



# SQUARE LEFT

NEWS

## Meeke looking to 'bounce back' after difficult weekend



Kris Meeke's solid start to the 2018 World Rally Championship came to an end in the frozen forests of round two, Rally Sweden.

Starting the first leg fourth on the road courtesy of his fourth place in Monte-Carlo, the Citroen star was one of those affected by the fresh overnight snow that provided next to no grip.

With each passing car the road conditions improved, and Meeke found himself in the wrong place to make any inroads on the front-runners.

A misjudgement on SS13 Hagfors 2 saw his C3 WRC plough into a snowbank which caused an immediate loss of power and resulted in retirement.

Meeke returned on Sunday but couldn't salvage any Power Stage points, meaning he leaves Sweden empty-handed.

The Northern Irishman is feeling positive ahead of the next few rallies however, with a more favourable road position and past success set to stand him in good stead.

"It was a difficult rally for us," Meeke admitted.

"With our less than ideal road position on Friday I had trouble finding any confidence, which meant we ended up being one of the first on the road on Saturday.

"I was working hard to secure the point for tenth when we nosed into a snowbank and damaged the turbo. It was really unlucky.

"I'm determined to bounce back, starting in Mexico.

"Out of the next four rallies, I have already won three of them and was leading in Corsica last year as well."

## **Evans bereft of luck**

M-Sport's Elfyn Evans endured another difficult rally in Sweden, with a puncture dropping him down the order and forcing him to clean the road for the remainder of the event.

The Welshman was running 10<sup>th</sup> heading into the final stage, but was asked to check in late to ensure his team-mate Sebastien Ogier picked up as many points as possible.

The result leaves Evans on just eight points and 10<sup>th</sup> in the championship.

"It's not been the easiest of weekends," Evans said.

"We were struggling for some pace through the early stages, but then when the puncture set us back we didn't have any chance with the road position.

"It's certainly not the weekend we wanted, so we just need to put it behind us and look forward to Mexico."