



## MEET THE CREWS SESSION LEG 3 – 19 August, 2017

### Present:

Malcolm Wilson, M-Sport World Rally Team

Marek Nawarecki, Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team

Tommy Mäkkinen, Toyota Gazoo Racing

Michel Nandan, Hyundai Motorsport

### Q:

Malcom, what a day for M-Sport, with Ott Tänak in the lead here at ADAC Rally Germany. How confident are you that he can take victory tomorrow?

### MW:

In theory, it should be enough, but you never know. We did not have any issues with the cars, we managed to stay out of trouble. So, it is fingers crossed. Hopefully the weather will be okay. It should be okay, but you never know.

### Q:

Sébastien Ogier is in third place now and not too far away from Andreas Mikkelsen. How much is he prepared to push and risk going for second place?

### MW:

There is no question that he would like to have the extra points. He is thinking about the long game, the championship. If he can get 15 points and some points from the power stage, then he would be happy to leave ADAC Rally Germany with that in the bag.

### Q:

Let's imagine he moves into second position, let's say he gets ahead of Andreas Mikkelsen and Seb is the strongest man on your team in terms of the championship, would we see team tactics to move him in front of Ott?

### MW:

The tactics would be that if Ott is in the position to win, it would put him closer to Thierry Neuville. That means I could probably have two drivers competing for the championship.

### Q:

Marek, your man Andreas is in second place. What is the hope for tomorrow?

### MN:

It would be great to keep that position. But it will be a difficult task for Andreas, because the gap is very close and Sébastien will keep on pushing, and there are still 52 kilometres to go. Today it was not bad for Andreas. In the morning, he struggled a little bit because of the tyre choice. But in the afternoon, he did all he could to remain in second. We will see what happens tomorrow.

### Q:

Would you mind if Andreas put some pressure on Ott tomorrow, going for victory?

### MN:

Under regular circumstances it would be very difficult. I think it would be best to focus on keeping second place, which will not be so easy. That's already a good challenge.



**Q:**

Tommy, Juho Hanninen has done a great job today. Talk to me about his performance please.

**TM:**

He had a very, very good performance today, except for the afternoon, when some damper problems slowed him down a bit. He had a good battle with Elfyn Evans, so this will be exciting tomorrow, because both drivers will push quite hard.

**Q:**

Esapekka Lappi, who won in Finland, seems quite frustrated that he is not on the pace here. But he is very tough on himself, isn't he?

**TM:**

After his accident, he was more careful and did not find his pace.

**Q:**

Six weeks until Spain. Is Toyota looking to win some more events this year?

**TM:**

Our cars are pretty good on gravel. We have done more preparation on gravel. On tarmac, we need to continue our constant test programme. I hope that Spain will be another step forward.

**Q:**

Michel, drama for Thierry this morning. He started with such purpose this morning, but then had to retire for the day when a wheel came off. What happened?

**MN:**

He was in a place where, when you cut and slide a bit, it hits the wheel on the inside, which is the worst case. That is what happened. He broke his suspension and it was impossible for him to repair it.

**Q:**

It is a blow in the title fight. Thierry wanted to take as many points as possible here. So how is he feeling now?

**MN:**

I was impressed how he reacted. He is waiting to go for the power stage tomorrow.

**Q:**

There is also a big battle in the Manufacturers' Championship as well. How do you feel about this?

**MN:**

I think that at the moment we have to survive and try to get all the cars to the finish. Then we need to prepare for the last events and do what we can to challenge Malcolm again (laughs).

**Q:**

Dani Sordo had a great afternoon, with three stage wins. It is a case of what-if with him isn't it?

**MN:**

Yes, normally he could have been at the top, but yesterday he crashed. Today he was quite good, especially in the second loop. He made some changes to the car, which were quite good and gave him more confidence, which was also good for him.



**Present:**

Ott Tänak, M-Sport World Rally Team  
Andreas Mikkelsen, Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team  
Sébastien Ogier, M-Sport World Rally Team

**Q:**

Ott, it has been a challenging day but you have extended your lead in the rally. How do you feel with just four stages remaining on Sunday?

**OT:**

There is no question I feel good. Obviously, it is nice to extend the lead. Andreas made a mistake in the morning and he basically gave us a lot of time. After that, the conditions were more consistent and it was more enjoyable and safer to drive.

**Q:**

We have 51 kilometres to drive on Sunday. Talk to me about the stages, because they are new stages for you.

**OT:**

They are new stages, but they are similar to what we had on the last stage today – quite a lot of straights and junctions. Maybe not so difficult, but you still have to really concentrate to not miss the braking points.

**Q:**

Personally, were you happy with your performance today?

**OT:**

I can't complain. It was still tricky on Panzerplatte this morning, still muddy and slippery conditions and a bit surprising in places. But when it started to dry, it was much more fun in the car as the grip is consistent and these cars are really fast. It is quite easy to feel the good atmosphere in the car and to enjoy the speed. So yes, it has been an enjoyable afternoon.

**Q:**

You seem to be very confident going into the final day.

**OT:**

Yes, it was surprisingly good. I was confident and it was quite easy to find good lines, to avoid mistakes and stay on the tarmac all of the time. We also had a good rhythm on Panzerplatte. I know Sébastien has been very, very strong here before, but we managed to keep the same pace. This is a big step for me.

**Q:** Andreas, there were a couple of issues today, but all in all it was a pretty good day for you, wasn't it?

**AM:**

Yes, performance-wise I am very, very happy. I made a couple of mistakes today, however: I spun and had two stalls. But driving-wise I am very happy, especially with Panzerplatte. I have always lost a lot of time in there. But, finally, on the second pass through I managed to get my lines right and to attack correctly. I almost got the fastest time – almost. Dani Sordo got it in the end, but I am very happy with the pace, especially on the second loop.



**Q:**

You said that you finally mastered Panzerplatte. What did you do differently?

**AM:**

It was a little studying of the onboard videos. Where you can really attack and where you have to keep the car very neat and tidy and not burn off too much of the rubber. It is a very difficult stage. It can be very slippery in places, but you can still go very fast. It is a really enjoyable stage when you get to know it a bit. And I really enjoyed driving it on the second loop, when the grip was good.

**Q:**

You were in a fight for time with Sébastien today. How do you feel about the time difference and the kilometres remaining on the final day of the rally? Can you hold on to second?

**AM:**

I feel very, very confident in the car at the moment. I feel confident about the stages tomorrow. And we have been performing on similar stages today. I feel confident for tomorrow and I will try to keep the pressure on Ott as well.

**Q:**

You mentioned that this was your last event for Citroen here. There are three rounds to go. Do you think that a good performance here will give you more rounds this year?

**AM:**

I hope so. I hope to do all the rounds all the time. We will see. The most important thing is to be in a good place next year to fight for the championship.

**Q:**

Sébastien, you have the championship to think about, as well as putting pressure on the guys in front of you here in Germany. It is a balancing act. What is the plan for tomorrow?

**SO:**

Tomorrow is not so long anymore. And it will be fast stages, so it will be hard to make a big difference. But, so far, I am pleased. Today was a good day. I think we were the fastest drivers but the time loss yesterday was a bit too much. When I saw Thierry Neuville stop this morning, you start to play a little bit in your mind. But then I was a bit too cautious on Panzerplatte. This afternoon, I did not push enough because I thought we would have more tyre wear. In the end, the stage was too short and I would have needed maybe ten kilometres more. I am looking forward to tomorrow now.

**Q:**

You are within sniffing distance of Andreas and those five potential power stage points. Surely, we will see an Ogier push, won't we?

**SO:**

For sure I will keep the pressure up. I will not relax, because it is easy to make mistakes. It happened to almost all of us today. You need to keep up the pressure. And on the power stage I have to push, because so many drivers are fast, as we have seen here. If you want to have the points, there is no other option. This will be an important stage again for the championship.

**Q:**

All points are important now. If you get up to second place tomorrow, will you ask Ott to let you go for the victory? Any tactics coming into play?

**SO:**

Not at all. So far, Ott has done an amazing job. There is no way I want to take his position like this. It won't happen. Hopefully we all be on the podium tomorrow.