

Serious challenge

MAGsport rider Alex Gault is contesting the British National Super Stock 1000 Championship

Since our last up-date the first two rounds of the British National Super Stock 1000 Championship have taken place. MAG-supported rider Alex Gault had only the equivalent of two test days and one regional race under his belt before he set off for the first round to be held on the short circuit at Brands Hatch in Kent.

As this year sees the Scottish youngster move to this highly competitive series on the most powerful bike he has ever raced there is no expectation of success. The year will be spent learning to ride such a powerful motorcycle in preparation for 2010 and the team thank all his supporters and backers for understanding this and continuing their support in what, it must be said, looks like a very difficult year.

Despite his lack of track time on the big Kawasaki and being the youngest rider in the race by quite some margin Alex had a very encouraging first round. He never put a foot wrong, at one stage topping the listings over the finishing line speed trap at 155.7 mph.

The only set back the team encountered over the weekend was when the weather caught them out in Qualifying one. Despite raining in the pit area, the track itself dried within seven laps of the session opening. As the team had no dry tyres available to them in pit lane Alex had to sit out the rest of the session, resulting in him having to settle for a lowly 32nd provisional qualifying position.

The Second Qualifying session went better for the team. Although the sky was overcast the track was dry which gave Alex the chance to improve in the standings. When the session ended Alex had qualified in 20th place, just four places in front of his team mate Bruce Wilson on the other Astro Kawasaki ZX10R, who found himself in 24th position for Easter Monday's race.

The entry list for this championship reads like a who's who of the best 1000cc motorcycle racers in the country. There

was last year's champion Brogan, Smart, McGuinness, Cummings, Neil, the list went on and on. The race was won by Ireland's Alistair Sealy after a stunning seven rider battle up front between Sealy, Cooper, Brogan, Hillier, McGuinness and Jenkinson.

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After Hegarty crashed out on Lap 13. Gault had his own four way battle with Cummins, Hurrell and Elkin, eventually losing out to the two times British Champion and winner at the NW200, Elkin, with Gault crossing the finishing line in 16th place and just missing out on a championship point.

This was a fantastic result for the youngster who has had very little time aboard the 180hp machine in this ultra competitive class and is looking forward to improving through the season as he becomes more familiar with the traits of the big Kawasaki. Alex said:

'This is by far the most powerful bike I have ever raced. I knew before we started this was going to be a very difficult challenge, I enjoyed the race and am sure I can improve over the season.'

On to Round 2

Another Holiday weekend saw the 2nd round of The British Super Bike Championship visit the picturesque Oulton Park Circuit in Cheshire. Alex was looking forward to this round as it is one of his



favourite tracks in the country.

However with no time around the track on the ASTRO Kawasaki ZX10R and no data available to them, the team knew it was going to be a struggle. This was evident after free practice when, with the wrong final gearing fitted to the bike the youngster found himself in 22nd position out of a field of 45.

With an alteration to the final gearing, things looked better for Alex in qualifying. It was after going through the speed traps at speeds averaging over 3mph faster than previously at 147.8 mph that disaster struck. A technical problem caused the 18 year old to retire. This resulted in him dropping down the placings, finally ending in 28th position from the 40 riders allowed to start the race.

The British National Super Stock 1000 Race was the first on Monday's programme and Gault took to the track at 12 O'clock. The weather had changed and for the first time this year the race would be held in the rain. As stated previously, no one was expecting anything from the debutant. Out of 45 entrants there were only four other new comers in this very

competitive class but Alex gave us a glimpse of what might be coming in the future. By the first lap he had overtaken seven riders and was up to 20th place. By the end of lap five he had climbed to 16th. He caught and passed another two riders which took him to 14th. As he entered the Hyslops Chicane under heavy braking the front wheel of his bike slid on dropped oil from a previous crash and the youngster and the bike went down.

Although the R&G Crash protection had saved the bike from any major damage despite it sliding on it's side for so long, there were traces of oil on it (later discovered to have come out the engine breather) and the Sector Marshals would not allow Alex to remount so his race was over.

Alex was very pragmatic about the event and afterwards said:

"It was very disappointing, the bike was going well and I felt good in the wet conditions, this is just one off those things that happen. Thankfully there is not much damage to the bike and we are looking forward to the next round of the

championship to be held at Donnington Park in a few weeks time.

In other news, Alex' new dedicated web site is now up and running. Pay a visit to www.alexgaultracing.com for the latest news and results.

