

press release

NORWEGIAN WALTER JENSEN (PORSCHE) WINS THE 2010 RALLY DEL CORALLO

Two challenging and difficult race days brought the Rally Club Sandro Munari driver to the victory, after leading from the first stage, with a thrilling finish for engine problems arisen at the end of the last stage. The other podium finishers are Rossi-Beltrame (Porsche) and Finn Latvala (Ford Escort RS). Bad luck for Brazzoli (Porsche), with a clutch failure dropping him out of the runner-up spot.

Alghero (Sassari), June 6th 2010 - Victory for Norwegian Walter Jensen, together with Erik Pedersen on a Porsche 911 Carrera RS in the 2010 Rally del Corallo, fourth round of the European Historic Rally Championship and fourth round of the ACI-CSAI national championship. The event was run on two days, yesterday and today, and seven special stages on the Oristano and Gallura region gravel roads. Other drivers on the podium are Pierangelo Rossi (Porsche 911 SC) and Finn Jari Latvala, father of "JM" Latvala, the works WRC Ford driver, with a Ford Escort RS.

A decide domination by Jensen, driver of the Rally Club Sandro Munari, already leader after today's first day and taking the winner's spoils this afternoon on the Alghero seafront, after two demanding days where he showed his strength on an error-free run, and also avoiding wisely the route's dangers. His victory, although apparently easy from a results' standpoint (six stages won, against one for Rossi), wasn't so towards the end, when he felt his car's engine living problems for an oil leak from a damaged pipe. He ended the rally fearing the retirement on the last road section towards the Alghero finish.

With Jensen (also winner of Group 2) always in the lead, breaking the tradition of the "Corallo" until know being an exclusive of Italian drivers, a fierce fight went on behind him, between several good drivers and with an important change on the very last stage.

Under the chequered flag, the runner-up place went to another Porsche 911, of Pierangelo Rossi and Beltrame (who won Group 3), who inherited "last minute" the spot from Enrico Brazzoli - Paola Valmassoi (Porsche 911). The two were the closest followers of the winner, with remarkable stage times, until the last stage where a clutch failure caused them to lose time, and nearly pushing them out of the top ten (they ended seventh overall and fifth in Group 3).

Rossi took advantage of this, after doing the best progress throughout the race. He started off yesterday in seventh, with a wrong tyre choice, to which he had quickly replied ending up in fourth. This morning he started strongly and on the first stage he passed Lucio Da Zanche, climbing into third to stay there until the end. Da Zanche too had his share of bad luck, on his third event on gravel (all three editions of the "Corallo"). After ending day one in third overall he went off the road on today's second stage.

High-level of performances throughout the rally were displayed by Jari Latvala, rewarded with the third podium step. Fast as well as spectacular, with his Ford Escort RS (Group 3) he had climbed as high as third overall after three stages yesterday, to then end fifth after the last test. Today he was back on full speed and his final result satisfied him despite a brake pipe failure mid-day.

Just off the podium, in fourth overall, another great rally by the Ford Escort 1600 cc. (Group 2) of the Belgian crew Stefaan Stouf-Joris Erard, just as fast as they were spectacular. In the two days of the event they never lost touch from the best, in a fierce duel with more powerful cars. Another driver who had been very fast in the first part of the rally, Andorra's Ferran Font (Ford Escort - Group 2) was forced to retire for a mechanical breakdown after three stages, those which had seen him amongst the best.



Group 1 was won by the Porsche 911 of German Pfeiffer-Windt, by 3'21" on Parisi-D'Angelo (Porsche 911S) with Belgian Vanderspinnen third in his spectacular Ford Lotus Cortina. Out of the event the French crew Gardere-Giraudet (Porsche), who were second yesterday evening and who stopped towards the end today.

This first event has been unlucky for the very much awaited Lancia Rally 037 of Marco Bianchini, together with the similar car of Frenchman Patrick Canavese saw the return to racing of Group B cars after over twenty years. Bianchini after a start not representative of his value due to set-up problems, retired during stage three yesterday due to a puncture (rear left) six kilometres from the finish, where he lost over ten minutes to change the tyre. Restarted today under "Super Rally", he once again retired for ongoing set-up problems. The 2010 "Corallo" also spelt evil for Bruno Bentivogli, unable to start due to a head gasket failure to his Alfetta GTV (which he shared with the visually impaired codriver Francesco Cozzola) after yesterday's ceremonial start.

A remarkable level of entries, if compared to the "modern" cars of the Rally d'Italia, with which the Rally del Corallo is paired. A match which could seem uneven, between younger drivers with technological cars and gentlemen drivers with cars of two generations ago: the stage times sometimes show a reduced gap, which goes to the credit of the Historic Rally Championship.

The event, "paired" with the Rally d'Italia-Sardegna, organized by the Automobile Club D'Italia and valid for the Intercontinental Rally Challenge, had a great success both amongst professionals and fans. Particularly appreciated, the rally route loved by the drivers despite its difficulty, and the warm welcome of the organizers of P.E.S. - Promozione Eventi Sportivi-, which once again fulfilled the objective of offering two days of great sport to leave a lasting memory of Alghero and its places.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Group 1

1. Pfeiffer-Windt (Porsche 911 T) in 2:12"42; 2. Parisi-D'Angelo (Porsche 911 S) at 3'212; 3. Vanderspinnen-Strooper (Ford Lotus Cortina) at 3'42"

Group 2

1. Jensen-Pedersen (Porsche Carrera Rs) in 2:02'19; 2. Stouf-Erard (Ford Escort1600) a 3'27"; 3. Brink-Boekamp (Lancia Stratos) a 37'11".

Group 3

1. Rossi-Beltrame (Porsche 911 SC) in 2 04'30"; 2. Latvala-Sairanen (Ford Escort RS) at 54" ; 3. Graham-Cooper (Ford Escort RS) at 2'03".

Group 4

1. Canavese-Cirillo (Lancia Rally 037) in 2:17'31"

PHOTO COLLECTION FREE PRESS (by Photo4):

www.mgtcomunicazione.com/documenti

www.rallydelcorallo.com

media service

Studio Alessandro BUGELLI

www.mgtcomunicazione.com

bugelli@email.it