

1.	EVENT SUMMARY	8.	FASTEST STAGE TIMES (SEASON)
2.	DRIVER QUOTES	9.	SPRINTER STANDINGS (EVENT)
3.	C2 JUNIOR EXPERIENCE	10.	SPRINTER STANDINGS (SEASON)
4.	RESULTS (EVENT)	11.	CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
5.	RETIREMENTS (EVENT)	12.	ROOKIE STANDINGS
6.	LEADERS (EVENT)	13.	ASN STANDINGS
7.	FASTEST STAGE TIMES (EVENT)	14.	WHAT IS THE JUNIOR WRC?/ NEXT ROUND

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Prokop takes Corsican victory; Ogier becomes J-WRC Champion*

Czech driver **Martin Prokop** and co-driver Jan Tománek scored their third J-WRC win of the season in their Citroën C2, on Rally de France – Tour de Corse, the final round of the 2008 FIA Junior World Rally Championship. **Sébastien Ogier** (F) who brought his Citroën C2 home in second, clocked his fourth podium of the year winning his first Junior WRC title on his debut season, following in the footsteps of his Citroën predecessors Sébastien Loeb and Dani Sordo. Local driver **Pierre Campana** (F, Renault) who was entered into the event by the organisers finished third.

The KNAF Talent First Team from Holland, represented by **Kevin Abbring** (Renault) and **Hans Weijs Jr.** (Citroën) brought both its cars safely to the finish and in the process their combined points saw them win the ASN classification for the best national association in the J-WRC, beating France's FFSA.

Newly crowned Ogier scored a total of 50 stage wins throughout the season, more than 50% more than his nearest rival Prokop, who clocked 23 stage victories. Ogier also wins the season's sprinter standings. And after such an outstanding debut season, culminating in winning the Junior WRC on his home rally, he was awarded the Abu Dhabi Spirit of the Rally Award in recognition.

Spain victor Prokop set the initial pace although, with the Championship title at stake, both Ogier and Burkart were not overly pushing, conscious only of staying safe and avoiding mistakes, so Prokop settled into his lead comfortably. By the end of the first day however, he was being challenged by Corsican hot shot Campana who stole the lead after Prokop lost time on SS6 with a puncture. But the Czech driver soon upped his pace again to regain his deficit and he confidently defended his lead to finish his J-WRC season on a high.

Behind Campana, Bettega held third position throughout most of the event but high tyre wear on day two, after knocking a front wheel out of line, saw him drop time and a position to Ogier by SS11. But a stage win for Ogier on SS14 saw the Frenchman gain another place by the end of the same stage on the final day, relinquish it to a powering Campana on SS15, only to regain it by the end of the last stage. Sadly Bettega was forced to retire after a ball joint in the suspension arm broke on the penultimate stage.

Entered into the event by the organisers, **Pierre Marché** (F, Suzuki) had a rear puncture just 5km after the start of SS2, dropping one minute continuing with it, and he had another puncture just after finishing SS4. High tyre wear on the opening group of stages on day two forced him to ease off a little on SS9, proving fruitful for his stage times. His upped pace paid dividends as he reached sixth by the end of the day two and he powered his way through the final day to steal fourth from **Aaron Burkart** (D, Citroën).

Burkart had a relatively trouble-free rally. With the Championship title at stake his aim was to drive carefully and safely, avoiding problems and waiting to pick up the pieces if fellow title contender Ogier made a mistake. While he had no problems on the final day, he was unable to fend off Marché, finally settling for fifth. But his points total sees him finish second in the J-WRC and, under the rules of Citroën's C2 Junior Experience, he wins himself a drive in a C4 World Rally Car on one event next year.

Patrik Sandell (S, Renault) struggled a little on day one, unable to get the best out of his engine, but a few changes overnight saw his performance improve on day two. By the end of SS10 his front tyres were badly degraded and he lost a position to Marché, so he drove more easily on the following stages to prevent such high tyre wear. The final day also proved difficult as he lost 30 seconds on the first loop of stages alone but he was happy to finish the rally on his first time in Corsica.

Florian Niegel (D, Suzuki) had a trouble-free first day on his first outing on the French island, although he found the stages tricky. But the story changed on day two as he had a spin on SS10, which cost 30 seconds, and he struggled with high tyre wear in the afternoon's group of stages with the rubber wearing right down on SS11. But he resumed his trouble-free run on the final day to finish in seventh.

Kevin Abbring (NL, Renault) lost the use of his intercom on SS3 which cost the Dutch 19-year-old 15 seconds in the last three minutes of the stage alone. A few set-up changes midday improved his stage times but he struggled with his pace notes, finding them a little conservative, so he was unable to push as much as he wanted to. But he enjoyed the final day to take the last available point for eighth and his finish ensured the Dutch KNAF team secured the ASN classification.

Stefano Albertini (I, Renault) wasn't happy with his set-up on day one, although he had no problems to speak of. And on day two he was experiencing high wear on his front tyres in the morning, so avoided driving as aggressively in the afternoon. At the end of SS10 he lost the use of his brakes and continued through the group relying on the handbrake. Unfortunately his brake woes reappeared on the final day, before eventually finishing in ninth.

Gilles Schammel (LUX, Renault) stalled his engine on SS1 which cost about 20 seconds and in the afternoon of the same day he lost the use of his brakes 3km before the end of SS5. On the road section he tried to fix a calliper pipe which had come loose, incurring a penalty in the process, but he continued through SS6 without brakes, costing another minute and a half. Having discovered that the reason he was down on power on day two was due to a compressed exhaust, he was encouraged to finish the event with a little more confidence in his engine after repairs. He finished in 10th.

Jaan Molder (EE, Suzuki) complained his set-up was too soft and he lacked confidence to start with on his first outing in Corsica. On SS4 he had an electrical problem and was forced to drive through SS5 at 50kph, and he eventually had to stop. The car was fine to restart day two and although he found the first loop of stages tricky, he stepped up his pace on the second run through, claiming he was 'getting his Corsican feeling'. The story was the same on the final day en route to finishing 11th.

Hans Weijs Jr. (NL, Citroën) struggled with his pace notes on day one, although a few set-up changes improved things later in the day. But a similar problem on day two prevented him from upping his speed so he decided to start making some extra notes in preparation for his next outing to Corsica and continued through the rest of the rally to gain valuable experience. He brought his C2-R2 home in 12th.

Simone Bertolotti (I, Renault) lost a wheel on SS3 after hitting something mid-stage so he incurred penalties for the rest of the day's stages not completed. He restarted day two a little cautiously but soon picked up his pace only to go off the road on SS10 causing too much damage to continue.

Having never driven a Clio R3 before, **Arnaud Augoyard** (F, Renault) struggled to get used to it on day one and he spent time improving the set-up. But on SS7 he braked a bit late on one corner and slid sideways to end up with two wheels in a ditch and into retirement.

Michal Kosciuszko's (POL, Suzuki) got off to a terrible start as a wrong pace note saw him hit a wall only two kilometres into the opening stage, damaging his roll cage and prevented him from continuing.

2. DRIVER QUOTES

1st – Martin Prokop, Citroën C2 S1600:

"Three wins, but it isn't enough for the Championship! It's a nice way to end the season but I still feel quite disappointed as my aim was to be champion. Sébastien did a good job and we were prepared to fight, we have a lot of experience, the car has good speed but we just had too many problems through the year."

2nd – Sébastien Ogier, Citroën C2 S1600:

"This is a perfect moment in a perfect place as I have all my family and friends here. After Spain the week off was difficult. But we had always led the Championship and we came here with four points more than Burkart so we knew we just had to stay ahead of him and finish. I hope to do Rally GB at the end of the year but I don't know in what car yet!"

3rd – Pierre Campana,, Citroën C2 S1600:

"For sure before the rally we didn't expect this result as I have only done about 15 rallies as a driver, the others I was a co-driver. So I'm really happy and of course it's important here as I am the first Corsican driver."

3. C2 JUNIOR EXPERIENCE

The C2 Junior Experience is an initiative allowing young Citroën drivers to compete for a chance to win a Citroën WRC drive on two events during the 2008 FIA World Rally Championship. On this event **Prokop** and **Burkart** reap financial rewards for their finishes in the C2 S1600, as does **Weijs Jr.** for his finish in the C2-R2.

For more information contact Anne-Sophie Duquesnoy, annesophie.duquesnoy@mpsa.com

4. RESULTS (EVENT) *subject to scrutineering and routine fuel analysis

POS	CAR#	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	CAR	TIME	POINTS
1	31	Martin Prokop (CZ)	Jan Tománek (CZ)	Citroën C2	4:04:43.9	10
2	42	Sébastien Ogier (F)	Julien Ingrassia (F)	Citroën C2	+17.7	8
3	59	Pierre Campana (F)	Samuel Tiessier (F)	Renault Clio R3	+53.3	6
4	60	Pierre Marché (F)	Julien Giroux (F)	Suzuki Swift	+2:07.9	5
5	33	Aaron Burkart (D)	Michael Kollbach (D)	Citroën C2	+2:37.8	4
6	41	Patrik Sandell (S)	Emil Axelsson (S)	Renault Clio	+3:24.3	3
7	43	Florian Niegel (D)	Andre Kachel (D)	Suzuki Swift	+4:19.8	2
8	45	Kevin Abbring (NL)	Erwin Mombaerts (B)	Renault Clio R3	+5:17.4	1
9	39	Stefano Albertini (I)	Piercarlo Capolongo (I)	Renault Clio R3	+7:09.7	0
10	47	Gilles Schammel (LUX)	Renaud Jamoul (B)	Renault Clio R3	+13:44.5	0
11	32	Jaan Mölder (EE)	Frederic Miclotte (B)	Suzuki Swift	+15:24.4	0
12	44	Hans Weijs Jr. (NL) ®	Hans von Goor (NL)	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	+17:42.4	0

5. RETIREMENTS (EVENT)

CAR#	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	CAR	STAGE	REASON
35	Michal Kosciuszko (PL)	M. Szczepaniak (PL)	Suzuki Swift	SS1	Accident
40	Arnaud Augoyard (F)	Nicolas Baudin (F)	Renault Clio R3	SS7	Off road
37	Simone Bertolotti (I)	Daniele Vernuccio (I)	Renault Clio R3	SS10	Accident
48	Alessandro Bettiga (I)	Simone Scattolin (I)	Renault Clio R3	SS15	Suspension

6. LEADERS (EVENT)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	STAGE
31	Martin Prokop	Citroën C2	SS1-5, SS9-16
41	Pierre Campana	Renault Clio R3	SS6-8

7. FASTEST STAGE TIMES (EVENT)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	WINS	STAGES
31	Martin Prokop	Citroën C2	8	SS1-3, SS7-11
42	Sébastien Ogier	Citroën C2	3	SS12, SS14, SS16
48	Alessandro Bettega	Renault Clio Sport R3	2	SS5, SS13
59	Pierre Campana	Renault Clio Sport R3	2	SS4, SS6
60	Pierre Marché	Suzuki Swift	1	SS15

8. FASTEST STAGE TIMES (SEASON)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	MEX	HKJ	I	FIN	D	E	F	TOTAL
42	Sébastien Ogier	Citroën C2	10	16	1	0	11	9	3	50
31	Martin Prokop	Citroën C2	0	0	5	5	2	3	8	23
35	Michal Kosciuszko	Suzuki Swift	1	1	7	10	0	2	0	21
41	Patrik Sandell	Renault Clio	5	4	2	8	0	0	0	19
33	Aaron Burkart	Citroën C2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	6
32	Jaan Mölder	Suzuki Swift	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	6
48	Alessandro Bettega	Renault Clio R3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
G	Pierre Campana	Renault Clio R3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
46	Shaun Gallagher	Citroën C2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
G	Pierre Marché	Suzuki Swift	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

9. SPRINTER STANDINGS (EVENT)

		Total	SS TOT	AV			Total	SS TOT	AV			Total	SS TOT	AV
	DRIVER					DRIVER					DRIVER			
1	Prokop	115	16	7.19	7	Niegel	30	16	1.88	13	Schammel	0	16	0.00
2	Campana	102	16	6.38	8	Augoyard	11	6	1.83	14	Weijs Jr.	0	16	0.00
3	Ogier	101	16	6.31	9	Sandell	29	16	1.81	15	Bertolotti	0	6	0.00
4	Bettega	81	14	5.79	10	Molder	18	15	1.20	16	Kosciuszko	0	0	0.00
5	Marche	80	16	5.00	11	Abbring	11	16	0.69					
6	Burkart	45	16	2.81	12	Albertini	2	16	0.13					

N: special stage not completed

s: time allocated by stewards

The J-WRC Sprinter Standings are an unofficial method of ranking drivers based on individual stage performance. To calculate the Sprinter Score, drivers are awarded points for each stage classification (10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1) and the total points are divided by the number of stages completed by the driver. This average score gives an indication of the drivers' relative performance against his opponents on special stages, while limiting the impact of time loss due to technical problems on stage and penalties incurred.

10. SPRINTER STANDINGS (SEASON)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	MEX	HKJ	I	FIN	D	E	F	TOTAL
42	Ogier	Citroën C2	8.26	8.86	6.85	pass	8.94	8.83	6.31	8.08
31	Prokop	Citroën C2	4.93	pass	7.44	7.63	8.67	5.78	7.19	6.83
35	Kosciuszko	Suzuki Swift	5.89	6.36	8.19	7.58	pass	5.39	0.00	6.73
41	Sandell	Renault Clio/R3	6.58	7.19	6.18	7.63	pass	1.22	1.81	5.21
32	Molder	Suzuki Swift	6.42	5.58	4.64	5.26	pass	3.50	1.2	4.55
48	Bettega	Renault Clio R3	pass	3.93	3.75	3.08	4.29	5.78	5.79	4.48
33	Burkart	Citroën C2	3.89	pass	2.00	3.00	6.76	4.33	2.81	3.78
46	Gallagher	Citroën C2	2.68	3.95	2.06	2.50	4.41	2.94	pass	3.09
34	Cortinovis	Renault Clio	pass	3.59	1.08	DNS	1.69	DNS	DNS	2.22
40	Augoyard	Renault Clio R2	-	-	-	-	pass	-	1.83	1.83
40	Meeke	Renault Clio R3	-	-	-	-	pass	1.54	-	1.54
43	Niegel	Suzuki Swift	pass	1.90	1.33	0.04	3.00	1.44	1.88	1.53
47	Schammel	Renault Clio R3	pass	2.95	0.64	0.96	4.00	0.38	0.00	1.37
45	Abbring	Renault Clio R3	pass	1.17	0.92	0.83	3.47	0.54	0.69	1.29
37	Bertolotti	Renault Clio R3	pass	0.77	0.00	0.64	0.65	0.44	0.00	0.52
38	Fanari	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	pass	0.42
44	Weijs	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	pass	0.81	0.00	0.25	1.13	0.31	0.00	0.37
39	Albertini	Renault Clio R3	pass	0.27	0.06	0.54	0.50	0.28	0.13	0.28
40	Komljenovic	Renault Clio R3	1.50	0.08	0.00	0.00	pass	-	-	0.22

11. CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

2008 FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (FOR DRIVERS)

* subject to the official publication of the results by the FIA ® = denotes eligibility for Rookie Award

	#	DRIVER	CAR	MEX	HKJ	I	FIN	D	E	F	PNTS
1	42	Sébastien Ogier (F)	Citroën C2	10	10	4	pass	10	R	8	42
2	33	Aaron Burkart (D)	Citroën C2	5	pass	6	5	8	6	4	34
3	31	Martin Prokop (CZ)	Citroën C2	2	pass	10th	10	R	10	10	32
4	46	Shaun Gallagher (IRL)	Citroën C2	3	8	5	4	5	5	pass	30
5	35	Michal Kosciuszko (PL)	Suzuki Swift	6	R	10	6	pass	9th	R	22
6	48	Alessandro Bettiga (I)	Renault Clio R3	pass	R	8	R	6	8	R	22
7	41	Patrik Sandell (S)	Renault Clio	4	R	2	8	pass	4	3	21
8	32	Jaan Mölder (EE)	Suzuki Swift	8	R	9th	R	pass	3	11th	11
9	39	Stefano Albertini (I)	Renault Clio R3	pass	4	3	13th	10th	2	9th	9
10	47	Gilles Schammel (LUX)	Renault Clio R3	pass	6	12th	2	R	R	10th	8
11	43	Florian Niegel (D)	Suzuki Swift / Sport	pass	5	R	9th	1	10th	2	8
12	37	Simone Bertolotti (I)	Renault Clio R3 / S1600	pass	3	R	10th	4	1	R	8
13	45	Kevin Abbring (NL)	Renault Clio R3	pass	R	R	3	3	11th	1	7
14	G	Pierre Campana (F)	Renault Clio R3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
15	G	Pierre Marche (F)	Suzuki Swift	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
16	34	Andrea Cortinovis (I)	Renault Clio	pass	2	11th	DNS	2	DNS	-	4
17	44	Hans Weijs Jr (NL) ®	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	pass	R	1	1	R	R	12th	2
18	38	Francesco Fanari (I) ®	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	1	9th	13th	12th	9th	R	pass	1
19	40	Milos Komljenovic (SCG)	Renault Clio R3	R	1	R	11th	pass	-	-	1
20	40	Kris Meeke (GB)	Renault Clio R3	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	0
21	G	Kalle Pinomaki (FIN)	Suzuki Swift	-	-	-	R	-	-	-	0
22	G	Sergio Perez (E)	Citroën C2	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	0
23	40	Arnaud Augoyard (F)	Renault Clio R3	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	0

The following driver has been excluded from the 2008 FIA J-WRC

	36	Vilius Rozukas (LT)	Citroën C2	pass	DNS	Excl	Excl	Excl	Excl	Excl	0
--	----	---------------------	------------	------	-----	------	------	------	------	------	---

12. ROOKIE STANDINGS

2008 FIA J-WRC ROOKIE CLASSIFICATION

	#	DRIVER	CAR	MEX	HKJ	I	FIN	D	E	F	TOT
1	38	Francesco Fanari (I)	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	10	10	8	6	10	R	pass	44
2	44	Hans Weijs Jr (NL)	Citroën C2-R2 MAX	pass	0	10	10	R	R	10	30
3	43	Florian Niegel (D)	Suzuki Swift N2	0	0	0	8	-	-	-	8

13. NATIONAL SPORTING ASSOCIATIONS (ASN) STANDINGS

2008 FIA J-WRC ASN CLASSIFICATION

	#	DRIVER	MEX	HKJ	I	FIN	D	E	F	TOT
1	44/45	KNAF Talent First 1 & 2	pass	R	8	18	8	10	14	58
2	42	FFSA	10	10	10	pass	10	R	10	50

14. WHAT IS THE FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP?

The FIA Junior World Rally Championship (For Drivers) is a support championship to the FIA World Rally Championship for upcoming young drivers aspiring to reach the highest level of the championship, with 2008 seeing more than 18 drivers representing at least 12 countries. The cars they compete in are B-segment cars or the 'hot hatchbacks', are front-wheel drive and have a total length of 3.6m and 4.15m. In the first seven years of the J-WRC we have seen many manufacturers produce cars eligible for the category including Citroën, Fiat, Ford, Honda, Peugeot, Renault and Suzuki. Eligible cars must be homologated in one of four technical classes: Super 1600 (<1600cc), Group N cars (<2000cc), Group R cars and selected Group A cars (<1600cc).

NEXT ROUND –

RALLY IRELAND www.rallyireland.org

30 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2009

FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (FOR DRIVERS)

ROUND 1 OF 8

For more information visit: www.wrc.com

Contact: Ellie Storey; ellie@wrc.com / +44 (0) 7909 908805

Sébastien Ogier: 2008 FIA Junior World Rally Champion*

Driver: Sébastien Ogier (F)

Co-driver: Julien Ingrassia (F)

Car: Citroën C2 S1600

Entrant: Equipe de France FFSA

Date of birth: 17 December 1983

Lives: Forest St Julien, France

Year started in rallying: 2006

First rally car: Peugeot 206 XS Volant

First WRC event: Rally Mexico 2008

World Rally starts: 7

Website: www.sebastien-ogier.com

Interests: skiing, techno music

Height: 181cm

Weight: 74kg

Achievements

2008 FIA J-WRC victories: Mexico, Jordan, Germany

2007 French Peugeot 206 Cup Champion

2006 6th in the French Peugeot 206 Cup

2005 Winner of the 'Rallye Jeunes FFSA' competition

*Subject to the official publications of the results by the FIA