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**2011 Targa New Zealand
Auckland-Havelock North
Tuesday Oct 25 - Saturday October 29
2011
Day 2 report**

PRESS RELEASE

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SMITH AND LOWE JOIN TARGA BATTLE ON DAY TWO

Taranaki pair Glenn Smith and Andy Lowe (Mitsubishi Evo 10) joined the battle for the lead of the Instra.com Modern category of this year's Targa New Zealand tarmac motor rally on the second of five days of competition in Northland today.

On the 17th annual event's first day on Tuesday, defending Targa Modern title-holder and two-time event winner, Gold Coast, Queensland-based Scot Tony Quinn and co-driver Naomi Tillett (Nissan GT-R35) swapped stage wins with local rally ace Glenn Inkster and his co-driver Spencer Winn (Mitsubishi Evo 6).

Quinn and Tillett continue to lead the event from Inkster and Winn after six more stages in and around Whangarei today but Smith and Lowe certainly made their presence felt, winning the first and fifth stages outright and finishing no lower than fourth in the other four.

Heading into the final publicity stage at Springhill Farm just south of Wellsford late this afternoon Quinn and Tillett led the Instra.com Modern standings by 24 seconds from Inkster and Winn, with Smith and Lowe just 10 seconds further back in third, the pair having displaced the Nissan GT-R35 of Clark Proctor and Tony Callaghan and Subaru Impreza driving Targa Rotorua winner Leigh Hopper and his co-driver Shaun Bawden.

"Yeah, we've had a really good day today, much better than yesterday," said Smith as he was waiting for his turn to do a sprint down the airstrip at Springhill Farm. "I was just too nervous, too cautious going into turns yesterday, not carrying enough speed. Towards the end of the day I was starting to get there but today we're right up there setting equal times with the fast boys."

Best of the rest this time was Proctor and Callaghan, the pair quick but still struggling with niggling engine management issues.

"Just computer glitches really, said Proctor as his crew swarmed over his GT-R35. In the last two stages yesterday I had no four-wheel-drive at all and we thought we had corrected it today, but unfortunately the first two stages today, same problem, two wheel drive, so straight off the line we had wheelspin, every corner we had wheelspin, understeer into every corner, it has just been an absolute nightmare. It just throws your rhythm out and is hard to get back on top of it really."

One driver with no complaints about just two wheels doing the driving, however, was front-running V8 Touring Car driver Andy Booth, behind the wheel of Paul Halford's Maserati Trofeo. Though listed on the entry as Halford's co-driver it was Booth doing the driving - and loving it - today, Halford's big Italian grand tourer a regular feature of the top ten in the stages and ending the day between the much lighter four-wheel-driver Subaru WRX Impreas of brothers Rick and Joel Giddy and Kim Blatchley & David Free in eighth place.

In the Metal Man Classic category Aucklanders Barry Kirk-Burnnand and late co-driver replacement Rob Wylie wrested the lead off Barry's nephew Mark Kirk-Burnnand and his own replacement co-driver Dave O'Carroll after another fascinating day of cat-and-mouse inter family rivalry in matching BMW M3s.

Unfortunately problems changing a tyre saw the Mark Kirk-Burnnand and Dave O'Carroll entry penalised for arriving at a stage start late, allowing V8-engined Datsun 240Z pair Allan Lewis and Colin Cole to split the family pair for second place.

The biggest improvers of the day, however, were Vincent Bristow and Jeff Ashfield in a Mk 11 Ford Escort RS1800. They topped the Metalman Classic time sheets in two of the stages and finished second - to either Barry or Mark Kirk-Burnnand - in three of the other four.

Also proudly flying the Ford flag were Peter Jones and Neil Andrews in their Mk 1 Escort. They ended the day fifth overall in the Metman Classic standings.

After an overnight stop in Takanini, South Auckland, tonight, the Targa New Zealand event heads south into the Waikato tomorrow with stages in the west in the morning, and the south in the afternoon before an overnight stop in Taupo.

On Friday the event continues through the lower North Island to Palmerston North then on Saturday crosses into Hawke's Bay for a final run to the finish in Havelock North.

End

RESULTS DAY 2

2011 Targa NZ tarmac motor rally

Instra.com Modern

1. Tony Quinn / Naomi Tillett 2008 Nissan R35 GT-R 01:32:19
2. Glenn Inkster / Spencer Winn 2000 Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6 01:32:43
3. Glenn Smith / Andy Lowe 2009 Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X 01:33:33
4. Clark Proctor / Tony Callaghan 2008 Nissan GT-R35 01:33:58
5. Steve Millen / Jen Horsey 2008 Nissan Stillen GT-R 01:34:47
6. Leigh Hopper / Shaun Bawden 2003 Subaru Impreza WRX Sti 01:35:32
7. Rick Giddy / Joel Giddy 2003 Subaru WRX STI 00:12:22 01:36:50
8. Paul Halford / Andy Booth 2003 Maserati Trofeo 01:37:27
9. Kim Blatchley / David Free 1999 Subaru Impreza 01:40:08
10. Rick Martin / Elliott Martin 2008 BMW 135i 01:40:12

Metal Man Classic

1. Barry Kirk-Burnnand / Steven Kirk-Burnnand 1989 BMW M3 01:43:29

2. Allan Lewis / Colin Cole 1972 Datsun 240z 01:47:03
3. Mark Kirk-Burnnand / Dave O'Carroll 1987 BMW M3 01:47:11
4. Geoff Harriman / James Harriman 1984 Toyota Levin 01:49:46
5. Peter Jones / Neil Andrews 1974 Ford Escort MK1 Sport 01:50:02
6. Carl Kirk-Burnnand / Sam Gordon 1991 BMW 325i 01:50:33
7. Eddie Grooten / Ben Grooten 1978 Porsche 911 SC 01:50:34
8. Iain Atkinson / Mike Hanks 1990 Porsche 944 01:51:15
9. Bernie Hiestand / Jilly Hutson 1983 Ford Capri 2.8i 01:51:19
10. Stuart Rose / Gary Renall 1990 Toyota Hilux 01:51:35

CAPTION

Targa 2011 Day 1 category leaders (Instra.com Modern) Tony Quinn and Naomi Tillett (Nissan GTR-35) and (Metal Man Classic) Barry Kirk-Burnnand and Rob Wylie (BMW M3) plus Metalman Classic stage winner Vincent Bristow and Jeff Ashfield (Escort Mk 1).
Photo Credit: Ground-Sky

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