

*2009 NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei*

Service quotes

**Service A**  
**Whangarei town basin**

Date: 6 June 2009  
Weather: Clear, turning to showers

**Car 1 - Cody Crocker/Ben Atkinson**

It's been pretty tough going. Talking to Katsu (Taguchi), we reckon we've done a kilometre more of the stage than we should of just by wheel spinning and being sideways too much. But that's the way it goes – its extremely slippery, sliding all over the road – we're losing so much time here and there. We're pushing on as much as we can but it's easy in this situation to out-brake yourself too.

**Car 2 – Katsu Taguchi/Mark Stacey**

This morning was very hard – the gravel on the road made it very loose. So we were sideways many times and could not get a quick time, but anyway we have a good fight with Cody and he has the same road condition.

**Car 3 – Hayden Paddon/John Kennard**

Quite surprised the gap to Richard (Mason) after those three (stages). It's good. The car is feeling better in the loose stuff so this afternoon is where we can hopefully make some time up on Richard – which is what the plan is. The car seems to be quite good – we're getting a lot more tyre wear than we thought with the gravel build-up, we sort of under-estimated that a bit.

**Car 4 – Gaurav Gill/Glenn Macneall**

The roads are lovely. There is a lot of gravel, but we've been struggling a little with our brakes. We've had some problems – not enough bite. The test we didn't wasn't long enough to find out if the brakes were perfect for these conditions so in the long stages we lose the bite we need because the stages are really fast and the pads heat up a bit. I started a little slow – just getting used to how these roads are and I think this car is the way to go.

**Car 5 – Emma Gilmour/Rhianon Smyth**

It has been a good morning so far, the car is working well. Maybe a bit of the wrong tyre call as it was quite slippery – but we ducked a lot of rain in that last stage which seemed to have been following us like a cloud. Just need to work out our tyre choice will be for this afternoon.

**Car 6 – Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy**

It was a medium start, just learning the car, but it was okay. But very happy with the new car. Only thing different is just the rain coming in on some of the stages – but everything was fine. This afternoon will be easier – yes.

**Car 7 – Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen**

The two long stages in a row were a bit hard on the old fella, but very enjoyable – the roads were grouse. It's still pretty slippery where we were (on the road).

**Car – 8 Richard Mason/Sara Mason**

We've been working on the handling of the car and hopefully this afternoon it'll be getting closer to how I like it. There certainly is the occasional swept line but the problem is they're not all following the same line. Certainly from what I can see with the APRC competitors aren't running to the outside of the corner like we tend to do in New Zealand. Maybe other countries you don't run that wide – so when we get to the exit of a corner we tend to run out in to loose gravel and it's quite thick there because they have pushed it out from the inside. So some advantage and some disadvantage.

**Car 9 – Brendan Reeves/Glen Watson**

It's a bit slippery – especially that first stage, but we're just working our way in to it. We're setting some good times and are surprised with our pace. The car feels really good to me – quite similar to my car back home, so it's very comfortable to adapt to. I think the front guys will pick up a bit. Guys running down the field might have swept a few of the loose stones back on the road, so we will have to try really hard.

**Car 11 – Chris West/Chris Cobham**

It's pretty tough this morning. We started off with a good stage time, but it didn't feel that good. We're really just struggling with balance in the car. There is a swept line if you focus on it, but to be honest there is still a lot of gravel out there. I think the rain is coming now so we need to regroup a little bit and get the balance of the car back to where I want.

**Car 12 – Kieran Hall/Peter Hart**

I just found it a bit slippery in the rear end especially in that last long stage. We just drove accordingly and didn't try and do anything stupid. We learnt early on, sort of mid-stage that they (the tyres) were starting to lose a bit of grip so we just backed off that little bit and it seemed to pay off. We weren't that far behind Westie (Chris West) so I was pretty happy with that.

We've come up here aiming to get second (in Pirelli Star Driver) behind Paddon. We're not pushing to beat Paddon because we know we don't have that pace yet. But at the same time Paddon has got to finish the day and so do we. A top two finish in the Pirelli Star Driver is what we're after.

Car 14 – Sloan Cox/David Calder

Rain got to be a bit of a problem in the last few km's (on S3) but it wasn't too bad, made it a bit slipperier as well. No problems with the car, we'll pace it a bit for the after service stages.

Car 15 – Kingsley Thompson/Richard Ellis

We're having a good day – getting back into it. No major issues. It got a bit greasy at the end of Stage 3 with the rain coming down. But it's going well.

Car 16 – Matt Jansen/Jason Farmer

The car hasn't been handling quite as well as we would have liked. Confidence isn't there obviously because the car isn't handling quite as well as it should be. We'll change a few things over service and see if we can't come up with a plan of attack for this afternoon.

Car 17 – Brad Ayling/Brett Wright

It's not too bad, we've made it back to here which was our first – well the first plan was to get to the end of the first stage and then back to service. We've been very slow, but I think our speed has been increasing slowly. I've just been out of the car for so long – I think as long as we're on the road we can keep improving.

Car 18 – Josh Marston/Raymond Bennett

We caught Brad in the second stage and got held up a wee bit in his dust, but there was a little bit of rain in the third stage so didn't catch him as much. We had a better run, we were a lot closer to the other rookies. So fingers crossed it stays damp in the afternoon!

Maybe just a wee tweak with setup, we're trying a different differential computer for the first time. We'll talk to the boys and see what they say.

Car 19 – Kirsty Nelson/Malcolm Peden

Our helmet seems to be cutting in and out, but I've got Michelle's (Brunt) helmet here so we're just going to use that. So hopefully that solves that problem. Other than that not too bad actually.

Car 21 – Patrick Malley/Linzi Malley

It took a while to gel at the start, just off song and nervous in the first one after a crash and all that. And um... (juggles loose steering wheel – missing pins). Through the last two/the long one was just off-beat because I wasn't sure just exactly what was wrong. The pins used to be about a cm proud, they've all just started rolling through for some reason, not sure why. I was really quite nervous in a lot of those stages. Will be all sorted quite shortly. Go out and this afternoon is a new day I suppose, something like that!

Car 22 – Ben Jagger/Ben Hawkins

Pretty good, I think we won the first stage this morning, but the other three... I'm just sorta trying to get on the pace a bit – I think we're a bit behind so we'll try and improve that this afternoon. Daniel Harris – He's going very quick.

Car 23 – Daniel Harris/Darryn Green

I think we're leading at the moment, so going alright. No problems at the moment.

Car 24 – Ben Hunt/Jeff Cress

We're a few seconds off the lead, but we'll push a bit harder this afternoon and see what happens. No problems but just need to pick up the pace.

Car 26 – Tomoyuki Nakagawa/Jamie Kibble

(Co-driver Jamie Kibble:) It's Tomo's first ever rally, so we got through it, no problems. Just steady and we'll probably go a little bit quicker in the next second half. It might be raining anyway.