



SS11 : VAUMEILH / CLARET 2

Date:	24.01.2026		
Day:	3	Flash N°:	15
Special Stage:	11	Distance:	15,06 km
Weather:	1°C – Light fog		
Road conditions:	Low visibility at the start of the stage. Black ice and slush after km 3. Damp road.		

SS11: Solberg responds, Evans faster than Ogier

The leader of the 94th Monte Carlo Rally, Oliver Solberg (Toyota) reacted well in the 11th special stage between Vaumeilh and Claret (15.06 km), making the most of his position on the road to set the fastest time and extend his lead over his two closest rivals, his teammates Elfyn Evans and Sébastien Ogier, to over a minute.

"In the previous stage, I had absolutely no grip and could have gone off at any moment. In this one, I felt better and was still careful, with the alternating ice, snow and slush. I managed my tyres well and I'm happy to have regained a bit of a lead," said the Swede at the stop point.

With the snow and ice having melted considerably since the weather crews passed through, much earlier in the morning, the road was less slippery than expected and the co-drivers had to adapt their notes with every kilometre to prevent their drivers from losing too much time by being overly cautious.

This situation once again created large gaps, with Ogier, who had just set his 70th fastest time in a Monte-Carlo Rally (his 810th in the WRC) in SS10, proving to be slower in this special stage than Solberg and Evans. And also slower than Adrien Fourmaux (Hyundai) and Takamoto Katsuta (Toyota), who had passed earlier than him on this stage.



Quotes

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

6 Studs

“It is a quite strange grip level. You see the tracks, but it is slippery and obviously icy, we knew that. You don't trust the grip. Wow, what a day!”

5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

6 Studs

“I think the conditions are evolving quite a lot. Some sections are getting messy and, in some others, the line is cleaning a lot. Not so straightforward.”

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

6 Studs

“The car is good. Conditions are getting better, so you can't compare the times [with the previous drivers]. But the feeling was good, we will just continue like this. Hopefully we can catch Hayden [Paddon].”

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

6 Studs

“First of all, it's better with power steering. It's tricky but the conditions are getting better and better. The gravel crew gave us a lot of black ice which is not there anymore. The beginning [of the stage] is fine as well. In the middle section, it's tricky. You really need to stay in the lines because the tyres don't evacuate the slush. So, you have to aim for the lines.”

20. PADDON-KENNARD

6 Studs

“It's getting harder. I know we have to get to the end and that makes it even harder. I don't know if I can find some rhythm. The room for error is so small. I think John [Kennard, his co-driver] can drive better, maybe he can hop in this thing on the next stage [he smiles].”

95. ARMSTRONG-BYRNE

6 Studs

“We made a couple of small damper tweaks, and it made a big difference to the balance and the overall performance. I changed the balance to put more grip on the rear. I had a pretty good run and it's probably the first time I had a good rhythm. There's quite a bit of slush and snow. It's tricky.”



11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

6 Studs

“Honestly, it didn't feel too bad. We have a lot of ice in the notes, sometimes it's gone and sometimes not. It's really difficult to trust.”

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

6 Studs

“To be fair, conditions are very tricky now, always a mix of tarmac, slush and ice. The lines are really narrow, sometimes there is more snow than expected. It's proper Monte Carlo conditions. The previous stage was amazing, the view was incredible, it was really nice. I felt like I was in Sweden, that was fantastic to drive in these conditions.”

1. OGIER-LANDAIS

6 Studs

“A lot of change in the grip and a bit safer information. It is how it is. I didn't take much advantage of the road improvement.”

33. EVANS-MARTIN

6 Studs

“Very difficult, initially you come to some ice and snow which is bad enough, but when you come to the slush, it's just a lottery. Towards the end, the gravel crew had it full black ice, but it evolved massively. I wasn't brave enough to ignore what they said. It was so difficult.”

99. SOLBERG-EDMONDSON

6 Studs

“The studs are working now, it's a bit easier. This morning, the ice was so thick that it was too risky to push. Felt a little more comfortable in here now. It's a bit easier in this stage. It's changing all the time, so you have to keep your eyes open!”



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Classifications

SS11

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	🇸🇪 O. SOLBERG	Toyota	11:56.1	-	-
2	🇬🇧 E. EVANS	Toyota	12:07.5	+ 11.4	+ 11.4
3	🇫🇷 A. FOURMAUX	Hyundai	12:14.0	+ 06.5	+ 17.9
4	🇯🇵 T. KATSUTA	Toyota	12:14.2	+ 00.2	+ 18.1
5	🇫🇷 S. OGIER	Toyota	12:14.8	+ 00.6	+ 18.7
6	🇮🇪 J. ARMSTRONG	Ford	12:16.5	+ 01.7	+ 20.4
7	🇧🇪 T. NEUVILLE	Hyundai	12:21.6	+ 05.1	+ 25.5
8	🇧🇪 G. MUNSTER	Ford	12:32.4	+ 10.8	+ 36.3
9	🇦🇺 H. PADDON	Hyundai	12:33.5	+ 01.1	+ 37.4
10	🇮🇪 J. MCERLEAN	Ford	12:39.6	+ 06.1	+ 43.5
11	🇫🇮 S. PAJARI	Toyota	12:40.6	+ 01.0	+ 44.5

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After SS11

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	🇸🇪 O. SOLBERG	toyota	02:50:57.5	-	-
2	🇬🇧 E. EVANS	toyota	02:52:00.3	+ 01:02.8	+ 01:02.8
3	🇫🇷 S. OGIER	toyota	02:52:10.6	+ 10.3	+ 01:13.1
4	🇫🇷 A. FOURMAUX	hyundai	02:56:34.2	+ 04:23.6	+ 05:36.7
5	🇧🇪 T. NEUVILLE	hyundai	02:57:29.1	+ 54.9	+ 06:31.6
6	🇮🇪 J. ARMSTRONG	ford	02:59:55.7	+ 02:26.6	+ 08:58.2
7	🇮🇪 H. PADDON	hyundai	03:00:49.5	+ 53.8	+ 09:52.0
8	🇯🇵 T. KATSUTA	toyota	03:01:09.2	+ 19.7	+ 10:11.7
9	🇧🇪 G. MUNSTER	ford	03:01:34.3	+ 25.1	+ 10:36.8
10	🇫🇮 S. PAJARI	toyota	03:17:26.2	+ 15:51.9	+ 26:28.7
11	🇮🇪 J. MCERLEAN	ford	03:27:55.7	+ 10:29.5	+ 36:58.2

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