

## WRC.com – Rallye Monte-Carlo Livetext 2018

- **Until then** - Keep an eye on wrc.com for all the latest news. And don't forget WRC+ where you can relive more exclusive content from Rallye Monte-Carlo than ever before. Bye for now.

Sun 15:26

-  **We will return** - At the championship's second round, Rally Sweden, from 15 - 18 February.

Sun 15:23

-  **Finish control** - Stages done, and that's where we'll leave our live text service from Rallye Monte-Carlo.

Sun 15:11

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS17** - 1.Kopecky 4h35m38.5s, 2.De Mevius +14m46.1, 3.Sciessere +22m47.7s, 4.Suninen +33m31.1s

Sun 13:32

-  **Monte Power Stage:** - 1: Meeke 10m06.7s (5 points) 2: Neuville +2.3s (4 points) 3: Mikkelsen +4.4s (3 points) 4: Latvala +6.9s (2 points) 5: Ogier +8.1s (1 point)

Sun 13:30

-  **Monte after SS17** - 1.Ogier 4h18m55.5s, 2.Tänak +58.3s, 3.Latvala +1m52.0s, 4.Meeke +4m43.1s, 5.Neuville +4m53.8s, 6.Evans +4m54.8s, 7.Lappi +4m57.5s, 8.Bouffier +7m39.5, 9.Breen +9m06.7s, 10.Kopecky +16m43.0s

Sun 13:28

-  **SS17: Ogier** - "It's been a difficult weekend. Often in Monte you have to face hard conditions, but this has been extremely difficult. I've never struggled with the tyres

choices so much, but in the end we win and I'm super happy. I need to thank the team for another good start to the season. Every driver did mistakes this weekend I did too - just a few less."

Sun 13:22

-  **SS17: Ogier** - He's done it! Fifth quickest on the Power Stage earns him the 2018 Monte win by 58sec from Tanak.

Sun 13:16

-  **SS17: Ogier** - Approaching the final section

Sun 13:14

-  **SS17: Tanak** - He's through in the fifth-fastest time, and that's second position overall on his Toyota debut. "Really happy. It's such a big relief to start the season like this. There's always some excitement when you switch teams and I had no idea what to expect. Here it has been a great relief. The team and the car are amazing. My gravel crew did the best job - thanks."

Sun 13:14

-  **SS17: Latvala** - Fourth quickest on stage and that's third place secure for Jari-Matti. "Really, really good to be here. Last time out in Australia wasn't great. I have had a lot of pressure on my shoulders since then. Finally I can take that off."

Sun 13:08

-  **SS17: Lappi** - Disaster for the Finn, who loses fourth place and slips to seventh. "I lost the rear on the gravel part and couldn't catch it," he explains. "We went wide and had no chance to put the reverse on. I can't even describe my disappointment."

Sun 13:04

-  **SS17: UPDATE: Lappi** - He's slid off the road! Underway now but with time loss.

Sun 13:01

-  **SS17: Meeke** - Quickest so far, 2.3sec up on Neuville, but Kris isn't seeing the positives. "A horrendous weekend for us. An absolute nightmare. I can't get a feeling with the car. When its good we have to put everything on the line - it's not good enough."

Sun 13:01

-  **SS17: Evans** - Fourth quickest on stage for Elfyn, and that's not enough to stay ahead of Neuville who steals sixth by one second. "We gave it everything. I knew it would be difficult on this stage with what we had. The damage was done on the first one this morning. Disappointed."

Sun 12:56

-  **SS17: Neuville** - An 11th hour push from the Belgian as he tries to reel in Evans and Meeke. Quickest so far - 2.1sec quicker than Mikkelsen. "We have done a good rally. Obviously a shame about my mistake on Thursday, but that's Monte. Everybody makes mistakes. Without getting stuck and getting the puncture a podium would have been possible."

Sun 12:53

-  **SS17: Bouffier** - "It was amazing. I am not a young driver but I learned so much this one weekend. Amazing. We are lucky because I lost first gear before this stage warming the tyres! Looking forward to getting back in this fantastic car."

Sun 12:48

-  **SS17: Breen** - He's through - 4.4sec slower than Mikkelsen - and it looks like ninth place for Craig. "A bit of a frustrating weekend. Even now we went into a cut and I stalled in a hairpin - on the Power Stage! Some good speed at times, but we struggled with our road position yesterday. Onwards and upwards from here."

Sun 12:45



- **SS17: WRC 2 Kopecky** - He's clear, 46sec quicker than De Mevius, and that's the win in WRC 2 secured. The Skoda driver's winning margin over De Mevius a whopping 14 minutes!

Sun 12:41



- **SS17: WRC 2 De Mevius** - The Belgian completes in 11m26.8s in his R5-spec Peugeot 208. That's second place - at least - secure.

Sun 12:38



- **SS17: Mikkelsen** - First to complete in 10m11.1s Enough to salvage some points after his earlier alternator-related retirement? "I think my tyres were good. We went very slowly on the other stages to save them here. An okay stage. A lot of gravel in there, so I expect conditions to be a bit faster car by car, but we had a good run."

Sun 12:33



- **SS17: WRC 2 takeover** - Category leaders De Mevius and Kopecky are in stage. We'll settle the support category class before the rest of the WRC field complete.

Sun 12:30



- **SS17: LIVE** - Mikkelsen well underway

Sun 12:21



- **Stage info: SS17** - La Cabanette - Col de Braus 2, 13.58km. A quick reminder of what the drivers will face: Apart from earlier today, this stage hasn't been driven competitively after it was cancelled at the last minute in 1973, but it is a well-known testing location. It starts with a famous downhill section, south-facing and filled with 16 hairpin bends. It climbs to Col de l'Orme (1000 metres) and Col de l'Ablé (1149 metres), before a final downhill portion leads to the access for Col de Braus, with four more spectacular hairpins on the way.

Sun 12:16



- **SS17: Ogier** - Stage start time for the rally leader: 1305hrs

Sun 12:14



- **SS17: Start intervals** - Four-minute gaps for De Mevius to Lappi. Five-minute gaps for Latvala, Tanak and Ogier.

Sun 12:14



- **SS17: Running order** - A few tweaks to suit the live TV schedule. Here's how the drivers will line up. 1.Mikkelsen, 2.De Mevius, 3.Kopecky, 4.Breen, 5.Bouffier, 6.Neuville, 7.Evans, 8.Meeke, 9.Lappi, 10.Latvala, 11.Tanak, 11.Ogier

Sun 12:10



- **Monte WRC2 after SS16** - 1.Kopecky 4h24m57.7s, 2.De Mevius 14m00.1, 3.Sciessere 21m57.9s, 4.Suninen 33m25.6s

Sun 11:58



- **Up next: Power Stage** - The rally's final stage and an opportunity for the quickest drivers to scoop up to five bonus points. First car on stage at 1218hrs.

Sun 11:51



- **SS16: WRC 2 Kopecky** - Safely through and on course for victory in the support category.

Sun 11:49



- **Monte after SS16** - 1.Ogier 4h08m40.7s, 2.Tänak +57.9s, 3.Latvala +1m53.2s, 4.Lappi +4m32.6s, 5.Meeke +4m51.2s, 6.Evans +4m52.4s, 7.Neuville +4m59.6s

Sun 11:44



- **SS16: Mikkelsen** - A cautious run. "My soft tyres weren't really optimal for this stage. Let's see on the next."

Sun 11:40



- **SS16: Ogier** - Sixth quickest in stage and Seb's rally lead stands at 57.9sec with just the Power Stage to go. Big push planned? "We don't have the right tyres for the Power Stage. There are many drivers on the softs and our super softs are going to suffer a lot there. The plan for us is finish the rally and win it. Happy so far but still 14km to go. There were no easy moments in this rally."

Sun 11:39



- **SS16: Tanak** - Safely through in the seventh-fastest time. "More or less the same as this morning. Still very hard but we had a clean run."

Sun 11:32



- **SS16: Latvala** - Sixth quickest so far. "It's been a tough Sunday but everything is going according to plan. Not too bad but of course you have to be very careful."

Sun 11:28



- **SS16: Lappi** - Snow packed in the front end of his Yaris. What happened? "Straight into a snow bank and I had to reverse. The pace note was correct. I don't know what happened - we just went straight on. Now my super-soft tyres are finished. I'll have to use the studs I think."

Sun 11:26



- **SS16: Meeke** - Fifth quickest. "Crazy conditions, full black ice. I felt more comfortable on the slicks than on the studs. Okay, I have no idea of my time. We don't know. 'All Live' means nothing for the crews, but the whole world knows!"

Sun 11:24



- **SS16: Evans** - 1.5sec slower than Neuville - and Evans holds on to sixth place. The gap between them heading to the final stage: 7.2sec. "The stage was okay but not perfect. We tried, but it looks like Thierry is pushing hard now. Let's see."

Sun 11:21



- **SS16: Neuville** - Safely through in the fastest time so far. "Really tricky conditions but better than this morning. Same for all of us now on the tyres I think. I tried to drive fast."

Sun 11:16



- **SS16: Bouffer** - He completes 1m24sec slower than Breen. "Very bad - I had information that the corner was not frozen but it was. The car is fine. There were not many spectators around - it took time."

Sun 11:15



- **SS16: Bouffier update** - Back on the road and underway again!

Sun 11:13



- **SS16: Bouffier update** - Co-driver Xavier Panseri is out of the car and helping spectators push it off the snow bank.

Sun 11:12



- **SS16: Breen** - "The road is more polished now. In some places the grip is better but in others it's shiny like glass."

Sun 11:11



- **SS16: Bouffier** - WRC+ live tracking shows him stopped at 13.7km. He's gone off. Spectators are on hand trying to push his Ford back on the road.

Sun 11:10

-  **SS16: Conditions** - Similar to earlier. Dry and damp sections, depending on the position of the sun, and then more ice as the road climbs towards the Col.

Sun 11:05

-  **SS16: LIVE** - And WRC Live is riding on board with Craig Breen.

Sun 11:01

-  **Next stage: 1055hrs** - That's Breen's start time for SS16 - the repeat of the La Bollene Vesubi – Peira Cava stage - the penultimate test of the rally. We'll resume our text service then.

Sun 10:08

-  **Up next: Refuel** - Crews are en route to L'Escarne for a top up before the repeat loop.

Sun 10:07

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS15** - 1.Kopecky 4h10m43.4s, 2.De Mevius +13m30.0, 3.Sciessere +21m19.4s, 4.Suninen +33m39.5s

Sun 10:06

-  **SS15: WRC 2 Sciessere** - The Italian punctured in SS14 and had to stop and change the wheel. He lost about three minutes but retains third position in WRC 2.

Sun 10:04

-  **SS15: WRC 2 Suninen** - Quickest R5 driver through so far. "A difficult one. Lots of mud or gravel or something on the road."

Sun 10:00

-  **SS15: WRC 2 De Mevius** - "Everything is good. We are just driving to get to the finish now."

Sun 09:58

-  **SS15: WRC 2 Kopecky** - Cleanly through and now just two stages separate Jan and victory in the WRC 2 category. "I'm trying to enjoy it but I must be careful - keep the car in the middle of the. With this lead, I have nothing more to gain but everything to lose."

Sun 09:51

-  **Monte after SS15** - 1.Ogier 3h55m08.1s, 2.Tänak +46.2s, 3.Latvala +1m51.7s, 4.Lappi +4m39.9s, 5.Meeke +4m52.9s, 6.Evans +5m15.7s, 7.Neuville +5m24.4s

Sun 09:47

-  **SS15: Mikkelsen** - Second quickest, 3sec slower than his team-mate Mikkelsen. "I tried to drive at an okay pace to see how it is. An okay stage, a lot of gravel about but we can go faster."

Sun 09:45

-  **SS15: Ogier** - Seventh quickest. "No mistake, but I had to stop briefly near the finish, a spectator had set off a flare and I couldn't see through the smoke."

Sun 09:43

-  **SS15: Tanak** - Slowest through and well cushioned in second position. "This one was tricky. We have a big gap in front and behind, so just keeping it safe."

Sun 09:39



- **SS15: Latvala** - 8.3sec off the pace here but treating this more as a high-speed recce. "Not taking any kind of risks on this stage, just ticking off all the corners before the Power Stage."

Sun 09:37



- **SS15: Lappi** - Fourth quickest so far and seemingly relaxed about having Meeke close behind. "No problems. Just coming safely through. We did well on the previous stage so we didn't need to push too hard here."

Sun 09:34



- **SS15: Meeke** - Second quickest so far. "A hellish stage. This rally never ceases to amaze me. Black ice on loose gravel? Just trying to stay on the road to be honest."

Sun 09:30



- **SS15: Evans** - Slower than Neuville by 6.1ses, and that puts the Belgian just 8.7sec behind in the standings. "Some discrepancy in the car about Thierry's time from the last stage. We have I didn't have a great stage, quite a bit of understeer - it's knocking my confidence."

Sun 09:28



- **SS15: Neuville** - Quickest so far and on a mission as he hunts down Evans and Meeke ahead. "I was surprised by how good my time was in the first one. This one was more tricky than I expected, the gravel was very slippery. I'm not so sure about my rhythm, but it wasn't so bad."

Sun 09:24



- **SS15: Bouffier** - 7sec slower than Breen. "I was very slow, it was not easy to find the right pace. Very narrow and slippery. Not great driving but we are here."

Sun 09:21



- **SS15: Breen** - 10m39.4s "Really tricky. A lot more wet and damp than I imagined. I thought the soft tyres would be good - in fact the super-soft would have been better. A lot of gravel and frost in places."

Sun 09:18



- **Monte after SS14** - 1.Ogier 3h44m22.3s, 2.Tänak +45.0s, 3.Latvala +1m55.1s, 4.Lappi +4m46.3s, 5.Meeke +4m59.9s, 6.Evans +5m20.5s, 7.Neuville +5m36.1s

Sun 09:14



- **Stage info: SS15** - La Cabanette - Col de Braus 1, 13.58km This stage has never been driven competitively after it was cancelled at the last minute in 1973, but it is a well-known testing location. It starts with a famous downhill section, south-facing and filled with 16 hairpin bends. It climbs to Col de l'Orme (1000 metres) and Col de l'Ablé (1149 metres), before a final downhill portion leads to the access for Col de Braus, with four more spectacular hairpins on the way.

Sun 09:10



- **SS15: LIVE** - We cross straight over to the second stage. Breen started at 0908hrs.

Sun 09:10



- **SS14: Ogier** - Quickest through and Seb is smiling. Comms issues means we can't hear from the man himself. With three stages to run, his rally lead over Tanak is up to 45sec.

Sun 09:06



- **SS14: Tanak** - Third fastest so far, and no sign of a Sunday victory challenge. "Others can push if they want but I'm not so keen to - not in these conditions."

Sun 09:03



- **SS14: Latvala** - "More icy than we thought it would be. Luckily we went with the safe tyre option."

Sun 09:00



- **SS14: Lappi** - "We had the ice marked on the downhill but there was black ice on the uphill too."

Sun 08:58



- **SS14: Meeke** - "Very tricky. I think the weather has turned colder since the gravel crews went through - conditions have changed. We'll only know whether the tyres were correct at the end of the rally."

Sun 08:57



- **SS14: Evans** - 17.8sec slower than Neuville. "Incredibly slippery. I'm not sure if my tyres were correct - whether the studs made much difference on the descent."

Sun 08:55



- **SS14: Neuville** - Quickest so far but shaking his head. "There was ice in the last 7km and I had no information in my notes."

Sun 08:53



- **SS14: Bouffier** - The Frenchman completes 10.3sec quicker than Breen, despite his half spin.

Sun 08:51



- **SS14: Breen** - Safely through in 14m24.3s. "I tried to drive clean and save my tyres. The frost started to get worse and worse. Tricky on the descent."

Sun 08:49



- **SS14: snow watch** - Craig approaching the Col now and there is a lot of snow about. The ploughs have created snow banks several feet high either side of the road. The road surface looks very frosty in places.

Sun 08:46



- **SS14: Bouffier** - Overcooks a left-hand hairpin and noses his Fiesta into the apex. He reverses and gets underway again. A few seconds lost.

Sun 08:41



- **Stage info: SS14** - La Bollene Vesubie - Peira Cava, 18.41km The rally's signature stage features the climb to the summit of the mythical Col de Turini (1607 metres), one of the championship's iconic locations. A new start in front of La Bollène-Vésubie city hall leads into a straightforward climb of Turini on medium to wide roads. The difficulties may start when approaching the pass and especially on the treacherous descent to Peira-Cava on a fast and winding road under the trees, where snow and ice are likely.

Sun 08:36



- **SS14: Live** - Breen is underway. Stage notes coming up.

Sun 08:34



- **Tyres** - A mixed bag of options for today's final stages. Here is who has what: Latvala/Lappi/Tanak/Meeke/Ogier/Evans: 2 winter studs & 2 super-softs & 2 softs. Bouffier: 3 super-softs & 3 Softs. Neuville/Breen: 4 softs and 2 super softs. Mikkelsen: 5 softs

Sun 08:30



- **Start intervals** - Two-minute intervals for the World Rally Cars. One-minute intervals for WRC 2 and WRC 3 competitors.

Sun 08:23



- **Running order** - Reverse rally classification today. Here's how they'll line up: 1. Breen, 2. Bouffier, 3. Neuville, 4. Evans, 5. Meeke, 6. Lappi, 7. Latvala, 8. Tänak, 9. Ogier, 10. Mikkelsen

Sun 08:23



- **Ice and snow?** - Not much to speak of. On SS14, the climb on the road to the Col de Turini is completely clear. At the top, the temperature is -1°C and there are patches of frost there and on the subsequent descent.

Sun 08:19



- **Weather** - Sunrise at 0752hrs was very pleasant from our position next to the harbour. Clear blue sky overhead and a mild 9°C. Clear skies too over today's stages, although the temperature in the mountains is a few degrees colder.

Sun 08:19



- **Stage live times** - SS14: 0832hrs. SS15: 0908hrs. SS16: 1055hrs. SS17: 1218hrs.

Sun 08:19



- **Sunday's vital stats** - Start: 0649hrs. Number of stages: 4. Stage distance: 63.98km. Finish: 1358hrs.

Sun 08:18



- **Sunday's itinerary 2/2** - ...followed by La Cabanette-Col de Braus, which hosts the rally-ending Live TV Power Stage before the finish back in Monaco. All stages are run on the same tyres, and without a service.

Sun 08:18



- **Sunday's itinerary 1/2** - Today's schedule consists of two stages each run twice: La Bollene Vesubie-Peira Cava features the legendary Col de Turini where huge crowds will gather to witness the cars pass the summit...

Sun 08:18



- **So, what's happening?** - It's day four or four at the Monte. The decisive and final day. Coming up, four asphalt stages in the Alpes-Maritimes to the north.

Sun 08:10



- **We're live** - In Monte Carlo today, providing text updates on all the stage action for wrc.com and the WRC app.

Sun 08:10



- **Good morning** - And welcome back to our live text coverage of Rallye Monte-Carlo

Sun 08:10



- **Until then** - Keep an eye on wrc.com for all the latest news, and don't forget the new 'All Live' service on WRC+ for loads more exclusive Rallye Monte-Carlo content. Bye for now.

Sat 17:04



- **Join us on Sunday** - For the grand finale - the fourth and final leg of Rallye Monte-Carlo. We'll be here from 0832hrs, when the action kicks off with the La Bollene Vesubie - Peira Cava stage - home to the iconic Col de Turini.

Sat 17:01



- **Stages complete** - And that's where we'll end our live text coverage today

Sat 16:58

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS13** - 1.Kopecky 3h44m35.3s, 2.De Mevius +12m12.0, 3.Sciessere +17m06.0s, 4.Suninen +33m57.9s

Sat 16:58

-  **Monte after SS13** - 1.Ogier 3h30m30.9s, 2.Tänak +33.5s, 3.Latvala +1m32.7s, 4.Lappi +4m38.5s, 5.Meeke +4m40.1s

Sat 16:56

-  **SS13: WRC 2 Kopecky** - No issues for the runaway leader in WRC 2 - although he's not having an easy time following the latest-spec World Rally Cars. "They are so powerful they pull lots more dirt onto the road in the slow corners. Its really noticeable with the 2017 cars. I have to be cautious but at the same time follow their lines."

Sat 16:53

-  **SS13: Mikkelsen** - Slowest through so far. "There was a lot of gravel here and not so much to gain. It's all about the Power Stage now, and that means we have to get through today. No risks."

Sat 16:45

-  **SS13: Ogier** - Eighth quickest, 16sec slower than stage leader Neuville, but his rally lead over Tanak is 33.5sec. "That means it's all going to plan. I wanted to be 30 seconds ahead tonight. It was very dirty in there, maybe my tyres were not the perfect choice. I was a bit on the limit."

Sat 16:44

-  **SS13: Tanak** - Sixth quickest for Tanak on the super-softs. "In the dirty places the tyres was good but in the dry they were overheating a bit. It's difficult to have the perfect tyre in this stage."

Sat 16:41



- **SS13: Lappi** - 7.8sec quicker than Meeke and Lappi moves ahead again in the standings. "Good. I mean, it's easier now that when we did the stage on Thursday. I was trying to use what I learned."

Sat 16:39



- **SS13: Latvala** - Now Latvala slots fourth quickest so far, 9.1sec off the pace. "For sure there is more and more mud on the road. It will get slower and slower I think. Sometimes the sun was in my eyes and I couldn't see so clearly."

Sat 16:36



- **SS13: Meeke** - Fourth quickest so far, 12sec off the pace. "I had a good stage but I stalled in a hairpin and lost one or two secs there. There is more and more mud being pulled out. Let's see how the other guys do - Lappi is the important one."

Sat 16:34



- **SS13: Bouffier** - 19.8sec off the pace. "Good fun on this stage. It's unbelievable, going from driving so slowly earlier to now this."

Sat 16:32



- **SS13: Evans** - 2.1sec slower than Neuville. "It was okay, but there's a lot of dirt on the road already after just two cars. It would have been easy to trip up. A good stage but slippery in places."

Sat 16:30



- **SS13: Neuville** - 2.2sec quicker than Breen. "I tried to do a good stage. I'm on the super-softs, I'm not sure it was the right choice though - okay, it's a compromise."

Sat 16:28



- **SS13: Breen** - Craig completes in 14m35.0s. "It was nice to have a clean road. I really, really enjoyed it. A good feeling in the car, but I wasn't committed enough in a

couple of places. If I was in a fight, I reckon it's a stage for soft tyres, but I did my best to make the stage as messy as possible. Let's see how they get on."

Sat 16:27

-  **SS13: Splits watch** - Breen +3.6s compared to Neuville at the 13.33km split.

Sat 16:21

-  **SS13: Splits watch** - Breen 3.1s compared to Neuville at the 7.72km split.

Sat 16:19

-  **SS13: Conditions** - A mix of sunshine and shade in this one. In the sunny sections the asphalt is bone dry.

Sat 16:10

-  **SS13: LIVE** - Breen underway.

Sat 16:09

-  **Tyres** - All change again for today's final stage now the ice and snow has melted away. All Michelin WRC drivers have left with 6 Super-softs EXCEPT Ogier, who has 4 Softs & 1 Super-soft, and Evans/Bouffier who have 5 Softs.

Sat 16:07

-  **Weather** - A big contrast to this morning. Clear blue skies, bright sunshine and a temperature of 11°C.

Sat 16:06

-  Welcome back - SS13 coming up.

Sat 16:05

-  **Stage info: SS13** - Bayons - Bréziers 2, 25.49km. Run in darkness on Thursday, Bayons was driven in the opposite direction for many years in the 1980s and 1990s, and this way 12 months ago. The start is very quick before it climbs through a series of narrow hairpins to the summit of the 1184 metres Col des Sagnes. It descends through the villages of Turriers and Bellaffaire on a fast and wide road before a flatter, but more technical, narrower and complicated section to the finish.

Sat 14:07

-  **Next stage: 1609hrs** - That's Breen's start time for the repeat of Bayons – Breziers. We'll resume our texting then. Stage notes coming up in the meantime.

Sat 14:06

-  **Up next: Service** - Crews are returning to Gap for a 30-minute service before Saturday's final test. Watch the service live on WRC+

Sat 14:04

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS12** - 1.Kopecky 3h28m37.2s, 2.De Mevius +11m34.7, 3.Sciessere +16m00.6s, 4.Suninen +34m08.8s.

Sat 14:03

-  **SS12: WRC 2 De Mevius** - "No risks because I think we have a problem with the rear of the car. I just drove to the end and that's it. I need to check in service"

Sat 14:01

-  **Monte after SS12** - 1.Ogier 3h15m42.1s, 2.Tänak +39.5s, 3.Latvala +1m39.6s, 4.Meeke +4m44.1s, 5.Lappi +4m50.3s

Sat 13:58

-  **SS12: WRC 2 Suninen** - "The stage before was quite good. This was more difficult on the winter tyres but we are learning and will be faster here next year." Suninen politely declines the honey.

Sat 13:56

-  **SS12: WRC 2 Kopecky** - His Skoda fitted with studded tyres all round. "The safe option. With our lead we stay on the safe side."

Sat 13:55

-  **SS12: Gift update** - Each WRC crew was presented with a jar of local honey at the stage end. Strange scenes as co-drivers search for somewhere to secure it for the journey back to service.

Sat 13:53

-  **SS12: Mikkelsen** - "Quite foggy in there, it was coming and going."

Sat 13:48

-  **SS12: Ogier** - Seb completes sixth quickest, 8.6sec slower than Tanak. The gap behind to Tanak in the standings slims to 39.5sec. What's the plan? "Try to stay in the lead. I think now we are finished with the snow."

Sat 13:47

-  **SS12: Tanak** - Second quickest. "Nothing special let's say, not trying, a consistent run, I'm not pushing." Why are you not pushing? "You should try driving here - these are tricky conditions." Boom.

Sat 13:43



- **SS12: Lappi** - Second quickest, 13.5sec quicker than Meeke, and the gap between them in the standings is down to 6.2sec. "Good. I was trying. After the puncture on the previous stage, I was trying really hard. A good run."

Sat 13:40



- **SS12: Latvala** - "Very slippery at the end. The mud was a problem here - not the ice."

Sat 13:35



- **SS12: Meeke** - Slowest so far after nudging his Citroen into a snow bank on the Col. "With Esapekka Lappi's puncture we're up to 4th, but he's not far behind. We lost a bit in here."

Sat 13:34



- **SS12: Bouffier** - "We have two studded and two snow tyres. The studs were very slippery in the mud. We have good fun."

Sat 13:30



- **SS12: Evans** - Quickest so far, despite a very wide moment near the finish and a serious comms issue: "Just before the start the intercom packed up and I reckon I only heard 40 per cent of the pace notes. Okay, it's a stage I know, and I've been doing my homework, but I didn't get much information about the conditions. I just had to drive as I saw it."

Sat 13:28



- **SS12: Neuville** - 12.4sec quicker than Breen. "I pushed a bit more in this one, but there was a lot of gravel and the road was very slippery. I enjoyed it though - the first enjoyable one today."

Sat 13:24



- **SS12: Breen** - A time of 11m01.0s and there's a smile on Craig's face. "Pretty hairy on this mix of tyres, but we're making progress up the leaderboard. Incredibly slippery and grimy at the end."

Sat 13:22



- **SS12: Conditions** - Much clearer than the previous test. 90% wet Tarmac in the opening section. Still some ice and slush over the Col, then totally frost-free - and even drying - in the final section.

Sat 13:12



- **SS12: LIVE** - Breen away on time

Sat 13:09



- **SS12: Standby** - WRC+ live tracking shows cars gathering at the start control. Breen's start time: 1308hrs.

Sat 13:09



- **Monte WRC2 after SS11** - 1.Kopecky 3h16m56.7s, 2.De Mevius +10m40.9, 3.Sciessere +15m30.5s, 4.Suninen +34m12.1s. Camilli stops.

Sat 13:07



- **SS11: WRC 2 De Mevius** - Problems for the man placed second in WRC 2. "I don't know what is wrong but in the middle of the stage I took a cut, hit something and now something is wrong at the rear. We need to go and look."

Sat 13:03



- **SS11: WRC 2 Camilli** - Stopped in stage at 27km - almost within sight of the finish. His Fiesta is parked on the roadside.

Sat 12:57

-  **SS11: WRC 2 Suninen** - "We have made some changes with the team and now it feels better. Difficult to push, but if you do you can gain a lot."

Sat 12:55

-  **SS11: WRC 2 Kopecky** - "Now it's much better than the morning. We don't need to hurry up, but we can still enjoy the drive."

Sat 12:52

-  **Monte after SS11** - 1.Ogier 3h04m42.9s, 2.Tänak +48.1s, 3.Latvala +1m44.4s, 4.Meeke +4m38.6s, 5.Lappi +4m58.3s. Lappi puncture. Evans up to 6th.

Sat 12:51

-  **SS11: Mikkelsen** - "A clean stage. A bit careful in places."

Sat 12:48

-  **SS11: Ogier** - Second quickest, 15.3sec off Tanak's pace. "All good," he says. "I'm not in the position to take risks. I think I have a good gap. It's okay." That lead gap to Tanak slims to 48.1sec.

Sat 12:47

-  **SS11: Lappi** - He arrives straight after Tanak. "Puncture" he explains. What happened? "Off," he replies before driving away.

Sat 12:45

-  **SS11: Tanak** - Quickest so far - 18sec up on Evans - and he can't believe it after his off into a field. "I have no idea. This was a lucky place where we went off - I'm happy we went off there. Tricky with the black top - it's so, so hard."

Sat 12:43

-  **SS11: Tanak** - Off into the field! He follows Neuville's lines and pops back onto the road.

Sat 12:37

-  **SS11: Latvala** - Second quickest, three-tenths slower than Evans. "Not good news about Esapekka. I'm sorry for him. Conditions are less tricky now. You can push more."

Sat 12:37

-  **SS11: Lappi** - Moving again

Sat 12:35

-  **SS11: Meeke** - Second quickest so far and another driver to visit the field. "We lost about eight seconds."

Sat 12:34

-  **SS11: Lappi** - WRC+ live tracking shows him stopped at 18.4km

Sat 12:33

-  **SS11: Bouffier** - 29sec slower than Evans here and Bryan loses sixth position to the Welshman. "We went wide in a junction - a lot of fog and I went off into the field. Maybe we lost eight seconds. It's okay."

Sat 12:32

-  **SS11: Bouffier** - He too has taken a trip into Neuville's field.

Sat 12:29

-  **SS11: Evans** - Quickest so far, 8.3sec up on Neuville's time. "I was a little surprised - not the best feeling in there. We were quite clean, tried to stay in the ruts. We had some studs on the car but in these conditions we didn't need them."

Sat 12:28

-  **SS11: Neuville** - 12.6sec quicker than Breen. "We went into a field under braking - huge aquaplaning. I know I wasn't the first. A small spin earlier as well, we went backwards when we touched the snow."

Sat 12:25

-  **SS11: Breen** - He completes in 19m45.6s. "I enjoyed that one. Tricky in places, a bit of fog, I could only see 30 or 40m ahead on the 1km straight. Really good fun."

Sat 12:23

-  **SS11: Neuville** - Another moment. This time he misses a junction and takes a long detour through a field. He crashes through a snow bank and back on the road.

Sat 12:21

-  **SS11: Neuville** - Lucky to escape a hairy moment. The rear of his i20 steps out in a tight left hander, rides up a bank and thumps back down onto the road. No obvious damage evident.

Sat 12:16

-  **SS11: LIVE** - Craig is underway. The stage running with a three-minute delay.

Sat 12:00

-  **SS11: Delay** - Due to concerns over the positioning of some spectators.

Sat 11:58

-  **SS11: Breen** - He's on the start line, having one last drink from his bottle.

Sat 11:56

-  **SS11: Conditions** - Much better than this morning's pass. Two clear, wet, lines in the slush now. Still plenty of slush off line.

Sat 11:55

-  **Weather update** - Warmer than this morning, 8°C, skies clearing, some patches of blue over Gap.

Sat 11:53

-  **Tyres** - Here's who has what for stages 11 and 12 - in terms of numbers and studded (S) or non-studded (NS): Ogier/Neuville/Mikkelsen/Breen/Meeke: 4NS&2S. Evans/Bouffier: 3NS&3S. Latvala/Tanak/Lappi: 5NS

Sat 11:50

-  **Welcome back** - Saturday's repeat loop coming up.

Sat 11:47

-  **Next stage: 1157hrs** - That's Breen's start time for the repeat of Agnieres en Devoluy – Corps, the first stage of the second loop. We'll resume our texting then.

Sat 10:14

-  **Up next: Service** - Crews returning to Gap for the first of two 30-minute services today. Follow all the action live via WRC+

Sat 10:12

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS10** - 1.Kopecky 2h56m31.0s, 2.De Mevius +9m39.6, 3.Sciessere +14m14.6s, 4.Camilli +24m48.7s, 5.Suninen +34m41.9s. Abbring stops after flying finish (SS9)

Sat 10:11

-  **Monte after SS10** - 1.Ogier 2h45m21.2s, 2.Tänak +1m03.4s, 3.Latvala +1m41.1s, 4.Lappi +2m06.6s, 5.Meeke +4m29.8s

Sat 10:00

-  **SS10: WRC 2 Camilli** - "It was always my dream to drive Rallye Monte-Carlo, but in these conditions I'm not sure I'm enjoying it"

Sat 09:55

-  **SS10: WRC 2 Suninen** - Five-tenths quicker than Kopecky. "This last stage was a bit easier. I still need to improve."

Sat 09:54

-  **SS10: WRC 2 Kopecky** - "It was really difficult on the first stage. We are leading and the gap is so big - it's difficult to drive like this and get to the finish. It's crazy. Not easy."

Sat 09:53

-  **SS10: Mikkelsen** - Second quickest here for the Rally 2 re-starter. "An okay drive. Apart from the Power Stage I don't have much to go for. Just driving to what feels right."

Sat 09:51



- **SS10: Ogier** - The rally leader completes third fastest, 8.2sec off Tanak's pace. Ogier's rally lead now 1m03.4s. A more cautious run? "Yes, backing off a little more, it's never fun in the slush. Happy so far, but I'm sure the afternoon will be difficult again."

Sat 09:50



- **SS10: Tanak** - Quickest so far. "The stage was a lot better than the one before but it seems we have a problem with our dampers. They are solid. We need to check them in service."

Sat 09:47



- **SS10: Lappi** - Quickest. "This was a bit better. Melting down a bit. The previous one was not on this planet. This is why the Monte is such a legendary rally."

Sat 09:42



- **SS10: Latvala** - Quickest so far in 12m33.9s. "This was easier. The downhill part was open, not so much snow and ice. The first stage was like Turinin in 2013/4."

Sat 09:40



- **SS10: Meeke** - Fourth quickest. "Tricky. I tried my best and I'm still trying to be very careful. With big gaps in front and behind I'm just trying to managing it. But even that's not easy."

Sat 09:39



- **SS10: Bouffier** - "A bit better, we are in a typical Monte-Carlo Rally for sure. The car is good fun to drive."

Sat 09:37



- **SS10: Evans** - 6.5sec quicker than Neuville. "A bit better than expected to be honest. The snow had gone from the downhill section. An okay stage."

Sat 09:35

-  **SS10: Neuville** - 13.8sec quicker than Breen. "Much easier than the first one. A good stage. A shame the battle with Evans isn't closer. We continue - the day is long and many surprises still to come."

Sat 09:34

-  **SS10: Breen** - "A big contrast between conditions here and the slush at the start. I was aquaplaning on top of the slush. Hats off to my ice note crew."

Sat 09:32

-  **SS10: Conditions** - Snow thins out as the stage drops towards the finish. There is none at all at the stage end - at 906 metres.

Sat 09:30

-  **SS10: Snow watch** - Snow piled high by the side of the road at the Col de Moissière. Icy patches.

Sat 09:28

-  **SS10: Neuville** - Near the start Thierry overcooks a long left-hander, drifts wide, then half-spins. He loses couple of seconds.

Sat 09:23

-  **SS10: Conditions** - Less clean white snow than SS9. It's a slushy start in the village, but generally clearer and wetter. No rain or snow falling.

Sat 09:20

-  **SS10: LIVE** - Breen underway

Sat 09:16

-  **Stage info: SS10 - St Leger les Mélèzes - La-Bâtie Neuve 1. 16.87km.**  
The start has been moved to allow crews to race through Saint-Léger-les-Mélèzes, including a spectacular 'donut' at the roundabout entering the village. A steep but pacy climb to Col de Moissière (1574 m) negotiates several hairpins exiting the Ancelle ski resort, after which it descends on a narrow and bumpy road which twists and turns through Sapet forest. The final section is wide with a series of long open hairpins to the finish.

Sat 09:12

-  **Up next: SS10 - Breen due to start at 0916hrs. Stage notes coming up.**

Sat 09:12

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS9 - 1.Kopecky 2h43m28.1s, 2.Abbring +8m03.3s, 3.De Mevius +9m03.4, 4.Sciessere +13m24.5s.**

Sat 09:11

-  **Monte after SS9 - 1.Ogier 2h32m49.4s, 2.Tänak +1m18.4s, 3.Latvala +1m39.0s, 4.Lappi +2m14.8s, 5.Meeke +4m08.2s. Sordo retires (ditch)**

Sat 09:09

-  **Monte after SS9 - 1.Ogier 2h32m49.4s, 2.Tänak +1m18.4s, 3.Latvala +1m39.0s, 4.Lappi +2m14.8s, 5.Meeke +4m08.2s. Sordo retires (ditch)**

Sat 09:09

-  **SS9: WRC 2 Abbring - The Dutchman completes - and gets a time - but stops with an engine problem between the flying finish and the stop control. His car's radiator was damaged in stage and lost its coolant. He had been second in WRC 2.**

Sat 09:06



- **SS9: WRC 2 Suninen** - 53sec quicker than Kopecky. But he's not smiling either. "At least we finished the stage, but I'm not happy. There are some things we need to change about my driving."

Sat 09:04



- **SS9: WRC 2 Kopecky** - Not a great start for the leader in WRC 2. "I had a big moment near the start. In the slush I was driving at recce speed. The car was doing nothing."

Sat 09:03



- **SS9: Mikkelsen** - Quickest so far for the Norwegian, back today after his retirement on Friday. "This is proper Monte-Carlo. Really difficult conditions. We spun three times in a straight line!"

Sat 09:01



- **SS9: Ogier** - A stunning time - 28.9sec quicker than Latvala - and Ogier's rally lead is up to 1m18.4s. He completes with a broken left rear wheel. "One of the worst stages in my career. So much slush, it was super tricky, I was watching the lines in the road and they were going everywhere - I passed Sordo in a ditch."

Sat 08:57



- **SS9: Tanak** - He completes 34.6sec slower than Latvala - and that puts Jari-Matti right back in the fight! "No chance to push at all," says Tanak. "A few places you try you are out immediately. I didn't enjoy the spins and things - definitely not enjoyable."

Sat 08:53



- **SS9: Lappi** - Second quickest, 36sec off Latvala's pace. "I think you can really win a lot of time on this stage if you want to try, but for me it's not about that, I really didn't want to crash, it's so easy to. I guess it was quite slow but it's okay."

Sat 08:49



- **SS9: Latvala** - Quickest so far in 26m02.9s. "I'm relieved to be here. Snow can be nice, but this was not nice at all. Melting, soft snow, slush. Go wide and you don't know where you're going to end up."

Sat 08:47



- **SS9: Meeke** - 8.6sec quicker than Neuville. "I have no idea how this time will compare. In these conditions it's the most challenging. I had one spin, which cost about 12sec."

Sat 08:45



- **SS9: Bouffier** - "No spin, I drive very safe, I did my best."

Sat 08:43



- **SS9: Evans** - "I lost the rear in the braking. It was safer to let it spin. You never know in these conditions - there were lines everywhere. I tried to stay in the cleanest one possible and be smart."

Sat 08:42



- **SS9: Neuville** - 1m31s quicker than Breen. "Horrible conditions. Some clean lines towards the end and getting cleaner but it's so easy to get out of the line. I tried to be steady and efficient but it will get faster for those behind."

Sat 08:41



- **SS9: Breen** - First to complete in 28m37.2s. "Holy God, that was pretty incredible. A track the width of a tyre in the road and the moment you get off it, it's over. I'm a bit of a snowplow this morning."

Sat 08:40



- **SS9: Sordo update** - From Hyundai: 'Went off the road on SS9. Crew OK.'

Sat 08:37

-  **SS9: Breen** - Approaching the finish. A much clearer road, a cleaner line, but still plenty of slush.

Sat 08:36

-  **SS9: Sordo** - WRC live tracking shows Dani's car stopped at 11.2km. The Spaniard started the day in third position.

Sat 08:34

-  **SS9: Neuville** - Thicker black lines in the road as the altitude drops towards the end of the stage. Thierry just touched 174kph. Much of the stage has been in second and third gear.

Sat 08:32

-  **SS9: Spins** - Meeke spins at 6.3km. A half spin reported for Elfyn Evans.

Sat 08:27

-  **SS9: Splits watch** - Expect some big variations in the front runners here as conditions change with each passing car. Evans is quickest of the three drivers to have reached the 7.79km split. Breen is 45sec slower.

Sat 08:26

-  **SS9: Breen** - Very changeable conditions. The Irishman now negotiating a patch of low cloud and drizzly rain.

Sat 08:18

-  **SS9: Neuville** - Second car underway, and already it's a different view from the cockpit - with two black lines of Tarmac appearing through the snow.

Sat 08:12

-  **SS9: LIVE** - And Craig is underway. A fully white road. It could be Sweden.

Sat 08:08

-  **SS9: Breen** - We're watching WRC All Live footage from the Irishman's Citroen. It looks like a winter wonderland at SS9.

Sat 08:07

-  **Stage info: SS9** - Agnières-en-Dévoluy - Corps 1, 29.16km. Set in the heart of the Dévoluy mountains, this test is pacy and mostly downhill on narrow roads that are far from easy. The big difference with last year is a modified second half towards Corps, via Pellafol, but crews will still enjoy superb views of the Sautet dam.

Sat 08:05

-  **SS9 standby** - WRC+ live tracking shows cars gathering at the start control. Ogier's start time: 0808hrs. Stage notes coming up.

Sat 08:04

-  **Start intervals** - Two-minute intervals for the World Rally Cars. One-minute intervals for WRC 2 and WRC 3 competitors.

Sat 08:04

-  **Running order** - Reverse rally classification today. Here's how they'll line up: 1. Breen, 2. Neuville, 3. Evans, 4. Bouffier, 5. Meeke, 6. Latvala, 7. Lappi, 8. Sordo, 9. Tänak, 10. Ogier, 11. Mikkelsen

Sat 08:03



- **Tyres** - All change! Teams have ditched the soft/super-softs in favour of Michelin's winter options. Here's who has what this morning - in terms of numbers and studded (S) or non-studded (S): Ogier/Latvala/Lappi/Tanak/Sordo: 5S. Evans/Bouffier/Neuville/Mikkelsen/Breen/Meeke: 6S

Sat 08:03



- **Weather** - Sunrise at 0800hrs revealed a rainy start in Gap, but on the mountain stages it's a very different, wintry, picture and a blanket of snow covers this morning's roads. Snow is falling at the start of SS9 and SS10, but in a mildish 2°C, it's wet and sleety. More snow is expected this morning before a gradual transition to rain. If you want to make a snowman, you'd best do it quickly.

Sat 07:58



- **Stage live times** - SS9: 0808hrs. SS10: 0916hrs. SS11: 1157hrs. SS12: 1308hrs. SS13: 1609hrs.

Sat 07:56



- **Saturday's vital stats** - Start: 0657hrs. Number of stages: 5. Stage distance: 117.55km. Finish: 2217hrs.

Sat 07:56



- **Saturday's itinerary 2/2** - Then there will be a return to Bayons-Breiziers, previously run as SS2 on Thursday night, before a final service in Gap. The crews then make the long drive to Monaco ready for Sunday's conclusion.

Sat 07:56



- **Saturday's itinerary 1/2** - Today's schedule is made up of five stages. Firstly, a pair of stages in the mountains north of Gap is run twice, with each loop followed by service.

Sat 07:55



- **So, what's happening?** - Saturday is day three of four at the Monte, and the action resumes today with a full day of asphalt action in the mountains.

Sat 07:50



- **We're live** - In Gap, providing text updates on all the stage action for [wrc.com](http://wrc.com) and the WRC app.

Sat 07:50



- **Good morning** - And welcome back to our live text coverage of Rallye Monte-Carlo, the opening round of the WRC season.

Sat 07:50



- **Until then** - Keep an eye on [wrc.com](http://wrc.com) for all the latest news, and don't forget WRC+ where you will find extra content like live stage reviews, highlights programmes and our exclusive onboard comparison system.

Fri 17:32



- **Join us on Saturday** - For the third leg of Rallye Monte-Carlo. We'll be here from 0808hrs, when the action kicks off with the Agnieres En Devoluy – Corps stage.

Fri 17:32



- **Stages complete** - And that's where we'll end our live text coverage today

Fri 17:30



- **Monte WRC2 after SS8** - 1.Kopecky 2h15m27.2s, 2.De Mevius +8m28.7s, 3.Abbring +8m59.5, 4.Sciessere +12m35.8s.

Fri 17:30



- **Monte after SS8** - 1.Ogier 2h07m15.4s, 2.Tänak +14.9s, 3.Sordo +59.7s, 4.Lappi +1m09.9s, 5.Latvala +1m10.1s.

Fri 17:28



- **SS8: WRC 2 De Mevius** - "Happy to be at the end. The hardest rally I have done."

Fri 17:25



- **SS8: WRC 2 Abbring** - "Apart from the middle stage we enjoyed a good pace. We know where we have to be with the tyres now and have found a lovely rhythm."

Fri 17:24



- **SS8: WRC 2 Kopecky** - Jan clears the stage with a comfortable lead in WRC 2. "It was disappointing to see the other guys hit problems today. It was a good battle with Eric [Camilli] but I've been in this sport a long time and sometimes this is rallying. Since I saw Eric in trouble I've been taking it easier - a little more careful."

Fri 17:22



- **SS8: Bouffier** - "Still difficult, but a couple of good times times. Not that bad, safe, no mistakes. Now I need a good rest ahead of tomorrow."

Fri 17:15



- **SS8: Lappi** - Lappi slower than Sordo by 1.1sec, so Dani stays third and Esapekka ends the day fourth, 10.2sec adrift. "It's nice to see that even with the same speed I can fight for some positions. Okay, maybe I'm getting there. I need to do a good step if I want to fight for victories in the future but for now I'm quite pleased with the performance."

Fri 17:14



- **SS8: Sordo** - Sixth fastest so far. Will it be third overnight for Dani? Lappi was just 9.1sec behind after the previous stage. "Much better grip than the previous stage but still difficult."

Fri 17:07



- **SS8: Evans** - Fourth quickest here. "An encouraging day, building confidence."

Fri 17:05



- **SS8: Latvala** - Second quickest on stage so far and Latvala rounds off the day in fifth.

Fri 17:04



- **SS8: Tanak** - 8.1sec slower than Neuville but second overnight and fizzing with excitement. "The car feels perfect, it's great to be here in this position and fighting."

Fri 17:03



- **SS8: Neuville** - 12.5sec quicker than Ogier as he fights to regain time lost on Thursday. "The car was working really nicely, I tried to use all the road, keep it smooth and clean. Where can I finish? I don't know. In some stages we have caught 30 sec so anything is possible."

Fri 17:01



- **SS8: Ogier** - He's through in 8m48.7s, and that's the day done for Seb. "It's been difficult for sure, but we are here and still in the leading position. Without the spin I would be a minute in the lead, but to be leading I have to be happy. Tomorrow I will need to be good."

Fri 16:55



- **SS8: Conditions** - A generally damp road but some drying patches. A few spots of rain on the windscreen. More rain near the stage end.

Fri 16:48



- **SS8: LIVE** - And Seb is underway

Fri 16:45



- **SS8: Standby** - Today's final stage. Ogier is on the start line. The rain has stopped.

Fri 16:44



- **Monte WRC2 after SS7** - 1.Kopecky 2h05m58.2s, 2.De Mevius +7m58.5s, 3.Abbring +9m00.0, 4.Sciessere +11m50.1s. Sciessere slips to fourth.

Fri 16:13



- **SS7: WRC 2 Sciessere** - The Italian lost four minutes when he thought he had a puncture. He stopped and waited for the car behind to pass before getting underway again. The delay drops him behind Abbring to fourth in WRC 2.

Fri 16:11



- **Monte after SS7** - 1.Ogier 1h58m26.7s, 2.Tänak +19.3s, 3.Sordo +41.6s, 4.Lappi +9.1, 5.Latvala +5.2s. Half spin for Ogier

Fri 15:59



- **SS7: WRC 2 Kopecky** - The runaway leader in WRC 2 now more than 6min ahead of closest rival De Mevius. "Really heavy rain, so a lot of aquaplaning, lots of mud and poor visibility. It got a bit better, but I needed to be careful on the blacktop - it's like ice."

Fri 15:56

-  **SS7: Breen** - Fourth quickest in his Citroen C3.

Fri 15:53

-  **SS7: Bouffier** - "A lot of blacktop, sliding, aquaplaning. A demanding stage. We drive safe."

Fri 15:52

-  **SS7: Lappi** - Eighth quickest on stage keeps him fourth in the overall standings. "It's getting more tricky. A lot of water flowing like rivers. The road is extremely slippery. It's tricky but we are here."

Fri 15:50

-  **SS7: Meeke** - Slowest so far, 35.5sec off the pace. "Really tricky. The car and the tyres are working well but in the position I'm in I didn't want to do anything stupid. I need to wait for somebody else to make a mistake."

Fri 15:47

-  **SS7: Sordo** - Fourth quickest so far, 27.9sec slower than Evans. "A difficult stage and I lost time because the windscreen was fogged. I couldn't see the inside of the corners."

Fri 15:45

-  **SS7: Evans** - Quickest so far - a second up on Neuville who is chasing his eighth position. "The feeling inside the car was really good. I got a lot of confidence from what was going on. Some slippery sections but for the majority the grip was incredible."

Fri 15:42



- **SS7: Latvala** - Third fastest. "On Tarmac good grip but on blacktop no grip and in standing water no grip."

Fri 15:40



- **SS7: Tanak** - Ott takes 14.6sec out of Ogier's lead - the gap down to 19.3sec. "Very tricky. A lot of mud. In these conditions I have a lot of room to improve. I don't yet have full confidence."

Fri 15:38



- **SS7: Neuville** - The Belgian completes 33.9sec quicker than Ogier. "Horrible conditions. Aquaplaning, a lot of mud, and fog on the side windows meant I couldn't see the cuts. I tried my best. Couldn't do much more."

Fri 15:36



- **SS7: Ogier** - He completes in 19m38.4s. "I spin again in a hairpin and got stuck in a ditch," he explains. "We lost about 30 seconds I think. Very difficult conditions."

Fri 15:34



- **SS7: Ogier update** - He lost the rear in a right-hand hairpin and slipped two wheels into a ditch on the inside. Spectators pushed him out and he's underway again.

Fri 15:31



- **SS7: Ogier off!** - WRC All Live pictures show him off into a ditch at 25km!

Fri 15:29



- **SS7: Conditions** - A bit of everything here: standing water, drier patches, slippery blacktop, rain, low cloud, mud and gravel in the cuts

Fri 15:20

-  **SS7: Weather** - Heavy rain falling as Ogier's Ford Fiesta blasts away from the start line.

Fri 15:12

-  **Next stage: 1511hrs** - That's Ogier's start time for SS7.

Fri 14:51

-  **Up next: Liaison** - Crews are making the 47km road trip to Roussieux and the start of SS7.

Fri 14:51

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS6** - 1.Kopecky 1h45m00.5s, 2.De Mevius +6m30.4s, 3.Sciessere +7m53.5s, 4.Abbring +8m08.5s. Camilli crashes out.

Fri 14:48

-  **SS6: Camilli update** - Slid wide and went off at 3.5km. Retired for the day.

Fri 14:43

-  **Monte after SS6** - 1.Ogier 1h38m48.3s, 2.Tänak +33.9s, 3.Sordo +1m07.9s, 4.Lappi +1m09.5, 5.Latvala +1m18.1s.

Fri 14:42

-  **SS6: WRC 2 Kopecky** - "It started to rain shortly before the start, so the full stage was damp for us. When I saw that Eric [Camilli] had stopped, I slowed down."

Fri 14:39

-  **SS6: Bouffier** - "Very difficult conditions, but more fun. Things are tricky and we have to be more concentrated."

Fri 14:36

-  **SS6: Lappi** - "We got a taste of this one earlier and my gravel crew did a good job, so it wasn't so bad. For me, it felt okay."

Fri 14:34

-  **SS6: Breen** - "The car feels better but it's incredibly tricky. I didn't get a clean run earlier here, but this was not so bad."

Fri 14:32

-  **SS6: Meeke** - Fifth fastest. "There's mud on the road but not enough rain to wash it away. The surface is very greasy."

Fri 14:30

-  **SS6: Sordo** - "Now it's really raining and in this mix of tyres I had to take it a little bit careful."

Fri 14:29

-  **SS6: Tanak** - The Estonian quickest so far, 6.5sec up on Ogier.

Fri 14:27

-  **SS6: Evans** - "The stage was full damp for us everywhere, dry as we expected. Not ideal for us."

Fri 14:26

-  **SS6: Latvala** - "Feeling better than this morning. I'm a bit happier with the car. In some places the rain has made it very slippery, in others it is still dry. It's 50/50. You need a bit of margin."

Fri 14:25

-  **SS6: WRC 2 Camilli** - WRC+ live tracking shows him stopped at 3.5km. He had been second in WRC 2.

Fri 14:23

-  **SS6: Neuville** - Two-tenths slower than Ogier.

Fri 14:21

-  **SS6: Ogier** - Cleanly through in 16m52.0s. "A little concerned about managing my tyres this weekend."

Fri 14:18

-  **Tyres** - Update from Michelin on numbers and compound choices (Soft or Super Soft) taken for the afternoon loop: Ogier/Evans/Bouffier/Neuville/Sordo: 4SS&2S. Latvala: 4SS&1S. Tanak/Lappi: 5SS. Meeke/Breen: 6SS.

Fri 14:11

-  **SS6: LIVE** - Ogier in stage.

Fri 14:04

-  **Weather update** - Light rain falling on Stage 6. The temperature is a mild 6°C.

Fri 14:04

-  **Next stage: 1358hrs** - That's when Ogier will begin the repeat loop. We'll take a live text break until then.

Fri 12:42

-  **Up next: Service** - Crews are driving to their team bases for a 30-minute service.

Fri 12:41

-  **Meeke in service** - Kris brings his Citroen back to service in sixth position. "Quite tricky. With our road position there's a lot of pollution on the road, so we cannot compare [times] to the guys at the front. But even compared to the drivers around us we're still missing something. Now we have a big gap ahead and behind. Already it seems we don't have the pace to compete, and even though it's still only Friday it looks like this rally is going to be about getting points. There's nothing much to fight for in terms of pure speed."

Fri 12:37

-  **Evans in service** - "Today has been better than how we started last night. Slippery, but the car has worked well. A bit on the safe side, we were expecting more rain. Overall the tyre choice wasn't far off."

Fri 12:33

-  **Tanak in service** - Up to second after the morning loop. "I think overall it looks promising. A good drive. I know places where I can improve but otherwise I feel really nice with the car. It's good to be here at this point, but we have seen a very tricky event. Unpredictable as always, let's say. Now we just keep going and try to improve our pace. It's very important to get more experience in the car and improve the feeling."

Fri 12:31

-  **Neuville in service** - "The disaster started for us yesterday, but now we are back in ninth position so all is not lost. A slow puncture harmed us again this morning but we are concentrated on making up more places. Sixth is possible I think."

Fri 12:25

-  **Ogier in service** - "An okay loop but I can't be perfectly happy because I didn't drive too well in the last stage. I had some info that it was more tricky, I was expecting worse than it was and I was too defensive. I could have done better in that one for sure, but on a rally like this you can't be perfect all the time. Now we need to watch the sky and check the forecast for the afternoon."

Fri 12:23

-  **Monte after SS5** - 1.Ogier 1h21m56.3s, 2.Tänak +40.4s, 3.Sordo +47.5s, 4.Lappi +1m04.6, 5.Latvala +1m17.3s. Tänak up to second.

Fri 12:19

-  **SS5: Breen** - He's through with the loss of more than two minutes. "Brakes," he explains. "I got a stone between the bleed nipple and the rim on the first stage and that broke it. We had three brakes for the next stage and now I have nothing. I can barely stop. Not nice."

Fri 12:10

-  **SS5: Lappi** - "This was the cleanest stage of the loop. A bit more damp, more enjoyable than the previous one, which was a nightmare. Craig has a problem, he was slow to leave the line and let us past very well, so thanks a lot."

Fri 12:08

-  **SS5: Meeke** - Sixth quickest.

Fri 12:03

-  **SS5: Breen** - Driving slowly and clearly struggling with his brake problems. He pulls over mid stage and lets Lappi pass.

Fri 12:02

-  **SS5: Sordo** - 11.4sec off the pace here and he loses second place overall to Tanak.

Fri 11:59

-  **SS5: Evans** - Now the Welshman is quickest - three-tenths up on Tanak.

Fri 11:57

-  **SS5: Latvala** - Slowest of the four drivers through so far, 3.2sec off Tanak's pace.

Fri 11:55

-  **SS5: Tanak** - Quickest so far, four-tenths up on Neuville.

Fri 11:54

-  **SS5: Neuville** - The Belgian 1.7sec quicker than Ogier. "I can't be happy after our problems and the puncture today, but we are back in the top ten and now I think maybe top five is possible. The rally is still very long."

Fri 11:54

-  **SS5: Ogier** - He's through in 8m45s and that's the morning loop complete for the rally leader. "Not so happy with my drive on this one, the conditions were much drier than we thought. Not the best for these super soft tyres, so we were a bit on the safe side - but overall not a bad loop."

Fri 11:52

-  **SS5: Ogier** - Rapidly approaching the finish. His Fiesta just clocked a top speed of 197kph.

Fri 11:45

-  **Weather update** - Rain appears to have stopped.

Fri 11:39

-  **SS5: LIVE** - Ogier in stage.

Fri 11:38

-  **Stage info: SS5** - Vaumeilh - Claret 1, 15.18km. An untypical Monte stage with plenty of pace and average speeds will be high. It climbs to Col de Grêle (728 metres) and then crosses the villages of Sigoyer and Melve. Descending to the finish will prove more technical but it remains very fast, with spectacular hairpins in the last portion. New for 2018.

Fri 11:18

-  **Next stage: 1137hrs** - That's Ogier's start time for SS5. Stage notes coming up.

Fri 11:17

-  **Monte WRC2 after SS4** - 1.Kopecky 1h18m09.5s, 2.Camilli +1.2s, 3.De Mevius +4m55.3s, 4.Sciessere +6m02.9s, 5.Abbring +7m12.8s. Suninen crashes.

Fri 11:02

-  **SS4: WRC2 De Mevius** - "Not so bad. We did a spin at the end but the rest was okay. Difficult in the rain."

Fri 10:56

-  **SS4: WRC2 Abbring** - "The car feels nice to drive, the rhythm is coming. It's only my second rally in this car and my first on these tyres."

Fri 10:55



- **Monte after SS4** - 1.Ogier 1h13m11.3s, 2.Sordo +38.5s, 3.Tänak +42.5s, 4.Lappi +1m02.8, 5.Latvala +1m16.2s. Mikkelsen retires (alternator)

Fri 10:54



- **SS4: WRC 2 Camilli** - The category leader cleanly though. No issues reported.

Fri 10:50



- **SS4: Mikkelsen out** - Update from Hyundai: 'Repair not possible so car and crew being brought back to service'

Fri 10:49



- **SS4: WRC 2 Suninen off!** - His Fiesta is off the road and in the trees at 21km. Suninen and his co-driver are out of the car. His onboard camera shows frontal damage - and a felled tree.

Fri 10:47



- **SS4: Bouffier** - Ninth fastest. "Okay, a bit more grippy."

Fri 10:44



- **SS4: Lappi** - Sixth fastest. "Safe, but it's crazy with the dirt. They [the drivers ahead] are cutting like hell."

Fri 10:41



- **SS4: Breen** - 47.1sec off the pace following his earlier rock strike. "Still no brakes. I've lost the rears completely now."

Fri 10:40



- **SS4: Meeke** - Cleanly through, eighth fastest. Kris not sure he made the best tyre choice.

Fri 10:39



- **SS4: Mikkelsen** - Big problems for the Norwegian who has not started the stage. Instead, he is working on his Hyundai before the start - alternator problem. The team confirms he is changing the belt.

Fri 10:38



- **SS4: Sordo** - Fourth quickest. "It's okay, but we made a mistake in the service with our tyres. A misunderstanding. We had the wrong ones for the previous stage and now we have two hard tyres at the front."

Fri 10:36



- **SS4: Evans** - Fourth fastest so far. 12.4s slower than his team-mate Ogier.

Fri 10:33



- **SS4: Latvala** - Slowest driver through so far - 13.7sec off Ogier's pace.

Fri 10:31



- **SS4: Tanak** - The Estonian completes 4sec slower than Ogier.

Fri 10:29



- **SS4: Neuville** - 1.9sec slower than Ogier. "The stage was okay, but I don't know what the best tyre choice was. Mine overheated a bit towards the end, it was hard to find a rhythm."

Fri 10:28



- **SS4: Ogier** - He completes in 18m25.3s. "I think I was a bit wrong with the tyres. I expected more humidity, still, there was a bit of damp which helped the super softs to survive. My lead is okay, but in one stage you can lose a lot here, so even this gap isn't really much."

Fri 10:27



- **SS4: Splits watch** - Neuville 1.5sec slower than Ogier to the 8.22km split

Fri 10:14



- **SS4: LIVE** - Ogier underway. Light rain. Wipers on intermittently.

Fri 10:07



- **Weather update** - WRC TV crew reports rain falling at the midpoint of SS4.

Fri 10:00



- **Stage info: SS4** - Roussieux - Eygalayes 1, 30.54km. It starts in the tiny hamlet of Roussieux, which boasts just 22 residents. It crosses the Col du Reychasset (1052 metres) and Col de Pierre Vesce (1056 metres), before crossing the charming Laborel village. The last section is centred on Col Saint-Jean, climbing and falling to Eygalayes on a road which has often proved treacherous over the years. The stage last appeared in the late 1980s in a slightly different format.

Fri 09:48



- **Next stage: 1004hrs** - That's Ogier's start time for SS4. Stage notes coming up.

Fri 09:47



- **Monte WRC2 after SS3** - 1.Camilli 58m19.8s, 2.Kopecky +15.2s, 3.Suninen +49.3s, 4.De Mevius +3m48.8s, 5.Sciessere +4m50.9s

Fri 09:46



- **Monte after SS3** - 1.Ogier 54m46.0s, 2.Sordo +30.0s, 3.Mikkelsen +34.9s, 4.Tanak +38.5s, 5.Lappi +49.9. Breen brakes. Mikkelsen overshoot. Neuville puncture.

Fri 09:39



- **SS3: WRC 2 Abbring** - "Quite nice to have a stage to get the rhythm back, but we lost the brakes again at the end, so something we have to look at."

Fri 09:37



- **SS3: WRC 2 Suninen** - 10.4 sec off Camilli's pace. "Okay, but we can go faster."

Fri 09:35



- **SS3: WRC 2 Kopecky** - "Better than last night, at least we can see the road today. My soft tyre choice was good I think."

Fri 09:32



- **SS3: WRC 2 Camilli** - The WRC 2 leader through cleanly. "Still happy this morning. A dry stage and very pleasant to drive."

Fri 09:31



- **SS3: Bouffier** - Ninth quickest. No comments from Bryan at the stage end, who leave immediately to let his brakes cool down.

Fri 09:30



- **SS3: Mikkelsen** - Quick at the start, but he drops time in the second split and completes 21.5sec off the pace. What happened? "I went straight on at a junction and had to turn around. Not so good. A very dirty road. Tricky."

Fri 09:28



- **SS3: Lappi** - Seventh quickest. "Quite steady. Lots of dirt in the road. Many surprises and you need to react immediately."

Fri 09:26



- **SS3: Breen** - Craig is more than a minute off the pace and there is oil covering his car's front-right wheel. "No brakes. I hit a stone in the road and something is broken. I had literally nothing for about 10km."

Fri 09:25



- **SS3: Meeke** - 11.6sec off the pace. "Okay, not bad, but a lot more greasy and damp than I expected. A lot of mud on the road. Whether we got the [4S&2SS] tyre choice right I don't know."

Fri 09:22



- **SS3: Sordo** - Fourth quickest through, 8.3sec off the pace. "Not so bad but I struggled a little in the middle in the damp. I didn't push too hard. We take three soft tyres and two super softs, I don't know if its a good choice."

Fri 09:20



- **SS3: Evans** - Third quickest so far, 5.4sec off Tanak's leading pace. "Generally okay but not perfect. Slippery, difficult but okay."

Fri 09:17



- **SS3: Latvala** - Third quickest so far, 11sec slower than his Toyota team-mate Tanak. "Everything is okay, but it's difficult to say how the stage was. In some places quite slippy and I didn't get the best feeling in the car - too much understeer."

Fri 09:16



- **SS3: Tanak** - Quickest so far, 3.9sec up on Ogier. "The middle section was damp as expected. Very tough but okay, we are here."

Fri 09:14



- **SS3: Neuville** - 31.9sec slower than Neuville and he has a rear-left puncture. What happened? "No idea. 10km before the end we got a slow puncture alarm. We continued, which was the right decision. After what happened yesterday it doesn't really matter so much."

Fri 09:12



- **SS3: Ogier** - He's through in 16m36.2s. "Only a short road section, so we have to go, but everything is okay. An okay stage for us. Some very greasy sections, but okay."

Fri 09:10



- **Tyre choices** - Update from Michelin on numbers and compound choices (Soft or Super Soft) drivers have for the morning loop: Ogier/Evans/Bouffier/Neuville: 4SS&2S. Mikkelsen/Latvala/Tanak/Meeke/Breen: 4S&2SS. Sordo: 3S&2SS. Lappi: 3SS&3S

Fri 09:06



- **SS3: Splits watch** - Four cars have reached the 7.55km split. Tanak is quickest so far. Ogier+2.9s. Latvala +3.5s. Neuville +4.4s

Fri 09:04



- **SS3: Splits watch** - Four cars have reached the 7.55km split. Tanak is quickest so far. Ogier+2.9s. Latvala +3.5s. Neuville +4.4s

Fri 09:04



- **SS3: Ogier** - We're riding onboard with Seb on WRC+. Road conditions largely dry. A few damp sections. No ice or snow.

Fri 08:55



- **SS3: LIVE** - Ogier underway

Fri 08:53



- **Stage info: SS3** - Vitrolles - Oze 1, 26.72km. A modified stage from 2017, featuring two-thirds of the Lardier-et-Valença - Faye test with a new start in Vitrolles. There are three passes en route - Col d'Espréaux (1157 metres), Col des Verniers (1042 metres) and Col de la Bachassette (940 metres), with a succession of winding and fast portions. It descends through the valley to the finish in Oze. Tyre choice in here will prove a brain teaser for drivers.

Fri 08:43



- **SS3 standby** - WRC+ live tracking shows cars gathering at the start control. Ogier's start time: 0851hrs. Stage notes coming up.

Fri 08:42



- **Start intervals** - Two-minute intervals for the World Rally Cars. One-minute intervals for WRC 2 and WRC 3 competitors.

Fri 08:36



- **Running order** - We are still in 2017 championship order today, starting with defending champ, Sébastien Ogier. Here's how they'll line up: 1. Ogier, 2. Neuville, 3.

Tänak, 4. Latvala, 5. Evans, 6. Sordo, 7. Meeke, 8. Breen, 9. Lappi, 10. Mikkelsen, 11. Bouffier

Fri 08:36

-  **Weather** - Sunrise was at 0801hrs and it's a cloudy morning in Gap. The current temperature is 6°C should climb to 8°C later. Rain is forecast to hit the rally region this afternoon.

Fri 08:35

-  **Stage live times** - SS3: 0851hrs. SS4: 1004hrs. SS5: 1137hrs. SS6: 1358hrs. SS7: 1511hrs. SS8: 1644hrs.

Fri 08:33

-  **Friday's vital stats** - Start: 0800hrs. Number of stages: 6. Stage distance: 144.88km. Finish: 1837hrs.

Fri 08:33

-  **Friday's itinerary 2/2** - The loop is repeated after a 30-minute midpoint service in Gap. It's the longest day in terms of outright competitive distance.

Fri 08:33

-  **Friday's itinerary 1/2** - From Gap, crews will head south and west for a loop of three consecutive stages: the 26.72km Vitrolles-Oze, followed by the longer 30.54km Roussieux-Eygayes and the 15.18km Vaumeilh-Claret.

Fri 08:32

-  **So, what's happening?** - After a slippery couple of stages on Thursday night, the action resumes today with a full day of asphalt action in the mountains.

Fri 08:32



- **We're live** - At the rally base in Gap, providing text updates on all the stage action for wrc.com and the WRC app.

Fri 08:28



- **Good morning** - And welcome back to our live text coverage of Rallye Monte-Carlo, the opening round of the WRC season.

Fri 08:27



- **Until then** - Keep an eye on wrc.com for all the latest news, and don't forget WRC+ where you will find extra content like live stage reviews, highlights programmes and our exclusive onboard comparison system.

Fri 00:01



- **Join us on Friday** - When the Rallye Monte-Carlo action resumes with leg 2. We'll be here from 0851hrs, when the action kicks off with the Vitrolles – Oze stage.

Fri 00:01



- **Stages complete** - And that's where we'll end our live text coverage today

Thu 23:58



- **Seb in service** - The overnight leader reflects on the opening two stages. "We knew on the first one it would be difficult to pass the icy section. Even the rest of the stage, the damp places, were tricky. The car worked fine. Before the spin I was right in the middle of the road doing 10kph. Luckily I managed to rotate the car and stay on the road. The information we got from the ice note crew was correct. There were a lot of dirty sections in the second one too. Some small things to improve but not a bad start. Same conditions for everyone."

Thu 23:54



- **Monte after SS2** - 1.Ogier 38m09.8s, 2.Mikkelsen +17.3s, 3.Sordo +25.6s, 4.Lappi +37.4s, 5.Tänak +42.4

Thu 23:41



- **SS2: Bouffier** - "Very tricky for sure, but the car is amazing. Great fun. I tried to drive a bit better. You have to be clean here, with this power you can go wide easily."

Thu 23:31



- **SS2: Mikkelsen** - Andreas slots his Hyundai second overall - 17.3sec off overnight leader Ogier. "That was okay, but there is a lot of gravel being pulled out on the road. I'm quite happy though - happy to be second to Seb."

Thu 23:29



- **SS2: Lappi** - "We are on a mission! No mistakes - that was the target. The pace is not the best but it's not so easy to drive on this dirt. This has always been the challenge for me. I need to build my confidence step by step."

Thu 23:26



- **SS2: Breen** - "The conditions are perfect but we made a mess. I didn't have enough time before the stage to get the set-up right. I didn't have the correct pressures in the front tyres - and I had a spin in here."

Thu 23:24



- **SS2: Meeke** - 28sec off the pace. Slowest of the cars through so far. "A stupid mistake in the first one. A stupid spin. I had a choice to handbrake but I chose to stop and reverse and backed into a ditch and couldn't get out. Okay, that's behind me now. A long rally to go."

Thu 23:22



- **SS2: Sordo** - Fourth quickest so far. "Okay. Very dirty in places here, but we pass the first day so it's already good."

Thu 23:18



- **SS2: Evans** - "We only have one spare so I was being careful here, not aggressive in the cuts. Not feeling happy on throttle, I had a half spin here on throttle. We can resolve that but not a great start."

Thu 23:17



- **SS2: Latvala** - "It's been a really challenging start. We played a gamble here with three super soft tyres. Sometimes you have to do that." Fourth fastest so far, 6.5sec slower than Ogier.

Thu 23:15



- **SS2: Tanak** - Third quickest so far. "This one was much more like Tarmac. Massive understeer on the previous one. I was struggling a lot. We managed to improve a bit here. A lot to learn."

Thu 23:14



- **SS2: Neuville** - A better run compared to the opening stage. He completes 1.4sec slower than Ogier.

Thu 23:12



- **SS2: Ogier** - The rally leader is through in 14m53.2. "It's still tricky, but I'm happy with the way things have started."

Thu 23:11



- **SS2: Tanak** - A better stage for the Estonian so far. His Yaris just clocked 180kph.

Thu 22:58

-  **SS2: LIVE** - Ogier is in stage

Thu 22:51

-  **SS2 Latest** - Around 60 per cent dry. Gravel and dirt on the road near the end makes the surface very slippery.

Thu 22:48

-  **Stage info: SS2** - Bayons - Bréziers, 25.49km. Bayons was driven in the opposite direction for many years in the 1980s and 1990s, and this way 12 months ago. The start is very quick before it climbs through a series of narrow hairpins to the summit of the 1184 metres Col des Sagnes. It descends through the villages of Turriers and Bellaiffaire on a fast and wide road before a flatter, but more technical, narrower and complicated section to the finish.

Thu 22:47

-  **Next stage: 2252hrs** - That's Ogier's start time for SS2

Thu 22:47

-  **SS1: WRC 2 Abbring** - "A puncture in a deep cut - I was just following the lines. After that we lost the brakes. I had to drive slowly to the finish. Not the start we hoped for."

Thu 22:43

-  **Monte after SS1** - 1.Ogier 23m16.6s, 2.Mikkelsen +7.7s, 3.Lappi +19.4s, 4.Sordo +19.7s, 5.Breen +24.6. Evans puncture, Neuville and Meeke ditch delays

Thu 22:41

-  **SS1: WRC 2 De Mevius** - "Three spins in the stage and a gearbox problem but we survived."

Thu 22:37

-  **SS1: WRC 2 Kopecky** - "Quite difficult. Okay on the Tarmac, but on the ice and in the dirty sections in the cuts I was very, very careful."

Thu 22:34

-  **SS1: WRC 2 Suninen** - "Okay, but a difficult stage with all the snow and ice."

Thu 22:34

-  **SS1: WRC 2 Camilli** - "Not so bad. I really enjoy the car and the chassis in here. I lost the brakes for about 5km, so I was very cautious. They came back before the finish."

Thu 22:32

-  **SS1: Bouffier** - "I think my pace was not fast enough to get a spin! My car was amazing but it's very difficult for me. I have lots of flat out sections in my notes which are not flat out in this car! In some paces I was not driving so well, but I'm happy to be here."

Thu 22:30

-  **SS1: Mikkelsen** - Second quickest - 7.7sec off Ogier's pace. "It was an okay stage. Difficult to know how much to push. I lost my brakes 5km before the end - so not the best confidence in the downhill section!"

Thu 22:27

-  **SS1: Lappi** - Third quickest so far. "The Tarmac section itself is okay but I have a few things to learn about the surface. The ice I took very slowly, I don't know the

fastest way there. To minimise the mistakes there is the way. I'm pretty satisfied. I don't care about the time. Personally, an okay start."

Thu 22:27

-  **SS1: Breen** - "A disaster - I got stuck in the snow. Not in a bank but we couldn't move. Spectators helped us back out. Difficult."

Thu 22:26

-  **SS1: Meeke** - "I got stuck in a ditch. Really simple - caught a patch of ice. I had to wait for spectators and lost a minute - minute and a half. It's a long rally, we'll keep going, but it's not a good start."

Thu 22:24

-  **SS1: Evans** - 3m48s slower than Ogier. What happened? "We got a puncture about 12km in. We had to stop and change it. A bit of drama too on the ice too. A disastrous start."

Thu 22:20

-  **SS1: Sordo** - "It's not bad, but I don't think I did a very good time." In fact he's fourth quickest - just 19.7sec off Ogier's pace.

Thu 22:19

-  **SS1: Latvala** - "Difficult. I spun twice and stalled twice. I think I lost 20 seconds, something like this. Difficult. I saw Neuville - I caught him in an icy section."

Thu 22:18

-  **SS1: Neuville** - He completes 4m16sec slower than Ogier. "I got stuck on a snow bank. I pulled the handbrake but locked all four wheels and went off wide. There were only a few people around. I had to wave some over to help so it took time to get back again. It's part of the game."

Thu 22:16

-  **SS1: Tanak** - There is some light bodywork damage to the front of his Yaris. "At the beginning of the ice we went out into a bank at like 10kph and I had to reverse. It was very tough."

Thu 22:13

-  **SS1: Ogier** - First to complete in 23m16.6s. "We lost time in a spin on the ice. We knew it would be tricky - no surprise that so many drivers have had problems!"

Thu 22:11

-  **SS1: Splits watch** - Ogier fastest of the three cars to have reached the 18.83km split. Tanak is +25s. Neuville is +3m4s!

Thu 22:04

-  **SS1: Neuville update** - Moving again. He has rejoined behind Latvala.

Thu 22:01

-  **SS1: Neuville stopped** - His Hyundai is parked on the left-hand side of the road at 12.7km.

Thu 21:59

-  **SS1: Tanak update** - Moving again.

Thu 21:57

-  **SS1: Tanak stopped** - WRC+ live tracking shows his Toyota stopped at 11.1km.

Thu 21:56

-  **SS1: Ogier spins!** - On a sheet ice-covered tight right-hander. Very slow speed. The car rotates 180 degrees and glides into the verge. Stops and gets going again. No damage evident.

Thu 21:56

-  **SS1: Ice watch** - Watching onboard footage from Ogier's Ford Fiesta - he's driving very carefully through the snow and ice-covered section approaching the Col.

Thu 21:53

-  **Tyre choices** - Update from Michelin on numbers and compound choices (Soft or Super Soft) drivers have for tonight's stages. Ogier/Evans/Neuville: 3S&2SS. Bouffier: 4S&2SS. Mikkelsen/Sordo/Latvala: 3S&3SS. Meeke/Breen: 6SS. Tanak: 4S&2SS. Lappi: 5S.

Thu 21:49

-  **SS1: LIVE** - Ogier is underway! His start time: 2144hrs.

Thu 21:45

-  **SS1: Standby** - WRC+ live tracking shows cars gathered at the start control. Ogier's start time: 2143hrs.

Thu 21:42

-  **SS1 Latest** - From the start to 11.9km: no ice or snow. Broken ice from there to 14.2km on the downhill run to the Col. Very slippery. No information on the final section.

Thu 21:42

-  **Stage info** - SS1 Thoard - Sisteron, 36.69km. What a way to open the season! A famous stage, but driven in the opposite direction for the first time and in

darkness. It is a serious appetiser, mainly due to the Col de Fontbelle. At an altitude of 1304 metres, this pass is opened specially for the rally and is usually snowy and icy because snow ploughs and salt trucks never go there in winter. Four tricky kilometres at the col are the key part of a tough test, and they will be tackled downhill this time.

Thu 21:41

-  **WRC Live** - Our radio service is LIVE with Lisa O'Sullivan and Becs Williams in the studio and Emyr Penlan and Colin Clark reporting from the stage ends. You'll find a link the LIVE CENTRE on the homepage.

Thu 21:41

-  **Start intervals** - Two-minute intervals for the World Rally Cars. One-minute intervals for WRC 2 and WRC 3 competitors.

Thu 21:40

-  **Running order** - Drivers will start in last season's championship order, starting with defending champ, Sébastien Ogier. Here's how they'll line up: 1. Ogier, 2. Neuville, 3. Tänak, 4. Latvala, 5. Evans, 6. Sordo, 7. Meeke, 8. Breen, 9. Lappi, 10. Mikkelsen, 11. Bouffier

Thu 21:39

-  **Weather** - It was a crisp, dry and overcast day in Gap. Sunset was at 1733hrs and since then the temperature in town has dropped a couple of degrees to 7°C. The WRC TV crew stationed at Col de Fontbelle on SS1 reports 5°C. The crew at the end of the stage reports 10°C. Rain is forecast later tonight and tomorrow.

Thu 21:39

-  **Stage live times** - SS1: 2143hrs. SS2: 2251hrs.

Thu 21:39

-  **Thursday's vital stats** - Start: 1750hrs. Number of stages: 2. Stage distance: 62.18km. Finish: 0044hrs.

Thu 21:39

-  **Thursday's itinerary 2/2** - The second stage is the 25.49km test from Bayons to Breziers, which ends just 25km away from WRC central in Gap. A 45-minute service follows from 2356hrs while the drivers get off to bed, ready for a full day of competition on Friday.

Thu 21:38

-  **Thursday's itinerary 1/2** - From Monaco, crews track north and tackle two stages in pitch darkness as they make their way back to Gap for the overnight halt. The first stage, Thoard-Sisteron, is effectively new, running in the opposite direction for the first time in the WRC. At 36.69km it's also the longest stage of the rally.

Thu 21:36

-  **So, what's happening?** - A few hours after the traditional start ceremony in Monaco's Casino square, cars are approaching the start of the first special stage. Here's an update on what's coming up tonight.

Thu 21:36

-  **New x 3** - That's a new season, new driver and car combinations and a new way to follow the action via WRC+ All Live. Have you subscribed yet? Check out the news story on the home page for more details, or visit [plus.wrc.com](https://plus.wrc.com).

Thu 21:27

-  **It's been a while** - It's been a while Since the live text desk was last out at Kennards Hire Rally Australia, but its unpacked and we're in position overlooking the service park ready for tonight's opening stages.

Thu 21:27

-  **We're live** - From the rally base in Gap, tapping out text updates on tonight's stage action for [wrc.com](https://wrc.com) and the WRC App.

Thu 21:27



- **Good evening world** - And welcome to our live text coverage of the 86th Rallye Monte-Carlo, opening round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship.

Thu 21:26



- **ALL LIVE!** - All stages this week will be streamed live on WRC . Head to [wrcplus.com](http://wrcplus.com) for details of our new WRC All Live service.

Thu 16:13



- **Rallye Monte Carlo 2018** - starting soon :-)