

Bike ace Alex homes in on new targets in bid to regain form

CARLUKE motorcycle racer Alex Gault will begin testing next month in preparation for a double silverware challenge — including a return to home territory.

The 15-year-old, determined to return to the podium after a difficult debut season in the British championship, is to compete in both the CB500 Cup and Scottish championship.

He has also been boosted by the support of several prominent new sponsors and is now raring to go for the new season as he bids to emulate the previous achievements of world superbike star James Toseland and moto GP rider James Ellison, both graduates of the CB500 discipline.

Alex and his team, led by father Alex senior, recently made the tough decision to move down a gear from the major domestic championship. But they are now hoping to recreate the young rider's trophy-laden junior days

with this season's dual competitive effort.

The CB500 Cup is considered a "natural progression" for the talented teenager, who won consecutive Junior Racing Association titles in 2003 and 2004.

Alex is currently recovering from a bone graft to heal a troublesome scaphoid injury in his wrist, and after making good progress he hopes to have the plaster removed this week.

Meanwhile, his supporters have been preparing two Honda CB500 bikes, with the assistance of specialist Geoffrey Coxon and long-standing mechanic Stephane Castille, ahead of the 11-round competition which will see him race at familiar prestige tracks including Brands Hatch, Oulton, Cadwell and Donington Park.

Testing on the new four-stroke machines is scheduled to begin in mid-March, along with work on the NC35 on which he plans to race during his free weekends as he contests the Scottish championship.

Alex will race on the circuits at Knockhill and East Fortune as he competes in the Scottish championship, which consists of 18 rounds beginning in April.

His efforts are to be financed by Mag Sport, the team's title sponsor, while Forth companies Sam Dorman Motors, JMT Honda and D&A Kitchens have also signed up to lend their support to Team Gault.

Alex said: "I am very excited about being able to race back in Scotland this season, and although I have only a limited knowledge of East Fortune and Knockhill, I am hoping to win the championship as well as the CB500 Cup.

"Last year wasn't as good as I wanted, but I did learn loads.

"I would have preferred to race a 125cc this year, but there are other things to consider and I am looking forward to racing the big four-stroke bikes."

For further information on Alex, or to sponsor his championship bid, log on to his official website, www.minimotoracer.com



FLYING THE FLAG: As well as racing in the CB500 Cup, Carluke motorcyclist Alex Gault will also compete in the Scottish championship on his 400cc Honda RVF NC35 bike.