

## STAGE FLASH

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|-------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Date:</b>            | <b>27 February 2021</b>                          | <b>Flash N°:</b> | <b>6</b>        |
| <b>Day:</b>             | <b>2</b>   | <b>Distance:</b> | <b>27.68 km</b> |
| <b>Special stage:</b>   | <b>SS5 (Siikakämä 1)</b>                         |                  |                 |
| <b>Weather:</b>         | <b>Clear and sunny, -4 degrees</b>               |                  |                 |
| <b>Road conditions:</b> | <b>Strong ice base, some loose snow reported</b> |                  |                 |

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

“Better than yesterday but everything we lost yesterday is impossible to catch. That’s the difficulty for us but we try our best. This one there was more snow on the road and I guess it will improve a little at the back but, like I said, I gave everything I have.”

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

“None of it [gives me confidence]. It’s very, very fast and it’s very difficult when it’s like that you know with quite loose snow. Sometimes I felt I was too slow and sometimes probably quite a bit too fast. I felt in some places I was maybe a bit too sideways but at least I was committed and able to carry speed.”

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

“I struggle to clearly understand sometimes the notes but anyhow I try to be very focused and do my job at the rhythm I can go. I know sometimes I have to slow down but we did the best out of it what we could this morning.”

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

“There was a small moment [on a high-speed right-hand bend], luckily I got out. It was actually quite difficult, it felt already the tyres are really slippery here, for some reason it was slippery. We need to improve a lot. We can see that on the fast stages we are fast but when it’s always technical we need to find some speed.”

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

“This stage was quite tricky, high speed. I like this stage but I really didn’t like my driving, I was quite... let’s say... s\*\*\*, sorry. But, anyway, I was not happy with my driving so I will improve in the next run. It will be in the dark but I will try to be much faster. In many corners I was not so confident, I had big oversteer in many corners and losing time quite a lot. Basically, it was not so good driving.”

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

“That felt like the worst stage of the day, I just couldn’t seem to find the rhythm and I was making a few mistakes in places. It didn’t feel like a good stage.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“This stage we did some changes before and the car was behaving actually very nice. The stage as well is a lot of fun, but for the first time, so fast, every corner blind it’s so difficult to find the confidence. But if we know this stage it’s one of the best.”

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

“It’s a really beautiful stage, I fully agree. I was enjoying a lot during the stage and the conditions are really nice. Not much else to say. I was really happy for what we did. My job is to push the car to the limits and I really try to do it.”

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

“Not great to be honest. There was lots of gravel and snow and I lost so much time. I just simply cannot do it in here. Difficult stage and needs a lot of concentration.”

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

“It was a proper stage. It was quite enjoyable to be honest, it was the best stage today. I pushed very hard in many places but then I was way too careful in others. You know it’s confidence but the time is not bad and I’m happy.”

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

“It was a really nice stage. In some parts it is very clean and in others very slippery. It was good.”

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

“It’s fun but I cannot check the times because my time is s\*\*\*. But what to do, there is nothing to do.”

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

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

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

“It’s hard to say [where Lappi is gaining on me], really difficult to say. I tried to push as hard as I can but it seems to be when there is a lot of corners where you have to brake a little bit for, I think there he’s gaining a little bit and I have to use the handbrake to get the rear out to commit more. But if I push more I will be really on the limit and I’m already on the limit. It’s not so much more to do to be honest for me and I don’t have much more to give.”

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

“It’s really nice to drive. There was a lot of speed. I’m enjoying it. Let’s see. I’m trying different driving styles.”

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

“It was such a fast stage, we are not that far away. I am happy, but Lappi is absolutely so fast, in fact we can’t get him. We are competing with Veiby and Fourmaux now.”

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

“It is such a gorgeous stage, so much fun. We are trying things with the set-up, we will make big changes in the afternoon service. It was one of the most enjoyable stages I have ever driven.”

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

Retired on SS1 due to a technical issue.

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

“So far we’ve been better than the others, definitely. The gaps are not huge, well in overall, we have a big lead but still we can’t do any mistake. It’s been very good so far. It was very beautiful [stage], so cool and the conditions are really nice. It’s still icy so you can really trust for the tyres and you don’t need to be scared that the studs will fall down. Very enjoyable.”

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

“It was quite nice and really fast. I was more on the pace. We have a lot of work to do. Let’s see if we can improve.”

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

“Not easy to have the good speed like the other guys but the stage was really nice. The movement and the pacenotes was really good but for sure we need to improve to find the time. But the rest was okay.”

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

Continued after getting stuck in a snowbank on SS4.

“This was a really fun one. In the morning loop I made some mistakes again and got stuck for a long time. We’re here to learn.”

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

“It is a very nice and a fast stage. The grip was so good, I was struggling still a bit with the speed. I did not trust the car. It was a really nice and enjoyable stage.”

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

“The feeling was quite okay. I could not get myself in order to perform. I should try more but the grooves are in the way.”

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

Retired on SS4 (reported to have crashed).

**COMMENTS**

Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja returned to stage-winning ways on Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox, albeit by a scant 0.1s margin over Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin. Tänak/Järveoja’s fourth stage win out of five means their advantage over Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen stands at 23.6s heading to the midday service halt at the Santasport complex in Rovaniemi. Rovannerä, meanwhile, brushed off a heavy contact with a snowbank on a high-speed right-hander as “small”. By going fourth fastest, Oliver

Solberg/Sebastian Marshall move up to sixth in the overall ranking after they demoted Takamoto Katsuta/Daniel Barritt for position.