

# Hat-trick of wins for bike racer Gault



**HAT-TRICK:** Carluke motorcycle racer Alex Gault won a remarkable Scottish championship double, just 24 hours after claiming equally impressive first and second places at Aintree.

## MOTORSPORT

**A STUNNING weekend of racing saw Alex Gault claim three remarkable victories and one second-place finish in a cross-border double-header at Aintree and Knockhill.**

The 16-year-old Carluke motorcyclist won the Super Sport 600cc category at the Merseyside circuit before finishing as runner-up in the highly competitive open superbike event. He then comfortably triumphed over a three-time Scottish champion and resident track expert at the Fife circuit.

He secured pole position for the 600cc final after emerging victorious from a four-way tussle to win his first race at that level on the Aintree track, one of the fastest in the country.

The youngster never looked back in the final, leading from the front and shrugging off the difficulty of having no nearby rivals from whom to judge pace, to win by 2.5 seconds from opponents Russ Mountford and Matt Maguire.

Gault gave an even more scorching performance in the summer sunshine in the Superbike class, against riders on bikes of up to 1300cc — more than twice as powerful as his Suzuki GSXR 600.

He and his race team were unsure how he would fare as he lined up in a lottery-allocated 18th place on the grid for the heats in the 64-rider event but he had progressed to eighth place by the back straight and moved up a place with every lap until he reached second and held on to that impressive placing to earn a front-row slot on the final grid.

The youngster wisely used the slipstream of the three riders ahead of him to

his advantage and made up ground while cornering thanks to his nimbler bike, gaining a place to move up to third on the fifth lap and then pushing his bike to its limits to overtake rival Greg Lewis on the final lap to claim a remarkable runner-up position.

Dad Alex senior said: "This really was a meeting to remember. We must also thank YPE for the sterling job they did on Alex's engine.

"We are getting very close with the bike set-up now and although it has taken longer than I wanted, I'm glad to say it is coming together."

Team Gault were immediately back in action the following day at the Scottish 600 Super Sport championship, and an exciting afternoon of racing was clearly in prospect when he overcame a brake problem to qualify in 53.146sec, just 0.154sec behind the pole position time of Bob Grant, a triple Scottish championship winner who is also the circuit instructor.

His brakes were still being repaired and tyres being replaced just 15 minutes before the first race started.

Gault made a bad start by slipping to fourth place but he then rode around the outside of the leading group and moved into a surprise lead, astonishing spectators by beating Grant by more than six seconds.

He then repeated the feat in even more comfortable fashion in the second race, moving straight into the lead from the off and pushing hard for the first six laps, which he consistently completed in times of 52sec.

He then cruised home for a remarkable victory over runner-up Grant, beating the man who has dominated the Scottish championship and the circuit for four years by a margin of more than 10 seconds.