**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 22 April 2022**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 6**

**Special stage: SS5, Mali Lipovec - Grdanjci 2 Distance: 19.20 km**

**Weather: overcast, 6 degrees**

**Road conditions: damps road, gravel/mud dragged onto road in places**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

Logs a time of 13m00.9s, 15s slower than the morning run over this stage, which is telling of how the conditions have deteriorated. “It’s really dirty now and there are so many cuts. This wet tyre is quite fragile so it’s difficult to judge where to cut or not.”

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

“A strong recovery from the alternator failure that caused the crew to check in late to service after SS4, incurring a 40s penalty. Just 0.6s slower than Rovanperä here. “We had an alternator issue [earlier today] and we changed the belt, but we lost it again on the way to service. 800m before service the car completely stopped and we had to push it. It was a tricky stage in here and I couldn’t rely on the information I had, so I had to drive with my eyes.”

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

Picks up a right-front puncture, much to his confusion. Also has damage to his front-left rim and loses more than a minute. “It was going fine until then, but I didn't hit anything. In the braking, it just collapsed. I don’t know.”

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

Up to sixth thanks to Greensmith’s trouble. “I felt so much better than this morning, but there is still something missing. Visibility is quite bad in this stage and I was quite careful.”

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

Loses 13.1s to the leaders and drops behind Neuville to fourth in the overall order. “Incredibly tricky. I hit everything in that stage – I heard so many bangs and things. I’m amazed I didn’t get a puncture, so hats off [to Pirelli].”

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

Up to fifth overall. “The game plan is waiting for everybody else to have problems! It’s so easy to get a puncture.”

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

His time means Neuville is back up to second, but Tänak is now 7.6s clear of fourth-placed Breen. No comment available.

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

Moves ahead of team-mate Katsuta to seventh. “Really difficult. The wipers aren’t really cleaning the screen when there is mud, so it’s not easy when you can’t really see what you’re doing.”

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

A puncture to the front-left tyre. “I have no idea why we have a puncture. No impact, nothing. It’s strange. We lost almost two minutes which is a shame.”

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

“No problem in the stage. With slow corners it is just perfect. We need to adjust for the fast corners, but the car is perfect at the moment and that is the most.”

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

“This morning I took 45s in this stage and now I took 50, so I’m happy. With the possibly punctures on this stage it’s not easy.”

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

No comment available.

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

“It’s been a good start for us because my last rally in wet conditions was one and a half years ago, and that was Monza. I tried to improve my speed and feeling in the car. Everything is working perfectly.”

**Car #25. ERIK CAIS/PETR TĚŠÍNSKY**

“No comment available”

**COMMENTS**

A fourth stage win out of five for Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen, who are just 0.6s faster than Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe who move back up to second place following the alternator failure after SS4. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja move clear of Craig Breen/Paul Nagle in their battle for third. Right-front puncture and damaged rim on the front-left costs Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson more than a minute. Also a puncture for WRC2 runners Stéphane Lefebvre/Andy Malfoy.

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Marko Šivak, [press@rally-croatia.com](mailto:press@rally-croatia.com)

[www.rally-croatia.com](http://www.rally-croatia.com/)

[www.facebook.com/WRCcroatiarally](http://www.facebook.com/WRCcroatiarally)