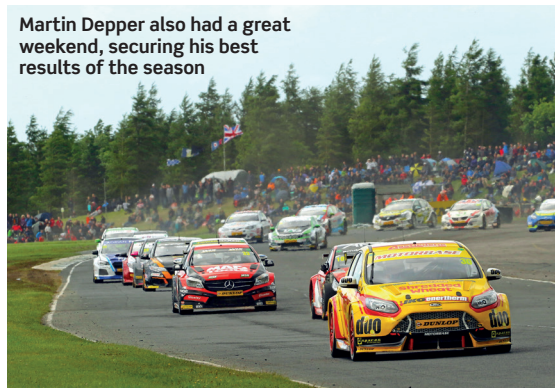




Mat Jackson raced hard to claim the team's first outright win of the season



Martin Depper also had a great weekend, securing his best results of the season



MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC

VICTORY!

An immensely difficult weekend for the team was rounded off with a much-deserved race win!

Photos: Matt Sayle



The weekend at Croft started in unfortunate circumstances for us when Saturday's qualifying session left three drivers hospitalised, including Team Shredded Wheat Racing with DUO driver Luke Davenport. Luke unfortunately suffered significant and multiple injuries, and the 24-year-old remains in hospital continuing his recovery.

Despite a challenging time for the team, we got the cars for Mat Jackson and Martin Depper prepared and readied for Sunday's race day – our efforts were soon rewarded with the best race results for the season so far for both drivers!

Having qualified in 3rd place during the shortened session, Mat went on to take three Independent race wins, an overall 3rd place podium and outright race win in the final race of the weekend! All of which were dedicated to his team-mate Luke.

Mat opened his podium tally in race 1 with a faultless drive, holding position against the faster rear wheel drive BMW's to claim his first rostrum

of the season and Independent race win in the #3 Focus ST. He followed that with another fantastic drive in race 2 despite the harder tyre dampening the car's pace a little, but he then saved the best for last – an epic battle in race 3 that saw the Focus flash past Turkington's BMW and into second place by the first corner. Mat then hunted down and passed race-leader Ollie Jackson's Audi before holding off a strong challenge from a very fast Ash Sutton in the Subaru. The pair raced side by side as they came through the hairpin on the last lap with Mat taking the chequered flag by just 0.877 of a second!

"The car has moved on massively from Oulton Park. The boys have worked really hard and the results this weekend have shown that. It's great to be back up there and challenging for wins," explains Mat, "obviously our attention is focussed on Luke and his family. It's never nice to see any driver involved in that kind of incident but when it's your teammate it brings it even closer to home. We just hope that he is back with us and in a race car again soon."

The weekend also yielded Martin Depper's best results of the season to date. Carving his way from P25 on the grid to P18 at the end of race one, Martin's progress continued at the same pace in race two where he

battled hard to cross the line in 10th place and earn his highest finish of the season. The final race saw Martin run the harder tyre, but an excellent drive meant he held off the chasing pack well to claim another points-scoring finish in P11.

Team boss David Bartrum was understandably proud of the team's achievements at Croft, and the way everyone pulled together under exceptionally difficult circumstances. "Obviously our thoughts from this weekend are with Luke and his family. It's been difficult for everyone involved but the drivers involved were looked after very well and they're in the best capable hands," he reflects. "Luke has quite a journey

ahead of him to get back where he needs to be, but the show must go on and he would want that, and when he's fit and well we'll be playing him all the videos and he'll be more determined to get back out there," David continues, "Sunday's results were the tonic that everyone needed. It's been a difficult day for the team dealing with the emotions of podiums and race wins which is what we all come racing for but that's balanced with the guilt of feeling that Luke should have been celebrating with us.

The BTCC now enters a summer break but we'll be back out at Snetterton at the end of July looking to pick up where we left off... with race wins and trophies!

