

# Biker Alex shows his class in cup debut

By Judith Tonner

**ALEX Gault continued his excellent new-season form by maintaining his 100 per cent record for 2006 with a highly successful debut in motorcycling's CB500 Cup.**

The Carlisle teenager earned the "man of the meeting" accolade after winning all four races over two days at the Snetterton circuit, despite having to juggle his racing commitments with crucial school exams.

It was immediately clear to the youngster and his support team as they prepared for first-round qualifying that the series was extremely competitive and professional, but the newcomer showed a clean pair of heels to his 22 rivals.

He took pole by almost 1.5 seconds for the first race at the event, organised by the New Era Super Club, and capitalised by win-

ning by more than 11 seconds from Irish rider Jamie Hamilton.

Buoyed by registering that first victory on his new Team Magsport Honda, he went on to produce an even more thrilling win in the second event, truncated to six laps following earlier crashes in other classes.

Riding the bike in wet conditions for the first time, he suffered a back wheel spin on the starting line and was placed ninth as the pack reached the first corner, but he gradually moved up the field to take the lead on lap four and hold off Sam Parry to win by 1.5sec.

There was no disruption to his momentum in the following day's second-round races, and he prevailed in an exciting four-way battle after starting from pole in the first event, winning by just 0.03sec from the impressive Hamilton.

In the final race of the weekend, the pair again fought out an equally close duel in another shortened

six-lap race, but Alex appeared to have lost his chance of victory after an error saw him drift wide with three corners left on the final lap.

However, he managed to catch up with Hamilton as they entered the final corner, and won the sprint to the finish line by no more than half a wheel length, to the delight of the excited spectators.

The successful youngster's father, Alex senior, said: "It was a weekend of fantastic racing with the two 15-year-olds showing the rest of the pack true skill in very difficult conditions.

"Alex has shown his potential in the past five races after his move to four-stroke bikes — we are all very happy with his performance and are looking forward to a great year of racing."

The local rider's next challenge comes this weekend, when he again takes on his CB500 Cup rivals at the technical Oulton Park circuit.



**MEAN MACHINE:** Alex Gault was named as the top competitor on his CB500 Cup debut after winning all four races at Snetterton.