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FIRST HEAD-TO-HEAD

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STREET HAWK

'80s TV ICON FOR SALE

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EXCLUSIVE

Street Hawk on sale ...for £20k!

Cult star of '80s TV being sold by the stuntman who rode it

By James Tindall

THE bike that was the title star of cult '80s TV show Street Hawk is up for sale - at a cool £20,000.

It is being sold by stuntman Chris Bromham, who performed many of the action sequences in the series. The kids' programme starred Rex Smith as Jessie Mach, a Los Angeles police officer given charge of a super high-tech motorcycle.

Typical scenes would see Mach pursuing a variety of felons at speeds of up to 300mph on Street Hawk, which bristled with gadgets and weapons. The bike was also fitted with air brakes, enabling a whole new series of unlikely manoeuvres to be performed on-screen. Such heroics would be faithfully recreated up and down the country every Saturday afternoon by 12-year-olds on bicycles.

Bromham was one of five stuntmen working on the series. And he claims that although there were once 15

Street Hawks in existence, this is the only one remaining. Two types of base bike were used - Honda CR500 or XR500 singles. The four-stroke XR500s like Bromham's were used mostly for wheelie sequences and short jumps, while the lighter, higher-powered CR strokers were used for bigger jumps and high-speed shots.

Apart from the bodywork, a set of motocross forks, a different spec exhaust, mag wheels and Performance Machine brakes, the XR500s were standard bikes.

Bromham's main memory of Street Hawk was that it was "a pig to jump."

His bike is the same one used in the TV show's title sequence, when Street Hawk bursts out of a cloud of smoke.

After the show's run ended, the bike was sold to a Honda dealer in Arizona. Ten years later it turned up on internet auction site ebay and through a series of sales found its way back to Bromham, who restored it bike to its present condition.

Call Bromham on 07742-526110 to make a bid.



NOW you can own the bike you always wanted in your Saturday afternoon '80s TV dreams (readers aged 30 and under only)

UNDER all that plastic nonsense lurks a humble XR500 single... approximate top speed 85mph



THE bike is the one seen in the show's title sequence



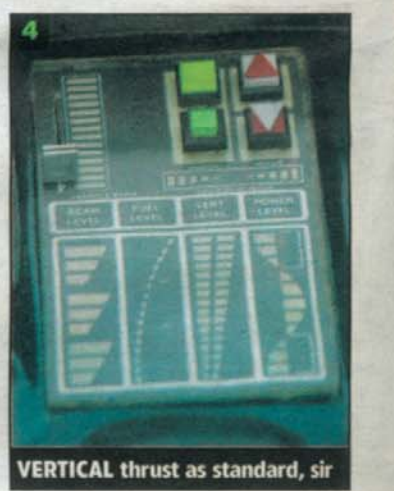
1 CONTROLS for guns (not loaded!)



2 AIR brakes haul up this XR500



3 DIGITAL display (early '80s GPS)



4 VERTICAL thrust as standard, sir

WHO IS CHRIS BROMHAM?



THE face behind the helmet

CHRIS BROMHAM may not be as famous as Evel Knievel but he is more successful. He started stunt riding at 19 after jumping 40 feet off a canal bank.

His long stunt career has seen him jump 28 cars (170ft) in 1981, 18 double decker buses (208ft) and 20 juggernauts (241ft) in 1986. He broke five world records and is the only motorcycle jumper to get in the Guinness Book of Records twice. And the only bones he has broken are both his little fingers.



JUMP career helped with TV stunts

TOP STREET HAWK FACTS

STREET HAWK

1 ONLY 13 episodes of Street Hawk were ever made

2 IN many scenes the Ghibli helmet worn by Street Hawk's rider had a piece of wire attached to operate the "remote" visor mechanism

3 THEY had problems at night with the rider's black visor so they used a clear visor with tinting film on the inside, just leaving a tiny clear slot in the front. This is visible in some sequences if you look closely

4 STREET Hawk star Rex Smith went on to be a Country and Western singer

5 THE bike's bodywork regularly fell off on landings from jumps, so a huge supply of spare panels was always kept to hand

6 THE furthest that Street Hawk ever jumped in reality was 35 feet, and it never reached even a three-figure speed on film

7 THE side thrusters used to catch on the floor when the stuntmen performed skid turns, causing them to highside

8 THE air brakes often fell open during jumps so sticky tape was used to hold them shut

9 ONE reason Street Hawk did so many power turns - especially in alleyways - was because the bike had so little steering lock, and a U-turn just would not have been possible

10 THE six rocket launchers on the sides of the fairings were never actually used in any episode