

2014 CHINA GRAND RALLY

September 7th - Stage 7 Zhangye / Zhangye : 66,80 km

Stage Specifics : 32,41 km / SS : 2,01 km / Racetrack Specifics : 32,38 km



Press release 8

NO REST FOR LAVIEILLE!

Zhangye, September 7th 2014

Following a difficult stage in central Mongolia, the competitors were able to charge their batteries and take a break until the afternoon's 2km stage in Zhangye. Christian Lavieille and Jean-Pierre Garcin win yet another stage.

It was not a full days rest: the committee organised a timed 2km stage in the Zhangye Desert Park in a racetrack 30km from the bivouacs. The Chinese Federation of Automobile Sports admitted the public to watch the stage free of charge. The setting was perfect since one could see the full area of the circuit, starting from under the arch of the China Grand Rally to the finishing place in the dunes overlooking the route. A vast crowd was thus spectating the passage of each competitor of the China Grand Rally 2014.

Wen Min Su (Jincheng) in motorcycles and **Christian Lavieille** (Haval) in cars continue their momentum and win their second consecutive victory. Crew 102 once again wins, a few tenths of a second ahead of their teammate **Wei Han** in the other Haval. **Zhou Young** comes in third in his Toyota Overdrive due to his flawless performance.

The French duo **Lavieille** and **Garcin** shall begin tomorrow's stage, followed by their teammates **Wei Han** and **Cheng Feng**. Their rivalry promises a close and unpredictable stage tomorrow. **Philippe Gache**, Head of Haval, has a clear objective in mind. *"We came to the China Grand Rally to put our two vehicles on the podium. It's the maximum we can do, but considering our budget and experience, it's also the least we can do. I am proud of my drivers, who do not take unnecessary risks and play by the rules. We have to reproduce this week's result next week: further outdistance our competitors and truly apply ourselves. However, these remain only mechanics, I of all people know that nothing is certain until the last stage's finishing line is crossed."*

With their fourth win this week, **Christian Lavieille** and **Jean-Pierre Garcin** come closer to etching their names in China Grand Rally history. *"We are satisfied with our first week. We are still at the top of the general ranking, albeit only by a little."* Indeed, with only a 1'18" advantage on their teammates **Wei Han** and **Cheng Feng** and with five stages still ahead, nothing is certain. *"We knew Wei Han to be a capable pilot, it was no surprise. He finished second behind Zhou Yong last year. We only just begin discovering this terrain, whilst his experience racing here last year gives him an advantage. We will fight until the end! With the dunes behind us, it will be more difficult for opponents to outdistance each other."*

Christian Lavieille and **Jean-Pierre Garcin** greatly enjoy your daily stages of the China Grand Rally. *"China truly has a magnificent geography with beautiful desert regions, beautiful dunes... The road truly is stunning. The Chinese were very hospitable with perfectly organised, immaculate bivouacs."* **Jean-Pierre Garcin** finishes by stating, *"I really don't feel time passing, that is a great sign..."*

Tomorrow, Monday September 8th, the competitors of the China Grand Rally 2014 will begin their second week of racing. The next stage will be in Jiuquan, spanning 360km with 169km of selective sectors.

<u>Ranking SS7 – Cars :</u> 1 – Christian Lavieille (Haval) in 1'45" 2 – Wei Han (Haval) at 0" 3 – Zhou Yong (Toyota Overdrive) at 1" 4 – Yangui Liu (Mitsubishi MP 13) at 3" 5 – Xiang Wang (Senda) at 3"	<u>Ranking SS7 – Motorcycles :</u> 1 – Wen Min Su (Jincheng) in 1'53" 2 – Aidong Hu (Bombardier) at 7" 3 – Yirong Wang (Honda) at 7" 4 – Shi Yumeng (Honda) at 7" 5 – Tian Zhou (Jincheng) at 11"
<u>General Ranking after SS7 – Cars :</u> 1 – Christian Lavieille (Haval) in 13h37'57" 2 – Wei Han (Haval) at 1'18" 3 – Miao Ma (Nissan M05) at 48'11" 4 – Zhou Yong (Toyota Overdrive) at 1h24'12" 5 – Bin Liu (Buggy) at 1h50'01"	<u>General Ranking after SS7 – Motorcycles :</u> 1 – Wen Min Su (Jincheng) in 16h16'03" 2 – Zhou Tian (Jincheng) at 31'51" 3 – Yirong Wang (Honda) at 1h18'19" 4 – Shi Yumeng (Honda) at 1h41'39" 5 – Aidong Hu (Bombardier) at 2h04'04"