**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 22 April 2022**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 7**

**Special stage: SS6, Stojdraga - Gornja Vas 2 Distance: 20.77 km**

**Weather: Overcast, fog, 6 degrees**

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

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

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

The leader sets a benchmark time of 13m32.8s. “Really tough – even foggier than this morning. I just tried to keep the pace so I don’t do any mistakes and I tried to leave the last risks out. It seems to be working well.”

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

Windscreen fogging up loses his time, 12.4s slower than Rovanperä. “I did at least 7 or 8km without any visibility. The whole windscreen is full of fog and I couldn’t do anything. We had the blower and heater on since the start, but there is too much water coming into the car.”

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

Delayed by a brief off up a grass bank. “In the fog, I missed the line and got caught in the mud and slipped off the road. There’s a bit of mud in the rim, but once we clear that out it’ll be fine.”

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

“It’s very difficult. Some corners have so much mud and you have to kill the speed, but it’s all okay. We didn’t have any moments and our gravel crew did a great job. I need to be patient today and we will get there step by step.”

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

“I tried my best in the fog, but I really struggled to be committed sometimes. I’m happy to get through another stage with no mistakes, so it's not so bad.”

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

Heavy bodywork damage to the front of the car after an off, but reports the car still drives without too much problem. “There was a right-hander with full water aquaplaning and I had nothing in my notes. I got a big shock! We are lucky in one way, but it’s very annoying. Luckily the car drives fine, but it’s not easy.”

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

Second on stage to Rovanperä by 7.6s, which moves him back ahead of Neuville in the overall standings. “The middle was very bad visibility, so we tried to push but we couldn’t see. Today it’s too hard to fight with the guys at the front, but I think so far we have been in a good rhythm.”

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

Fourth fastest on the stage, sixth overall. “It’s dirty, but that'll be more or less the same for everyone I guess. That’s a good time from Ott, actually. We’re not doing things quite as we should I don’t think, but at least it’s better than the last one.”

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

“It’s so difficult to be back in a rhythm after the puncture on the previous stage. I lost some time on this one, but now we are just following the road and I hope I don’t have any more mistakes today.”

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

“It’s just confidence. Honestly the car is just perfect. It was a little bit dry at the end and the [wet] tyre moved a lot. It’s so long tomorrow and two more stages today. It’s incredible. I am happy, it’s perfect. But it’s so difficult.”

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

“Good stage, I’m happy. I was able to push. The previous stage was one I didn’t want today, but I understand the car in this stage. In the fog it was difficult.

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

No comment available.

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

Lost a place to Camilli in the stage. “It’s a muddy stage. Last time I drove in these conditions it was many months ago. I’m having fun. It’s foggy and muddy and we are sliding almost everywhere. We are trying to stay on the road, this is important! The time is not bad.”

**Car #25. ERIK CAIS/PETR TĚŠÍNSKY**

No comment available.

**COMMENTS**

Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen move more than a minute ahead of the field with another stage win. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja move back ahead of Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe, who struggle with fogging windscreen. Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson have brief off up a grassy bank, Oliver Solberg/Elliott Edmondson have a bigger impact which damages from bodywork.

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Marko Šivak, press@rally-croatia.com

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

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