**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2022**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 11**

**Special stage: SS10, Jaškovo - Mali Modruš Potok 1 Distance: 10.10 km**

**Weather: Overcast and dry, 12 degrees**

**Road conditions: Dry but wet patches, gravel/mud dragged onto road**

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

Sets the benchmark at 5m52.8s. “So much trickier than the first one! It has changed a lot since my gravel crew went through and there is much more dirt than I expected.”

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

Completes stage 5s slower than Lappi. “A small issue with the power steering. They [the team] know what it is.”

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

Comes in 2.2s slower than Lappi, a little offline over a crest. “It’s a mega stage and I really enjoyed it. A big jump towards the end – it was wet on the entry and I had a bit of a wild landing, but it’s all good!”

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

Big smiles at the end, no problems. “We had an overshoot in the beginning – the braking was so slippery so I just went straight-on.”

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

Finishes 0.6s slower than Lappi. “It’s pretty dirty in there. As always, it’s slippery, but all OK. The car is working fine so there are no problems there.”

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

A time 3.2s down on Lappi. “The feeling was okay but I had a heavy landing and thought I had a puncture on the rear. We have to check, but maybe we just lost some pressure on the rear.”

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

Comes in 3.6s down on the benchmark, reports wet tyres will be needed next. “It’s incredibly difficult now. A clean stage with no mistakes, but it was a lot muddier than I anticipated. It would have been nice to have the wets on there, but for sure we’ll need them for the next one.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

Logs a time 2.4s slower than Lappi on full wet tyres. “It was difficult to make any [tyre] choice, but it was still quite humid and damp so we thought [wets] would be a safer choice. It's okay – it’s quite progressive, so no big surprises.”

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

The leader also choses full wet Pirellis for first run of the day. Comes in 13s slower than stage winner Lappi. “It was a really dirty stage, so I put the full wets on and tried to take it a bit more carefully. We need to be a bit faster, then it's fine.”

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

“The feeling is good, a lot of mud on the road. It’s easy to do a mistake and the day is so long. We will see on the next with the rain, so it will be very difficult.”

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

Proves 6.9s faster than Rossel. “No big push. I am really curious because people are doing different tyre strategies and I was pushing for my strategy for this stage and I will see how it is against other drivers on different compounds. For me the stage is dirty.”

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

“Definitely it is difficult when it is your first time there with these conditions. We try to make our best and there are some places we can go faster, but you don’t know. In these muddy conditions it is easy to lose a bit of time. But that’s life.”

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

Runs full wets and loses 5s to fastest time. “It was my decision. It’s slippery, more than before. It’s getting more dirty, more muddy. We have slippery conditions even if it is dry 50 per cent. My opinion, wet tyre is better than soft, or the medium compound we are using. ”

**Car #26. EMIL LINDHOLM/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN**

No comment available.

**COMMENTS**

First on the road, Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm take a stage win ahead of Toyota Gazoo team-mates Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin and Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson. Stages reported to be slippery despite lack of rain and dirty. Later drivers choose full-wet Pirelli tyres, including rally leaders Kalle Rovanperä/ Jonne Halttunen who are 13s off Lappi’s pace.

**ENDS**

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