



Andrew fought well in Race Three to grab fourth place, just 0.037seconds ahead of the Honda!



MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC

THE RACE IS ON

The Motorbase team take to the track in anger at the opening rounds of the 2016 BTCC Championship...

Photos: Matt Sayle



After all the winter testing it was finally time to take to the track in anger at the opening rounds of the 2016 BTCC Championship. The first race was at our home circuit at Brands Hatch so we were quietly confident heading into the weekend, but this would be the first time we really get to see the true performance of all the cars, so we really didn't know exactly how we would compare to our rivals.

Qualifying didn't really shed much light on things either, as a rain-affected session resulted in a mixed-up grid for Race One, with Mat Jackson starting P9 and Andrew Jordan a few places further back in P14.

When the flag dropped for Race One we were pleased to see that both our Focuses were immediately competitive. Despite a brief off-track moment Mat managed to bring the car home in 8th place to earn the team our first points of the 2016 season. Andrew, meanwhile, suffered an issue with engine power and did well to fight his way to earn a P11 finish, again scoring valuable points.

Both drivers got off to a strong

start for Race Two, making their way through the field during the opening laps. Making good use of the Safety Car deployment in lap 3 the new teammates delivered a textbook performance as they closed on the leading pack. Andrew, in the lighter car, made his way ahead of a ballasted Mat, before both Focuses then passed both MGs to take 4th and 5th finishes.

The reverse grid draw saw Mat start in P5 for Race Three, alongside Andrew in P6. Both drivers got off the line to flying starts, with Mat slotting in to P3 before the first corner. Unfortunately slight contact between the two Fords as they entered the notoriously tricky (especially with cold

rear tyres!) Paddock Hill bend saw both cars suffer slight damage. This damage would later manifest itself as a rear puncture for Mat, who was forced into the pits to swap tyres.

Andrew, meanwhile, recovered well and continued his charge for the remainder of the race, snatching 4th place on the line from Matt Neal's Honda by just 0.037seconds!

Having claimed points in all three races at our home track we leave Brands Hatch sitting second in the Team Standings, and with Andrew just 10 points off the early Championship leader Matt Neal.

Next up, Donington Park...