

Photos: Matt Sayle

MOTORBASE/FOCUS BTCC

## OUBLE TOP

With wins for both drivers, the Motorbase team enjoyed a fantastic weekend at Thruxton recently...



After picking up our first win of the season at Donington in the previous round, spirits were high as we headed to Thruxton for the next round of the BTCC. We were particularly enthusiastic as this a track that both Mat Jackson and Andrew Jordan love, both listing it as their favourite track on the calendar.

Qualifying was disappointing with AJ and Mat ending the session on P8 and P14 respectively, but thankfully this proved to be the only blip in a fantastic weekend for us.

Race One saw AJ charge off the line getting ahead of both MGs

in front. He then settled down in a decent race pace, avoiding the dramas that unfolded as the lead pack battled ahead of him, before taking advantage of a huge race-ending melee that saw AJ claim third place and his first visit to the podium as a Motorbase driver.

Teammate, Mat, wasn't so lucky. Despite a great start and a fantastic effort to get into the top 10 Mat suffered a rear puncture on lap 10. Despite our best efforts to get him back out on track as fast as possible, Mat could only muster a P21 finish.

Race Two saw the overall distance cut short to 12 laps for concerns over the tyres lasting the distance on this notoriously punishing track. AJ made another flying start, moving past Tom Ingram's Toyota before setting his sights on race leader, Adam Morgan, in the Mercedes. AJ played the long

game, saving his tyres while keeping the pressure on Morgan, and fighting off a fast-attacking Rob Collard in his lighter BMW, but finally made his move on lap 11 to take the lead and ultimately the race win! This was AJ's first win for the team, and his first since 2014, so he's understandably pleased with the result!

The Motorbase crew

pleased with the results!

Mat had a more successful Race Two too, making up a hugelyimpressive 12 places in the 12 lap race to finish P8, earning more valuable points for both himself and the team.

Race Three saw fortunes reversed a little. The reverse grid saw Mat promoted to a P2 start, while AJ was pushed back to P9 with a huge 75kg of ballast on-bard. AJ's race was further hindered when he too picked up a puncture and eventually finished in P21.

off the line and straight into the lead. He then controlled the pace and dominated the race, bringing the Focus home to give the team our second race win of the weekend and Mat's second of the season! With two race wins and a third place finish, the results from Thruxton have seen us strengthen our Championship position, extending our lead in the Independents Teams standings, and closing the gap to the manufacturer-backed teams in the Overall standings. It also sees AI move to second in the Independent Drivers Championship with Mat following closely in third!

Next up we head to Oulton Park, where we hope for more of the same ...!















