

Race teen stuns the medics by getting back on his bike

By **Tristan Stewart-Robertson**

JUST nine weeks ago, surgeons fought for five hours to save the shattered leg of teenage motorcycle racing star Deane Brown after a 90mph crash at Brands Hatch.

Now, following a recovery that astonished surgeons, Deane, 15, will race again in the British Superbikes Championships at Oulton Park, Cheshire, on Sunday.

Deane, a fourth-year pupil at Dalziel High School in Motherwell, was 23rd in the teenage motorcycle racing world rankings when he had the horrific crash.

The teenager, still walking with a slight limp and sporting a massive scar down the side of his right leg, used positive thinking to speed his recovery from the broken femur.

Amazed

He said: "Injuries come with the sport. It didn't freak me out. I had been through an operation before.

"The doctor was amazed. He said he had never seen someone heal so quickly. I didn't even have any physio during my recovery period."

Deane, from Motherwell, got his first chance to get back on a racing bike at a training session last Tuesday at Knockhill Racing Circuit, near Dunfermline in Fife.

He said yesterday: "It was great to be back racing at top speeds. I never had any doubts that I would be back sooner rather than later, and there were no ill effects."

On May 11, Deane was at the Brands Hatch racing circuit in Kent, doing a 10-minute warm-



up for the British Superbike Championships.

With just another minute to go before the end of the session, the back tyre of his Honda KR Seel 125 left the track and both it and Deane were thrown into the air as a fellow racer drove under the £50,000 machine.

Deane was taken to Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup, Kent, where doctors carried out emergency surgery to save his leg. But there were complications. The teenager had a plate in his right thigh from a previous break, and, when doctors tried to remove it, a screw broke and

he started to bleed. Surgeons used 56 staples to seal the wound. A rod now goes through Deane's femur, added to the two pins in his wrist and skin grafts from previous accidents.

Tomorrow, he hopes to speed through the British Superbike Championships, cheered on by his father John, 44, and mother Isabell, 42. Deane said: "My goal is to become world champion."

But he admitted: "My mum worries a lot. My dad doesn't tell me he worries, but he does."

John, an independent financial adviser, said: "I would rather see him on the bike than

not, but I will be a bit anxious on Sunday as a parent. It's very stressful watching him out there. But for the past eight years I've had to live with it."

Deane, who started racing at the age of seven, was the UK minimoto bike champion in 2002 and 2003, having been inspired by his uncle Gordon Grigor, a Scottish champion.

He only needs to climb from his current 12th place of the Red Bull Moto Grand Priz Rookies Cup into the top 10 to gain a spot on the Indianapolis racing track against US champions.



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