



**GOOD START ...** Carluke racer Alex Gault enjoyed his first competitive outing for the ASTRO Kawasaki team.

# Gault makes good start with new team

CARLUKE motorcycle ace Alex Gault had an encouraging start to this year's British Super Bike Championship, which revved into action at Thruxton, Hampshire, last weekend.

The initial round had been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions at Brands Hatch two weeks ago.

Gault, riding this year for the ASTRO Kawasaki team, was competing in two championships at these events - The National Super Stock 600 Championship and The KTM Super Duke Battle.

It was the latter race which was on track first and although 17-year-old Gault has had very little time aboard the Big V twin KTM motorcycle, he proceeded to post respectable times in free practice and timed qualifying for Sunday's race.

In the race itself, Gault found himself in a very exciting battle for third place which continued for all 12 laps.

However, at the last corner of the last lap, whilst in third position, a coming-together with another rider saw both leave the circuit and go onto the grass.

Both managed to recover and

Gault crossed the line in fifth position.

The excitement continued in the National Super Stock 600 Championship. Despite difficulties in Friday's free practice, Gault managed to secure 14th position from the 56 racers in qualifying.

It turned out to be another exhilarating race, where again Alex found himself battling for his position.

Scheduled for 14 laps, the race ended on lap 10 when the red flags came out for safety reasons after a rider crashed.

Alex was a little disappointed as he had planned to push in the last four laps, confident of moving a few more places up the leaderboard. However, he had to settle for ninth place.

After the race, Alex said: "That has been a fairly decent start. I'm glad to be racing again and get the Thruxton round behind me.

"It is a track I have had very little time at but I really enjoyed the weekend and I had two really good races.

"I would just like to thank every one who helped me out".

The British Super Bike Championship now moves to Oulton Park in Cheshire.