

Teen Gault on shoulder of title fav

ALEX Gault has moved up to a surprise second place in the Scottish Super Sport 600 championship and has a real chance of taking the crown — despite not setting out to contest the title this season.

The 16-year-old from Carlisle recorded a win, two second places and a third position in last weekend's four races on his first outing at the East Fortune circuit near Edinburgh.

Although he has not been consistently competing in the event this term following an enforced last-minute change to his scheduled European plans, Gault is just 30 points behind leader and three-time championship winner Bob Grant with a further six rounds remaining.

The weekend programme comprised four

races, two each in the Scottish championship and the Melville Club competition, with Gault lining up as the youngest rider in the field by far.

Saturday's national championship race had to be halted after just four of the scheduled 10 laps following a crash in the rainy conditions, with Gault being awarded a runner-up finish.

He then won a close-fought club race on his Suzuki, winning an epic battle with Honda rider Paul Wishart by crossing the line 0.3 seconds in front, after taking the lead on the final lap.

Day two's proceedings were delayed for three hours by poor weather that led to water remaining on the track, but when racing got underway, Gault finished third in

the Scottish championship event behind Grant and David Paton.

The final race of the meeting proved to be the contest of the day, with Wishart, Paton and the Carlisle youngster inseparable as they exchanged the lead.

Gault led for the final five laps, only to be overtaken by Paton on the final hairpin, and despite an vying to move back into the lead on the final corner, the local rider settled for close-run second place.

He was also encouraged by posting successively faster times in every race, and could improve his championship chances further when the next round takes place at Knockhill on September 9.