

## **SOUTH EAST LONDON & SURREY**

A busy month for the Area activists setting forth to France and Eire for the ERA Blue Train Challenge and a Watton Wander respectively.

The Blue Train was a new five day event from ERA and took the form of a lengthy route with four or five regularities each day and a number of circuit-based tests through the five days. A fine array of machinery, many experienced ERA runners and a few novices, literally in some cases and others ERA newcomers.

As can be expected from ERA the route was splendid, the organisation top notch and the road-book (Keith Baud and Anthony Preston faultless.)

The event was challenging for 80-90 year old machinery and there were some notable retirements, including the rally leader for four days, struck low by a wheel bearing 30 kms from the end. Others fell by the wayside somewhat earlier, a few not actually making the start. Triumph was to be achieved by Area stalwart Richard Jeffcoate in his Riley 16/4, splendidly navigated by son Tom. They came 1st overall, having chased the, ultimately fragile, leading Cadillac since day 2. A fine achievement confirming the benefits of a carefully prepared, competitive machine and a crew obviously well in tune. Brilliant.

The Area also claimed a very minor triumph, winning the "hire car class".

A small group at The Bell were treated to an entrant's perception and photography of the event.

Eire welcomed a mixed group of Watton Wanderers ( tour organised by Richard Watton : MGB GT & V8, Dodge (?) ) to an array of wind, rain and sun onto fine roads and splendid scenery in its wild south-west. Enlivened by James Bond moments in a gorge cable-car and Great Gatsby performances on low-tide beaches by Lagonda supremo James Mann. Apparently Scotland next year.

The end of the month has pulled your Area organiser to the Classic Rally Tours Trophy, a scant week after Blue Training. Trust the MGB proves more reliable than a certain large brown vintage car.

Reports next month at a gathering on the traditional fourth Thursday. Probably at a different venue (Whyte Harte Bletchingley, perhaps). Area members will be advised.

Denis Robson  
Area Organiser