**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 25 April 2021**

**Day: 4 Flash N°: 18**

**Special stage: SS17 Bliznec - Pila 1 Distance: 25.20 km**

**Weather: Chilly, sunshine and clear skies, 10 degrees**

**Road conditions: Dry, largely clean but gravel dragged onto road in some sections**

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

“It was very slippery after the crest. Thanks to the team, they did a fantastic job after our mistake yesterday, so I need to take back the confidence and do our best. But thanks to them for what they did.”

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

“I’d say one of the worst stages I’ve driven in my life. I just had no confidence at all, really quite shocking in some places.”

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

“Yesterday was a good day but for me this stage I have not been good driving. The conditions were very tricky, some corners are very, very slippery, some corners are okay and I was not sure about grip levels. Very tricky this one. I try to improve next one because I really didn’t feel good driving this one.”

**Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/CHRIS PATTERSON**

“I’ve got an issue with the brakes so I need to try to solve it, otherwise…”

**Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL**

“I was a bit too much careful in the slippery section on the long downhill and I didn’t find a good pace in the uphill. But it was a nice stage to be honest, really fast stage but it’s slippery. The goal is to finish the rally now and we are happy to drive.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

No quote available.

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

“The uphill was quite okay but on the downhill I was understeering a lot so I couldn’t carry on with my speed I had but, okay, the road is quite dirty and I tried to just to adapt my driving to the conditions. I am not sure it’s enough, but I did the best I could.”

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

“Pretty well. It was good up to the top but then, to be honest, it was quite slippery after and it’s very difficult to know whether to push more or try and be tidy on the way down because the grip is so low so it’s difficult to judge how well you’re doing on the way down.”

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

“The downhill was slippery and it’s true that I was not really driving so well downhill.”

**Car #24. MADS ØSTBERG/TORSTEIN ERIKSEN**

“We’re trying but I did have some brake issues on this stage, I don’t know why. Similar to Friday so it was not a comfortable ride.”

**COMMENTS**

Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin have cut the gap to their Toyota team-mates Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia to 4.2s by winning Sunday’s opening stage. They were 1.4s faster than the opposition on the long climb and descent of Bliznec – Pila to close up to first place. Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe, who were second fastest, have closed to within 9.1s of Ogier/Ingrassia, meaning the top three are covered by less than 10s with three stages of the first Croatia Rally to count towards the FIA World Rally Championship remaining.