

virgo ferrari 430 GT2
with dunlop support


FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2007

DISAPPOINTMENT @ TARGA AS TEAM WITHDRAWS



oz tarmac rally events
+ targa tasmania evo-9



 **After cleaning the first three stages on Day 2 of Targa Tasmania Allan Simonsen and Ben Searcy's bid for victory on debut is over.**

The pair fell victim to variable weather and road conditions on the ultra fast Weldborough Pass (SS13) whilst trying to stretch their outright lead.

At 8.4km into the stage whilst being pushed by 2nd place John and Jason White in their all-wheel drive Lamborghini Gallardo, the Danish sportscar ace made contact with a dirt bank. Whilst the damage was not major it was enough to relegate the Home Loan Centre Australia Team to being 'also rans' for the remainder of the event. The decision to withdraw was then made.

In a bizarre twist, the White's Gallardo would also fail to complete the stage after having a similar off road excursion.

Both Simonsen and Searcy were naturally disappointed but were still upbeat about their efforts to date.

"Naturally I am upset about the outcome especially for the team given the amount of effort they have put in, said Allan.

"However we have shown that we can run at the front and whilst we have had an incident we are in good company. The White's won this event in 2005 and they crashed 3km ahead of us so you can only guess the pressure.

Asked about what actually happened Allan was his usually direct Danish self.

"We had done good recce and Ben's notes were spot on. I approached the corner at the right speed but the corner was too tight. We'll be back again though for sure."

West Australian Ben Searcy was also philosophical about the situation.

"Look, we gave it our best and its just unlucky that this has happened but it's important to move on and also reflect on the success we've had this year with Rally Tasmania and Lake Mountain Tango.

"If anyone had told me I'd have won those two events and would lead Targa with a European sports car driver who'd never driven a rally before I'd have thought they are mad. But Allan is very talented and his versatility is supreme. I can see that his diversity helps make him a better driver and lets face it as a professional you just



Whilst damage was relatively minor the time lost meant that a challenge for the win was impossible.



british GT
ucb ferrari 430



australian GT
ccc ferrari 360 GT



sandown + bathurst
v8 supercar enduros

have to keep driving anything and everything. If you look back at the history of motor sport you'll find that the versatile drivers come up trumps every time. Just look at Jim Richards with his 7 Bathurst 1000 victories and 8 Targa's or Jim Clark back in the 60's who drove rallying, touring cars and Formula 1," Ben explained.

Targa Tasmania may be over for the HLCA Team but the future isn't far away with Lake Mountain Sprint in early May. Simonsen and Searcy will once again team to try to win the event for the second time this year.

"We both want to say thank you to Paul Carter from HLCA for his passion and vision that has helped us get this far and the entire team at Les Walkden rallying for giving us a sensational race car."



The biggest challenge had come from 2005 winners John & Jason White. Their rally also ended on the same stage as Simonsen a mere 3km later.

Allan's race car is provided by: Home Loan Centre Australia Pty Ltd is a fully accredited mortgage management and origination company specialising in the provision of residential property loans. Home Loan Centre Australia securities is a unique 'new age' home loan company built on the principles of customer service and satisfaction.



Take a look at **TASMANIA**
with Google Earth

(download placemark + open in Google Earth)

[Get Google Earth here](#)