



**FLYING SCOTSMAN:** Alex Gault will travel to Italy this weekend to compete at Misano in the European STK600 championship.

# Gault all set for Euro adventure

## MOTORSPORT

**ALEX Gault will set off tonight (Wednesday) for his opening adventure in the European Cup at Misano in Italy after a successful testing programme.**

The Carlisle teenager, who recently finished sitting Higher exams, will take part in race preparations tomorrow, then qualifying sessions on the following two days and the main 10-lap event itself on Saturday evening.

He and his team tested with Suzuki at

Rockingham last weekend and are now raring to go in the continental event, where he is standing in for Chris Leeson while his fellow rider competes in the South African championship.

Alex's build-up began with an abortive trip to Aintree, where a 40-minute torrential downpour including hailstones left the flooded track immersed under nine inches of water and the meeting called off.

However, he then squeezed in a trip to the Irish superbike championship at Mondello Park in the two days between his Higher PE and computing exams, finishing eighth in the first race at the

resurfaced circuit and then reaching the same position in the following day's event before crashing out on the fourth lap.

That excursion was swiftly followed by a training trip to Donington two days later, which included his debut ride of a super stock Kawasaki TMR ZX10 bike.

The teenager posted a top time of one minute 42.67 seconds during his three sessions on board, which would be enough to take pole in the Super Stock Cup, which runs as a support race to the British superbike championship.

Next on the training agenda was the Scottish championship at Knockhill,

where Gault recorded his first Super Sport 600 victory after winning the previous meeting with second and fourth places.

He achieved the same results again, finishing as runner-up in the first race of the weekend, making an impressive charge through the leading pack from his grid position of sixth and overtaking experienced riders Jonny Buckley, Dave Paton, Kenny Edwards and BJ Toal.

Gault then came fourth in a thrilling second race of the day, and produced very consistent performances, recording a fastest lap of 53.676sec in the first race and 53.684sec in the second.