

GEARBOX GREMLINS ROB BRIT ENTERED GT40 OF SECOND TOUR AUTO OVERALL WIN



Patrick Hautot / Sylvain Cantrel



James Cottingham / Andrew Smith

Philippe Vandromme / Frederic Vivier



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Three Ford GT40s were entered in this year's prestigious Tour Auto: UK's James Cottingham/Andrew Smith 1965 MkI, with two French entrants, Philippe Vandromme/Frederic Vivier 1967 MkII and Patrick Hautot/Sylvain Cantrel 1968 MkII.

The 2000km tour, which took in 10 closed road special stages and four circuits, began with the cars leaving the Grand Palais in Paris early on the tuesday morning. With overnight stops in Besançon, Megève, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, finishing in Nice.

Well known racing drivers James Cottingham of DK Engineering and property developer Andrew Smith hoped to repeat their 2017 win in the GT40 of Scuderia Bear.

Their great performance, taking 9 special stage and track victories out of 11 completed and enjoying a substantial 7 minute lead in the pre-66 class and an overall lead of 2 minutes was marred when the car retired due to a mechanical failure, stripping the GT40's second gear on the thirteenth of fourteen special stages.

The Patrick Hautot/Sylvain Cantrel won Group G1 and G2 in their Ford GT40.

Swiss crew Raphael Favaro/Yves Badan, Lotus Elan R26 emerged victorious. They were in second place on Friday behind the British crewed Ford GT40. Only their fellow-countrymen, Chris Ward-Andy Elcomb (E-Type Jaguar), were able to challenge their domination by clinching victory in two stages. Their hopes of a finish on the 2018 Tour Auto Optic 2000 podium were dashed by a retirement on the Paul Ricard circuit. Thus, first place in