



## STAGE FLASH

**Date:** 7 May 2010

**Day:** One

**Special Stage:** 1

**Weather:** Overcast, mild temperature

**Road Conditions:** Dry with thick gravel

**Flash No:** 1

**Distance:** 11.09km

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**Car 1. Sebastien Loeb/Daniel Elena**

Very slippery, lots of gravel, expect more in the next stages. Bad at the start, better along the river, then dry, very un-drivable, like driving a boat. Absolutely no grip on the gravel. I'm sure we make some very nice lines for the other drivers.

**Car 11. Petter Solberg/Phil Mills**

Seb is all over the place, he is trying very hard. I think he is very wide, and I'm doing what I can and the car is good so it is OK. I (have) been looking forward to this for a long time. I don't think the rally will really start until tomorrow.

**Car 3. Mikko Hirvonen/Jarmo Lehtinen**

Very slippery, sliding quite a bit, but it is OK. We'll see how fast everyone is behind.

**Car 4. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila**

All right, but I'm not completely satisfied. A couple of times I braked too early, difficult to get grip, grip was changing a lot.

**Car 7. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia**

Nice drive, quite wide, starting to get confident with grip. Nice stage for me. This stage is not so difficult; it is a good stage to start.

**Car 2. Dani Sordo/Marc Marti**

It is OK for the start of the rally. I lost time at the start of the stage, but I am happy.

**Car 5. Matthew Wilson/Scott Martin**

Hard base, with fine gravel on top, still slippery. Difficult not having shakedown on gravel, so the first corner is the first time on gravel. But it was better as the stage went on, more settled.

**Car 9. Federico Villagra/Jorge Perez Companc**

Very slippery. Difficult to find good grip.

**Car 6. Henning Solberg/Ilka Minor**

Not happy, have to adjust the car a little bit. But it will come. Maybe it was the same for everyone. It will get better.

### PWRC

**Car 28. Xavier Pons/Alex Haro**

OK. No problems. A lot of dust in the last part. Not easy to drive in that. Feeling is good.

**Car 21. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek**

It's maybe braking too much. But the set up is perfect. We are enjoying it so much. We hope the rest will be like this.

**Car 24. Patrik Sandell/Emil Axelsson**

It was good, a lot of dust. I don't know why. But it was a good first stage, so I am happy.

**Car 27. Janne Tuohino/Risto Pietilainen**

Stage is very nice, but I don't find a rhythm. I am maybe braking too much, maybe two times in a corner, but at the end of the stage I got better. Hopefully now it will be OK.

**Car 22. Nasser Al-Attiyah/Giovanni Bernacchini**

It's OK. It is very slippery. Time is OK for not having any grip. Will have to see what the next stage is like.

**Car 29. Jari Ketomaa/Mika Stenberg**

We are here, just taking care and finding a good rhythm for the car. It is a long rally to go. But I am not perfectly satisfied with the set up, but at least we are here and will have a nice rally.

**Car 32. Toshi Arai/Daniel Barritt**

Not perfect. I missed a 5th gear, so lost 2 or 3 secs on a long straight.

**Car 38. Hayden Paddon/John Kennard**

Really surprised. Very slippery. I said yesterday, that I didn't think it was going to sweep very much and there is a bit of a clean line there, but it is a very hard base, and we are sitting on top. But is it the same for everyone, just a matter of driving to it.

**Car 40. Richard Mason/Sara Mason**

New car, it is a left hand drive. We haven't been doing the left hand drive thing very much and we want to show people that we can drive fast in left hand drive as well. A little bit rusty to begin with, we don't often use the Pirelli tyres, and it takes a little bit to get into your head how they warm up and stuff, so it was interesting.

**Car 50. Emma Gilmour/Glenn Macneall**

Our clutch is gone, no clutch at all, so I don't know how we are going to get on from here.

**Car 34. Kingsley Thompson/Malcolm Peden**

Good, not sweeping as much as we thought in here. But it was good for a first start.

**Car 42. Miguel Angel Baldoni/Jose Diaz**

OK. Everything is OK.

**Car 36. Nikolai Georgiou/Joseph Matar**

Not bad. Wasn't great. Just getting used to grip level. In some places it was really slippery, and in other places there was good grip, so we are just getting used to it. It was OK, but we have a long day ahead.

**Car 30. Albert Llovera/Borja Rozada**

Well, really slippery. When we have done a few more km's we will go a bit faster. For now we are concentrating on grip.

**Car 46. Chaodong Liu/Anthony McLoughlin**

Good. But a little bit dusty, so we could not drive very fast. For the first stage we just drove safely.

**Car 54. Michel Jourdain/Oscar Sanchez**

Difficult. Very fast, but very tricky. You cannot move out of the clean lines, but it is good fun. It is good to have finished it.

**Car 33. Gianluca Linari/Massimo Salvucci**

Nice, but slippery. It was very good.

**Car 45. Rui Wang/Hongyu Pan**

Very good. Beautiful.

**Car 44. Paulo Nobre/Edu Paula**

Very nice, very pleasurable to drive, very dangerous, because it is very tricky, but fantastic to drive.

**Car 61. Mark Tapper/Jeff Cress**

Had a spin about three corners in, but we're alright. We're here.

**Car 62. Chris West/Chris Cobham**

Slippery. Not very good at all, going to make a few set up changes. Maybe a little too soft for the conditions.

**Car 63. Stewart Taylor/Warwick Searle**

I was a bit cautious. There was more grip in the tyres than I thought there would be. But I felt that I wasn't exiting the corners with enough speed. But it was safe.

**Car 64. Dean Sumner/Paul Fallon**

Car's got a miss; we did the whole stage on three cylinders.

**Car 68. Patrick Malley/Malcolm Read**

We got to the end, that's always good. It felt OK, the tyres went off in the rear, but it is the first time on these tyres, so we've got to be happy.

**Car 65. Glenn Smith/Campbell Ward**

Not too bad. Took it pretty cautiously after the big crash in Otago. Just got to get to the end of this rally.

**Car 66. Glenn Inkster/Glenn Goldring**

Pretty good. Awesome stage, really hard packed, no problems with roads getting cut up at all. Its grouse.

**Car 67. Kieran Hall/Jamie Kibble**

Its taking a little bit of getting used to as the centre diff is not talking to the car, so we are currently sitting on a locked diff, so it is making it a bit taily. We are just taking a bit of time to gel together being a new crew, so it was just good to get to the end of the first stage.

**Car 72. Ben Jagger/Ben Hawkins**

Just a matter of getting used to the tyres. It was heaps of fun though. The car is a bit down on power, but we are still pushing along.

**Car 69. Matt Jansen/Jason Farmer**

Stage was alright. We are just trying to adjust and adapt, and getting used to the Pirelli tyres. But we have taken the first step, hopefully we will improve.

**Car 70. Sloan Cox/Tarryn Cox**

Wasn't too bad. Just used to the tyres after a while, but they are quite different to the tyres I usually use.

**Car 71. Josh Marston/David Calder**

Good. Nice and flowing. Good start to the morning. Just winding our way into it and getting comfortable in the car.

**Car 73. Dave Strong/Bruce McKenzie**

A little bit messy. I don't know about the tyres. But we'll sort it out.

**Car 74. Brent Taylor/Chris Ramsay**

Cruisy. A lot of fun.

**Car 75. Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy**

First stage you know, just taking care

**Car 77. Dominick Unterberger/Sarah Coatsworth**

Good to get back into it again and get back into the groove. The car feels good after what happened down in Otago. So no complaints so far.

**Car 78. Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen**

First time I've ever driven the car on gravel, but it went very well.

**Car 79. Lee Stringer/Chris Davison**

That was brilliant. Hopefully the rest of the weekend will be like that. I'll be happy as Larry then.

**Car 80. Stephen Barker/Richard Ellis**

Not a bad start. Nice and conservative. The roads were pretty well swept for us. We're doing alright.

**Car 87. Phil Campbell/Venita Fabbro**

It was awesome. It was the first time driving this car in a rally. There is a lot to learn, but I'm sure we'll get faster towards the end of the day.

**Car 83. Alain Dalstein/Dale Perry**

It was good, but quite slippery.

**Car 84. Tony Burrowes/Michelle Parry**

A good settling in stage. It is always hard in a new car, but it was OK.

**Car 85. Dermott Malley/Linzi Malley**

Excellent. Just need a little bit more commitment, but it was pretty good. I'm pretty happy.

**Car 86. Trevor Taylor/Tim Eddington**

Really good. Nice stage in there. Well swept. Nice and flowing.