



STAGE FLASH

Date: 8 May 2010

Day: Two

Special Stage: 12

Weather: Overcast, cool and calm

Road Conditions: Dry gravel with some dew but dusty.

Flash No: 12

Distance: 30.89

Car 11. Petter Solberg/Phil Mills

I lose a lot of time there. It is like the first stage this morning, very very loose and I lose a lot of time, but I have to try and get it back. I will lose definitely.

Car 4. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila

In this stage I drive better than the last one. This one was good for us. I hope that the other competitors wouldn't be too fast compared to us.

Car 7. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia

There is a lot of loose gravel so the guys behind will be really faster on this one. I know that Seb is already very very fast, but that is normal. He is a long way behind, but on this one he will take a lot of time in just one stage. But that is ok we still have a bit of a gap.

Car 2. Dani Sordo/Marc Marti

There is a lot of loose gravel. It is quite difficult to drive well for the whole time as the car is moving quite a lot. For Petter it will be really difficult I think. My car is really good and I am happy.

Car 3. Mikko Hirvonen/Jarmo Lehtinen

That was a bit better. Good rhythm now. I've made some small changes to the set up and I am happy with it. It is funny as I was pushing a lot harder yesterday and I couldn't make any time, but now it came really easy, so hopefully we can still get up there and get into the fight. I just made a couple of small changes to the dampers, but sometimes small things make the difference.

Car 5. Matthew Wilson/Scott Martin

I've never known these stages to be this slippery ever. Unbelievable, I think I have always done them when it has been wet and obviously the grip is always better and the surface is bound together. It is so so loose, there are corners where you just keep on sliding and sliding and sliding. I think at the start I was probably over driving so I just brought it back a little bit and tried to keep it a bit neater and tidier and it felt a lot better. Hopefully in the second pass there will be a lot more grip.

Car 1. Sebastien Loeb/Daniel Elena

It is looking better and better. I was really driving well for sure, yesterday we had to take big risks a bit too much to not lose too much time, but today, especially in this stage with the conditions that we had, it was a good advantage and I went flat out again trying to make up part of my gap. But it is not so bad, no? It was really good, difficult to stay concentrating when you see the splits and you know you are doing something and you think no not a mistake now because I have to go flat out. But I am very happy. Second pass will be more difficult, I had to give everything in the first pass with the gravel. In my position the second pass will be better than Sordo's position, but after that it will be difficult to make a difference.

Car 6. Henning Solberg/Ilka Minor

It is OK. But I have some problems.

Car 9. Federico Villagra/Jorge Perez Companc

It was good, but very slippery. Very difficult to find the right speed into the corners as there was no grip at all.

Car 29. Jari Ketomaa/Mika Stenberg 29

Great. Absolutely wonderful. It was very good fun, but it is very very slippery. It is incredibly slippery. After the first junction on the downhill on the right until before this last road is very very slippery. We have to be careful.

Car 28. Xavier Pons/Alex Haro

A lot of dusty. I don't like this. It is dangerous, a lot of dust.

Car 61. Mark Tapper/Jeff Cress

Very slippery. We are struggling for grip, in the loose gravel. We'll need to make some changes at service.

Car 21. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek

That was OK, but it was full of dust from the car in front of me, so it was very dangerous, I really don't understand why we don't have 2 mins gap as on high speed stages like this, something very bad could happen, so I think something has to change and we have to have 2 mins gap again as it is very dangerous like it is.

Car 22. Nasser Al-Attiyah/Giovanni Bernacchini

We had a big spin and we lost time on the hairpin, we are very lucky, we could get out and we continued.

Car 38. Hayden Paddon/John Kennard

Really slippery, obviously it is the same for everyone, but we are really struggling with the rear of the car. It is all over the show, I'm having to pull my driving back and just try and drive it really smoothly.

Car 24. Patrik Sandell/Emil Axelsson

It was good. This one was much better than the other one. I enjoyed it.

Car 27. Janne Tuohino/Risto Pietilainen

The time is shit all the time. (not happy)

Car 32. Toshi Arai/Daniel Barritt

It was very very slippery. I nearly went off the road many times but generally quite a good stage.

Car 62. Chris West/Chris Cobham

No good. Very very slippery, but had a spin so lost a bit of time.

Car 50. Emma Gilmour/Glenn Macneall

Terrible. My car felt like it was just so so slippery. We got a flat tyre in the stage before and knocked the alignment out and we were catching Westie's dust.

Car 64. Dean Sumner/Paul Fallon

It was alright, pretty good. We are just trying to get to service and we think we might have bent an arm right at the start.

Car 63. Stewart Taylor/Warwick Searle

Better. I am starting to get used to the unusual handling traits of my bent car. We got caught in some quite heavy dust towards the end, and I wasn't sure whether there was a hold up in front of me or whether that was just how the valley was keeping the dust there. We lost a bit of pace taking it carefully through the dust. But it was a great stage.

Car 68. Patrick Malley/Malcolm Read

Good. Just trying to keep the speed up, we haven't put new tyres on like most people did, so she was awesomely taily. If I was a rear wheel drive car, I would be giggling, but I am not so it is a little bit slow. But we are still here and we are just going to see what the times are and then re-evaluate for this afternoon.

Car 66. Glenn Inkster/Glenn Goldring

Not too bad. We spun and then had trouble starting, so lost a little bit of time there. We got a bent steering arm in the 1st stage so we are just trying to get through to service to see what we can do about it.

Car 72. Ben Jagger/Ben Hawkins

It was pretty fast towards the end there, but not as fast on the time. But I am still having fun.

Car 70. Sloan Cox/Tarryn Cox

Wasn't too bad. Felt a little bit off the pace in the beginning, but by the end it was really good.

Car 34. Kingsley Thompson/Malcolm Peden

We got a puncture about a 1/3 of the way into it on the left rear, and we just had to drive it out, so it is going to be slow unfortunately.

Car 67. Kieran Hall/Jamie Kibble

That is absolute bullshit they should at least pull over and give the other guys a chance if you know you've got a problem and you're not going to get anywhere in the stage. Every so often he could have pulled over, there are heaps of places. Absolutely ridiculous, 15kms of no vision.

Car 65. Glenn Smith/Campbell Ward

It was going quite tidy for the first little bit and then about half way through the dust was so thick I couldn't see anything, so I had to back off to get through. Didn't want to have another big crash in the dust.

Car 74. Brent Taylor/Chris Ramsay

It was a lot of fun. We just smoked through there. I don't know how fast we were, but we enjoyed it.

Car 75. Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy

Good. Difficult at the start because we had a problem with the intercom, but then better.

Car 69. Matt Jansen/Jason Farmer

It was alright, our recce car broke down on recce through there so our notes aren't quite spot on so hopefully we can change them a bit for the next pass.

Car 80. Stephen Barker/Richard Ellis

Really good stage. We had a bit of dust to contend with close to the end and a bit of a spongy brake pedal just because of the speed. But other than that I think we are alright. I don't think we would have lost much time.

Car 71. Josh Marston/David Calder

Cool. We are struggling for grip a bit. But it is such a cool stage. It flows really well, especially the finish, all that fast stuff is awesome.

Car 46. Chaodong Liu/Anthony McLoughlin

Not bad. Better than yesterday.

Car 33. Gianluca Linari/Massimo Salvucci

It was good. But it is very very slippery. Many times the car stepped out. But after that it was better. The last 5kms are very fast.

Car 73. Dave Strong/Bruce McKenzie

A bit of dust like everybody and I am driving terribly, but the stage was OK.

Car 81. Ben Hunt/Tony Rawstorn

Not too bad. The road is nicely swept and feels like tarmac. There is heaps of grip out there, and that is pretty lucky as we don't have many tyres left. Hopefully the next pass will be even better.

Car 87. Phil Campbell/Venita Fabbro

It was long. We are just trying to get through them today, no fast times or anything. We just want to get to the end.

Car 45. Rui Wang/Hongyu Pan

No comment

Car 44. Paulo Nobre/Edu Paula

What can I say about NZ? It is a beautiful rally, fantastic special stage, so much fun to drive. Unfortunately for me my motivation is completely zero because of the penalisation yesterday, when you feel that things are unfair with you - your motivation will go away. But the rally is beautiful.

Car 77. Dominick Unterberger/Sarah Coatsworth

Wasn't too bad. That last bit was pretty quick, so that was quite fun. Apart from that we are just trying to get used to the car. Get as many kms as we can under our belt, and just keep on doing what we are doing.

Car 78. Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen

No good. No power and no 5th gear, so not very good.

Car 84. Tony Burrowes/Michelle Parry

Quite good. Just near the end we caught some dust, so that made it a bit tricky.

Car 83. Alain Dalstein/Dale Perry

No comment.

Car 86. Trevor Taylor/Tim Eddington

Very fast. It is getting quite sticky in some of the corners now, where other cars are really cutting it up, but it was good. Pretty happy with that.

Car 85. Dermott Malley/Linzi Malley

Got a puncture unfortunately about 2kms into the start of the stage.

Car 103. Marcus van Klink/Matt Richards

Pretty full on, but it was good. Tyres are getting a bit worn down though, so they are all over the show but t really enjoyed it.

Car 105. Nicola Burley/Joelle Eyre

We are having a few car issues but we are just trucking along.

Car 110. Masaaki Hating/SuguKawana

I want to push harder, so the next group I will do my best.

Car 111. Craig Simpson/Lance Prouse

That was awesome. We are getting a lot more speed up and having a lot more fun.

Car 106. Matt Summerfield/Dave Neill

It was going good, I made a little mistake at the spectator point just back there and went a bit quick in and just went straight on (arrived with a very large section of the orange plastic fencing from the spectator point lodged under the car).