

2009 NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei
Service quotes

Service B
Whangarei town basin

Date: 6 June 2009
Weather: Overcast and cool

Car 1 - Cody Crocker/Ben Atkinson

Happy to be back in one piece; interesting, we went to a medium compound tyre but the temperature was quite cold and it took a stage-and-a-half for them to really start working. So it's a real compromise in what you do because it was too far for a softer tyre and they went off in the morning so we needed something in the middle. But we're pretty happy to be leading APRC, but of course there are some Kiwi's in front of us we're not to happy about but that's the way it goes. We'll see how we go tomorrow and if we can at least stay where we are we'll be very happy with that but if we can put a challenge up to the Kiwi's we'll be happy with that too.

Car 2 – Katsu Taguchi/Mark Stacey

Everything is okay – no problem. Compared to last year we have improved our stage time a lot so we must keep the pressure on with Cody. Easy to drive this afternoon compared to this morning – it was very slippery and we were sideways a lot. But second time through the conditions were better and we had good grip.

Car 3 – Hayden Paddon/John Kennard

The tyres this afternoon aren't too bad; the tyres this morning were in much worse shape. With the cooler ground temperatures we haven't been generating as much heat in them. The day hasn't been too bad. Certainly the 12 seconds we lost this morning to Richard were down to road position – as with all the lead cars – you were just sitting on top of the road with all the gravel. All-in-all the day is alright – just the gap is a bit bigger than we would have liked.

Car 4 – Gaurav Gill/Glenn Macneall

It's not been quite what we expected this afternoon. We are still struggling with the brakes and wrong tyre choice. We start off well but then as we get in to the stage we need to take care, start braking early, stop attacking corners – so we're struggling.

Car 5 – Emma Gilmour/Rhianon Smyth

We had a good day. It was much better this afternoon, made progress with the car – just miles really with the newer car. It's getting better. It handles fantastically – and that's a little bit me just building confidence in the car and that's encouraging me to push on a bit.

Car 6 – Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy

We hit a fence, went up a bank, and came back on the road – it was a particularly slippery corner. The car is okay though.

Car 7 – Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen

We haven't gone as fast as we could have been – but we've done our best and that's all we can do. We've definitely had lots of fun that's for sure; the roads are in grouse order.

Car 8 – Richard Mason/Sara Mason

We had some suspension issues in the morning but the car was a lot better this afternoon. It'll be interesting to see tomorrow on the looser gravel how it is first thing. I think we did a good job on tyres really and we were very happy with the choices we made. The line was nice and swept this afternoon – it was good. Mostly consistent conditions, some of the rainy bits weren't so nice; there was a bit of wet clay and the likes out there and that can always be a bit funny.

Car 9 – Brendan Reeves/Glen Weston

It was close at the end but it was a good day all-in-all and we'll be looking forward to tomorrow. We've got a bit of a centre-differential problem so hopefully the boys can sort that tonight. Then tomorrow we'll try some open tyres in the morning and in the afternoon hopefully go to a bit tighter tread and try still keep up with Cody in the stage times. Today we used him as a benchmark, we knew this morning we might be quicker than him, but this afternoon he was faster but we held our lead.

Car 11 – Chris West/Chris Cobham

We had a cleaner run than we did this morning on stages two and three, so it cost a bit of time but realistically where we are as far as consistently running around that seventh position is about where it is.

Car 12 – Kieran Hall/Peter Hart

The roads are a lot easier now with them being swept. There are a lot of big rocks out there! But we've really enjoyed the afternoon and it looks like we've got the rookie for the day and second Pirelli which is what we set out to do. So can't really ask for much more than that. We're sitting comfortably in about 9th or 10th. I'm pretty happy with that. I haven't actually seen the Pirelli points, so I don't know how much (Sloan Cox' puncture) has affected his campaign. It's only one stage and that's the good thing about the Pirelli Star as every individual stage you get points for – It's only one stage of many so I think he'll be right.

Car 14 – Sloan Cox/David Calder

I was actually going a lot better but then in the last long stage got a flat tyre that made us lose a lot of time. We had 10kms to go so we chose to change it.

Car 15 – Kingsley Thompson/Richard Ellis

We had a good day. It got really interesting this afternoon with big boulders and stuff coming out of the road. It was fun! No problems at all really, had a little issue with the wing mirror there – got a bit close to a post but we'll replace that tonight.

Car 16 – Matt Jansen/Jason Farmer

This afternoon has been going a lot better. Finally found a setting that we're quite happy with in the last stage of today, unfortunately, it took so long to find it. Hopefully we're there or near about for tomorrow back fighting.

Car 17 – Brad Ayling/Brett Wright

We've been improving definitely, still got a long way to go but we're still here. That's the main thing, that's all we wanted for the first day. I haven't looked at the times today myself, that was one of the things I didn't want to do – so we'll have a look tonight and see where we are and what's happening, but I think we'll keep doing the same thing. At the end of the car we want to take the car back and be able to get out and do some more events.

Car 18 – Josh Marston/Raymond Bennett

We blew a head gasket at the start of the second stage of the loop so we've just been limping through this afternoon to just try and finish and collect a few points. So hopefully the boys can fix it up tonight and we can come back. I was quite happy with our pace and times, especially this afternoon on the first stage of the loop at the start of it we were going better so fingers crossed we can fix it.

Car 19 – Kirsty Nelson/Malcolm Peden

We've swapped helmets, but it must be my helmet – with the bad intercom. It's been alright, a bit slippery because it really pissed down. That held us back a little bit. Same for tomorrow – To go hard.

Car 21 – Patrick Malley/Linzi Malley

Much better, much improved. It's starting to gel now with Mum (in the co-driver's seat) and the steering wheel is solid which is even better. We absolutely rooted the tyres but we got the times – where this morning we were using the tyres and not getting the times. This afternoon felt a lot better. Not that much of a problem with rocks being pulled up, which I thought there would have been. The best bit I suppose about today was on one stage there was like one second between me and Jagger and four seconds to Daniel Harris – the whole day it has been nice and close and

there has been about three or four of us right in the hunt. It's going to be a real exciting championship for the rest of it.

Car 22 – Ben Jagger/Ben Hawkins

Apart from the puncture (on S7) it was really good. A lot better than the morning I think. Got my head around my driving and started getting back to it. It's turned out alright. It is very close, I think we beat Patrick (Malley) by 0.1 of a second on that super special so bring on tomorrow!

Car 24 – Ben Hunt/Jeff Cress

We ended up winning stage seven out of the Fiesta boys so we're pretty stoke with that. Everything is going pretty well, enjoyed this afternoon a bit better got a bit more comfortable with the car and the notes and just starting to push a bit harder. Tomorrow we'll see what happens.

Car 26 Tomoyuki Nakagawa/Jamie Kibble

We had a real good last stage, I know it was a short stage, but we were right up with the faster cars. We took off five seconds from the previous run of the super special. Tomo is just learning to drive so big long stages you're just up and down like a yo-yo. But we put it together in that stage, he did everything he was meant to do. So we'll just build up the speed there.