



Ufficio Stampa – Press Office

Località Porto Cocciani – Porto Industriale – Settore 1 – Edificio B – 07026
Olbia

Tel. +39 0789 645052 – fax +39 0789 648433 –
info@rallyitaliasardegna.com

PAOLO ANDREUCCI AND ANNA ANDREUSSI PEUGEOT 207 SUPER 2000 LEAD THE RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA

The Italian Champion is followed closely by the main protagonists of the international Irc series

Olbia June 5th 2010 - An Italian, Paolo Andreucci, together with Anna Andreussi on a Peugeot 207 Super 2000, is leading Rally d'Italia after the first day. An historical event for the most important race of the national rallying world, organised by the Automobile Club d'Italia and counting for the Irc (Intercontinental Rally Challenge) series and for the Gravel Rally Trophy, which had not occurred in years.

Another Peugeot is second, the one of Irishman Kris Meeke, defending IRC champion. The race was interesting and fought from the very start, seeing as the first leader Kopecky, Skoda Fabia, then Andreucci, Meeke and again Andreucci. The two Skoda Fabias Super 2000 of Juho Hanninen, current championship leader, and Jan Kopecky follow in third and fourth overall.

The first stage of the rally was decisive. In an interval of a few minutes the three retirements of Sebastien Ogier, who first suffered a puncture and then stopped with engine problems on his Peugeot 207 Super 2000, Guy Wilks, who rolled his Skoda, and Andreas Mikkelsen off the road with his works Ford Fiesta. Three of the main favourites immediately out of the event, but this was just the beginning of a very hard day which saw only 27 crews, out of the 44 which started this morning from Cagliari, get to the finish in Olbia.

For what concerns the Gravel Rally Trophy, reserved to drivers with Italian or San Marino licence, first position is held by Paolo Andreucci followed by Finnish, with San Marino licence, driver Teemu Arminen, Subaru, current championship leader, and from the Brescia-born Luigi Ricci, eighth overall, who is in front of Daniele Batistini by only 2".

For what concerns the 2wd Cup, the IRC classification for two-wheel drive cars, the leader is Estonian Kaspar Koitla, Honda Civic, ahead of Harry Hunt, Ford Fiesta, and Colin Smith, Honda Civic.

There is still one day to go before the end of the rally, slightly shorter than the first one but still challenging. Six stages are scheduled for a total 106 km, all on the tough Sardinian gravel, for a total route of 387,57 km.

Eurosport will broadcast two more stages live tomorrow. The first show is scheduled for 08.45, the second at 11.45, both of which will last approximately one hour.

Day one results: 1. Andreucci – Andreussi (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) in 1h 13'34"2; 2. Meeke- Nagle (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 7"4; 3. Hanninen – Markkula (Skoda Fabia) at 11"3 ; 4. Kopecky – Stary (Skoda Fabia 2000) at 41"4; 5. Neuville – Klingler (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 2'55"4; 6. Arminen – Nikkola (Subaru Impreza) at 3'46"3 ; 7. Andersson – Fredriksson (Mitsubishi Lancer) at 5'31"1; 8. Ricci - Barone (Subaru Impreza) at 5'35"4 ; 9. Batistini – Pisano (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 5'37"8; 10. Magalahas – Magalahas (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 6'24"0

For further information please visit - www.rallyitaliasardegna.com