

# Gault makes solid debut in bike series

By Andrew Weston

**ALEX GAULT** made a highly encouraging start to his debut season in the British National Super Stock 1000 Championships last weekend.

The Carlisle racer finished 16th, just one place outside the points on the small Indy circuit at Brands Hatch in Kent.

Having started 20th on the grid, the 18-year-old rarely put a foot wrong and at one stage topped the listings over the finishing speed trap at 155.7mph.

Gault, who is the youngest rider in this class by quite some distance, is racing on the Astro Racing's Kawasaki ZX10R for the first time. It is capable of reaching speeds of 175mph.

It is hoped he will progress to the Super Bike Cup in 2011, having taken the step up from the National Stock 600 Championship to the 1000 class this year.

The only setback the Astro Racing team encountered over the Easter weekend was when the weather caught them out in the first session of qualifying.

Despite rain still falling in the pit area, the track itself dried within seven laps of the session starting.

As the team had no dry tyres available, Alex had to sit out the rest of the session, resulting in a lowly 32nd provisional qualifying position.

The second qualifying session went better for the team.

Although the sky was overcast, the track was dry and gave Gault the chance to improve his start position for the race. He ended qualifying in 20th place, with his teammate Bruce Wilson four places behind him.



**SOLID START:** Alex Gault finished 16th, one place out the points, during his first race in the British National Super Stock 1000 Championships.

During the race, Gault had a four-way battle with racers Cummins, Hurrell and two-time British champion at the NW200, Elkin, before coming home in 16th place.

The race was won by Irishman Alistair Sealy after a stunning battle up front which featured Sealy, defending champion Brogan, Super Bike contenders

McGuinness and Jenkinson as well as Hillier and Cooper after Hegarty crashed out on lap 13.

For rookie Gault, this was a confident start in what is an extremely competitive class.

He is clearly looking forward to improving and gaining valuable experience throughout the season.

He said: "This is by far the most powerful bike I have ever raced.

"I knew before we started that this was going to be a very difficult challenge.

"I enjoyed the race and I'm sure I can improve over the season."

For more information on Gault, go to his dedicated web site [www.minimotoracer.com](http://www.minimotoracer.com).