

STAGE FLASH

Date: 27 February 2021
Day: 2
Special stage: SS4 (Kaihuavaara 1)
Weather: Clear and sunny, -4 degrees
Road conditions: Strong ice base, no adverse conditions reported

Flash N°: 5
Distance: 19.91 km

Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA

"It's the guys behind that are counting. Honestly I am on the limit, I am happy with my stage. Let's see if the time is good or not."

Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN

"It's okay, it's a fast stage. For sure some places could be better still. But when it's so fast you have to just make sure your notes are right but all okay. In some places I can carry a bit more speed for sure. I was a bit careful in a few places. It can always be better."

Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

"We have some struggle, we are working on it, but it's not easy. I have to be very concentrated. Not a very good stage for us to be honest."

Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN

"It's not a great time, there is so many seconds I should take away but at this point I don't have the feeling with the car and it's really not doing what I want. In many fast places I just lose the car on the line and I lose too many seconds but I tried my best. We will have to see what we do [with changes in service]."

Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT

"Quite a nice stage, I enjoyed a lot but I was a little bit hesitating in some corners so basically I lost a few seconds from there. But the stages are so amazing and I like a lot. Next run I will even more push and I will try to be much faster."

Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON

"That's up there with one of the very best stages I've ever driven. That's something pretty special to drive one of these cars in there. Feeling pretty lucky."

Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA

"Yeah [I was lucky to get away with that], I can't activate the wipers so I couldn't see anything. For sure it was good to get out. We lacked a lot the top speed so it's tricky."

Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA

"We are missing corners, sixth gear, long uphill I am flat out but you can't make big differences, the times are getting quite close but there are no corners to make big differences."

Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE

"Honestly I thought I did a good stage. I drove, I wouldn't say I was on the limit, but I tried to tidy it up in a few places where I was ragged before but there's not so much more I can do."

Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL

"It was a terrible drive, terrible. I couldn't find the confidence on the very, very fast [sections] you know, it's such commitment and my pacenotes were too cautious. But, okay, I'm learning, I'm happy."

Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS

"It was amazing, honestly, very nice, very enjoyable. I tried to do my best even if we are first on the road. It was not so bad on the previous one and we will see in this one. I think on the road it's okay but in the wood I lose a lot but for the rest I don't think I lose too much."

Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN

"This is a very nice stage, I really enjoy but it looks like the youngsters they are flying. Anyway, step-by-step, now I am enjoying for sure."

Car #37. LORENZO BERTELLI/SIMONE SCATTOLIN

Retired in SS3 (stuck in snowbank 4.2 kilometres from start of stage).

Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE

"A beautiful, amazing stage. I really enjoyed that one. I'm trying as hard as I can but I can't do more than this."

Car #21. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL

"It is a really nice stage to drive, really fast."

Car #22. EYVIND BRYNILDSEN/VERONICA ENGAN

"It is a really fast stage, I pushed as much as I could. The battle will be with Fourmaux."

Car #23. SEAN JOHNSTON/ALEXANDER KIHURANI

"[Georg] Linnamäe is stuck in a snowbank and we lost a bit time in that. He is not totally blocking the road but we still lost some time. I'm not so happy."

Car #24. JARI HUTTUNEN/MIKKO LUKKA

Retired on SS1 due to a technical issue.

Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM

“Rallying doesn’t really get better than this. Maybe with a WRC car it will be even more enjoyable. But I just love this. We have minus degrees, full sunshine, big snowbanks, icy roads, I cannot complain.”

Car #26. OLE CHRISTIAN VEIBY/JONAS ANDERSSON

“It was a fast stage. I struggled so much with the grip. I am losing the car in the middle of the corner. It was a bit frustrating. Not so much more I can do.”

Car #27. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV

“It’s nice to have a team-mate like [Lappi], we can try to teach ourself. The stage was okay, quite so fast in some places and in the last part I guess I was losing a little bit. But in the middle part, in the fast section, I was more gentle to be on the line. Not easy but it’s quite nice. In the first part there was a lot of snow and in some places it’s quite difficult to keep the car in the line. But for everyone it’s the same. Normally it’s okay.”

Car #28. GEORG LINNAMÄE/VOLODYMYR KORSIA

Reported to be stuck in a snowbank.

Car #29. MARTIN PROKOP/MICHAL ERNST

“It’s okay, a bit slower than yesterday and more difficult for us. But the car is fantastic though.”

Car #30. TEEMU ASUNMAA/MARKO SALMINEN

No information available.

Car #31. EMIL LINDHOLM/MIKAEL KORHONEN

Reported to be stuck in a snowbank.

COMMENTS

Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin ended Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja’s sequence of stage wins on Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox with the fastest time on SS4. The high-speed stage was much to the liking of the Toyota Yaris WRC, with Toyota drivers filling out the top three places. Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen, who were second quickest by 1.2s, moved ahead of Craig Breen/Paul Nagle in the overall classification and are now second behind Tänak/Järveoja, who still lead despite a moment in a snowbank, which covered the windscreen of their Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC for a split second, denying Tänak vital vision as he battled to regain full control. Emil Lindholm/Mikael Korhonen, who started the stage leading WRC3, were reported to have got stuck in a snowbank by reporters at the stage finish.