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

Day 4 report

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PRESS RELEASE

LATE CHARGE BY INKSTER BUT QUINN STAYS IN FRONT

Rally ace Glenn Inkster and co-driver Spencer Winn (Mitsubishi Evo 6) continued to throw everything - and more - at 2011 Targa New Zealand leaders Tony Quinn & Naomi Tillett (Nissan GT-R35) on the penultimate day of the country's annual five-day tarmac motor rally in the central North Island today.

Though the rain they were hoping would give their lighter, more nimble four-cylinder Mitsubishi an advantage did indeed come today, Inkster & Winn struggled, initially, to match the pace both of the Nissan's GT-R35s of Quinn & Tillett and Clark Proctor & Tony Callaghan, and the later model Mitsubishi Evo 10 of Glenn Smith & Andy Lowe in the Instra.com Modern category.

The problem was tyre wear, so after another off-road excursion in one of the stages this morning Inkster chose to take the one minute penalty that went with adding an extra pair to his team's original event allocation.

"Our plan, " he said in parc ferme in Palmerston North's Square this evening, " was to make up the minute in the last two stages because the tyres offered so much more grip. The only problem was we went off on a really slippery corner in the first one and lost almost two minutes getting back on the road."

That put paid to any chance he and Winn had of taking advantage of a rare mistake by Quinn & Tillett the stage before. Up until that point the Queensland-based Scott and his Australian co-driver Tillett had not put a foot wrong. But when they did Inkster and Winn were there, winning the stage from Smith & Lowe, Proctor & Callaghan with Quinn & Tillett an uncharacteristic fourth.

Having beaten them in first three stages of the day Smith & Lowe were also, obviously, a threat to Inkster & Winn's hard-earned second overall spot. However they went off on the same corner Inkster & Lowe did in the first Marton stage and lost even more time.

Proctor & Callaghan won that stage to throw yet another element into the mix, only to see their day - and possibly event - end at the side of the road with gearbox problems, meaning as

the field heads to the Hawke's Bay tomorrow Quinn & Tillett have a lead of just over two-and-a-half minutes over Inkster & Winn with Smith & Lowe a further two minutes back.

Getting quicker and quicker as the day went on today, meanwhile, were Subaru Impreza WRX pairings Kim Blatchley & David Free, and the Giddy brothers Rick and Joel, each pacing the other as they took turns snapping at the heels of the Nissan GT-R35s of expat Kiwi Steve Millen and Canadian co-driver Jen Horsey, and locals Harry Dodson & Glen Cupit.

Unfortunately, like Inkster & Winn and Smith & Lowe, the Giddies went off early on the first run through the Marton stage, losing valuable time and allowing the equally impressive South Island combination of Brent Early and Andy Oakley (Nissan Skyline R34) to close to within half a minute of the two Subarus.

New faces were also a feature of the Metal Man Classic category today with the turbocharged Nissan SR20 engine transplant appearing to give the Mike Lea/Grant Hanley BMW E30 just the advantage they needed over the purebred M3s of Kirk-Burnnand family members Mark and his co-driver Dave O'Carroll and father-and-son Barry and Steven Kirk-Burnnand which continue to lead the category on overall time.

Lea & Hanley swapped fastest stages times early in the day with RS1800 Escort-mounted British visitors Vincent Bristow & Jeff Ashfield before Mark Kirk-Burnnand and Dave O'Carroll turned the tables on both combinations in the long Rangitikei stage after lunch and Bristow & Ashfield got a second wind in the popular Marton stage, home of the infamous 'Cop's Corner.'

Despite not being in overall contention because he and Ashfield lost time early in the event changing a clutch and tracing a problem which eventually turned out to be caused by a failing spark plug, experienced UK and European historic rally competitor Bristow says he is thoroughly enjoying what was a last minute decision to fly half way round the world to compete in a Targa event.

"The whole thing's been good really so far," he said. "I was actually expecting the roads to be narrower, more bumpier and even more slippery."

After a final overnight stop in Palmerston North tonight the Targa New Zealand event heads east into Hawke's Bay tomorrow for seven stages between Mangatainoka and Havelock North.

Cure Kids is the official charity of Targa New Zealand and the 2011 Targa New Zealand tarmac rally is brought to you with the support of sponsors Allied Petroleum, APN, Britz, NZ Classic Car magazine, Federal motorsport tyres, Global Security, Instra Corporation, Meguiars, Metalman, Mobil1, NewsTalkZB, TeamTalk, TrackIt, VTNZ, and Woolrest Biomag, and the Hastings, Taupo and Whangarei District Councils.

End

RESULTS DAY 4

Instra.com Modern (overall)

1. Tony Quinn / Naomi Tillett 2008 Nissan R35 GT-R 04:01:03
2. Glenn Inkster / Spencer Winn 2000 Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6 04:03:45
3. Glenn Smith / Andy Lowe 2009 Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X 04:05:48
4. Clark Proctor / Tony Callaghan 2008 Nissan GT-R35 04:07:44
5. Steve Millen / Jen Horsey 2008 Nissan Stillen GT-R 04:08:25
6. Harry Dodson / Glenn Cupit 2007 Nissan GT-R35 04:17:18
7. Kim Blatchley / David Free 1999 Subaru Impreza ra 04:21:01
8. Rick Giddy / Joel Giddy 2003 Subaru WRX STI 04:21:15
9. Brent Early / Andy Oakley 2001 Nissan Skyline 04:21:43
10. Stuart Scoular / Bret Scoular 2003 Subaru Impreza WRX STi 04:23:11

Metal Man Classic

1. Mark Kirk-Burnnand / Dave O'Carroll 1987 BMW M3 04:29:08
2. Barry Kirk-Burnnand / Steven Kirk-Burnnand 1989 BMW M3 04:32:26
3. Vincent Bristow / Jeff Ashfield 1975 Ford Escort RS 1800 04:40:11
4. Geoff Harriman / James Harriman 1984 Toyota Levin 04:43:16
5. Allan Lewis / Colin Cole 1972 Datsun 240Z 04:43:50
6. Carl Kirk-Burnnand / Sam Gordon 1991 BMW 325i 04:48:02
7. Peter Jones / Neil Andrews 1974 Ford Escort MK1 Sport 04:50:46
8. Craig Pilet / Janine Pilet 1977 Holden Torana SS 04:51:12
9. Nicholas Cooper / Murraray Brown 1971 Chrysler Valiant Charger 04:52:53
10. Iain Atkinson / Mike Hanks 1990 Porsche 944 04:54:09

CAPTION

Targa 2011 Day 4 Instra.com Modern category leaders Tony Quinn & Naomi Tillett (Nissan GT-R35) and runner-sup Glenn Inkster & Spencer Winn (Mitsubishi Evo 6), and quick Metal Man Classic pair Mike Lea and Grant Hanley at the infamous Cop's Corner west of Marton. & Photo Credit: Ground-Sky

Prepared by Fast Company on behalf of Targa NZ. For more information contact Ross MacKay on 021 677 919 or via e-mail on ross@fastcompany.co.nz.