**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2022**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 14**

**Special stage: SS13, Kostanjevac - Petruš Vrh 2 Distance: 23.76 km**

**Weather: Sunny, 16 degrees**

**Road conditions: Dry, some damp patches, mud/gravel in places**

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

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

Sets a benchmark of 13m19.9s. “It was pretty fun – I enjoyed it. The soft tyre overheated quite a lot at the end, so I struggling in the last kilometres with big slides. We need to think about that for the next stage.”

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

Logs a time 7.7s slower than Lappi. “This stage was a bit better. They were dry conditions so it was more fun to drive. It’s tricky out there and we need to be cautious with the soft tyres as we began to lose them near the end.”

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

Clear run, 8.1s down on Lappi’s mark. “It was nicer in there. I made some set-up changes and it’s a beautiful stage with some great scenery, so we had fun.”

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

Front-left tyre off the rim ruins his stage and he has no idea why. “Maybe some cutting, but I don't know exactly where it happened.”

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

Comes in 5.6s down on team-mate Lappi. “Struggling a bit to be honest – it wasn’t the right call from me. This is the longest and probably most abrasive stage, so it's okay.”

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

More frustration for an angry Neuville, despite going second, just 0.7s down on Lappi. “I have an engine problem. I lost the power, so I had maybe the 40 per cent of the power for the last 5km.”

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

Turns in 15s slower than the troubled Neuville. “Honestly, that was the most I could do. I tried to be brave and committed to the rave, but in conditions like that it’s difficult to commit on the first run over.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

Sets a time 6.2s down on Lappi. No comment available.

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

Loses 3.6s to Tänak and is 10s down on stage winner Lappi.

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

No comment available.

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

No comment available.

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

Slowed by a puncture, losing third place to Kajetanowicz. No comment available.

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

Gains a position through Camilli’s misfortune. No comment available.

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

No comment available.

**COMMENTS**

Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm take their second stage win of the day, having returned under rally re-start rules. Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe are second, just 0.7s down, but the Belgian pair report a worrying engine power problem. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja once again outpace the more conservative Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen, trimming the Toyota’s lead to 13s. Takamoto Katsuta/Aaron Johnston pick up a front-left puncture. In WRC2, Eric Camilli completes stage at a slow pace with a puncture.

**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)