

Motorcycle racer will step down a gear to help drive



By Judith Tonner

MOTORCYCLE racer Alex Gault has made the tough decision to step down a gear from the British championship.

But the local rising star says he is vowing to be back at the top level in three years' time.

The Carluke teenager and his team, led by father Alex senior, arrived at their new plan after their dream of winning a factory contract to compete in the prestigious domestic event for Malaguti turned instead into a nightmare season of retirements from races and mechanical failures.

Now the 15-year-old will spend the forthcoming season racing in the CB500 Cup, marking a return to four-stroke machines which he will continue into 2007.

His father said that this decision will allow the team to save money and is a plan which they believe should provide them with the financial clout to make a second assault on the British championship in 2008 season.

Alex senior said that a lot of thought had been put into the decision.

He said this week: "This is a decision made by the head and not our hearts.

"This is the first time we have waked away from a championship in which Alex has not done well.

"I would dearly love to give him another go at the British title.

"I can't pretend, however, that this isn't a major setback to our plans.

"However, we remain convinced that Alex will make it to the top of the sport — it will just take a little longer now."

The CB500 Cup will allow Alex to continue racing at what has become for him familiar championship circuits including Oulton Park, Donington and Brands Hatch.

Although the Carluke teenager will be one of the youngest competitors on the cup scene, he and his team have set their sights on claiming the title.

In 12 months' time, at the age of 16, the Carluke competitor will be eligible to race on 600cc cylinder machines before going back to the British championship in the junior super stock class.

Despite the recent reassessment, Alex senior says that the team has drawn valuable lessons.