

agreed to provide two fully-equipped Pan Europeans on a loan purchase agreement.

The aim was always to provide a free 24 hour service to hospitals, and MEDS is staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers. Anyone can apply to become a MEDS rider, but they have to go through stringent advanced rider training (through MOTAG) before being accepted. Anyway, they're looking for ten "experienced, mature, keen, local, volunteer riders" to add to the strength, so if you're interested, give them a ring on the number below. Even more crucial, they need financial support to keep this essential service on the road - sponsorship arrangements or simple donations are all welcome.

**MEDS: (01935) 841551**

## Supermono Decision

A British team - Hejira Racing HRD - has persuaded the FIM to overturn a ban on the use of carbon fibre in the European Supermono Championship.

Buckingham-based Hejira would have suffered from the ban, as it builds carbon Supermonos both for its own Team HRD and for customers. Team HRD is also the only team in Europe which races carbon fibre bikes.

Hejira's carbon fibre Supermono gets the go ahead



David Handley of Hejira flew to Geneva to appear before a thirty-strong panel, which after a ninety minute discussion agreed to drop the carbon fibre ban. He thanked the ACU for its part in helping to get the ban lifted.

Team HRD are now looking for sponsors for this year's Supermono Championship. They'll be running three bikes and two riders in the British Championship, and five bikes/four riders in the European.

# Hejira overturn the FIM ban

GAWCOTT'S Hejira Team HRD have successfully overturned a ruling by the motorcycling governing body, the FIM, writes James Beckett.

And they will now be allowed to race their revolutionary carbon-fibre machines in the European Cup Supermono Championship during the 1997 season.

Hejira, under the guidance of Derek Chittenden, have been producing motorcycle parts with state-of-the-art carbon-fibre for over six years and were shocked to learn of their ban from international racing when the FIM met in Bangkok last October.

But after representative Dave Handley presented a case for Mo-

## MOTORCYCLING

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After a lengthy meeting, the FIM reversed their ruling and readmitted carbon technology into the European Cup Supermono.

As Chittenden explained: "It was a huge blow to us when we learnt our machines would not be eligible for competition.

"But we fought a hard case and are obviously delighted with the news.

"Indeed, we seem to have the support of other manufacturers."

Although the FIM have now

opened the door for Team HRD to compete, the late decision has left them little time to sign a rider to race throughout the season.

"Obviously all the leading riders have signed elsewhere, which is understandable as only seven days ago we were deemed to be outside the rules and regulations," said Chittenden.

Hejira will also contest the British Singles Championship, while Buckingham's Robert Whitworth will ride one of the team's machines in clubman events.

Whitworth made his racing debut on a Hejira at Silverstone last year and is looking to establish himself at club level on one of Chittenden's bikes.

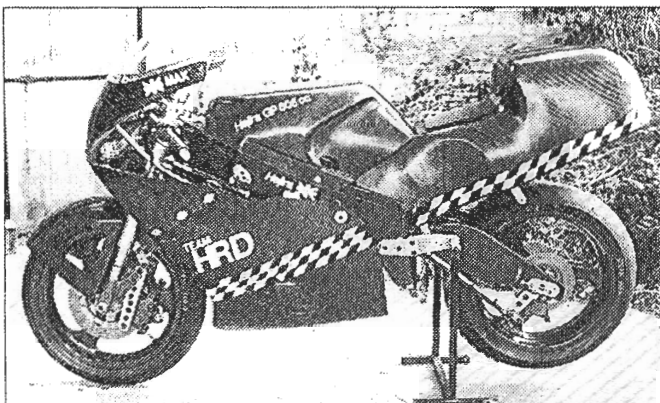
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## HEJIRA BEATS OFF CARBON RACE BAN

FRAME specialists Hejira has beaten off a bid to ban its super-lightweight carbon fibre frames in European supermono competition.

Hejira Racing, from Gawcott, near Buckingham, was angered when rules for the European supermono series banned carbon fibre frames. But the team successfully forced the FIM into a U-turn at a hearing before the technical committee in Geneva last week.

David Handley, from the firm, told the 30-strong committee the ban would jeopardise the company's future, adding that the supermono class - in its second season this year as a World Superbike support race - was important to firms like Hejira as it was the only one which allowed prototype



■ ALL CLEAR: Hejira's carbon fibre racer has been given race OK

machines to race.

The committee finally voted unanimously to overturn the ban, which relieved Handley.

"British technology has not

been blocked and we will be able to lead the world," he said. The firm plans to run five machines in the European class this season.



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## Dave gets ban lifted

MOTORCYCLE engineering expert David Handley successfully fought a ruling which threatened disaster to the Hejira motorcycle racing team.

He flew to Geneva after the FIM – the world governing body of motorcycle sport – banned the use of carbon-fibre in the single cylinder European Supermono Championship.

After a 90-minute discussion, the committee unanimously voted to overturn the ban.

Hejira Racing from Gawcott, near Bicester, is the world's leading company in the design and production of carbon-fibre road racing motorcycles and the only team in Europe to race carbon-fibre machines.

A company spokesman said: "The ban would have caused great financial hardship to the company and the workers and jeopardise future orders as well as threaten existing ones."

Team HRD, the factory-based team, is looking for sponsors to help it race in Europe in the Supermono Championship.

## MOTORCYCLING

### Whitworth back in action at Lydden

BUCKINGHAM'S Robert Whitworth made his second race meeting appearance last Saturday at the Kent circuit of Lydden Hill, writes *James Beckett*.

Having previously raced at Silverstone's Motor Cycle Club meeting, Whitworth rode a Gawcott-built and prepared Team HRD Hejira bike at Lydden.

The 600cc single-cylinder machine took part in three events with a highest-placed finish of 11th, with Whitworth starting one of the races on the front row of the grid.

Harry McLeod was also in action at Lydden, riding a Derek Chittenden-engineered Hejira, and both riders plan further outings with the team over the next few months.

## MOTORCYCLING

### Whitworth and McLeod at Mallory

BUCKINGHAM'S Robert Whitworth and Bicester's Harry McLeod were in action at Mallory Park last Sunday racing Hejira 600cc machines at a meeting organised by the New Era Club, writes *James Beckett*.

Whitworth took part in four races, while McLeod contested three.

Two races in 'Sound of Thunder' events saw Whitworth record 11th and 14th placings, while his other two outings netted 10th and 15th place finishes.

"I was really pleased," said Whitworth. "I had some good races, although in one I had to avoid a couple of guys who crashed right in front of me."

McLeod's day started badly after tumbling from his Derek Chittenden-manufactured Team HRD Hejira single-cylinder machine in his opening race, but he returned to the track to compete twice more despite an electrical problem that left his machine difficult to start.

● The duo continue their season in a fortnight's time at Wroughton near Swindon.

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## Hejira's Handley wins day

### MOTORSPORT

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He flew to Geneva after the FIM, the world governing body of motorcycle sport, banned the use of carbon-fibre in

the single cylinder European Supermono Championship for 1997.

He faced a gathering of 15 members and about 15 advisers on the FIM's technical committee and spoke for 30 minutes on the construction of the race machines. After a discussion lasting 90 minutes, the committee unanimously voted to overturn the ban.