

MAGSPORT at British Super Bikes 2008 sees MAGSport-sponsored rider, 17 year old Alex Gault move up a gear. Alex is preparing to contend two championships which run alongside the British Super Bike Championship. With three rounds gone in the National Super Stock Championship, Gault sits in 9th place and in the Super Duke Battle he is in 4th place after the first round of that championship which took place at Thruxton.

## National Super Stock 600 Championship Round one Brands Hatch

All went well for Alex aboard his ASTRO Kawasaki ZX6r in free practice, setting 2nd quickest time just 0.051 of a second behind 2007 British 126GP Champion Luke Jones on the UK1 Yamaha R6.

Then Alex' luck changed for the worse. Brake failure on his second lap of timed qualifying saw the young Scott crash out. This was a disaster as rain had been forecast for the second and last qualifying session the following day. Gault's lap time of the 30 minute session was miraculously good enough for 18th slot on the grid from the 52 riders who tried to qualify for Sunday's race. Although much lower than expected, it could have easily been much worse as the bike was not too badly damaged and Alex escaped without injury from the estimated 100 mph tumble.

Second qualifying took place at 1515 on the Saturday. It had been dry all day until 1512 when the heavens opened and the track just got wetter and wetter. We knew then there was no chance of Alex improving on his Q1 time, so it would be 18th place on the grid for Sunday's race.

We were awoken on Sunday morning by a phone call from home, telling us how bad the Snow was there. I must admit to being a bit surprised, I was even more surprised when opening the blinds to see Brands blanketed in snow. As the morning went on the snow just got heavier and it was obvious there would be no racing that day. At 11 o'clock the official announcement was made, the meeting would be postponed until the 10/11th May when the race would take place from the already decided grid slots.

This was not a popular decision for us as it meant another trip and round at Brands Hatch with all the expense associated with it. Any other time a meeting had been cancelled due to weather it had either been taken off the calendar or ran as a double header at another scheduled round.

We just had to live with the organiser's decision and focus on the next round at Thruxton.

## National Super Stock 600 Round 1 and KTM Battle Round 1 / Thruxton

With the postponement of the Brands Hatch round, the attention turned to Thruxton Circuit in Hampshire, although planned as the second round it now found itself hosting the first race on the revised calendar.

Alex was to race two bikes here this weekend, 'The Astro Kawasaki ZX6R' in the National Super Stock 600 and the 'Fowlers of Bristol Ltd' KTM Super Duke 'R' in the 2008 Super Duke Battle. The sessions for both bikes were mixed and luckily Alex managed to handle jumping from one very different bike to another without too much hassle.

For the whole race, the front two rows of the grid diced it out. Although Fagan and Wood had a slight lead, Alex, Kevin Reilly, James Edmeades and Dave Heal were never separated by more than a few bike's length.

In the Super Stock Championship he again struggled with set up. Going out with the wrong final gear ratio on the bike he found he was hitting the rev limiter far too early on the approach to the final complex of corners. This resulted in Alex languishing down in 31st place. In the first of the qualifying sessions which was held on a wet track, a buckled disc stopped him from taking any part in the session, his time on track earning him 44th position – not good enough to take part in Sunday's race! Although a worry again, it was not the disaster from the first round as we knew the conditions on track would not be any worse for Q2, Alex would just have to make do with less track time (which he really needed here as he has very little experience round the Hampshire track).

Meanwhile the progress on the KTM Super Duke was going to plan. We knew Alex would not go very well here, lack of track knowledge and the Big V twin KTM would hinder him but we are looking to the future with this class and just wanted the Thruxton Round behind us. In Free practice Alex set the 7th fastest time however it was over three seconds slower than the man sitting in first place Dave Wood's time off 1.24.24, Alex only managing a 1.27.29

## KTM Battle FP2

This was held in the rain on a very wet track. Alex later said he was amazed at the grip available on this underused airfield circuit borne out by him posting a very respectable 1.28.31 and second fastest time of the session.

## KTM Qualifying

Again qualifying took place on a wet track and all the big guns pulled out the stops. The grid for Sunday's race was Kevin Reilly 1;26.76. Dave Wood 1;26.95, Dave Heal 1;27.310, Alistair Fagan 1;27.321 Alex Gault 1;27'70 Alex had qualified 5th for his first race aboard the KTM which was fantastic and much better than we had hoped

So the stage was set for Sunday's excitement..... if it didn't Snow!

## KTM Race

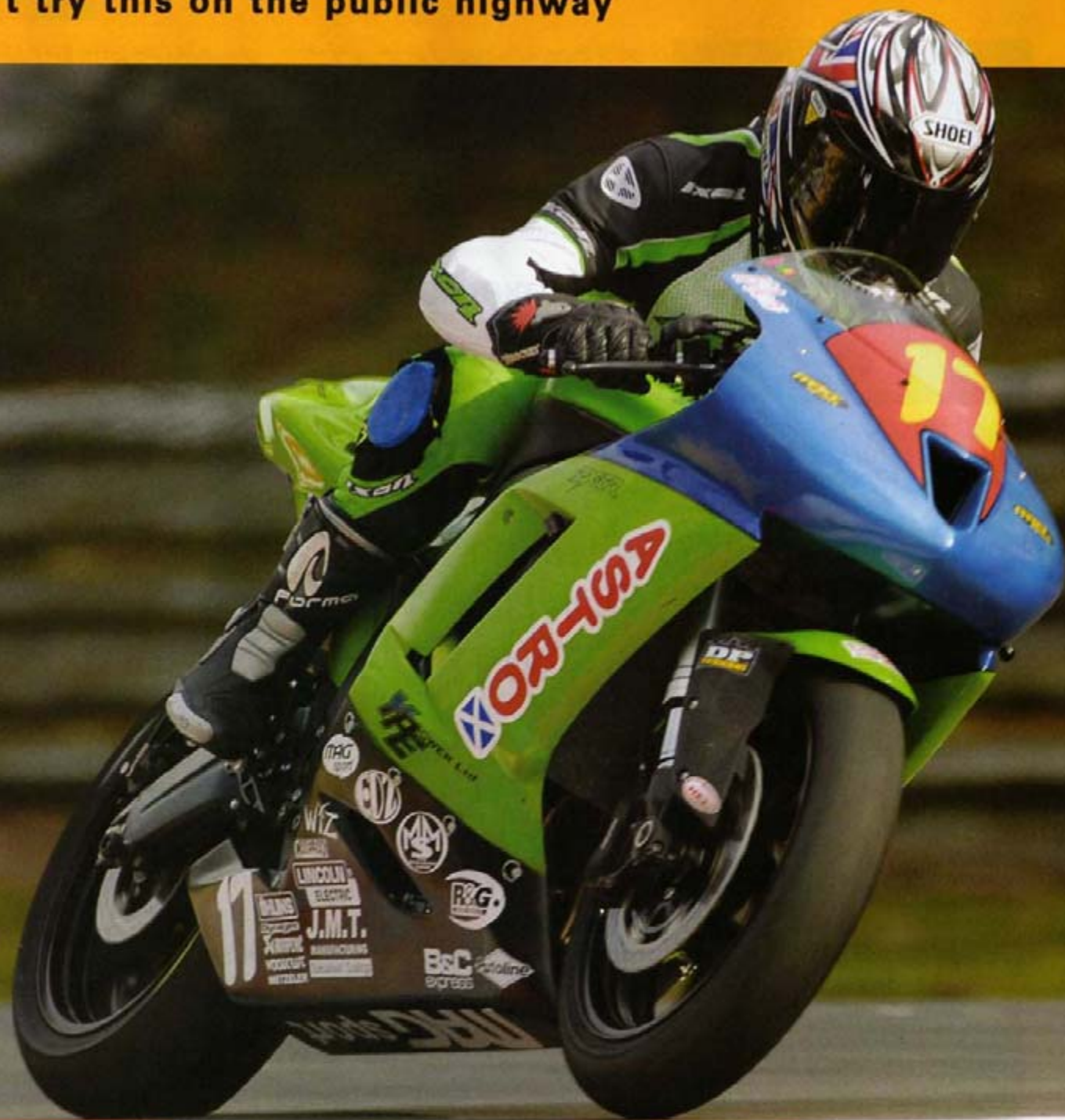
It didn't snow and the excitement was at fever pitch. First race of the day was the Super Duke Battle. Now with Alex lining up on the second row, we really didn't know what to expect. What we got was one of the most exciting races we have had this year. For the whole race, the front two rows of the grid diced it out. Although Fagan and Wood had a slight lead, Alex, Kevin Reilly, James Ed Meades and Dave Heal were never separated by more than a few bike's length. You can see the last corner on 'You Tube'. Search 'Alex Gault - Thruxton' well worth the watch, in the end Alex crossed the line in 5th place but it could have been so much better.

## Nat Stk 600 Race

With Alex having been out on track first it was a long wait until he took to the track again in the Super Stock 600 race. From his start position of 14th what could we expect? Before we went we had thought that a top 10 finish would be a good result. Alex didn't disappoint. He crossed the line in 9th position although it hadn't disappointed us Alex was angry. Although the race had been scheduled for 14 laps it had been cut short on lap 11 due to a

## Alex takes 100mph spill and walks away to race on! Don't try this on the public highway

Jason Scottphoto.jpg



faller. Alex said "I had planned to push on the last three laps, as I knew I could overtake at least another three bikes." A lesson learned perhaps.

### National Super Stock 600 round 2 / Oulton Park, Cheshire

Again bad luck and dare I say inexperience caused this to be a disaster. Again the bike had been set up wrong for free practice however Alex managed the 12th fastest time. In 1st Qualifying held on a damp track Alex fell back to 17th. He said the bike felt good but the damp patches on track were unsettling him and as the forecast was for a dry track in Q2 he had decided not to take any chances.

### Q2

Here Alex looked good out with the front group and overtaking, he returned to the pits to make adjustments on lap five. On returning to the track he found it too busy to get in a clean lap and found himself relegated to the back row of the grid for Sunday's race. He was knocked off at the first corner which is the price you pay for bad qualifying, hopefully another lesson learned.

### Brands Hatch the Re-run, National Super Stock 600

Every one re-appeared at Brands Hatch on the 11th of May in glorious weather, running from the grid positions already decided from the first visit. Free practice

was a formality we used to try and improve set up. Alex set 13th fastest time after only completing half the session which was something to do with running out of track at Paddock Hill bend. In the race he did a sterling job, coming from P18 and crossing the finishing line in 7th. So all in all, although slow to start with some bad luck thrown in things are starting to take shape and fall into place. we are looking forward to the next part of the season. Alex would like to thank every one who has helped and supported him so far. If you would like to become involved with the team, contact Alex through his dedicated web site at [www.minimotoracer.com](http://www.minimotoracer.com) or drop in and say hello at a race meeting.