

# Teacher gets on his bike after beating horrific injuries

## Funding for police



■ **PEDAL POWER** Gavin Rees and Duncan Edwards in training.



■ **BADLY INJURED** Gavin Rees in Morrision Hospital.



■ **MERCY MISSION** Gavin is airlifted to hospital by helicopter.

THE Home Office has handed Gwent Police £20,000 to further its work in tackling violent and alcohol-related crime.

The money will be used to extend the alcohol misuse team's crackdown over Christmas in Newport.

Throughout this month, officers will be carrying out high profile campaigns aimed at tackling drunks on the streets and sales of alcohol to underage children.

## Fairer trading

A BUSINESS pack has been produced in Cardiff to help firms move towards using Fairtrade products.

The documents explain what Fairtrade is and how businesses can make a difference in selling products while guaranteeing a better deal for Third World producers.

Companies and organisations wanting a pack can contact Fairtrade Cardiff by calling 029 2087 3228.

# A JOURNEY OF THANKS FOR GAVIN

TEACHER Gavin Rees has already been on the journey of a lifetime.

The 29-year-old has spent three years on the road to recovery after he received horrific injuries in a skiing accident in February, 2003.

Gavin had been in the French Alps with colleagues, surveying the site of a planned school ski trip, when the accident happened.

Gavin still does not remember how it happened, but eye-witnesses said there was a collision while the party crossed a ski slope.

Gavin was rushed to the University Hospital in Geneva with leg, head and severe facial fractures. Surgeons used about 20 plates and 130 screws to stabilise his condition.

Gavin spent a month in hospital before being able to fly back to Wales,

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where he continued to have treatment at Morrision Hospital's maxillofacial unit.

He is now planning to cap his remarkable recovery with a 1,000-mile fundraising cycling trip to Geneva in aid of the unit this August.

Gavin, from Booker Street, Roath, Cardiff, who works at Bryncethin High School, near Bridgend, said: "It's been an incredible physical journey since the accident in 2003.

"Now I'm preparing and looking forward to a different kind of journey."

He said he wanted to thank the

doctors who cared for him, particularly Swiss surgeon Michel Richter and Morrision Hospital consultant Adrian Sugar.

"I really credit Professor Richter with saving my life - I will be forever indebted to him and his gifted team," he said.

"Earlier than predicted, I was able to return to work in September 2005."

Gavin will be undertaking the cycling trip with friend Duncan Edwards, who was with him when the accident happened, this August.

Anyone wishing to support them can donate funds via Gavin's website [www.cycleGENEVA.co.uk](http://www.cycleGENEVA.co.uk), where the pair will post progress updates during the trip.

■ **Echo Comment:** See Page 10.

## EDWARDS

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8 Central Square, Cardiff CF10 1EP.

Tel: 02920 34 88 11

### Late Deals

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