



## SERVICE FLASH

**Date: 2019-02-15**

**Day: Friday**

**Service: B**

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### **Johan Kristoffersson**

Okey, we have a good time but of course I'm a little bit enoyed over the spin at SS3. We lost a lot of time and confidence after that. But that is part of the game.

Set best time (in WRC2) at SS2- consistant grip, wider road and that gives me a lot of confidence and we could set good stagetimes. This suits me better than narrow road with more gravel.

Looking forward to an exciting afternoon and we've made a good «tyre-plan» to use on the second loop and try to «keep our heads cold».

We felt the smell of BBQ smoke from the spectators at Røjden....that is Rally spirit and I love it.

### **Mads Østberg.**

We knew that this rally would be though with the new car, but it was even worse. I struggel a lot with the car, just to keep up the good speed. I do everything I could at the moment and pushing hard but no at the limit. We don't want to end up crashing in the forrest.

We can't loose so much time to the others now in the beginning of the race- we need to be up there when I feel that the car starts workin ok. The we could charge harder.

We have a lot of work to do with the car and I thought we were closer to our target. This is the first proper WRC rally with this car on snow and ice.

### **Pontus Tidemand**

We have big trouble with the sensors for the throttle and it's been disturbing for the last stages. When you try to brake before an corner and the car still is on full throttle- that is not an nice feeling. We've also had some wiper-problems in the stages, but we hope to fix this now at service. We tried to fix this ourselves between stages, but no luck.

Not easy at all and I can not enjoy myself so much. But it's long time yet to improve. We hope to get closer to the top drivers at some stages soon.

**Andreas Mikkelsen**

Over all, it's been a good morning. On the last stage we touched the snowbank and hit something hard in it. I thought we had a puncture but it was only bodywork that we lost. It's mostly cosmetic, but maybe some aerodynamics is lost there. Except for that, we're close to the frontrunners and we're going to do all we can on the second run to try to gain some more seconds.

We were the only crew that took 2 sparetyres this morning- don't know if this helps us.

Right now the airtemperature is quite high and we'll just have to wait and see how it would look out there this afternoon. It could be difficult if it's getting more and more slush on the roadsurface. A lot of Norwegian flags on those stages this morning- great to see.

**Jari-Matti Latvala**

This morning I might have choosed a little bit to aggressive start of the rally. I did not had the confidence on the first stage to drive up to me speed but I tried to much but it feels like you «killed the speed» and then you loose time. In some parts the stages you have Really clear roadsurface and it's the best in years, and it's really nice to drive. Then is frustrated that the temperature is getting warmer and the gravel would come up. Then it's going to be harder for the tyres.

**Teemu Suninen**

I'm a bit surprised to being second right now but we had a good test before the rally and I felt very good. We have made good improvments to the car and it feels better now. We're trying to get better balance for those roads but we'll see how it would be this afternoon.

It's always a pleassure to being fast and going steady and we also had an advantage of our roadposition.

**Thierry Neuville**

This is an fast rally, the car works fine- no big surprise today. Maybe I expected the guys behind would og a little bit faster but obviously we had a good morning loop and the condition was not so bad. No idea how the road would hold for the next loop but with mild weather we could expect it to be worse. Not good with 7-8 degrees plus for the stages.

You can feel the atmosphere in the stages but you really need to concentrate. Try to have fun while going fast on the ice.

**Ott Tänak**

The morning loop maybe had one of the nicest Swedish conditions I've seen. But that could be another story this afternoon. SS2 & SS4 had really nice and clean icy conditions and we got some good stagetimes there. Compared to last year, it's not so much loose snow on top of the road, so thats really good. The conditions might change a lot for next run.

When you're going on these roads in 190km/h with these studded tyres with fantastic grip - it's a great feeling but let's say....that the road gets really narrow and everything happens very fast.

The car is working very good with a good balance. We've put in a lot of work to improve of this surface.




**COMMENTS**

(The news from the stage)