



## STAGE FLASH

**Date:** 2019-02-15  
**Day:** Friday **Distance:** 8,93  
**Special Stage:** SS8  
**Weather:** Sunrise today at 0748hrs, so it's still rather dark out there. We're expecting a clear day with a few clouds, very light winds and a relatively warm high of 6°C.

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### OGIER UPDATE

He's back in service with an explanation of what went wrong on SS6. He said: "It's always tricky on the second loop. I hit a snow bank a little bit and got stuck. Nothing really bad, but there were no spectators at all and that was it. In the end we had to run a kilometre or so to get some, so we had time to play a little in the snow. It looks like a restart tomorrow but I guess there is not so much to do this weekend. Starting in the front will make it hard to enjoy I guess. But today was at least fun. The morning was a good loop and in the afternoon I almost had time to build a snowman."

### 1- NEUVILLE

He's through in 6m02.1s. "The stage was full of slush. I was first car on the road and there was no grip at all. I pushed like hell for my road position on Saturday."

### 2- TANAK

The Estonian completes 8.9sec quicker than Neuville. "It's been a day full of surprises. The last stage was no fun at all with deep snow. I had a few moments but I gave it a go. We had a strong first loop, in the afternoon it was about surviving with no mistakes."

### 3- MEEKE

Kris completes 11.1sec slower than stage leader Tanak. "I'm happy to be here in one sense. We struggled for pace in the morning, okay it got better in the repeat but I stalled on Rojden and that cost me seven or eight seconds. We're fighting hard for road position and that's frustrating. Road position is going to make a big difference tomorrow."

### 4- LAPPI

Fastest time so far for Lappi, and that moves him from ninth to fifth in one leap. "A difficult day, there have been many mistakes - including one from me. The conditions were tricky. I expect more tyre management tomorrow."

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**COMMENTS**

(The news from the stage)