

July 12, 2009

Final Media Conference

PRESENT:

Cody CROCKER and Ben ATKINSON (MOTORIMAGE RACING)

Katsuhiko TAGUCHI and Mark STACEY (MRF TYRES)

Hiroshi YANAGISAWA and Yoshimasa NAKAHRA (CUSCO RACING)

Norio Fukue (SUBARU : FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD. Asia Sales & Marketing Section Manager)

Question: Congratulations! Very well done! This year you managed to win this event, and last year you've had some problems with the weather. So how much do you think the weather helped you this year?

CLOCKER : It was very good that the weather held up I think. The rain that we had last year was the worst and the heaviest rain I've ever seen in the most difficult conditions to drive, and the roads were more like lakes - it was quite amazing. But obviously this year we've had a lot of rain on the shakedown day but fortunately it held off for the weekend. The conditions were actually quite good probably the third path of some of the stages become quite rough but otherwise the roads were absolutely fantastic and they were in really good order and we could... it was quite amazing on Saturday morning those few stages we could really push hard in there and it was just amazingly fast and they were just fantastic roads to drive on.

Question: Ben a question for you - at what point were you confident, if you were confident, that you will take this win?

ATKINSON : When we finished the last stage (smiles). You only have to look at the Poland a couple of weeks ago to know it's not over 'till it's over. Obviously Katsu gave us or rather his puncture gave us a bit of a buffer. So from there on it sort of managing that and while we really didn't go chasing into the day. Once we had the bit today it wasn't worth chasing it to the bone.

Question: Katsu, I have a question for you. Well, this time you got a little bit unlucky and you have come second, which is not a bad place to be in, but maybe that makes your championship challenge a little bit more difficult. What do you think about the rest of the championship and your chances to win?

TAGUCHI : Actually, after the first we got a flat tire when there were about 7km to the finish line so we lost about only a minute or maybe two which was very lucky. So we became second in the championship, we came right behind Cody. At last year's

championships in England and Malaysia, I and Cody were pretty much at the same level. So this year so far our cars are doing very well and the conditions are very good so we are expecting to maybe do better.

Question: Stacey, you have done this rally many times with Katsu ... you know the rally very well. Was there anything different for you this year?

STACEY : I think I would like to thank the organizers for doing a very good job and that it have improved compared to last year and we very much enjoyed it. For Katsu and I it is very much a home rally. We have competed together in Japan may be... I am not sure, 10,11,12 times... in different events. So, very much a home event. Conditions were quite good. The third part on some of the stages wasn't quite as good; we thought maybe three stages repeated twice might have been better than 2 stages repeated three times, which was a little bit too much for the rally, so otherwise the organization and the rally was very enjoyable.

Question: You joined this rally with a Lancer X was it any different from any of the cars you have driven so far? Do you think it affected your performance in the rally?

YANAGISAWA: So far I have driven Subaru impressa, and I just changed to Evo X. It runs differently and I haven't quite gotten used to driving it. If I do not adjust the settings, I won't be able to catch up to Cody's and Taguchi's time. I need to make my self fit for competing with them.

Question: Mr. Nakahara, what was the most challenging thing to you in this rally?

NAKAHARA: We lost last year by 2.3 sec and I thought of revenge this year, but we could not make it. The car is completely new and myself made a clean start too, but I was not enough.

Question: Mr. Norio Fukue , what does it mean as a manufacturer you have Cody at the first place and Emma Gilmour also took forth place overall and third in APRC so what does this mean for you?

FUKUE : We are quite happy the victory here in rally Hokkaido because last year we had very bad luck. As you know, we quit the WRC last year. What we are thinking about is that Asia or China are still very good for motor sports and promoting the brand image. So that's why thanks to our motor sport image our Subaru distributors in South-East Asia and the South part of China, so actually our team is a dsistributors team because the car is in group N. We would like to continue this APRC challenge because as I said South East Asia and China are quite good to use our motor sport activities for our brand image.

Question: Does this mean that despite not participating in the WRC, Subaru will still participate in rally at least in the Asia-Pacific region?

FUKUE : Yes, correct. Because the group N activities are just regional or country based so that's why the distributors and some of the private teams can utilize the group N cars and thanks to their activities. We help the technical side to promote the brand image with distributors teams or private motor sport company.

Question: Any questions?

STACEY : I just want to say as a competitor how good it is we've had the Cusco Racing team involved in the championship for the past few years but this was the event for these guys coming back into the Championship and it's so nice, I'm pleased to see these guys back I'm just glad to see you competing and also with Mitsubishi of course, but it's just good to have the black cars back in the championship. So thank s for coming back.

MC: That's a good example of sportsmanship.