



Saturday 16 April – Stage 5 – Pau / Biarritz

Final Clap for the 20th edition of the Tour Auto Optic 2000

Saturday 16 April, the Tour Auto Optic 2000 reached its final destination: Biarritz – Anglet at the Chambre d'Amour with an incredible view of the Atlantic. The crews settled on the sea front in the sun to enjoy their last afternoon.

A well deserved rest after a last day of competition which finally settled the classifications of this 20th edition. Some miles after leaving the Parc Tissier in the heart of Pau, the whole grid went to the hilly Pau Arnos circuit for the day's first timed stage. The winding layout allowed the Bernd Hanhne's surprising Alfa Romeo to express itself with brio whereas Ludovic Caron on AC Cobra confirmed his position as leader in the Competition category.

During the morning, the competitors set up in the Arudy waiting park for the last special stage on closed roads. The sequence of bends through the Bois du Bager, delighted all the participants.

The five grids then continued in the direction of Biarritz – Anglet to put their cars for the last time in the Tour Auto Optic 2000's Parc Fermé. A gala dinner in Pays Basque colours awaited the 900 people that make up the Tour Auto Optic 2000 caravan. As they should, the winners of each category mounted the podium to receive their prizes. In competition, Ludovic Caron signs his third victory in the Tour with his black AC Cobra in front of last year's winner, Jean-Pierre Lajournade and his Lotus Elan. Another AC Cobra, belonging to David Ferrer, completed the podium. British crew, John Ruston and Jeremy Haylock imposed themselves in Regularity with their 1958 Porsche 356 Speedster. Yves Junne wins the performance index behind the wheel of another Porsche 356, in front of Pierre Le Gloahec and his Jaguar Mk1 of 1959. We also salute Paul Knapfield's performance in the scratch classification with his spectacular Ligier JS2 ex-Le Mans, visibly as at home on the French roads as in the Hunaudières straight line.



Everyone agrees that this 20th edition held all its promises, advantaged; it is true, by exceptional weather. Beautiful scenery, great racing moments and ever-present public sign a new success and once again set the standard very high for the 2012 edition.

All the Tour Auto Optic 2000 results at:

www.tourauto.com

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