

Gault saves best race of the season for his home track

By Graham Miller

THE British Super Bike Championship visited Knockhill in Fife recently and Carluke racer Alex Gault put his local knowledge to good use in the two rounds of The British National Super Stock 1000 Championship with two excellent eighth-place finishes, his best performance of the year.

Gault has impressed in his rookie year in the championship, having previously scored points with an 11th-place finish at Donnington and a 12th place at Snetterton, and he was looking for an even better performance at his local circuit.

However, his weekend was not without difficulties. Despite Gault's knowledge of the track, the team had no set-up details for the ASTRO Kawasaki ZX10R.

This was not evident in Saturday's free practice, which took place on a very wet track. Gault finished the session in seventh position overall, which was very impressive considering the difficult circumstances.

However, problems arose when qualifying round one was held in the dry. The gearing and suspension settings were not as good as they could have been and Alex struggled to put in a good time.

His team worked well in the period before the second qualifier and, although far from perfect, the bike was going better.

Throughout the 30-minute session, Gault visited the pits on numerous occasions for adjustments to be made,



SPEED STAR: Alex Gault (centre) in action at Knockhill, where he enjoyed his highest finish this season.

going faster each time he rejoined the track. With six minutes to go, he returned to the pits for final adjustments to be made before pushing to improve his time in the last few minutes.

However, as he left the pit lane, rain started to fall and Gault had to return as there was no way he could have gone any faster in the conditions, settling for 15th slot on the grid for the two races to be held the following day.

Alex got off to a great start in the first race and jumped forward a few places.

By the end of the lap, he was up to 10th, and finally crossed the line in eighth position, his best result of the year.

The second race was held in brilliant sunshine and expectations were high for the 18-year-old. This was another very mature race from Gault who again launched his ASTRO Kawasaki ZX10R off the line gaining a few places in the process as the riders went into the first corner.

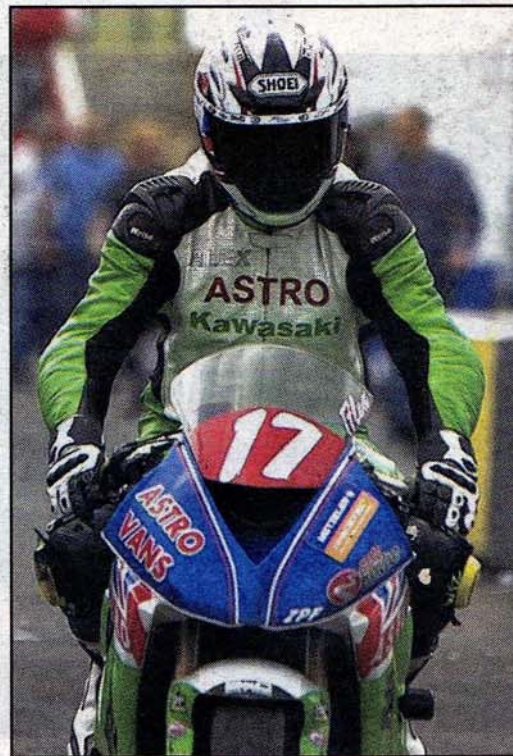
It was James Hillier on the factory Kawasaki who put the Carluke rider under pressure this time as a pack of four bikes jostled for the lead.

Once again, the young Scot finished in eighth place, collecting another eight points and moving up to 12th place in the overall championship.

Gault now takes a break from the championship as the Super Stock Classes do not feature in the next round of the championship, to be held at Mallory Park in Leicestershire.

It will be the ninth round, when the championship visits Brands Hatch in Kent from August 7-9, before Gault sees more action.

● Keep up to date with Alex by visiting his website on www.alexgaultracing.com.



GOOD PERFORMANCE: Gault finished a very credible eighth at the Fife track.