



Corsica's rainmaster passes on his tips for the top

With Ajaccio shrouded in dank and cloudy weather as the crews head to the first stage today, there's a good chance that they will be driving on wet stages later. The last time that this occurred in Corsica was back in 2003, 10 years ago.

On that occasion the rally winner was Petter Solberg, in a fairytale ending that began in dramatic fashion when he nearly totalled his Subaru Impreza WRC at the shake-down.

The Prodrive mechanics pieced the car together, and once the rally got going and rain started to fall, Petter began to scythe his way up through the field, taking chunks of time out of his rivals.

So even for those not involved in the lead battle – yet – this year's European championship-counting Tour de Corse is far from a foregone conclusion.

How did Petter do it?

"At the time, we had the Pirelli rain tyres, which were just fantastic," remembers the Norwegian, who went on to take the title that year. "Also we had nothing to lose, so I was able to drive the way that always felt most comfortable for me – flat-out."

And his advice for those who may well be tackling wet Corsican stages today? "You just have to be very neat and very clean, not too much sliding, but not back off too much – otherwise you lose too much time. After a bit you feel where the grip is and where it isn't, so you just use that feeling to go as hard as you can in the places where you know you can get away with it."

Contact :
Hélène Larivière
+(33) 6 07 37 91 15
helene.lariviere@free.fr

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