**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2022**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 15**

**Special stage: SS14, Jaškovo - Mali Modruš Potok 2 Distance: 10.10 km**

**Weather: Sunny, 18 degrees**

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

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

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

Sets a benchmark of 5m43.6s. “It’s completely dry. I think we have only one corner marked as damp, but there is more pollution than on the previous stage.”

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

The Frenchman is 9.5s slower than Lappi. “Not a good rhythm in this one – I think I was too cautious, but it was very tricky.”

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

Decent run, 4.7s down on Lappi. “I really enjoyed it – it’s one of my top-10 favourite stages. This time was more difficult than the morning. The set-up was working well in some places, but not in others.”

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

Running a wet-weather tyre on the rear following puncture on previous stage. “It’s okay, but I am trying to avoid the punctures also because I really need the rain tyre for the next one.”

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

Comes in 8.9s down on Lappi’s mark. “Just not able to commit to be honest. It’s difficult when it’s like that.”

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

Reporting an intermittent power problem, losing as much as 60 per cent, as he sets a time just 2.7s slowed than Lappi. “In this stage it was working fine, but it comes and goes so we have to cross our fingers.”

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

Loses 5.3s to Neuville in their battle for third, gap now 5.9s. “No issues. I tried very hard in there and had a huge landing towards the end, but there's not much more I could do.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

Comes in 4.6s off Lappi. Reveals a problem on SS13. “I had a gear change issue, but it’s fixed now so everything is okay.”

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

Just 2.8s slower than stage winner Lappi, but crucially 1.8s faster than Tänak. “I’m not driving at 100 per cent, but it’s quite close. I just tried to leave the last push out, but in these conditions you have to be really careful and precise all the time. I started to have some bad vibration on the stage. So that was a bit disturbing, we have to check what it is.”

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

“My tyre choice was not the best solution, but for the next stage it’s good. We’ll see, it’s so long.”

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

“The first stage I’m not sure I made the right tyre choice but for this one, again it will be interesting to compare to the others because we made a different tyre choice at the last moment. It was a risky moment for us, but I decided to try at least so I hope it pays off.”

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

Comes in 2.8s down on Gryazin. “I am disappointed, what can I say? We are third, get a puncture [on the previous stage], don’t know where exactly. I tried to be safe during all the rally about all the cuts and I still have a puncture. Next time I will take all the cuts.”

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

No comment available.

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

No comment available.

**COMMENTS**

Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm take their second consecutive stage win and third of the day, 2.7s clear of Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe. Rally leader Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen are third, 1.8s ahead of Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja to stretch their lead to 14.8s.

**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)