



Stefano Mella - Stefano Tiraboschi one step away from the top 10 at the 20th Rally International du Chablais

It was a complicated rally last weekend in Chablais, the second round of the **Swiss Championship** in conjunction with the **European Rally Trophy**, which began in the worst of conditions and ended on a high note.

On the first day, conditions were so bad that the **Skoda Fabia** driven by **Stefano Mella** suffered two punctures due to heavy rain and a route divided into eight very technical and difficult special stages, where mud and stones were the absolute protagonists. The situation only improved towards the end of the first day, a prelude to a second day that was much better for the Skoda Fabia number 12.

Indeed, on the second leg, the Swiss driver made strong progress in the standings, regularly finishing in the top 10 on each special stage. The feeling with the car improved, the approach to the special stages was excellent, also thanks to a well prepared car by the **AMD Motorsport** team. The good pace maintained on the second day allowed the **Mella-Tiraboschi** duo to recover several positions, climbing from twenty-first place at the end of day one to twelfth overall on day two, ninth in the RC2 class.

These were the words of **Stefano Mella**, **Swiss Racing Lab** driver, at the end of the **Rallye International du Chablais**: *"We can't say we're satisfied at the end of this second round of the championship. We certainly expected more, but unfortunately the difficulties of the first day determined the result. We certainly had very difficult weather conditions, but we did not want to risk jeopardising the whole race. Unfortunately, we had two punctures, which made the first day even more difficult. At the end of the first stage we still had a good pace, while the next day we were more effective, we found the right confidence and we were able to climb the rankings, regaining several positions until we were close to the top 10. I'd like to thank AMD Motorsport because they did everything they could to put us in the best possible condition in a really difficult race, which nevertheless allowed us to grow with the feeling of the car and, above all, gave us new ideas and new solutions to follow as the season progresses".*

Stefano Tiraboschi, navigator: *"The weather conditions made our race difficult, as did the two punctures on Friday. So it was not an easy weekend, we were forced to chase and recover positions in the standings, especially on Saturday. We have to start again from Saturday: the feeling with the Skoda was good, the times came as a result. I'm sure we'll make up for it at the next round, the Rallye International de Bourgogne Cote Chalonnaise at the beginning of July!*

Photo Credits: autotopics_photography

