



## STAGE FLASH

**Date:** 2019-02-16  
**Day:** Saturday **Distance:** 14,21  
**Special Stage:** SS11  
**Weather:** Sunrise today at 0745hrs, so it's still gloomy out there. We're expecting a clear-ish day with a few clouds, very light winds and a relatively warm high of 4°C.  
**Road Conditions:** Ice

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### 1- GRÖNHOLM

A cautious-looking jump over the crest and Marcus completes in 8m31.3s. "Now it's much better. This should be the first day. I remember these stages a bit."

### 2- OGIER

A huge jump from Seb and he finishes 16.4sec quicker than Gronholm. "The only thing we can do today is try and enjoy. This stage is just beautiful to drive."

### 3- LATVALA

7.1sec slower than Ogier. "It's been really nice, great conditions. A good start in SS9 a small mistake in SS10. Here it started to come good but we lost time to Seb somewhere."

### 4- BERTELLI

The front of his Fiesta flying high over the crest. "I didn't remember it well and I didn't brake so much. So far so good."

### 5- TUOHINO

Neat and tidy over the crest. He completes fourth quickest so far.

### 6- TIDEMAND

The Swede delivers an elegant performance over the crest in front of his home crowd. Third quickest. "It's fantastic," he says. "The stage is nice, lots of people here, I really enjoyed it."

### 7- MEEKE

5.4sec off Ogier's pace and Meeke is pushing hard. "I feel I can explore a bit now, I feel more comfortable. We're in a battle now."



**8- NEUVILLE**

One-tenth slower than Ogier, but crucially 5.3sec quicker than Meeke. "The conditions are getting slower so we can't compared our time to Seb. Ours was a good time compared to Kris. Our car is good on the twisty roads but in the fast we are losing. We need to look at that."

**9- LAPPI**

He sets exactly the same time as Meeke and loses fourth place to Neuville by 1sec. But he's laughing with his co-driver as he completes the stage. "I did a perfect stage, I enjoyed it a lot but the time is complete rubbish. That's how it is..."

**10- EVANS**

He manages to hold on to third place but Neuville is now just 1.1sec behind. "Not the best morning for us. The feeling in the car is good but we we struggling to produce the speed."

**11- MIKKELSEN**

Sixth fastest here keeps him second overall. "It's good fun but I would like to go faster - we have to change something because the top speed is not there. I'm using the handbrake too much as well."

**12- TANAK**

The rally leader is 7.2sec off Ogier's pace, but his lead over Mikkelsen remains consistent at more than 30sec. "It's been a good morning. Good on the first two, this stage a bit steadier but still a good rhythm. No problem," he says.

**13- SUNINEN**

Third quickest, as he continues to rue his SS10 error. "It's a big shame that we lost everything in one stage, in one corner. Now we have to do the best we can."

**COMMENTS**

(The news from the stage)