

Super sub Alex is back on track for future success

By Judith Tonner

MOTORSPORT

CHAMPION motorcyclist Alex Gault is back on track after the devastation of being denied his hard-won European championship berth due to red tape regarding his age.

The Carlisle teenager will now contest three rounds of the continental Superstock 600 championship for Mist Suzuki while regular rider Chris Leeson is otherwise engaged racing in his native South Africa.

Now Alex is preparing for his first race at Misano in San Marino next month, followed by appear-

ances at Brands Hatch in August and Italian track Vallelunga in September.

Dad Alex senior said: "This is a very good compromise and will allow him to fulfil his ambition of riding in a European championship. It will also let him see the standard he has to attain."

The 16-year-old had beaten thousands of hopefuls to secure a berth competing in Suzuki's colours at the GSX-R Cup, but was then refused the required racing licence by the ACU.

Britain's governing body insisted that only riders aged 17 and over may race bikes more powerful than 675cc — despite the fact that the qualifying age in the rest of the European Union is just 15.

The late decision meant that Alex

and his team were also left without any domestic fixture arrangements. However, they have now chosen to take part in selective races on prestige tracks around the UK and to treat them as valuable testing sessions for the Superstock races.

Alex senior said: "This means that there is no possibility of winning any championship, which is always our goal, but we are now looking at the bigger picture and to the future.

"However, we now have a direction in which to go as, until now, the start to the season has been disappointing and frustrating. We are also considering running in three or four rounds of the British championship in the Super Sport 600 class to give Alex time on good tracks.

"Testing for the GSX-R Cup was



BACK ON TRACK: Alex Gault has a new goal after being denied a regular continental race this season, as he will contest three rounds of the European Superstock championship.

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still a great experience and, if Alex hadn't made it through, we wouldn't have met the people we did."

Alex has also taken part in recent rounds of the Scottish championship at Knockhill, and has attracted continued sponsorship from

Motherwell firm C&C Auto Salvage and fellow supporters B&C Express, R&G Racing and M-Tech Leathers.