

# Gault wins bike title with five races to spare

By Judith Tonner

**ALEX Gault is this season's CB500 Cup champion, securing the title at Snetterton last weekend with five races to spare in the motorcycling series.**

The Carluke teenager won all three rounds at the Norfolk circuit and even enjoyed a special lap of honour in which he set a category lap record for the circuit.

It made up for his recent disappointment in not being selected to compete in the Red Bull Rookie Cup, a prestigious European championship, after taking part in trials in Spain last week.

The first race of the CB500 Cup weekend saw Alex claim second place on the grid but closest rival Jamie

Hamilton crashed out in wet conditions on the second circuit.

That left the 15-year-old to engage in a battle with Aaron Easter and he passed him on the final lap to take the chequered flag.

Alex said: "Jamie passed me going into the corner and I knew there was no way he was stopping.

"I steered clear as I watched him drop down the gears and lock up the back wheel. The wheel stepped out and threw him off the high side."

Saturday's second race saw Alex cruise to the front and do just enough to stay in front of runner-up Hamilton, meaning that he was in position to clinch the title in the first race of the Sunday session.

He did so by cruising to a comfortable win in a race notable for the surprise second-place finish of rising star Mike Jenkins, ahead of Easter and Hamilton,

the latter by now riding a borrowed bike.

Although Alex had no need to compete in the fourth and final race of the weekend, the newly-crowned champion quickly roared into the lead and finished the eight laps 15 seconds in front of Hamilton, completing his fastest single circuit in one minute 21.81 seconds.

In addition, he came second in the penultimate race of the Scottish series at Knockhill, maintaining his third place overall in that championship.

Now that the season is over, he plans to move up into the 600cc class next year.

His current bikes are already up for sale while he searches for a new 600cc machine to begin testing in the near future.

He has already attracted a new sponsor in the form of Wishaw company Dream Sofas.

Alex had travelled to Valencia after

being chosen to test for a place in the Rookies Cup but found himself up against teenagers who had far more experience of the very technical track and the 125GP bikes used.

His father, Alex senior, said: "We learned lessons and I am glad we went as it made me realise that we could not afford to race at that level.

"Even though expenses are paid, money and dedication are still needed to contend successfully in a championship like that.

"Some kids had been out in Spain for weeks beforehand practising on the same bikes they used for the test, some had the same bikes in their own countries and some were just stunning riders.

"Alex would have had to be on a 125 every weekend next year, and that aside, he was just not what the organisers were looking for but it has helped us to decide which way we will go next year."