

MAGsport

MAG Sport-supported rider Alex Gault continues to impress at British Super bikes, in the inaugural year of the National Super Stock 600 Championship the Scottish youngster Gault sits 9th in the main championship and 4th in 'The David Jeffries Memorial Award' scheme for the under 19's.

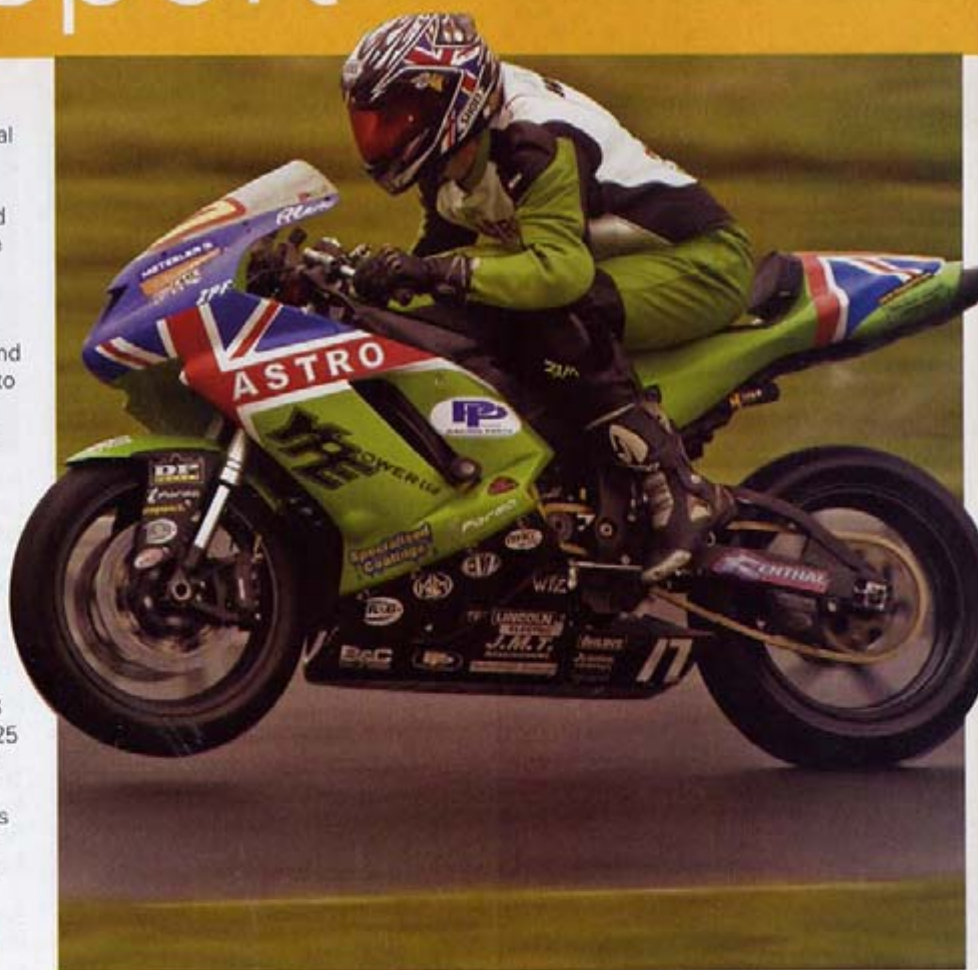
The David Jeffries Memorial Fund was established to help Children's charities and motorcycle orientated charities but also to assist junior riders in their efforts to achieve their ultimate goal of competing on the international scene.

The Jeffries family think the appropriate classes from which superstars can evolve are the GP125 and the National Super Stock 600 classes. For each of the 12 BSB rounds of the GP125 and 600 Superstock Class the DJ Memorial Fund pays £500 to the highest placed 16 year old or under 16 year old in the GP125 Class and £500 to the highest placed 18 year old or under in the 600 Superstock class. An end of year prize of £1500 goes to the winner of the GP125 and National Superstock 600 Championships, in their respective age groups.

Round 7 National Superstock 600 Championship - Knockhill

After Alex' turnaround at Oulton Park where he had his best result to date qualifying in 8th place and finishing 6th, things looked very hopeful for the next round to be held at his local track, Knockhill, even being tipped for the win by some. The weekend had started very well for the MAG Sport rider. Topping the leader board in Free Practice, the only rider to go sub 53 seconds, Alex' lap time of 52.862 laid down the gauntlet to the other 44 challengers at this round. First qualifying was held on a very wet track and Alex admitted not pushing hard as he knew Q2 would not be held in any worse weather conditions, he ended up P17 about a second of provisional pole. Q2 was held on better track conditions but still damp and overcast. Alex qualified in 4th position which was the inside line for the start of Sunday's race, 0.2 of a second behind pole sitter and championship leader Lee Johnston.

On Sunday the weather conditions were very unsettled and the local knowledge of the team made them decide on a wet front tyre and a dry rear, this turned out to be the wrong choice. As Alex lined up on the grid he found almost everyone else had gone for a completely dry set-up. Alex got off the line well as the lights went out and he managed to set lap times similar to the front runners that were on dry set ups but



with the wet tyre failing lap by lap Alex slipped back to 9th before the finishing flag fell. In fairness to the team it did start to rain during the race but only a few drops and nothing to affect the grip available from the track surface. Alex' mechanic said "MY FAULT! I hold my hands up. Alex did not need the advantage I tried to give him but I did think it was going to rain. When I saw everyone else on the front row with dry tyres I would have liked to have changed his front, I just didn't have time. I really am gutted for Alex."

The result does not serve the youngster justice, as this without doubt was one of the 17 year olds best rides of his racing career: a very gutsy performance! He was incidentally, the only finisher with a wet tyre, as anyone else had either crashed out or retired. The result was not what everyone had hoped for but was still good enough to preserve his 11th place in the championship over all and 3rd place in the 'The David Jeffries Memorial Award'.

Round 8 National Superstock 600 Championship - Cadwell Park

The next round of the championship was to be held at Cadwell Park. Gault's father has made no secret of the thoughts he has for the Lincolnshire Circuit. He said

"This is my personal opinion. I consider Cadwell Park to be the most dangerous track in the UK. It is a very demanding circuit at club level but I do not think it's safe enough for the pace of a British Championship race. I said at the start of the year; if Alex had no chance of winning the championship by the time this venue came round that he would not race there. He is sitting in 11th place in the main championship and I can see no benefit from letting him race. It is very hard to portray my thoughts in print; it is not a one man protest against Cadwell Park, it is just me protecting my son as best I can."

The decision almost saw Gault without a bike for the rest of the season, as his main Sponsor ASTRO were not at all happy. However things have been worked out and Alex could start to prepare for round 9 to be held at Croft in North Yorkshire.

Round 9 National Super stock 600 Championship - Croft

Although Croft is a local circuit for Alex he has not had much time around it and his success at the meeting was thanks to one man, 'Trevor Baird', one of Alex' personal sponsors who paid for the team to attend a test day at the circuit. Alex would like to publicly thank Trevor for this as it returned massive dividends as he then arrived at the Croft meeting having a good set up for



the circuit, which allowed him to concentrate on making only small adjustments to his bike, matching the track condition and climatic changes.

Free Practice

This was very positive as Alex posted the 11th fastest time of the session a 1.28.25. He had gone faster on the test day with a 1.27.65 but that was in the last session of the day. FP was slightly different weather conditions but being able to make a few adjustments made the team very confident.

Qualifying 1

Only 43 riders took to the track in the last session to be held on the Friday evening, in a very wet session Alex posted a 1.36.785 lap time to give him provisional 7th position on the grid.

Q2

This was held on another wet track; although it did start to slightly dry through the 25 minute session. Gault managed to go much quicker, posting a time of 1.33.982. Only problem was so had everyone else. He eventually ended up P11 for the start of the Championship race later that day.

Race

Thanks to the time he has had on track allied to his tyre choice and suspension

set-up, things ended up fairly straight forward for the race as the track was completely dry; a good start saw Alex up to 9th by the end of the first lap. In first place Robbie Brown (Yamaha) was in a class of his own, winning the race by over 8 seconds but as the race developed there was a fantastic battle between championship leader Johnston (Yamaha), Coates (Honda), Dixon (Yamaha), and Burns (Yamaha), with a 2 second gap to Akroyd (Triumph) and Gault (ASTRO Kawasaki). The pair pushed each other to the limit and both managed to catch and pass Jonathon Dixon but just couldn't catch the lead group at the end of a very exciting 15 lap race around the demanding 2.1 mile Croft circuit.

Alex had to settle for 6th equalling his best result of the season and again the first Kawasaki home and the fastest he has ever gone round the circuit with a fastest lap of 1.26.380. He did say he could have tried a 'Suicide Mission' on the last lap as he was much faster through sector 2 but as it was, Joe (who he has known since racing minimoto's) decided to settle for 6th.

This result even after missing round 8 for the reasons already stated, puts Alex for the first time onto the top ten leader board where he is now sitting in 9th place in the main championship and 4th in the DJMA.

