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Rider news and comments from AW Rostamani Arabian Automobiles Special Stage 1

6. Mohammed Al Balooshi (UAE)

“It was really good but I'm still waiting for the other bikes to come in. Opening the route isn't easy. There weren't any tracks to follow so it was really difficult for me but I made the most of it and I'm hoping for the best.”

11. Aaron Mare (UAE)

“It was really good apart from a big crash coming off a dune. I hurt both wrists. The second part was fast with steep dunes and a lot of concentration needed.”

12. Mohammed Jaffar (KWT)

“I had an amazing day today. The route was nice and the bike is much better than before. I felt very comfortable. It was a great ride and the bike performed well. It's more about reading the desert than navigation.”

7. Shannon O'Connor (UAE)

“I made a slow start and lost time double checking the route and making certain we we're on the right track. The second part was much better and ridiculously fast. The bike is going very, very well.”

14. Sultan Balooshi (UAE)

“A super good day and a very nice ride through the desert. The bike is great - I love her”

10. Benjamin Melot (ARE)

“Aaron caught me a little bit before refueling and we rode together for the rest of the stage and had quite a good pace. No idea about the results but there were a small few mistakes, but overall a very good pace. The terrain was really fast, some dunes and a few dangers but it was good and I really enjoyed it.”

17. Abdullah Shatti (KWT)

“All very good. The bike is running well and it's very nice terrain.”

22. Lucchese Manuel (ITA)

“I had a small crash because my handle bars kept moving all through the day. I need to fix that for tomorrow. The route was good with some big dunes. The key was to navigate to the side of the big dunes.”

14. Sultan Balooshi (UAE)

“It was a very nice ride. The guys are fast and experienced. I had a good ride. The terrain is beautiful and the bike performed very well.”

18. Richard Brewer (UAE)

“It was good terrain, pretty hard to read in the early morning but an excellent ride. The bike was awesome. I'm getting it ready for the Desert Challenge,”