

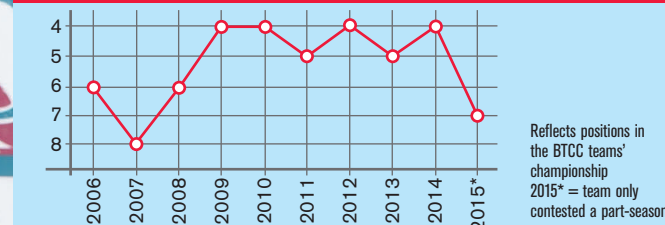
# RACING NEWS

Photos: Jakob Ebrej

# JORDAN JOINS MOTORBASE FOR BTCC

## Title-winning driver links up with Ford Focus team for 2016 season

### MOTORBASE PERFORMANCE IN THE BTCC



Jordan will join the race-winning Motorbase team

By Matt James

**Andrew Jordan says he can win a second British Touring Car Championship after sealing a switch to the Motorbase Performance team for the 2016 season.**

Jordan, 26, sealed his deal with the Kent-based squad last week, and will begin an extensive testing programme during November with the EcoBoost-engined Ford Focus ST.

The 2013 title winner left the family-run Eurotech Racing team at the end of 2014 to join the factory Triple Eight Racing MG squad last year. He failed to win a race during the campaign and is now desperate to reignite his career.

"I am looking at this as more than a one-year deal, and the title has simply got to be the target," said Jordan. "Going in to a new team is going to take a bit of getting used to, but we will certainly be challenging for wins straight away and I am sure we will go to the final round with a chance of winning the championship in 2016. We will have the potential to be a championship contender – and why couldn't we win it?"

Jordan: winless during 2015

Motorbase Performance team boss David Bartrum said that he hoped Jordan's arrival will spur the team on to newer heights.

"One of the things that's important is understanding what is needed to win the title," he explained. "We think we understand but we don't know that we do, because we have never won it. But by adding Andrew to the team, it is going to give us that experience and it is going to give us a hungry young lion. There is a hunger, a desire, an ability and an understanding of what it takes to get there. That is what we get by signing up Andrew Jordan."

### Prospects

The EcoBoost-powered Ford Focus was developed over the first part of 2015 and drivers Mat Jackson and James Cole only joined the campaign halfway through.



Despite the late arrival, Jackson won four races and finished in 12th place overall in the drivers' standings.

Rival teams bemoaned a perceived power advantage that the Ford had, although the team says that the speed of the car was as much about the work that had been done on the chassis front.

"Everyone says that we have had a huge advantage this season, but we haven't shown our hand yet," said Bartrum. "The car is quick, and it is not just about the engine. That is the last part of it: but it is chassis and other things too. Andrew's dad [and former BTCC racer and team owner] Mike has watched the car at lots of corners during practice and racing this year, and he knows what the chassis is about and how good it is."

Jordan said he has no concerns even if the power output is pegged back by rulemakers ahead of 2016.

"The thing to remember is that the engines were equalised before the cars were allowed to joined the championship this year," he said. "If they do peg them back, then they do. I haven't gone there just because they have been so quick this year because of the engine. I really don't use that as a factor."

Motorbase's passion to seal a maiden

title was one of the key factors that attracted Jordan to the team, he said. The team has finished fourth in the teams' points four times.

"David Bartrum and the team haven't won it before and there is a genuine hunger there," added Jordan. "I look back to when I won the title in 2013 [with the family-run Eurotech team] and it wasn't about making money, it was about winning. I can see that same mentality at Motorbase Performance that is one of the key points that really interested us."

### Getting to work

Jordan is scheduled to test the 2015 car in November and will then sample a machine with various developments on it. The team has also scheduled a test programme abroad over the winter months.

The identity of Jordan's team-mate has yet to be revealed, and Bartrum said he had applied for a third TOCA BTCC Licence (TBL) and was looking at the option of running three cars next season.

"I know there is a big queue of people who want another licence, but we have a lot of things in place and it would work really well for us. We are in talks at the moment," said Bartrum.

### Harrison: MG will come back even stronger

MG Triple Eight Racing team principal Ian Harrison says the team has exciting plans for next season that will be revealed within the next few weeks.

Andrew Jordan drove for the team in 2015 alongside Jack Goff, but Jordan has now left for Motorbase Performance.

Triple Eight team boss Ian Harrison said he was optimistic about the future: "We have an excellent package for next season and the entire project will be taking some steps forward. Everyone is fully on board for the future."

Speaking about losing Jordan, Harrison said that he hoped the driver might be able to work with the team again in years to come.

"I have a lot of time for Andrew, and it is just a shame that the chemistry didn't click this season," said Harrison. "I wish him all the best and I hope that one day he might come back and drive for us again under different circumstances and when he has different advisors."

WANT THE LATEST UPDATES? FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

@MNEWSRACING



Tel +44(0)1929 551557 Fax +44(0)1929 551567  
racing@aaoil.co.uk www.aaoil.co.uk