



STAGE FLASH

Date: 2019-02-16
Day: Saturday **Distance:** 23,13
Special Stage: SS12
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: Slush/gravel

1- GRÖNHOLM

The former champ completes in 12m03.4s. "I'm enjoying it a bit more now but this a difficult second loop. I was a little bit in a snow bank and the car stalled but I managed."

2- LATVALA

His car has lost a bit of front aero on the right-hand side. "It was difficult, I can tell you. I can understand what Ogier meant. The line was very narrow. Just left-foot braking and keeping it on the road."

3- TUOHINO AND TIDEMAND

Through cleanly. Tidemand is second quickest to Latvala. "We made a small change to the front diff. The car is fantastic to drive, unbelievable."

4- MEEKE

A quick time, but Kris is wary of the speed of the drivers following. "It's impossible. I can't do anything, They are going to murder us behind with this road position."

5- NEUVILLE

Quickest so far, but the splits show Lappi and Evans behind are rapid too. "The lines are getting cleaner and cleaner. Tricky conditions, and I have to think about my tyres, but I try to drive fast."

6- LOEB

A decent time, third quickest so far. "Some better pace notes now so a better drive. Not perfect, but better."

7- OGIER

Running out of position. Why? "Not being in the slush. That's it." He slots second quickest so far.

8- LAPPI

Fastest so far. A fantastic run puts him ahead of Neuville and potentially up to third. "I just kept it on the ruts. It feels slow but it's efficient. Very nice to get some feedback that I'm driving well!"



9- EVANS

A good run, second quickest so far, but Elfyn slips to fourth. "Better for sure but still not perfect. We gave a way a bit in a few moments."

10- MIKKELSEN

4.5 sec slower than stage leader Lappi. "I'm trying to drive fast. We made some changes [to the car] and they feel good. It will be hard to catch Ott but we drive at a good speed. You never know."

11- TANAK

Despite his comfortable lead, Ott bangs in an emphatic stage win, 2.1sec quicker than Lappi. "It's a bit of a surprise," he says. "Compared to yesterday it's like driving on a railway, it's so smooth. The conditions are making a massive difference."

12- SUNINEN

Third quickest. "Some big ruts and we were driving quite a lot on the sump guard. Okay, the time wasn't too bad."

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)