



STAGE FLASH

Date: 9 May 2010

Day: Three

Special Stage: 18

Weather: Overcast, mild temperature

Road Conditions: Slightly damp but still slippery gravel

Flash No: 18

Distance: 11.18km

Car 7. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia

I did a mistake on a slow corner, I came in a bit too fast and I hit a bank, I spun and I lost 10secs. For sure I have lost the lead.

Car 1. Sebastien Loeb/Daniel Elena

I am in the lead but only for 5 secs, with the road conditions today it is very difficult. No advantage, everyone is going as fast as they can, we will see. I am really happy for the moment, but it will be a hard day.

Car 4. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila

It was good, but still I did a couple of mistakes, I was struggling in one of the slow corners, it was under steering a bit, and lost a couple of seconds with those.

Car 2. Dani Sordo/Marc Marti

I tried to keep the pressure up, I tried to push as hard as I can and I am a little bit better but I don't know I lose time in these fast stages there was a bit of loose gravel in this one, so maybe I can go faster later.

Car 11. Petter Solberg/Phil Mills

It is going the right way. I have to watch Mikko coming behind, things are working well so no more thoughts about scratching it like we did the first day, it's too bad that we had problems on the first day, but that is how it is. I am trying to get third, that is my plan, but let me get a couple more stages in and we will see.

Car 3. Mikko Hirvonen/Jarmo Lehtinen

I haven't gained a lot, but have gained a little bit. Not bad, but now some changes we have made in the car, it is a big struggle and we are sliding quite a lot, same as yesterday. But I can do some changes now for the next stage and we should be o.k.

Car 5. Matthew Wilson/Scott Martin

Good fun. We were a little bit cautious on the tarmac at the start, there was a bit more grip there than we thought, it looked really slippery, but there was more grip, so we lost out a little bit on the tarmac. But then the rest of the stage felt really good. The rain has sort of bound the surface together and given it a little bit more grip. So it is a little bit easier to be honest.

Car 6. Henning Solberg/Ilka Minor

It is working quite well, so I am happy. No changes we are just going like we did yesterday.

Car 9. Federico Villagra/Jorge Perez Compagnon

Was Ok. We made a little change, we need to do some adjustments to the car, it is a little soft in the rear. It went OK.

Car 29. Jari Ketomaa/Mika Stenberg

The car is working fine. But it is quite difficult to get the rhythm, the stage is quite slippery. I need good grip for the tyres, so I am just trying to keep the car on the road, but it is not easy.

Car 28. Xavier Pons/Alex Haro

No comment

Car 21. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek

Not so bad, but I think we can go a little bit faster. I did some mistakes so I lost a few seconds, so I should be more concentrated in the next stage and go a little bit faster. It is quite slippery, because of the light rain.

Car 24. Patrik Sandell/Emil Axelsson

We got a re-start today that is the plan. We have to push really hard if we are going to reach Prokop, because I know when I am getting close to him, he will push even more. So I need to take seconds where I can.

Car 22. Nasser Al-Attiyah/Giovanni Bernacchini

It was an alright time, but I lose from the beginning, as there has been some rain, but it is OK. We will see what the long stage will be. The road is quite dry now.

Car 38. Hayden Paddon/John Kennard

Only four stages to go so we are just counting down and taking it a little easy. It is ours to lose from here, so we just have to drive with our heads. The road is a little bit damp, but that tends to bind a lot of the gravel, and becomes a lot gripper, so it is quite nice to drive on.

Car 32. Toshi Arai/Daniel Barritt

This time not so bad, but the road is so slippery, so not so easy to drive. I think the conditions are not so bad, and I can push hard because I want to catch the front car, so maybe we are back to fourth now.

Car 27. Janne Tuohino/Risto Pietilainen

It is OK. Quite slippery, but we don't need to push because all we can do today is lose. We made some changes to the car, just to see how it is working.

Car 62. Chris West/Chris Cobham

Very slippery, but it was OK.

Car 64. Dean Sumner/Paul Fallon

We didn't think it actually went that well, but the time isn't too bad, so it is good.

Car 50. Emma Gilmour/Glenn Macneall

Just trying to make things right with the car, it is still down on power. We tried a few things last night, but it doesn't seem to have made any difference, but we've got what we've got so we'll just keep going to the finish.

63. Stewart Taylor/Warwick Searle

It was good. We just charged on through, there was good grip there. I think the dampness just got rid of a bit of the marbly stuff, so you could use a bit more of the road. I enjoyed it.

66. Glenn Inkster/Glenn Goldring

All good. We just wanted to get through. I have a feeling our bumper is dragging along at the back, we slipped wide at a 4 left, but other than that it was a reasonable start to the morning, and now the big one at Whaanga Coast.

Car 34. Kingsley Thompson/Malcolm Peden

Not too bad for the first one of the morning. It is still a bit marbly in there, but grip levels are pretty good compared to yesterday, so we are happy.

Car 70. Sloan Cox/Tarryn Cox

Struggled a little bit as it was quite slippery and getting quite taily in a few places, but it went well and had no moments.

Car 65. Glenn Smith/Campbell Ward

Found it really slippery, didn't really enjoy it at all to be honest.

Car 68. Patrick Malley/Malcolm Read

Good. The car still feels fine. Just a little bit of cosmetic damage, but nothing a bit of makeup won't fix. Looking forward to the next one.

Car 72. Ben Jagger/Ben Hawkins

Probably a bit too messy, but the time seems to be not too bad, so I'm happy.

Car 80. Stephen Barker/Richard Ellis

Not bad to start the morning off. I was a little bit cautious, but it was only the first one, so hopefully we will improve on that this afternoon.

Car 46. Chaodong Liu/Anthony McLoughlin

A little bit slippery, not very good.

Car 71. Josh Marston/David Calder

Slippery stage. Very slippery. Struggled a wee bit, the car felt quite lose in there.

Car 75. Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy

OK.

Car 69. Matt Jansen/Jason Farmer

It felt alright. There has been a bit of rain overnight but it is not quite as slippery as we thought it would be.

Car 73. Dave Strong/Bruce McKenzie

Great.

Car 74. Brent Taylor/Chris Ramsay

Fantastic. A bit slow, but fun.

Car 81. Ben Hunt/Tony Rawstorn

It was alright. We are just getting back into it after a few problems yesterday afternoon, a couple of times off the road. We are just easing back into it and maybe we'll push at Whaanga.

Car 87. Phil Campbell/Venita Fabbro

We're real happy with that. We are getting used to the car again after our crash on the first day.

Car 33. Gianluca Linari/Massimo Salvucci

It is good. It is the first stage of the day, it is very slippery.

Car 44. Paulo Nobre/Edu Paula

Nice. Unfortunately in recce we only passed one time so our first time in the special stage, was almost our second recce pass so I hope this afternoon we can push a little bit more. But like all special stages here it was fantastic and nice to drive.

Car 77. Dominick Unterberger/Sarah Coatsworth

It wasn't too bad. We are just getting back into it for the third day, so we are just taking it easy and hopefully we'll have a good result at the end of the day.

Car 78. Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen

Pretty good. We haven't been around for the last 4 or 5 stages, so we are just getting used to it again.

Car 79. Lee Stringer/Chris Davison

Apart from the drink bottle ending up under my feet, not too bad. Good stage, now looking forward to the next three.

Car 84. Tony Burrowes/Michelle Parry

A cautious start to the day. It is quite slippery, with a bit of water on the surface.

Car 85. Dermott Malley/Linzi Malley

I've got no rear brakes so it was a bit funny.