

STAGE FLASH

Date:	28 February 2021	Flash N°:	10
Day:	3	Distance:	22.47 km
Special stage:	SS9 (Aittajärvi 1)		
Weather:	Dry, bright sunshine, -4 degrees		
Road conditions:	Good conditions reported		

Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA

"[My chances of Power Stage points are] not big for sure. A little bit the same chance I had at the start of the weekend you know. What else can we do apart from trying, we give everything we have and we see if we have the chance to catch some points. But if it's some it will not be many I believe."

Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN

"It's a fast stage that's for sure. For me now the grip at the start was really surprising, much, much higher. I was probably a bit too careful, probably a reference from yesterday. But we adapted to be honest and I was able to find some good pace later in the stage to be honest."

Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

"I don't know [if it's enough to pass Rovannerä]. To be honest we did a good stage, my pacenotes were a bit slow, especially towards the end. Obviously we had to do 2.5ks on the recce at 40kph in a very fast section. There's no sense and it's really dangerous then to commit to the pacenotes. I was maybe a bit careful but I tried my best."

Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN

"I do the same thing but much faster [on the Power Stage]. I was not so good on there. To be honest it has been quite difficult this weekend, the pace is not what I should be and I am struggling a bit in many places with the car. I tried to do my best and in the last one we will fight back hard as we can."

Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT

"It was quite good actually. The conditions were very, very nice and I enjoyed a lot. Some sections I was quite careful because when we had the recce there was a lot of snowing and after they ploughed the snow. I don't know but some corners can change a bit the angle just because of how they ploughed the snow, so I was quite careful in some sections but I will push a lot in the Power Stage."

Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON

"Not very good. My pacenotes were a long way away for some reason in this stage, the rest of the rally they've been good but this one they were a long way out, sometimes too fast, sometimes too slow so I need to have a look at the pacenotes and change them."

Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA

"It's easier to think just about the driving, not about the gap, just to find the feeling. Let's see, next time through is more important."

Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA

"I had a pretty good feeling. I had some moments but that's it. I had some slides and hitting some snowbanks but I'm doing my best, that's all I can do."

Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE

"I wish I could payback the guys in the right way, they did an amazing job this morning [replacing the gearbox in the 15-minute morning service] and I didn't deliver for them."

Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL

"I was way too stiff and too careful in the beginning. At the end and in the middle I could let loose and I could get the feeling again, but on the beginning I was very, very bad. But, okay, I'm just enjoying and we will see for the Power Stage."

Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS

"It was nice, I don't know if because yesterday I was first on the road, but the grip was much more high. I think I was not at 100 per cent of the car but the feeling was nice."

Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN

Did not start Day 3 due to a dislocated left shoulder (non-rallying injury).

Car #37. LORENZO BERTELLI/SIMONE SCATTOLIN

"It was a fantastic stage, I didn't have any lines so it was easy. But I enjoyed. It was not like a perfect run for me but I'm happy to be here. I'm sad for yesterday but it's a great opportunity to be here."

Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE

"What an amazing stage, wow! I wish I could be really flat out but we have the possibility later today and it will be nice. We're so far after EP and they're so far behind so we just went on cruise mode. We're just looking forward to the Power Stage now."

Car #21. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL

Reported to have gone off into a snowbank.

Car #22. EYVIND BRYNILDSEN/VERONICA ENGAN

"This is the best thing you can do even without the clothes on. It's so good fun. So good fun."

Car #23. SEAN JOHNSTON/ALEXANDER KIHURANI

"I wasn't driving well and you can see it in the time. It was very frustrating. Not a nice way to start the day. We'll try to go better in the Power Stage."

Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM

"I don't know how to describe it for people who haven't driven a rally car but it feels so great. The stage condition was really nice on the first pass. Like yesterday we have sunshine when it's freezing, it's just amazing, amazing."

Car #26. OLE CHRISTIAN VEIBY/JONAS ANDERSSON

"I have a lot of time to catch. I really tried. Otherwise, I couldn't do so much more than this."

Car #27. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV

"Perfect. It's so nice. It's f***** good. I wasn't pushing too much. But it was just awesome. The stage was so flowy. I enjoyed it."

Car #28. GEORG LINNAMÄE/VOLODYMYR KORSIA

"It was okay. We corrected some pacenotes too much so it's a bit negative. We'll watch the videos and hope to make the right corrections now."

Car #29. MARTIN PROKOP/MICHAL ERNST

"Morning. I had a big moment in the first corner and lost some confidence. It was one of the best stages ever. The rhythm is fun. Amazing."

Car #30. TEEMU ASUNMAA/MARKO SALMINEN

"It didn't start very well. We hit the snowbanks and went too early to the corners. Some places went quite right."

COMMENTS

Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin claimed their second stage win of Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox, beating Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT team-mates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen by 1.0s on Sunday's opening run. Rovanperä/Halttunen's performance meant they narrowed the gap to Hyundai-powered leaders Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja by 19.2s with one stage of the event remaining. However, with most drivers using the first run through Aittajärvi as final preparation for the second pass, when it will count as the points-paying Wolf Power Stage, Tänak was unconcerned about the small time loss to the chasing Finnish pairing behind. Craig Breen/Paul Nagle set the seventh fastest time after their Hyundai mechanics heroically completed a gearbox change in the 15-minute morning service at the Santasport complex in Rovaniemi. Janne Tuohino/Reeta Hämäläinen have retired from the event after Tuohino dislocated his shoulder in a non-rallying accident.