

## SERVICE FLASH

**Date:** 23. August 2019  
**Day:** 2 **Flash B**  
**Service:** B (Bostalsee)

1	OGIER Sébastien/INGRASSIA Julien	FRA/FRA	CITROËN C3 WRC
<p>“Unfortunately, we have not really solved the problem since Corsica. There is still a bit of an issue. The car is basically not turning. It is understeering much too much for my taste. I cannot drive a car that is not turning, basically. At the moment, it looks as though we do not have a real idea how to fix it. Obviously, we have tried many things, but at the moment it is not responding as we would hope. At the moment, we are clearly not in his [Tänak] rhythm, even Thierry. They are both quite a long way ahead of us. It is hard to do more. Okay, I did a small mistake in stage two when I nearly stalled in a hairpin and lost nearly two seconds, but that does not explain the 13-second deficit I have. Of course, I will keep pushing. But until we solve the issue it is difficult for me to do better.”</p>			

4	LAPPI Esapekka/FERM Janne	FIN/FIN	CITROËN C3 WRC
<p>“We are lacking grip on the front. Unfortunately, it is the same problem as on Corsica. I believe that if we can gain more grip, then the times will be better. I can carry more speed in the corners. The times will come.”</p>			

5	MEEKE Kris/MARSHALL Sebastian	GBR/GBR	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
<p>“It was a decent morning. No dramas. Just a little overshoot in one corner on the gravel. I had a little lock-up in the last stage. Generally, the guys at the front are a good bit faster. Thierry and Ott are on an incredible pace. Ogier is not far in front and Dani is only a tenth behind me. My sole focus is Dani for the moment – to keep him behind for the Manufacturers Championship. But it is going to be a long, long weekend. Today seems quite a short loop. Everything is going to change tomorrow in Baumholder. We have to keep the rhythm and hopefully we can stay in podium contention and see how the weekend develops.”</p>			

6	SORDO Dani/DEL BARRIO Carlos	ESP/ESP	HYUNDAI i20 Coupe WRC
<p>“Honestly, I’m not really satisfied. We are in fifth position and lost quite a lot in some places. Okay, the starting position was not the perfect one, but we need to be higher up. We have the speed in some places, but we lost a little bit of time in the dirtier places. Now we need to push to try to be closer and to gain some positions if possible. I don’t know what it is like for the people in front, but for sure some places are more dirty [than last year]. You pay for starting at the back. When you drive on gravel, you have an advantage starting towards the back. When you are on tarmac, it is like this. You can’t complain – just drive and do the best possible. Yes, some places are a little bit dirtier. Especially on this last stage with all the hairpins and everything, because the cars pass the same corners twice, so it was really difficult. I was surprised by the time.”</p>			

8	TÄNAK Ott/JÄRVEOJA Martin	EST/EST	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
<p>“As I expected before the rally, I always thought it would be really tight. The stages are fast and we have done them before, so everybody is close to the limit, for sure. On the first stage I was not in a perfect rhythm. And opening the road, let’s say the road was clean and it was not so bad, but I had quite a bit of understeer and did not have a nice rhythm. After that, I managed to</p>			

tidy up my driving and focus more on clean driving on tarmac. It basically improved stage by stage.”

10	LATVALA Jari-Matti/ANTTILA Miikka	FIN/FIN	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
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“I remember last year I also had a bit of a problem finding the right rhythm at the beginning. I think I’ve had that issue again. I think it has just been such a long break from driving on tarmac – from Corsica to coming here. It just means that I can’t get the braking points. I hope I can improve in the afternoon.”

11	NEUVILLE Thierry/GILSOUL Nicolas	BEL/BEL	HYUNDAI i20 Coupe WRC
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“Obviously Ott must be driving very fast as well. I was surprised to see that gap at the end of the last stage – 1.5 seconds was quite a lot for a very simple and short stage. But that’s part of the game – we push as hard as we can and try to avoid any mistakes. To be honest, I do not have a lot more. But we’re going to try. This afternoon the conditions are going to be more dirty for the first car on the road as well, so hopefully we can be faster than him.”

17	KATSUTA Takamoto/BARRITT Daniel	JPN/GBR	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
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“The car is so fast. It is very difficult in the car. The car is working well, but it is not so easy to drive without any experience. I noticed I really need to drive steadily. Of course, there is some frustration in my mind, because I want to drive faster. I know that is impossible at the moment, because I have no experience. It was okay. I’ll try to keep going the same way in the afternoon.”

44	GREENSMITH Gus/EDMONDSON Elliott	GBR/GBR	FORD Fiesta WRC
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“On the first stage I was kind of cautious, but the time was not too far away. The second stage didn’t go quite how I wanted it to. We weren’t really as close as I thought we should have been. We obviously have some work to do there. But then we made some changes and on the last stage we were really competitive. Despite how much pollution was on the road, we were really close to the drivers ahead. I was really happy with that. As long as we can take that into the afternoon, I should be happy. I saw Teemu [Suninen] on the side of the road. It is a shame. We’d obviously have liked to have had Teemu in. He is the best person to compare myself against. He should be back tomorrow and I will be able to judge myself against him then.”

89	MIKKELSEN Andreas/JÆGER Anders	NOR/NOR	HYUNDAI i20 Coupe WRC
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“It has been quite tough. I expected to be a bit higher. But, at the same time, it is quite close. I think it is eight seconds, and then we are in fourth. It is very close between us, which gives me a lot of motivation for the second loop. I have been struggling a bit with understeer on the entry into corners, so hopefully we can change the car a bit in service to improve that and allow me to keep a higher corner speed. That is the aim, because a lot of the time I feel a bit limited.”

21	ROVANPERÄ Kalle/HALTTUNEN Jonne	FIN/FIN	ŠKODA Fabia R5 evo
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“Last year we were not so fast, but of course it was my first time and I did not have so much experience on tarmac. Now it is much better and I am enjoying it a lot. It is clean tarmac, then dirty tarmac, and different kinds of grips, so it is quite tricky. But it has been going well.

23	KOPECKÝ Jan/DRESLER Pavel	CZE/CZE	ŠKODA Fabia R5 evo
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“Kalle [Rovanperä] is flying. I think he is on the limit. I cannot do much better. I will try to make a few small changes to the car and we will see. The stages are really nice. You have to be careful in some places, taking big cuts, because a little bit of mud is coming up.”

54	GRIEBEL Marijan/WINKLHOFER Pirmin	DEU/DEU	ŠKODA Fabia R5 evo
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“The first stage was okay, the second was really good. On the third stage, I overshot a corner and had to reverse. It is difficult all the time with the tyres. In my opinion, they are too hard. I was fighting all the time, particularly when braking, because there was absolutely no grip. There is no opportunity to change anything for the afternoon – there is either a really hard or really soft compound. It is too warm for the really soft tyres, so we’ll have to continue as we are.”

55	KREIM Fabian/BRAUN Tobias	DEU/DEU	ŠKODA Fabia R5 evo
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“I am very satisfied with that. We did not make any mistakes and had a good clean drive. Third in WRC2 is exactly what our goal and our plan is. We will now try to continue exactly like this. Maybe we’ll change the set-up a little to try to get a little more confidence in the car, then let’s see what kind of progress we can make. The car has a lot of potential – you notice and feel that immediately. However, you also drive for many years with the other car, and it is not possible to drive to the limit in a new car from one day to the next. The car is very different. We need a certain amount of time, in order to get to grips with the car and explore the limits. And then we are starting in a world championship rally, with the crème de la crème. As such, we need every metre and at some point it will all come together.”

56	DINKEL Dominik/FÜRST Christina	DEU/DEU	HYUNDAI i20 NG R5
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“I struggled a lot with the set-up. The chassis set-up is not quite as I had imagined. On the fast vineyard stages, if you do not trust the car 100 percent, then you cannot push really hard. Then I had a spin on the first stage too. It was a modest start. We will try to make some changes. This is our first real tarmac rally with the Hyundai, and we must try to test and find a set-up that we can manage.”