

Gault's rollercoaster season continues

By Andrew Weston

ALEX GAULT'S rollercoaster start to the British Super Bike Championship season continued last week at Brands Hatch in Kent.

With bad luck having followed the ASTRO Kawasaki team since the start of the championship, 17-year-old Gault could only start from the fifth row of the grid in 18th place after brake failure in the original qualifying round resulted in him only managing to post the 18th fastest time.

It came after the Carluke youngster was knocked off his bike at the start of round two in Oulton Park, the bike sliding across the track on to the grass and into the tyre wall.

Two other bikes were involved in

the incident that ended the trio's race.

Once again, Gault had a coming-together with another rider at Branch Hatch - this time during free practice. It resulted in him sitting on the sidelines for the latter half of the Saturday session, with his bike beached in a gravel trap.

But once the race got going on Sunday, he was in exceptional form, jumping seven places after the first lap.

Gault managed to get up to sixth in the following lap before a massive rear-wheel slide coming down Paddock Hill resulted in him losing two places.

The ASTRO Kawasaki team member did re-group however and managed to fight back, only losing out on sixth place by 0.06 of a second at the end of the 14-lap race.

His performance won him the David Jefferies Memorial Award for highest placed finisher under the age of 18.

Jefferies, the popular holder of the Isle of Man TT outright lap record, tragically died in May 2003 when he crashed during practice at Crosby on the TT circuit.

The next round of the championship takes place on the weekend of May 24 at Donington Park where Gault will race in the 600cc championship as well as the next two rounds of the KTM Super Duke Battle taking place on the same weekend.

He will be racing The Fowlers of Bristol Ltd Super Duke 'R' machine in the latter championship.



BOOST ... Carluke racer Alex Gault got back on track at Brands Hatch after crashing out in round two of the British Super Bike Championships in Oulton.