

Halfway to glory as Alex leads the field

By Judith Tonner

ALEX Gault has reached the halfway stage of the motorcycling season with a commanding lead in one competition and a chance of winning another.

The Carlisle rider is 119 points ahead of his nearest rival in the CB500 Cup.

And he can still take the Scottish championship title if he triumphs in all six remaining races left in the season.

Alex is currently ranked third in the latter event, on which he competes on a Honda RVF400 bike as a member of the YPE Power team, and is 26 points behind leader Craig McClelland.

The local teenager, however, is confident of rising to the challenge, as he has taken pole position at all six meetings of the series so far - and has won

all four races he has finished.

It has already been a superb season for Alex in a number of competitions.

He broke the Knockhill lap record on his first outing on the bike and in what was only his second race at the Fife circuit.

And although a collision prevented him adding to his points total in the third and fourth rounds, he returned to form in the last two races and can take the title by four points if he collects maximum points for the rest of the campaign.

Alex faces less of a challenge in the CB500 Cup, where he has an imposing 300 points on the leaderboard after setting pole and winning all 12 races to date on his Magsport Honda.

Indeed, his lead is so strong that he and his team plan to double up during the forthcoming round at Donington Park.

As well as racing in the

two championship rounds, he says he will also take part in the hotly-contested New Era club championship on a 400cc machine.

Dad Alex senior said they are delighted with the performances so far this season and continued:

"The two bikes are so different that it will be hard for Alex to get the best out of both in his contests.

"However, we have decided that as he has such a strong hold over the CB championship he can concentrate at that meeting on the 400.

"He will also start testing a 600cc four-stroke machine very shortly.

"At this time we don't know which type of bike he will use next season, but things are certainly taking shape.

"Since moving to four strokes this year, Alex has contended 10 race meetings, taken pole at every one, had 22 races and won 18 — it's almost too good

to be true.

"However, I put the success down to the help we have had this year.

"We have managed to raise sufficient funds, YPE and ERS have done a brilliant job with the 400

and Geoff Coxon has given Alex a very good CB500."

He will also make a one-off return to his old territory of 125cc grand prix racing this weekend at the Scottish round of

the British championship, following a successful fundraising appeal after being offered the opportunity in place of Dan Linfoot who will be competing at the Sachsenring.

Alex senior added: "We are very grateful to everyone who pledged the additional support for this, as Alex has wanted to have a wild card ride at this round since the start of the year, and it's thanks to the

people who actually support young racers that he has this chance."

For further information on Alex's progress, log on to his official website which is at www.minimotoracer.com.