



STAGE FLASH

Date: 2019-02-17
Day: Sunday **Distance:** 21,19
Special Stage: SS17
Weather: Sunrise today at 0742hrs. We're expecting a cloudy day, with very light winds and a temperature of between -1 and 2°C.

Road Conditions:

1- GRÖNHOLM

He completes in 11m128.3s. "The stage was really nice but my not my driving. It's difficult to find the rhythm - I don't trust myself." Perhaps you need another drive in this car - maybe in Finland? "Forget it!"

2- OGIER

21.8sec quicker than Gronholm. "Really good conditions, very enjoyable. The next one I'll cruise to try and save the tyres for the Power Stage."

3- LATVALA

Fastest so far, two-tenths up on Ogier. "Perfect conditions. Absolutely fantastic for me and the car. A great feeling. Thanks to my engineer who made changes to the centre differential. I'm much more confident."

4- BERTELLI

"A clean run, everything was fine. Just checking the pace notes were correct. A really enjoyable stage."

5- TIDEMAND

A good start for the Swede, third quickest so far. "A really nice stage. A bit looser than I expected but I tried to enjoy it."

6- SUNINEN

Third quickest. "First I have to thank the team for an amazing job to repair the car. Now I need to rediscover the driving rhythm."

7- LOEB

15.4sec slower than stage leader Latvala as Loeb hunts down Meekes's sixth place. How hard is he pushing? "I'm trying to find a good compromise between too much and not enough - that's what I've struggled with all rally. I had a good stage, let's see."

8- EVANS

Fourth quickest so far. "Okay, I pushed pretty hard."

**9- MEEKE**

Quicker than Loeb and Kris extends his advantage over the Frenchman to 6.6sec. "Okay, a good stage, but I'm trying not to do anything silly. Seb's manufacturers' points don't count, so this fight doesn't make a difference to that battle but personally I want to finish in front..."

10- NEUVILLE

8.8sec slower than stage leader Latvala but Neuville extends his advantage over Evans to 13.1sec. "I can't do more. I'm on the edge of what is possible with the car." How will Lappi do now?

11- LAPPI

Esapekka two-tenths quicker than Neuville on stage His advantage now 2.5sec. "Good, good. Quite a clean stage, a few small mistakes but otherwise clean driving and no risks."

12- MIKKELSEN

15.4sec slower than pace setter Latvala and he plunges from second to fourth place. "I had a very clean stage. I tried to be perfect but maybe I could push a bit more - I don't know. Hard to do a lot more, I feel. I would like a car that was a bit more reactive."

13- TÄNAK

Cleanly through in the fifth fastest time. His rally lead now 53.4sec. "Conditions are really nice. I was careful everywhere but it's enjoyable to drive."

14- WRC 2 PRO OSTBERG

The Pro leader through cleanly, but he's still unhappy with his Citroen C3. "I would normally love these conditions, they are absolutely amazing." But not amazing in this car? "Absolutely not."

15- WRC 2 PRO ROVANPERA

"Just trying to take it easy and avoid mistakes."

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)