



Now being halfway up through France meant that the next day we were back on Alex's timetable and despite the crap weather conditions, we were on a roll. All the scooters were largely trouble free and I had become complacent with the fact that the little Lambretta wasn't going to let me down. My only tool was a plug spanner, as young Micky Boy had the rest of the kit strapped precariously to the back of his scooter. His freshly built Broady tuned 'old skool' engine'd scooter was an absolute gem. Considering both that he'd only completed the resto' 15 nano-seconds before the departure and the very nature of the set-up he'd chosen, it was a real achievement that – hub stud apart – his scooter was both ultra reliable and incredibly fast.

Our chosen crossing was Caen to Portsmouth so that meant our route took us right across France for the last 350 miles up to the port. We got to the ferry offices just as night was falling and within half an hour we had booked the tickets and found a local hostelry to celebrate our arrival. I could almost taste the fish 'n' chips...

Rally & Paris

Next morning we got to the ferry with literally minutes to spare (despite having stayed in a hotel overlooking the port!) and settled down for the six-hour crossing. Once off the other side it was a short ride across Pompey to the loW ferry and on for the weekend's jolly up. Marvellous.

The rally itself has already been covered ably in Scootering at the time (October 2010 issue), but suffice to say that I had a top time and the Italians even more so. And that was despite Dave Rave having his SX200 shunted 20 yards down the road while sat at a traffic lights, by an idiot in a taxi who had decided that it was time for Dave to give his scooter a cosmetic makeover. After kicking the back end out and gaffer taping a borrowed rear lens on, Alex then used the scooter to ride back to Italy!

The homeward journey was pretty much a reverse affair of the first leg. Again all the scooters behaved impeccably with the Vega even reaching the stratospheric top speed of 52mph on one long sweeping descent. Our only deviation was a trip to Paris where we took a photo of the mighty moped parked

under a certain rusty tower. This we managed, without getting lost for once, and even had time to pop into Philippe Devant's amazing Aladdin's cave of a shop. Phil has a fetish for all manner of weird scooters and it really is a place to visit if you should find yourself in France's capital.

Three days later, we finally got home and still the little 'ped was on top form. The whole trip took us 3660km across Europe which is OK in itself, but quite remarkable when you consider that it clocked up most of that distance with the throttle pinned right back against the stop on such a small capacity machine.

It's still as it was used for the trip, with directions written indelibly on the headset top and all. I'm using it daily for work and all being well, in June, as we'll be doing the 3 Seas Race in Southern Italy & Sicily, it seems that at least four of our lot will cover the whole race on Vega's. Moped Mayhem indeed.

And yes, I made sure the 1 Euro from the bet was paid up! **SC**

Dean Orton (Rimini Lambretta Centre)

