

Crash ends Gault's hopes of victory in round two of series

By Andrew Weston

CARLUKE racer Alex Gault suffered disappointment in the second round of the British National Super Stock 1000 Championships last weekend.

The 18-year-old crashed out of the race at the picturesque Oulton Park Circuit in Cheshire having climbed from his starting position on the grid of 28th to 14th.

As Gault entered the Hyslops' Chicane on lap six, the front wheel of his bike slid on dropped oil from a previous crash and the youngster and his Kawasaki ZX10R went down.

Damage caused to the bike meant he could not remount and his race was over.

The race was won by Irishman Alistair Seeley (Suzuki), who secured his second victory of the season fending off defending champion Steven Brogan (Honda).

Gault, who is the youngest racer in this class and is in his debut season, had high hopes going into round two after an encouraging debut last month where he finished 16th on the small Indy circuit at Brands Hatch in Kent.

Nevertheless, he showed glimpses of his undoubted talent and that will encourage the Astro racing team for the remainder of the season.

Gault was pragmatic after the race, saying: "It was very disappointing, the bike was going well and I felt good in the wet conditions. This is just a one-off and those things can happen.

"Thankfully, there is not much damage to the bike and we are already looking forward to the next round of the championship at Donington Park in a few weeks' time".

The Carluke teenager was at a disadvantage from the start of the weekend as his team had no data available to them which was evident after free practice when, with the wrong final gearing fitted to the bike, Gault found himself in 22nd position in a field of 45.

With different final gearing fitted, things looked better for Gault in qualifying as he went through the speed traps on average more than 3 mph faster than previously at 147.8 mph.

However, a technical problem caused him to retire and he ended in 28th position from the 40 riders who started the race.

The National Super Stock 1000 Race was first on the Bank Holiday Monday programme and when Gault took to the track



OFF COURSE: Alex Gault (number 17) crashed out in Round Two of the British National Super Stock 1000 Championships last weekend.

at midday the weather had changed, meaning for the first time this year a race would be held in the rain.

Gault is one of four newcomers to this very competitive

class and little was expected from him but he showed why the future is bright when he overtook seven riders by the end of the first lap. The rookie was up to 16th at lap five and overtook two more

racers before the unfortunate crash that ended his race.

For more information on the British Superstock 1000 Championships, go to www.british-superstock.com.