













MOTORBASE/FOCUS BTCC

TOTAL DOMINATION

The Motorbase Focuses dominated the final two rounds of the BTCC at Silverstone and Brands Hatch...



Having got the monkey off our back last time out at Rockingham securing that race win we'd all been hoping for, we headed to Silverstone full of confidence for the penultimate weekend of BTCC action. And when Mat Jackson smashed the previous lap record during qualifying, the number 4 Focus would start Race One on pole position for the second time in a row! And Mat repeated

the dominating drive he displayed at Rockingham too, leading the race from start to finish to earn the team another outright victory!

Mat even managed to set the fastest lap too, securing his second pole position start of the day for Race Two. Teammate James Cole also took advantage of the new rules, and despite having a hard-fought race in the middle of the pack managed to post a lap time fast enough to earn a 7th place start in Race Two.

Mat made a fantastic start, but with the success ballast on board soon found himself swamped by the chasing pack. Andy Priaulx's lighter BMW snatched the lead but Mat continued to push hard until disaster struck and he picked up a puncture – ending his podium challenge.

Photos: PSP Images

Meanwhile James enjoyed a fair few battles of his own, and eventually brought the number 44 Focus home in P10. And when the reverse grid draw saw James selected to start in pole for Race 3 another milestone was reached – the first time the team had started all three BTCC races from pole position!

Unfortunately James was beaten off the line by the fast-starting BMWs but he bravely held on to a top four position during the opening laps – until a hefty punt from Jason Plato's VW forced the Focus back through

the order. James recovered well and managed to hold on to a career-best P9 finish. Mat meanwhile, produced another of his now-trademark comeback drives. Starting in P23 he drove arguably the best race of the weekend to finish P7, earning yet more points for the team.

After the excitement of Silverstone we headed to the season finale at our home track, Brands Hatch. Once again, Mat's number 4 Focus dominated qualifying and he earned his third straight pole position start! Despite the intervention of the Safety Car eliminating the lead he had built up, Mat was able to hold on and bring the car home for another outright race win in front of our home crowds!

Race Two would prove more challenging with the introduction of maximum ballast and the requirement to run the softer tyre, but Mat once again drove excellently and held off challenges to claim his second race win of the day! Meanwhile James Cole enjoyed a brace of good races, and a pair of strong P12 finishes.

The third and final race of the day,













always going to be a chaotic affair with the Championship still up for grabs. Unfortunately we weren't part of this battle, so both Motorbase drivers were able to get their heads down and get on with their own races. Contact saw James suffer steering damage early on, and a P18 finish was the best he could hope for with a damaged car. But Mat, starting from P7, soon found himself in fourth place after a lightning-fast start. In the following laps, in between several Safety Car periods, Mat battled his way into second place - after a sensational move around the outside of both Matt Neale's Honda and Jack Goff's MG heading into Clearways!

Bringing the car home in P2 rounded off a near-perfect weekend for the team! We've already got one eye on some planned updates for next year's car and hope to be genuine Championship challengers in 2016. But for now we're just going to reflect on what has been a truly amazing couple of weekends of racing! Well done team!







