



Mat Jackson was on fire at Rockingham recently!



Mat and team boss David Bartrum celebrate the team's first win of the season!



"WE SAID WE'D WIN A RACE THIS YEAR" MOTORBASE

MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC

WINNING WAYS

The Motorbase guys are back doing what they do best – winning races!

Photos: PSP Images



After podium finishes at Knockhill last time out, we headed to Rockingham full of excitement and enthusiasm for what we could achieve. And when Mat Jackson put the Focus on pole position in qualifying – earning our first ever BTCC pole position – our spirits were lifted even higher. Could we secure that outright race win we've been hoping for? Well, we'd have to wait for Sunday's race for that.

Mat made an excellent start to the first race of the day, holding position and heading off into Rockingham's tight and twisty infield part of the circuit in the lead. He then drove a faultless race from start to finish, controlling the race and crossing the line 1.8 seconds clear of second-place man Gordon Shedden.

The post race interview highlighted just how close we'd come to disaster though. Mat had been reporting an alarming smell of burning rubber in the cockpit throughout the last lap – the result of a puncture he'd picked up. But Mat's a brave man and kept his foot down to take the victory, and thankfully the tyre held out until we were safely back in the pitlane with

our trophy in hand!

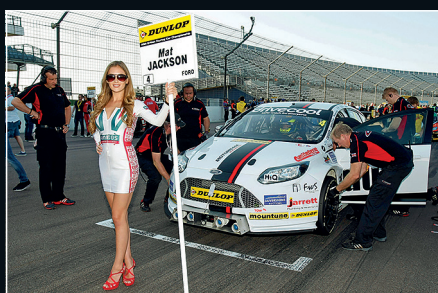
James Cole also enjoyed a good first race to the weekend in the number 44 Focus, eventually finishing P12, which was later promoted to P11, to claim his second points-scoring finish of the season.

Race two saw Mat's car loaded with the maximum 75kg of ballast – this would be a huge test for us as we hadn't run the car under those conditions previously. Mat made one of his trademark flying starts from the second row, charged past Adam Morgan's Mercedes and settled down in P2 where he remained relatively untroubled for the remainder of the race – earning another podium, and another Independents win of the day.

James had an incident-filled second race, and after contact with another car knocked him back to P28 he drove a good race to make his way up to P17.

The reverse grid for the third and final race of the day saw Mat start P9. Along with the 66kg of ballast we also needed to run the soft tyre for race three. And it was the rapid degradation of the soft tyre that saw Mat slip back through the field from the P5 position he managed to get up to in the early laps, eventually finishing P14 just in front of his teammate who came home P15 for a second points-scoring finish of the weekend.

We learnt a lot from the weekend, and the whole team was pleased to see the car competing well even when loaded with success ballast. We still have a bit to learn about the car's behavior on the soft tyre, but overall the team was very pleased with the results. See, we always said we'd be race winners in 2015!



1st and second places in race one and two for Mat!



The team loves collecting trophies!