



STAGE FLASH

Date: 7 May 2010

Day: One

Special Stage: 8

Weather: Fine cloudy

Road Conditions: Dry and dusty

Flash No: 8

Distance: 22.20km

Car 1. Sebastien Loeb/Daniel Elena

I'm trying as hard as I can, but I don't really remember this stage from this morning, as I was too busy trying to hold onto my door.

Car 11. Petter Solberg/Phil Mills

Today I have been very good. I have been calm, controlled and I feel great. The car has been perfect and with Seb doing a mistake earlier I didn't have any chance for any games or strategy. So the main thing for me is to know that he is just behind me. I did a good stage time on the last stage and I feel this one is good too. I can do this anyway if I am first on the road tomorrow, I just have to deal with it. Seb has done a good job today, and I didn't do so bad myself either. This is just how it is – no choice.

Car 3. Mikko Hirvonen/Jarmo Lehtinen

I am been pushing really hard and haven't made any mistakes, but the car is a little bit soft, especially on the long stages. That is one reason why it has destroyed my rear tyres completely, and I just couldn't go any faster and at the end of this stage we had the same problems. Not a good day.

Car 4. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila

Petter was trying very hard in this last stage and he has been pushing hard, I think he wants to be first car on the road. Tomorrow it is alright, but it has been a very tough battle today, and it will be again tomorrow a very demanding day, so anyway 2nd car on the road tomorrow is good. I tried to come as quick as I can in this stage, but I made a couple of little mistakes towards the end of the stage.

Car 7. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia

(Had very strong words with co-driver before opening door, perhaps wrong notes?) No comment as to what was wrong "Just a problem between me and my co-driver". We've had a good start, but it is very long.

Car 2. Dani Sordo/Marc Marti

I don't know what position I am in, but I am really happy. I have been pushing and pushing through the stage. It is really nice at the moment, I am enjoying it. Looking forward to tomorrow

Car 5. Matthew Wilson/Scott Martin

We've got a problem with the gear box. Basically it won't go down below 3rd gear, so we've driven the last half with no gears lower than sometimes 3rd and sometimes 2nd so it was a little bit scary in places where we were trying to brake and get a gear. It's a shame because I really enjoyed that stage. But that's the way it is. We'll have a look now and see what we can do (before the super special).

Car 9. Federico Villagra/Jorge Perez Companc

It has been very difficult. We have struggled a little bit with brakes in these two stages.

Car 6. Henning Solberg/Ilka Minor

Still have problems. I am so scared; I've never been so scared. But I have to go flat out also, I am trying my best. I was off two times in this stage, and I cannot do anything, the car is just going out suddenly.

PWRC

Car 28. Xavier Pons/Alex Haro

Yeah I am very happy now, I have enjoyed these stages and this morning, there was a lot of slipping and not confident now there is more grip and more confident and the time is better and I am in a good position at the moment in second place.

Car 21. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek

Not bad, but I am losing a lot of time and I don't know why. My speed was quite good and I don't know what is going on as my times are very bad in the last two stages. We'll have to do something before tomorrow.

Car 24. Patrik Sandell/Emil Axelsson

I missed the rhythm a bit this morning and we had the car too soft to try to find traction, but then I didn't trust it when it went super fast. But this afternoon has been good, so I am happy.

Car 22. Nasser Al-Attiyah/Giovanni Bernacchini

Yes I am happy, the last run was very good, and I change a little bit in the setup, but it is ok. I must take care of the other cars, but tomorrow is another day and we will try our best, but it has been good.

Car 29. Jari Ketomaa/Mika Stenberg

Very enjoyable day. We did very well on the last stages today, the afternoon. However there is still so much learning for me in this car as it is the first rally, so I am doing too many mistakes, so I am losing a lot of time. Once I can get enough time in the car I am sure we will be pretty fast.

Car 38. Hayden Paddon/John Kennard

It's been a good day, obviously much better than in Turkey. So we've just been going at a steady pace today, we haven't been going 100%, the rear tyres are starting to go off a little and as soon as you get out of that clean line, you are hanging on. It has been a good day, but there are still two more long days to go. It's great to have three Kiwis on the podium at the end of the day; obviously there has been a bit of attrition today, which I wasn't really expecting. Here the roads are very smooth, so it's not like Turkey which breaks the cars, but it has been a good day for the Kiwis. If we can have three Kiwis at the top at the end that would be awesome.

Car 50. Emma Gilmour/Glenn Macneall

It is a long event, and you just have to keep battling on, the car is still handling ok, probably just over driving on the grip, just getting used to these tyres, but all in all it was a better afternoon, so still here.

Car 34. Kingsley Thompson/Malcolm Peden

3rd place is really impressive. First rally NZ for me; first time on Pirelli tyres, I'm loving it, having a ball. Stages haven't been as swept as we had hoped for, being 20th on the road we thought we would get a nice swept line, but we're still getting fine marbly stuff on the road which we are really struggling with on these tyres, but we're really enjoying it.

Car 42. Miguel Angel Baldoni/Jose Diaz

Yes I am really happy, it was a fantastic day for me.

Car 30. Albert Llovera/Borja Rozada

I think that is the most incredible stage that I have done. I am so happy, because all the time I am skating, I am tired to my fingers, the last stage at 32km was very hard on the hands. I am happy to be in NZ racing.

Car 46. Chaodong Liu/Anthony McLoughlin

We have a small problem with the brakes, it is not very good, but we are still a little bit faster.

Car 54. Michel Jourdain/Oscar Sanchez

I am happy, so far we have completed except for one short stage. It is a pretty good day for us.

Car 33. Gianluca Linari/Massimo Salvucci

It was good. Now I am tired. It was very fast, and slippery when you go out of the guides (lines).

Car 45. Rui Wang/Hongyu Pan

No comment

Car 61. Mark Tapper/Jeff Cress

Not too bad. Backed off a little bit for the last real stage of the day, the tyres are a bit worn but happy to be here.

Car 61. Mark Tapper/Jeff Cress

Not too bad. Backed off a little bit for the last real stage of the day, the tyres are a bit worn but happy to be here.

Car 62. Chris West/Chris Cobham

Ok. It was so, so. Not too bad, but we just aren't that confident at the moment, we are struggling a little bit with what we have done with the car as far as set up. It is just so hard out there and we have probably gone outside of where we would normally go with this set up, but that is OK we'll get there.

Car 63. Stewart Taylor/Warwick Searle

Not bad for a broken car. I hit a rear wheel in the previous stage and it is crabbing a bit down the road, I hit a bit of tow into it. It was hard work. It was quite a fast stage to have a crooked car.

Car 64. Dean Sumner/Paul Fallon

We are a bit lost, we are trying as hard as we can but the times are not quite there, and we're not quite sure why, could just be struggling with the tyres.

Car 68. Patrick Malley/Malcolm Read

No power steering the whole way through. My arms are tired. Hard work.

Car 65. Glenn Smith/Campbell Ward

Just down the middle of the road like we have all day. A little bit of dust in there but not too bad.

Car 66. Glenn Inkster/Glenn Goldring

It was good. I don't know what the time is yet. But we are happy, we've been learning a new car today, and we don't have a roof vent and the car is filling up with dust, so just getting enough air to breathe is difficult. Great stage, really enjoyable stage today.

Car 67. Kieran Hall/Jamie Kibble

It is so much easier this afternoon with lack of gravel on the surface. With the locked diff it doesn't give such a push on. It allows Jaime and me to push a little bit harder for the afternoon session and our times are starting to reflect that. We are not quite so far behind the top guys in stage times now which are great.

Car 70. Sloan Cox/Tarryn Cox

It was an awesome stage. It went a lot better that time, no mistakes so I feel really good about it.

Car 69. Matt Jansen/Jason Farmer

It was alright. We are still struggling to get on top of this handling issue but hopefully with tonight's 45mins service we can get on top of it. We didn't quite allow for all the extra weight of all the spares we have to carry during the rally, so that has put us on the back foot.

Car 71. Josh Marston/David Calder

Not too bad. We struggled a bit for rhythm in there, so it didn't go quite as well as I'd hoped. All in all it hasn't been a bad day so far. Just the domain to go, which I am looking forward to.

Car 73. Dave Strong/Bruce McKenzie

Lost rear brakes, so a bit slippery. Boiled the fluid.

Car 75. Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy

No comment

Car 74. Brent Taylor/Chris Ramsay

It was great. Happy to bring it home with four corners intact which is an unusual even for us.

Car 78. Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen

We've lost 5th gear unfortunately so we weren't as fast on the faster stuff, never mind.

Car 77. Dominick Unterberger/Sarah Coatsworth

It was actually not too bad. We are starting to click with the notes and starting to get more used to the car.

Car 79. Lee Stringer/Chris Davison

A lot better than last time through there. I am starting to get to grips with this hopefully. Looking forward to tomorrow.

Car 80. Stephen Barker/Richard Ellis

I don't know. It is a little bit loose. We are trying relatively hard but Ben is pushing hard as well and that seems to be just a little bit quicker than us. I'm not prepared to take any risks at this stage. We'll just settle in to how we are, I'm not going to go any faster than that.

Car 81. Ben Hunt/Tony Rawstorn

That was awesome. Blimmin' tyres are still working and they are as bald as anything, so we'll go have a bit of a skid on the super special now seeing as we have wrecked tyres.

Car 83. Alain Dalstein/Dale Perry

No comment.

Car 84. Tony Burrowes/Michelle Parry

It was good and enjoyable. Starting to feel a little bit tired. Struggling to concentrate.

Car 85. Dermott Malley/Linzi Malley

It is a bit rocky. There are a few large rocks sitting around there for little cars like this which can't handle them very well. But otherwise great.

Car 86. Trevor Taylor/Tim Eddington

Very fast and flowing. Good stage.

Comments: