet but the pace was very fast and it was nice to get on the podium after last year's ups and downs."

"It gets us off to a good start to the championship and hopefully I can get stronger throughout the season."

He added: "I would like to thank my mechanic Richard for all his hard work over the weekend, Stratstone and all my sponsors."

"It was a great weekend and I am really looking forward to the next race at my home round."

Gault only had one afternoon testing his bike at Mallory Park before the opening race which made his efforts at securing second place after qualifying



**FRONT RUNNER:** Alex Gault led from the front but was pipped at the final corner in the opening round of the 2011 Harley Davidson XR1200 Championships, held at the Thruxton circuit. Picture: Andy Kelly

all the more impressive.

The rain which had been forecast duly arrived in time for the race and as Alex took his place on the grid the conditions were horrendous.

The 10-lap race was reduced to nine following a 15-minute delay due to the wet conditions and 15 riders lined up on the grid.

The Scot got off to a flyer and was leading at the first corner.

He maintained that lead for virtually the whole race, with former Moto GP star Jeremy McWilliams just behind.

However, with three laps to go, the Carluke driver's visor steamed up and at the fast sections round the back of the circuit he could not see the edge of the track.

By lap seven, Webb had caught the 2010 XR1200 Trophy Champion,

McWilliams, and took the opportunity to pass him, leaving little time to battle for the lead position.

It all came down to the final corner when Webb took a chance to pass Gault and made it stick, despite the Carluke rider's bid to regain the advantage on the finishing straight.

Round Two of the Championship will take place at Knockhill in Fife on June 17-19.



## Conference on wellbeing and health on eve of games

LANARKSHIRE will hold a Health and Wellbeing Conference during this year's International Children's Games in August.

Involving speakers from Canada, Africa, the Middle East and Europe, together with home-grown talent, including athletes, sports photographers, coaches and volunteers, the three-day event will culminate with the opening ceremony of the Games on Thursday, August 4.

The conference, which will celebrate the way sport and physical activity can enhance young people's lives, will take the form of workshops, case studies and presentations with the objective of encouraging interaction between young people, experts and decision makers in the sporting arena.

Sessions cover a variety of issues which highlight best practice and research and will be relevant to a wide range of professionals and decision-makers with an interest in sports, fitness and education as well as volunteer coaches and young people embarking on a career in the industry.

Hands-on activities for young people will be included to encourage interaction and awareness of the importance of health and fitness and personal ability.

Conference organiser Gerry Campbell said: "This will be the 45th International Children's Games and while the games have always provided an opportunity to network and find out more about motivating young people through sport, this will be the first time a conference has been included."

The conference will take place at the Town House in Hamilton from August 2-4 and costs £48 per person - with an additional £24 on top for those wishing to attend the conference dinner on the Wednesday.

For more information and to register interest, email [conference@icg-lanarkshire2011.com](mailto:conference@icg-lanarkshire2011.com).