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Saturday 25 April 2009 – 5<sup>th</sup> stage – Marcq en Baroeul → Deauville

## TOUR AUTO OPTIC 2000 2009 : AN EXCEPTIONAL VINTAGE !

The Tour Auto Optic 2000 loop has just come to an end on the shores of the Channel in the glamorous seaside resort of Deauville. 225 crews left Paris last Tuesday and after the 2000 kilometre expedition, more than 200 cars crossed the finish line. Amongst them, the ten or so Jaguar Mk1 and Mk2 who were celebrating the 50th anniversary of their victory in the Tdf; as well as genuine icons such as the Ferrari 250 GTO, under the colours of the Ecurie Nationale Belge, winner of the *Tour de France Auto* in 1964; an Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato and some impressive Ford GT40s, reinstated in the VHC classification this year. After enjoying exceptional weather during the whole week, the competitors unanimously appreciated this new layout which offered them each day authentic scenery combined with circuits and special stages which came up to their “sporting” expectations.

Public, of all generations, was hugely present during the whole journey, confirming a generally growing interest in classic cars. For this first passage in the region, many car enthusiasts came to encourage the Tour Auto Optic 2000 drivers during the last Marcq en Baroeul / Deauville leg.

No circuit this Saturday in the Somme Valley and the countryside surrounding Dieppe. With best time in the GHI category in the first special, Alain Serpaggi on Alpine did all he could to impose himself in the Dieppe region, his fief and that of Alpine, but finally had to yield to Michel Lecourt on Porsche 911 RSR. In the VHC classification, the leaders Ludovic Caron and Shaun Lynn respectively made the best times in the first and second special.

Haven of peace and refinement, the quietude of XVIII<sup>th</sup> century Château de Miromesnil was briefly interrupted during the Tour Auto Optic 2000 lunch stop, before the competitors left for the last leg towards Deauville via Honfleur and the Pont de Tancarville.

The promenade of the other 7<sup>th</sup> Art city, warmly welcomed the mechanical stars and their drivers, come to share the traditional prize giving evening. The big winner of this 2009 edition is without doubt the Ford GT40 which wins the VHC classification of pre-1966 cars, forty years after its first participation in the *Tour de France Automobile*. Shaun Lynn at its wheel bested Ludovic Caron and his valiant AC Cobra and Pierre Alain France with another GT40. Michel Lecourt wins the GHI categories in front of Alain Serpaggi and Jacques Cochin on Porsche 910. In regularity, James Willis and his wife put an end to Bob and Ann Linwood’s supremacy, with a splendid 1956 factory MGA .

All the competitors experienced an enchanting 5 day parenthesis and many will certainly be willing to re-enlist for the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tour Auto Optic 2000. Which direction will it take? It’s anyone’s guess!

### Media contacts Peter Auto

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### Optic 2000

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**COMPETITION**

| VHC                                   |
|---------------------------------------|
| 1-LYNN - KIVLOCHAN / Ford GT40        |
| 2-BLONDIN - CROCHET / AC Cobra        |
| 3-FRANCE - FRANCE / Ford GT40         |
|                                       |
| Groupe G                              |
| 1-Mr JOHN OF B - SIBEL / Porsche 906  |
| 2-ANCELIN-FOUCRY / Ford Capri 2600 RS |
| 3-LOGAN-HAMPTON / Porsche 914/6 GT    |

| Indice de Performance                    |
|--|
| 1-CAJANI -SOLASCHINI / Alfa Romeo1900 TI |
| 2-HAASE - HAASE / Jaguar MK1             |
| 3-GANS -HOPPENSTAEDT / Lotus Elite 1959  |

| Groupe H   |
|--|
| 1-LECOURT-LECOURT / Porsche 911 RSR 2,8l         |
| 2-SERPAGGI-PREVOST / Alpine Renault A 110 Gr. IV |
| 3-COCHIN - JANOU / Porsche 910                   |

**REGULARITY**

|  |
|--|
| 1-WILLIS - WILLIS / MG A                 |
| 2-LINWOOD- LINWOOD / Porsche 911 RS 2,7l |
| 3-RUSTON - HAYLOCK / Porsche 356         |



FOTORISSIMA

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