

HAVING organised numerous tours for bikers in Spain, France and Switzerland, the Bob Minion Honda dealership in Derby decided to provide something a little different this year for their annual autumn break – mountain climbing in Southern Spain!

“The trip was an excellent experience,” said Mark Minion, one of the Bob Minion directors who accompanied the group.

“Each day we covered about 80 miles on a mixture of rugged mountain trails, dry and wet riverbeds and exhilarating tracks plunging into deep valleys.

“The terrain included some challenging hill climbs and negotiating rock steps.

“Highlights were spectacular scenery and views in the mountains, plus the variety of terrain for off-road riding.”

The group of eight bikers from Derbyshire was based in Competa, about an hour’s drive from Malaga Airport at a five-star leisure complex, the headquarters of Redtread, a company which specialises in off-road tours and tuition.

The place is run by Ian Burgess an ex-British enduro champion, who has more than 30 years riding experience. That, and the fact that the company is sponsored by Honda, makes it one of the best for off-road biking breaks in Europe. The company boasts the largest single brand fleet of any off-road tour company, comprising the latest Honda CRF450X, CRF 250X and CRF 230F machines.

Making the complex particularly appealing to bikers is that all its facilities are purely for their benefit.

At an hotel you would be made to feel pretty uncomfortable if you and your mates arrived in the bar, sweaty and filthy after a hard day’s riding in the mountains and leaving muddy footprints on the polished marble floor of the foyer.

But at Redtread when you return from off-roading you can shower by the pool in your gear, hang it up and then relax in your boxers with a cold beer and there will be no raised eyebrows. Some people even jump



FUN IN THE SUN: The party from the Bob Minion Honda dealership in Derby and, above, director, Gavin Minion.

SPANISH AYES

straight into the pool with all their gear on to chill out rapidly.

“The organisation and facilities were first-rate,” enthused Gavin Minion, a fellow director of the dealership.

“You are cosseted, even to the extent of having the bikes warmed up for you in the morning, ready to go.

“It was brilliant – one of the best trips we have ever done! I’m definitely going again next year!”

Doubtless joining him will be Rob Wilson, who was just as impressed by the Spanish off-roading experience.

“It was fantastic,” said Rob, who is the proprietor of Derby-based Easy Rider Motorcycle Training.

“It made a nice change from riding on the road. We had a great fun three days and they were a brilliant bunch.”

● Don’t miss our preview of the National Motorcycle and Scooter Show – Page 15.

