

Laverda Corse at Adria; Veni Vidi Vici.

Laverda Corse have started their 2010 racing season with an impressive showing at the Adria circuit in Italy. In the opening round of the UEM Vintage Endurance Cup the team posted a 1st and 2nd in the 500cc class using a pair of endurance prepared 500 twins. Piero Laverda , Austrian rider Hermann Ansorge and UK rider Bob Dixon [making his team debut for the squad] took the team's Barcelona 500 replica to 2nd place in the 4 hour event whilst Italian riders Francesco Greggio and Pietro Manzalini rode their specially prepared F500 to 1st place beating 7 of the 1000cc entries in the process. Both teams encountered technical problems during qualifying with a replacement clutch needed on the Greggio /Manzalini machine and the Laverda/Ansorge /Dixon bike developing a potentially serious oil leak from a damaged oil cooler union during Dixon's qualifying sessions. Both machines ran faultlessly during the race giving the team a relatively unopposed victory as the majority of the 500 field retired with mechanical problems trying to stay with the pace of 500 race leader Greggio.

Francesco Greggio's lap times surprised many of the other teams in the race by lapping consistently faster than many of the bigger bikes. Greggio is a veteran Laverda racer who campaigned an RGS TT F1 in the 1980s whilst riding partner Manzalini was Coppa Laverda regular in the original F500 race series. The UEM season opener at Adria was a major event on the Italian race calendar with over 300 entries being received for the weekend's race programme which took place in perfect Adriatic weather conditions . The race was well attended with an estimated 5000 spectators in attendance. The Adria meeting was the first of four rounds of the UEM Vintage Cup , the next race being held at Magione near Florence in May followed by June's race at Rijeka in Croatia. The final round of the season will be held at Italy's Franciacorta circuit in October. Details of the team, the racing and the bikes can be found at www.laverda500.cc