

## STAGE FLASH

<b>Date:</b>	<b>26 February 2021</b>	<b>Flash N°:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Day:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Distance:</b>	<b>31.05 km</b>
<b>Special stage:</b>	<b>SS2 (Sarriöjärvi 2)</b>		
<b>Weather:</b>	<b>Dry, dark, -2 degrees</b>		
<b>Road conditions:</b>	<b>Fresh snow in places and some gravel patches</b>		

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### **Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA**

"It's a different story but I guess the time difference will be the same. I do what I can but it's quite difficult. Let's see where we are tomorrow but it looks like we're going to be quite far already. But let's give everything we have."

### **Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN**

"Not easy, especially towards the end with quite a lot of loose snow and quite often it was difficult to get the car turned in. But I tried."

### **Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE**

"To be honest in the conditions we were I'm quite satisfied. I had a lot of understeer towards the end and I really thought I was punctured. I took out a bit of speed at some point and I really struggled to turn. Also, with Martijn we are still working and sometimes I struggled to really clearly understand so we need to work on that to get a bit more better understanding."

### **Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN**

"Not good, the stage is in a really bad condition. There is a lot of gravel so my front tyres are completely gone and I think I lost a lot of time in the end but probably everybody has the same idea. I lost a lot of time but if somebody can manage the tyre really good he can be really good."

### **Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT**

"It's very challenging. Okay you can see because of the extra lights but there are a lot of crests and you can't see far away so it makes it more scary for you. It's okay but at the end of the stage we had a puncture so we lost quite a lot. There was a hidden rock, something big on the inside so we hit that one and after that we needed to slow down. But I survived this quite difficult stage and I'm quite happy."

### **Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON**

"It feels pretty God damn good. It's going in the dark and it's just relying on the notes. It was better than the first pass but I just gave away so much time. It's pretty disappointing but it's not too bad."

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

"I knew when I saw the forecast that it's going to be a disaster for the tyres. I tried to be very, very nice since the beginning but after 10ks I felt that s\*\*\* it's finished and I knew I still had 20 to go. In the end it was just handbrake. I tried to be as nice as possible but it's difficult, it's so hard surface."

**Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA**

"I was on my limits. The rhythm felt quite good but it was quite difficult conditions to keep the clean driving but still go fast. But I think it was quite okay and I'm happy for my driving."

**Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE**

"Shocking. The last three [kilometres], honestly it was a huge surprise because there was no real warning it just dropped everything all of a sudden. It was very, very tricky. I imagine I dropped a lot. I was missing the front in a few places. I really just wanted to try to protect it because I didn't think I was at the risk of losing the studs but I definitely lost a lot [of time] at the end there."

**Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL**

"It's very difficult in the dark because you are fully sideways and you don't know if you are going to hit or not. It was very enjoyable and I am starting to understand everything now. It was very enjoyable and it was great to drive on this stage. Okay there is a lot of gravel, very difficult but a lot of fun."

**Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS**

"I had a puncture. I had to change the tyre."

**Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN**

"Today it was a very bad day for us. I'd totally like to forget today's special stages. I made a mistake this morning that affected the whole day. Our mechanics have worked so much on our car. Hopefully tomorrow feels better."

**Car #37. LORENZO BERTELLI/SIMONE SCATTOLIN**

"I mean I am happy to be back, but the road is very slippery though. The first part was nice, I am really looking for tomorrow."

**Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE**

"It was a very difficult stage but we managed quite well still. We got a bit stuck in the snowbanks and lost time, we gotta push more."

**Car #21. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL**

"I have to push a bit less because our front tyres are gone. We try to keep the same gap as in the morning. It was quite an okay stage."

**Car #22. EYVIND BRYNILDSEN/VERONICA ENGAN**

"I was flat out but we lost grip towards the end of the stage."

**Car #23. SEAN JOHNSTON/ALEXANDER KIHURANI**

"It is crazy to drive here. We got stuck in the snowbank, but we got out. We're here to learn, this was the mistake which I did today. But it is so much fun to drive these stages in the night."

**Car #24. JARI HUTTUNEN/MIKKO LUKKA**

Retired on SS1 due to a technical issue.

**Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM**

"This stage kills the tyres so I just tried to drive smart. I can push more, but at the moment I don't think I need to. We're having a good speed. Maybe in my opinion but this is one of the most difficult stages of this rally."

**Car #26. OLE CHRISTIAN VEIBY/JONAS ANDERSSON**

"There are some problems with the car."

**Car #27. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

Made no comment at the stage finish.

**Car #28. GEORG LINNAMÄE/VOLODYMYR KORSIA**

"It wasn't very great, we wasted our tyres. In the end we didn't have a lot of grip. I had to slow down in the end of the stage."

**Car #29. MARTIN PROKOP/MICHAL ERNST**

No information available.

**Car #30. TEEMU ASUNMAA/MARKO SALMINEN**

"There was a lot of gravel on the road. I tried to save my tyres but drove some sections totally flat out and some quite carefully. It was an okay stage and result in overall is good."

**Car #31. EMIL LINDHOLM/MIKAEL KORHONEN**

"It was quite okay but it was rougher than anyone of us expected. Apparently we are leading our class, so I am happy with that."

**Car #32. MIKKO HEIKKILÄ/TOP LUHTINEN**

"It was a little bit better than the previous stage because we didn't have a spin. But the tyres were wearing out. Hopefully tomorrow can be a bit better."

**COMMENTS**

Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox continued with a return to the 31.05-kilometre Sarriojärvi stage, the longest of the event, only this time it was run in complete darkness. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja were quickest by 9.8s to extend their overall advantage to 16.2s over team-mates Craig Breen/Paul Nagle. They were third fastest in their identical Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, 2.8s slower than Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen. Clearing a line through recent fresh snowfall by running first on the road, Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia dropped 27.1s to the stage winning Estonians.