



2010 Quit Forest Rally – 16-18 April, 2010 – Busselton & Nannup, Western Australia

Evans' dealt another blow at Quit Forest Rally

Simon and Sue Evans have been dealt yet another blow at the Quit Forest Rally with mechanical dramas threatening to end their third trip to Western Australia in a row.

The Evans', who had been in a fight with the team of Scott Pedder and Jon Mortimer for the lead throughout the morning, suffered a broken gear box on SS17.

The usual cheery Simon Evans looked despondent when asked about his chances for the rest of the day.

"Not anymore, gearbox has gone, but that's rallying," he said.

Pedder and Mortimer snatched the lead from Simon and Sue Evans on SS16 Ellis 2 and went into SS17 with a 0.4 second lead; they came out with a 15.7 second advantage.

The battle for third and fourth was also tight with Glen and Matt Raymond and Ryan and Rebecca Smart trading stage times across the morning. At the end of SS17 the Smarts had jumped back into third with mechanical issues also dogging the Raymond's car.

"Absolute blast, unreal," Ryan Smart said at the end of SS17. "The whole combination of not only the stage, but the commitment to the notes...everything feels like it's going well. It's the best feeling in the world."

In contrast Glen Raymond came across the line knowing his chances of defending his 2009 Quit Forest Rally title were all but over.

"The front left suspension was cracked, now that's completely gone and it's bouncing everywhere and not only that the exhaust has fallen off as well. I think I'm going to have a very good character after this rally," Raymond said.

Darren Windus has capitalised on their misfortunes closing the gap to fourth, sitting only 2.2 seconds behind.

Nathan Quinn, contesting his first Quit Forest Rally, has jumped up into sixth outright for the heat and is happy with his debut performance.

"We had no confidence this morning but we're slowly getting it back... we're pretty happy with our times, we're getting better. We're a long way off Simon (Evans) and (Scott) Pedder but so we should be they're veterans," Quinn said.

Roman Watkins and Toni Feaver are sitting in seventh outright in the Australian Rally Championship and have extended their lead in the West Australian Rally Championship to more than one minute.

John Macara and Dianna Madlener are in second with Tom and Nerralie Wilde in third.

After SS14 Michael Heuchan is leading Heat Two of the Quit Forest Rally Moto followed by Heat One winner Sean Williamson in second and Andrew Coaker in third.

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The Quit Forest Rally is a SMOKE FREE event