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1. EVENT SUMMARY

Prokop scoops J-WRC win in challenging Cyprus

Czech driver **Martin Prokop** and co-driver Jan Tománek scored the seventh J-WRC win of their career in their Citroën C2 S1600, on FxPro Cyprus Rally, the second round of the 2009 FIA Junior World Rally Championship. **Michal Kosciuszko** (POL, Suzuki) brought his Suzuki Swift S1600 home in second followed by **Aaron Burkart** (D, Suzuki) in a similar car. Prokop now leads the J-WRC standings by two points ahead of Burkart, who won the opening round in Ireland. The Czech driver's result also sees him clock his third podium in as many rallies as he is contesting both the P-WRC and J-WRC this season.

As this event has historically been renowned for being a car breaker, it is one of the more costly rounds of the J-WRC and as a result only three of this year's competitors opted to nominate it as one of their points-scoring rounds. And with only three of them in competition, they all only had to finish the event to scoop a decent tally of points. But as Cyprus is the WRC's first mixed surface rally since 1996, it was a huge challenge for the junior cars and a great event on which to gain experience now mixed surface rallies have been permitted back in to the Championship.

In recent years we've seen the C2 shine on tarmac and as a result it was no surprise that Prokop flew through the first day's stages trouble-free, pulling out an enormous lead of 3mins 34secs over Kosciuszko by the end of the day. But all crews were forced to drive to avoid an enormous amount of gravel which had been brought on the roads by the more powerful cars ahead, as the tracks were littered with puncture-threatening stones.

As expected, the Polish driver powered back on day two once he was set free on the gravel tracks, using his Suzuki Swift to reduce that deficit to just over two minutes. The Pole took time out of Prokop on all but the last of the day's stages when Prokop's set-up seemed to work more in his favour. Kosciuszko made a final push on day three, winning two of the day's stages, but he lost too much time with broken power steering on SS12 so the effort was too little, too late.

Burkart had a really unfortunate start to the event as a front right puncture just 15km into SS1 cost the German driver three and a half minutes as he struggled with the wheel nuts. Heavily worn tyres on SS3 also cost over two minutes and then on the last stage of the day (SS6) he hit a stone after about 10km and badly damaged a wheel which cost 8min 45secs. With so much time lost, by the start of day two he was driving his own rally, although he didn't seem too perturbed as even a finish would guarantee him six points. He struggled a bit with no brakes for the final group of stages (SS10-11) on day two and by the last day he slowed his speed enough to simply avoid mistakes and guarantee a finish.

2. DRIVER QUOTES

1st – Martin Prokop, Citroën C2 S1600:

"Yesterday I lost a lot of time so today I had to push because I knew Michal was going to try to catch me - 10 points is very important for the Championship, I know that if I want to win it I have to finish in the top three on all of the events because there are 3 or 4 drivers that will fight for it as well. I can't make mistakes this year also because I feel it will be my last year in J-WRC and I really want to win it."

2nd – Michal Kosciuszko, Suzuki Swift S1600:

"Yesterday and today I really tried my best to catch Martin but the gap was too big. It's a pity that we had problems on Friday otherwise it was going to be a good battle with him. Second place is a good start for the season and I' really looking forward to Portugal. Martin and Aaron [Burkart] will not compete there so I have to win there to take some advantage on the Championship."

3rd – Aaron Burkart, Suzuki Swift S1600:

"The only good thing to say about this rally is that we scored six points and with the 10 points we scored in Ireland we are still in second position in the Championship. After the bad day I had on Friday I had to prevent damage so I slowed down, drove safely and brought the car to the finish. Now I will focus on my next event (Argentina) and try to do better there!"

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

POS	CAR#	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	CAR	TIME	POINTS
1	38	Martin Prokop (CZ)	Jan Tománek (CZ)	Citroën C2 S1600	5:20:54.0	10
2	32	Michal Kosciuszko (POL)	Maciek Szczepaniak (POL)	Suzuki Swift S1600	+1:36.8	8
3	31	Aaron Burkart (D)	Michael Kölbach (D)	Suzuki Swift S1600	+19:48.9	6

4. RETIREMENTS (EVENT)

CAR#	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	CAR	STAGE	REASON
Not applicable					

5. LEADERS (EVENT)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	STAGE
38	Martin Prokop	Citroën C2	SS1-14

6. FASTEST STAGE TIMES (EVENT)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	WINS	STAGES
38	Martin Prokop	Citroën C2	7	SS1-4, SS6, SS11-12
32	Michal Kosciuszko	Suzuki Swift	7	SS5, SS7-10, SS13-14

7. FASTEST STAGE TIMES (SEASON)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	IRL	CY	P	RA	I	POL	FIN	E	TOTAL
38	Martin Prokop	Citroën C2	3	7							10
37	Kevin Abbring	Renault Clio R3	9	0							9
32	Michal Kosciuszko	Suzuki Swift	0	7							7
31	Aaron Burkart	Suzuki Swift	3	0							3
36	Hans Weijs Jr.	Citroën C2	1	0							1
35	Yoann Bonato	Suzuki Swift	1	0							1

8. SPRINTER STANDINGS (EVENT)

		Total	SS TOT	AV			Total	SS TOT	AV			Total	SS TOT	AV
	DRIVER					DRIVER					DRIVER			
1	Prokop	124	14	8.86	2	Kosciuszko	122	14	8.71	3	Burkart	90	14	6.43

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

9. SPRINTER STANDINGS (SEASON)

CAR#	DRIVER	CAR	IRL	CY	P	RA	I	PL	FIN	E	TOTAL
37	Abbring	Renault Clio R3	8.92	pass		pass					8.92
32	Kosciuszko	Suzuki Swift	pass	8.71						pass	8.71
38	Prokop	Citroën C2	7.06	8.75	pass	pass					7.65
36	Weijjs	Citroën C2	6.91	pass		pass					6.91
31	Burkart	Suzuki Swift	6.81	6.43	pass			pass			6.63
35	Bonato	Suzuki Swift	5.07	pass		pass					5.07
33	Bertolotti	Suzuki Swift	3.75	pass		pass					3.75
34	Griotti	Renault Clio R3	2.67	pass		pass					2.67
37	Abbring	Renault Clio R3	8.92	pass		pass					8.92

10. DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

2009 FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (FOR DRIVERS)

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

POS	#	DRIVER	CAR	IRL	CY	P	RA	I	POL	FIN	E	PNTS
1	38	Martin Prokop (CZ)	Citroën C2 S1600	8	10	pass	pass					18
2	31	Aaron Burkart (D)	Suzuki Swift S1600	10	6	pass			pass			16
3	32	Michal Kosciuszko (POL)	Suzuki Swift S1600	pass	8						pass	8
4	33	Simone Bertolotti (I)	Suzuki Swift S1600	6	pass		pass					6
5	35	Yoann Bonato (F)	Suzuki Swift S1600	5	pass		pass					5
6	37	Kevin Abbring (NL)	Renault Clio R3	4	pass		pass					4
7	34	Luca Griotti (I)	Renault Clio R3	3	pass		pass					3
8	36	Hans Weijjs Jr (NL)	Citroën C2 S1600	R	pass		pass					0
9	G	Ross Forde (IRL)	Suzuki Swift Sport	R	-							0

11. CO-DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

2009 FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (FOR DRIVERS)

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

POS	#	DRIVER	IRL	CY	P	RA	I	POL	FIN	E	PNTS
1	38	Jan Tománek (CZ)	8	10	pass	pass					18
2	31	Michael Kolbach (D)	10	6	pass			pass			16
3	32	Maciek Szczepaniak (POL)	pass	8						pass	8
4	33	Luca Celestini (I)	6	pass		pass					6
5	35	Benjamin Boulloud (F)	5	pass		pass					5
6	37	Erwin Mombaerts (B)	4	pass		pass					4
7	34	Corrado Bonato (I)	3	pass		pass					3
8	36	Bjorn Degandt (B)	R	pass		pass					0

12. ROOKIE STANDINGS

2009 FIA J-WRC ROOKIE CLASSIFICATION

#	DRIVER	CAR	IRL	CY	P	RA	I	POL	FIN	E	TOT
	Not applicable										

13. NATIONAL SPORTING ASSOCIATIONS (ASN) STANDINGS

2009 FIA J-WRC ASN CLASSIFICATION

#	DRIVER	IRL	CY	P	RA	I	POL	FIN	E	TOT
1	38 Czech National Team	10	10	pass	pass					20
2	36/37 KNAF Talent First 1 & 2	8	pass		pass					8

14. WHAT IS THE FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP?

The FIA Junior World Rally Championship (For Drivers) is a support championship to the FIA World Rally Championship for upcoming young drivers aspiring to reach the highest level of the championship, with 2009 seeing nine drivers representing at least six countries. The cars they compete in are B-segment cars or the 'hot hatchbacks', are front-wheel drive and have a total length of 3.6m and 4.15m. In the first seven years of the J-WRC we have seen many manufacturers produce cars eligible for the category including Citroën, Fiat, Ford, Honda, Peugeot, Renault and Suzuki. Eligible cars must be homologated in one of four technical classes: Super 1600 (<1600cc), Group N cars (<2000cc), Group R cars and selected Group A cars (<1600cc).

NEXT ROUND –

VODAFONE RALLY DE PORTUGAL www.rallydeportugal.pt

FIA JUNIOR WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (FOR DRIVERS)

2 – 5 APRIL 2009

ROUND 3 OF 8

For more information visit: www.wrc.com

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