



## STAGE FLASH

**Date:** May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009

**Day :** 2

**Flash N° :** 9

**Special Stage:** 9 – Punta Balestrieri

**Distance :** 29.15 km

**Weather:** Sun

**Road Condition:** Good surface, Lots of spectators well placed, especially in the three usual places: The jump, the water ford and the “Gobbe”

**n. 4 Latvala- Antilla**

“It felt quite good this morning, no problems at all. It was difficult to drive as first car on the road, not so much on the first stage, but more on this one. I believe we will be losing 15-20” to Loeb in this first loop but we will try to keep him behind”

**n. 3 Hirvonen-Lehtinen**

“We are having fun, I’m really enjoying it. Everything is going well but Sebastian is pushing behind.”

**n. 1 Loeb – Elena**

“We had to bleed the brakes and thought we were closer to the start, that is why we had a 10” penalty at the start of the stage”

**n. 11 Solberg P. - Mills**

“Even if I am pushing I always lose some seconds”

**n. 7 Novikov – Moscatt**

“No problems on this stage, I think my jump was quite long”

**n. 6 Solberg H. - Menkerud**

Rear tyre completely missing - “ The car stopped at the start I had to restart it, then I hit something in the rear and drove all the stage like this”

**n. 21 Ostberg – Engan**

“I broke the suspension on the jump just after the start, all the stage was absolutely terrible”

**n. 2 Sordo - Marti**

“Really slippery but ok, the car is fine, we will see. This afternoon will be hotter and more difficult”

**n. 5 Wilson - Marti**

“No problems, just very difficult. It’s tricky, but the car feels ok. I had a nose dive on the jump at the beginning and scratched my bumper”

**n. 10 Al Qassimi – Orr**

“I went wide in a couple of places”

**n. 8 Rautenbach – Barritt**

“I am not happy, we are not fast. We took the jump a bit quick but otherwise no problems, the car is good”



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**n. 12 Ogier – Ingrassia**

“It’s very hot in the car. We have no goal to get points, we just drive to learn the rally, I passed the jump and watersplash very slowly because they are not good for the rally car”

**n. 145 Flodin - Bergsten**

“It will be impossible to have a good result here, a shame”

**n. 146 Sandell – Axelsson**

“It’s going good, I don’t know why I lost time on the previous stage but here it was ok so overall I am happy. Lots of people on the jump, it was good fun”

**n. 150 Al Attiyah – Bernacchini**

“We tried to push here, it was difficult because the steering was bent, luckily we are here now so we’ll see”

**n. 147 Araujo - Miguel**

Rear left wheel toed in - “I didn’t hit anything, in the start of the second stage the suspension arm broke and I had to drive the stage with a loose wheel, it was very difficult”

**n. 39 Bettega - Scattolin**

Hazard lights on at the stage finish – “At the beginning of the stage I thought we had lost the sumpguard after the jump, we managed to go back on the stage so I was going slowly”

**n. 32 Kosciuszko - Szczepaniak**

“I like this fast section between the trees, you need to be brave and have a good set-up, and I have both”

**n. 63 Nikara - Kalliolepo**

Slight damage to the bumper - “There was a lost of dust when we caught Bettega, and it was difficult to drive, also because of the misfire problem”

**n. 38 Prokop - Tomanek**

“I jumped quite high but that was not a problem, We lost a lot of time behind Alessandro on the last 6 kms as we had to drive just on 2<sup>nd</sup> gear”

**n. 132 Sousa – Carvalho**

“Very hot, the stage was bad, in the end we had a big vibration on the car, we don’t know if it was a puncture or transmission so we will get to service and check the car”

**n. 149 Brynildsen - Giraudet**

Rear right suspension collapsed - “After 10 kms we had this problem so we decided to drive slowly. Maybe we can still get some points”

**n. 31 Burkart - Kolbach**

“in the end we had to go quite slowly because of a puncture in the front”



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**n. 137 Sauvan - Capanna**

Stopped in stage – mechanical (Radiator)

**n. 36 Weijs - Degandt**

“Ok, but not so good with the car, we don't have traction, I don't know what it is, we will go back to service and see”