

## **Veni Vidi Veci ; Laverda enter the first round of the UEM Vintage Endurance Cup.**

The Laverda Corse endurance team made a popular return to their local Adria circuit to contest the first round of the UEM Vintage Endurance European Cup . In 2009 the Laverda team had contested the UEM Endurance series with favourable results and team owner and rider Piero Laverda entered a pair of Barcelona 500cc replica endurance racers into this year's championship. The bike's specification is based very closely on the factory machine ridden by Pete 'PK' Davies and Augusto Brettoni to a 500cc class victory in the 1979 Barcelona 24 hour race at Montjuic Park.

The season opener was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> April at the Adria International Raceway situated South of Venice on the Adriatic coast. The two day FMI- hosted event attracted a largely Italian entry in the endurance race, mainly due to geography but also because the event clashed with the Classic Bol D'Or at Magny Cours. Despite the conflict of dates the 2 day programme attracted a high quality entry of almost 300 classic machines with 37 teams entered into the 4 hour Endurance Cup finale on the Sunday afternoon.

The Laverda team consisted of Francesco Greggio and Pietro Manzalini riding one of the team bikes, with the second Corse bike being shared by UK rider Bob Dixon , Piero Laverda and Austrian resident Hermann Ansorge. The race strategy was masterminded by team manager Eduardo Dossena, a veteran of many Laverda endurance racing successes in the seventies; Greggio was instructed to force the pace at the front in the early stages of the race whilst Piero Laverda concentrated on building up the laps with a minimum of fuel stops. Greggio's impressive pace helped secure a Laverda 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in class , beating a number of the larger 1000cc opposition in the process. There are 3 more rounds to go in the series with the next meeting at the Magione circuit near Florence on the 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> May.