

STAGE FLASH

Date:	27 February 2021	Flash N°:	8
Day:	2	Distance:	19.91 km
Special stage:	SS7 (Kaihuavaara 2)		
Weather:	Clear and sunny, -4 degrees		
Road conditions:	Gravel patches and ruts emerging, some loose snow reported		

Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA

"I didn't really push in this one, I tried to save my tyres for the last one. It's hard for the tyres."

Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN

"Who knows [if we were managing the tyres well], we will find out in the next one. For sure there was some movement towards the end but I hope it wasn't quite so hard as the previous one on the tyres so we'll just have to wait and see now."

Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

"It went okay, I had a very clean, smooth run trying to save my tyres. It was working well and I'm really feeling comfortable in the car. Our communication is working better as well, we still need to improve but I feel a bit more comfortable like this."

Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN

"Maybe [it will be a hard time to beat] but maybe the other guys are more clever and they are saving the tyres, I don't know. We took a small gamble with the tyres and we put them on cross and it felt quite good and we should have some quite good condition tyres for the next one so let's see what happens."

Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT

"On the previous stage I got stuck in the snowbank a little bit so I a little bit changed the mind. In the morning I wanted to push harder in this one but I tried to be as clean as possible and a little bit clear my mind. Time is pretty okay, I'm a little bit disappointed that I couldn't be really maximum attack like I wanted but it's a great two runs. The next run will be even more track so I will try to be clean enough."

Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON

"It's a lot more kind of clearing than I expected there to be. The tracks are quite wide and there's a lot of fresh snow and gravel kind of everywhere. That will clear pretty quickly so the more they'll go through the faster they will get."

Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA

“To be honest I was really worried about the last stage so on this one I used the worst tyres just to get through. The last one will be really important now.”

Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA

“The conditions are really tricky. There’s a clean line but there’s a lot of messy snow outside of the line and it’s quite tricky to go flat out and still save the tyres. Now we have used tyres and the studs were moving quite a lot. Let’s see what we can do when we get the fresh tyres.”

Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE

“I’m trying my best, really. Obviously I didn’t manage it very well yesterday. I’m really trying to do a good job and manage it. But it’s tricky, I have no reference how to manage it, how to do the things properly so I’m just trying my best.”

Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL

“I was quite angry but, okay, it’s good learning and it was a shame that I spun. But it’s like it is and it’s good fun anyway.”

Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS

Retired after SS6 (suspected technical issue).

Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN

“It’s okay driving with the lights, I like it. But for me it’s such a long time that I am driving narrow, gravel lines. I don’t have balls to push too much but I enjoy, it’s a nice stage, nice to go, but I’m getting old.”

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

“That was okay for us, a clean stage, we tried to save the tyres for the last stage. We have a good gap now. Esapekka [Lappi] is hard to catch. We are happy where we are.”

Car #21. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL

Reported to have stopped on SS6.

Car #22. EYVIND BRYNILDSEN/VERONICA ENGAN

“I tried on this one. It’s really difficult when you have to take care of the tyres. Lappi is doing a very, very good job, it is hard to keep up.”

Car #23. SEAN JOHNSTON/ALEXANDER KIHURANI

“We had much better feeling than in the morning and we’re really enjoying it. Just a few mistakes, we stayed on the snowbank for just a little while.”

Car #24. JARI HUTTUNEN/MIKKO LUKKA

Retired on SS1 due to a technical issue.

Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM

"It's a very good Saturday. It felt like someone had gone and made it very slippery on purpose. Now was more normal than before. Now it was nice again. Let's try and focus and keep a good rhythm. I don't have any other choices."

Car #26. OLE CHRISTIAN VEIBY/JONAS ANDERSSON

"It's been a difficult day for sure and it is super-tough for the tyres now. But it's really fast and enjoyable. We struggled a little bit. We've been improving a bit on the second loop. Let's see what we can do on the last stage."

Car #27. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV

"I hit a snowbank and as a result of that we lost power. We lost a lot on this stage."

Car #28. GEORG LINNAMÄE/VOLODYMYR KORSIA

"The stage was okay, that's pretty much it."

Car #29. MARTIN PROKOP/MICHAL ERNST

"It was a very nice and smooth stage. A lot of gravel on the road, we should improve the time. The stage was nice for us."

Car #30. TEEMU ASUNMAA/MARKO SALMINEN

"I should have pushed more. I need to have more speed for the last stage. It has been difficult. I had to do a lot of work. I'm surprised how fast the others drove."

Car #31. EMIL LINDHOLM/MIKAEL KORHONEN

Retired on SS4 (reported to have crashed).

COMMENTS

Toyota's Flying Finns Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen scored their first stage win of Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox, going 1.7s faster than event leaders Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja by 1.7s on Saturday's penultimate test. Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia have demoted Oliver Solberg/Sebastian Marshall for sixth overall after teenager Solberg spun his Hyundai on what is his debut outing in a World Rally Car. Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin, who were third fastest, are now 5.1s behind Craig Breen/Paul Nagle in the battle for fourth position.