



**NZ V8 Utes Press Release
22 JANUARY 2012**

WAITE TAKES TIMARU IN UDC V8 UTES

Andrew 'DJ48' Waite bounced back from his troubled round at Teretonga just seven days ago to claim the spoils at Round 4 of the UDC V8 Ute Championship at Timaru International Motor Raceway this weekend. Waite's Valvoline/Hydraulink Falcon developed major engine problems at Teretonga and consequently the young Aucklanders was forced into a borrowed vehicle at Timaru. However the change did little to blunt his championship challenge as he won his third round of the four held to date. Fellow Aucklanders Mike 'Buzz' Lightfoot was second for the round after another excellent showing while Geoff 'SOS' Spencer of Palmerston North backed up his first ever UDC V8 Ute race win on Saturday with third place overall.



All three races were tense affairs and for the second weekend in succession the category produced three different race winners.

Spencer won Saturdays race, his first in over eighty starts in the class, after he fended off an intense attack from Waite with Lightfoot third.



HOLDEN



The second race of the round on Sunday morning took place on a wet track with Lightfoot on pole and Peter 'Rocketman' Robb alongside. While the class has a reputation for ferocious racing everyone was on their best behaviour in the difficult conditions that had claimed several victims in earlier races. Robb led early in the Hill Country Helicopters Holden until both Lightfoot and Chris 'Hammer Time' Hanley, who relishes the wet, got by on lap two. While they pulled away Robb held off Waite until lap 6. Lightfoot and Hanley produced a stirring battle similar to the one between Spencer and Waite the day before, Lightfoot hanging on to notch his second race victory in as many weeks. Waite was third with Peter 'Kaos' Ward snatching fourth from Robb near the end with James 'Huggi' Urquhart sixth.

Lightfoot said conditions were the worst he had ever encountered, particularly at the sweeper onto the front straight. 'The car sledges and then bites. It's scary. I am almost forgetting to breathe. You just never know if you are going to stay on track.' Many others reiterated those comments including Waite. "I had a massive moment there once in a Toyota Racing Series car. The corner scares me!"

The finale saw Waite on pole with Lightfoot next to him. On a track that was now dry it was Lightfoot who got away best. He led until the third lap when Waite blasted past. Spencer followed him through although Lightfoot repassed him the next time around. That was the order at the finish, Waite winning from Lightfoot who withstood a lunge by Spencer right on the line. However Lightfoot received a 5 second penalty for a false start which dropped him to fifth, promoting Spencer, Ward and Hanley ahead of him.

Waite was "very happy" but admitted it had not been plain sailing. "I had an engine miss from about 3/4 distance in the last race and just wanted to bring it home. When that happened a win was not at the top of the priority list." Understandably Lightfoot too was pleased. He praised his crew - Wayne, Kev and Dan. "The BSL Buckley Systems Falcon performed brilliantly. I'm over the moon." Spencer took third on a circuit



considered to better suit the Fords. "I'm glad I could foot it with those guys. This week in, week out racing has got us in the groove. It's like a coming of age. Once you get these utes within a window they are good to drive. It's a good class to be in."

The UDC V8 Ute Championship now returns to the North Island where Round 5 will take place at Manfeild Park in Feilding from 10-12 February.

Support for the V8 Ute category comes from UDC Finance, Armorall, Xtreme Race Clutches, Nulon Oils, Radio Hauraki, Yokohama, Woodstock, BMC Air Filters, SCT, EFILive, Holden, Ford and Espresso Cafe.