



Fabrizio Giovanardi will spearhead the Airwaves attack in 2014



The 2014 car may look similar to last year, but features some major upgrades

Photos: PSP Images

GETTING READY...

With the new BTCC season just about to kick off, we catch up with Airwaves Racing to see what's new for 2014...

RACE REPORT

As part of our ongoing relationship with Airwaves Racing, we are proud to announce that *Fast Ford* will once again be sponsoring the team's BTCC Focuses for 2014. Naturally, we will bring you up to speed with detailed race reports after each round, as well as exclusive 'behind the scenes' features too, but for now let's catch up with what's been going on over the winter break.

Well, the first piece of news is that two-times ex-BTCC Champion, Fabrizio Giovanardi, is back on the grid – and he's driving an Airwaves Focus! The team have been speaking with Fabrizio for a number of years, and this year have the multiple Touring Car Champion spearheading their attack on the BTCC.

It's not just the driver line up that has changed though, the team have been busy improving, and even building an entirely new car for 2014. Team Manager Oly Collins tells us: "We've sold a car to AMD which we will be helping on a technical basis throughout the season. This meant we had to build another new car. There are approximately 1000 man-hours just in shell preparation, before it even goes to paint! Then a further two solid weeks for two mechanics to assemble the car." These cars aren't easy things to put together!

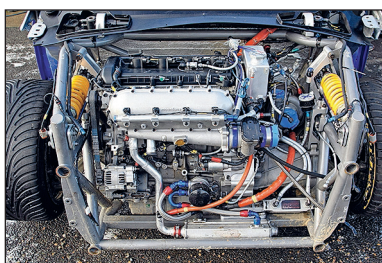
The other cars have been fully stripped and undergone full rebuilds too. And when we say 'full', we mean every single nut and bolt off and the shell stripped back to bare metal! Oly explains: "Many of the parts are even crack tested, such as subframes, driveshafts, etc, to ensure they are fit to go back on."

The cars haven't just been rebuilt to last year's spec either – naturally the team have made developments. "We've concentrated quite closely on aero and engine installation," explains Oly, "these

are the main changes from a visual aspect, but we've looked to improve the car in all areas."

So, what's the goal for 2014 then? "Win! There's no point in aiming to be in the top six or top three, or whatever. Our aim at this stage is to win the outright Championship, and therefore win races from the off." Oly also tells us that with no less than seven Champions on the grid, and a field full of some of motorsport's greatest talents, 2014 is going to be one of the toughest and most hard-fought Championships in BTCC history, but he and the entire Airwaves Racing team are more than ready for the challenge.

The first race is just around the corner – March 30 at Brands Hatch – so be sure to tune into ITV4 for live coverage and to cheer on the *Fast Ford*-sponsored team!



BTCC DATES

March 29-30 Brands Hatch (Indy)
April 19-20 Donington Park
May 3-4 Thruxton
June 7-8 Oulton Park
June 28-29 Croft
August 2-3 Snetterton
August 23-24 Knockhill
September 6-7 Rockingham
September 27-28 Silverstone
October 11-12 Brands Hatch (GP)