

Motorcycle ace Alex sets new lap records at Three Sisters track

By Judith Tonner

ALEX Gault twice broke the circuit lap record at the Three Sisters track on a day when he zoomed past his rivals to win four races and three special awards.

The Carlisle motorbike racer took advantage of his six-week summer break from the British championship campaign to return to his previous stamping ground, the Junior Racing Association and Preston and District championships.

Riding his Malaguti bike, he began the weekend by coming second in the 125gp race after starting from the back of the grid — but the 14-year-old then proved unbeatable for the rest of the meeting.

He triumphed in the next two closely-fought encounters to win the 125gp and open single cylinder trophies; and also won the junior 125gp championship class.

Although he and his team had asked for his results to be disregarded when it came to the overall championship, in favour of those competing regularly in the series throughout the year, there was no ignoring his new JRA lap record of 55.2 seconds for the event.

Inspired by that success, he set a further new category record of 55 seconds when competing in the open singles class later in the day, capping a blistering performance for which he was awarded the “man of the meeting” trophy.

Alex returned to the Wigan track the following day having elected to concentrate on two events, as well as targeting the circuit record.

Its best lap times have fallen at every meeting since hosts Preston and District allowed the introduction of slick tyres, although riders have traditionally paid a price for their speed.



Racing line: Alex Gault is now the proud holder of the Three Sisters circuit record after a very successful weekend's racing.

Previous holders Casey Stoner and Jay Dun both crashed immediately after setting their marks of 55.0sec and 54.9sec respectively; and the Carlisle youngster had repeated the feat after an unofficial practice time of 54.8sec.

Despite being mindful of this statistic, Alex was still in blistering form in his two major races of the day, first winning the 125gp event in which he repeated his time of 54.8sec to make it a recognised record.

He then completed a stunning weekend performance in the JRA 125gp class, the championship in which he has successfully competed for the past three years, with a remarkable time of 54.6sec which secured a new outright Three Sisters lap record and also earned him the Pro-Care Medical Services Trophy.

Alex was also awarded the George McDonough Memorial Trophy in recognition of his impressive exploits during the weekend meeting.

He was honoured to accept the trophy, named in honour of an avid supporter of junior racing, which is awarded annually to the most deserving youngster and which Alex also won in 2003.

Thanks are extended to David Wodsworth of sponsors Specialised Coatings Halifax, who attended both days of the meeting and provided technical assistance with preparing and adjusting Alex's Malaguti bike between races.