



STAGE FLASH

Date: 7 May 2010

Day: One

Special Stage: 3

Weather: Overcast, mild temperature

Road Conditions: Dry, thick loose gravel

Flash No: 3

Distance: 32.56km

Car 1. Sebastien Loeb/Daniel Elena

A lot of cleaning, no grip. But I expected to lose more (to Solberg). I think I have a good drive and a good feeling with the car.

Car 11. Petter Solberg/Phil Mills

I tried to follow Sebastien's lines but there is no chance. I just drove, didn't even think about it (following tracks). Things worked well, I tried to keep the line on the first part of the stage and at times I can't go faster. It will be interesting to see the times from behind.

Car 3. Mikko Hirvonen/Jarmo Lehtinen

Its ok, the time is fine, I was just so worried about the tyres and I had a noise in my ear that sounded like we had a puncture, so I was a bit careful, so the time is not too bad at all.

Car 4. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila

It is going well, I was happy with the long stage (3). The notes were working well and now I am starting to find the rhythm. This will be a very tight rally, difficult to get good stage times. You are not losing so much as first car on the road, very surprised.

Car 7. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia

It is very slippery but I think everyone will say that.

Car 5. Matthew Wilson/Scott Martin

No window, no side window from about 5 to 6 km's into it, it just dropped down and shattered. Its distracting a bit because all the dust coming in the window, especially on those tight corners it just sucks the dust right into your face.

Car 9. Federico Villagra/Jorge Perez Companc

Difficult to find the right speed, we cannot find the right speed on the corners; the notes are slow because the camber of the roads make it way faster.

Car 6. Henning Solberg/Ilka Minor

There is something wrong, I hear crrrrtak crrrrtak, in the car some place, I don't know what it is I hear it from the rear somewhere.

PWRC

Car 28. Xavier Pons/Alex Haro

Yea it's not bad for everybody. I'm pushing a lot, particularly in the morning it is not easy, it's very slippery but no problem I am happy.

Car 21. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek

Yea very good we enjoy it, very good, happy with the car so perfect, perfect, yea it's incredible how does it work on this road so very good very good!

Car 24. Patrik Sandell/Emil Axelsson

Comment: Has broken windscreen and roof scoop

Car 27. Janne Tuohino/Risto Pietilainen

It's ok, stages are very very nice, I like (it) a lot. First stage not perfect for me, second stage better and third better again, so let's push.

Car 22. Nasser Al-Attiyah/Giovanni Bernacchini

We are trying to keep good pace, I think we are ok and still we try to the maximum.

Car 29. Jari Ketomaa/Mika Stenberg

We have an idling problem (very high), it works ok on the stages but not so good on touring.

Car 30. Albert Llovera/Borja Rozada

No comment.

Car 32. Toshi Arai/Daniel Barritt

Very difficult, we lost brakes, and then I hit the right rear tyre on a bridge.

Car 38. Hayden Paddon/John Kennard

Just finding a rhythm, obviously it's a long rally. Very slippery, unbelievably slippery. Lost a lot of time in that second one (stage), just driving a bit erratically, just a matter of finding the right rhythm for the conditions.

Car 40. Richard Mason/Sara Mason

It wasn't a very good brake bias for us, too much to the front and I cooked the front brakes half way through, spent the last half of the stage trying to get them back but it didn't work. It's early days yet, we aren't at full pace.

Car 50. Emma Gilmour/Glenn Macneall

Car losing power and then the clutch went, the clutch comes back when it cools down.

Car 34. Kingsley Thompson/Malcolm Peden

First stage we were a bit rusty, lot of loose gravel sitting in the gorge but that one is starting to sweep off. Tyres very skatey compared to what we are used to on the Dunlop's, but it's the same for everyone which is a great thing, an even playing field.

Car 42. Miguel Angel Baldoni/Jose Diaz

It was really difficult, but I am very happy with this one.

Car 46. Chaodong Liu/Anthony McLoughlin

Not very good, very dusty because the car in front was very slow and I couldn't see the road properly. Probably lost around 20 seconds.

Car 54. Michel Jourdain/Oscar Sanchez

It was going ok until I hit a bridge, I don't know if we have something bent on the right rear so we are going to have a look.

Car 33. Gianluca Linari/Massimo Salvucci

Very long, but good. Some parts are very fast, some straight. Lots of attention needed and the stage is very slippery. Two miles from the end I didn't drive (exhausted – not pushing as hard)

Car 44. Paulo Nobre/Edu Paula

For sure for me New Zealand is the most pleasurable rally to drive but it is very tricky because of that. You feel pleasure and want to push more and sometimes a corner comes, very slippery and the rally can finish there. It is a fight between me, I want to push more but I also want to go to the finish and I must be a bit careful as it is my first time here.

Comments: