



TARGA NZ INTRODUCES TURNKEY MOTORSPORT

Having trialled a new concept in tarmac rallying and endurance racing Turnkey Motorsport is deemed a success and will expand.

The idea originally came from Targa's Event Director, Pete Martin. What started out as several off-shore enquiries about potential lease options, triggered off a train reaction. Martin, together with David Taylor at Motorsport Services and Greg Paul of Rally Tours formed Turnkey Motorsport on the basis of one-third partners each. The three partners skills compliment each other in that Martin, via Targa NZ, provided the event management (www.targa.co.nz), Taylor the engineering skills and facilities (www.motorport-services.co.nz) and Paul (www.rallytours.co.nz) the rally hospitality experience.

Greg Paul has been designing itineraries and operating spectator tours for Motor Rally events since 1993.

David Taylor's Motorsport Services already provides a similar service for owner drivers in the Porsche and MINI Challenge race series as well as the various Targa Rally events. They operate race cars for people who want to concentrate on their racing, leaving the preparation, logistics and infrastructure to somebody else. Whether it's building the car, or improving the driver's performance, they have the tools and experienced staff to help.

They set about rebuilding two E36 BMW Coupé. In standard trim the E36 is well on the way to being 'race ready' but for tarmac rallying the suspension was 'beefed up'. Minor engine mods were made to enhance reliability, including a lightened fly-wheel, which brought them up to a performance close to that of the BMW M3.

The first two made their debut at the Pukekohe 6-hour Endurance race in the hands of three drivers per car. A third E36 was ready for the Taupo 4-hour Endurance and again none of the cars (or drivers) missed a beat.

A week later they were ready for the Targa Rotorua, the handling changed to suit the demands of tarmac rallying versus track racing. All three cars had been leased out for \$2500 each for the 2-day event. That is for car and service only. Entry fee, tyres and accommodation is additional.

The three E36s ran in the Modern Category and again, ran without any mechanical problems.



Car #730, Australian entry Klark Quinn/Kerry Reardon getting air – they finished 17th in the Modern Class. Photo: Alan Henderson.



Car #710, Rick Martin/Roy Crane were 34th. Photo: www.groundsky.co.nz



Car #700, Michael Moros /Steve Hoskins were 35th. Phot: www.groundsky.co.nz

Such is the demand for the 6-day Targa main event in late October that another two cars will be built. At \$12,500 for the 6-day event they represent very good dollar value.

Targa competitor Gavin Riches who 'really cool cars' (AutoQuest's company bi-line) Team AutoQuest, organises motorsport tour packages to New Zealand and Australia. Riches says he can supply customers for all of the five E36s.

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For any further information contact Peter Martin on (09) 298 8322 or email: peter@targa.co.nz

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