

# Biker turns around his season with an impressive finish

By Judith Tonner

**ALEX Gault has overcome a difficult start to life in the British Championship, enjoying his most successful race weekend of the season in the latest round of the competition.**

Not only did the Carlisle motorcycle racer complete every session, but he continually improved his times to record his best starting grid position and went on to finish 15th overall in a highly-competitive race.

The top ten riders all broke the lap record, while the local teenager's own time of 1:29.983 was almost five seconds faster than his personal best on the track.

It showed that Alex and his supporters from Team Barrus Malaguti had benefited from a three-week break before the last round of the championship, which allowed them to conduct their first proper test sessions on the new bike.

After making a dream championship debut with an impressive tenth place on opening day at Brands Hatch, engine seizures and set-up problems resulted in failure to qualify for the main race in the third round and highly-damaging crashes in the rounds at Thruxton, Oulton Park and Mondello Park in Ireland.

Despite the last incident, Alex managed to earn a place on the back row of the grid and, under instructions to make finishing the race his top priority, he



**OVERCOMING MECHANICAL PROBLEMS:** Alex Gault in the sort of action that saw him enjoy his most successful weekend of racing of the season.

moved up through the field to come home in 21st place.

His father, Alex senior, said: "When you are racing a bike that is not fast in a straight line, the only place you can make up time is when going round corners, and if you push too hard round them, you crash."

"With no spare parts available from Malaguti, it has been almost impossible to carry on, but we are not quitters and we manage."

"So far, this has been our worst season

ever but I can now see it turning round and we are hopeful of some better results in the latter part of the championship."

"Alex is still the top-placed newcomer to the championship who is not with a top team, and is beating many seasoned campaigners."

● The Wishaw Press have two pairs of passes for the British Superbike championship weekend at Knockhill to give away, courtesy of Alex Gault Racing and Team Barrus Malaguti.

Valid for all three days of action, from June 24 to 26, the paddock passes allow access to watch all the main feature races as well as the qualifying sessions.

For your chance to win, simply send your name, address and a daytime telephone number to Superbikes Competition, Wishaw Press, 354 Main Street, Wishaw ML2 7NG.

The same details can also be e-mailed to [jtonner@s-un.co.uk](mailto:jtonner@s-un.co.uk) by the closing date of Wednesday, June 22. The usual S&UN competition rules apply.