

BOND TAKES CLEAR LEAD

By
**Anton
Walton**

CARRAJUNG, OCTOBER 7 — THE DAVID BOND IAN RICHARDS combination this morning won the 1973 COCC Hunter Safari. The rally was the fifth heat of the closely contested Victorian Clubman Series, and by taking their Cortina to a convincing win, Bond and Richards have opened up a six point lead over their nearest competitors.

Second place, in what was an interesting but not very demanding event, was taken by Alf and Ian Pearce in a Datsun 1600 with a points loss of 11, seven behind the winners and eight in front of the third place-getters, Colin Turnbull and Sean Walsh in a Cortina.

Fourth were Noel Richards (Ian's older brother) and Mike Baxter (Torana XU-1).

Max Whammond and Geoff O'Donnell (Torana 2850) lost 29 for fifth with Ken Stone Mike Rebbechi (Cortina) taking sixth place with a total of 32 points.

CAPACITY FIELD

As is usual in the Clubman Series the rally had attracted a capacity 40-car field with the first car, Gary Hawkins John Truman (Cooper S) leaving the start at Chadstone Chrysler at 4 p.m. on a 100-mile assembly stage to just south of Traralgon near Gormondale. The only retirement at this point was the Glen Olsen Clark Ballard BMW 2002 with a blown piston.

John Selton and Viva Thevathasan half-rolled their Mini into a bank on section two but were able to continue with a loss of eighteen, albeit without a windscreen, bad news in the dusty conditions.

Blackwarry was visited on the way to Boddyarn. The section was route charted and all the hot shots cleaned.

The final two competitive sections for division one were in the forest areas east of Carrajung. The first was uneventful except for Wayne Muldoon Ross Allinson (Cortina)

scoring a WD and then breaking a valve spring to retire at the half-way break.

CLEAN SHEET

Alf and Ian Pearce won the final section to the CRB camp with a clean sheet to ones of Bond and Ross Turner Ian Pearson (Galant). The Bob Coney Rob Hopkins Escort TC dropped three.

Division two was to be 120 miles in length and made up the allowed maximum of 200 miles. The Rally looped generally around Carrajung to Boddyarn and back into the forests used late in the first division.

Bond and Turner continued their neck and neck struggle and it wasn't until the 15th section that Bond managed to pick up a minute on Turner. Bond and Pearce both clean sheeted to the ones of Bruce and John Tassell (Cortina), Evans and Turner.

FURTHER AHEAD

Pearce, Bond and Turner were still hard at it on the loop when they all cleaned. Bond moved further ahead on the next section when he and Pearce both cleaned to the ones of four others. Dust was proving a big handicap to all except the first car on the road.

The rally finished back at the CRB Camp with the free barbecue still going strong. The club can be justifiably proud of a well organised even with only a few errors on the part of some officials. However, now that the Hunter Safari is to be a heat of the Vic. Championship in 1974 it will have to be made more difficult.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

1st David Bond Ian Richards — Cortina	4 pts.
2nd Alf Pearce Ian Pearce — Datsun 1600	11 pts.
3rd Colin Turnbull Sean Walsh — Cortina	19 pts.
4th Noel Richards — Mike Baxter — Torana XU-1	27 pts.
5th Max Whammond Geoff O'Donnell — Torana 2850	29 pts.
6th Ken Stone Mike Rebbechi — Cortina	32 pts.

Current pointscore after five heats.:

DRIVERS

David Bond — Cortina.....18 pts.
John Coleman — Torana .12 pts.
Ross Turner — Galant11 pts.

NAVIGATORS

Ian Richards — Cortina...18 pts.
Bernie Peasley — Torana .12 pts.
Ian Pearson — Galant.....11 pts.