**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2021**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 4**

**Special stage: SS3 Jaškovo – Mali Modruš Potok 1 Distance: 10.10 km**

**Weather: Bright blue skies, 16 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**

“I am driving as good as I can. The car feels quite okay and our tyre choice seems to be not too bad. I try to optimise our strategy and have a good feeling. Obviously the road will not cleaner but in this one there will be not a lot of difference.”

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

“We lose a bit too much on the two first stages so we had to. We had to try to improve. I was not super-happy with the car on the two first stage. I tried to push a bit harder in there and the feeling is coming so we have to carry on that way.”

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

“It’s difficult to compare [the new front aero] because it’s the first time we’ve really driven this car on dry Tarmac. But the car’s feeling good, it’s not so easy out there but we’re enjoying.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

Asked by WRC Plus All Live what he put his time loss down to, Tänak replied: “It’s our pace at the moment.”

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

“I put the two hards [compound tyres] on for that stage, but I should have put them on way earlier to be honest with you. I should have had them on for the long stage before but it’s all part of the learning process. But it’s all good for the moment.”

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

“It’s getting dirty more and more and it’s still not easy, quite a high-speed stage. Some corners is completely dry but some sections are pretty muddy still so it’s very different. I took it too carefully to be honest. The next loop will be more fun but still I need to be a bit carefully in some sections.”

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

“I was kind of throwing it around a bit and just enjoying myself. There was a jump towards the end and not what I expected. If someone’s got a picture of that send it in!”

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

“I’m happy to do a good time in the stage before and another one to be honest, I am enjoying. I don’t want to push too haerd in some places so I can be happy. To be honest this stage was nice. It was less dirty compared to the other stage. Okay there was still so many gravel in there but really less. It was a nice stage and I’m happy.”

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

“I don’t know. I was thinking it was not so bad but the time is very bad so we need to understand the time.”

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

Stopped on SS2 with a broken right-rear suspension arm.

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

Completed the stage with the front-left tyre off the rim. “On a big jump, maybe I was not so slow on the jump. For the last part, I don’t know if it was a puncture only, but it was quite a hard landing and it wasn’t expected so big. It was quite a hard landing.”

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

“This is also a nice stage but we are having pop-off [valve] problems and we need to switch a little bit our driving style, we need to go one gear down every time to keep the highest RPM possible. But after that everything is okay.”

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

No quote given.

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

“It was just a long stage before and we were losing the brakes towards the end but the brakes were back for this one. It was a good run, some massive jumps in there and a bit of surprise but I guess you need some surprises on these kind of stages.”

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

“I had a slight slide. The times are not really good. I didn’t get a good feeling on the stage.”

**COMMENTS**

Team-mates Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia and Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin set the identical fastest time on SS3, as the factory Toyota team hit back after two defeats to the works Hyundai squad and its lead duo of Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe. It means Evans/Martin have narrowed Neuville/Wydaeghe’s overall lead to 6.8s with one stage of the morning loop of the Croatia Rally remaining. Mads Østberg/Torstein Eriksen have taken the lead of WRC2 after front-left wheel rim damage following a heavy landing delayed erstwhile pacesetters Nikolay Gryazin/Konstanin Aleksandrov.