



team
DESSOUDE



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Looking back at the Dakar with mixed feelings

One week after the Dakar 2015 came to an end in Buenos Aires, Team DESSOUDE is back in Normandy and is waiting for the cars to return. After 13 not exactly new stages, it is time for André DESSOUDE to draw up a report of this rather forgettable edition, but more importantly to look ahead, towards the future.

« On this edition, the first thing to mention is the number of kilometres spent each day in liaison sections. Kilometres which weigh heavily on the teams, and in particular on the mechanics, who after only two or three days were already down on their hours of sleep.



"As far as the route was concerned, the special stages were not really innovative. The route had been

seen, and seen again and quite frankly it was not a vintage edition. It has to be admitted that from the 35th or 40th position in the overall classification you have to be really motivated to do the Dakar, considering the financial investment it represents ! There was a lot of fesh-fesh and not a lot of fun... It is clear to see that there is a certain amount of weariness among the event regulars, and even among those who are discovering the event for the first time.

"The regulations do not change, or barely, and have remained the same for decades, and the drivers do not feel as involved as they were a few years ago. The rally raid philosophy favoured race management, which was always the key to this discipline, and today this is no longer the case. Now, the driver has to be as fast as possible and it doesn't matter if he destroys his car in the process. At the bivouac, an army of mechanics will be waiting to rebuild his car like new every day. There is no point in the driver managing the race or showing his intelligence. I miss this.



"To come back to 'our' Dakar, Thierry MAGNALDI had problems from the start, and afterwards it was impossible to climb back up the overall classification. With the fesh-fesh and the ever-present dust, the exercise was too complicated and dangerous. Even if fine times were set some days, globally it was disappointing.

"As far as the Chinese crews were concerned, I am sorry that one of the cars had to retire, but the roll cage was damaged when the vehicle rolled, and there was no question of playing with safety. The second car put in a very honourable performance.

"During this Dakar, we had a problem with one of our assistance trucks, which had an accident. I would like to thank once again the whole technical team for working together and for their willingness to overcome the problem. Well done as well for the way they managed the situation and their great professionalism. The other teams also helped us to repair what could be repaired, and when the truck got going again, those teams gave a round of applause. It was a real highlight and a fine reward.



"I do not like looking in the rear-view mirror for too long ; I am more interested in the future. The immediate future of Team DESSOUDE is in China. We will be sending a technical team there shortly in order to continue the projects we have started. After the Dakar, modifications and developments are planned on the Proto 05 cars. There is rather a lot of work to be done , including some new cars to be built. There will also be some engine evolutions with the use of Chevrolet engine.

"The Chinese team will take part in an event in China in May, but the big event will be the China Grand Rally in September. Everyone is very motivated and as far as I am concerned, I am happy to pass on my experience to such passionate people! »

Determined and as motivated as ever by rally raid competitions, it has to be said that André DESSOUDE is never short of projects. See you in China ...



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