**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 22 April 2022**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 2**

**Special stage: SS1, Mali Lipovec - Grdanjci 1 Distance: 19.20 km**

**Weather: Light rain, 7 degrees**

**Road conditions: road damp, with mud and gravel in places**

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

No comment available. Sets a benchmark for the rest of 12m44.6s

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

“Horrible stage! I immediately went into the ditch after three corners because the grip was low. I had a lot of vibrating from the wheel with the mud stuck inside. I tried to be relaxed and just get to the end because it's very tricky in there.”

**Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/JONAS ANDERSSON**

Big scare when car briefly rides up a grassy bank 4.1km into stage. Broken splitter, but no obvious serious damage. “It felt okay and I was trying to find a rhythm, but the time's not there.”

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/AARON JOHNSTON**

Almost a minute off the pace. “Struggling with the conditions and I have no confidence at all. It's getting worse for sure.”

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

“Tricky, but maybe not as bad as anticipated. It's the first time I’ve had the wipers on in this car, so it was a lot of discovering.”

**Car #4. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM**

Clips a large rock with right-front and incurs wheel damage 9.9km into stage. Stops on stage shortly after.

**Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON**

“I had a spin and I lost a lot of time. I had to stop and turn around. It’s very tricky - it's not the easiest to start with, but it’s good fun anyway. We just need to be consistent and work a little bit.”

**Car #8. OTT TANAK/MARTIN JARVEOJA**

“It’s incredible – it’s full of mud in every corner. It’s getting really bad and [the suspension] is far too stiff at the moment.”

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

Picks up a left-front puncture, loses 1m20s to quickest car of team-mate Rovanperä. “The first I knew was a warning on the dash and I saw that before I felt anything. Shortly afterwards it started to have an effect and it started to go down.”

**Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/ALEXANDRE CORIA**

No comment available.

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

Both front tyres are off the rims. “I don’t know... I touched a stone with the front right, but for the left I don't know!”

**Car #20. STÉPHANE LEFEBVRE/ANDY MALFOY**

“It was very tricky to be honest. The car in front was cutting so it’s full of mud and it was   
really easy to do a mistake. In terms of vision it was so difficult to judge, I feel I lost maybe one or two seconds per kilometre, but I think it’s normal.”

**Car #21. YOHAN ROSSEL/VALENTIN SARREAUD**

“Incredible, crazy. I think the car is not perfect, but my feeling is good which is most   
important in these conditions. We will see with the guys behind, but it’s so long.

**Car #22. ERIC CAMILLI/THIBAUT DE LA HAYE**

No comment available

**Car #23. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

No comment available

**Car #24. KAJETAN KAJETANOWICZ/MACIEJ SZCZEPANIAK**

No comment available

**Car #25. ERIK CAIS/PETR TĚŠÍNSKY**

No comment available

**COMMENTS**

The first stage of the Croatia Rally offered a demanding test of the crew thanks to light rain and unpredictable surface conditions. WRC points leaders Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen were the first to run and set the pace with a time of 12m44.6s. Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe were second fastest, ahead of Craig Breen/Paul Nagle. Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm stopped on the stage after hitting a rock and incurring front suspension damage, retiring from the leg. Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson were lucky to escape a moment when they run up the side of a grass bank.

**ENDS**

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