

Gault ends title events on a high

By Judith Tonner

MOTORSPORT

ALEX Gault completed the racing season by winning both races in the final round of the Scottish championship at Knockhill and finishing third in the overall standings, despite only taking part in selected events.

The 16-year-old from Carluke led from start to finish as he won each of the feature races at the annual Jock Taylor meeting, named in honour of the late Scottish sidecar world champion, on a bike which had been hurriedly rebuilt following a crash on his last outing at the Fife track.

He was up against more than 40 other riders, including a host of champions such as Andy Weymouth, Liam Lyons, Dave Paton and four-time Scottish Super Sport champion and circuit instructor Bob Grant.

Gault's YPE Suzuki bike was rebuilt just in time for the race weekend and he and his team set off for last Saturday's two short test sessions not knowing how it would hold up.

However, the teenager was soon back on familiar territory, setting the fastest time in morning warm-up and then taking pole by leading from the front to win the timed qualifying lap in 52.354 seconds.

It set the tone for race day as Gault, the youngest rider in the championship, produced an outstanding performance with

consistent 52-second laps including a best lap of 52.224sec, to win by 2.5sec from MRO championship runner-up Lyons.

He repeated the feat in the next race, the inaugural Niall Mackenzie tribute race in honour of the retired rider, whose original plan to take part himself was thwarted by a recent appendix operation.

The race had to be restarted after just two laps following a crash, but the local youngster maintained his concentration and led from start to finish, holding off the challenge of runner-up and MRO Super Sport 600 champion Weymouth and being presented with his trophy by Mackenzie himself.



WINNING FEELING: Carluke motorcyclist Alex Gault won both races at the final round of the Scottish championship, and received his trophy from top former racer Niall Mackenzie.