**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2021**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 3**

**Special stage: SS2 Kostanjevac – Petruš Vrh 1 Distance: 23.76 km**

**Weather: Bright blue skies, 14 degrees**

**Road conditions: Clean for early runners but gravel and mud being dragged onto the road in places**

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

Crashed out on SS1.

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

“Zero grip, there is a zero grip. I had a lot of surprises and I had a huge jump and we landed very hard, so it was very painful. But we are a here and I’m lucky.”

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

“It’s not getting faster for sure. It’s not perfect for us at the moment, but we keep fighting. [On the previous stage] we had a moment on the same corner where Kalle went off and we were nearly with him. I had a puncture and lost almost six seconds. We keep pushing.”

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

“It’s very slippery still to be honest, especially at the beginning. Some of the cuts that have been pulled out are already making quite a difference. It’s tricky out there but we’re trying.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

After losing 15s to Neuville/Wydaeghe, Tänak was asked by the WRC All Live reporter if there had been any problem. He replied: “No, no all okay. There is quite a lot of [pollution] on the road and it’s quite tricky in there.”

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

“I have to say that remined me a little bit from back home. It was nice with bumpy, crests and jumps and was quite okay. I’m just missing a bit of confidence in some places and it all feels a little bit alien still but I’m quite happy.”

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

“It’s very tricky with more mixing conditions. Some corners it’s quite dry and grippy but some corners are still damp under the trees. It’s very tricky so we need to find a way to drive. The next two stages should be quite tricky so let’s see how it goes.”

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

“[A new co-driver for this event] it’s obviously a big change for me and it’s taking a little bit of time but when you make such a big change that’s what you expect. I’m pretty happy in there. There’s quite a few places I can improve on but generally okay. There’s a bit of the notes and a bit of me [I can improve on].”

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

“I was enjoying a lot in the stage. The car is just amazing to be honest, it’s so fast. But [the road is] completely dirty now in some places, just crazy. I was too carefully in some places and I was pushing where I had more confidence because it’s really easy to make a mistake and I want to make all the [kilometres] so I need to be careful in some places. But I am enjoying all the time.”

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

“It was very difficult, I tried to do no mistake, but it was very tricky. We tried to do our best.”

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

Stopped in stage with possible damage.

**Car #21. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

“We changed the tyres [before the stage] but I don’t know if it was a good decision, we will see what the other drivers do to understand if it was a good choice. It was really, really slippery. In some places where it’s dry you can push but there is a lot of mud where the people cut a lot and it’s so difficult to go through there. Okay, we are here, it’s not bad but it’s so crazy.”

**Car #22. MARCO BULACIA/MARCELO OHANNESIAN**

“It’s so difficult, it’s a very difficult stage but we are having fun and enjoying this difficulty and we will try to keep it like that.”

**Car #23. ENRICO BRAZZOLI/MAURIZIO BARONE**

No quote given.

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

“I said to Torstein at the end that I think we lost a lot of time because I completely lost my brakes at the end. But probably everyone is struggling a bit on this type of stage. I’m very happy to be through that stage to be honest and I saw Andreas in the stage.”

**Car #25. TEMMU SUNINEN/MIKO MARKKULA**

“Not a bad one, quite tricky. We had a four hards [compound tyres] and I just need to get used to the tyres and the car but it’s getting much better.”

**COMMENTS**

Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC) extended their lead on the Croatia Rally with their second consecutive fastest stage time. Team-mates Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja were 15s slower but Tänak insisted afterwards “all was okay”. Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin were 4.9s slower than Neuville/Wydaeghe but move up to second overall, 7.7s down on the overall leaders. Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene, who were third in WRC2 after the opening stage, stopped on SS2 with possible damage.