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Inzane Laverda Are First Green Motorcycle Race Team

Inzane Laverda, a motorcycle racing team based in Peterborough, will be first in the field to take advantage of a change in UK bike racing rules permitting the use of biofuels. The team which is jointly owned by Ian Calvert and Geoff Lancaster have adapted a ten year old Italian Laverda Formula 650 machine to race in the UK Mini Twins category, a series usually dominated by modern Japanese Suzuki machines.

However it is not the nationality of the bike which will promote most interest in the new team but the fact that it will take to the track for its first race at Snetterton on July 7th fueled by E85, a blend of bioethanol and petrol.

"We have made modifications to fuel mapping of the bike to accommodate the green fuel" says team technical director and test rider, Ian Calvert, "Early results show an increase in fuel consumption but no loss of power. Mini Twins is a closely controlled formula and thus any changes made have had to be in strict compliance with the rules".

Biofuels were introduced to US Indycar racing this year and will be introduced for the British Touring Car series next year but Inzane Laverda are the trail blazers as far as UK bike racing is concerned. Fuel supply is still rather a problem. There are not many filling stations yet that sell E85 so its lucky that down the road from Snetterton in Norfolk your friendly local Morrisons have a pump!

And Norfolk is set to be the biofuel centre for the UK shortly when British Sugar commissions a brand new biofuels refinery adjacent to its giant sugar processing plant in Wissington.

Editor's notes:

- 1. E85 is an <u>alcohol fuel</u> mixture that typically contains a mixture of up to 85% denatured fuel <u>ethanol</u> and <u>gasoline</u> or other hydrocarbon by <u>volume</u>. On an undenatured basis, the ethanol component ranges from 70% to 83%. E85 as a <u>fuel</u> is widely used in <u>Sweden</u> and is becoming increasingly common in the <u>United States</u>, mainly in the <u>Midwest</u> where <u>corn</u> is a major <u>crop</u> and is the primary source material for ethanol fuel production.
- 2. In its debut race the Laverda ran faultlessly with team rider, Russell Joyner achieving an excellent top ten finish despite minimal testing and development.

For further information and action photographs contact:

Geoff Lancaster
Team Inzane Laverda
07860 562659