



FEATURE FEATURE FEATURE FEATURE

## **A Busman's or a Biker's Holiday for Coventry Employee?**

**So passionate are Power Torque's personnel about engines and what they go in or on to, that even outside of work many have interests that link to the main business function of using engineering excellence to modify standard engines for specialist applications.**

Take Dave Wilcox, the company's Development Engineer who when not at work is lovingly working on his 1957 Moto Guzzi Lodola 175. The goal for all of his efforts being to take part in the annual Motogiro d' Italia event.

This is an event that has been described on the organiser's web site as "The toughest event in the world for classic motorcycles" and Dave's experiences in taking part during the last 2 events have proved this.

Each May competitors battle it out over 5 daily legs of approximately 250km each across some of Italy's most outstanding landscapes, which for the riders means harsh hills and hairpin bends.

Last year the race was based in Rimini on the eastern coast and this year it was in Sicily.

Despite injuring his foot when he collided with a crash barrier on the second day of the competition last year, Dave managed to continue to ride with his foot strapped up and completed the course to gain a respectable placing.

This year he was determined to better this and so had put even greater effort into his bike's preparation. Alas it was not to be and Dave is actually lucky to be leaving Sicily with his life, as he met with a head on collision with a people carrier, which has left him with a broken leg and a flight home via air ambulance!

Asked if he is going to do it all again, Dave's comment was, "I really do not want to give up on gaining a podium place in the Moto Giro and view the event as unfinished business, like I say on my website – if it was easy there would be no fun in it – which must mean that the Moto Giro is actually a whole lot of fun! Even with the problems I encountered it was a fabulous experience and I have no regrets.

Andrew Varney, Managing Director of Power Torque, who is not only Dave's employer but also his sponsor, is loathe to see Dave go to Italy next year. "Like all of our employees, he is a key member of our successful team and I don't want to risk losing him; 2 near misses in 2 years suggests that this is not a good event to return to a third year running!"

*436 WORDS (Including title)*

**For further information please telephone Andrew Varney of Power Torque Racing on 02476 635757; or Sammy Rose, P.R. agent on 0121 561 2800.**



Dave Wilcox in an Italian hospital after colliding with another vehicle during the event



Dave Wilcox riding his pride and joy, a 1937 Moto Guzzi