

STAGE FLASH

Date:	27 February 2021	Flash N°:	7
Day:	2	Distance:	24.43 km
Special stage:	SS6 (Mustalampi 2)		
Weather:	Clear and sunny, -4 degrees		
Road conditions:	Gravel patches and ruts emerging		

Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA

"I tried but I'm afraid like often in the second loop it will improve [behind] because there's quite a lot of loose. But, also, I struggled with tyres, my tyre was really destroyed at the end now and it's going to be a difficult loop with tyres I think."

Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN

"Very, very difficult. The grip at the end was so, so low, I had nothing at all. It was tricky."

Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

"Maybe I did a little bit too much on the tyres, I have to check now. I felt them going suddenly and we didn't experience that at all in the testing. I don't know if I did too much, I tried to manage but we have to have a look now for the next stages."

Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN

"It seems the balance is a bit better with the car now. The second loop condition is really rough. This stage was not so much on gravel but the front tyres are really worn out and in a really bad condition. We still have two more to go and I think it's going to be a quite tough loop but hopefully we can save the tyres a bit and fight on the next two runs."

Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT

"Conditions are very, very tricky. We got stuck in a snowbank once but luckily we could get out quite quick but obviously we lost time quite a lot. The conditions are changing quite a bit, it was very tricky."

Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON

"The car is lethal to drive. I put the second spare in and every time I turn in, it's easy flat-right and I'm having massive moments for no reason. It's absolutely s****, I will see what I can do."

Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA

"It's nothing about winter driving, it's so hot pace. It's so difficult, I was just trying to come through as smoothly as possible but in the end on the ice there was just no grip so I'm sure it's very, very hard on the tyre."

Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA

"I was surprised a bit. The stage was quite messy with a lot of loose snow, no grip at all. I think the guys from behind are coming even faster."

Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE

"I just lost all the studs at the end. I really tried. I really tried, I give it a go but I completely, completely killed the front tyres."

Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL

"Difficult, it's the most difficult I've ever done in my life. It's sideways everywhere, snowbank into snowbank. It's so difficult, I tried to take care of the tyres in the beginning and then push. Very difficult."

Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS

"I don't know, we have a like no engine, we are on road mode. We will see [what this means for the rest of the day]."

Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN

"It's okay, a little rough but we need to drive behind Loubet for some time but then he take the place so we can overtake him. I don't know what happened to him but he was going slowly."

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

"The stage was a little bit more rough now, I was struggling to get the car to turn, so it was not that good but we tried our best. We did some changes, but we had tricky conditions as well."

Car #21. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL

Reported to have stopped on the stage.

Car #22. EYVIND BRYNILDSEN/VERONICA ENGAN

"It was a difficult stage, I was struggling with the front tyres and I was losing a lot of time on the last split. I have no clue how the other guys solved the tyre problem, I couldn't."

Car #23. SEAN JOHNSTON/ALEXANDER KIHURANI

"That was a much better stage, we did another big set-up change. These tyres are dead, we'll see how the studs are."

Car #24. JARI HUTTUNEN/MIKKO LUKKA

Retired on SS1 due to a technical issue.

Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM

“It was the worst stage so far. I pushed hard. The road is in a good condition but there is gravel in some places. The studs are falling out, but I cannot do anything about it. In the morning the road was a lot better.”

Car #26. OLE CHRISTIAN VEIBY/JONAS ANDERSSON

“This stage was so demanding for the tyres. In the last 10 kilometres I had to slow down so, so much. It was so challenging. Nothing what we can do about it.”

Car #27. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV

“They were quite slippery conditions on the road. We went wide on one corner.”

Car #28. GEORG LINNAMÄE/VOLODYMYR KORSIA

“It was okay, we didn’t manage to save our tyres well, in the end we didn’t have much grip. We are here to learn and to get some kilometres. We’re having fun.”

Car #29. MARTIN PROKOP/MICHAL ERNST

“There was a lot of gravel and stones on the road. I was afraid that I got a puncture, and because of that I tried to drive carefully. The conditions have changed a lot compared to the morning.”

Car #30. TEEMU ASUNMAA/MARKO SALMINEN

“The stage was rough. The tyres may be broken due to the amount of gravel but rally is rally. There was a lot of gravel.”

Car #31. EMIL LINDHOLM/MIKAEL KORHONEN

Retired on SS4 (reported to have crashed).

COMMENTS

Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja strengthened their grip on the lead of Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox with their fifth stage win. The Estonians, in their Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team entry, are now 25 seconds in front of Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen with two stages of day two remaining. Behind, Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe moved up to third place overall, demoting Craig Breen/Paul Nagle courtesy of the second fastest time in their Hyundai, just 0.2s slower than Tänak/Järveoja managed. Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia are up to seventh ahead of their Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT team-mates Takamoto Katsuta/Daniel Barritt. Teemu Suninen/Mikko Markkula are now 7.6s behind Katsuta/Barritt after they set the fourth fastest time in their Ford Fiesta WRC, despite running wide braking for a tight, right-hander. Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais were in trouble from early in the stage after their Hyundai developed a technical issue. They completed the run but with a considerable time loss.